

1  
2 YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA,  
3 WESTERN INTERIOR,  
4 EASTERN INTERIOR  
5 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS  
6 JOINT MEETING

7  
8 Taken at:  
9 Millenium Hotel  
10 Anchorage, Alaska

11  
12 October 9, 2001

13  
14 Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta Council Members  
15 Present:

16  
17 Harry Wilde, Sr. Chair  
18 John Hanson  
19 Mary Gregory  
20 Fritz L. George  
21 Willard Church  
22 Robert Nick  
23 Billy McCann  
24 James A. Charles  
25 Phillip Moses  
Lester Wilde, Sr.  
Alvin Owletuck

Western Interior Council Members Present:

Ron Sam, Chair  
Raymond Collins  
Jack L. Reakoff  
Sampson Henry  
Angela O. Demientieff  
Benedict Jones  
Carl Morgan

Eastern Interior Council Members Present

Gerald Nicholia, Chair  
Jim Wilde  
David James

## 1 Coordinators:

2 Alex Nick, Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta  
3 Vince Mathews, Western Interior  
4 Donald Mike, Eastern Interior

## 5 Others Present:

6 Audra Brase, ADF&G; Eva Bryant, Yupik  
7 Translator; Marie Meade, Yupik Translator;  
8 Stanley Ned, TCC; Larry Boyle, ADF&G;  
9 Michael Martin; John Nicholas; Nick Frank;  
10 Bob Lafferty, ADF&G; Jerry Berg, US FWS;  
11 Bill Knauer, US FWS; Adelheid Herrmann,  
12 BSFA; Pete Probasco, US FWS; Bob Karlen,  
13 BLM; Ingrid McSweeny, BLM; Carl Kretsinger,  
14 BLM; Dave Anderson; Janet Cohen, NPS; Tim  
15 Craig, BLM; Cassandra Tulloch, US FWS; John  
16 Burr, ADF&G; George Sherrod, US FWS; Hollis  
17 Twitchell, Denali NP; Frank Charles,  
18 Kuskokwim River Salmon Working Group; Carl  
19 Jack, OSM; Gerry C. Keffer; Geoff Byerdorf;  
20 Rod Simmons, US FWS; Sandy Rabinowitch, NPS;  
21 Charlie Burkey, Jr., ADF&G; I.L. Andrew;  
22 David Enoch; Henry Lupie; Sandra Frazier;  
23 Jennifer Hooper, AVCP; Patrick Snow, US FWS;  
24 Wally Suroka, US FWS; Jeff Denton, BLM;  
25 Wayne Morgan, KNA; Jill Klein, YRDFA; Ken  
Harper, US FWS; Richard Davis; Paul  
Liedberg, US FWS; Richard Uberuaga, US FWS;  
Jay Stevens, SVS NRP; Michael Rearden, Yukon  
Delta NWR; Polly Wheeler, ADF&G; Michael  
Coffing, ADF&G; Jeff Adams, US FWS; James  
Schwarber, ADF&G; Edgar Holnh; Greg  
McClella, Koyukuk/Nowitna NWR; Don Rivard,  
US FWS; Dan Bergstrom, ADF&G; Connie Friend,  
Tetlin NWR; Robert Schultz; Bill Schiff,  
Innoko NWR; Wassilie Bavilla; Annie  
Cleveland, NVK; Laddy Elliott; Della  
Trumble, Kodiak/Aleutians RAC; Orville  
Huntington; Ida Hildebrand, BIA; Bob  
Gerhard, NPS; Ruth Gronquist, BLM; Dan  
LaPlant US FWS; Pat McClenahan, US FWS;  
Richard Wilmot, NMFS; Cliff Schleusner, US  
FWS; Ann Wilkinson, US FWS; Angela Morgan,  
KNA; Tom Kron, US FWS; Greg Bos, US FWS;  
Pamela Moreno; Paul Hunter, NPS; D.E.  
Phelps, Jr; Andrew Slaughter; Karen Gillis,  
Bering Strait Fishermen's Association; Nick

1 Frank; Paul Liedberg, Yukon Delta NWR; Terry  
2 L. Haynes, ADF&G; Sabrina Fernandez,  
3 Attorney General's Office; Donald Runsfelt;  
4 Michelle Horner; Pat Petrivelli US FWS;  
5 Taylor Brelsford; Stanley Ned, TCC; Sam  
6 Henry; Ted Hamilton, Randy Brown, US FWS;  
7 Elizabeth Marry, ADN; G. Kevin Van Hatten;  
8 Devi Sharp, Wrangell-St. Elias NP; Eric  
9 Veach, Wrangell-St. Elias NP; Mason Reid,  
10 Wrangell-St. Elias NP; Rob McWhorter, Joint  
11 Pipeline Office; Mike McDougall, YRDFA; Fred  
12 Bue, ADF&G; John Burr, ADF&G; Patrick Snow,  
13 US FWS; Orville Huntington; Brenda Tabes  
14 Horse, BLM.  
15  
16  
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## 1 PROCEEDINGS

2 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Meeting  
3 called to order -- meeting called to order  
4 this morning. I'll be chairing, and these  
5 two other boys here will be taking over two  
6 other days.

7 This morning -- and Ron Sam --  
8 we're sitting together here with the Chair  
9 from Yukon Kuskokwim area.

10 We're going to have the roll call  
11 this morning starting from Region 5 Yukon  
12 Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Council by  
13 Secretary George.

14 MR. GEORGE: Robert Nick?  
15 John Hanson?

16 MR. HANSON: Here.

17 MR. GEORGE: James Charles?

18 MR. CHARLES: Here.

19 MR. GEORGE: Mary Gregory?

20 MS. GREGORY: Here.

21 MR. GEORGE: Phillip Moses?

22 MR. MOSES: Here.

23 MR. GEORGE: Billy McCann? Billy  
24 McCann?  
25 Lester Wilde?

MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: Here.

MR. GEORGE: Mike Savage?  
Willard Church?

MR. CHURCH: Here.

MR. GEORGE: Alvin Owletuck?

MR. OWLETUCK: Here.

MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, nine  
out of --  
Two have arrived.

1 Mr. Chairman, 11 here.

2 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Next  
3 region. Region 9.

4 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, due to a lot  
5 of resignations on the Council, and there's  
6 the family members concerned, we're down to  
7 four members to establish a quorum with four  
8 existing members, I got two, three members  
9 here.

10 Jim Wilde?

11 MR. JIM WILDE: Here.

12 MR. NICHOLIA: David James?

13 MR. JAMES: Here.

14 MR. NICHOLIA: And myself,  
15 Gerald. Out of four members, three members  
16 establishes a quorum.

17 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Next,  
18 Region 6, Western Interior Regional Advisory  
19 Council.

20 Ron Sam?

21 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr.  
22 Chairman. Our Secretary, Jack Reakoff, will  
23 take the roll.

24 MR. REAKOFF: Ron Sam?

25 MR. SAM: Here.

MR. REAKOFF: Ray Collins?

MR. COLLINS: Here.

MR. REAKOFF: Jack Reakoff.

That's me, here.

Henry Deacon? Absent.

Michael Stickman? He's absent.

23 Sampson Henry?

24 MR. HENRY: Here.

25 MR. REAKOFF: Angela Demientieff?  
Benedict Jones?

1

MR. JONES: Here.

2

MR. REAKOFF: Carl Morgan?

3

MR. MORGAN: Here.

4

MR. REAKOFF: That's it,  
5 Mr. Chair, we have three absent.

6

MR. SAM: Okay. Angela is here.  
She'll be here shortly.

7

So Western Interior has a quorum.

8

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Okay.  
Now, we open your meeting with  
9 invocation. We ask Moses, Phillip Moses.

10

(Invocation by Phillip Moses.)

11

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: I think  
next on our agenda, I'm going to ask  
12 Vince -- Vince here?

13

MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

14

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Vince  
Mathews, review of draft meeting agenda.  
15 You here?

16

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.  
If you turn in to your book in the beginning  
17 pages, just beyond the table of contents,  
you have a copy of the agenda. Before we go  
18 through the agenda, we did have a meeting  
last night of all the officers for the three  
19 councils, and we need to discuss some of  
the -- some of the thoughts that came out of  
20 that.

21

Basically, the main thought that  
came through is that the meeting will be  
chaired at different times by the three  
22 Chairs. So Harry is doing the first half  
day, the second half will be Gerald and  
23 et cetera.

24

So, for the audience and public,  
we'll try and identify that, but if it's not  
clear, just ask for the Chair.

25

The next thing is, there was  
discussions earlier in the summer about

1 looking at time management for the meeting  
2 and looking at time for the amount of  
3 testimony.

4 It was decided last night that  
5 we're not going to use that or the officers  
6 decided not to use that unless it becomes  
7 apparent that there is a lot of people that  
8 need to testify. And if at that point, then  
9 maybe the Chairs will look at seeing if  
10 there will need to be a time constraint on  
11 testimony.

12 The other thing is, as it's  
13 becoming apparent, but we need to make sure  
14 everyone understands, this meeting is being  
15 translated as well as transcribed.

16 So, if we can all, including  
17 myself, speak a little bit slower and use  
18 the mikes, this will help both of them  
19 perform their very important duties.

20 It also means, as Sandi has  
21 already done, that she will interrupt people  
22 to say use the mike or, I can't hear you or  
23 whatever. She's not being rude or anything,  
24 she's just trying to capture everything  
25 spoken.

Yes, Ron.

MR. SAM: Thank you, Vince. I'm  
not trying to interject. I would like to  
note the presence of Della Trumble, our  
colleague and Chairperson for  
Kodiak/Aleutians.

Della?

MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And, let's  
see -- what else?

We will try to accommodate --  
meaning staff and others will try to  
accommodate as much of the Council's  
concerns and that --

So, if you have questions on  
that, we'll try to answer them, including  
people presenting.

Okay.

The next thing that we're  
actually going through is the agenda. This  
is what's kind of the work session. It kind  
of gives you an outline of how things are

1 going to happen.

2           Anyway, so, we've already gone  
3 through the opening business section.

4           I have it here on the overhead,  
5 if that's any help. It may not be at the  
6 proper distance, but if it is, please use  
7 it.

8           For the public, it's back on  
9 the -- it's in your booklet. There's  
10 booklets back there to pick up.

11           We're in the work agenda section.

12           The next part is the joint  
13 meeting agenda. You're going to meet  
14 jointly, all three councils. This is the  
15 first time ever that all three councils have  
16 met in official session. You have met to  
17 deal with monitoring projects, but those  
18 weren't your regularly scheduled meetings.  
19 So, this is the first for all three on the  
20 Yukon and all two regional councils on the  
21 Kuskokwim.

22           You'll see that the joint  
23 agenda -- we have the first part is where  
24 regional council members can bring up  
25 concerns and topics. This is a time, if you  
26 desire, to share concerns in your area that  
27 may be agenda topics, that may be added to  
28 the agenda, or that you wanted to make the  
29 fellow Councils and your home Council aware  
30 of.

31           Following that will be review and  
32 approval of the agenda. We'll try to post  
33 one in the back, but for people presenting,  
34 I have my back to them and staff, it would  
35 be best to get hold of one of the three  
36 coordinators. Alex Nick is right over on  
37 the right here. Donald Mike, or myself, or  
38 one of the team members for the Interior  
39 Division, and that would be Tom Kron, who is  
40 behind me here; Jerry Berg, who is next to  
41 Tom Kron; and I don't know if Pete is here.

42           He may not be, Pete DeMatteo, and  
43 George Sherrod, and Laura Jurgensen. If you  
44 have a question about where we're at in the  
45 agenda, go to the coordinators and the other  
46 regional team members. The agenda will move  
47 in different ways, so it would be best to  
48 check with those that have time constraints.

49           Then we go into the subsistence  
50 fisheries updates. We're going to deal with

1 the Yukon River drainage first. It's going  
2 to be an overview of the chinook, summer  
3 chum, fall chum, and coho salmon runs. This  
4 will be pretty much a joint effort -- it  
5 will be a joint effort between the Alaska  
6 Department of Fish & Game, the Federal  
7 inseason manager for the Federal subsistence  
8 program, and others.

9 We've also invited, a  
10 representative of the Yukon River Drainage  
11 Fishery Association, Jill Klein, to be  
12 involved in the discussion. The way the  
13 inseason goes on for those who are not  
14 involved with it on the Yukon, is they have  
15 generally weekly conferences. YRDFA is the  
16 one that sets up those conferences. That's  
17 how the information is discussed and debated  
18 and how management uses that information to  
19 make its inseason decisions. So that's why  
20 we would encourage Jill Klein to be here.

21 There will also be a discussion  
22 about the status of the U.S-Canada Salmon  
23 Agreement. It is down here as treaty, but  
24 it is truly an agreement. There is a  
25 summary on that in the Alaska Department of  
26 Fish & Game and we'll be giving more  
27 information on that.

28 Does this -- am I going too fast  
29 for everyone on this?

30 Not seeing any heads -- thank  
31 you.

32 Then, after the treaty -- excuse  
33 me -- agreement discussion, there will be a  
34 2002 subsistence fisheries overlook.

35 Now, this is really early and my  
36 back is already starting to sweat, but this  
37 was to give you an indication at this long  
38 point away from 2002 what the outlook looked  
39 like. We will be working with the  
40 coordinating fishery committees as that  
41 develops.

42 Okay. Once the Yukon session is  
43 done, then we go to the Kuskokwim.

44 Same thing follows on the  
45 Kuskokwim.

46 We'll have an overview on the  
47 chinook, the chum salmon, and coho salmon  
48 runs. We'll have an overview of the  
49 subsistence fishery opportunities which will  
50 be done, hopefully led by the coordinating

1 fishery committee members, two for the  
2 Yukon-Kuskokwim region and two for the  
3 Western Interior.

4 Then we've invited the co-chairs  
5 for the Kuskokwim salmon management working  
6 group, Frank Charles and Wayne Morgan,  
7 pretty much Wayne is here. I haven't been  
8 able to see if Frank is here.

9 That will be a time to discuss  
10 the Kuskokwim. For those who are on the  
11 Yukon and those who are the Kuskokwim,  
12 listen to each other -- drainages -- there  
13 is a lot to learn from how issues are  
14 addressed and how information is there. It  
15 would be best to remain attentive, because  
16 for Western Interior and for Yukon  
17 Kuskokwim, you cover both drainages.

18 Then we go on to the 2002  
19 fisheries subsistence outlook.

20 Then we kind of switch gears a  
21 little bit and go into coordination and  
22 capacity-building.

23 Basically, those are going to be  
24 briefings about the memorandum of agreement  
25 between the Federal agencies and the State  
on coordination, and there will be  
discussion about funding on that.

We'll also be talking about  
exciting new capacity-building things that  
you've heard over several meetings, but now  
I think it's a little bit more clear what's  
going on and getting close to actually  
implementing, and that's called partners for  
fisheries monitoring program.

Carl Jack will be talking about  
that.

The third item there is halibut  
and the subsistence fisheries management  
program.

I know that doesn't affect all  
three regions, but you need to be informed  
of it because it's considered a statewide  
issue, and that will also be before you.

Okay. Then we get into where you  
start really working as far as making  
recommendations, and that would be when we  
bring up proposals. It's the first time  
we've done it in front of three Councils, so  
the way we're going to try to do it is to  
follow the steps there.

1 I will introduce the proposal  
2 through an overhead. You'll need to decide  
3 on yourself how you want to handle it.

4 So maybe the Chairs will sometime  
5 this morning or lunch talk about how they  
6 want to handle the proposal.

7 One option is to adopt the  
8 proposal and then allow staff to go further.

9 Another is just allow staff to  
10 give the analysis and then put a motion  
11 forward.

12 Okay.

13 Right now, we'll introduce --  
14 there will be an analysis of it. The full  
15 analysis is in your book. Staff have been  
16 encouraged to hit the high points of their  
17 analysis, but they're more than willing to  
18 provide additional information if needed.

19 So, there will be an analysis,  
20 then we'll ask for agency comments so that  
21 can come from the Federal agencies, State  
22 agencies, and private.

23 The State has provided written  
24 comments, and I believe they'll have staff  
25 here to affirm those or if there have been  
any modifications.

Then we'll go to open floor  
public comments. We have blue slips -- I  
think they're all blue -- where people may  
fill them out, or someone behind me may  
raise their hand and say they want to  
comment on them. The Chair would have to  
recognize them and then they could comment.  
Then there'll be a summary of written  
comments, that I will do or another  
coordinator will do, written comments.  
Finally, there will be written comments,  
recommendation, and justification.

I will be asking on the  
proposals -- it is part of my duties to ask  
you if it's not clear on the record what  
your justification for the proposal -- for  
your recommendation, excuse me, is.

If that's not necessary, just  
please inform me, but we need to have an  
understanding of your justification as this  
goes forward to the Board.

So, that's the procedure with the  
proposals.

You have five proposals that

1 jointly you're going to look at. I don't  
2 think I need to go over them in detail.  
3 There's four -- four of them are dealing  
4 with -- I don't know, methods and means, I  
5 suppose is one way of saying it. And one  
6 that's dealing with who can fish in a  
7 certain area; customary and traditional use  
8 determinations.

9 I will be interrupting people  
10 during the day because sometimes we use the  
11 word C and T, which means two things right  
12 now. It means to some customary trade and  
13 some to customary and traditional use  
14 determinations.

15 To help Sandi out and to help the  
16 translators out, I and others will try to  
17 keep that clear when you're talking about  
18 customary and traditional use determinations  
19 and when you're talking about trade.

20 That gets us through the first  
21 day.

22 It's up to the Chairs to decide  
23 if they want to go into the evening.

24 Tomorrow, we start up at 8:30 in  
25 the morning. Tomorrow we have a full  
morning and maybe more on the monitoring  
projects.

If you remember, in February, we  
met here in Anchorage near before January to  
go over the projects that were funded in  
2000, 2001. Now you're going to be looking  
at and asked for recommendations on 2002  
projects.

Those materials are in your book.  
As far as the 2002 projects, you'll be  
getting handouts on the 2000 and 2001  
project updates and reports.

We're going to do the same thing  
as we did with the inseason. We're going to  
start off with the Yukon River and then go  
to Kuskokwim.

Okay. In addition, due to  
requests from various members on all three  
Councils here, we've incorporated reports,  
small little reports on key projects that  
you agreed should be funded.

One will be ichthyophonous  
infection or icky fish. We talked  
yesterday. We'll have to come up with a  
term that will help in translation, but that

1 will be discussed by Dr. Kocan. We'll have  
2 a whitefish-beaver interaction by Randy  
3 Brown. I already mentioned that Jill  
4 Klein -- she's going to talk about a project  
5 that you agreed should be funded for  
6 traditional and environmental knowledge or  
7 TEK on the Yukon River salmon. The  
8 fisheries intern program, Wayne Morgan, will  
9 be presenting on that. That's an exciting  
10 program.

11 And then, I believe, Frank will  
12 be here to talk about the fund that was  
13 provided and how it's helped the Kuskokwim  
14 River and the river salmon management  
15 working group.

16 The next agenda item is Native  
17 Corporations, Tribal Councils, et cetera,  
18 reports and concerns on issues relating to  
19 subsistence.

20 Again, I didn't capture all the  
21 different groups on the agenda. We captured  
22 the major ones. It's not to say there  
23 aren't other ones there. They would come up  
24 under BOF, others. So, if there's  
25 representatives of the association of  
26 Village Council presidents and they would  
27 like to give a report to the Regional  
28 Councils, they're welcome at that time, same  
29 with Council Athabascan Tribal Governments,  
30 Kuskokwim Native Association, and et cetera.

31 After those reports, there will  
32 be a briefing provided by staff on a very  
33 important topic, which I believe you've  
34 gotten a mailout on, and that's on the  
35 regulations that address the definition of  
36 customary trade and Federal regulation.

37 That one is important to you. I  
38 will tell you right now, it's an  
39 informational topic for you at this point.  
40 It would be great for you guys to openly  
41 discuss concerns on that.

42 The next meeting will be when  
43 you'll actually be passing your  
44 recommendations on that topic, but at this  
45 time, you can help in the formulation of the  
46 actual proposed regulations.

47 Okay. That gets us through  
48 Wednesday.

49 Then we go into Thursday.  
50 Thursday, you have a half-day jointly

1 together. I believe all three Councils -- I  
2 know two in particular, have been asking and  
3 are great -- that the National Marine  
4 fisheries has agreed to be here on Thursday  
5 morning at 8:30 to present.

6 So, there will be three people  
7 from the National Marine Fisheries to talk  
8 about their assessment on what is happening  
9 with the decline in salmon in the Kuskokwim  
10 and Yukon drainages.

11 There is an open slot there for  
12 the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to give  
13 agency reports. I believe there will be  
14 some on wildlife. Your Chairs felt that all  
15 three regions should hear these, so there  
16 will be -- I'm almost positive Randy Rogers  
17 will be here to discuss some planning that's  
18 going on in the Eastern Interior and some  
19 planning efforts that are going on in  
20 Western Interior and there may be other  
21 reports.

22 Bureau of Land Management and the  
23 joint pipeline office requested to speak for  
24 a few minutes about the reauthorization of  
25 the permit for the Trans-Alaskan pipeline.

26 This one is of interest to those  
27 that are in the -- bordering the Dalton  
28 Highway corridor in particular, Eastern and  
29 Western Interior, but they did want to talk  
30 to you about that process. Bureau of Indian  
31 affairs may have a report, the National  
32 Parks Service generally does per park area,  
33 Fish & Wildlife Service. There will be  
34 several different reports.

35 I've been approached by quite a  
36 few people on questions on the nomination  
37 process. So, we will try to have someone  
38 here to discuss the schedule for  
39 nominations. That means appointments to  
40 your Councils.

41 That brings us through Thursday.

42 We're guessing 11:00 o'clock, it  
43 may be more like lunch.

44 Staff here at the hotel has  
45 indicated they need approximately a half  
46 hour to change this room around into three  
47 sections. So we may need to break for lunch  
48 when we finish the first half, and then  
49 they'll have the room set up for us.

50 You'll go into your breakout

1 sessions. They're listed there. Basically,  
2 that's when you take up your minutes.  
3 That's when you're going to discuss in your  
4 own Councils, the customary trade  
5 regulations, then you'll go over proposals.  
6 Eastern Interior has a few overlap  
7 proposals; the other ones do not.

8 Eastern Interior has a lot of  
9 work on its agenda. They will -- after  
10 proposals will go and review the monitoring  
11 projects for Southcentral, and then they'll  
12 do subsistence wildlife issues that come up.

13 This is a time for us to tell you  
14 what happened at the last Board meeting, and  
15 summary of proposals submitted to date, and  
16 this is a time in all three regions that if  
17 you know of proposals or thinking of a  
18 proposal or whatever, is to bring it out on  
19 the table, and discuss it as far as  
20 submitting it. You can make it a council  
21 proposal or you can do it as individuals,  
22 but it is a time to discuss potential  
23 proposals.

24 Then we'll deal with annual  
25 reports, response to your 2002 annual  
report. And then we need to start looking  
at -- I mean, 2000 report. We need to start  
looking at your 2001 report.

And then Council charter -- this  
is the odd year -- we need to look at your  
charter review and approval. And I  
understand Yukon Kuskokwim wants to change a  
few things in their charter. So that will  
be their time to discuss that.

And then correspondence  
sent/received, elections and appointments  
for Yukon Kuskokwim, the other two regions  
have appointing authority to groups that  
assist with management on National Park  
lands. This will also be a time for to you  
review your appointments, Yukon Kuskokwim to  
your coordinating fisheries committee, both  
on the Yukon and the Kuskokwim.

Then the last topic is time and  
place of the next meeting.

Now, you've seen -- I've  
introduced Jerry Berg and Tom Kron and other  
people on the regional team. Tom serves all  
three regions. Pete DeMatteo serves all  
three regions. Jerry serves two of the

1 three, et cetera; so we have to work with  
2 you to make sure your meetings don't  
3 overlap, don't meet on the same day or days.  
4 So, we'll be working with you to make sure  
5 we can avoid the overlaps so we can have the  
6 best -- to have your team there so you can  
7 have the best information.

That in general, is the agenda.

I didn't keep -- flipping this up  
unless someone needs a specific point.

The only other -- only last thing  
I can provide you is if you would like, I  
can tell you where the agenda topics would  
be as far as Tab -- you know, like the  
Yukon-Northern area proposals are Tab C, but  
we can do that throughout the meeting for  
you, so we can direct you, staff that I was  
able to talk to, and other staff that are  
listening now, when you come up and present  
it would be wise to say, "I'm going to be  
talking about Proposal 7 in the  
Yukon-Northern area which is under Tab C on  
page 3."

For staff, we had difficulties  
getting these books printed up due to  
vandalism at the printer. They've probably  
just seen these books today, so I'm giving  
them advice that you need to do tabs and  
numbers.

If you say page 28, the Council  
won't know where to go, because there's many  
pages in your -- here numbered 28. You have  
to tell them Tab E, page 28, just a little  
thing. We'll try to keep everyone on track.

If we fail to do that, just stop  
us. This is your meeting. Just say I don't  
know where you're at, please direct us, what  
page we need to be on. It will just help  
everybody if we all work on that.

That's the agenda work session.  
I have had some requests for some additions  
to the agenda, but I think we'll wait and  
discuss that when you come up later on the  
agenda on that. I'm open for questions on  
this.

It looks like I did well.

It's difficult doing this work  
session for me, because I work with this  
agenda hourly and for me to go over it again  
like this is hard. So I appreciated your

1           patience on that.

2                         With that, Mr. Chair, I think it  
3           may be wise to you to go right into the  
4           joint meetings --

5                         MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman,  
6           Vince, I understand you said there will be  
7           no time for testimony. Is that what I'm  
8           hearing --

9                         MR. MATHEWS: No, that's  
10          incorrect. There is time for testimony.

11                        MS. GREGORY: And when would that  
12          be?

13                        MR. MATHEWS: The way we've  
14          structured this meeting is that people would  
15          need to fill out the blue slips which are in  
16          the back, or get a hold of one of the  
17          Chairs, preferably the one Chair, saying, I  
18          would like to talk about the Kuskokwim  
19          salmon management working group. It would  
20          be easy if they fill out the blue thing.  
21          Then we would keep track of that and inform  
22          the Chair that there's people willing to  
23          testify.

24                        There will be testimony  
25          throughout -- allowed throughout the  
26          meeting.

27                        That's my understanding from the  
28          chairs.

29                        MS. GREGORY: We will take the  
30          testimony, or does it have to take some  
31          testimonies?

32                        MS. GREGORY: (Through  
33          interpreter.) Are these the coordinators  
34          that are going to be able to take the  
35          testimonies? The Chair please raise your  
36          hand.

37                        TRANSLATOR BRYANT: She's  
38          explaining that they have to fill out the  
39          pink form to write down your testimony if  
40          you've got something to say. Thank you.

41                        MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: I think  
42          you just heard the agenda, how it's going;

1 and I think it's right now we are to review  
2 it and maybe be approved.

3 MR. SAM: Mr. Chair, I move that  
4 we adopt the agenda as presented with the  
5 understanding that we have always been  
6 flexible due to time restraints or to time  
7 restraints self-imposed on people that may  
8 want to testify.

9 MS. GREGORY: I second the  
10 motion.

11 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Motion has  
12 been made and seconded.  
13 All who are in favor, say "aye."

14 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

15 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Opposed,  
16 same sign.

17 Motion carried.  
18 I got a message for the Councils.  
19 We're going to have an earlier break than  
20 usual, because some of our Council, they  
21 don't have no money. They pay, some of  
22 them; they pay their fare from Bethel to  
23 Anchorage. I think at this time that we're  
24 going to give them an opportunity to go to  
25 bank and whatever, so they could have money  
to eat on. We're going to break about 11:30  
and come back at 1:00 o'clock.

So, we're going to be continuing  
with our agenda, joint meeting agenda, 2,  
fishery update Federal and State  
presentation.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, it's  
fine to go ahead with that. I didn't know  
if any of the Council members had concerns  
that they wanted to share before you went  
into the presentations on fisheries.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: One  
Regional Council members concerns topics and  
agenda approval.

Gerald?

MR. NICHOLIA: Thank you, Mr.  
Chairman. There is -- one thing that we all

1 came here to meet is that we're all  
2 concerned about the fish on the Yukon and  
3 Kuskokwim Rivers. One thing I've really  
4 been working on is trying to get the  
5 National Marines Fisheries to work with us,  
6 what we've been reading a lot and hearing  
7 about is that it's not the conditions of the  
8 ocean, climate change, it's just that the  
9 world population has been overharvesting the  
10 fish species worldwide and that's what's  
11 causing the decline -- the declines is just  
12 so much people fishing out there. That's  
13 one thing that -- that's one thing our --  
14 United States Government and National Marine  
15 Fisheries really don't understand is to  
16 overharvest the fish species in the oceans  
17 that's what's really affecting all these  
18 declines in all these rivers and all these  
19 continents around this world. They have to  
20 understand that.

21 Another thing I wanted to really  
22 stress to everybody here is that Regional  
23 Council appointments -- I think Gayle Norton  
24 should get on the ball and start appointing  
25 some people to my Council, because it's very  
26 hard for three members to do the work of  
27 properly representing the whole Eastern  
28 Interior region. We don't -- it's very  
29 complicated because we have a road system  
30 and we have a river system, and the people  
31 on the river system don't really hardly  
32 understand the road system. But we could  
33 probably do it, but I sure hate to see the  
34 last four, five meetings that we're not  
35 really fully represented and I want to  
36 stress that point to these agencies and  
37 stuff.

38 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Anyone  
39 else? Council?  
40 Sam?

41 MR. SAM: Yeah, again, I would  
42 like to reiterate, but, with Chairman  
43 Nicholia, that I've been keeping this  
44 magazine for quite some time, what they  
45 alluded to, it's overharvesting commercial  
46 and mostly commercial throughout the world.  
47 And this is out of Newsweek. It's from  
48 August sometime. And I -- I would really

1 like to meet the people who are going to  
2 make a presentation on the joint pipeline  
3 office. It's built right out of Gerald's  
4 villages. Their subsistence river is  
5 approximately one mile away from that place  
6 where that pipeline cuts off. So, we've got  
7 to start paying more attention to the  
8 worldwide catastrophes and the impact it has  
9 on our subsistence areas.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Anymore  
7 Council concerns?

8 MR. JONES: My name is Benedict  
9 Jones. I was invited to a Coast Guard  
10 meeting which took place last month, and I  
11 was selected through the Yukon waters  
12 committee, and they got -- the Coast Guard  
13 brought up the oil spill like we just had on  
14 the pipeline, and their concern about the  
15 Koyukuk River and the Yukon River drainage  
16 where the pipeline crossed the Koyukuk  
17 River.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Any other  
15 concerns?

16 If it's not -- if there's not,  
17 we'll go to the fishery update. Federal and  
18 State presentations?

19 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we  
20 need to use the mike, but in addition to  
21 that, several people from Quinhagak have  
22 asked to speak at the tail end of the  
23 Kuskokwim River section discussion. They  
24 want to talk about a resolution that  
25 addresses sport fishing.

26 We also have received an e-mail  
27 from a former regional council member on the  
28 Kuskokwim River that I'll -- he would like  
29 his comments shared at the same time on  
30 discussions on the Kuskokwim River. So, at  
31 that time, I think at the end of discussions  
32 of the Kuskokwim salmon working group, we  
33 would ask the two representatives from  
34 Quinhagak to speak and then I'll share the  
35 comment from Herman Morman of Aniak.

At this time would be the Yukon

1 River post-season section. There's quite a  
2 few staff here that will be presenting, so  
we'll try to make as many Chairs up here at  
the table.

3 I believe they'll have a handout  
4 on the overview of how the season  
progressed. So it will just be a minute or  
5 two for the inseason manager for the Federal  
program, and then the area biologist and  
6 other staff from Fish and Game.

7 Mr. Chairman, the reason this is  
taking a little bit longer than we had  
8 planned, there is a little bit of snafu in  
travel. The inseason management for the  
9 Federal subsistence program is just arriving  
on the plane, and we were just discussing  
10 with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game if  
it would be okay if they kind of take the  
start. They're going to do that and Tom  
11 Kron will fill in. The Federal inseason  
manager will need to catch up. That's why  
12 we're a little bit longer getting set up  
here than we had planned. I apologize for  
13 that, and we'll be ready. When Ross comes  
here and his staff, he'll fit it right in.

14 I only had one cup of coffee this  
morning. We have a few other housekeeping  
15 things.

16 One of the housekeeping things  
that is extremely important for staff and  
17 most of the staff here have done it for  
years; but for some that may not have, we  
18 have these receivers. These are not to  
listen to the baseball scores. This is to  
19 hear the translation of what's going on when  
the representatives speak in their Native  
tongue, their first language.

20 So, for staff, they need to have  
these receivers.

21 If you hear static, that doesn't  
mean I'm talking, that means the battery is  
getting low, okay.

22 So, if you have static when you  
use this, then go to -- we're getting  
23 batteries somewhere. Come to one of the  
coordinators and we'll get you a new  
24 battery. Static means the battery is going  
bad.

25 So that's another thing, and you  
need to sign these out so we can make sure

1 that we can keep track of all of them.

2 Let's see what other housekeeping  
we had.

3 Oh, for staff, for the  
transcriber and for the translator, it would  
4 be best if you introduce yourself, which I  
didn't even do. I'll introduce myself. I'm  
5 Vince Mathews, the regional coordinator for  
Western Interior. If I was going to  
6 present, which I did, I would introduce  
myself and start my presentation. That way  
7 we can recognize you and on the audiotape  
recognize your voice.

8 With that, see if there's any  
other housekeeping.

9 We may have had too many cups of  
coffee given out in the back of the room.  
10 This is a long, narrow room, and the noise  
does carry, so we'll just have to keep our  
report and side conversations and that out  
11 in the hall. It would be best.

12 The reason being, there's a lot  
of staff here from different agencies, and  
some of them it's the first time they've  
13 participated and they want to hear the full  
event.

14 Okay. We'll work on that. If  
the speakers aren't loud enough back there,  
15 we can deal with that.

16 The other thing is, if possible,  
cell phones should be turned off.

17 Now, these are little things that  
seem minute, but once we get into  
discussions here, there's only so many  
18 minutes in a day. We need to maximize that.  
Side conversations need to go outside and if  
19 possible cell phones.

