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1 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

2

3

VOLUME II

4

5

WESTERN INTERIOR

6

YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA

7

8

Lake Lucille Lodge

9

Wasilla, Alaska

10

October 13, 2003

11

8:30 o'clock a.m.

12

13

14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

15

16 WESTERN INTERIOR

17 Ronald Sam, Chair

18 Angela Demientieff

19 Benedict Jones

20 Emmitt Peters

21 Jack Reakoff

22 Michael Stickman

23 Robert Walker

24

25 YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA

26 Harry Wilde, Chair

27 Nick Andrew, Sr.

28 James A. Charles

29 Mary Gregory

30 John Hanson, Sr.

31 Billy McCann

32 Philip Moses

33 Raymond Oney

34 John B. Thompson, Sr.

35 Lester Wilde

36

37 Regional Council Coordinators:

38 Vince Mathews, Western Interior

39 Alex Nick, Yukon Kuskokwim Delta

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

2

3 (Wasilla, Alaska - 10/13/2003)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, good morning. We
8 start out with housekeeping, Vince Mathews.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I just
11 have a few items. One is I passed out this morning a
12 copy of Title VIII of ANILCA so that's that green sheet
13 that is there. It's just been standard at Western
14 Interior that we have copies available.

15

16 The other thing is under organization
17 reports, Caroline is not going to be presenting for Fish
18 and Game at this time she'll be on the agenda for the
19 individual Council meetings later this week. So on Page
20 2 of your agenda it lists her speaking under
21 organizations, that doesn't need to be there.

22

23 Sometime this morning, hopefully, we'll
24 be putting up various posters of different fishery
25 monitoring projects. We're going to try to do some in
26 this room and some in the Frontier room. I really
27 encourage you to look at those posters, they have a
28 wealth of information. You were involved in those
29 different projects, many of them through your actions on
30 looking at monitoring projects.

31

32 The last thing is, as we've mentioned
33 several times, one of your Council members that many of
34 you know has been ill, that's Mr. Collins. We have a
35 large get well card here which I'll post somewhere around
36 here for you to sign, but it's a blow up of the Federal
37 wildlife regulations.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: So if anybody would like to
42 sign it and ask Ray to get well, it will be available, so
43 I will put it out at one of these tables if you'd like to
44 sign it and then I'll -- one of us will make sure it gets
45 to Ray. He may be going to McGrath today but we'll get
46 it to him somewhere so appreciate that. I don't know
47 what table, I got kind of involved in another activity
48 this morning. But it will be laying out here somewhere,
49 so please sign it and wish him well.

50

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1 And, Mr. Chairman, I think that's all I
2 had for -- oh, the last thing is again, if you need those
3 headsets get a hold of me or Alex. If you're FM receiver
4 for translation is acting up, get a hold of one of us
5 we'll change the battery or get another one for you.

6
7 Is there anything else Alex on that?

8
9 Oh, and you have one per table, too, to
10 hear translation. So please utilize that. Same rules as
11 yesterday. If the translators over there start waiving
12 their hands one of us over here will ask people to talk a
13 little slower so they can translate, and that's all I
14 have Mr. Chairman.

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Vince. And
17 this morning it's my pleasure to introduce Chairman of
18 Federal Subsistence Board, Mitch Demientieff.

19
20 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Harry.
21 Members of the Councils. Well, I got to tell you a
22 little story first, let me show you my shoes here.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF These are my
27 hunting and wood cutting shoes. Every now and then my
28 wife lets me pack and I didn't -- they're so comfortable
29 I didn't even look down until last night, late, and I
30 said, holy cow, I didn't even put on my business shoes. I
31 got my business clothes on but I'm walking around in my
32 wood cutting and moose hunting shoes. And then she let
33 me pack my personal effects and I got up to shave this
34 morning and I didn't have one, no razor at all.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF But that's not as
39 bad as one time she let me pack and we were down here for
40 a Federal Board work session, it was just a work session,
41 fortunately it wasn't a public meeting and at home I'm --
42 I dress very casual, mostly tank tops, summertime I wear
43 shorts or sweatpants or something, you know, and I got
44 down here early in the morning and I got up and was
45 getting dressed to go to the meeting and all I had was
46 tank top and shorts that I was going to wear on the way
47 back home.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

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1 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF So that's how I
2 ended up at that meeting.