20 Okay. If anybody needs these  
boxes, priority first goes to the Council  
members; second priority to staff,  
21 especially staff presenting; and then third  
priority is the general public.

22 We should have enough to cover  
all those. Remember, if it's static, please  
23 get ahold of a staff person right away.  
Eventually the battery will go dead and  
24 you'll hear nothing.

Donald?

25

MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, just for

1 presentations that are going on, for those  
2 people who are agencies that are going to be  
3 presenting their report; please find your  
4 name tags when you're at the testifier's  
5 table. They should be on the table. Thank  
6 you.

7 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I did  
8 remember one last thing. Each of your  
9 systems in front of you, the microphone,  
10 this red thing here, you need to turn it on,  
11 officially, do make it hurt. If you want  
12 head sets, Mr. Hanson has a set; Mr. Wilde  
13 down there has a set; and others, we can get  
14 you those and that way you can hear better  
15 what is being said. So, if you need  
16 earplugs for this system, we can provide  
17 those for you, okay. John is using them, et  
18 cetera. They're very helpful for John and  
19 those that are using it. The little dial is  
20 how you turn it up or down. The higher the  
21 number, the louder it will be. Thank you.

22 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: One for  
23 presenters.

24 We need to have --  
25 We need presenters to answer the  
26 questions if the Council asks -- I got a  
27 message for presenters. When the Council  
28 answer -- asks questions, I want to make  
29 sure that presenters answer that question  
30 before there is some questions that never  
31 get answered.

32 Thank you.

33 MR. HOLDER: Good morning,  
34 committee members. My name is Russ Holder.  
35 I'm a fisheries biologist with U.S. Fish &  
36 Wildlife Service working on the Yukon River  
37 with inseason fishery management. Following  
38 this overview, which has just been passed  
39 around, the State managers are going to be  
40 presenting additional inseason information,  
41 and Tom Vania will be covering the summer  
42 season, chinook and summer chum. Fred Bue,  
43 behind me, will be covering fall chum salmon  
44 and Audra Brase will be covering coho  
45 salmon.

46 This past field season, Monty  
47 Millard started as the inseason manager.

1 Basically, with his retirement happening,  
2 Jeff Adams, sitting behind, me is the acting  
3 inseason manager; and I've been assisting  
4 with the inseason management for the Federal  
5 side.

6 The handout which has been  
7 provided to you gives the first two  
8 paragraphs, basically gives some background  
9 information for you.

10 MS. GREGORY: Can you list which  
11 paper you're talking to?

12 MR. HOLDER: Yes, ma'am.  
13 The overview that just got handed  
14 around.

15 Sorry.  
16 The first two paragraphs provide  
17 some background information for you on why  
18 the Federal Government is participating with  
19 the Fish & Game regarding inseason salmon  
20 management. With the subsistence provisions  
21 provided in ANILCA in -- inconsistent with  
22 the State law, the fisheries management  
23 basically began participation in July of --  
24 a couple years ago. The inconsistency began  
25 on July 1st in 1990. This -- the affected  
public lands are primarily National Wildlife  
refuges, but there are some other lands  
affected. These are listed for you on the  
handout there.

To deal with fish & wildlife  
management issues, the Federal Subsistence  
Board was created, and this authority was  
delegated to an inseason field official in  
order to carry out the Board's, say, mission  
on inseason management.

In the spring of 2000 an interim  
memorandum of agreement was signed between  
the State and Federal Governments that  
provides a platform for the management for  
Fish & Wildlife to continue, and to -- in  
order to provide for the subsistence  
priorities under State and Federal law.

Going into this season, the  
pre-season outlook was not good. It was  
basically below average to poor -- for  
chinook, summer chum and fall chum; and at  
the State Board of Fisheries meeting in  
January they identified chinook salmon and

1 summer chum salmon as stocks of concern, and  
2 for the first time implemented a windowed  
3 subsistence salmon fishing schedule to  
4 increase the quality of escapement, spread  
5 the harvest throughout the run, and try to  
6 spread the subsistence opportunity among  
7 subsistence users along the river.

8 In addition to using the Board of  
9 Fish subsistence fishing schedule, the  
10 Alaska Department of Fish & Game indicated  
11 that any commercial fishing periods were  
12 highly unlikely for the Yukon River this  
13 season, and that they would close the sport  
14 fishery for chinook salmon if the runs were  
15 weak.

16 The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
17 and Fish & Game biologists conducted  
18 pre-season public meetings. Basically,  
19 there were meetings up and down the river.  
20 I believe they started not long after the  
21 Board of Fisheries meeting, down in Kotlik,  
22 and then continued upriver, kind of for the  
23 next couple months. And behind me, Jeff  
24 Adams has got a poster that was created and  
25 sent out to all the different villages which  
hopefully all of you saw this spring to try  
to inform people about what was going on.

There was also a yellow sheet  
that was handed out at all these meetings,  
and also, I believe, mailed out, and I think  
Tom is going to provide some additional  
information on that.

Basically, because of the high  
concern for the salmon for this season, we  
were trying to go to extra efforts to  
explain to the fishermen the reasons for the  
new subsistence fishing schedule that the  
Board of Fish was implementing and that Fish  
& Wildlife Service was assisting to  
implement.

On May 10th, the Federal  
Subsistence Board, after hearing the public  
testimony and expressing their concern for  
the poor salmon outlook for this upcoming  
season, adopted a special action which  
closed the Chinook and summer chum  
subsistence salmon fishery on all Federal  
waters in the Yukon River drainage for 60  
days to all users except the Federally  
qualified subsistence users. So, that

1 basically meant that you had to be living  
2 out on the river to be able to participate  
3 in the subsistence salmon fishery this year.

4 Turning the information sheet  
5 over, as the chinook salmon run began this  
6 year, the -- it was assessed to be low in  
7 abundance, restrictions in fishing time were  
8 first implemented in District One and moved  
9 upriver sequentially. Basically, kind of in  
10 order, moving upriver to conserve both the  
11 chinook and summer chum salmon.

12 When it was determined that the  
13 summer chum salmon run would be less than  
14 the identified population side of 600,000  
15 fish, gear reel distributions were  
16 implemented in District One on July 5th, and  
17 then also implemented going upriver to  
18 prohibit the directed summer chum summer  
19 harvest.

20 Looking back, it looks like the  
21 2001 summer chum salmon return appears to be  
22 near 400,000 fish.

23 It also -- it's very likely that  
24 the summer chum salmon needs were not met  
25 due to the gear restrictions and also the  
26 restrictions in fishing time.

27 Preliminary escapement  
28 information indicates that the chinook  
29 salmon run was probably about twice as good  
30 as last year, but well below average. The  
31 Federal inseason manager rescinded the  
32 Federally qualified user restriction for  
33 chinook salmon late in July upon  
34 establishing that there were a harvestable  
35 number of fish available in excess of the  
36 number needed for subsistence, escapement  
37 and for Canada.

38 Subsistence catch reports were  
39 variable with a success rates being from  
40 very good to poor, but it appears that most  
41 individuals that tried were able to meet  
42 their subsistence needs for chinook salmon.

43 In large part, due to the poor  
44 performance of this year's summer chum  
45 salmon run, and the realization that the  
46 trend of poor salmon production would likely  
47 continue for this year's fall chum salmon,  
48 it was great concern that fall chum salmon  
49 would not return in numbers sufficient to  
50 get the minimum escapement numbers.

1           Based on these factors, and that  
2           the population size would likely be less  
3           than 350,000, both the Fish & Game and  
4           Federal inseason managers decided to close  
5           the fall chum salmon fishery in the Lower  
6           Yukon basically at the start of the season,  
7           at July 16th.

8           The fishery remained closed until  
9           early August when the early half -- the fall  
10          chum salmon run did show an unexpected  
11          strength and it was projected that there  
12          would be enough salmon to meet the  
13          drainage-wide escapement and provides for  
14          limited subsistence fishing.

15          Based on this projection, the  
16          Federal inseason manager issued a special  
17          action effective August 6th which limited  
18          the subsistence harvest of fall chum salmon  
19          to those persons which were Federally  
20          qualified subsistence users.

21          Similar to the chinook salmon,  
22          basically trying to -- the fish that were  
23          available to be harvested, to be sure that  
24          those were available to be harvested by the  
25          folks on the river. And then this  
26          restriction was rescinded on August 10th  
27          with the projection that there would be  
28          enough fall chum salmon to provide for  
29          escapement and subsistence harvest by all  
30          users.

31          It is expected that the fall chum  
32          salmon subsistence harvest will have been  
33          greatly reduced this year due to the early  
34          season closure, the windowed fishing  
35          schedule used once fishing was reopened, and  
36          because many fishermen were waiting to  
37          harvest fish later in the season which ended  
38          up being the portion of the run which wasn't  
39          very strong.

40          Although it appears that most of  
41          the escapement goals for Alaska will be met,  
42          the escapement into Canada was less than  
43          anticipated with the Canadian projection of  
44          53,000 fish and that projection is about a  
45          week and a half old as far as September 24th  
46          is when that projection came in; and that's  
47          the most recent we had to date and as  
48          contrasted with our border Treaty obligation  
49          of 80,000 fish.

50          One bright spot was the unusually

1 strong return of coho salmon this year which  
2 provided some late-season subsistence  
3 fishing opportunities.

4 During this season of reduced  
5 salmon returns, we appreciate the commitment  
6 of fishers in following the announced  
7 management actions. We recognize the  
8 confusion and hardships surrounding the new  
9 Board of Fish subsistence fishing schedule,  
10 yet it does appear that this new windowed  
11 subsistence fishing schedule allowed most  
12 subsistence users to also meet their needs  
13 and increase the quality escapement and  
14 spread the harvest out throughout the run in  
15 the lower, middle, and upper portions of the  
16 Yukon River.

17 That completes my overview and  
18 introduction; and I believe additional  
19 information then will be provided by the  
20 State managers at this point.

21 MR. McCANN: Have you -- like  
22 some of us noticed this spring that the  
23 False Pass commercial fishing was striking  
24 for quite a while, and some of us noticed  
25 that a little more fish were coming in too,  
26 just because of that.

27 Do you people notice that in any  
28 way, checking this all the time? Did you  
29 notice that?

30 Some of us noticed that a little  
31 bit more than before. It was quite a while,  
32 strike a little, a hole in there for quite a  
33 while. Fish go through, I think.

34 You noticed that?

35 MR. HOLDER: We appreciate seeing  
36 the additional fish that did come in, but  
37 trying to identify where those fish were  
38 saved from or the additional fish coming  
39 from, we don't have the -- say, the ability  
40 to do that. We don't know that fish being  
41 saved or additional fish that you saw were  
42 saved actually from the not fishing which  
43 happened in False Pass?

44 MR. McCANN: I don't agree with  
45 that -- the answer that you gave me. You're  
46 suppose to check every fish that comes in,  
47 and you should know that. You should expect

1 that also, because we're talking about False  
2 Pass quite a while back to do something  
3 about it. It did happen. Some of us  
4 noticed that, a little more fish coming in  
5 through just because of that.

Thank you.

6 MR. BERGSTROM: Mr. Chair, my  
7 name is Dan Bergstrom with Fish & Game. And  
8 I wanted to let you know that looking at the  
9 Kuskokwim and the Yukon and the chum run  
10 this year, the chum run was better in the  
11 Kuskokwim, was better than 2,000, weir had  
12 better escapements and all this thing.  
13 There it appeared maybe there was some  
14 impact with False Pass having a strike and  
15 the lower catch than normal. On the Yukon,  
16 the summer chum was about exactly the same  
17 as 2000, just very poor, and we didn't  
18 notice any increase in chum there at all.  
19 One of the things that appeared to be  
20 different between the -- the Kuskokwim did  
21 appear to have more four-year-old chum  
22 salmon come back.

23 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
24 Mr. Chair, I was going to voice my concern a  
25 little bit. When we were discussing the  
26 issue of False Pass, the strikes, I know a  
27 lot of you are aware that we didn't have  
28 any, hardly any fish this summer, period.  
29 Things were really slow. The water was  
30 really warm, but the other part of my  
31 concern is discussing False Pass or area M  
32 without it technically being on your agenda  
33 so other people have ability, the fishermen  
34 and people in our region have the ability to  
35 speak to these issues also.

Thank you.

20 I'm sorry, I'm Della Trumble; and  
21 I'm the chair from the Kodiak/Aleutians.

Thank you.

22 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Anymore  
23 questions to presenters?

24 MR. VANIA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
25 My name is Tom Vania. I'm with the Alaska  
Department of Fish & Game. I'm on the Yukon  
area summer season management biologist for

1 the river, and I'll be reviewing  
2 escapements, and I'll be referring to the  
3 tables and figures that are presented in the  
4 summer season informational letter that I've  
5 passed around to you.

6 Overall, chinook salmon run was  
7 better than last year, but it was still  
8 below average. And referring to Table 1 in  
9 the informational letter, it will be the  
10 first table just past page 14, and this  
11 table here on the upper portion of it shows  
12 commercial harvests from '95 to 2001, and  
13 then below it, it has escapements for  
14 various projects that we have on the river.

15 I'll be referring to the  
16 escapement portion of the table.

17 We can see that chinook salmon  
18 escapements into the Chena and Salcha Rivers  
19 exceeded the upper ends of the biologic  
20 escapement goal rangers that are established  
21 for those rivers and those are based on  
22 tower counts, sustainable escapement goals.

23 SEGs, which are based on aerial  
24 survey counts, they were met on the Anvik,  
25 Nulato, and the Gisasa Rivers. The  
26 preliminary total Canadian harvest of 9,000  
27 chinook salmon left about 38,000 chinook  
28 salmon for spawning escapement, and that's  
29 approximately 10,000 above the minimum  
30 escapement goal of 28,000 into Canada.

31 And while escapements were at  
32 levels we generally like to see for the  
33 drainage, the run did not support a  
34 commercial harvest that has averaged about  
35 90,000 chinook salmon over the last ten  
36 years.

37 Turning the page and referring to  
38 Table 2, this summarizes the summer chum  
39 harvest and escapements. Overall, the  
40 summer chum salmon run was very poor. The  
41 summer chum salmon escapement into the Anvik  
42 river was just over half of the lower end,  
43 the lower end of the BEG range of 400 to  
44 800,000 summer chum salmon. That's based on  
45 the Anvik River sonar counts.

46 It is unknown if the BEG for the  
47 Andraefsky River was met because there was  
48 limited project operations this year due to  
49 high water and delay of the project getting  
50 going.

1           The preliminary Pilot Station's  
2 sonar passage estimate was 435,000 summer  
3 chum salmon, then you add in the additional  
4 limited harvest below Pilot Station and  
5 escapement below Pilot Station the  
6 Andreafsky River, and we see that the summer  
7 chum salmon run fell below the 600,000 level  
8 that's required by regulation to allow for  
9 directed summer chum salmon fishing,  
10 subsistence fishing.

11           We look at Figure 3 in your  
12 handouts, which is a few pages beyond the  
13 tables, actually -- I'm sorry, I want to  
14 look at Figure No. 8, Figure No. 8 is a bar  
15 graph that shows escapements into various  
16 streams that we have round-based assessment  
17 projects on for the summer chum salmon. And  
18 this does display counts that are gathered  
19 from our round-based project, although some  
20 of these escapements were better than 2000,  
21 there were others that were not better than  
22 2000. And overall, all of the escapements  
23 were all below a recent five-year average.

24           The poor trend -- the trend of  
25 poor production since 1998 had both State  
and Federal managers taking a real cautious  
approach to the inseason run assessment and  
management of the summer fishery. Based on  
the set net test fish catch per unit effort,  
and the Pilot Station sonar preliminary  
estimates, the chinook salmon run appear to  
be starting slow April and tracking similar  
to last year's run.

          The overall cumulative set net  
CPUE that we looked at in 2001, ended up  
being 15.23, and that's compared to 14.12 in  
2000.

          Then based on post-season sonar  
passage estimates and escapement project  
information that we had for the entire  
drainage including what crossed the border,  
it appears that the test fish CPUE data did  
underestimate the relative abundance of the  
run in season.

23           Although the test fishery  
24 identifies pulses of chinook salmon entering  
25 the river, the catches were lower than what  
they should have been.

          This is probably due to high  
water levels and then changes in conditions

1 at the middle mouth and south mouth sites.

2 With the set nets telling us what  
3 we had expected to see, and the new drift  
4 project that we had there was correlating  
5 with our set nets. We found ourselves slow  
6 to react to the changing conditions of the  
7 sites.

8 It wasn't until late in June that  
9 we began to have some strong indications  
10 that the chinook run was better than what we  
11 had expected to see with these low CPUE  
12 indexes, and we didn't realize until that  
13 time that it's likely that our set nets were  
14 underestimating the relative abundance of  
15 the run.

16 Subsistence reports from the  
17 Middle River indicated that catches of  
18 chinook were much better than last year.  
19 And Pilot Station's sonar passage estimates,  
20 we expanded those late in June to account  
21 for days of partial operations.

22 They had finally gathered enough  
23 information where they had full operations  
24 that they could go back and look at those  
25 days of partial operations and put in an  
26 expanded number as to what we feel had gone  
27 by when we just had partial information what  
28 we probably had missed at that time.

29 At that time, that pushed the  
30 estimate ahead of the 2000 run, so then we  
31 had this information pointing towards our  
32 nets, so we took a harder look at our set  
33 nets and we found out it was giving us a  
34 poor representation of what was actually  
35 going by.

36 Then we also refined our drift  
37 net sites late in the summer season; and  
38 based, on the results that we saw for the  
39 fall season and the success that the refined  
40 locations had in determining the fall chum  
41 run, it's likely that the original drift  
42 locations were also giving us a poor  
43 representation of the relative abundance of  
44 the chinook run.

45 And we see that the precision of  
46 our inseason management tools is such that  
47 relatively small harvestable surpluses  
48 beyond escapement in subsistence needs, they  
49 are difficult to detect, and I think that  
50 prompted by the trend of declining

1 production and the dual management of the  
2 subsistence fishery, somewhere along the way  
3 we kind of lost track of how variable our  
4 test fish data is and the need to be real  
5 cautious in how we use that information.

6 The test nets really can give us  
7 run timing information and just a general  
8 sense if the run is below average, average  
9 or above average.

10 In addition, there is always  
11 going to be uncertainty with the Pilot  
12 Station chinook passage estimates. Every  
13 year Pilot Station sonar passage it attempts  
14 to count chinook salmon under conditions  
15 that no one else in the world attempts to  
16 do.

17 Some years, like this year, the  
18 river conditions can make the task even more  
19 difficult. We had real high water. Years  
20 of heavy debris make that task of counting  
21 salmon on the Yukon River even more  
22 difficult.

23 But the project has proven  
24 reliable enough to develop management plans  
25 around the summer chum and the fall chum  
runs. And even the project has some problem  
with chinook salmon, it continues to provide  
us with valuable information that we can use  
for management, and we just need to be  
cautious in how we use the information.

1 I think the management of the  
2 summer chum fishery is a good example of  
3 being cautious with the run assessment  
4 information. You know, early in the chum  
5 run, the run projection ranged anywhere from  
6 400 to 700,000 summer chum salmon, and  
7 that's based on just varying run timing. Is  
8 it an early run, a normal run, a late run?

9 It's tough to tell early in the  
10 season where we're at in the run. So, you  
11 have a wide range of what the run might be  
12 at the end of the season.

13 And while we thought it was  
14 likely that the run was going to fall below  
15 600,000, there was enough uncertainty in the  
16 data with the run projection based on the  
17 subsistence reports that we were getting,  
18 and based on the variations in run timing,  
19 that rather than closing the fishery early,  
20 we limited fishing time. We still allowed

1 some limited summer chum fishing, based on  
2 this uncertainty, that, hey, it could end up  
over 600,000. There is that possibility.

3 And then it wasn't until  
4 additional run information came in further  
into the run -- we had more information --  
5 that this uncertainty in the data starts to  
diminish and then, you know, at that time,  
6 then we close the summer chum fishery.

7 So, there's always going to be  
8 uncertainty with the inseason run  
assessments and the declining trend in  
9 salmon production on the Yukon River. It  
prompted conservative management to be  
10 applied to this inherent uncertainty.

11 Now, just as in past years, the  
12 trend of good production has prompted a more  
liberal management fishery. So, hopefully,  
13 we can work together and just come up with  
some reasonable actions to take during times  
14 of uncertainty.

15 So, thank you.

16 MR. JONES: I have a question on  
17 your drift net testing. What mesh dip and  
18 what length nets are you using?

19 MR. VANIA: We were using 8-inch  
20 mesh, and -- it was 8-and-a-quarter-inch  
mesh, and that's a little different than our  
21 set nets. Our set nets we historically use  
8-and-a-half- inch mesh. The drift with the  
22 new project, we were using  
8-and-a-quarter-inch mesh, I'm not sure the  
23 length of that -- 50 fathom and 35 meshes  
24 deep.

25 MR. JONES: Three-and-a-half --  
the summer and chinook, and fall chum, our  
water was unusually high, and because of  
21 that there was a lot of good escapement for  
the Middle Yukon area, there wasn't that  
22 much chinook caught because of the high  
water on the drift-netted area; and the set  
23 net, there weren't that many spots because  
of the channel changing in the Yukon River  
24 in our area.

As far as fall chum, I was  
25 drift-netting in the same area I usually do  
every year, and this year the water table

1 was 10 foot higher than normal, and I know  
2 the fall chum was a good run at that time,  
3 but I wasn't catching any fish. Finally,  
4 somebody came around with a fish finder and  
5 we found out the fall chum were the same  
6 level at the bottom of the river, but our  
7 water was too high and they were going  
8 underneath our fish net.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. JAMES: David James, from the  
11 Eastern -- Tom, when you do your  
12 tabulations, and the fish coming up on the  
13 river there, have you guys in the Department  
14 ever put in the high water -- the high water  
15 situation coming down the river there? The  
16 last two areas -- years in our area, there  
17 were a lot of fish coming through there. We  
18 had high water coming down that river. How  
19 do you put your calculations into your  
20 formula or do you guys --

21 MR. VANIA: The high water  
22 doesn't factor in when we come up with the  
23 CPUE for the test nets, and abundance  
24 numbers come from Pilot Station, and so  
25 their counting as much of the river as they  
can, and high water can affect it as far as  
fish passage might be using different areas  
of the river than they normally would in  
lower water conditions or higher water  
conditions, but it's a little difficult on  
the Yukon River to try to compare the CPUE  
data from other years. We try to look at  
years of similar run timing to compare that  
CPUE data, or years of similar run timing  
with maybe similar conditions. It's tough  
around the Yukon.

26 I know on the Kuskokwim, they pay  
27 really close attention to the water level,  
28 because they do have some very good water  
29 level information that's coming from  
30 hydrological stations that are stationed a  
31 little closer to the test project, as we  
32 have in the Yukon. In the Yukon, a lot of  
33 those hydro stations are located way up by  
34 the Tanana or by Fort Yukon, Stevens Village  
35 area. So it becomes a little more difficult  
36 to track water level conditions down at the  
37 mouth when we're also dealing with varying

1 tides as well at the same time.

2 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Go ahead,  
3 Fritz.

4 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, we  
5 found out that the Kuskokwim test fisheries  
6 go down to the certain spot and drift just  
7 when the waters, you know, the high tide is  
8 there, no current, how does the Yukon do  
9 that? Seems like during that time the fish  
10 don't switch around they're way down at the  
11 bottom.

12 MR. VANIA: On the Yukon, we have  
13 both set nets and drift nets, and the drift  
14 net project was just initiated this year for  
15 the chinook salmon, and we do pick a time  
16 just after high tide. It's several hours  
17 after the high tide, and you have to just  
18 kind of standardize a time that you're going  
19 to go out and fish, so the conditions are  
20 pretty much trying to be on a level playing  
21 field each day. And that way you have data  
22 that you can compare from day to day and  
23 compare them from year to year.

24 The set net information and the  
25 drift net information with assessing the  
26 run, that's just one of the tools that we  
27 need to use in trying to tell us how the run  
28 is doing.

29 The set nets can only give us  
30 just a relative abundance picture. It's  
31 more Pilot Station that's going to tell us  
32 how many fish are in the river.

33 So, we just need to be real  
34 careful on how we use our test net  
35 information.

36 It can tell us run timing and  
37 either we have a real bad run here or the  
38 run is looking average or the run may be  
39 looking really good.

40 Other than that, we just need to  
41 be real careful in how we use that  
42 information that we have on the nets down  
43 there.

44 MR. JONES: Jones again from  
45 Koyukuk. You said you were using 35 mesh  
46 deep down on the test net area. Is there

1 recognition further up the Yukon as mesh  
2 dip -- can we use a 35 mesh dip on the Lower  
3 Yukon area?

3 MR. VANIA: For subsistence,  
4 there is no restriction on how deep your  
5 nets can be. There is restriction on the  
6 commercial nets.

6 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Any other  
7 questions from Council?  
8 Thank you, Tom.

7 MR. BUE: Thank you,  
8 Mr. Chairman. My name is Fred Bue. I'm the  
9 Yukon River fall season manager. I'll be  
10 presenting a report you'll find in front of  
11 you, I hope, "Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum  
12 and coho Salmon Fisheries."

11 I'll be referring to a few of the  
12 pages in this report throughout my talk.

12 Also, I wanted to -- Russ had  
13 mentioned Audra Brase. She's next to me, my  
14 assistant on the Yukon.

13 She, rather than speaking to  
14 coho, she'll be speaking to subsistence  
15 fisheries and so I'll leave a portion of  
16 that on my report later.

15 Both Russ and Tom spoke, gave you  
16 some background of the recent Board of Fish  
17 actions, U.S./Canada actions, I guess also  
18 U.S./Canada. One of the points there was we  
19 entered into agreement, the minimum border  
20 passage there was 80,000 was the -- what --  
21 the agreed upon border passage goal was, and  
22 at that meeting, we also set up a harvest  
23 rate or a total allowable catch that was  
24 amendment to the treaty.

20 We spoke of -- they spoke of U.S.  
21 Fish & Wildlife in conjunction with State of  
22 Alaska doing pre-season meetings throughout  
23 the Yukon River.

22 Going on to the 2001 fisheries  
23 management outlook, Russ went through that  
24 pretty well. Just to reiterate, the prior  
25 year escapements, '96-'97, the escapements  
were adequate, produced what we'd expect,  
normally a good return. However, the recent  
trend of poor returns in the last three  
years we believe are to be caused by

1 environmental conditions. Therefore, we  
2 thought since this year was -- this year  
3 would follow in line and also produce a poor  
4 return.

5 Also, this year, we observed the  
6 2001 summer chum salmon run was poor,  
7 similar to last year; and, therefore, that  
8 was one more thought that, Yes, the fall run  
9 would follow suit. Therefore, we  
10 anticipated another poor fall chum salmon  
11 run because the fall production is pretty  
12 similar to the summer production.

13 Page 7 in your handout -- I don't  
14 have any overheads. I felt it was probably  
15 easier for you to look at something in front  
16 of you.

17 This is our management plan for  
18 the fall chum salmon management plan. It's  
19 in regulation. We've put into a table,  
20 maybe it's a little bit easier for you to  
21 understand. Along the left-hand column, we  
22 have levels or estimates of run size.  
23 Across the middle, different decision  
24 points, different run sizes. We'd allow  
25 different, possibly commercial fisheries,  
sport fisheries or what level of subsistence  
harvest we may allow, and with the ideas  
that we're going to reach a target  
escapement goal, and that's how this table  
was set up.

26 The next page, page 8, you all  
27 know -- I don't have to explain to you how  
28 big the Yukon River is or how extensive it  
29 runs, but what is interesting is the fall  
30 chum salmon; they travel great distances but  
31 they spawn in very specific locations.

32 They don't spawn just everywhere.  
33 They spawn in specific spring upwilling  
34 rivers, well past most fisheries, and that's  
35 what this map shows, and, consequently, all  
of our management action is before we ever  
see any fish on the spawning ground and get  
a clear picture of where we ended up in the  
runs.

36 So, the bases of our management,  
37 we began the year as conservative. The  
38 lower river projects -- let's see, page 9,  
39 we have some charts.

40 Lower river projects, the top  
41 chart "Lower River Yukon Drift Test Net

1 Project," as Tom indicated, that's the first  
2 year we've been running this for chum  
3 salmon. The difference is that we used chum  
4 gear 5 and 7/8th-inch mesh, then we have  
5 Mountain Village is another drift net.  
6 Pilot Station, Pilot Station is the one out  
7 of all three of these that actually produce  
8 the estimates as Tom discussed. The other  
9 three are other indicators that are passing,  
10 and it's Pilot Station that actually  
11 produces an estimate.

12 Looking at -- the other thing to  
13 look at in these charts is how fish enter  
14 the river in pulses. They're very defined  
15 pulses, days of really high passage rates  
16 and there's also dates of very low passage  
17 rates. We see that at the mouth of the  
18 river, further up the river you go, the less  
19 defined the pulses get, until you're up the  
20 river and pulsing disappears and you're  
21 looking at more components of fish bound for  
22 different tributaries when you go way  
23 upstream.

24 Looking at all three of these  
25 projects, you can see the pulses, how useful  
the tests are. At Emmonak, you can see the  
pulses are well defined.

Two dates later those pulses are  
at Mountain Village; two days after that,  
they're at Pilot Station; and that's how  
those test nets have become really useful to  
us, because we can track that pulse of fish  
as it moves up the river.

What it also does, is with those  
pulses we can see Pilot Station. At times  
we may question how well people on the  
Station are doing, but when we look at these  
previous projects lower in the river, we can  
follow and see Pilot Station reflects those  
same pulses. It's not -- if we were to see  
a pulse someplace that the other projects  
weren't seeing, we may be a little skeptical  
of Pilot Station. We'd say we missed some  
fish that day, or the test nets were missing  
fish. Pilot Station and the test nets  
aren't agreeing. Therefore, we question our  
information.

This year, if you look at the  
data for the fall season, we've got the  
benefit of going through the summer season

1 and getting a lot of bugs worked out. The  
2 fall season that false information worked  
3 through and we're pretty confident at the  
4 Pilot Station by the time the fish got there  
5 for the fall season.

6 Also, Pilot Station normally  
7 the -- this chart, the midpoint in the run  
8 is around August 8th for a normal timing of  
9 the run.

10 If you look at August 8th and the  
11 days before that, we see the fall chum run  
12 was very strong or it was at least as strong  
13 as I think this is if you look at that. We  
14 see the first half of the run is very  
15 strong, but we also see after August 8th,  
16 the run dropped off significantly. The  
17 second half of the run was very weak. And  
18 so what we're seeing is that the whole run  
19 was shifted early. It was actually  
20 unusually early. We saw fish -- that first  
21 big pulse was the biggest first pulse we've  
22 ever seen in the project, and that we've  
23 been monitoring.

24 With that big pulse at the  
25 beginning, one thing we questioned was how  
26 much of that was summer chum salmon. We  
27 know summer chum don't just cut off on July  
28 16th and fall chum salmon start. And so we  
29 have a mixture of both summer and fall chum  
30 salmon entering the river at the same time.

31 Pilot Station, they did take some  
32 genetic samples. Those samples were  
33 analyzed. We didn't get the information  
34 back immediately. It was well after the --  
35 after those fish had gone by, but we saw the  
36 first pulse of fish was approximately a  
37 third summer chum salmon. So, prior to the  
38 pulse prior to that, what you don't see in  
39 the chart was more summer chum salmon. This  
40 was about third and the summer chum salmon  
41 diminished from there on. So, that big  
42 first pulse was not fall chum, there were  
43 summer chum mixed in there. And Upper River  
44 had seen that component of the first pulse.

45 Consequently, we -- early in the  
46 season, we were conservative. We had a  
47 closure of Y-1, 2, and 3, and part of that  
48 was buying us time to get confidence in the  
49 sonar project. Early when we had the season  
50 closed, we did not have the confidence

1 initially. We wanted to see some fish pass,  
2 see how the projects were tracking because  
3 our trend for fall chum has been very poor  
4 the last couple of years, and we need to be  
5 conservative.

6 It wasn't until August 6th, close  
7 to the mid-point in the run that normal  
8 timing at Pilot Station, we became confident  
9 in our assessments and projections. Our  
10 projection was indicating there would likely  
11 be enough surplus for both escapement and  
12 subsistence harvest. The run looked similar  
13 to 1999. We were tracking what years were  
14 similar, 1999 was -- seemed to be a good  
15 match at the time, so we had a feeling what  
16 the run may be like through the end -- end  
17 of the season. So we opened Y-1, 2, and 3.  
18 We still left on a reduced fishing time,  
19 maintaining some conservation interaction.

20 Also, by that date, we had coho  
21 salmon building at the mouth of the river.  
22 It was well above average run, and that  
23 complicated things. We were unsure of our  
24 chum salmon run. We had conservation  
25 concerns, but we also had a coho return that  
was developing and looked strong, and that  
proved to be sort of a dilemma for us.

Three days later, we relaxed the  
entire Yukon mainstem to the full Board of  
Fish schedule, because now we were halfway  
through the normal run timing of the fall  
chum where our projection was nearly 650,000  
fall chum salmon which is above the minimum  
level of 600, which is required for a full  
subsistence utilization according to the  
management plan.

The window schedule was -- we  
felt was conservative was less fishing time  
overall than in the past. It seemed to be  
moving fish up the river, as indicated by  
the take recoveries at Rampart.

Meanwhile, the Tanana drainage,  
we kept closed. Typically the Tanana fish  
component comes later in the run. It was  
still later for that. We had been  
rebuilding those that were set fairly high  
in regulation, a long-shot, so we had to be  
conservative on the Tanana.

A week and a half later we did  
open the Tanana to the full Board schedule.

1 Our tagging projects there were not working  
2 well to provide an estimate, but they did  
3 show similarities. The test wheels CPUE  
4 information that go with the tagging  
5 projects were shown similarities to what we  
6 saw in the river, we assumed the Tanana was  
7 okay. So at that point, the entire Tanana  
8 River was on the full subsistence schedule.

9 By late August, early September,  
10 there appeared to be a good chum salmon  
11 passage upriver, but the chum had started to  
12 drop off at the mouth of the river earlier  
13 than normal.

14 Consequently, our projections  
15 started to drop off.

16 It became apparent that a  
17 commercial coho fishery was no longer a  
18 possibility of concern for the fall chum  
19 salmon. Still, our upriver tributaries were  
20 looking good.

21 Page 11, there's some charts of  
22 upriver escapement projects, Chandalar  
23 fishing sonar project, Sheenjek River sonar  
24 passage, and the fishing branch weir in  
25 Canada.

The Chandalar sonar reached its  
minimum goal -- it's an estimate there, on  
August 19th, and was projecting a total run  
of 126,000, total sonar passage. Sheenjek  
was also tracking good with projection  
around 60,000 which was slightly above the  
minimum goal of 50,000.

Fishing Branch run by Department  
of Fisheries and Oceans in Canada, due to  
their early timing of the run, missed a  
portion of the run. Some fish got past  
before the weir was fish tight, so they  
didn't know they had fish in there. Around  
that August 20th date, they were showing  
good passage rates, so we're assuming  
fishing branch was doing all right.

All three projects were  
significantly better than the last three  
years in the upper river areas and so we  
were encouraged at that point.

Also, the border test wheels run  
by Canada were indicating a preliminary  
projection based on CPUE data between 85 and  
115,000 fall chum salmon. That compares to  
the border goal of 80,000. So that too, was

1 indicating that we were tracking pretty good  
2 for the upper river areas.

3 By mid-September it became  
4 apparent the chum run simply began early and  
5 is now expected to begin early. It wasn't  
6 until September 18th that Canada provided  
7 their first actual border estimate based on  
8 tagging data. As Russ said, that was 53,000  
9 fish.

10 They said -- at that point they  
11 told us they would have no more commercial  
12 openings, and they do not plan on  
13 restricting the average, no fishery. So,  
14 they were below their border goal. They  
15 limited commercial fishing and they were  
16 going to let their average no fishery  
17 continue.

18 We do not have anymore  
19 information at this point yet, although  
20 they're still counting fish.

21 We considered subsistence  
22 restrictions in Alaska at that time, because  
23 of the low Canadian passage, but we chose to  
24 stay with the current schedule, full Board  
25 schedule, because most of the run was past  
our fishermen. Restrictions would have been  
an inconvenience to save only a few fish.  
It didn't seem appropriate.

There was less fishing than usual  
clearly in the upper river areas, or -- and  
throughout the river.

The area of Eagle was using funds  
to buy probably 13,000 coho salmon  
carcasses, so they would not have to fish  
for fall chum as much as usual.

Meanwhile, at the same time, that  
Tanana fishing time was reduced by half the  
conserved fall chum salmon. Also, upriver  
areas don't have concern for coho salmon,  
but the Tanana does. It's a mixed fishery.  
So we reduced the fall chum fishing period  
in half, but we allowed a special period for  
coho salmon, where we required fishwheels to  
be equipped with live boxes or live shoots  
where they can release chum salmon, that way  
we gave them an opportunity to harvest some  
of the abundant coho salmon while still  
reducing our harvest of fall chum.

25 The season is just winding down  
on September 24th. We're estimating

1 approximately 75 percent of the fall chum  
2 salmon had passed the fisheries, subsistence  
3 fisheries on the Tanana River, but there  
4 were still coho salmon to be harvested, so  
5 we reopened to the full Board of Fish  
6 schedule, and we lifted the live box, box  
7 shoot requirement.

8 Finally, last Friday, our -- most  
9 salmon were well past or well upriver,  
10 therefore, we allowed fishwheel species to  
11 target non-salmon species seven days a week.

12 And personal use in the Fairbanks  
13 nonsubsistence area reopened yesterday or  
14 last night so that those people could  
15 harvest predominantly coho salmon and  
16 non-salmon species since most of the chum  
17 had passed the area.

18 Chum salmon escapements, as most  
19 of you are aware, fish are just now arriving  
20 on the spawning areas. We don't have good  
21 escapement counts yet, but we're just  
22 starting our counts on the Toklat this week.  
23 We're doing some investigations on the  
24 fishing branch in conjunction with Canada,  
25 and we're going to continue those into early  
November.

And so even though the fish are  
well past you, they're still, in our minds,  
on the spawning grounds and we're still  
assessing those stocks.

What we do know at this point --  
our preliminary total estimate of fall chum  
salmon at Pilot Station is 450,000. This is  
above the 350,000 minimum goal outlined in  
the management plan, but below the 600,000  
required for full subsistence utilization.

Our Chandalar sonar project run  
actually by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
is -- is 108,000, which is above the minimum  
goal of 74,000.

The Sheenjek sonar estimate of  
54,000 is above the minimum BEG goal of  
50,000, just barely.

Both the fishing branch and the  
border information is still incomplete at  
this time, but based on the information we  
have so far, we may expect both of those  
components to be maybe half -- approximately  
half their respective goals; and also,  
likewise, the Tanana drainage is also

1           aerially, too aerially for assessment, but  
2           we expect the Upper Tanana to be slightly  
3           above its goal and the Toklat may be near  
4           its goal. We have our fingers crossed.

5           Coho salmon escapement, overall,  
6           the run was good. Our pilot estimate is  
7           212,000 which is 50 percent above the  
8           previous high count for the project or  
9           double the average count at Pilot Station.

10          Subsistence fishing reports were  
11          all telling us coho run was very good. And  
12          upriver, our subdistrict 5(a) test wheel had  
13          exceptional counts, so we know that many of  
14          those fish were making it into the Tanana.

15          We had some folks from the  
16          Village of Tanana saying there were coho  
17          passing on the north bank, so we do know  
18          that some were moving up into the upper  
19          Yukon River, but we don't really have any  
20          indication of how strong that portion of the  
21          run was.

22          In summary, fall chum salmon run  
23          was poor. We had no commercial sport or  
24          personal-use fishing on fall chum salmon.

25          Subsistence harvest was  
26          significantly reduced, although we don't  
27          have actual subsistence reports until later,  
28          as Audra will speak to. And escapement is  
29          expected to be adequate in most places  
30          except for Canada.

31          The coho salmon run we'd  
32          characterize as good. We had no commercial  
33          harvest, other concern for fall chum salmon.

34          We had a reduced subsistence  
35          harvest for coho salmon, and now we expect a  
36          low personal-use harvest.

37          Escapement, we don't have a lot  
38          of good information there. We do have the  
39          Pilot Station which says it is good upriver  
40          tributary information. We won't have until  
41          later, but escapement is likely to be good  
42          in most places.

43          And that concludes my report, Mr.  
44          Chairman.

45                   MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Any  
46          questions?

47                   MR. NICHOLIA: Thank you, Mr.  
48          Chair.

1 Fred, you mentioned due to the  
2 low salmon returns, you said it's due to  
3 environmental concerns, what I mentioned  
4 earlier that there's a lot of overharvests.  
5 There's a lot of scientists on this western  
6 seaboard here that's pointing to that  
7 overharvest. They overharvest so many fish  
8 and kill the other species. Man is not the  
9 only harvest. Killer whales target the  
10 salmon. It makes others harvest the salmon.  
11 You guys have to take that into  
12 consideration. I want you guys to really  
13 put an end or put it in the summers as  
14 overharvest on the high seas of wild fish  
15 species that does adversely effect the  
16 Yukon/ Kuskokwim salmon stocks.

17 MR. BUE: Yes, Mr. Chairman,  
18 Mr. Nicholia. Yeah, I acknowledge that you  
19 are right. There are a lot of -- a lot of  
20 things that point towards overharvest.  
21 There's a lot of conditions out there that  
22 affect our fisheries, and some we may have  
23 thought of already, and other ones, we still  
24 haven't even begun to think of. And, yes,  
25 you are right.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Yes.

MR. JONES: Yes, Benedict Jones.  
I just want to ask the biologist questions  
about the parasite. In the season of 2000,  
there were a lot of parasite fish in the  
chinook, and as they were progressing up the  
Yukon, what's the cause -- have you done any  
studies of what's the rule of those  
parasites in the 2000 season, and there was  
no parasite in 2001 season this year. There  
weren't any at all?

MR. HOLDER: Mr. Jones, I believe  
the organism that you're referencing to,  
ichthyophonus hofferi, and there's  
presentation by University of Washington  
professor a little bit later on your agenda,  
and I believe he should be able to address,  
you know, questions that you have about that  
organism.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Do you

1 want to break now?

2 I think we'll have a five-minute  
3 break at this time.

4 After Dave, one more.

5 MR. JAMES: Dave James, Eastern  
6 advisory.

7 Fred, I kind of got -- going back  
8 to your test fisheries, you said there was a  
9 certain amount of harvest on the coho and  
10 fall chums in the fisheries. Can you  
11 explain a little more on your test  
12 fisheries, going to your fisheries and you  
13 separate that coho around the fall chum?  
14 Can you explain that a little more, your  
15 escapement fishery box there, what you call  
16 it? There was a similar amount of -- there  
17 was a lot of coho going through and a low  
18 amount of fall chum. So, what do you do,  
19 you just go in and take your fall chums out  
20 or keep your coho or --

21 MR. BUE: Right, Mr. Chairman,  
22 Mr. James, we call them live boxes. We have  
23 different times. We have a live box which  
24 actually is a basket that sits in the water  
25 and the fish come out of the shoot on the  
fishwheel and they go into that basket and  
they stay in there -- stay fresh and alive  
for the fishermen to come back later and  
sort.

The recent Board of Fish this  
year -- last year we required them to check  
their wheel at least every 12 hours out of  
concern that some of the fish may be  
stressed and working very hard to maintain  
themselves in the box. This year, the Board  
of Fish changed that and said every six  
hours the fishwheel had to be checked, just  
to make sure those fish stayed healthy and  
alive.

So, that's a real helpful tool  
for us. When we have a mixed fishery,  
fishermen can sort. We know it's not  
perfect. There probably is some mortality,  
but it is very useful. The fishermen say  
that some of them also comment that it keeps  
the fish fresher for them when they do come  
to pick their wheel. Some of them actually  
do like that.

1 Does that answer your question?

2 MR. JAMES: No, not really. I  
3 was kind of confused. Maybe I just heard it  
4 wrong. I guess what I was kind of referring  
5 to, you said that there was a high amount of  
6 coho salmon coming through at the same time  
7 as fall chum, and low amount of fall chums  
8 coming through there. Maybe I just heard it  
9 wrong or something.

10 MS. GREGORY: You heard it right.

11 MR. BUE: No, you heard it right.  
12 And when we had specially directed fishwheel  
13 periods for coho salmon, the fishermen were  
14 required to release all fall chum salmon  
15 alive.

16 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Anymore  
17 questions from Council?

18 It now time. Let's break.

19 MR. SAM: A short ten minutes if  
20 we're breaking for lunch at 11:30. Let's  
21 all come back quick.

22 (Break.)

23 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: We ready?

24 MR. REAKOFF: In the synopsis of  
25 your season, I would like to ask all of the  
26 U.S. and State fisheries biologists: In  
27 retrospect, do you think that you could have  
28 changed anything in your management, and are  
29 you satisfied with the data that you have  
30 with the mix of subsistence harvest and  
31 escapement? That would be my question to  
32 the biologists, whether you're satisfied  
33 with what you had overall in retrospect?

34 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman, I guess  
35 I'll start with the fall season, anyways,  
36 for the State of Alaska. I think overall  
37 outcome we came in where we probably should  
38 have been, according to the management plan.  
39 We know that we didn't get -- meet  
40 everybody's needs for fall salmon, but,  
41 according to the management plan, we were --

1 we weren't supposed to -- we were supposed  
2 to be below full salmon utilization, but  
3 also, according to the plan, we think we've  
4 met most of our obligations for escapement,  
5 and so it's -- there's some gray area in  
6 there just which end we should have been at.  
7 I feel we probably did pretty well. The one  
8 exception is that with Canada we're not  
9 certain where we're supposed to end up with  
10 our treaty and what commitments we made,  
11 what ramifications are when we do fall below  
12 that goal. But, I think in retrospect, we  
13 couldn't have really separated that out  
14 anymore than we had. We knew that we got  
15 some upriver tributaries made goals and  
16 others didn't. To separate it out much more  
17 than that would be pretty difficult, until  
18 we have well -- until the run is well  
19 advanced where we actually start separating  
20 out those fish, that becomes a difficult  
21 situation up there.

22 I think one place -- one -- my  
23 frustration was how to capitalize on the  
24 abundance of coho salmon while protecting  
25 fall chum salmon. I think we did all right  
26 there. And for the middle and upper river,  
27 using live boxes, live shoot, reduce fishing  
28 time, I think we did what was appropriate.  
29 At this point, I'm not sure how we would  
30 have done it much better.

31 And to be honest with you, we  
32 still had a poor run, so we were  
33 conservative throughout the run. It's  
34 difficult. Upriver, we know a lot more than  
35 we do when the fish enter the mouth of the  
36 river, so in hindsight, yeah, I could maybe  
37 see the fish spread -- a reduced fishery  
38 throughout the run rather than being really  
39 conservative at the front end and more  
40 liberal at the end. Maybe we could have  
41 spread the harvest out a little more, but  
42 the window schedule seemed to do that for  
43 us. It seemed to -- at first, we didn't  
44 have a lot of confidence in it, but after  
45 watching the summer season, how well it was  
46 working and putting the fish out, I think it  
47 helped, at least for the fall managers.

48 MR. BERGSTROM: Dan Bergstrom. I  
49 think you -- I wanted to add, you're asking

1 for management tools. Tom Vania did explain  
2 about the test issues that we had issues  
3 this summer, some things like water level  
4 and debris are going to occur when they  
5 occur just like for fishermen. The sonar  
6 project did pretty well this year. The  
7 first time, when we had one of the  
8 transducers out because of high water, they  
9 came -- they came up with data for missed  
10 fish. That's an important thing to do to  
11 assess the full run. The thing we have to  
12 look at more, on the sonar, is how to use  
13 the data for chinook salmon, what that  
14 means, with escapement, other harvests,  
15 that's looking at it post-season after the  
16 subsistence catch information comes in so  
17 that we can use it a little better on  
18 chinook salmon management.

19 I think one of the things we're  
20 going to find is that, you know, runs are  
21 really variable in production and stuff; and  
22 so, like outlooks, is that there's always  
23 going to be a pretty big range in what might  
24 return. Inseason, we're seeing that we have  
25 quite a few tools on the Yukon with the  
sonar project, but there's a real range in  
how timing of the fish can come back.

There's always going to be a  
range of possibilities and how the run --  
and then it will be just working together to  
determine, you know, with fishermen, Fish &  
Game and the Federal agencies, coming up  
with, you know, where in that range we think  
we're going to end up and how we should  
manage.

I think one other thing, for the  
fishermen on the Yukon, is, you know, how to  
handle possible -- one weak stock. One of  
the things I thought about, we need to know  
the stocks as they come into the river  
better -- chinook timing to like Canada or  
the Tanana so you can try and manage them  
better by stock, but there's probably quite  
a mixture there and it probably changes year  
to year. One of the things we have to think  
about, if we have one weaker group. How do  
we manage for that? This year, the Canadian  
stock might be weaker on the fall chum.  
What do we do? We manage really intense to  
not let any fishing occur, or do we cut back

1 and still allow subsistence on the other  
2 stocks that are doing better?

3 But I think, overall, we can see  
4 that -- I think the managers and the  
5 fishermen on the river are working closer  
6 together than they probably have in the  
7 past, and that's one of the key ones there.

8 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman,  
9 Mr. Reakoff, speaking for the fish  
10 service -- Russ Holder -- I concur with Fred  
11 and Dan's comments. I believe the actions  
12 we took in season with the information that  
13 we had in hand at the time were appropriate.  
14 I think the additional numbers of chinook  
15 salmon that we saw get up to Canada and then  
16 the lower numbers of fall chum salmon that  
17 didn't get up to Canada this season, were  
18 both showed some of the difficulties that we  
19 have in assessing the individual strengths  
20 of the different stocks. And that's always  
21 going to be a problem that we're going to be  
22 having to deal with.

23 And I know that, you know,  
24 looking at the test netting down at the  
25 mouth and also the different -- you know,  
26 the different projects, the State is running  
27 sets of projects, Federal Government is  
28 running sets of projects, and then also  
29 there's cooperative projects that are being  
30 run. I think at this point in time, there's  
31 the most projects for assessing salmon runs  
32 than we've ever had in the past. And it is  
33 being very helpful with these depressed runs  
34 that we've been dealing with, but we're  
35 always -- at least at this point, I don't  
36 see a silver bullet that is, you know, going  
37 to ensure that we make all of our escapement  
38 objectives everywhere and ensure everybody  
39 is able to meet their subsistence needs  
40 and/or provide for subsistence harvest.  
41 It's a difficult situation that we're  
42 dealing with, and right now, I think we're  
43 doing a pretty good job.

44 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Lester?

45 MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: Russ,  
46 we've heard a lot -- there's a lot of  
47 information that was left on Angela's

1 glowing fish up in Holy Cross. Will that  
2 bacteria affect production of the salmon in  
any way?

3 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman, and  
4 Lester, I believe Polly Wheeler with  
5 subsistence division also has some  
6 additional information on this topic, and I  
7 know that several newspaper articles have  
8 come out regarding this bacteria. My  
9 understanding is that this is a naturally  
10 occurring bacteria that is basically  
11 worldwide, that the conditions this year  
12 seemed to have been the right set of natural  
13 conditions as far as, you know, like it  
14 getting later in the season, it was getting  
15 darker. The temperature range as far as for  
16 this bacteria to grow was in the right  
17 range, and I believe the moisture as far as  
18 humidity, were just the right set of  
19 conditions for this bacteria to grow and as  
20 far as being harmful to humans, it's not  
thought to be so, but as one of the  
biologists that's looked into this a little  
bit, basically said one of the best tests is  
to smell it. If it doesn't smell good, if  
it smells bad, that it's probably not good  
for human consumption, and there is a  
University of Fairbanks professor that has  
submitted a proposal to investigate this  
further to basically provide, you know,  
people on the river additional information  
about, you know, how this organism grows and  
what it is reacting to, and actually  
identify, you know, specifically what this  
bacteria is. And I guess at this point, I  
would ask if Polly has additional  
information that she would like to provide  
to this group?

21 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, like  
22 you're talking, please stay away from  
23 figures of speech, silver bullet. It breaks  
the translator, can you explain what a  
silver bullet means?

24 MR. HOLDER: A cure.

25 MR. SAM: No question at this  
time. However, I would like to introduce

1 two people from the audience. These people  
2 are integral to our success or nonsuccess;  
3 so, if you are in the room, please stand up.  
4 First is Judy Gottlieb, Federal subsistence  
5 Board; we work closely with her, thank you.

6 And if you don't know him,  
7 he's -- you should meet him, again, he plays  
8 a lot -- a big part in our success on  
9 subsistence issues, chairman of the State  
10 Board of Game, Greg Susitka, please stand  
11 up and be recognized.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. GREGORY: I don't want to be  
14 overrun by men, so I got to introduce my own  
15 people.

16 (Laughter.)

17 MS. GREGORY: We have Mike Greg  
18 and -- from the Fish & Wildlife from Bethel.  
19 Can you introduce your people, first?

20 A SPEAKER: My staff -- I've  
21 got -- here is Patrick Snow and Paul  
22 Liedberg.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Any other  
25 questions from Council?

Thank you.

MS. BRASE: Good morning, Mr.  
Chair, and members of the Council. My name  
is Audra Brase. This is my first year on  
the Yukon. I just started working for the  
Fairbanks office in May. Previously, before  
that, I was down in the Juneau office. So  
some of the subsistence folks I know from  
that area of the State.

I'll try and keep this brief  
since I know we want to break at 11:30 for  
some folks.

The pamphlet I'm going to be  
referring to is just a one-page handout,  
"The Yukon River Subsistence Salmon  
Summary." I'm the coordinator for the Yukon  
River Subsistence Salmon Survey. I organize  
the surveys going on on the river and then I  
compile all the data at the end of the

1 season and produce an annual report. Some  
2 of you may have seen those in the past.

3 Currently, the surveys are going  
4 on -- the surveyors -- they work their way  
5 up the river. This week they're on the  
6 Koyukuk River. They're going up to Yukon  
7 areas probably next week.

8 During the winter, we compile all  
9 the data, and I'll have the new report  
10 available next spring for folks.

11 There's considerable lag because  
12 we have to -- it takes a while to work up  
13 all the data and get it expanded, figure out  
14 where all the problems are in the data.

15 So, the handout that I have for  
16 you right now shows the 2000 information for  
17 the entire Yukon River drainage and what the  
18 subsistence harvest was based off on our  
19 survey.

20 The 2000 subsistence salmon  
21 harvest was approximately 37,300 chinook  
22 salmon; 2,200 summer chum salmon; 18,900  
23 fall chum salmon; and 14,300 coho salmon.

24 You'll see when you compare those  
25 to the recent five-year averages that most  
26 of them aren't too far off, they are lower.  
27 The fall chum salmon is the one that's  
28 dramatically different and that's because  
29 last year we had a lot of closures on the  
30 river, and there wasn't much fishing allowed  
31 on fall chum salmon at all.

32 TRANSLATOR BRYANT: Excuse me.  
33 Could you slow down?

34 MS. BRASE: Sorry.

35 As you know, in 2000, there were  
36 a lot of closures for fall chum salmon. So  
37 fishing time was reduced and that resulted  
38 in a reduced harvest, of course.

39 While the surveyors are out, in  
40 addition to getting numbers of fish that  
41 people have harvested, we collect comments  
42 on why people may not have reached their  
43 subsistence goals and I have some general  
44 comments that also I thought I would share  
45 with you so far that if you might have some  
46 additional comments for me, I would  
47 appreciate hearing them.

48 And I would imagine that some of

1 your families may have been targeted in the  
2 survey already. So your comments may have  
3 already been taken into consideration, but  
4 I'm always happy to hear what people have to  
5 say.

6 So, this year, folks said that  
7 the lower -- the lower river opened too late  
8 in the fall, and it was rainy season already  
9 by that point, and that was, of course, bad  
10 conditions for drying.

11 Sorry.

12 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Ma'am,  
13 will you slow down a little bit, translator  
14 couldn't pick up some of your --

15 MS. BRASE: Okay. The comments  
16 we have received from this year's survey  
17 include that the lower river opened too late  
18 in the fall, and that point, it was the  
19 rainy season, and it was poor conditions for  
20 drying fish. And the upper river for the  
21 fall season, folks said that fish came in  
22 too early for good preservation. Typically,  
23 they like to put up fish in the upper river  
24 when it's colder, and it wasn't cold enough  
25 in the fall when the majority of the fall  
chum and coho moved through.

26 In the Holy Cross area, kind of  
27 touched on this, there was the glowing fish  
28 issue with the glowing bacteria, and several  
29 folks didn't fish because they were scared  
30 of what the ramifications might be of those  
31 fish if they were not good eating or they  
32 might be harmful to folks.

33 In Districts 1 through 3, a  
34 suggestion we got was that fishing schedule  
35 should start at 6:00 p.m. rather than 8:00  
36 p.m. to help accommodate folks who have  
37 outside employment, so they'd be able to go  
38 fishing right after work and hopefully be  
39 done a little earlier in the evening rather  
40 than having to wait to start at 8:00  
41 o'clock.

42 And the upper Districts,  
43 Districts 5 and 6, we've gotten comments  
44 that fishing should start at 8:00 p.m.  
45 rather than 6:00 p.m., so just the opposite  
46 to allow fishermen to maximize their fishing  
47 opportunities when it's light outside as we

1 progress into the fall season.

2 On the Koyukuk and around the  
3 Village of Tanana, folks have been catching  
4 above average numbers of large sheefish.  
5 Fishermen have expressed that once the  
6 salmon have moved through the areas, they  
7 would like to go back to seven days a week  
8 fishing for salmon. Right now, we don't  
9 have that. Thoroughly, the way the Board of  
10 Fish schedule, we have to stay out until the  
11 ice comes in.

12 And then we also got comments  
13 that subsistence effort was reduced this  
14 year due to a lack of a commercial season,  
15 and folks not having money to buy boat gas  
16 and get new nets or various other things  
17 they need to continue their subsistence  
18 fishing.

19 So, that's all I had. If anyone  
20 has any additional comments.

21 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: I think  
22 we're just about break time right now.

23 Maybe you could come up after we  
24 have our lunch break.

25 MS. BRASE: Okay. You guys can  
26 talk about it and have all kinds of  
27 questions.

28 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Maybe  
29 we'll have some questions.

30 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I'd  
31 just like to comment to Ms. Brase about her  
32 presentation was short, precise and  
33 understandable.

34 MS. BRASE: Thank you.

35 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: 1:00  
36 o'clock.

37 (Lunch break.)

38 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we do  
39 have one little housekeeping thing, and it's  
40 my failure to bring it up to staff earlier,  
41 so it's not their fault. This is turning  
42 into kind of like a mini board meeting,

1 Board meeting, or Federal Subsistence Board.  
2 We need to help staff and you with the  
3 materials handing out.

4 It would be best when materials  
5 are being handed out to get it to the  
6 coordinators. We're charged that court  
7 reporter gets a copy and then also the  
8 translators, and we'll make sure you get  
9 comments. If you have handouts, public and  
10 staff, give them to either myself, Donald or  
11 Alex. We'll handle distribution. It will  
12 be great. That way we'll know if additional  
13 copies are needed.

14 MS. BRASE: Mr. Chair, and  
15 members of the Council, do you have any  
16 further questions or comments for me?

17 MR. SAM: Vince?

18 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, what  
19 is going on here is the way I designed this  
20 agenda with your approval was that we were  
21 going to have the biological background  
22 which has been provided, and harvest  
23 escapement and et cetera, and then we were  
24 going to go into -- which the person before  
25 break started into on the harvest. How did  
the season work with you? Were your needs  
being met? What was different? What didn't  
work in that area? At the same time, we  
were encouraging on the agenda here that  
Yukon River Fisheries Drainage Association  
would come to the table since on the Yukon  
that's the platform, the mechanism, the  
voice that we use to deal with Federal and  
State management. So, right now, I think  
staff is not sure if we're in the transition  
into the assessment of subsistence uses. So  
I think that's what they're kind of looking  
for right now. Are you ready to move into  
the part of how the season worked out for  
you and the various communities on the  
Yukon?

26 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Sam?

27 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 Audra, what were you doing up the  
29 Koyukuk? Is that program in place?

1  
2 MS. BRASE: Yeah, every year when  
3 we travel along the Yukon in the Koyukuk  
4 doing the survey. We do the survey, going  
5 from house to house, asking what they caught  
6 for the years. If they didn't meet their  
7 needs, why they didn't. This week, my two  
8 surveyors are on the Koyukuk.

9  
10 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Anyone  
11 have any comments or questions?  
12 Okay. Thank you.

13  
14 MS. BRASE: Thank you.

15  
16 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, now  
17 would be a good time to have Jill maybe come  
18 up, as we talked about, and the coordinating  
19 committee -- excuse me, coordinating fishery  
20 committee members may want to share how the  
21 season went for them, and that would be  
22 yourself, Mr. Hanson, for the  
23 Yukon/Kuskokwim Region, Mickey Stickman, who  
24 is absent today, and Benedict Jones for  
25 Western Interior, and for Eastern Interior  
would be Gerald Nicholia and Craig Fleener,  
who is not present today.

This is a time where we as staff  
and process need to know how did it work on  
communication with you on the season. How  
it unfolded is one of the objectives that  
I'm striving for, and I believe the Federal  
inseason manager is, and I believe the State  
is at the same time. But they can  
definitely speak for themselves.

19  
20 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Go ahead,  
21 Jill.

22  
23 MS. KLEIN: Thank you Mr.  
24 Chairman, and the Board. My name is Jill  
25 Klein. I work with the Yukon River Drainage  
Fisheries Association, and I have for this  
past season facilitated the teleconferences  
that YRDFA sponsors during the inseason  
management of the salmon fishery, and I  
could just give a brief overview, a little  
just history about the teleconferences and  
where we've gotten to today, and just to let  
everyone know that teleconferences have been

1 going on for eight years now, and they've  
increased -- can everyone hear me?

2 They've increased in regularity  
3 over the years. This, I think -- from last  
4 year to this year has been the first season  
5 where we've had a teleconference every week  
at the same time, and so we've tried to be  
consistent with that, thinking that that  
would work better during the season.

6 We have received funding this  
7 past year from the Fish & Wildlife R & E  
8 fund and that did end up covering the  
9 conference calls for the whole season. At  
10 first there was a worry on my part that we  
weren't going to have enough funding and the  
office of subsistence management came up to  
assist further funding, and we're hoping  
that we can use that funding for next year  
and have funding in place before the season  
starts.

11 Usually, I've done -- sent out  
12 e-mails and faxes to all the agency people  
that participate, as well as the Tribal  
13 Council, village offices, corporations,  
health clinics, different entities in the  
14 villages to make everyone aware of the time  
and location around agenda of the phone  
call.

15 This past season, they were every  
16 Monday at 1:00 o'clock p.m., and the calls  
usually lasted from anywhere from a half an  
17 hour towards the end of the season to two  
hours during the high times of the season.  
18 There's a lot of fluctuation with the  
duration of the phone call due to the time  
of the season, what's going on with the fish  
19 runs.

20 Again, they're YRDFA-sponsored  
calls. It's not a YRDFA board meeting or a  
21 YRDFA board call, which sometimes there's  
not always clarity by the public on that.  
22 We do try to have board members present and  
participating, which they have been. But  
23 the teleconferences are great for a public  
forum, and I think and hope that that  
24 consistency of every Monday at 1:00 o'clock  
makes people aware that there is a place  
that they can call in and find out what's  
25 going on with the fish, where they are, how  
they're doing, how are people doing, what

1 are the conditions of the river, and to  
2 exchange information between the users  
3 themselves as well as between the users and  
4 the managers.

5 That is the general information  
6 that I have on the calls. And I know that  
7 the calls are important to the managers,  
8 that they like to listen to what the people  
9 have to say and use the information and find  
10 it very valuable; and, of course, I'm always  
11 happy to hear thoughts, comments about how  
12 the calls went, and how we can make them  
13 better in the future.

14 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Ron?

15 MR. SAM: Yeah, Jill, I'd like to  
16 commend you on having these teleconferences.  
17 I think they're very important, especially  
18 for the tributaries of the Yukon. I was  
19 working this summer, and I got the Village  
20 Council involved. They really enjoyed the  
21 teleconferences. They know what's going on,  
22 more or less figure out when to go  
23 subsistence fishing. And I think that you  
24 have to keep the conferencing going. I  
25 think they were good.

26 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Anyone  
27 else?

28 Jill, because I was one of the  
29 coordinators, first time I ever seen that  
30 many fishermen in the corporations, at my  
31 home, and Tribal and city. Before the  
32 teleconference start, they did the weather  
33 and they pick up sometime two speakers.  
34 They never done this before. They really --  
35 I don't know, it's my understanding that --  
36 do you apply for more money or --

37 MS. KLEIN: I have -- we have  
38 submitted a proposal, again, to the office  
39 of subsistence management to use the funds  
40 that they offered for this season, and  
41 hopefully we can roll them over to use next  
42 season. I'm just waiting to hear back from  
43 the OSM office about that. That's the only  
44 place that we've submitted a proposal to for  
45 funding. I have spoken with other entities  
46 about requesting funds for next season. So,

1 it's something that we will be working on.

2 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Jill,  
3 because I am coordinator, before 1:00  
4 o'clock, when it's time, we announce in our  
5 villages, and we never have a -- this kind  
6 of experience in the Lower Yukon, before,  
7 you know. Lower Yukon there are commercial  
8 fishermen, most of them. And when the  
9 subsistence start going, a lot of  
10 subsistence fishermen, even the ladies, you  
11 could see them right in the teleconference  
12 area in the room.

I think it's a very important to  
8 have this continued teleconference, because  
9 it's -- me, myself, I'm kind of getting  
10 tired last year, because I was not able to  
11 attend all the teleconferences, because I  
12 was too busy with my dry fish camp. I had  
13 to come up for about 36-mile trip every  
14 time -- every Monday. So, to me, I see this  
15 as very important to continue to have.

16 Gerald?

17 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, Jill, I  
18 think it's a pretty good way for the upriver  
19 people to communicate with the downriver  
20 people, and it's a good way for the  
21 Department to let people know what's going  
22 on, and the fishing season, how high the  
23 water is, pretty good general way for the  
24 Department and Federal office of subsistence  
25 management to communicate and for YRDFA to  
communicate with the people along the river  
who depend on fish.

19 MS. KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
20 for your comments and support. And we'll do  
21 our best to continue on with the  
22 conferences. I know that YRDFA would like  
23 to continue on them, and it's good to hear  
24 that people from the public would like them  
25 to continue, and the agencies as well, I  
know, support, the conference calls, and I  
think we can continue on with the regularity  
of the calls, and Mr. Wilde, what you're  
saying that people were preparing for the  
calls and getting together, designate  
speakers. I think it would be nice if we  
could enhance that in other places as well

1 on the river for people to be able to speak  
2 with each other and we can try to get more  
3 people and more villages involved in the  
4 exchange of information.

5 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: I would  
6 like to ask -- John Hanson is one of the  
7 coordinators down in the mouth of Yukon.  
8 John, how are they doing down there when  
9 it's time for teleconference?

10 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr.  
11 Chairman, we had the -- the teleconference  
12 helps a lot of people down at the mouth of  
13 the Yukon. Only thing that they don't like  
14 is when the Department gives the report.  
15 They're always saying there's less fish than  
16 last year. That's the only thing that the  
17 fishermen down at the mouth don't like. I  
18 think the Department should have a better,  
19 accurate report on how the fish are,  
20 because, we, as fishermen and subsistence  
21 fishermen, we report to the Department, the  
22 Federal, an amount of how the fish are  
23 doing; but on the other hand, the Department  
24 gives less fish than last year, less  
25 strength of the runs and all that, and  
that's what the fishermen down in my area  
don't like. It's a good thing that they  
start these teleconferences, and if it could  
be -- excuse me, if it could be rather than  
have it every Monday, if it could be every  
other week, maybe it will work more better  
and more people will -- would join in. But  
if it can't, then every other Monday is  
okay.

19 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Anyone  
20 else? Council?  
21 Dan?

22 MR. BERGSTROM: Yes, Mr.  
23 Chairman, one of the things we've talked  
24 about a little bit, and it's really  
25 difficult in the Yukon because there's so  
many people involved, but if there would be  
a way to have selected groups or villages or  
individuals where we'd have fax numbers  
and -- together with Federal managers, we  
might be able to fax out some information, I

1 think that would help make the summary of  
2 the stock status or the run status go  
3 quicker if people had something to look at  
4 instead of hearing numbers and talk. That's  
5 something we could think about if we could  
6 work something out with that.

7 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Jill?

8 MS. KLEIN: Right now may not be  
9 the best time to hash out all the details,  
10 but we can before next season make an effort  
11 to communicate on how we can better improve  
12 participation and what day and time work for  
13 people, and if it would be good to have a  
14 coordination of who is going to be on the  
15 phone and what kind of more specific  
16 information we can have agency people give  
17 out or have the public give out as well.

18 So, we can work this all out and  
19 refine the process and try to make it  
20 better.

21 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I  
22 think maybe you're ready to go to the next  
23 topic on that, because -- well, just  
24 because, I don't know, it seems to be that  
25 the Council is ready to go to the  
26 U.S.-Canada Salmon Agreement. If that's the  
27 wishes, then we can start bringing staff up  
28 to present that.

29 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Yeah, we  
30 could go to that U.S./Canadian negotiations.

31 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman,  
32 there's a summary on the U.S./Canada salmon  
33 agreement under B as in Bethel. Each of you  
34 should have received the copy of the draft  
35 agreement. I'll leave it at that. I don't  
36 want to get into international negotiations,  
37 but the people that are going to be  
38 explaining the agreement will discuss that.  
39 You received in the mail -- I don't know how  
40 long ago I mailed it out, but Tom, I think  
41 it was three weeks ago that you received it  
42 in the mail.

43 We do have a couple of extra  
44 copies here if needed, but it's only a  
45 couple.

1                   So, with that, I'm thinking Dan's  
2 presenting that or someone from Fish & Game  
3 is taking the lead on the U.S./Canada treaty  
4 agreement.

5                   MR. HOLDER: The buck passes  
6 here.

7                   MR. MATHEWS: The reason this is  
8 being brought up to you is because the  
9 significance of the agreement, and the  
10 effect it has on management within Alaska as  
11 far as escapement goals and harvest. It's  
12 not to expand your authority. It's to  
13 explain the treaty and agreements related to  
14 management.

15                   MR. VANIA: Mr. Chair, thank you,  
16 just a brief rundown. I know some of you  
17 participated in the negotiations we had in  
18 March. The main difference in the agreement  
19 that we -- that is different from what we  
20 had been operating in the interim agreement  
21 was the total allowable catch has changed  
22 somewhat, and the benefit for the Alaska  
23 side is the Canadian total allowable catch  
24 will go down as zero. In years of poor  
25 returns in the past they wanted to have a  
bottom level of 10,000 to provide for the  
aboriginal, but then the understanding came  
that subsistence fishermen on the Alaska  
side of the border are also reducing their  
catch to assure a scaling, and it should be  
acceptable that Canadian aboriginal harvest  
also have the potential to go down to zero  
again.

                  The total allowable catch when  
it's between 10 and a hundred chinook salmon  
is between 20 and 26 percent -- when the  
total allowable catch is between zero and  
110,000 chinook salmon, the guideline  
harvest range for Canada shall be between 20  
and 26 percent. This reflects about a 5  
percent reduction for Alaskan harvests,  
compared to the average of what we normally  
would take.

                  Then, we also had in the  
agreement when the total allowable catch  
goes over 110,000 that they would get a  
greater share. Of that portion above

1 110,000, that would be split 50/50.

2 And we also had the agreement  
3 with fall chum salmon would be, for the  
4 Alaskan harvest of fall chum salmon for the  
5 Canadian-origin would be, for Alaska harvest  
6 51 to 71 percent of the total allowable  
7 catch, which reflects about an average  
8 reduction of about 10 percent of Alaska  
9 fishermen.

10 Another part of the agreement was  
11 the creation of the Yukon River Panel which  
12 will present, discuss management strategies,  
13 and to provide for Canadian and Alaska  
14 fisheries managers. They would have input  
15 and provide ideas for management and what  
16 they would like to see happen on the river.

17 Part of that would be review of  
18 the escapement goals into Canada. This next  
19 year is to increase from 28,000 minimum to a  
20 minimum of 33,000 in to Canada, and that's  
21 to be in effect starting here in 2002, and  
22 that escapement goal will be reviewed and  
23 discussed amongst the Yukon River Panel.

24 And there was also some funding  
25 issues that Gene will present.

MR. SANDONE: Mr. Chairman, my  
name is Gene Sandone. I'm the regional  
supervisor for AYK Commercial Fisheries  
Alaska Department of Fish & Game. The Yukon  
River Act was passed in 1999 by Congress,  
and it basically set up a system where  
Congress could allocate funds for treaty  
implementation on the Yukon, and the maximum  
amount of funds that could be allocated  
under this act is \$4 million.

1.2 million is appropriated to  
the R & E fund which is controlled by the  
panel to restore or enhance Canadian-origin  
salmon.

Another \$600,000 is going to  
purely an Alaskan R & E fund. Approximately  
a half a million dollars will be spent on  
administration, will be salaries for the  
panel members, it will be travel for JTC  
members, joint technical committee members,  
on the Alaskan side to attend meetings. The  
JTC will meet when the panel tells us to  
meet. We usually meet twice a year, once  
for a season summary in the fall, and

1 another time in the spring for the outlooks,  
2 but there are other tasks which the joint  
3 technical committee will be doing, and that  
4 includes review of the escapement goals for  
5 Canadian-origin salmon which we are going to  
6 initiate this fall, and also other things  
7 that the panel might deem important for the  
8 management of Yukon River Canadian-origin  
9 salmon.

10 Another part of the act  
11 authorized Congress to appropriate funds for  
12 projects that will allow us to manage the  
13 salmon in the Yukon River better. And so  
14 there is -- and for your information, the  
15 JTC this fall is going to conduct strategic  
16 planning session which will allow us to  
17 prioritize the projects that we need to fund  
18 so that we can manage the salmon better on  
19 the Yukon.

20 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: John  
22 Hanson?

23 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr.  
24 Chairman. Gene, looking at this update on  
25 the U. S./Canada agreement. Was this  
26 agreement signed already, or -- it hasn't  
27 been, an agreement with the Yukon and  
28 Canada?

29 MR. SANDONE: Mr. Hanson, Mr.  
30 Chairman, it hasn't been signed as of yet.  
31 There's some lawyer-wrangling in Washington,  
32 and they don't know exactly which should  
33 come first, the appropriations of the fund  
34 or the signing of the document, and I think  
35 they're just about to get that worked out.

36 MR. HANSON: Thanks, Gene. It's  
37 those lawyers in Washington getting it all  
38 settled, then it will be signed. Once it is  
39 signed, will it be like the fishing for  
40 salmon treaty?

41 I hope not.

42 MR. SANDONE: The Yukon salmon  
43 agreement will be an annex to the Pacific  
44 Salmon Treaty, but it will stand on its own.  
45 In other words, if the Pacific Salmon Treaty

1 goes away for some reason, then there's no  
2 longer an agreement. The Yukon agreement  
3 will persist, unless the parties, Alaska --  
the U.S. and Canada decide that they no  
longer want the agreement.

4 MR. HANSON: I don't know. I'm  
5 having a difficult time with this  
6 Yukon/Canada, because if it's an annex to  
7 the Pacific Salmon Treaty, that's going to  
8 hurt the lower part from the border on down.  
9 Once it's signed, it will be close to the  
10 Pacific Salmon Treaty, be real close to it.  
11 The Yukon is a separate tributary river. It  
12 should not be an -- it shouldn't be -- it  
13 should be a salmon treaty totally different  
14 from what the Yukon and Canada are going to  
15 be doing. And I don't think it should be an  
16 annex to the salmon treaty.

17 It should be a separate, total  
18 separate deal from the Pacific Salmon  
19 Treaty. Otherwise, it will be just like  
20 Southeast. If it's an annex to the Fishhook  
21 Salmon Treaty, Canada is going to fight us  
22 lots, up and down the Yukon.

23 MR. SANDONE: Mr. Hanson, Mr.  
24 Chairman, it's just under the framework of  
25 the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The Southeast  
portion will have no effect on what we do on  
the Yukon. It's separate. And, as I said  
before, if Pacific Salmon Treaty in the  
Southeast has problems and it dissolves, we  
will have a separate treaty for the Yukon.

26 As I understand it, it will have  
27 little or no influence on what we do in the  
28 Yukon.

29 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: John, back  
30 in '85 when we started negotiating, it was  
31 our saying that U.S./Canada salmon will be  
32 only in the Yukon River, and I've been with  
33 this negotiation for 16 years until last  
34 fall. So, my understanding is still that  
35 the Yukon itself is separate from the other.

36 MR. NICHOLIA: Thank you, Mr.  
37 Chairman.

38 Just one thing I want to ask  
39 about this U.S. Salmon Treaty, is that we're

1 allowed to fish -- subsistence fish -- at a  
2 half-time or 50 percent time on the U.S.  
3 side, and they're allowed to aboriginal  
4 fish, but they're also allowed to commercial  
5 fish because of that 18,000 border passage  
6 or whatever, and I just don't think it's  
7 fair, coming from the Eastern Interior for  
8 the U.S. side not to commercial fish and for  
9 the other side to have a commercial fishery.  
10 I kind of know what these people got to kind  
11 of feel and that they didn't like that.

12 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Anyone  
13 else from Council?  
14 Sam?

15 MR. SAM: Yeah, I have a  
16 document, signed March 26th to March 30th,  
17 so this is just a negotiating team, right?

18 MR. SANDONE: Mr. Chairman,  
19 Mr. Sam, yes, this is the delegate that  
20 signed that document.

21 MR. SAM: Okay. And there's a  
22 footnote on there too that says both sides  
23 will act as it has been signed by D. C. and  
24 the other department will act?

25 MR. SANDONE: Yes.

MR. SAM: How certain can you be  
when you state that this document can stand  
alone?

MR. SANDONE: Mr. Chairman, I'm  
pretty certain that it will stand alone. It  
will not be -- what they do in the Southeast  
will have no effect on what we do in the  
Yukon. This is the agreement between Canada  
and the U.S. for the Yukon River only.

MR. SAM: Thank you.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Anyone  
else, negotiation?  
If it's not, we go to the next on  
our agenda, 2000 subsistence fishing  
schedule.

1                   MR. MOSES: You were saying  
2                   that --

3                   MR. MOSES: (Through  
4                   interpreter.) He's understanding you're  
5                   speaking to him and he just said that the  
6                   Canada and U.S. are trying to come together  
7                   with what they think, and Canada is like a  
8                   whole different country in the Yukon. They  
9                   can fish in the Yukon and then it would --  
10                  the fish would still get to Canada, and the  
11                  Creator gave us food and this land, and gave  
12                  us all the food. And they -- he was  
13                  wondering if they signed and we in Alaska  
14                  are Fish & Game and the Native people in  
15                  Alaska should all come together with what  
16                  they think, and the Yupik people should not  
17                  be fighting with each other. And we tell  
18                  them that when we're -- that when we're not  
19                  happy with something, we should say it to  
20                  the Fish & Game, but it's like the Fish &  
21                  Game don't pay attention to what the Yupik  
22                  people think, and they do what they want to  
23                  do even though what the Yupik people say and  
24                  it's not comfortable for us.

                  And it's been a long time that  
14                  they are the ones who -- and the white  
15                  people marrying the Native people, that they  
16                  do what we do in our land for subsistence,  
17                  and they learn the subsistence ways.

                  And like the sport fishermen come  
17                  from out of state, and because they pay to  
18                  come and fish in our state they -- the Fish  
19                  & Game do that, and they're not supposed to  
20                  be subsistence fishing and the Creator  
21                  didn't make it for them to be sport fishing.  
22                  The Elders in the way back time said food  
23                  was very important, and they were not  
24                  allowed to fish for sport. They were  
25                  supposed to share with the older people. If  
                  the women can't take care of all the fish,  
                  they would give them out and share with the  
                  other people. And they really watched the  
                  fish and the food. And there was no sport  
                  fishing, and would dry the fish right away,  
                  and put it away and use it for the winter.  
                  That's how it was. But now -- and now the  
                  Fish & Game is watching it, and now they're  
                  trying to save it; but they don't know the  
                  sport -- they allow the sport fishermen to

1           come in and fish. For example, people don't  
2           like to hear that about the sport fishermen  
3           because that was against the Elders' ways.  
4           And we can't -- with the Fish & Game, we  
5           can't come together. We have to put  
6           everything in writing. And I can't see the  
7           paper even though it's in front of me and  
8           when they give it to him, he just takes it.

9                     But the -- what the Elder is  
10           saying, he likes to say what he thinks. And  
11           he would like to help everybody that's here.  
12           And now he's telling you that even though  
13           the white people come, if they marry Native  
14           people, they come to the village, and they  
15           know that subsistence is very important.

16                     And he's known for a long time,  
17           because he's come to the meetings that the  
18           people come from the -- from Washington,  
19           D.C. and say that they come and tell them  
20           that they want the people to hear from the  
21           Yupik Elders; and people from Washington,  
22           D.C. come and tell Fish & Game to come and  
23           ask the Elders and ask them questions.

24                     And if you do -- if you ask  
25           questions, that the Fish & Game, it would be  
26           more calmer, if you listen to what the  
27           people would like to....

28                     MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: We go back  
29           to our agenda.

30                     Next on our agenda is 2002  
31           subsistence fishing schedule.

32                     Russ, you take that.

33                     MR. HOLDER: Yes, Mr. Chairman,  
34           as Fred Bue indicated in his talk, both the  
35           Department and Fish & Wildlife Service are  
36           continuing to work on the fall season, and  
37           some of the escapement work will not be  
38           completed until toward the end of November;  
39           so, basically, we're still trying to finish  
40           this season. Looking toward 2002, neither  
41           the Department nor Fish & Wildlife Service  
42           is prepared at this time to begin to discuss  
43           next season regarding the outlook or the  
44           subsistence fishing schedule. Primarily, we  
45           want to be able to wrap up this season and  
46           then be able to work on and look toward next  
47           season, and we haven't had that time to be  
48           able to look at, you know, for next season.

1                   And just one thing I did want to  
2 bring to your attention, that the maximum  
3 amount of subsistence fishing time going  
4 into next season will be basically the Board  
5 of Fish schedule that has been established.

6                   So, there has been some confusion  
7 over, you know, kind of what the subsistence  
8 schedule might be in the future, but the  
9 Board of Fish schedule is basically the  
10 maximum amount of time that fishermen can  
11 expect to be fishing, you know, next year.

12                   MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: I would  
13 like to see something concerning this  
14 subsistence fishing schedule. Subsistence  
15 is a wonderful thing. We can go without --  
16 out in rural, but today is different from  
17 where I -- where I grow up. Today  
18 subsistence fishing is hard, harder than  
19 when I was about 12 years old.

20                   You got to have gas, you got to  
21 have a motor, and also subsistence camps are  
22 farther and farther and farther.

23                   It's harder, especially when you  
24 don't have no money.

25                   People depend on themselves. We  
26 don't go very far because there wasn't that  
27 many equipment to use with these -- they  
28 depend on kayak and all that.

29                   There's a lot of people. I  
30 understand what they're saying. We try to  
31 subsist, they say, but we couldn't even get  
32 to our camp. No gas.

33                   So, I think something has to be  
34 done no matter how we do and what we do when  
35 we try to go out and subsistence in going to  
36 the camp area.

37                   I've been wanting to say this,  
38 even though subsistence is a wonderful thing  
39 that we depend on, but it gets to where that  
40 it's -- you need something to work with.

41                   Bill?

42                   MR. McCANN: I guess us Eskimos  
43 know what subsistence is, but I don't  
44 think -- some of the white people don't know  
45 because they don't have very much experience  
46 on some of them, most of them. But we do  
47 have -- we have life. Actually, that's the  
48 way of life. Most of us, we can't go

1 without it. We got to have subsistence  
2 time. And like he said, it's harder now in  
3 East because we're using outboard motors to  
4 do that, and getting big nets cost a lot of  
5 money. Everything is getting high, and then  
6 we start using them because we have to, like  
7 long time ago, we use canoes or rowboat or  
8 something like that. We don't have to buy  
9 gas long time ago, and it's close by.  
10 Nowadays they go down to try to find where  
11 the fish go, where they are. And most of  
12 them know where to go.

13 Like I notice boys been telling  
14 me about Fish & Game testing fish, and they  
15 told me that they've been fishing on the  
16 deep water, 60 feet deep on the river, and  
17 the net is what, 45 feet, whatever. But us,  
18 we know where to go, but not too far deep.  
19 We know the spots, and some of those guys,  
20 some of them been telling them where to do,  
21 but they don't listen. That's why they  
22 don't get much fish.

23 And I think this is really  
24 important because subsistence is for the  
25 Eskimos, right? That's what it is.  
26 Therefore, when we're going to change  
27 something about subsistence law or something  
28 like that, we should let the village know.  
29 They're the ones that are subsistence  
30 people. We should get information from them  
31 first before we decide something about it.

32 I think that's theirs. Us, in  
33 the group here, we're not enough. There's a  
34 lot of people back home, and they're not  
35 listening. We should depend on them. Let  
36 them know what's going on before we decide  
37 something about subsistence.

38 So, if I make a mistake, correct  
39 it yourself. Thank you.

40 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Anymore --  
41 my understanding in the 2002 subsistence  
42 fishing schedule is not ready yet; is that  
43 right?

44 MR. HOLDER: That's correct, Mr.  
45 Chairman.

46 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Okay. If  
47 that isn't, then we go to our next -- on our

1 agenda.

2 Kuskokwim River, Mike Rearden and  
3 Charles Burkey.

4 MR. SAM: Could we direct staff  
5 to get some coffee? It's getting slow up  
6 here, and it looks like we go into evening  
7 session. Check on the coffee.

8 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Are you  
9 ready?  
10 Mike?

11 MR. REARDEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman,  
12 we're ready. My name is Mike Rearden. I'm  
13 the Federal inseason manager for the  
14 Kuskokwim River, live in Bethel, and work  
15 for Fish & Wildlife Service there. One of  
16 the greatest benefits we have on the  
17 Kuskokwim is that it's a smaller river than  
18 the Yukon River. It's not as complex, and  
19 we've got the advantage of having a fish &  
20 game staff that lives right there in Bethel  
21 and a fish & wildlife staff that lives in  
22 Bethel, so we can easily work together  
23 throughout the entire year.

24 And we do work throughout the  
25 year. We have a lot of meetings and talk  
about how to work with the local people on  
management of fisheries.

I'm not going to make comments on  
how the fishery went because Charlie Burkey,  
the Fish & Game manager has a real extensive  
report that he can give as soon as I'm  
finished with this.

Another one of the major benefits  
in Bethel is that we have a working group  
where we involve local subsistence,  
commercial, and other people, sport  
fishermen, even, on a working group, to help  
design the management strategies for the  
Kuskokwim River and that's worked out very  
well.

Another thing, one of the things  
we did this year that worked very well is  
that we did a lot of preliminary work in the  
villages, by traveling to villages and  
having meetings and talking about the  
restrictions that were going to be in place  
for subsistence fishing, and we also worked

1 with Fish & Game and had a series of ads in  
2 the local newspaper to explain what the  
3 fishery situation was and what to expect  
4 throughout the summer, and I think that that  
5 amount of communication really contributed  
6 to having a fairly noneventful season.  
7 Things seemed to work out fairly well, and  
8 with a lot of meetings of the working group  
9 and with the continuous communication with  
10 the people, I think that things went better  
11 than they would have otherwise.

12 The only variance that Fish &  
13 Wildlife had -- the only different thing we  
14 had in management from what the State had  
15 was the special action that was passed by  
16 the Federal Subsistence Board in May  
17 restricting use of subsistence fishing in --  
18 on the Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta in that area to  
19 Federally qualified users, and essentially  
20 what that did was, the main thing it did,  
21 probably, was close down sport fishing for  
22 chinook salmon and chum salmon on some of  
23 the rivers within the Yukon Delta refuge,  
24 and the area that was affected the most by  
25 that was the Aniak River.

1 And because of that, and also  
2 because we're working jointly on this  
3 fisheries management, we conducted the law  
4 enforcement -- my staff conducted the law  
5 enforcement efforts on the refuge. Things  
6 started out on the first closure with a few  
7 people that had their nets in the river on  
8 the main Kuskokwim River, with phone calls  
9 and communications with the village that we  
10 figured had the nets out. Within a day or  
11 so, we were down to one or two nets, and I  
12 believe throughout the season the law  
13 enforcement officers only pulled, I believe,  
14 a couple nets out of the Kuskokwim River.  
15 So, compliance was very, very good by  
16 subsistence fishermen.

17 We also spent a significant  
18 amount of time on the Aniak River patrolling  
19 sport fishing people, and I think we had  
20 over 100 contacts up there with sport  
21 fishermen; and, again, it was kind of like  
22 subsistence earlier on in the season. There  
23 were some violations occurring, but once  
24 they were aware that we were going up and  
25 enforcing it and they were aware of what the

1 regulations were, generally compliance was  
2 pretty good with the regulations.

3 So, as I said before, the special  
4 action that also we instigated this summer  
5 were identical, the words were very nearly  
6 the same as to what the Alaska Department of  
7 Fish & Game wrote; and then, of course, most  
8 of those came out of agreement with meetings  
9 of the Kuskokwim working group.

10 So, unless you have some  
11 questions of me about our specific  
12 involvement, probably would be best to let  
13 Charlie Burkey give a full-season report on  
14 the fishery.

15 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Any  
16 question from Council?  
17 Go ahead, Charlie.

18 MR. BURKEY: Thank you,  
19 Mr. Chairman. My name is Charlie Burkey. I  
20 live in Bethel, and I'm the Kuskokwim area  
21 management biologist for the commercial  
22 fisheries division, Alaska Department of  
23 Fish & Game.

24 Kuskokwim area salmon runs in  
25 2001 can be summarized as better than we had  
feared they would be, but not as strong as  
we had hoped they would be.

The salmon returns -- the king  
and chum salmon returns were much -- were  
better than the extremely poor return that  
we had experienced in 2000, but overall,  
they were still what we consider a  
below-average return.

To refresh people's memory, the  
Board of Fisheries in the fall of last year  
declared that Kuskokwim area chinook and  
chum salmon were stocks of concern under the  
sustainable fisheries policy. And in  
response to this, the Board in the winter  
put together -- they basically rewrote the  
Kuskokwim salmon management plan and renamed  
it the rebuilding plan. And we were  
operating under that plan this season, and  
it's -- its major one of its major  
components was the subsistence fishing  
schedule we've been alluding to, of course,  
talked about quite often.

The Department and the U.S. Fish

1 & Wildlife Service worked very extensively  
2 and closely with the public through the  
3 working group process, and we basically came  
4 to a consensus, you know, subsistence  
5 schedule by the Board was set as four days  
6 of subsistence fishing per week in June and  
7 July.

8 And after much back and forth  
9 discussion and comments, the Department of  
10 Fish & Wildlife working group and the public  
11 pretty much came to a consensus that  
12 subsistence fishing would occur from  
13 Wednesdays through Saturdays of each week.  
14 That was pretty much the case through the  
15 whole season except at least through June.

16 In July, about mid-July, run  
17 assessment of chum and chinook salmon became  
18 apparent that we were going to be -- the  
19 escapement needs were not going to be met,  
20 and we -- the working group and the  
21 Department and the Fish & Wildlife  
22 cooperatively agreed to reduce subsistence  
23 fishing time to two days a week in the lower  
24 part of the river and to three days a week  
25 in the middle part of the river, and that  
happened for two weeks, and in the last week  
of July it was lifted, and then when we  
started commercial fishing in August, the  
subsistence fishing schedule was over and we  
were just -- had the usual subsistence  
closures around the commercial fishery.

26 In the Kuskokwim River,  
27 escapement chinook salmon and chum salmon,  
28 as I told you before, were quite a bit  
29 better than the returns in 2000, I think  
30 were approximately two to three times the  
31 returns of those species that we'd seen in  
32 that year, in 2000.

33 The handout, hopefully the  
34 handout that was given to you just before we  
35 came up here, Figure 4 near the end of the  
36 handout is a -- is a graphic that will --  
37 that shows that in 2001 the chinook salmon  
38 return. Escapement drainage-wide was  
39 approximately three times what it was in  
40 2000. You can tell it by looking at the  
41 height of the bars.

42 Something very similar occurred  
43 for chum salmon, and so this was definitely  
44 a much better improvement over 2000.

1 Overall, the chinook salmon  
2 escapement, we felt for the whole drainage  
3 was approximately 90 percent of the goal for  
4 the whole Kuskokwim River drainage.

5 Chum salmon, we felt we met our  
6 escapement goals, pretty much met our  
7 escapement goals for chum salmon  
8 drainage-wide, and that was -- that was with  
9 a below -- below-average run strength for  
10 both species and primarily due to the lack  
11 of commercial fishing in June and July, and  
12 the subsistence -- the conservation through  
13 subsistence fishing -- fishermen.

14 Subsistence fishermen, they  
15 characterized -- they generally  
16 characterized the king and the chum salmon  
17 returns as being better than last year, and  
18 most of them real marked -- most of them  
19 reported that they were able to meet their  
20 subsistence needs for the most part under  
21 the subsistence fishing schedule. Like I  
22 said, that was in effect in June and July,  
23 and was not in effect in August when we were  
24 commercial fishing for coho salmon.

25 The coho salmon return was judged  
26 to be about average. Appeared to be about  
27 an average return at the beginning of the  
28 season, so we started commercial fishing for  
29 coho salmon in early August, and the fishery  
30 can be characterized as one where there was  
31 much lower than average effort because of --  
32 characterized by low prices and low effort.  
33 The number of fishermen who fished last year  
34 was one of the lowest in over 20 years.

35 Catches were relatively -- were  
36 relatively low or below average every  
37 period, primarily because of the low effort  
38 for the most part.

39 As the run progressed through  
40 August, it became apparent about the middle  
41 of August, about halfway through the run, it  
42 peaked and then the run basically trailed  
43 off. It showed -- it showed average to  
44 above-average strength early in the run and  
45 the last half of the run -- there just  
46 wasn't any last half there.

47 So, that contributed -- that  
48 basically contributed to coho salmon.  
49 Harvest of less than average, about less  
50 than 50 percent of the most recent ten-year

1 average. Very low values, due to the low  
2 prices and low value that were given.  
3 Overall for the whole drainage, we  
4 characterized the coho salmon escapement as  
5 being about 80 to 90 percent of the goal for  
6 the whole drainage.

7 Kuskokwim Bay, I was just  
8 talking -- my remarks were aimed at the  
9 Kuskokwim River.

10 In the Kuskokwim Bay Districts,  
11 commercial fishing occurred there on a  
12 relatively normal but reduced schedule. It  
13 was characterized by, again, low prices and  
14 very low effort. Some of the lowest fishing  
15 effort we've seen in many years.

16 Their commercial harvest ended up  
17 to be approximately 50 percent of most  
18 recent ten-year average harvests due to the  
19 low effort, primarily.

20 Escapement of salmon into the  
21 Kuskokwim Bay drainages, we characterize as  
22 about normal or adequate, overall.

23 And overall, the value of the  
24 commercial fishery was approximately 25  
25 percent of what it would -- what it has been  
26 over the last ten years.

27 And I'll leave it at that.

28 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

29 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Any  
30 questions from Council?  
31 James?

32 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr.  
33 Chairman. Charlie, how do you get the  
34 numbers of escapement on Kwethluk and I  
35 believe it's the Kisaralik and the water is  
36 high and you can't get the numbers off from  
37 the weir that you -- for escapement on those  
38 rivers?

39 MR. BURKEY: Mr. Chairman, James,  
40 this year we did not have, as you said,  
41 because of high water, we did not -- we did  
42 not have escapement information for King  
43 salmon or chum salmon.

44 We did have escapement  
45 information for coho salmon on those rivers.

46 Now, when I characterize the  
47 escapement, it's drainage-wide and it comes

1 from a group of escapement projects,  
2 different weirs and different systems,  
3 aerial surveys, test fish, and other things.

4 So, the short answer is we don't  
5 have escapement data for kings and chums on  
6 the Kisaralik or the Kwethluk, because of  
7 the inability to operate those weirs.

8 But we do have escapement data  
9 from other sources, there were five other  
10 weirs that were operating in other drainages  
11 that gave us escapement information for  
12 kings and chum salmon, and the Aniak sonar.

13 Willard?

14 MR. CHURCH: My name is Willard  
15 Church. I'm from Quinhagak. Question for  
16 you Charlie: Is there any problems with the  
17 Board of Fish, for restriction of Quinhagak  
18 to make some adjustments where they're  
19 needed?

20 MR. BURKEY: Mr. Chairman,  
21 Willard, right now, the Department, you  
22 know, the Board of Fish changed the boundary  
23 line in the last meeting, and unless the  
24 Department sees a conservation measure or if  
25 we feel the boundary line, we'll have to  
look at it and see if we feel that there's  
any reason to go back to the Board of  
Fishery to adjust that boundary line.

Right now, it's too early in the  
year to -- we haven't -- the season's not  
quite over, and we haven't gotten that far  
to look at that, but if we see there's a  
reason for conservation measures or because  
it's -- it causes some kind of a problem  
with commercial fishery we hadn't  
anticipated, then we could consider going  
back to the Board. Right now, it's too  
early to say whether we will or not.

MR. CHURCH: I think the Native  
Village of Quinhagak would like to keep up  
to date on any steps or revisiting that so  
that we can make our recommendations.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: James?

MR. CHARLES: Thank you,  
Mr. Chairman.

1 Charlie, there was commercial  
2 fishing for cohos over there on the  
3 Kuskokwim and since last year, the plain one  
4 was divided into two, A and B, downriver and  
5 upriver. There was more commercial fishing  
6 than we thought there was going to be this  
7 past season. And that cut down our  
8 subsistence time for cohos because District  
9 One is cut down to two parts. We live 43  
10 miles down from Bethel, but we can't even  
11 subsistence fish for cohos when there is  
12 commercial fishing upriver above Bethel.

13 Some people complain about that,  
14 and I've been telling them to talk to Fish &  
15 Game or write a proposal.

16 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Ray?

17 MR. COLLINS: Charlie, I was  
18 looking at your report on the -- I'm looking  
19 at your report on the commercial catch  
20 there, and the total chinook take was  
21 14,000. That was caught incidental to  
22 catching cohos?

23 MR. BURKEY: Mr. Chairman, Ray,  
24 that 14,000, all but 90 of those fish were  
25 caught in the Kuskokwim Bay Districts.

26 Incidental of the coho fishery  
27 there were approximately 90 chinook salmon  
28 taken.

29 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

30 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Is the  
31 mike next to yours on?

32 Do you have another question to  
33 them?

34 Jack?

35 MR. REAKOFF: I see all these  
36 runs tailed off real quick on the Yukon and  
37 Kuskokwim. Is there an investigation as to  
38 ocean temperature correlation as to why that  
39 would be, or do you have a real theory about  
40 that would -- seemed to be a real  
41 management -- throw the management for a  
42 loop? I was wondering if you're looking at  
43 investigating, if you can predict whether  
44 that's going to occur or not using ocean

1 temperatures?

2 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chairman,  
3 we'll probably look at, you know, if there's  
4 some variable out there for why this  
5 occurred, and I think -- as I think about it  
6 this year, I think it's kind of that way in  
7 Norton Sound also. Generally, early  
8 component and then kind of tapered off. We  
9 saw that in several of the fisheries. It  
10 was kind of interesting this year. The ice  
11 breakup was kind of later, the initial runs  
12 like chinook and summer chum were later than  
13 normal on their startup, yet with fall chum  
14 and coho, we had this early component drop  
15 off that was kind of unusual. We're  
16 wondering if those runs might be a little  
17 later than they were. Sometimes, what we  
18 haven't looked at too much is age  
19 composition. You have kind of five-year  
20 olds with, like, fall chum. They'll tend to  
21 make them run earlier. The older ones tend  
22 to come back earlier. That might have been  
23 part of that. Cohos are generally all  
24 four-year olds. We don't know why that  
25 happened. We can look at the factors, see  
if there's a reason. Like you say, it's  
really important on the management to know  
that timing.

16 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Anymore  
17 Councils, anymore on the review of chinook  
18 and chums and coho salmon run, Kuskokwim?  
19 If not, we'll go to the next on  
20 the agenda, "View of Subsistence Opportunity  
21 Needs," the coordination. Fishery  
22 committee.

23 Go ahead, Vince?  
24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, this  
is a time when the coordinating fishery  
committee as well as the Kuskokwim Salmon  
Working Group like we did with the Yukon,  
kind of give us an assessment how the  
communication and outreach went this past  
season.

Your members on your coordinating  
fishing committee are Ray Collins and Carl  
Morgan for Western Interior, Robert Nick and  
James Charles for the Yukon Kuskokwim. So

1 they can share -- they were quite busy this  
2 summer with different activities on the  
3 Kuskokwim, and I personally do not know  
4 Wayne Morgan or Frank Charles to know if  
5 they're here. If they're here it would be  
6 good for them to come up to the mike because  
7 of their important role to provide a  
8 platform for dealing with inseason  
9 management on the Kuskokwim.

10 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Next,  
11 Kuskokwim salmon management working group.  
12 Vince?

13 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it's part of  
14 the discussion on how the outreach went,  
15 Yes, this is correct. They'll introduce  
16 themselves and the committee members that  
17 you guys appointed. This is their  
18 opportunity to make the full Council aware  
19 of good things and concerns that they had  
20 over the past season, which they've already  
21 done; but when you make these agendas, you  
22 don't know when people are going to speak,  
23 so we tried to provide opportunity for them  
24 to do, but other issues may come up during  
25 the discussion from the working group.

16 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Kuskokwim  
17 salmon management working group co-chair,  
18 Frank Charles and Wayne Morgan.

19 MR. CHARLES: For the record, my  
20 name is Frank Charles. I reside in Bethel.  
21 I, along with Wayne Morgan, co-chair  
22 Kuskokwim River Salmon Working Group. We  
23 don't have any prepared statements or -- to  
24 work with you, I leave it in capable hands  
25 of Mr. Morgan to make sure that we're  
26 focused and right to the point. Mr. Morgan  
27 will step in at any time where I may omit or  
28 misrepresent or not clearly convey any of  
29 our concerns and what our activities have  
30 been.

31 For the record, this year marks  
32 the 13th year of operation of the Kuskokwim  
33 River salmon working Group. It was formed  
34 in 1988 as a result of concerns over poor  
35 and repressed returns of chinook and the  
36 lack of public involvement in the

1 decision-making process for determining at  
2 that time commercial openers -- sorry, it  
3 must be the coffee. I know it's time. I'll  
4 try to slow down.

5 As I was saying, in 1988, there  
6 was a great deal of concern or prior to  
7 1988, there was a great deal of concern on  
8 the public's part on the Kuskokwim that we  
9 did not have any input in the  
10 decision-making process; that the Department  
11 of Fish & Game used to determine possible  
12 commercial openers for the Kuskokwim. And  
13 the public at the time brought a proposal to  
14 the Board of Fisheries, and I believe  
15 Mr. John Hanson was on at the time, or was  
16 it Mr. Foster, I'm not quite sure -- we  
17 brought the proposal forward to them. They,  
18 in turn, by regulation, established the  
19 Kuskokwim River salmon management working  
20 group.

21 The intent of the working group  
22 and its purpose as defined in our by-laws  
23 which we adopted this last year is to  
24 provide local fishers and other users with  
25 an avenue for being directly involved in the  
26 management of their fishery. The goal is  
27 for all parties to work together to reach a  
28 consensus on management of the fishery.  
29 Finally, emergency order authority continues  
30 to work with the Alaska Department of Fish &  
31 Game -- I'm sorry for speaking so quickly.  
32 I'm so used to appearing for the Fish Board  
33 where you only have a finite amount of time,  
34 where you get kicked off the mike. I'll try  
35 to remember that.

36 In any event, our main purpose is  
37 for public involvement, and just as  
38 importantly, is to make sure that those that  
39 we represent as working group members are  
40 well aware of our activities, why it is that  
41 we make our decisions and/or recommendations  
42 to the Department and how it is we can  
43 continue to work better amongst each other.

44 As a matter of note, in prior  
45 years, there was -- as happening on the  
46 Yukon for some time now, there was a great  
47 deal of tension, mistrust, and  
48 misunderstanding between residents all up  
49 and down the river, especially as we say,  
50 upriver, downriver. As most people are

1 aware, most of the commercial permits were  
2 held by fishers generally downriver from  
3 Tuluksak, down there were a few permits in  
4 Aniak, Kalskag, and Chuathbaluk. For the  
5 most part the permits were from down on the  
6 lower part of the river.

7 And through the years, the  
8 working group, by sheer hard work and  
9 determination, especially the previous  
10 membership, began to get a better  
11 understanding between upper and lower river  
12 uses of the resource, about how it is we can  
13 best work together to determine our future.

14 I'd like to note that we have  
15 Mr. Ray Collins here today, the working  
16 group this last year accepted your  
17 recommendation and request for membership on  
18 the working group. We also have Robert Nick  
19 from Nunachuak who is, I believe, the  
20 chairman of the Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta --  
21 Vice chair, Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta advisory  
22 committee. They are now voting and working  
23 members of the working group.

24 I'll have to say that it's been a  
25 real pleasure on my part and I believe I can  
26 speak for the remainder of the working group  
27 to have their involvement. They bring  
28 their -- as with the other members of the  
29 working group, their extensive knowledge,  
30 wisdom, and good judgment to the working  
31 group that's been a real benefit.

32 Thank you, Mr. Collins, and  
33 Robert Nick, and thank you for the  
34 opportunity to have their involvement.

35 I also would you like to know  
36 that we have two previous members of the  
37 working group, our Advisory Councils, and  
38 that is Mr. Billy McCann from Napakiak, now  
39 Bethel, and Mr. James Charles of  
40 Tuntutuliak. They in the past years have  
41 given a great deal of their time and energy  
42 to be sure that the resource and the people  
43 involved and affected by the resource will  
44 be given the full benefit. I thank you that  
45 there's -- I thank you on behalf of the  
46 working group. I don't believe there's any  
47 formal recognition of that.

48 Getting back to public  
49 involvement and most recent events; without  
50 a doubt, these are very difficult times. In

1 my brief lifetime I had never imagined that  
2 I would be sitting on a working group making  
3 the kinds of decisions that we've had to do  
4 and make in the last few years. They have  
5 been very difficult, humbling, and a cause  
6 to really reflect on why it is and how it is  
7 we're here, and when I personally do that, I  
8 look to my Elders and I look to Mr. John  
9 Hanson, the Wilde brothers, Mr. McCann, and  
10 Mr. Moses, here for their wisdom and  
11 guidance in helping us to make the kinds of  
12 difficult decisions we've had to make.

13 As Mr. Burkey pointed out to you  
14 and U.S. Fish & Wildlife staff pointed out  
15 to you, in the recent years, the Board of  
16 Fisheries has primarily recognized that --  
17 as they call it, stocks of concerns. Really  
18 what it boils down to for the river  
19 residents is scary times.

20 I was calling for this seat by  
21 Mr. Joe Lomak of Alaska -- Akiachak because  
22 he a -- he, amongst the other Elders  
23 believed and understood that we're in for  
24 some very difficult times in the near  
25 future, and basically there was nobody else  
around that could call it. But in any  
event, I received my direction from him,  
and -- I'll use the translated version, he  
said that, remember the wisdom and teaching  
of your Elders; remember that you always  
have to listen to them; remember their  
guidance when you sit down and look at  
this -- this stuff, and try to do your best,  
not for now, but for the future. As a  
consequence of the Board's action this last  
year, which established a new fishing regime  
on the Kuskokwim, and establishing a  
subsistence fishing schedule, the working  
group's task was then to decide on which of  
those days we'd have the closures and the  
openers. And in conjunction and in tandem  
with the Department, that is the Fish & Game  
and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and most  
importantly the communities and associations  
along the river we worked extensively with  
the public and received a great deal of  
public input as to which of those days would  
be least -- would be most desirable, I guess  
I should say in the most positive way. I  
could think of other words, but I don't

1 believe this is the appropriate forum.

2 But anyway, we decided as Charlie  
3 pointed out, on a Wednesday through Saturday  
4 schedule for fishing in June and July.

5 Prior to the start of the season,  
6 though, as I said, we made a great deal of  
7 effort to involve the public, to make them  
8 aware of the Board's decision, why it is  
9 that it's happening, and just as importantly  
10 as our Elders have directed, how it is that  
11 we can look to the future. And in that  
12 respect, it helped to guide us in our  
13 thinking as to how it is we can set that  
14 schedule and why it is we need to do so.

15 It was very difficult to accept  
16 that. It was a very alien concept even for  
17 me.

18 And as I said, it took a great  
19 deal of involvement and once we decided on  
20 the schedule, we steeled ourselves for the  
21 start of the season hoping that it would be  
22 as the Department anticipated, that is, that  
23 we may not have had any closures. Actually,  
24 when the run assessment as we determined it  
25 to be in July was such that we needed to  
consider restrictions, that was a very  
difficult time.

I found myself hesitating almost  
minute by minute as to why it is we're doing  
this and what effect it would have on  
people, especially those who are so reliant  
on subsistence fishing and with little or no  
other opportunity, how it is that it would  
affect them in their mindset and their  
spirit and their hearts and their  
anticipation for the future. Especially the  
coming winter. As a good example, I'm sure  
Wayne shares it with me, that I feel very  
uneasy when my fish racks aren't full, when  
I don't have fish to put up for the winter  
and having some fish stored away, knowing  
there's some uncertainty in the future for  
feeding myself and my family. That was  
information most in my mind.

23 In addition, in line with a  
24 greater awareness on our people's part, we  
25 shouldn't look just for the immediate  
future, but for those to come. And I think  
that's the direction the working group is  
moving towards. We recently met in person

1 thanks to some support money that also the  
2 Feds provided to us, namely, U.S. Fish &  
3 Wildlife Service, and we basically set a  
4 course for the future. It's not clear what  
5 it is it may be, but hopefully, through  
6 subsequent meetings that we'll have  
7 established our understandings amongst one  
8 another, especially upriver and downriver as  
9 to how it is we can best manage the  
10 resource. Those guiding principals and  
11 values that have carried us through  
12 millennia and how we could incorporate them  
13 into our decision-making process and  
14 procedures and in the interest that things  
15 don't go as well as we would like to.

16 I'd like to turn it over to  
17 Wayne, but lastly, I'd like to say, I feel  
18 very uneasy about the future knowing, as  
19 I've come to learn through the able and apt  
20 descriptions and reports from the Department  
21 and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service what may be  
22 coming down the pike.

23 As you know, we're under a  
24 rebuilding program and I anticipate that  
25 plan will be in place and in effect for  
several cycles of the salmon. That is,  
roughly eight to 12, even up to 16 years.

Real briefly, I know that your  
primary concern is for subsistence, but I  
happen to represent a faltering and  
floundering cooperative that was formed in  
1968 to benefit fishers on the Kuskokwim.  
And its purpose was to provide as much  
benefit, economically, as to the fishers on  
the Kuskokwim by representation and other  
things.

The commercial income that we  
receive on the Kuskokwim for the most part  
for many people is of absolute necessity.

The little money that we make  
provides that extra bump and in many cases,  
almost a primary income for a lot of people.  
It doesn't sound like much. In fact, in  
your report, you see X vessel values, per  
capita incomes. They seem very low.

But that \$1500 or so on average  
for this last season goes a long way on the  
Kuskokwim, and as it does, I'm sure, on the  
Yukon.

And if nothing else, it helps to

1 ease our concerns for taking care of  
2 ourselves for the coming winter, and that to  
3 me is also subsistence.

4 Very few of us have the  
5 opportunity to go out and buy all sorts of  
6 luxury and fancy goods and that kind of  
7 thing. It all goes towards maintaining our  
8 homes or machinery, equipment and whatnot to  
9 allow us to continue to subsist.

10 With that, I'd like to turn it  
11 over to Mr. Wayne Morgan. Thank you for  
12 your patience. I'm glad you didn't hit me  
13 over the head for moving too far off the  
14 track. I turn it over to you.

15 MR. MORGAN: Thank you, my name  
16 is Wayne Morgan. I'm co-chair for the  
17 working group. Maybe if any of you have any  
18 questions for Frank right now before I start  
19 speaking on what he had to say on his  
20 report.

21 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Go ahead.

22 MR. JONES: My name is Benedict,  
23 Frank. When you said -- set your fishing  
24 schedule, were the people satisfied as a  
25 time -- was the timing right for the fish  
migration when you're opening and closing?

26 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman,  
27 Mr. Jones, thank you. We had a fair and  
28 extensive discussion amongst ourselves as a  
29 working group. Prior, as far as  
30 communication to the public, we attempted  
31 and through the Department and U.S. Fish &  
32 Wildlife Service attempted to explain to the  
33 public -- sorry, attempted to explain to the  
34 public how it is and why it is that the  
35 schedule was to be put into effect. With  
36 respect to run timing, we attempted to  
37 establish it so that people can take  
38 advantage of the drying season especially  
39 early to mid-June so that they have an  
40 opportunity to catch them when they're  
41 there, and the closure or the fishing  
42 schedule was actually staggered given run  
43 timing of the salmon, primarily chinook and  
44 chum. The closure was initiated on the  
45 Kuskokwim. The lower part of the

1 Kuskokwim -- excuse me, beginning on the 3rd  
2 of July, and then successively through the  
3 season it moved upriver to what's called a  
W-2, that is Tuluksak and -- and above. Did  
4 that answer your question, Mr. Jones?

5 MR. JONES: Yes. I have one more  
6 further question.

7 On your commercial quota, how do  
8 you plan your quota before the scheduled  
9 season?

10 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman,  
11 Mr. Jones, we don't have a quota, if you  
12 will. Part of the primary function of the  
13 working group is to assess the run strength  
14 in season, and almost on a daily basis, as  
15 Mr. McCann and Mr. Charles James can tell  
16 you, we look to assess the run and where  
17 it's at and determine from there either  
18 closures and your commercial fishing  
19 opportunity. And as Charlie or Mr. Burkey  
20 from ADF&G pointed out to you, the Board of  
21 Fisheries, this last year, because of the  
22 state of the depressed runs we're i  
23 throughout the Kuskokwim salmon management  
24 plan and within it, we had the guideline  
25 harvest level established for chinook from  
35,000 to 50,000, and history in and our  
effort shows we pretty much stuck to that  
mark. We didn't have any quota nor chum  
salmon, coho under that plan and neither do  
we have one under this one.

You have to understand, under  
that rebuilding plan, because the Board  
threw out the previous management -- threw  
out the previous management plan, we do not  
have any commercial fishing in June and July  
on the Kuskokwim, period. I've been told,  
and as I understand it, it's only under  
extraordinary circumstances that we will  
allow and have any opportunity to fish  
commercially on chinook, chum, and red  
salmon.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Sam?

MR. SAM: Yeah. Thank you,  
Charles, it's a pleasure to meet with you  
and Mr. Morgan. First off, I'd like to

1 thank you for accepting Ray Collins and all  
2 our letters -- for trying to get seated on  
3 your committee. From your report it seems  
4 like you've done some extensive work, and I  
5 commend you for that.

6 But I'd like to say they don't do  
7 that by speaking fast and precise and  
8 eloquent. At least all of us could do  
9 that -- I wish all of us could do that.

10 MR. CHARLES: I think that's very  
11 important, thank you, if you don't mind  
12 Wayne. As part of the process, and I should  
13 have noted for those of you who don't know,  
14 we're -- the working group is comprised of  
15 12 representatives from all up and down the  
16 river. And I think I'm privileged and  
17 honored to say that not only do we have  
18 Mr. Collins and Mr. Nick, but we have two  
19 Elder representatives that are seated and  
20 voting members of the working group. Part  
21 of our agenda calls for input on continued  
22 business, as we call it, of traditional  
23 Yupik fishery knowledge, and it's at that  
24 time that we hear from Mr. Peter Joseph from  
25 Tuntutuliak who was seated this past year to  
replace another Elder that left and moved  
on.

15 We have Mr. Ian Jaguski from  
16 Stony River who is our upriver Elder  
representative.

17 In addition to them, we have two  
18 subsistence -- excuse me, two subsistence  
19 fishers from the lower river as we call it  
20 and the upper river. They are Mr. Oscar  
21 Larson of Kwethluk and Mr. Wayne Morgan  
22 representing the KNA, Kuskokwim Native  
23 Association. We have a representative from  
24 the commercial fishery, that is Mr. Charlie  
25 Brown of Eek.

21 I represent, as I indicated, the  
Kuskokwim Fishermen's Cooperative.

22 We have a representative of the  
23 sport fishers, and that is -- I'm getting a  
24 little -- Nick Imelik from, I believe -- who  
25 I believe resides in Sleetmute, and as I  
believe we have Mr. Ray Collins, Robert  
Nick, and, of course, the Department of Fish  
& Game is also a working group member.

And having said that, you need to

1 understand that we work by consensus. No  
2 decision and/or action is taken unless we  
3 have a majority vote of the working group,  
4 and that is if seven or less members are  
5 present, only one dissenting vote can be  
6 made in any action or decision that we make.  
7 If we have 8 or more or 8 to 12 members, we  
8 allow two dissenting votes on the working  
9 group. Otherwise, anything more than that,  
10 our actions don't pass. If that happens,  
11 what we do is sit down and hash it out and  
12 deliberate until we get a clear  
13 understanding and, as I said, a consensus  
14 made.

15 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Wayne, do  
16 you have additional report?

17 MR. MORGAN: Yes, I do.  
18 Any of you that sat in our  
19 meetings, our meetings usually last from two  
20 hours with when I'm chairing the meeting and  
21 up to four hours when -- Frank's chairing  
22 the meeting.

23 (Laughter.)

24 MR. MORGAN: He talks real slow  
25 too, when he's chairing the meetings.

(Laughter.)

MR. MORGAN: Frank mentioned,  
we're made up of a good mix of people.  
We've got all up and downriver, the Elders  
as you've mentioned, two members of the Fish  
& Wildlife, Ray Collins and Robert Metka.

This year, we went into this year  
very easy. It seemed simple for us this  
year because of last year's poor run. And  
that's what we went into this year looking  
at, looking at another poor run. And we're  
very conservative. The people were -- the  
public was a little more knowledgeable about  
the closures. I mean, they knew why we were  
doing them because of last year -- because  
of what happened last year. We don't want  
any more years like that.

The people in our area,  
mid-Kuskokwim, some of the Elders, they felt

1 like the fishing schedule there was  
2 unnecessary because they would still put  
3 away what they need. And they did. And for  
4 this past year, you know, we had to make  
5 some big decisions. And it's easier for us.

6 We got more escapement projects  
7 on the Kuskokwim.

8 I believe there's about six or  
9 seven -- should be around there, six or  
10 seven escapement projects, along with our --  
11 this year's inseason subsistence surveys on  
12 the lower Kuskokwim and mid-Kuskokwim and  
13 the upper Kuskokwim, around the McGrath  
14 area, and they played a big role in our  
15 decision-making process.

16 Because we're going out and  
17 asking the subsistence fishermen if they  
18 have caught what they needed, if they are  
19 catching what they needed. And they gave us  
20 reports on how the fish are looking like  
21 this year.

22 Some of them saying that they  
23 were a lot bigger. The kings were a lot  
24 bigger, the chinook, and the reds, the  
25 sockeye, they looked a lot bigger, and the  
26 sockeye was a little more numbers this year.

27 And, again, as Charlie mentioned,  
28 that there was -- there was no commercial  
29 fishing for chum this year because we needed  
30 to get the chum up in the spawning grounds.  
31 We even went as far as almost closing the  
32 whole river for subsistence fishing for the  
33 last two weeks in July to get the chum to  
34 the spawning grounds. And it was a good  
35 thing. I guess it was a late pulse after  
36 July. That really shot the numbers up, not  
37 by much. It was a good year this year, but  
38 it was a good year compared to the past bad  
39 three years, and I want to see this increase  
40 again over this year -- next year.

41 And like I said, we deliberate  
42 quite a bit, quite a bit. We want to talk  
43 to our Elders, make sure they're hearing  
44 what the Department is saying, and what the  
45 Department is asking of us. And I believe  
46 we are doing a good job; we are doing a good  
47 job. And we're looking to do even better.  
48 We're starting to know we had the money, we  
49 would be able to bring the people, the  
50 members together, sit down together. Most

1 of our meetings are by teleconference, and  
2 it would be nice to have, you know, our  
3 members together, sit down and look into the  
4 future of what we want seen done.

5 And I believe we're going to be  
6 looking in that direction.

7 And that concludes my report, Mr.  
8 Chairman.

9 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Council,  
10 you have a question to Frank and Wayne?  
11 Fritz?

12 MR. GEORGE: Thank you, Mr.  
13 Chairman.

14 First I want to congratulate the  
15 working group on your success story, and  
16 then the second, who decides when -- what  
17 time of the -- what time of the day the test  
18 fishery should go down, check on the  
19 strength of the run, and the second one is,  
20 I was hoping that one of you working group  
21 members or the Department or service people  
22 were listening to some lady who was talking  
23 about the problem of the closures. She  
24 didn't get her share because of the fact her  
25 family is lacking a boat and motor, that she  
be dependent on her relatives to fish for  
her, and the wet season came around and she  
didn't want to hang the fish because they're  
going to spoil.

Is it necessary to completely  
close the river for, you know, for these  
people who need to cure the salmon for the  
food?

MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman,  
Mr. George, I'll answer both questions in  
part, and turn it over to Wayne and the  
Department if they would care to respond.  
To answer the last concern about the lady  
who did not have the opportunity to get out  
and fish when the openers were in; prior to  
the start of the season, we anticipated  
things like this and inseason. We  
recognized that it would and cause a very  
significant and undue hardship on people  
because of the closures. We knew -- and I  
knew personally that there may be those who  
fell between the cracks and did not have

1 that opportunity. It's unfortunate. My  
2 heart goes out to her. Every time that I  
3 walk into those meetings, hopefully in the  
4 future because these are different times,  
5 that we can begin to rely as we did in times  
6 past on the community and our families to  
7 help us to meet our needs.

8 As you know, just as well as I,  
9 these changed times, many of us are --  
10 because we're independent have gone so far  
11 as to look to our own and to a limited  
12 degree others. Now, those times may have  
13 changed because of lack of money and the  
14 need to pool our resources. I've begun to  
15 think of things like this to ensure that  
16 people like that lady do not run into those  
17 situations.

18 I have to say, personally, and  
19 the Department may differ and other working  
20 group members may differ, that I feel very  
21 uneasy about the future and that there will  
22 be many more stories like that, not just  
23 because they didn't have gas or a boat, but  
24 because there's no fish. Or if there are  
25 any fish, there will be so few of them that  
26 we have to even consider things like Tier  
27 II, community quotas, and even further or  
28 draconian restrictions.

29 That's possible.

30 We were lucky this last year in  
31 my mind.

32 So, I think what really comes  
33 down to is for me and our efforts within the  
34 working group to integrate traditional Yupik  
35 knowledge and values, principals, that as we  
36 did in our cooperative appeal -- by the way,  
37 we made a very significant appeal to people  
38 this last -- prior to this last season and  
39 during inseason to reduce their take of  
40 salmon, a very hard thing to do. Who are we  
41 to tell you how much you should eat? And  
42 when? Or what?

43 But we had to do that,  
44 recognizing that for the seventh generation  
45 we needed to insure that they too, would  
46 have salmon and have an opportunity to go  
47 out to the fish camps and enjoy that way of  
48 life, and to feel comfortable that they'll  
49 have food in their freezers and store houses  
50 for the coming river. That's the reason

1           why, Mr. George.

2                     And I feel for those people that  
3           did not have that opportunity, but I think  
4           it's a wakeup call. As I said, it was a  
5           very humbling way to wake up to the need for  
6           us to work more together. That's what the  
7           working group is attempting to do.

8                     With respect to the test fishing  
9           data, and the way it's prosecuted, from my  
10          experience, I hear this almost at every meet  
11          that we have as a working group. In fact, I  
12          can only think a few times during my  
13          two-year tenure on the Board for the working  
14          group, excuse me, well you hadn't heard a  
15          concern about the test fishing.

16                    The fact is, Mr. George, as Wayne  
17          pointed out, even though we have additional  
18          assessment tools, we need more in my mind.  
19          We need additional test fisheries that meets  
20          the concerns of the public about how it's  
21          prosecuted and when. As it stands now, that  
22          particular test fishing program for me, as  
23          difficult as it may sound to you, for me,  
24          it's a constant data source. It's been  
25          prosecuted the same way for such a long  
26          period of time that it's one of my standards  
27          in addition to the weir to help me get a  
28          better sense of what's happening on the  
29          river.

30                    The other assessment tools that  
31          Mr. Morgan alluded to are fairly new.

32                    There's a limited data set for  
33          them as it's called. If you look at the  
34          graphs that the Department provided to you,  
35          on the majority of them, they show fuel,  
36          maybe two to three, upwards, five years of  
37          operation. Biologically and scientifically,  
38          and even common sense tells you, that isn't  
39          enough for you to get a clear sense of how  
40          that particular river or system is doing.  
41          On the mainstem Kuskokwim, the Bethel test  
42          fishery, as difficult as it sounds for  
43          people, I would continue to advocate to  
44          maintain for coming years and for, in my  
45          lifetime at least, the solution, Mr. George,  
46          is to get an additional test fishing  
47          program. I think even you remembered when  
48          we had the E-test fishery. It was a very  
49          important tool for me at the time when it  
50          was in place because it helped us get an

1 idea as to the early part of the run and how  
2 it is we might manage for the fishery  
3 addition, we had at the time more expansive  
4 subsistence -- inseason subsistence survey  
5 program conducted by the Kuskokwim fish  
6 co-op through State and Federal funding that  
7 looked to the entire river. At it is now,  
8 even with the inseason subsistence surveys  
9 we have it only covers a little part -- by  
10 the way we have that, I'd like to  
11 acknowledge the McGrath Native Community,  
12 for the -- we have the work of the Kuskokwim  
13 Native Association which I believe Wayne  
14 will speak to tomorrow. We have the  
15 Kousawatneek Native Council, on the lower  
16 part of the river, to me as a working group  
17 member, tied in with everything else, it's  
18 very important for me. It makes me feel a  
19 bit more comfortable and satisfied to know  
20 that we have many of our own Native councils  
21 out there taking local employment,  
22 increasing the knowledge and experience of  
23 our own people, and in resource management.  
24 The reason I say that is that personally,  
25 what we begun this last year, in our last  
meeting is to move towards co-management.  
As it is now, we're a cooperative management  
entity. At one time, Billy McCann,  
especially will tell you, because we're a  
cooperative management entity, the  
Department decides and we cooperate. Well,  
we're slowly turning that around. We've  
been very fortunate to have very  
forward-thinking managers and department  
staff that have allowed us to have more of a  
role in the management of the fishery on the  
Kuskokwim. And that's made a significant  
difference.

20 And, again, lastly, with respect  
21 to that lady who did not have an opportunity  
22 to get all the fish she needed, I know sorry  
23 isn't enough, but for you and I, I think  
24 it's a wakeup call to reevaluate how it is  
25 we do things. And it's certainly time for a  
change.

24 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Council,  
any other questions to them?

25 Billy.

1           MR. McCANN: Frank, you know, I  
2 was in quite a while back, way before you,  
3 and the problem was those working group was  
4 a voluntary person, no money, nothing, just  
5 working there, sometimes they meet all day  
6 long for nothing. But they do the best they  
7 can. And I've been asking some of the  
8 wildlife to get some kind of grant for them  
9 a little bit to help them.

10           But they're working for them too,  
11 trying to work together.

12           The one -- I'm Eskimo little bit;  
13 it's my language anyway. And you said  
14 something about -- if I understood right,  
15 you said something about George, the lady  
16 had -- didn't -- during that subsistence  
17 close time and didn't have no time to fish  
18 now. I'm thinking right now and the law,  
19 any law that puts out among the Fish &  
20 Wildlife, it's still we have to use. No  
21 matter who we are, we use that law, and I  
22 think -- if I understood right, you said  
23 something about to help them some way to get  
24 their food, but there should be -- if it's  
25 that way, you should have some kind of  
reason from the Fish & Game to say so that  
you can have the person that's need food for  
subsistence because the law sometimes, the  
law we cannot change it. We have to -- we'd  
be fined most of the time because the law  
says no matter who it is, they have to use  
that.

17           But if we had some kind of  
18 written paper from the Fish & Game, that  
19 might work. But I wouldn't believe it.  
20 Even you said you were going to help the  
21 person, because I don't know the law,  
22 because the law -- I know the law when it's  
23 there, it's there. We have to use it. We  
24 have to use it.

21           So we can have some guy that  
22 cannot go subsistence fishing for no boat or  
23 whatever, a lady or something like that, to  
24 happen.

23           Even it's closing time, we can  
24 help them out in some way. And then like  
25 I've been trying to talk a little bit about  
for the working group, because they're  
working together, Fish & Game, they should  
help each other. Try to get little money

1 for them so they can make little bit money,  
2 for stipend, go eat someplace. Because some  
3 of them coming from no place to go eat, no  
4 money. So thank you.

5 MR. CHARLES: Thank you,  
6 Mr. Chairman, Mr. McCann. I know very well  
7 the countless hours, agony and frustration  
8 that you, yourself, experienced on the  
9 working group without any pay, and for that  
10 matter, any appreciation and/or recognition.  
11 It is a thankless job, and at present the  
12 members are volunteer members, entirely. It  
13 will be that way for some time to come.

14 Tomorrow on your agenda, you'll  
15 note that there is a discussion about  
16 working group support, and then it may be  
17 covered in some detail, but for now, we do  
18 have some moneys. Mr. Burkey has applied  
19 through the -- I believe through the office  
20 of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services,  
21 subsistence management for support money  
22 that we've been asking for quite some time.  
23 You know, just as well as I, prior to this  
24 last year, the working group operated in  
25 what I call a black budget. You know, it's  
like one of those secret programs that  
nobody wants you to know about. Somehow or  
another we got moneys for teleconferences,  
occasional travel, or some other things, for  
now, we have a grant, if you will, in place  
that will help support us for the next three  
years to get people in person together, if  
not in season, during the winter for at  
least two meetings. We're not likely, as I  
said, to have any compensation for our  
efforts and likely for some time to come be  
entirely voluntary. But I appreciate your  
concerns and your thoughts, Mr. McCann.

Mr. Chair?

21 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Sam?

22 MR. SAM: Quickly, just for your  
23 information, we're not getting paid here  
24 either. It's been all the way to  
25 Washington, D.C., and we're still not  
getting paid.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Frank,

1 Charles, and Wayne Morgan, we want to thank  
2 you for your effort and your hard working,  
3 and I hope that you guys are continue doing  
4 it and we got a lot of information  
5 concerning the working group, and we want to  
6 thank you.

7 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, it's  
8 Ray, I want to thank the group too. I think  
9 my participation was well received by the  
10 group, and I want to thank them for that.  
11 They were listening to the comments, and I'm  
12 fairly conservative in the approach that we  
13 took and probably I would have had less  
14 commercial openings than were there, but for  
15 Benedict's comments, we were very  
16 conservative for that. We were looking at  
17 the results after each opening to see how  
18 many were caught and how many fishermen, and  
19 we were ready to cut it off if we felt that  
20 there was overfishing in any way.

21 And the other thing I've come to  
22 understand, and I think it's in line with  
23 comments that have been made here that that  
24 limited commercial fishing is really --  
25 helped support the subsistence lifestyle  
26 down there. It helps pay for the gas and  
27 helps pay for the equipment for those who  
28 are out fishing subsistence as well, and  
29 it's a little money, but it's very  
30 important. So I've come to appreciate that.  
31 Although, you know, maybe if I just had my  
32 druthers, say, no commercial at all. But it  
33 plays a very important role for the people  
34 down there, I think.

35 Thank you.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Thank you.

MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr.  
Chairman. On behalf of the working group,  
it's been a pleasure addressing you. Now  
you see, my meeting goes for four hours,  
when Wayne is speaking it only goes two.  
They only carry two carry-on bags, so I  
couldn't carry my soap-box today.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Next on  
our agenda 2002, says that your subsistence  
fishing schedule for Kuskokwim is not ready

1 yet?

2 So if it's not ready, for that,  
3 we're going to have a ten-minutes break.  
4 This is my last on the agenda. We're going  
5 to have a new Chairperson.

6 Go ahead, Ron.

7 MR. SAM: Yeah, just for your  
8 information, for all the Council members,  
9 present, you're pretty -- line up and sign  
10 up.

11 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Vince?

12 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman,  
13 we talked earlier this morning that there  
14 will be representatives this morning from  
15 Quinhagak that wanted to talk about the  
16 resolutions addressing fish issue and that  
17 we have comments from the Middle Kuskokwim  
18 Local Advisory Committee on Kuskokwim fish  
19 issues.

20 So, we need to bring those up  
21 after break, but I wanted to catch the staff  
22 before they started heading out because I  
23 got a faint feeling there will be some  
24 questions that will come up concerning the  
25 resolutions and the comments from the Middle  
Kuskokwim Advisory Committee.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Thank you,  
Vince, and we'll have ten minutes break.

(Break.)

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, when  
we left off, I had just reminded you that  
you had agreed earlier this morning that at  
this time, due to time constraints of people  
that had requested to speak and because of  
the open discussion on the Kuskokwim, that  
we would take up comments that were  
submitted. I'll address the comments, and  
then we'll invite up Annie Cleveland and  
Wassilie Bavilla to talk about the  
resolutions.

But first, let me cover the  
comment that came in from Wayne Morgan who  
is a past member of Western Interior and I  
believe is the present Chair of the Middle

1 Kuskokwim Local Advisory committee.

2 So, I have copies here if the  
3 others can pass them out if you want to go  
4 over this. He sent them by e-mail on  
5 October 3rd. He just said, I would like the  
6 Federal -- the Kuskokwim Fish & Game  
7 Advisory Committee is working on to address  
8 some of the problems concerning fish and  
9 wildlife in their region.

10 The first region he's talking  
11 about is habitat degradation. The State of  
12 Alaska closed subsistence fishing for salmon  
13 on the Kuskokwim River for five days a week  
14 this summer because of stocks of concern,  
15 yet allowed commercial sport fish guiding  
16 operations to continue in the critical  
17 spawning grounds in the Aniak, Holitna, and  
18 other tributaries.

19 The State's biologist's own  
20 words, the use of large boats used by the  
21 guides would disrupt the spawning salmon and  
22 reduce their ability to reproduce. The  
23 Federal Board should close the spawning  
24 grounds to sport fishing operations before  
25 there is any restrictions placed on  
subsistence users. Other fish species such  
as large pike and also grayling are  
threatened.

In 1998, the sport fishing  
anglers caught 11,800 grayling up the Aniak  
River.

His second issue that he wanted  
to bring before the joint Councils here  
would be -- it's not fish-related -- but,  
again, to show respect to the advisory  
committee, it's dealing with wolves preying  
upon moose and caribou. In most of Unit 19,  
wolf predation on ungulates is taking a toll  
on the moose and caribou that rural  
residents greatly depend on to put food on  
the table. We need effective predator  
control measures immediately. We do not  
want to eliminate the wolves; we want to  
control the numbers before they became so  
numerous before they eat themselves and us  
out of house and home.

Unlimited number of sport hunting  
and fishing guides and outfitters. He goes  
on: We recently got the Alaska Board of  
Game to limit the number of nonresident

1 hunters who hunt in Unit 19 beginning next  
2 year, but what some of the guides are saying  
3 is if we limit the number of nonresident  
4 sport hunters they'll just get more hunters  
5 from Anchorage, Kenai, and other urban areas  
6 to make up the difference.

7 It is reported that there are 40  
8 guides and 20 outfitters operating in Unit  
9 19, and more and more every year.

10 A commercial enterprise board  
11 needs to be set up right away to control the  
12 free-for-all that is occurring with Alaska  
13 resources and the guiding industry.

14 Commercial fishing has limited  
15 entry system, why not a similar system for  
16 commercial sport, hunting, and fishing  
17 operations?

18 He concludes: I'm sorry this  
19 letter is on such short notice but I would  
20 like to inform the Federal Advisory  
21 Committee to be aware of the issues so  
22 hopefully we can work together to prepare  
23 the sustained yield principal of fishing to  
24 protect Alaska's resources.

25 This is from Herman Morgan from  
Aniak. It's been copied before you and been  
read to the record.

MR. NICHOLIA: Vince, you said  
you have one more person to testify.

MR. MATHEWS: We actually have  
two people. It would be Anna Cleveland and  
Wassilie Bavilla.

They need to come up. They have  
a time constraint, and they have copies of  
their resolutions, which we will pass out,  
and that's all.

MR. CHURCH: Mr. Chairman, on  
behalf of the Native Village of Quinhagak,  
I'd like to present these resolutions in  
English for everyone's benefit, and then  
Annie Cleveland and Wassilie Bavilla will  
follow up with their comments.

MR. NICHOLIA: Go ahead, Willard.

MR. CHURCH: Okay, before I  
present the resolutions, I want to bring

1 some information out for everyone to be made  
2 aware of.

3 There's been a lot of discussion  
4 on scheduling -- subsistence scheduling,  
5 subsistence seasons, and some of you may be  
6 familiar with some of the regulation books  
7 that we have floating around the Delta.  
8 Usually you'll find them in rivers and  
9 streams where a lot of the users have  
10 discarded them, but occasionally somebody  
11 will pick one up.

12 If you go to the sport fishing  
13 regulations for the Kuskokwim Goodnews  
14 drainages and you look at -- you look on  
15 page 19 where it says: General fishing  
16 seasons, it says: Entire year for all  
17 species except halibut. Except for the  
18 emergency closures that Mr. Rearden had  
19 spoken about earlier during his  
20 presentation. That's the only limitation  
21 that I see for limiting the season of the  
22 sport fishery on the Kuskokwim and Goodnews  
23 Bay areas. So, with that said, I just  
24 wanted to make sure everybody understood,  
25 you know, what the regulations actually say.  
And later on, after the -- after the  
resolutions, I'd like to make a  
recommendation.

15 This is the Native Village of  
16 Quinhagak, Quinhagak IRA Council  
17 resolutions, 2001-09-23: A Native Village  
18 of Quinhagak IRA Council resolutions  
19 requesting the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta  
20 Regional Subsistence Advisory Council to  
21 petition on behalf of the Kuskokwim region  
22 villages, the Federal Subsistence Board, the  
23 State of Alaska Board of Fisheries, and  
24 State of Alaska Board of Game, to make it a  
25 mandatory requirement by State and Federal  
regulation that when subsistence caribou  
and/or moose hunting season opens in the  
fall, all guided and unguided sport-fishing  
operators, including float plane operations  
that transport rafters, cease all activities  
on the rivers and lakes in the Kuskokwim  
area, specifically the Kanektok and the  
Arolik Rivers.

Whereas, the Native Village of  
Quinhagak, NVK, is a Federally recognized  
Tribe organized pursuant to the Indian

1 Reorganized Act of June 18, 1934 as amended  
2 by the Acts of June 15, 1935 and May 1,  
3 1936; whereas the governing body of the  
4 Native Village of Quinhagak IRA Council is a  
5 seven-member Council which is fully  
6 authorized to act for and on behalf of its  
7 Tribal members arising in the  
8 self-determination act of 1974, public law  
9 93-3, 638 as amended, 25USC.

10 Whereas the NVK IRA Council  
11 requests the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional  
12 Subsistence Advisory Council to petition on  
13 behalf of the Kuskokwim region villages, the  
14 Federal Subsistence Board, the State of  
15 Alaska Board of Fisheries, and the State of  
16 Alaska Board of Game to make it a mandatory  
17 requirement by State and Federal regulation  
18 that when subsistence caribou and/or moose  
19 hunting season opens in the fall, all guided  
20 and unguided sport-fishing operators,  
21 including float plane operations that  
22 transport rafters, cease all activities on  
23 the rivers and lakes in the Kuskokwim area,  
24 specifically, the Kanektok and Arolik  
25 rivers; and whereas the NVK IRA Council  
affirm that the Tribe's subsistence way of  
life is being disrupted during the fall  
hunting season by these sports-fishing  
operations and their activities. Their  
presence on the river disturbs and scares  
away caribou and moose from along the river  
corridor, thus reducing the chances of  
success by local subsistence hunters in  
harvesting these animals for food during  
their annual fall hunts.

Now, therefore let it be known,  
that the Native Village of Quinhagak IRA  
Council hereby requests the Yukon/Kuskokwim  
Delta Regional Subsistence Advisory Council  
to strongly support these resolutions for  
the benefit of all subsistence caribou and  
moose hunters in the Kuskokwim region.

The foregoing resolutions was  
duly considered and adopted at a meeting of  
the Native Village of Quinhagak IRA Council  
in Quinhagak on the 11th day of September  
2001, by a vote of 5 for; zero against; zero  
abstained. Signed by our IRA Council,  
Mr. Wassilie Bavilla, and IRA county  
secretary, Mr. John Sharp.

1                   What I'd like to recommend,  
2                   Mr. Chairman, and the Chairman for the  
3                   Western Interior and Eastern Interiors that  
4                   everybody combine their efforts together and  
5                   make this petition on behalf of the villages  
6                   both in the Kuskokwim area, but also in  
7                   regions that are affected by the problems  
8                   associated with the sport fishery; and what  
9                   we'd like to see is a seasonal schedule  
10                   developed for the sport fishery to where  
11                   there is a start date and there is an end  
12                   date. And I think this would be in line  
13                   with some of the actions that are being  
14                   taken right now with subsistence fisheries  
15                   going on throughout the Kuskokwim area. And  
16                   I'd like to have Annie Cleveland make her  
17                   comments.

18                   MS. CLEVELAND: For the record,  
19                   I'm Annie Cleveland, IRA Council from  
20                   Quinhagak, and the population of Quinhagak  
21                   is about 600; but it always doubles, triples  
22                   every summer with sports fishermen and  
23                   people floating down from the river -- I  
24                   mean, the lake. And I will talk in Yupik,  
25                   because we got translators here resolutions  
26                   number. It was established, beginning from  
27                   June, the sports fishermen begin arriving in  
28                   our river and then they would go up river  
29                   and then they would come down from the lake  
30                   in September.

31                   Last year, when we were given  
32                   days to hunt moose, our people, Quinhagak.  
33                   Then last year my son and I, we were moose  
34                   hunting upriver into the mountains where the  
35                   moose are residing.

36                   And we looked -- we looked for  
37                   moose; and when we go into the cutoff, we  
38                   would see sports fishermen standing in the  
39                   waters up to their waist and in the areas  
40                   where my grandfather used to tell us not to  
41                   bother the areas where the fish spawn, those  
42                   were really -- there were a lot of people in  
43                   those rivers and streams, and one time we  
44                   saw a moose, the moose was over there and in  
45                   between the moose and us there was a sports  
46                   fishermen. We couldn't -- we couldn't go  
47                   after the moose, so I had no moose meat last  
48                   year.

49                   This -- this proposal we want to

1 be helped when moose season begins in our  
2 area to close the sports fishing --  
3 fishermen's -- the sports fishermen's, and  
4 when we were moose-hunting there were float  
5 planes flying over us every day. And we  
6 were hunting moose down below.

7 And an Elder had mentioned  
8 earlier, it's getting harder for me -- it's  
9 getting harder for me to get moose meat  
10 because of the sports fishermen and  
11 floaters.

12 I wanted to say that -- this to  
13 you today.

14 Thank you for listening.

15 MR. BAVILLA: Good evening, my  
16 name is Wassilie Bavilla. I'm a Tribal  
17 Council president. I want to thank you, Mr.  
18 Chairman, for being able to speak on behalf  
19 of Quinhagak. I'd like to say it's really  
20 true what Annie was saying. I know that a  
21 lot of rafters and unguided and guided  
22 sports fishing are increasing; and, you  
23 know, there's about 600 people in the Native  
24 village; double along the river. It's  
25 probably been more than this table we have,  
maybe 2000 sport fishermen every year  
floating down and doing a lot of things.  
And we can't even go out; and, you know,  
getting too crowded. And, I guess our  
subsistence and hunting been get by the  
sports fishermen. I did too, myself went  
hunting last summer, and I seen a couple  
caribous way up by the mountains, and I  
don't think that's not very good, and  
it's -- if I ever get that caribou and bring  
it down for a couple of days, it's going to  
make me tired out.

26 I really appreciate it to -- I  
27 really wish you would support this  
28 resolution.

29 MR. NICHOLIA: Is there anything  
30 else you want to add to that?

31 You're saying that for you guys  
32 to subsistence hunt, to take your annual  
33 meat, there's way too much competition out  
34 there for you guys to get your meat for the  
35 wintertime?

1 MR. BAVILLA: I think that we  
need to do that, you know.

2 We have annual -- you know, we  
3 have harvest tickets and harvest for  
subsistence, and some of us never get -- and  
4 I do really think we need to get this thing  
going.

5 MR. NICHOLIA: Vince, how could  
we kind of go about this?

6 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the  
7 way I understand it, the resolutions right  
now is basically talking about the Kuskokwim  
8 area, and, in particular -- correct me if  
I'm wrong -- two drainages in that area. It  
9 appears at this point that it is a  
Yukon/Kuskokwim issue. They could, you  
10 know, adopt the resolutions as one of their  
own, as a support. That can happen now, or  
11 it can be done in a breakout session.

You did hear from Mr. Church that  
12 he was asking from all three Councils to  
have support on it. So, the opportunity  
13 would be for all three Councils to support  
this resolution, and I believe he also  
14 requested that it be expanded to other areas  
where there's this conflict or -- between  
15 sport fishing activities and fall  
subsistence activities.

16 So, the option would be, one,  
either to defer it to the breakout session  
17 for the Yukon/Kuskokwim region, or at this  
point, adopt it as a resolutions of all  
18 three Councils.

There's a question as to where  
19 this resolution would go when we would --  
and we would need to get direction from the  
20 Councils as to how you would want us to  
address this resolution. If you did pass it  
21 as a support, meaning support that would go  
to the village here and they go forward with  
22 it, or if you'd want to take it under your  
wing and bring it forth to the various  
23 Boards that are listed here.

24 MR. CHURCH: Vince, what we  
intended on doing with this resolution, and  
25 with the recommendation that I made, we'd  
like to see the three Councils go forward

1 with the resolution and present it on behalf  
2 of the affected communities where the  
3 problems are -- have been identified and  
4 will need to be dealt with.

5 MR. NICHOLIA: Okay, so all three  
6 Councils can -- could somebody entertain a  
7 motion to support this resolution for this  
8 village?

9 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, Mary  
10 Gregory, Bethel. I move that we adopt  
11 Resolution 09-23, resolution regarding  
12 subsistence activities versus sports fishing  
13 activities.

14 MR. NICHOLIA: Is there a second?

15 MR. CHARLES: Second the motion,  
16 Mr. Chairman.

17 MR. NICHOLIA: Question.  
18 Go ahead, Carl.

19 MR. MORGAN: Yes, is this -- I'd  
20 like to see this, areawise, the whole  
21 Kuskokwim. I wholeheartedly support this  
22 resolution. Thank you.

23 MR. SAM: Yeah, thank you,  
24 Mr. Chair.

25 Following Carl's recommendation,  
I would like to cover the Kousak River too.  
I'd like to change the wording. Were you  
looking for any change in the wording?

MR. MORGAN: I think that would  
be up to the person -- the motion maker to  
amend the motion to include.

MR. NICHOLIA: Wait, wait, we  
don't want the Koyukuk right now. We have  
to get involved with Koyukuk moose  
management group. I don't want to start  
with a big confrontation with this. It will  
have to be a separate motion, separate  
resolution, is what I think.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, Mary  
Gregory, Vince, is there any way you could

1 make this into a resolution of the three  
2 Eastern, Western, and the Kuskokwim RACs?

3 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman,  
4 Mary, we can. I think I would draft  
5 Mr. Reakoff and probably a representative  
6 from Eastern Interior, and we could draft a  
7 resolution based on this, and I'll stop  
8 there. That group would then define the  
9 area and parameters of it, and we would need  
10 to get it back before this group tomorrow  
11 sometime or Thursday at the latest for full  
12 approval.

13 That would be the easiest,  
14 instead of doing it by group now.

15 MR. NICHOLIA: What I see here,  
16 Vince, they're asking for our support, for  
17 one area. If we expand it, we're going to  
18 run into other people and other problems  
19 with this.

20 We can just move forward on this  
21 one resolution here in support of them.  
22 Instead of expanding that, we can work on it  
23 later. We can see how this goes first.

24 MR. MATHEWS: That's what I  
25 meant, another resolution separate from this  
26 would be drafted and brought back before the  
27 three Councils sometime during the meeting,  
28 would be a separate resolution.

29 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
30 The other option we have is go have YK Delta  
31 adopt this, Western and Eastern take  
32 separate actions in support of this  
33 resolution. Would that be clear enough?

34 MR. MATHEWS: No, I don't think  
35 it would be, because the request from  
36 Mr. Church or the presenters here would have  
37 all three Councils support the resolution.  
38 There's been a motion on the floor that's  
39 been seconded.

40 I think what Gerald is saying is  
41 once this motion passes or fails, then there  
42 would be potentially a motion to have a  
43 similar resolution drafted for other areas  
44 in other regions that would be defined by  
45 those individuals that would help write it.

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MR. NICHOLIA: Harry?

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: So, Vince -- so, Vince, this resolution from Quinhagak, it would be supported by Yukon/Kuskokwim Advisory Committee at this time?

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, the motion on the floor, if it does pass, would be supported by all three Councils, one of which is your Council, the Yukon/Kuskokwim.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: So, I'd like to request for roll call.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Sure.

MR. NICHOLIA: So, if I get this straight, all three Councils want to support this resolution. We're not going to expand it or nothing. We're going to support it right now, and there's been a second. There's been an adoption, a second, question called, and a call for a vote.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

MR. NICHOLIA: Is there going to be a roll call? Go around the table.

MR. MATHEWS: Sure. It might be easier, since we have three coordinators here, that we just go down the names that are here, and vote, that way we can make sure we capture everybody.

MR. NICHOLIA: Okay. I'll leave that up to you, Vince.

MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. We'll start with Yukon/Kuskokwim Regional -- Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta Council. Harry Wilde?

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Yes.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay. John Hanson?

1 MR. HANSON: Yeah.

2 MR. MATHEWS: Mary Gregory?

3 MS. GREGORY: (Nods head.)

4 MR. MATHEWS: The record should  
5 reflect Mary Gregory said "yes."  
Fritz George?

6 MR. GEORGE: Yes.

7 MR. MATHEWS: Willard Church?

8 MR. CHURCH: Yes.

9 MR. MATHEWS: Billy McGann?

10 MR. McCANN: Yes.

11 MR. MATHEWS: James Charles?

12 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

13 MR. MATHEWS: Phillip Moses?

14 MR. MOSES: Yes.

15 MR. MATHEWS: Lester Wilde?

16 MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: Yes.

17 MR. MATHEWS: Alvin Owletuck?

18 MR. OWLETUCK: Yes.

19 MR. MATHEWS: I covered all the  
20 Yukon/Kuskokwim members.  
Thank you.  
21 Western Interior.  
Ron Sam?

22 MR. SAM: Yes.

23 MR. MATHEWS: Ray Collins?

24 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

25 MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff?

1 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

2 MR. MATHEWS: Sampson Henry?

3 MR. HENRY: Yes.

4 MR. MATHEWS: Angela Demientieff?

5 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

6 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones?

7 MR. JONES: Yes.

8 MR. MATHEWS: Carl Morgan?

9 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

10 MR. MATHEWS: Eastern Interior.  
David James?

11 MR. JAMES: Yes.

12 MR. MATHEWS: Jim Wilde?

13 MR. JIM WILDE: Yes.

14 MR. MATHEWS: Gerald Nicholia?

15 MR. NICHOLIA: Yes.

16 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman,  
17 there's unanimous votes for all present for  
18 this action. And for the record, we need to  
19 make it clear the motion was to adopt the  
20 Native Village of Quinhagak resolution  
2001-09-23 by all three Regional Councils.  
And that's passed unanimously.  
Thank you.

21 MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

22 MR. CHURCH: For the group here,  
23 we'd like to thank you on behalf of all the  
24 residents in our community. We felt  
strongly enough that this had to go into  
revolutionary form and be presented.

25 MR. NICHOLIA: All right, Vince,  
now that we got done with that, it brings us

1 to -- got done with the Kuskokwim River,  
2 everything.

3 It brings us up to the  
4 coordinating and capacity building, the  
5 Federal and State coordination, funding and  
6 memorandum of agreement.

7 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman,  
8 for those, we're now going to start working  
9 into the group, and that's under B as in  
10 Bethel.

11 You have the summary material  
12 there.

13 Again, if you have any questions,  
14 we'll be able to answer them.

15 MR. NICHOLIA: Don will be --

16 MR. RIVARD: Yes, good afternoon  
17 everybody. My name is Don Rivard. I'm the  
18 Interior Region division chief for the three  
19 Councils here that you all represent.

20 I wanted to start off with just a  
21 quick statement regarding the delays that  
22 we've had with getting the council books to  
23 you this time around.

24 On behalf of Tom Boyd, the head  
25 of our office and the rest of the staff for  
the Office of Subsistence Management, we'd  
like to apologize to the Regional Council  
members, the Federal and State agencies, and  
the public for the tardiness of the books.  
They got out -- I think you received them  
late last week, probably, most of you. It's  
been our goal to get them in your hands  
within at least two weeks prior to the  
meetings themselves, so you have plenty of  
time to review. As you can see, there was  
lots of material.

What happened during the  
production of all of this is on Saturday  
September 22nd, in apparently misplaced  
retaliation for the terrorist attacks on New  
York and Washington, D.C., our printing  
service here in Anchorage was vandalized by  
persons unknown. In spite of serious delays  
caused by this vandalism, the office of  
subsistence management continued to work  
with the vendor to complete the production  
of the remaining council booklets, including

1 this large three-council booklet.

2 We apologize for any of the  
3 inconveniences that these delays have caused  
4 and your getting your booklets on time.

5 I'm also here in the afternoon to  
6 talk about the first item here under Tab B,  
7 page 3 as the Federal/State Coordination.

8 It's entitled the "Federal/State  
9 Coordination." And it's intended to update  
10 you on the standards of the working  
11 coordinations between the State and Federal  
12 agencies relative to the subsistence  
13 management between the February --

14 The Alaska Department of Fish &  
15 Game found it necessary to significantly  
16 reduce their involvement in Council  
17 deliberations due to a lack of adequate  
18 funding for staff support.

19 Moreover, State resource  
20 professionals were unable to continue to  
21 participate in the Federal/State memorandum  
22 of agreement working group efforts to  
23 develop protocols.

24 In May, the funding issues were  
25 resolved for the balance of the calendar  
year. Additional funding for liaison and  
staff support for overall coordination and  
cooperation is a high priority for the  
Federal Subsistence Program.

We anticipate additional funding  
to be available to the Alaska Department of  
Fish & Game for such support in the year  
2002 and beyond.

We are, again, engaged in full  
coordination. And in recent discussions  
both Federal Subsistence Board chair, Mitch  
Demientieff, and the Alaska Department of  
Fish & Game Commissioner, Frank Rue,  
reaffirmed full support for continued  
coordination and cooperation between the  
Federal and State programs.

The memorandum of agreement  
working group met at the end of August to  
address how to get the proposals back on  
track.

By the time you meet in February  
or March of 2002, we hope to provide you  
with a schedule for completing the  
protocols.

That concludes my briefing.

1                   Many of the Federal and ADF&G's  
2 professional staff who make up the  
3 memorandum of agreement working group are in  
4 attendance here today, and they're here to  
5 answer any questions you may have about this  
6 working group.

7                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8                   MR. NICHOLIA: Are there any  
9 questions for Donald?

10                   I have one. It's been me and my  
11 Vice Chair, we've been very disappointed  
12 what happened in this last spring meeting.  
13 It took us a very long time to get the State  
14 and Federal for the Eastern Interior to work  
15 together. I see like -- I think they'd sure  
16 be happy to hear that Commissioner Rue and  
17 Mitch Demientieff is going to start working  
18 together. If the State and Federal split  
19 apart now, we're not going to be able to  
20 bring back these resources for these Native  
21 people within Alaska to subsist on.

22                   Subsistence to them is their way  
23 of life. To most of you it's just a word in  
24 a book that you barely understand, and then  
25 you put too many meanings into it, and it  
26 just disrupts it. We know it just by one  
27 meaning. It's putting food on the table and  
28 taking care of our families. But sometimes  
29 I think that word "subsistence" is a bad  
30 word because it's got so many meanings.  
31 It's good to see the State and Federal  
32 people working together, though.

33                   It's got to keep on continuing.

34                   Are there any questions for Don?

35                   If not, we'll move on to

36 "Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program."

37                   MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman,  
38 that's on the last page of Tab B. We kind  
39 of got it out of order here. So if you turn  
40 to the last page that would help, I assume,  
41 Steve and others on their presentation,  
42 thanks.

43                   MR. KLEIN: Yeah, this is a  
44 one-page summary on where we're out with the  
45 partners for fishery monitoring program,  
46 that's on Tab B, page 6. Today I'm here  
47 just to provide you with an update on the

1 partners program. You don't have to make  
2 any decisions, but if you had some further  
3 input into the program we're following, I  
4 would welcome that and we'll take it up to  
5 the Board.

6 Just to refresh your memory  
7 for -- Fisheries Monitoring Program is  
8 hiring local fish biologists and  
9 anthropologists within the overall fisheries  
10 monitoring program. And tomorrow you'll  
11 hear a lot about the projects funded under  
12 the Fisheries Monitoring Program, both in  
13 2000 and 2001 and staff will also present  
14 you proposed projects for 2002.

15 One of the -- some of the -- the  
16 Fisheries Monitoring Program, I think it's  
17 off to a great start. We're addressing a  
18 lot of your issues that you have identified  
19 as important issues for people along the  
20 river.

21 One of the areas we want to  
22 improve upon is local involvement, and these  
23 partners' positions having up to ten  
24 positions, both fish biologists and  
25 anthropologists, I think will really help  
the overall Fisheries Monitoring Program.

The functions of the partners'  
positions will be to help -- help both the  
Councils and fisheries information services  
identify what issues are important; to help  
us prioritize studies, to work with many of  
you and other rural and Tribal groups along  
the river to develop projects for the  
monitoring program, to write up reports, to  
conduct your analysis, and then to do a lot  
of community education and outreach, to work  
with the schools. There's a lot of  
successes with the monitoring program and  
like on traditional ecological knowledge on  
ichthyophonus where we're finding out more  
about that disease, the results of those  
studies. We could be working with the  
schools. We could be working with the  
interns to enhance the Fisheries Monitoring  
Program.

Where we're out, we're looking to  
fill ten positions in -- by the end of this  
year, and August 15th. If you look at  
your -- the summary in your booklets on  
August 15th, we issued a call for proposals.

1 Those proposals were due October 10th and  
2 actually we've extended that until November  
3 10th because many groups, including in the  
4 Yukon/Kuskokwim drainage requested  
5 additional time to put their proposals  
6 together; but November 10th proposals will  
7 be due.

8 About December 15th, an  
9 evaluation panel will meet to select the  
10 best applications there, and still by next  
11 summer, we would hope the successful  
12 applicants would have these ten positions  
13 filled and in place.

14 Again, these aren't Federal  
15 positions. They're positions with  
16 non-Federal agencies, and I'm really looking  
17 forward to working with these partners'  
18 positions for monitoring program to improve  
19 our successes.

20 That's the update. We still hope  
21 to have those positions, up to ten of them  
22 in place by next summer; and, of course, the  
23 Yukon/Kuskokwim is one of the highest  
24 priorities, and I would suspect there would  
25 be several of those positions dedicated to  
your rivers, and, again, I look forward to  
having those people on board.

That concludes my summary,  
Mr. Chair.

MR. NICHOLIA: All right.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I  
have a question of the gentleman.

I'm wondering what kind of  
biologists and anthropologists are you  
thinking of, because in our area we have so  
many biologists already working there, and  
my concern is they might just confuse the  
issue. Because with all those people from  
the Federal and State Governments, our  
problems are not being solved as we would  
like to see them solved, like local control.  
It's not there.

MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair, you're  
right, there are a lot of Federal and State  
biologists. These positions, I think, will  
be -- these will be positions with  
organizations like ABCP, Yukon -- YRDFA, for

1 example, TCCP. These positions would be not  
2 affiliated with a Federal or State agency.  
3 They'd be working for you, both for  
4 fisheries science as well as the social  
5 sciences. And their function will be with  
6 the Fisheries Monitoring Program which the  
7 Regional Advisory Councils all have  
8 significant input into what projects move  
9 forward, and these positions will be  
10 dedicated to make sure those projects are  
11 being successful and that we're working with  
12 the schools and interns to gather vital  
13 biological and social data.

8 MS. GREGORY: I'm on a roll. It  
9 would be more beneficial if you'd consider  
10 giving some seed moneys to our Kuskokwim  
11 working group who is already doing some sort  
12 of -- well, local control as far as fishing  
13 and helping the people along the Kuskokwim.  
14 I'm afraid your biologists and your  
15 anthropologists will come to our area and  
16 learn about ourselves and then leave. A lot  
17 of time that also happens.

13 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair, yes, there  
14 is transition, and you raise some very  
15 important issues. The Kuskokwim River  
16 working group, that's a very effective  
17 organization, and I view this position as  
18 working very closely with the working group  
19 and all constituents, all users up and down  
20 the river, just the coordination. Further,  
21 I think, it should be beneficial, and I look  
22 at these as long-term positions. And we're  
23 not looking for people to just come in and  
24 leave. We hope these are permanent  
25 positions that last 10, 20 years down the  
road.

21 MR. NICHOLIA: Steve, is there  
22 going to be -- just besides the pay, is  
23 there going to be other opportunities for  
24 these individuals that come out, these  
25 Tribal organizations or village  
corporations, any other opportunities to  
like advance instead of just get paid.

25 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair, the way  
we've kind of set up these positions, the

1 organizations have filed for a position.  
2 They can request up to \$150,000 per year, so  
3 it would pay both salary as well as overhead  
4 to the organization; and to me, I think it's  
5 very critical that they work with the  
6 communities and the schools. They'll have  
7 that opportunity. Another important part of  
8 this program is internships to intern  
9 college students as they move to get college  
10 students and natural resources involved in  
11 the Fisheries Monitoring Program.

12 I think that will have long-term  
13 benefits and it will bring people back to  
14 your communities that will be around for a  
15 long time.

16 And then there's opportunities --  
17 these positions are going to be on the  
18 river. There's a lot of contracting  
19 opportunities. For example, moving weir  
20 parts up and down the river, moving people  
21 up and downriver. By having this position,  
22 I think it will really facilitate those  
23 opportunities.

24 So, it's much more salary, it's  
25 working with community schools, interns,  
getting college graduates and people that  
can do some of these contracts as well.

MR. NICHOLIA: What I was asking  
about, Steve, is that important an  
individual that they hire for these  
positions, would there be advancement or  
something besides that, instead of just  
being paid and being out there all the time?  
I don't think they would want to be out  
there for the next 20 years doing the same  
thing.

MR. KLEIN: So, Gerald, I'm  
sorry, I'm still not understanding your  
question, the advancement being --

MR. NICHOLIA: For the individual  
that is hired for this position, would there  
be a way for him to advance instead of be  
stuck working at the same thing for the next  
20 years?

MR. KLEIN: I understand. I  
would suspect somebody that had worked at

1 these positions for many years, they  
2 could -- there will be opportunities,  
3 additional opportunities out there.

4 They could do my job after doing  
5 that for a couple of years, I'm sure, and  
6 probably do it better.

7 MR. NICHOLIA: Then, can you  
8 mention it in this report and everything?  
9 We send these out to Tribal Councils or  
10 whatever.

11 MR. KLEIN: Yes, Gerald, we can  
12 incorporate that in there.

13 MR. NICHOLIA: Any questions for  
14 Steve?  
15 Go ahead, John.

16 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr.  
17 Chairman.

18 Steve, when you mention AVCP, you  
19 contract AVCP?

20 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair, and  
21 Mr. Hanson, I was just using AVCP and  
22 actually YRDFA as examples that would apply  
23 for these positions and they would have this  
24 position working for them within -- and  
25 those were two examples that I provided.

AVCP is probably one of 30 or 40  
organizations that could apply for these  
positions.

MR. HANSON: Thanks.  
Once AVCP hires their own  
fisheries scientist, they have -- I think  
there's four people that they have as  
fisheries biologists.

MR. KLEIN: We have one sitting  
here, and I don't know -- Ms. Hoover --  
Ms. Hooper and Mr. Russ, its contacts, are  
working for AVCP.

Oh, sorry.

MR. KLEIN: In terms of the  
funding provided through this program --  
okay, let's use the example of AVCP. Yes,  
they could hire a new position.

1                   This isn't meant to replace  
2 funding they already have and just have them  
3 paid for out of the monitoring program.

4                   These would be new positions  
5 dedicated to the monitoring program. They  
6 could either hire somebody else or move an  
7 existing scientist they have on staff.

8                   MR. HANSON: I'm sure the  
9 Interior has people that do the fishery  
10 scientists and all that. They must have  
11 like the Western Interior Region, Eastern  
12 Interior Region. They probably have people  
13 that work with the Department that know how  
14 to -- how to monitor the runs and all that.

15                   MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair, yes, I  
16 agree, there's lots of expertise out on the  
17 rivers there that we hope to move into this  
18 exciting program.

19                   MR. NICHOLIA: Lester?

20                   MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: Steve, is  
21 there a specific needs list that is out as  
22 to what type of proposals or what type of  
23 positions are needed within the scope of the  
24 program?

25                   MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair, yes, there  
26 is, and it's available on our Web site, and  
27 I can bring -- I can bring some of those  
28 packages that further describe the program  
29 as well as for those that might be  
30 interested in applying the actual procedures  
31 to apply.

32                   I do have further information.  
33 I'd be happy to bring some of those  
34 pamphlets tomorrow.

35                   MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: We'd  
36 appreciate that since some of us, the only  
37 Web site we see is the spiders on the  
38 corners.

39                   (Laughter.)

40                   MR. NICHOLIA: Anymore questions  
41 for Steve?

42                   Thank you.

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MR. KLEIN: Thank you.

MR. NICHOLIA: Vince, we'll be moving on to No. 3, "Halibut and the Federal Subsistence Management Program."

Where did this come from?

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, people bring you up to speed where it came from. It's before you because it's kind of a statewide issue. I realize Eastern Interior rarely has halibut up on the Tanana but this is a statewide issue, and you need to address it because it also deals with jurisdictions and we'll be talking a lot about jurisdictions over the years.

With that, Pete will explain why it's before you for Yukon/Kuskokwim. It's clear because they do harvest halibut.

MR. NICHOLIA: Pete?

MR. PROBASCO: I promise to make this very brief for you and bring you up to speed.

Many of you may be aware that Federal Subsistence Board had three proposals related to halibut for consideration in 2002 fishing regulations. These proposals that time are being withdrawn or deferred until a Board can get clarification of the jurisdiction and implementation process.

The management of halibut is governed by the International Halibut Treaties and the Northern Pacific Halibut Act with jurisdiction of the United States resting the Secretary of Commerce with the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act -- excuse me, let me back up. Resting with the Secretary of Commerce and Title VIII.

We'll go to this one, Vince.

Mr. Chair, Title VIII of ANILCA does not supersede these acts. That time there are legal uncertainties regarding whether the Federal Subsistence Board can actually implement subsistence halibut regulations and if they can't, whether these

1 regulations have to go before the  
2 International Halibut Subsistence for  
3 approval. Upon examination of these issues,  
4 proposals will be reissued for preprocessing  
5 and potential Board processing. Currently  
6 there are regulations governing halibut  
7 subsistence being developed by the North  
8 Pacific Management Council, the process  
9 that's been going on for over a year. Some  
10 of you have been involved and are aware of  
11 that.

12 And these regulations as, Your  
13 Honor currently drafted are much more  
14 expansive than the Federal Subsistence Board  
15 could act on.

16 Mr. Chair, at this time, that's  
17 an update and any questions, I'll be more  
18 than happy to clarify that.

19 Mr. Chair?

20 MR. NICHOLIA: Any questions for  
21 Pete?

22 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I  
23 think it would be better if you would give  
24 that to our translator so she can translate  
25 from your notes.

Yeah.

MR. PROBASCO: I'd be more than  
happy to do that, Mr. Chair.

MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering,  
can the Federal Subsistence Board, after  
consultation with the Regional Councils make  
proposals to Halibut Commission on behalf of  
the Council members?

MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair,  
Mr. Reakoff, usually the Federal Subsistence  
Board would hear the Regional Council  
concerns, but usually in that those  
proposals come from the public before the  
Fisheries Management Council, however; it is  
not beyond the Federal Subsistence Board to  
write to the North Pacific Management  
Council and address the concerns raised by  
the specific Regional Councils and make them  
aware of those issues.

Mr. Chair?

1  
2 MR. NICHOLIA: Any more  
3 questions?

4 Go ahead, Jack.

5 MR. REAKOFF: It would seem to me  
6 that using this forum to gather public  
7 information from the grassroots, and then  
8 conveying that information through the  
9 Federal Subsistence Board to the Halibut  
10 Commission or the North Pacific Management  
11 Council or whoever it may be, may be within  
12 the parameters of the Board's -- she would  
13 be addressing a subsistence issue. If they  
14 cannot act on it, then they can convey the  
15 wishes of the subsistence users.

16 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair,  
17 Mr. Reakoff, you're indeed correct. What I  
18 was addressing was having the Federal  
19 Subsistence Board submit a proposal, was the  
20 answer to your first question. As far as  
21 bringing the issues and the concerns of the  
22 Councils and working with the north Pacific  
23 Fisheries Management Council to work through  
24 the issues, that's within their purview.

25 Mr. Chair?

MR. NICHOLIA: Any other  
questions for Pete?

MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: Pete, it  
states that the North Pacific Management  
Council anticipates publication of proposed  
rule for subsistence harvest of halibut in  
the late 2001, and the final rule to be done  
in the spring of 2002. That's not very much  
time for any comment.

MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair,  
Mr. Wilde, that indeed is correct. The time  
frame that the North Pacific Fishery  
Management Councils work on the subsistence  
regulations, they hope to take final act  
some time in December and go through the  
process of the final rule for May or June of  
2002. You're indeed correct, that is not  
much opportunity as far as the Federal  
Subsistence Board process to comment on  
that.

1                   However, the uncertainty of our  
2 legal jurisdiction is what's in question at  
3 this time and that's what we're trying to  
4 work through.

5                   Mr. Chair?

6                   MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: Whether  
7 we have the legality or not for comment,  
8 would it be possible for us to obtain the  
9 proposed rule as soon as it's out so we can  
10 have an opportunity to look at it, because  
11 of -- just going through the halibut  
12 fisheries possibly next year is something  
13 that is totally brand-new to us and we need  
14 some time to be able to discuss it and to  
15 have the people that are going to be  
16 participating in the fisheries be acquainted  
17 with the rule.

18                   MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair,  
19 Mr. Wilde, indeed, I will be more than happy  
20 to get the final proposed rule. What we did  
21 provide in our booklet is what the  
22 regulations are looking at currently.  
23 That's not to say there may be changes made  
24 by December. Once we get the final proposed  
25 rule, I'll make sure that these Councils, as  
well as the other Councils receive copies.

                  Mr. Chair?

                  MR. NICHOLIA: All right.  
Thanks, Pete. Since there's no more  
questions for you.

                  MR. PROBASCO: Thank you,  
Mr. Chair.

                  What do you want to do, Vince?  
Do you want to take care of the proposals or  
take a little break?

                  MR. MATHEWS: Thank you for the  
compliment. I would say we need a  
two-minute break to just set up and get  
right into it.

                  We have five proposals, I  
believe, and we have overheads and stuff,  
like a two-minute break, and we can get  
right into it.

                  MR. NICHOLIA: Two-minute break.

1 Just two minutes.

2 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, as we  
3 talked earlier, we kind of have procedures  
4 that makes it easier for notetakers and  
5 transcribers and translators. The procedure  
6 is we introduce a proposal -- that will be  
7 my duty, then that's followed by the  
8 analysis, if you so desire, or you can have  
9 a motion to adopt the proposal with a  
10 second, and then allow them.

11 That's up to you to decide when  
12 you want to do that.

13 I know, Gerald, what we're  
14 talking about, because it gets confusing on  
15 those motions.

16 Then after that it will be agency  
17 comments, and we'll encourage the State to  
18 come up if their comments are different or  
19 if they want to share their comments instead  
20 of having us cover them. Then it's open to  
21 public comments.

22 The large is -- the room is full  
23 of people, and if we see people waving their  
24 hands, it's not just because they're trying  
25 to catch a bus. They're trying to get  
26 attention to testify. All the Council  
27 members need to keep looking at the audience  
28 to see if they're raising their hands,  
29 there's a couple that want to testify.

30 We'll have a summary of written  
31 comments, then you guys can actually pass  
32 your recommendation, if that's okay with  
33 you.

34 MR. NICHOLIA: I don't know how  
35 the other Councils do it, Vince. I think  
36 before you bring up the proposals we  
37 adopt -- we make a motion to adopt it. When  
38 we vote on -- we have a second, and when we  
39 vote on it, the question is called.

40 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I just -- I  
41 don't know the practices of the  
42 Yukon/Kuskokwim. That's why I can't  
43 really -- they have to decide how they want.

44 MR. NICHOLIA: I think when you  
45 introduce it, we'll adopt it, and then we'll  
46 have a second. When we get down to the

1 agency stuff, there will be a question  
2 called when we all discuss it. Then we'll  
3 vote on it.

3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, all  
4 eyes are on me. I think it's time for me to  
5 move forward. Thank you, Gerald, if that's  
6 correct. You have to move to Tab C as  
7 Cantwell, and page 2, which is the proposal  
8 projected on the screen, Proposal 7,  
9 submitted by the Yukon River Drainage  
10 Fisheries Association. It would permit  
11 subsistence fishing within 500 feet of the  
12 mouth of the Beaver Creek with a gillnet  
13 with a mesh of three inches or less.

9 MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: Staff is  
10 here to assist you with it.

11 MR. NICK: Is there a motion to  
12 adopt this proposal?

12 MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.:  
13 Mr. Chairman, I move to adopt.

14 MR. NICHOLIA: A second?

15 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

16 MR. NICHOLIA: Okay. Go ahead.

17 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, members  
18 of the Regional Councils, my name is Tom  
19 Kron. I'm a fishery biologist for the  
20 Office of Subsistence Management. I will be  
21 providing staff comments on FP02-07.

22 With me today are George Sherrod,  
23 an anthropologist with the Office of  
24 Subsistence Management in Fairbanks, and  
25 Ingrid McSweeney, a fishery biologist with  
the Bureau of Land Management in Fairbanks.

You can find the full staff  
analysis of this proposal under Tab C, page  
4 of your notebook.

First of all, I would like to  
thank Gerald Nicholia, members of the  
Interior Division team, the Fairbanks  
Fishery Resource Office, ADF&G staff, Fred  
Andersen of the National Parks Service,  
Ingrid McSweeney of BLM, and staff of the

1 Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge for  
their input into this analysis.

2 FP02--07 submitted by YRDFA  
3 requests the Federal Subsistence Regulations  
4 for Beaver Creek be aligned with State  
regulations and that increased opportunity  
be provided for subsistence users.

5 Beaver Creek is within the White  
6 Mountains National recreation area and the  
7 Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.  
8 Subsistence fishing in Beaver Creek was  
9 closed in the 1970s in order to protect fish  
stocks from the potential influx of  
subsistence fishermen when access was  
improved with the Dalton Highway.  
Nonsubsistence fisheries continued on Beaver  
Creek.

10 The Board of Fisheries made the  
11 following changes in January 2001 based on a  
proposal from CATG and the Yukon Flats  
Advisory Committee.

12 First, they removed Beaver Creek  
13 from the waters closed to subsistence  
14 fishing; and, second, they specified that  
gillnet mesh size may not exceed three  
inches in lower Beaver Creek to protect  
spawning salmon.

15 Placer mining has been occurring  
16 in the headwaters of Beaver Creek over the  
past 100 years. BLM's work on  
17 rechannellization, revegetation, and  
18 restoration of the stream bank habitat along  
Nome Creek in the upper creek drainage is  
helping to restore the biological  
productivity of this area and its fish  
populations.

19 These headwater areas are  
20 important spawning areas for freshwater fish  
species. A conservative fishery management  
21 approach in Upper Beaver Creek is  
appropriate to help facilitate this  
restoration effort.

22 Rural resident subsistence  
23 fishers in Beaver Creek fished there prior  
to the subsistence closure in the 1970s and  
would like to be able to subsistence fish  
24 there again.

25 Users most likely to benefit from  
increased subsistence opportunity provided  
by this proposal reside in the communities

1 of Birch Creek and Beaver.

2 The actual subsistence harvest in  
3 Beaver Creek is likely to be small based on,  
4 one, the remoteness of much of the water  
5 shed; two, the effects of decades of  
6 closures of subsistence use patterns; and,  
7 three, the relatively low current human  
8 population in this area.

9 Subsistence fishing in Upper  
10 Beaver Creek is expected to be very limited.

11 This proposal seeks to provide  
12 for subsistence opportunity for freshwater  
13 species while providing for conservation and  
14 rebuilding of salmon resources.

15 A year-around gillnet mesh size  
16 restriction was put in place by the Board of  
17 Fisheries to protect salmon. The same  
18 purpose can be accomplished by simply  
19 applying this restriction to the time period  
20 when adult chinook and chum are actually  
21 present in Beaver Creek.

22 This approach is consistent with  
23 salmon conservation principals and is  
24 consistent with YRDFA's original request  
25 that increased opportunity be provided for  
subsistence users by protecting chinook  
salmon stocks.

The preliminary conclusions are  
to this proposal with modifications as  
follows: To allow subsistence fishing for  
non-salmon species while protecting spawning  
salmon; to apply a three-inch maximum  
stretch measure mesh-size gillnet  
restriction in Lower Beaver Creek while  
adult chinook and chum salmon are present  
from June 15th to September 15th; to  
restrict subsistence fishing in Upper Beaver  
Creek to hook and line and provide daily  
harvest and possession limits there; and,  
finally, to maintain the subsistence closure  
for Nome Creek at the headwaters of Beaver  
Creek.

We welcome your input and  
recommendations on this proposal.

I should mention that Ingrid  
McSweeny from BLM has extensive experience  
with habitat restoration and fishery  
research activities in Beaver Creek, and I  
think may be able to help answer some of  
your questions.

1                   That concludes my presentation.  
2                   Thank you.  
3                   Any questions?

4                   MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, this  
5                   would be a time that we would share, I  
6                   believe the State would want to share their  
7                   own comments on the proposal on that, and  
8                   then this would be a time for public  
9                   testimony to share on the proposal.

10                  So, I don't know if the State has  
11                  a representative that wants to cover their  
12                  comments.

13                  I gather not.  
14                  That's part of my downfall.  
15                  Usually there is someone here, with the  
16                  large staff, I assumed that.

17                  Basically, I'll have to cover  
18                  that. I thought maybe Polly would.

19                  To save one step, while she comes  
20                  up here, there are no written public  
21                  comments on this proposal, and I would  
22                  encourage -- we'll try to get another chair  
23                  up here, and I can move. It would be best  
24                  to keep all the people that are involved  
25                  with this proposal at the table, including  
26                  Polly, so we'll just work a chair out here  
27                  somehow.

28                  Thank you.

29                  MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Vince.  
30                  Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would say that the  
31                  State actually doesn't have any formal  
32                  comments on the staff analysis per se, but  
33                  the formal comments on the original proposal  
34                  are in your proposal -- are in your book in  
35                  front of you on page 12.

36                  I could read it for you, but in  
37                  the interest of -- I guess out of respect  
38                  for the amount of work that you have ahead  
39                  of you, I'll -- I could read it for you.  
40                  I'll leave it up to you, if you want me to  
41                  read it into the record.

42                  MS. GREGORY: Can you read it  
43                  into the record, Mr. Chairman?

44                  MR. NICHOLIA: Mary?

45                  MS. GREGORY: Can she read it

1 into the record?

2 MS. WHEELER: I'm happy to, if  
3 that's what you would like, Mr. Chair.

4 MR. NICHOLIA: We could read it  
5 later on.

6 If you want to, if you want to --  
7 okay, go ahead.

8 MS. WHEELER: For the record, I'm  
9 Polly Wheeler with the Department of Fish &  
10 Game, Division of Subsistence. This  
11 proposal would allow fishing in Beaver Creek  
12 with a three-inch mesh gillnet only; and,  
13 again, I would remind you that this is to  
14 the specific proposal and not to the staff  
15 analysis that Mr. Kron just offered you.  
16 Beaver Creek is an upper river Yukon River  
17 Tribe designated as a scenic river.

18 I'm going too fast. I'll try and  
19 ramp down a little bit.

20 In addition -- actually, I'll  
21 just cut to the chase here. Current Federal  
22 regulations do not allow subsistence fishing  
23 in Beaver Creek or within 500 feet of its  
24 mouth. This proposal would allow  
25 subsistence fishing in Beaver Creek and  
within 500 feet of its mouth using a gillnet  
with a three-inch mesh or less.

This action would be similar to  
actions taken by the Alaska Board of  
Fisheries at its January 2001 meeting which  
removed a portion of Beaver Creek and, in  
parentheses, that portion not included in  
the Fairbanks nonsubsistence area, closed  
parentheses, from the list of waters closed  
to subsistence fishing and added mesh  
restrictions.

The three-inch mesh restriction  
was adopted by the Board of Fish to protect  
spawning salmon stocks while allowing users  
to target resident non-salmon species.

While this proposal would align  
State and Federal regulations with respect  
to gillnet mesh restrictions, it creates --  
it creates a potentially confusing situation  
regarding subsistence uses in  
State-designated nonsubsistence areas.

Under State regulations, the

1 Beaver Creek drainage upstream of Moose  
2 Creek falls within the Fairbanks  
3 nonsubsistence area and subsistence fishing  
4 is not allowed, but this portion of Creek  
5 falls under Federal jurisdiction and,  
6 therefore, Federal subsistence fishing  
7 regulations apply.

8 To avoid confusion among users,  
9 the areas where Federal subsistence  
10 regulations apply, including those within  
11 State-designated nonsubsistence areas, need  
12 to be clearly identified.

13 And that's -- that -- I'll try to  
14 be a little better about cutting to the  
15 chase in subsequent comments, Mr. Chair.

16 MR. NICHOLIA: Any comment from  
17 the Councils?

18 Go ahead, Jack.

19 MR. REAKOFF: My comments are  
20 that being a firm believer against  
21 nonsubsistence areas, I feel that this  
22 proposal -- the Federal agencies feel that  
23 there's adequate resource to support  
24 subsistence fishing by rural residents on  
25 Federal lands should be adopted, and it  
would seem -- I'd like to have comment from  
Mr. -- Ms. McSweeny as to the adequacy of  
those resources in her estimation.

MS. MCSWEENY: Mr. Chair,  
regarding the Fairbanks nonsubsistence area,  
that would only include Nome Creek, and  
right now Nome Creek is a catch and release  
sport fishery, and we propose to align the  
regs to be similar to what the sport regs  
are now what the State proposes, but the  
remaining Beaver Creek would be open to  
subsistence fishing.

MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, I make a  
motion to adopt this proposal as modified on  
page 10 in the black print.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you  
do have a motion on the floor already --  
make to adopt -- to adopt the proposal as in  
the book.

So, it could be asked of the

1 mover that motion to make a friendly  
2 amendment to that to be the whatever you're  
3 desiring.

4 The motion was moved by Lester  
5 Wilde, seconded by John Hanson.

6 MR. NICHOLIA: You agree to that  
7 friendly amendment, Lester?

8 MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: Yes.  
9 Yes.

10 Do you agree to the friendly  
11 amendment?

12 MR. HANSON: (Nods head.)

13 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, it's my  
14 understanding that the preliminary  
15 conclusion is that the staff would like to  
16 have the proposal modified, this proposal  
17 modified, and that's what I'm making a  
18 motion in regards to.

19 MR. NICHOLIA: You understand  
20 that, Vince?

21 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, he's asking  
22 for amendment to the motion. I  
23 misunderstood.

24 Sorry.

25 MR. NICHOLIA: We have to vote  
two times or just once?

MR. MATHEWS: You'll vote a  
minimum of two times.

MR. NICHOLIA: Okay. We'll vote  
on that friendly amendment.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair, I'll  
second that, if it's needed.

MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman, question  
on the amendment.

MR. NICHOLIA: All those in favor  
of the friendly amendment, signify by saying  
"aye."

1 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

2 MR. NICHOLIA: All those opposed,  
3 by same sign.

4 Friendly amendment passes.  
5 Okay. Could I have a question  
6 for the proposal itself?

7 MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman, I call  
8 for a question on the Proposal 02-07.

9 MR. NICHOLIA: All those in favor  
10 of Proposal 02-07, signify by saying "aye."

11 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

12 MR. NICHOLIA: All those opposed,  
13 by same sign.

14 Proposal passes, Vince.

15 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, let  
16 the record reflect that you meant that the  
17 proposal was passed by the motion for  
18 friendly amendment. That means it passes.

19 Mr. Chairman, the next proposal  
20 is Proposal 8.

21 It is, Permit Subsistence Fishing  
22 for whitefish and suckers in the Birch Creek  
23 in the upper Yukon River drainage and waters  
24 within 500 feet of its mouth with a gillnet  
25 with a mesh of three inches or less.

It was submitted by Yukon River  
Fisheries Drainage Association.

MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman, I move to  
adopt 08, Proposal 8.

MS. GREGORY: Second.

MR. NICHOLIA: Go ahead.

MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, members  
of the Regional Councils. This is Tom Kron,  
again, with OSM. Next I'll provide the  
staff analysis on FP-02-08.

You can find the full staff  
analysis of this proposal under Tab C, page  
15 of your notebook.

The acknowledgments for  
contributions to this analysis are the same

1 as I provided in the statement for Proposal  
2 7.

3 As Vince just said, Proposal 8  
4 was submitted by YRDFA and requests the  
5 Federal subsistence regulations for Birch  
6 Creek be aligned with State regulations.

7 Birch Creek flows through the  
8 Steese National Conservation Area and the  
9 Yukon Flats National wildlife Refuge.  
10 Subsistence fishing in Birch Creek was  
11 restricted or closed in the 1970s in order  
12 to protect fish stocks from the potential  
13 influx of subsistence fishermen when access  
14 became available via the Steese Highway.

15 Nonsubsistence fisheries  
16 continued on Birch Creek. The Board of  
17 Fisheries made the following changes in  
18 January 2001 based on a proposal from CATG  
19 and the Yukon Flats Advisory Committee.

20 No. 1, they removed Beaver Creek  
21 from the waters closed to subsistence  
22 fishing. And No. 2, they specified that  
23 gillnet mesh size may not exceed three  
24 inches.

25 Rural residents subsistence fish  
for whitefish, suckers, Arctic grayling,  
sheefish, and northern pike in Birch Creek  
prior to the 1970s and would like to be able  
to subsistence fish for all of these species  
again.

Users most likely to benefit from  
increased subsistence opportunity provided  
by this proposal reside in the communities  
of Birch Creek, Central, Circle, Beaver, and  
Fort Yukon.

The actual subsistence harvest in  
Birch Creek is likely to be small.

This proposal seeks to provide  
for a subsistence opportunity for freshwater  
species while providing for conservation and  
rebuilding of salmon resources.

Similar to the Beaver Creek  
proposal, the year-around gillnet mesh size  
restriction that was put in place by the  
Board of Fisheries was focused on protecting  
spawning salmon. This same purpose can be  
accomplished simply by limiting this  
restriction to the time period when adult  
chinook and chum salmon are actually present  
in Birch Creek.

1           This approach is consistent with  
2 conservation principals and YRDFA's intent  
3 to rebuild and maintain healthy chinook  
4 salmon resources while providing subsistence  
5 opportunity for non-salmon species in  
6 situations like this.

7           The preliminary conclusions are  
8 to support with modifications as follows:  
9 Allow subsistence fishing for non-salmon  
10 species while protecting spawning salmon,  
11 and apply a three-inch maximum mesh size  
12 gillnet restriction in Birch Creek when  
13 adult chinook and chum salmon are present  
14 from June 15th through September 15th.

15           We welcome your input and  
16 recommendations on this proposal.

17           I will try to answer any  
18 questions that you may have at this time.

19           Thank you.

20           Any questions for Tom?

21           This proposal is very similar to  
22 No. 7?

23           MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, very  
24 similar. The one difference here is we  
25 don't have the Fairbanks nonsubsistence area  
26 issue.

27           Thank you.

28           MR. NICHOLIA: Sam, you wanted to  
29 make a clarification?

30           MR. SAM: Thank you,  
31 Mr. Chairman. To save from voting twice,  
32 with the consent of Mary Gregory, the  
33 second, just say to change my motion to  
34 adopt as modified -- or as modified.

35           MS. GREGORY: What's the  
36 modification -- what's the modification?

37           MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.:  
38 Mr. Chairman, before we get into any further  
39 discussion, I would like to have ADF&G  
40 comments read because there is a discrepancy  
41 in the -- in the proposal.

42           MR. NICHOLIA: Polly?

43           MS. WHEELER: Thank you,

1 Mr. Chairman. Polly Wheeler, again, with  
2 Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

3 And, again, these comments are on  
4 the specific proposal, not on the staff  
5 analysis. Formal comments on the staff  
6 analysis will be forthcoming.

7 This proposal would restrict -- I  
8 should say we support the -- the State  
9 supports this proposal with modification.  
10 This proposal would restrict subsistence  
11 gillnets in Birch Creek to three-inch mesh  
12 or less. Current Federal regulations allow  
13 subsistence fishing in Birch Creek only for  
14 whitefish and sucker with no real  
15 distributions on mesh size. Additionally,  
16 above the Steese Highway Bridge, subsistence  
17 fishers are required to obtain a Federal  
18 subsistence fishing permit.

19 Proponents of the proposal  
20 incorrectly claim that adopting this  
21 proposal will provide consistency with State  
22 regulations. As a result of the Board of  
23 Fish actions in January 2001, State  
24 regulations currently allow subsistence  
25 fishing in Birch Creek for all non-salmon  
species using gillnet with three-inch mesh  
or less with no State permit required.

While adoption of this proposal  
as written would align State and Federal  
regulations with respect to gillnet mesh  
size, significant differences will still  
exist between Federal and State subsistence  
fishing regulations in Birch Creek.

If consistency with State  
regulations is a goal of this proposal, and  
it is as stated, the Federal Subsistence  
Board should consider removing the Federal  
permit in areas north of the Steese Highway,  
which is in the modification, and allow  
subsistence fish to target other non-salmon  
species for subsistence, for example,  
northern pike.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. NICHOLIA: Any more questions  
for these agencies up here?

Go ahead, Benedict.

MR. JONES: Benedict Jones. Is  
there any activity of line fishing, with

1 fishing tackle in the Steese Highway area?

2 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair,  
3 Mr. Jones, I'm going to defer to commercial  
4 fisheries staff, assuming there is one here.  
5 They look like they're hiding to me, but --  
6 or sport fishery staff, excuse me. So Com  
7 fish was hiding.

8 MR. BURR: John Burr with Sport  
9 Fish Division. I'm John Burr with the Sport  
10 Fish Division. Yes, there is a very limited  
11 sport fishery that occurs on the Steese  
12 Highway in the Federal staff analysis in the  
13 book. I believe the current estimate --  
14 it's for the level of sport fish that  
15 occurred last in 2000 -- give me a second,  
16 I'll look it up. I believe it's about 125  
17 grayling -- 179 grayling, 7 whitefish and  
18 northern pike were reported harvested.  
19 There's a very small sport fishery that  
20 occurs along the highway.

21 MR. NICHOLIA: Go ahead, Lester.

22 MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.:  
23 Mr. Chairman, on the issue at the very  
24 beginning, Proposal 08 submitted by the  
25 Yukon River Drainage Fishermen Association  
requests that Federal regulations for Birch  
Creek be aligned with State regulations.  
And I feel that this proposal needs to go  
back to YRDFA and have them take a look at  
State and Federal regulations and clean it  
up before we take any action on it.

MR. NICHOLIA: How does the rest  
of the Councils feel about that?  
Go ahead, Tom.

MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, I guess  
a comment about that issue. When YRDFA had  
to submit their proposal, they were doing it  
after the Board meeting but before the  
regulations were finalized by the lieutenant  
governor's office. So they didn't have the  
benefit of seeing the final wording in the  
regulations. Again, I think we've tried to  
address that in the staff analysis that we  
provided to you here, and we've been

1 coordinating closely with YRDFA on the  
2 drafts of this. Again, their intent was to  
3 provide for subsistence opportunity for the  
4 freshwater species.

5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 MR. NICHOLIA: And this -- very  
7 much the way this proposal is being modified  
8 by you guys -- is very much in alliance with  
9 state-to- state regulations as it is now  
10 being modified?

11 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, the one  
12 difference, the State Board of Fisheries  
13 required the three-inch mesh gillnets  
14 year-around. They said it was for spawning  
15 salmon. What the analysis here recommends  
16 is that we restrict the three-inch mesh  
17 restriction only to the time that salmon are  
18 in the river. So, at other times of the  
19 year, subsistence users could use different  
20 size mesh if they chose to.

21 That is the only difference.

22 MR. NICHOLIA: Did the intent  
23 of -- this proposal was to align with State  
24 regulations, not to have two different  
25 regulations within the same area, wasn't it?

MR. KRON: YRDFA, that was one of  
their intents. They were also intending to  
provide for subsistence opportunity.

Again, we're here to receive your  
comments and recommendations. If you would  
like to specifically align exactly with  
State regulations, I would say do that.

MR. NICHOLIA: Would the motioner  
and second agree to that.

MR. SAM: I would, because we  
ought to make the move to align somehow  
nonconfrontational proposals. So I second.

MS. GREGORY: Okay.

MR. NICHOLIA: And Vince, that  
wouldn't be a friendly amendment but a  
clarification.

1 (Laughter.)

2 MR. NICHOLIA: Okay. Now that  
3 regard, with all that straightened out,  
4 could I hear a question?

5 MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: Question,  
6 Mr. Chairman.

7 MR. NICHOLIA: All those in favor  
8 of proposal 02-08, signify by saying "aye."

9 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

10 MR. NICHOLIA: All those opposed,  
11 same sign.  
12 Proposal passes.  
13 Vince?

14 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman,  
15 I just need a question for the record, then  
16 it would be that the actions of this is to  
17 adopt the proposal as submitted, Tom, or is  
18 there going to be other language that we're  
19 going to have to draft for the Board to  
20 understand the actions of these three  
21 Councils?

22 MR. NICHOLIA: Vince, I think  
23 what me and Tom just straightened out that  
24 it's total -- Federal regulations going to  
25 totally align with State regulations so  
there won't be no more confusion out there.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, the next proposal  
is one that deals with customary use of  
fish, excuse me, I almost slipped there.  
I'm real cautious that we get the C and T  
correct. I apologize for that. This is  
Proposal 9 -- we may have -- hold on --  
Keep rolling, sorry.

Proposal 9, which is dealing with  
the: Prohibit the use of chinook salmon as  
dog food except for fish that are unhealthy  
for human consumption, fish scraps, fish  
under 16 inches, or fish caught incidentally  
during chum salmon directed fishery.

This is submitted by the Yukon

1 Drainage Fishery Association.

2 MR. NICHOLIA: Ron?

3 MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman, I move to  
4 adopt Proposal 02-09 with modifications.

5 MR. SHERROD: Thank you,  
6 Mr. Chair --

7 MR. NICHOLIA: Is there a second?

8 MR. SHERROD: Sorry.

9 MR. JIM WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I  
10 second that motion.

11 MR. SHERROD: Thanks. You'll  
12 find the full analysis of this proposal  
13 starting on page 24. Before -- before I  
14 provide a summary, I would like you to turn  
15 to page 29. Under the section of timing of  
16 the chinook River -- I mean Yukon River  
17 chinook salmon run, the first paragraph, the  
18 Koyukuk River drainage, on the 7th line, the  
19 49 percent should be changed to 24 percent.

20 And on the second from the last  
21 line over on the right-hand side, the 51  
22 percent to 60 percent should be changed to  
23 60 to 76 percent.

24 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries  
25 Association or YRDFA submitted Proposal 9.  
YRDFA requested the Federal Subsistence  
Board adopt the new State of Alaska Fishing  
regulations prohibiting the targeting of  
Yukon River chinook salmon for dog food.  
The existing Federal regulation reads: In  
the Yukon River Drainage, chinook, in  
parenthesis, king salmon are to be used  
primarily for human consumption and not  
specifically targeted for dog food, except  
that whole fish unfit for human consumption  
(due to disease, deterioration, or  
deformities) scraps, and small fish (jack  
kings 16 inches or less) may be fed to dogs.

YRDFA requested the regulation to  
read as follows: In the Yukon River  
drainage, chinook or king salmon shall be  
used primarily for human consumption and not  
specifically targeted for dog food.

1 Therefore, chinook salmon may not be  
2 processed for dry dog food throughout the  
3 Yukon River drainage except that whole fish  
4 unfit for human consumption (due to disease,  
5 deterioration, deformities) scraps, and  
6 small fish (jack kings 16 inches or less)  
7 may be fed to dogs.

8 However, whole chinook salmon  
9 caught incidental to chum salmon directed  
10 fishing after the following dates and within  
11 the specified areas may be fed to dogs:  
12 After July 10th in the Koyukuk River  
13 drainage; after July 20 in the Tanana River  
14 drainage; after August 10 upstream of Circle  
15 City.

16 YRDFA feels the regulation should  
17 be changed because Federal and State  
18 regulations would be the same in having  
19 specific dates after which chinook salmon  
20 could be taken incidentally and used for dog  
21 food -- caught incidentally to chum salmon  
22 directed fisheries after the following dates  
23 and within the specified areas may be fed to  
24 dogs. After July 10 in the Koyukuk River  
25 drainage, after July 20 in the Tanana River  
drainage, after August 10 upstream from  
Circle City.

YRDFA feels the regulation should  
be changed because Federal and State  
regulations would be the same and that  
having specific dates after which chinook  
salmon could be taken incidentally and used  
for dog food will establish a presumption of  
legality for those fishers targeting chinook  
salmon.

If adopted, this proposal would  
effect all Federal waters in the Yukon River  
drainage.

Before 2001, Federal subsistence  
regulations did not distinguish between the  
subsistence uses of fish or their parts.

In 2000, YRDFA submitted  
proposals to both the Federal Subsistence  
Board and the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

These proposals requested a ban  
on the taking of Yukon River chinook salmon  
for dog food.

These proposals were the products  
of multiple public hearings over several  
years. The following is a regulatory

1 language requested by YRDFA in 2000 for the  
2 2001-2002 regulatory year: In the Yukon  
3 area, chinook salmon shall be used primarily  
4 for human consumption and not targeted for  
5 dog food. You may not process chinook  
6 salmon for dry dog food in the Yukon area  
7 except that whole fish unfit for human  
8 consumption, fish scraps and fish under 16  
9 inches may be fed to dogs.

10 However, whole chinook salmon  
11 caught incidental to chum salmon directed  
12 fishery after the following dates and in the  
13 following areas, may be fed to dogs. After  
14 July 10 in the Koyukuk drainage, after July  
15 20th in District 6, and the Tanana drainage.

16 The staff analysis for proposal  
17 2001-11, the original proposal that was  
18 submitted, demonstrated a long history of  
19 the use of salmon for dog food. The  
20 analysis documented variations in the  
21 species used between villages based on their  
22 distance from the sea.

23 In some upriver cases, chinook  
24 salmon were used to feed dogs.

25 Nevertheless, the analysis  
suggested modifying the proposal and  
adopting the current Federal regulatory  
language. The primary difference between  
the 2001 proposed regulation and the adopted  
regulation is the exclusion of the dates  
after which incidentally caught chinook  
salmon could be fed to dogs.

The underlying rationale for not  
incorporating these dates was: One, if the  
intent were to prevent the targeting of  
chinook salmon for dog food then why have  
temporal windows allowing it to happen?  
Two, a review of the run timing indicated  
that the proposed dates could not insure  
that the majority of the chinook run would  
have passed through some of the areas every  
year. And, three, dates were not  
established for the whole river thereby  
allowing some Yukon River drainage residents  
to take chinook salmon for dog food and not  
affording the same opportunities to others.

The Eastern and Western Interior  
Regional Councils recommended adoption of  
the proposal as modified by staff, that is,  
the existing Federal regulation. The

1 Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta Regional Council  
2 recommended adopting the proposal as  
submitted.

3 All three Councils expressed  
4 concerns over the feeding of chinook salmon  
5 to dogs when the runs could not meet human  
6 consumptive needs. The fact that they opted  
7 to support regulations that were at the time  
8 more restrictive on the States as an  
9 indication of the degree of their concerns.

10 The Alaska Board of Fisheries  
11 subsequently considered and also modified  
12 YRDFA's 2000 proposal and adopted the  
13 following regulations effective in 2001. In  
14 the Yukon River drainage king salmon must be  
15 used primarily for human consumption and may  
16 not be targeted for dog food. Dried kings  
17 may be used for dog food throughout the  
18 Yukon River drainage except that whole fish  
19 that are unfit for human consumption,  
20 scraps, and fish under 16 inches in length  
21 may be fed to dogs.

22 I think I misstated -- dried  
23 kings may not be used.

24 Whole king salmon caught  
25 incidentally during a subsistence chum  
salmon fishery in the following times and  
periods and locations may also be fed to  
dogs. After July 10 in the Koyukuk  
drainage; after July 20 in the District 6;  
and the Tanana River drainage; after August  
10 in Subdistrict 5-D, upstream from Circle  
City.

26 This regulation is more  
27 restrictive than the Board of Fisheries  
28 previous regulatory policy stating that  
29 chinook salmon were to be used primarily for  
30 consumption and not specifically targeted  
31 for dog food. However, it is less  
32 restrictive in some ways than the new  
33 Federal subsistence regulation, the one  
34 adopted last year.

35 The 1998 chinook run was  
unexpectedly weak, spawning escapements  
throughout the drainage were below or just  
at objective levels even when the commercial  
harvest was reduced to a degree not seen  
since statehood.

Some improvement in run strength  
were observed in 1999. However, very poor

1 escapements into Canada were reported.

2 The 2000 run was the poorest on  
3 record with only 8,600 chinook salmon  
4 harvested commercially by mid-July.

5 All subsistence and  
6 nonsubsistence chinook salmon fisheries were  
7 closed in Alaska. In Canada, commercial,  
8 recreational and domestic food fisheries  
9 were closed and voluntary restrictions were  
10 requested of aboriginal fishers.

11 Drainage-wide escapements were  
12 well below biologic goals with only two  
13 escapement objectives being achieved.

14 In 2001, the commercial season  
15 was not open and subsistence fishing was  
16 allowed only on a limited basis.

17 However, most villages reported  
18 that they had harvested enough chinook  
19 salmon to meet their subsistence needs for  
20 human consumption. In addition, based on  
21 preliminary data, many escapement goals were  
22 met for the first time.

23 The next section deals with the  
24 timing of the runs and the proposed dates.  
25 Run timing information for the Koyukuk River  
drainage is very limited. However, based on  
existing data and the location of  
subsistence fisheries, we might expect that  
60 to 70 percent of the Koyukuk chinook  
salmon run could be taken as incidental  
catch and legally fed unprocessed to dogs if  
the proposal were passed.

Since much of the Koyukuk  
drainage is within the Koyukuk, therefore,  
subject to Federal subsistence management,  
the residents of the communities of Koyukuk,  
Huslia, Hughes, Alatna, Allakaket, Bettles,  
and Evansville could potentially benefit  
from this temporal provision. Between 1993  
and 1997, fishers from these communities  
averaged annual harvests of 1,230 chinook  
salmon.

The Alaska Department of Fish &  
Game operates a test fishwheel on the Tanana  
River several miles downstream from the  
village of Nenana. Based on review of  
preliminary information of ADF&G for nine  
years, 1988 to 1992, and 1995 to 1998, an  
average of 80 percent of the chinook salmon  
run might be expected to have migrated

1 upstream from Subdistrict 6-D by July 20.  
2 As a result, 20 percent of the Tanana River  
3 chinook run would be subject to incidental  
4 harvest.

5 There are no chinook salmon runs  
6 subject to Federal subsistence management  
7 within the Tanana River drainage.  
8 Therefore, no rural residents of the area  
9 would benefit from adopting the proposed  
10 temporal provision.

11 The Canadian Department of  
12 Fisheries and Oceans conducts a Yukon River  
13 chinook salmon tagging project in the Yukon  
14 territory. As part of this project, the DFO  
15 operates two fishwheels just upstream from  
16 the Alaska/Canadian border. Based on test  
17 data from 1985 to 2000, an average of 96  
18 percent of the chinook salmon run could be  
19 expected to have passed upstream from  
20 Subdistrict 5-D by August 11.

21 Therefore, on average, less than  
22 5 percent of the run would be available for  
23 incidental takes and use as dog food.

24 The Yukon-Charley Rivers National  
25 Preserve is the single Federal conservation  
unit located upstream from Circle. Eagle  
and Eagle Village are the only communities  
near the Federally managed waters within or  
adjacent to this conservation unit. Between  
1993 and 1997, residents of these two  
communities harvested an average of 1300  
chinook salmon annually.

Adopting this proposal, as  
written, will more closely align Federal  
subsistence fishing regulations with State  
of Alaska Fishing regulations concerning the  
use of Yukon River chinook salmon for dog  
food.

However, there are differences  
between the existing State regulatory  
language and the proposed regulatory  
language. Adopting this proposal will  
liberalize the use of whole chinook salmon  
for dog food by allowing those taken  
incidentally in some sections of the  
drainage after certain dates to be fed  
(unprocessed) to dogs regardless of their  
condition.

Adopting this proposal will have  
negligible impact or no impact on the Tanana

1 River drainage as Federal jurisdiction in  
2 the Tanana drainage is limited to the Tetlin  
3 National Wildlife Refuge and the northern  
4 portions of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park  
5 and Preserve.

6 Few, if any, chinook salmon reach  
7 these Federal conservation units.

8 Adopting this proposal will have  
9 minimal impact -- negatively or  
10 positively -- on Federally qualified  
11 subsistence users, as they may decide to  
12 fish under either State of Alaska or Federal  
13 subsistence regulations.

14 The preliminary staff conclusion  
15 is to support with modification to adopt the  
16 existing State of Alaska regulatory  
17 provisions which exclude -- with the  
18 exclusion, sorry, of the reference to the  
19 Tanana Drainage. The mode files regulatory  
20 language would read -- as I say it is not  
21 the same as the State's language, the  
22 provisions are the same: In the Yukon area,  
23 chinook salmon must be used primarily for  
24 human consumption and may not be targeted  
25 for dog food. Dried chinook salmon may not  
be used for dog food throughout the Yukon  
River drainage. Whole fish that are unfit  
for human consumption (due to disease,  
deterioration, or deformities) scraps, small  
fish (16 inches or less), and whole chinook  
salmon caught incidentally during a  
subsistence chum salmon fishery in the  
following time periods and locations may be  
fed to dogs.

18 After July 10, in the Koyukuk  
19 River drainage; after August 10, in  
20 Subdistrict 5-D, upstream of Circle City.

21 The justification for the staff's  
22 recommendation is that adoption of the  
23 modified regulatory language would more  
24 closely align Federal regulations with  
25 existing State regulations.

26 Consistency between State and  
27 Federal regulatory provisions was an  
28 expressed goal of the proponent.

29 Dropping reference to the Tanana  
30 drainage reflects the fact that portions of  
31 this drainage under Federal subsistence  
32 management lack a chinook salmon run.

33 That, Mr. Chair, is the end of my

1 presentation. I should all but take a  
2 moment and thank Mr. Tom Kron for helping me  
3 establish those dates for the runs.

Thank you.

3  
4 MR. NICHOLIA: Any questions for  
5 George?

Go ahead, Benedict.

5  
6 MR. JONES: I want to -- I've got  
7 a question on the dates of Koyukuk River  
8 after July 10th. The king salmon run, you  
9 don't know when the timing run is sometimes.  
It's getting up there. Sometimes you don't  
get the first up by July 10th. So still for  
human consumption as they go all the way up  
the Koyukuk River.

10 MR. NICHOLIA: Question is just  
11 for George. We want to hear all the  
12 agencies. Let's hear Polly's.

12 MR. BERGSTROM: This is Dan  
13 Bergstrom, again, with Fish & Game, and as  
14 far as I recall during the Alaska Board of  
15 Fisheries meeting on the dates, the primary  
16 proponent of this for the Alaska Board of  
17 Fisheries was YRDFA, and what they're  
18 looking for on the dates were in these areas  
19 of the river is that the chum salmon, they  
20 may be targeting chum salmon and catching  
21 chinook salmon incidentally. And so that's  
22 where they're trying to have a kind of a  
23 part of the regulation that would allow that  
to occur where they may be trying to just  
get chums and then they do get chinook that  
they might feed to dogs. That's what they  
were looking at. At the Koyukuk, generally  
the chums are ahead of the kings, so they  
might be catching chums at that time. Later  
on, when they start targeting chums and  
catch those kings incidental that they can  
feed to dogs, that wouldn't be under the  
regulations here that they're unfit for  
human consumption.

24 I think the thing that we've  
25 looked at is that we think the regulation is  
that they can still basically -- saying  
that, you know, concerning salmon will be  
used primarily for human consumption. It's

1 not saying after these dates you have to  
2 start using it for dog food. We would think  
3 from what we've heard from people is very  
4 few people do that. You know, feed kings to  
5 dogs. So, I think that the dates will work  
6 the way that they are here. It's just a  
7 matter of what YRDFA was looking at from the  
8 people they heard from in these sections of  
9 the rivers is that there can be times where  
10 they're targeting chums and they're catching  
11 kings that they might end up feeding to dogs  
12 because what they're really targeting is the  
13 chum. I don't think it happens with very  
14 many people necessarily every year. That's  
15 what we heard also on the Tanana that that  
16 happens.

9

MR. NICHOLIA: Vince?

10

MR. MATHEWS: There was one  
written public knowledge. There may be  
others.

11

12

MR. NICHOLIA: Fred, you wanted  
to say something, Tom?

13

Go ahead Vince.

14

MR. MATHEWS: One was written by  
Nancy Hillstrand, and it's summarized on  
page 32. Support with modification  
proposal. She did have a question, though,  
will the "However" paragraph allowing  
late-date takes for dog consumption put more  
pressure on the late-run chinook component.  
That's all I have for written comments on  
Proposal 9.

15

16

MR. NICHOLIA: Where is Nancy  
from?

17

18

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I  
don't have a copy of her written comments,  
so I don't know. Maybe George or --

19

20

MR. KRON: Homer?

21

MR. MATHEWS: Okay. She's from  
Homer, as based on -- talking to other  
staff.

22

23

24

25

1                   MR. NICHOLIA: Any more questions  
2                   for staff?

3                   Go ahead, Ron.

4                   MR. SAM: I was hoping that  
5                   Benedict didn't bring up the dates because  
6                   he's so right and all they'd be doing is  
7                   opening up a new can of worms, but the  
8                   salmon runs as they are throughout the years  
9                   and the weather being what it is, last year  
10                  all the king salmon passed by July 20th.  
11                  This year, on the Koyukuk River, Middle  
12                  Koyukuk River, I don't think we got king  
13                  salmon until the 23rd or 25th of July. But  
14                  there's no way you can put a date on  
15                  anything.

16                  But I think the principal  
17                  concerns of this proposal is well-understood  
18                  and well-followed. We do not use preserved  
19                  king salmon for dog food, and it's  
20                  understood throughout the river. That goes  
21                  without saying. Those dates are in there  
22                  just for -- to clarify -- it hasn't worked,  
23                  because we do get kings before we get chums  
24                  up on the Koyukuk River.

25                  MR. NICHOLIA: Anymore questions?  
26                  Benedict?

27                  MR. JONES: Benedict, again. On  
28                  July 10th on the date there, we're still on  
29                  the Yukon River; we're still harvesting  
30                  kings at that time; and we're using king  
31                  salmon gear. We're not using the dog salmon  
32                  gear for harvesting king salmon.

33                  MR. NICHOLIA: These same dates  
34                  on this Federal proposal do line up with  
35                  State regulations?

36                  MR. SHERROD: Yes, even though  
37                  the wording is different, we would be  
38                  basically mirroring -- copying or  
39                  duplicating the State regulations. The  
40                  effect on the ground is the same.

41                  MR. NICHOLIA: That was the  
42                  intention, right?

43                  MR. SHERROD: That was one of

1 YRDFA's proposals, yes.

2 MR. NICHOLIA: It's been adopted,  
3 seconded, discussed. We've been throwing  
4 the dates around, we can live with it.  
5 Any questions?

6 MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman, I call  
7 for question.

8 MR. NICHOLIA: All those -- all  
9 those in favor of this proposal 02-09,  
10 signify by saying "aye."

11 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

12 MR. NICHOLIA: All those opposed,  
13 same sign.  
14 Hearing none, the proposal  
15 passes.  
16 You guys want to take a little  
17 break before the next two or keep on going?

18 MS. GREGORY: Keep on going.

19 MR. NICHOLIA: Proposal 10,  
20 Vince.

21 MR. MATHEWS: Proposal 10 would  
22 align the Federal subsistence fishing  
23 regulations with those in the State of  
24 Alaska in the northern area of the Yukon  
25 River.

26 This was submitted by the  
27 Fairbanks Fishery Resource Office.  
28 It's on page 33 of your book.

29 MR. NICHOLIA: Is there a motion  
30 to adopt the proposal?

31 MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman, I  
32 understand there's some reluctance in  
33 introducing this on the floor. So, before  
34 we make a motion to adopt this, even as  
35 modified, I would like some clarifications  
36 from the staff before we take any kind of  
37 motion on this.

38 MR. NICHOLIA: Go forward.

1  
2 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, members  
3 of the Regional Council, this is Tom Kron,  
4 again, with OSM. Fred Andersen and I will  
5 be jointly presenting staff comments on  
6 FP02-10.

7 You can find the initial staff  
8 analysis under Tab C, page 36 of your  
9 notebook.

10 In addition to the  
11 acknowledgments on Proposals 7 and 8, we  
12 would like to thank Mr. Jack Reakoff for his  
13 help with this analysis.

14 FP02-10 submitted by the  
15 Fairbanks Fishery Resource Office requests  
16 that Federal subsistence regulations for the  
17 South and Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River  
18 be aligned with State regulations.

19 The closed water sections of  
20 Federal and State subsistence fishing  
21 regulations are similar for the Upper  
22 Koyukuk drainage except for portions of the  
23 two systems; the South Fork of the Koyukuk  
24 upstream from the Jim River and the Middle  
25 Fork upstream from the North Fork  
confluence.

Again, you can see these  
presented on the map on your screen.

These areas were inadvertently  
admitted from Federal regulations. Proposal  
10 was originally submitted to correct the  
oversight and align Federal and State  
regulations. And, Mr. Chairman, Fred  
Andersen, from the fishery biologists with  
the National Parks Service, as Tom said, the  
original intent behind this proposal was to  
align the State and Federal lists, if you  
will, of closed waters in the Upper Koyukuk  
drainage, as the proposal and the analysis.  
The written analysis evolved over the course  
of the last few months. Its original  
purpose was changed from simply adding two  
streams that Tom just mentioned to the list  
of closed waters under Federal regulations  
to the idea of leaving those two systems  
open but allowing the use of small mesh  
gillnets only during the salmon spawning  
season.

Although -- spawning period, I  
should say.

1           Although there might be some  
2 merit in such an approach, it is only  
3 piecemeal in that it deals just with two of  
4 six or seven or more spawning streams in  
5 that general geographic area, and also we're  
6 mindful of the following considerations:  
7 One of the -- exceedingly poor salmon runs  
8 we've seen in the last few years, all over  
9 the Yukon drainage, not just there; two,  
10 even in good years the streams in this area  
11 have very few salmon, particularly the  
12 Middle Fork, perhaps a couple dozen to at  
13 most a few hundred and I would defer to Jack  
14 on that one, he's nodding, yes.

15           And thirdly, in my experience, at  
16 least, salmon are very susceptible to  
17 harvest even by small mesh gillnets. And  
18 I'm -- I question the idea of introducing  
19 that gear type into those systems given that  
20 susceptibility to harvest. And fourthly,  
21 adoption by the endorsement of these groups  
22 here today and subsequent adoption by the  
23 Federal Subsistence Board would result in a  
24 divergence of these sets of regulations. It  
25 would go in opposite directions and become  
even more different than they are now.

          Given those considerations, we  
ask that this proposal be tabled for the  
time being or withdrawn. Give us some time  
to get together with the State staff and  
come up with a more unified and  
comprehensive approach to the general issue  
of harvest from spawning streams in that  
area. Maybe also in the drainage.

          So, that concludes my comments.  
I'll try to answer any questions you might  
have.

MR. NICHOLIA: Go ahead, Ron.

MR. SAM: Yeah. We have breakout  
sessions on Thursday. Do you think you have  
to present anything more before Western  
Interior, because it does deal directly with  
Western Interior?

MR. ANDERSEN: We haven't planned  
on that but we can if you'd like during  
those sessions.

1 MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman, then, I  
move to table.

2 MR. REAKOFF: I'll second that.

3 MS. GREGORY: Question. Now, was  
4 deal about Norton Sound, now, Vince?

5 MR. MATHEWS: Excuse me, I didn't  
catch that.

6 MR. NICHOLIA: We don't have to  
7 vote on a move to table.

8 MR. SAM: If I understand,  
9 tabling motion, all it takes is a motion to  
10 table it, doesn't even need a second. It  
just tables it completely.

11 MR. COLLINS: It would have to be  
voted on.

12 MS. GREGORY: I defer. You have  
to vote on it.

13 MR. NICHOLIA: Question.

14 MS. GREGORY: Motion to adjourn.

15 MR. NICHOLIA: All those in favor  
16 of tabling 02-10, signify by saying "aye."

17 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

18 MR. NICHOLIA: All those not in  
19 favor of tabling, same sign.  
02-10 is tabled.

20 MS. McCLENAHAN: Mr. Chairman,  
21 that brings us up to Proposal 44. I'll just  
22 give a second for people to kind of shuffle  
23 their seats there, because it's going to be  
24 different people coming to the table to  
cover Proposal 44 which is an overlap  
proposal with Seward Peninsula, so we'll  
have regional team members from that team.

25 Proposal 44, it's under Tab C on  
page 45. It's basically a clarification of  
the customary and traditional use

1 determination that was submitted by Leonard  
2 Kobuk of St. Michael.

3 MR. NICHOLIA: I'd like to hear  
4 staff recommendations from agencies before  
5 we adopt, before we move and adopt, before  
6 we do anything.

7 Let's move to adopt.

8 MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.:  
9 Mr. Chairman, I move to adopt Proposal 44.

10 MR. SAM: Second.

11 MR. NICHOLIA: Go ahead.

12 MS. McCLENAHAN: Thank you,  
13 Mr. Chairman. I'm Pat McClenahan, staff  
14 anthropologist, the Office of Subsistence  
15 Management. I'd like to refer you to Tab C,  
16 page 47 where you'll find the draft staff  
17 analysis for FP02-044.

18 I'd like to provide you with some  
19 staff comments about the proposal. The  
20 proposal was submitted by the communities of  
21 St. Michael and Stebbins. It asks for an  
22 exclusive positive customary and traditional  
23 use determination for the communities of  
24 St. Michael and Stebbins for salmon and for  
25 all freshwater fish species in the drainages  
and water bodies in Federal jurisdiction  
between Canal Point and Point Romanof.

This area is known as the  
Pikmiktalik River Group, and I'd like to  
refer you to the map, to Map 1 on page 4 of  
the analysis.

On pages 3 and 4, you can review  
the present customary and traditional use  
determination for this area for the  
subsistence taking of salmon and freshwater  
fish.

MR. NICHOLIA: Excuse me, you're  
confusing us. Page 47 or 40?

MS. McCLENAHAN: I'm sorry,  
page -- third and fourth pages of the  
analysis, but it would be pages -- page 48.

Presently, the residents of the  
Norton Sound-Port Clarence area and the

1 residents of the Yukon River drainage, have  
2 a positive customary and traditional use  
3 finding for all fish species for the  
4 Pikmiktalik River group area.

5 The proposed regulation is:  
6 Norton Sound-Port Clarence area, excluding  
7 waters draining into Norton Sound between  
8 Point Romanof and Canal Point. All fish,  
9 residents of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence  
10 area. Water draining into Norton Sound  
11 between Point Romanof. All fish, residents  
12 of Stebbins and St. Michael only.

13 The current Federal customary and  
14 traditional use finding was adopted  
15 unmodified by the Federal subsistence  
16 program from the existing State finding  
17 without review at the time the Federal  
18 program began. 94 communities in the  
19 combined Norton Sound-Port Clarence and  
20 Yukon-Northern area presently have a  
21 positive customary and traditional use  
22 finding for salmon and freshwater fish for  
23 the Pikmiktalik River group.

24 Aligning the Federal and State  
25 fisheries boundaries with the State  
boundaries did not automatically exclude any  
of the subsistence users in the 94  
communities, including those in the  
Yukon-Northern area.

There is no current escapement  
information for salmon for the Pikmiktalik  
River area. However, in the 1992 escapement  
project, which took place on the Pikmiktalik  
and Koyuk Rivers in response to local  
interest in having a commercial salmon  
fishery there, it was found that on those  
two streams the tests clearly showed that  
the fishery doesn't have enough salmon  
stocks to support a commercial harvest.

The streams are very small and  
they're susceptible to overharvest. A  
one-year, \$20,000 feasibility study proposed  
to the fisheries information service as  
FIS02-020 for a weir site on the Pikmiktalik  
River has been forwarded by the technical  
review committee and the Councils for the  
2002-2003 study year.

My analysis reviewed published  
subsistence use information for 24  
communities within approximately 150

1 mile-radius of the Pikmiktalik River group  
2 area. Remembering, of course, that the  
3 timing and location of the seasonal round of  
4 subsistence activities may change or may  
5 have changed through time as climates and  
6 environments change. And as the  
7 availability and timing of subsistence  
8 resources change.

9 In considering the eight factors  
10 for determining customary and traditional  
11 uses, I'm going to concentrate on factors  
12 one and four.

13 Initial analysis shows that while  
14 all of the communities listed on page -- in  
15 your analysis -- I'm not going to say a  
16 page, have a long-term consistent reliance  
17 to greater or lesser degrees on salmon and  
18 on other freshwater fish, three communities:  
19 St. Michael, Stebbins and Kotlik, are  
20 documented as consistently using the salmon  
21 and non-salmon fish species of the  
22 Pikmiktalik River. They have used the  
23 Pikmiktalik group area for fishing  
24 historically and during modern times.

25 Residents of St. Michael and  
26 Stebbins are documented as having  
27 established permanent fish camps where they  
28 take and dry salmon and other fish for  
29 storage in the Pikmiktalik River group.  
30 Residents of St. Michael, Stebbins, and  
31 Kotlik also fish to meet their immediate  
32 needs while they're in the area  
33 berry-picking, hunting, and carrying out  
34 other subsistence activities.

35 Published sources have no  
36 information about use of the Pikmiktalik  
37 River group by the residents of the other  
38 communities that I've listed here.

39 Our preliminary conclusion is to  
40 support the proposal with modification; add  
41 the community of Kotlik. Provide a positive  
42 customary and traditional use finding  
43 exclusive to St. Michael, Stebbins, and  
44 Kotlik for the Federally administered waters  
45 draining into Norton Sound between Point  
46 Romanof and Canal Point.

47 Justification for this conclusion  
48 is that Stebbins, St. Michael, and Kotlik  
49 are heavily reliant upon subsistence  
50 resources for their livelihoods. All three

1 villages are situated immediately next to  
2 the Pikmiktalik River group. They share  
3 many of the same salmon and freshwater  
4 fishing areas, especially in the Pikmiktalik  
5 River group.

6 They are also part of the same  
7 sharing and communications network.

8 Residents of St. Michael provided  
9 information that they use the Pikmiktalik  
10 group for subsistence fishing, and that  
11 their parents and grandparents did as well.

12 For the other communities listed,  
13 currently there is insufficient information  
14 to determine if they use the Pikmiktalik  
15 group area to take subsistence salmon and/or  
16 non-salmon fish.

17 I'd like to stress that this is a  
18 preliminary conclusion, and we seek from you  
19 additional information either through the  
20 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
21 process or through the affected villages.

22 Mr. Chairman, this concludes my  
23 presentation of the draft staff analysis.

24 MR. NICHOLIA: Anything from the  
25 State before we start asking questions?

MR. BERGSTROM: Yes,  
Mr. Chairman, this is the Dan Bergstrom with  
Fish & Game, and this proposal did come in a  
little late in the process, and we didn't  
have a lot of time to look at it, and it was  
late and confusing. We kind of looked at  
the original proposal as St. Michael being  
included with the Yukon area or something  
and we supported them to be in that zone,  
and we really haven't made any position on  
this exclusive area for just in the staff  
analysis here of Kotlik, Stebbins,  
St. Michael. We really don't have a  
position on that yet. We think one thing is  
it's a little different from most areas with  
fish which are usually pretty broad areas,  
but that's all we have.

MR. NICHOLIA: More questions for  
them?

Questions?  
Go ahead.

1 MR. SAM: Yeah, maybe we can  
2 direct this to Vince. I know we just  
3 recently had some training and stuff for our  
4 a representatives on C and T and is there  
5 any kind of definite definition and anything  
6 adopted that addresses C and T period?

7 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'm a  
8 little lost at what you're asking of me. We  
9 have the parameters that Pat covered. I  
10 call them the eight criteria. But, I  
11 believe they might be factors -- I flip-flop  
12 in those words, but those are the sideboards  
13 for looking at determinations to determine  
14 who can qualify to utilize Federal seasons  
15 under fisheries and under wildlife.

16 I don't know if that's what  
17 you're going for.

18 MR. SAM: Thank you, maybe I'll  
19 direct this at Ray. He was the  
20 representative on the C and T committee.  
21 Did you people adopt anything on C and T  
22 regulations at this time?

23 MR. COLLINS: It was on customary  
24 trade. We didn't look at traditional use.

25 MR. SAM: Okay. That might have  
clarified it.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman,  
that's our problem. We've been using in our  
office C and T to mean customary trade and  
meaning C and T customary traditional use  
determinations. This does not discuss  
customary trade.

Ray and Chuck Miller and Robert  
Nick and others served on the task force  
that will be discussed tomorrow on customary  
trade. This has to do with who qualified  
under Federal regulations. So, I appreciate  
you bringing that up, Ron, because we -- we  
have to correct our terminology on our side  
when we make presentations.

Thank you.

MR. NICHOLIA: I don't really  
understand this proposal. I'd like to hear  
from the YK Delta people.

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MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.:

Mr. Chairman, pardon me, I'm familiar with that area since I grew up in the St. Michael district, and I am familiar with the Pikmiktalik area. I know the people in Kotlik, and where they originated from, and I feel that St. Michael and Stebbins have legitimate claim to C and T for the areas that they would like to have customary and traditional determine -- use determination for. And I think we should pass the proposal as written for residents of Stebbins and St. Michael only and delete Kotlik.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.:

Mr. Chairman.

MR. NICHOLIA: Go ahead.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: I grew up in that area, and I used to be a reindeer herder north side of Romanof. Mostly in that time when I was a young man full of pep only Stebbins and St. Michael fished and hunted in that area. Pikmiktalik fish goes in there, sometime we find a salmon inside the Pikmiktalik. Kotlik people subsistence fish there south side of Romanof Point. So, I never see anyone from Yukon side take fish or subsistence salmon for fish in those rivers.

It was a -- I am 71 years old and I was about 12 or 14 those days, only the St. Michael/Stebbins subsist the salmon and freshwaters fish in that area.

MR. NICHOLIA: Any more comments?  
Go ahead, John.

MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I attended the Kotlik meeting in March. The Yukon/Kuskokwim Councils had approved the boundary line for the subsistence.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: It was something else. It was for something else.

1 MR. HANSON: It was a different  
2 one. But it has all those names -- all  
3 those village names.

3 MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.:  
4 Mr. Chairman, the discussion at the time was  
5 for the line between the areas and had  
6 nothing to do with C and T for this  
7 particular proposal. It was for the change  
8 of the zone line in that area.  
9 Help, help.

7 MS. McCLENAHAN: Mr. Chairman,  
8 would you like me to give you a little bit  
9 of history about this boundary issue since  
10 most all of you don't know about it.

9 MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.:  
10 Mr. Chairman, we have a motion and a second  
11 on the proposal for C and T for Stebbins and  
12 Kotlik.

12 MR. NICHOLIA: St. Michael --

13 MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: I think  
14 we should leave it for that, I mean for  
15 St. Michael and Stebbins.

15 MR. ALEX NICK: Mr. Chairman,  
16 Alex Nick, Regional Council coordinator for  
17 YK. Proposal 6 that Kotlik submitted was  
18 pulled out. It's no longer a proposal.  
19 What customary and traditional use  
20 determination means -- correct me if I'm  
21 wrong, Vince, someone -- the way I  
22 understand the customary and traditional use  
23 determination is that if this proposal is  
24 adopted, people who are listed as people who  
25 have customary and traditional use  
26 determination in their respective area will  
27 be able to hunt and fish in that area.

27 People who are not listed as --  
28 rather the villages not listed, will not be  
29 able to hunt and fish in that area. So,  
30 maybe someone could clarify this, maybe  
31 Vince could either add or correct.

24 MR. MATHEWS: We got half of it.  
25 Okay. We're talking about fish and we're  
26 taking up a C and T determination that was

1 all residents of the Yukon River drainage  
2 and the proposal was to take that to have it  
3 be St. Michael and Stebbins only. So, what  
4 that means is if this proposal passes, the  
5 motion that's on the floor, then only the  
6 residents of St. Michael and Stebbins could  
7 fish in those areas and Pat can tell me  
8 which species of fish, because I'm losing  
9 that part of it. But this has no effect at  
10 all on wildlife, on moose if they happen to  
11 be present there, groundhogs, whatever else  
12 we have for determination. So this would  
13 only address fish.

8 MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.:  
9 Mr. Chairman, Mr. Matthews, aren't you  
10 forgetting in the C and T definition that in  
11 the time of shortage of the resource, that  
12 those villages would be the ones to fish  
13 that area?

11 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. That would be  
12 true. They would have -- in times of  
13 shortage, if there is not enough fish to  
14 meet the needs of all in that area, and then  
15 it needed to be restricted down to the  
16 qualified subsistence users, only the  
17 residents of the two villages listed in the  
18 proposal would be allowed. If there still  
19 was not enough fish after that, then we  
20 would have to go to Tier II situation.

17 MR. NICHOLIA: Okay. Now I  
18 understand it.  
19 Does everybody else?

19 MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.:  
20 Mr. Chairman, question.

20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, on  
21 the process, we have not heard from the  
22 other Regional Council, I'm sorry to  
23 interrupt. If we allow the process to not  
24 go to full thing -- full cycle, then the  
25 Board may not be able to act on your  
26 recommendations.

24 We have a recommendation from the  
25 Seward Pen Regional Council, and we have  
26 written testimony from four individuals that  
27 you may need to be aware of.

1                   Sorry to interrupt.

2                   MR. NICHOLIA: Go ahead.

3                   MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman,  
4                   Council members, my name is Ann Wilkinson  
5                   and I'm the coordinator for the Seward  
6                   Peninsula Regional Council and also for  
7                   Southcentral Regional Council.

8                   Grace Cross, who is chairman of  
9                   the Seward Peninsula Council had planned to  
10                  be here for this meeting, but because of her  
11                  work she could not attend, and she asked me  
12                  to read for her the Council recommendation.

13                  At our meeting on September 25th,  
14                  2001, the Seward Peninsula Subsistence  
15                  Regional Advisory Council considered  
16                  Proposal 44, which requests an exclusive  
17                  customary and traditional use determination  
18                  for the villages of St. Michael and Stebbins  
19                  for salmon and all freshwater fish species  
20                  in the drainages and water bodies northwest  
21                  of the Andraefsky River drainage between  
22                  Canal Point and Point Romanof.

23                  Eight of nine council members  
24                  were present and considered written and oral  
25                  testimony as well as the staff analysis.  
The Council unanimously supports Proposal 44  
as it is written.

We recognize that these streams  
are small and susceptible to overharvest and  
that they cannot support widespread use.  
The villages of Stebbins and St. Michael  
rely on these streams as a primary  
subsistence fishing source. They are the  
only streams available to them without going  
over open water. It became obvious to  
Council members that those two villages have  
utilized those streams on an ongoing basis  
for centuries. Many of the residents of  
Stebbins and St. Michael have permanent  
camps by those streams, whereas only one  
family in Kotlik has a permanent camp in  
this area through a St. Michael relative.

In the past, people from Kotlik  
fished in this area only when hunting there  
for immediate consumption.

Recently, however, there is a  
directed fishery on these streams. This  
recent harvesting of fish from these streams

1 seems to have direct correlation to the  
2 decline of salmon in the Yukon River.

3 Certain communities that rarely  
4 or never use those streams in past years  
5 began doing so when the Yukon River is  
6 closed for subsistence fishing.

7 The Seward Peninsula Council  
8 considers Proposal 44 to be a conservation  
9 effort to protect the limited amount of fish  
10 used by -- excuse me, used for centuries by  
11 residents of Stebbins and St. Michael.

12 I want to thank the Council  
13 members in advance for their careful  
14 consideration of this proposal.

15 Respectfully, Grace Cross,  
16 chairman.

17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 MR. NICHOLIA: Go ahead, Vince.

19 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman,  
20 I appreciate you stopping at your question  
21 for the vote.

22 There were four written comments  
23 submitted. One from Harry Wilde and I won't  
24 attempt to read what he wrote here, but he  
25 basically supported the proposal.

26 We received a written comment  
27 from St. Michael Native Corporation. They  
28 opposed the proposal.

29 MS. WILKINSON: No, no, no, no.

30 MR. MATHEWS: There's seven  
31 comments.

32 MS. WILKINSON: They support the  
33 proposal.

34 MR. MATHEWS: I think maybe to  
35 make it clear, maybe Ann has a complete list  
36 of all the comments. They were at Seward  
37 Pen. My book only has four. If Ann has  
38 those, it might be better to have her  
39 summarize those so you have a complete idea  
40 of all the comments that were submitted on  
41 this.

42 I apologize for that.

43 MS. WILKINSON: Okay. Thank you,

1 Mr. Chairman, Council members. These are  
2 summaries of the comments that the Seward  
3 Peninsula Council receives: The Native  
4 Village of St. Michael wrote to support the  
5 proposal. The people of St. Michael do use  
6 the rivers listed in Proposal 44 for  
7 subsistence and have done so from time  
8 immemorial. Their concern is to protect  
9 these rivers from overharvest.

10 The St. Michael Native  
11 Corporation supports this proposal. They  
12 said they support the proposal as it was  
13 written and by Leonard Kobuk and that was  
14 signed by the president and all the officers  
15 of the corporation.

16 The Elders of St. Michael said  
17 they have always fished at Pikmiktalik and  
18 rivers in that area for salmon and herring  
19 in summer and winter months. They stated:  
20 Our traditions are taught to us, handed down  
21 one generation to the next. Everything we  
22 know, we respectfully learned from our  
23 parents and grandparents. We would like to  
24 see the continuation of use for our  
25 traditional hunting and fishing grounds by  
26 our families of this generation and those  
27 that will come.

28 We realize the importance of  
29 subsistence and protection and proper  
30 management of these resources.

31 And this was signed by the  
32 Chairman and Vice Chairman.

33 Stebbins Native Corporation wrote  
34 that local residents are concerned that the  
35 subsistence resources within their local  
36 rivers that are now available to both  
37 villages cannot support other users from  
38 other villages and sport fishing. Past  
39 studies in fish resources and local rivers  
40 indicate the size of the returns are  
41 sufficient to support subsistence needs of  
42 the two communities.

43 And that is signed by the CEO of  
44 the Stebbins Native Corporation.

45 The Stebbins Community  
46 Association IRA Council sent a letter that  
47 stated their support -- unanimous support  
48 for the proposal.

49 Mr. Wilde did send a written  
50 comment and then also the Kotlik Yupik

1 Corporation wrote in opposition to the  
2 proposal. They said the Pikmiktalik River  
3 group has been a harvest river area for Fish  
4 & Game for time immemorial important people  
5 residing in the Yukon/Norton Sound area.  
6 Many of us that live along the Yukon have  
7 relatives or are descendents of other groups  
8 up on the river. With consistent south  
9 winds, many Yukon salmon go to Norton Sound  
10 and follow the coastline back to the Yukon.  
11 They may enter our rivers as they  
12 continue to feed. Fish are not constrained  
13 by country. To limit the harvest to only  
14 two communities will provide a rags and  
15 regulatory crackdown and make criminals of  
16 U.S. river system. And that is signed by  
17 the fisheries coordinator for that  
18 corporation.

19 Thank you, and that's all the  
20 written comments we got.

21  
22 MR. NICHOLIA: Any more questions  
23 or comments?

24 It's been adopted, seconded.  
25 Question has been called. All  
those in favor of proposal 02-044, signify  
by saying "aye."

26  
27 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

28  
29 MR. NICHOLIA: All those opposed,  
30 same sign.  
31 Proposal 02-044 passes, Vince.

32  
33 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you,  
34 Mr. Chairman.  
35 We shall adjourn until tomorrow.  
36 You will recess until tomorrow.  
37 Thank you.

38  
39 (Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Western  
40 Interior, and Eastern Interior Regional  
41 Subsistence Advisory Councils Joint Meeting  
42 adjourned at 6:15 p.m.)

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I, Sandra M. Mierop, Certified  
Realtime Reporter, do hereby certify that  
the above and foregoing contains a true and  
correct transcription of the Yukon-Kuskokwim  
Delta, Western Interior, and Eastern  
Interior Federal Subsistence Regional  
Advisory Council Joint Meeting reported by  
me on the 9th day of October, 2001.

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Sandra M. Mierop, CRR, RPR, CSR