3
4 I apologize for not being here yesterday
5 which is what we planned, but we had -- two of my
6 daughters and my brother-in-law were having medical
7 problems, they're all -- everything was okay but we've
8 been pretty busy with them for awhile and then we had to
9 take care of five of our little grandkids and me and my
10 wife found out we're not getting any younger, we're
11 chasing them around.

12
13 I'm not trying to make no excuse, Mr.
14 Chairman, it's just the way it was so I got mixed up on
15 what day I was supposed to be here.

16
17 So, anyway, after all those things I just
18 want to say how nice it is to see friends and relax,
19 which has been really good for both my wife and I, like I
20 said she's with me also. It's really nice to be around,
21 especially people we've worked hard together on a lot of
22 issues through the years and it's just really nice to see
23 everybody.

24
25 And let me also explain I'm pretty much
26 going to just make a presentation or finish this
27 presentation and leave. I don't like -- I found out from
28 my past experience of going to Council meetings, the
29 Councils, you know, when I'm sitting there will talk to
30 me and I don't like that, you know, we, at the Federal
31 Subsistence Board level depend on the work that you
32 people do so I don't like to violate that process. I
33 want you guys to do your work because we depend on the
34 work that you do. So it's very important. And that's
35 why, you know, even when the Eastern Regional Council was
36 in Nenana, I basically did the same thing.

37
38 I wanted to be here because I pushed hard
39 to get this meeting together and I think with the issues,
40 you know, there are issues, not only just the one, but
41 there's issues that you have together that you need to
42 work on. And I'm just real proud of the fact, and I know
43 you postponed the one issue, I had heard already, but I'm
44 real proud of the fact that you guys are agreeable to
45 sitting down and working things out. Because quite
46 frankly, we, in the subsistence community we need you.
47 We need to work out our own issues, we need to resolve
48 things. We need to move on with things. And this is how
49 we do it, this kind of a forum.

50

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1 In my tenure on the Board, we have worked
2 out very many, very many thorny issues, tough ones,
3 really tough and we found out through the years that the
4 best way to do that is to get the Councils together with
5 the local people and work within the -- with the State
6 and the Federal managers and we've had very much success
7 through the years once we get all the players working
8 together and get them on the same page we've had very
9 much success in working out very, very tough issues. So
10 I just think that this kind of a forum is very wonderful,
11 very, very wonderful and an integral part of our process
12 to work out our issues.

13

14 I heard you guys had postponed the issue
15 but it's not going to go away so we keep talking to each
16 other, we're going to be able to work these things out to
17 where we can come up with a plan, you know, to resolve
18 the issue in the long run. But that takes you, each and
19 every one of you in order to do that.

20

21 So I just want to express my appreciation
22 for your taking the time and going out of our way to get
23 to a neutral site. In working on the issue earlier there
24 was a question about where this meeting would be, whether
25 it would be in Fairbanks or possibly Bethel. And when I
26 encouraged this site, I did so because I know this hotel,
27 my wife and I have family down here so we spend a lot of
28 time, and I know it's a nice place, I know the facility
29 and it's a neutral site and I thought that was very, very
30 important for us to have that neutral site.

31

32 So, again, I just want to express my
33 appreciation. Thank you for your hard work. And when we
34 do get to the time to make recommendations to the Board
35 I'm going to be looking forward to that because I think
36 you're going to ultimately come out with a quality
37 product by sitting here together and doing that.

38

39 Thank you, very much for the opportunity
40 to address you, and we look forward to the product when
41 you get things resolved, ultimately.

42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, that's all I
44 have.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mitch.
47 There's something that I want you to know, our side, why
48 we drop this one proposal. I talk with proposal maker
49 yesterday and he said that I don't want to start
50 something that fight or we have to work together, he said

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1 that, but hurt feelings are really bad, that's what he
2 says, and he said that in the first place that wasn't his
3 thing that he -- that proposal is outside of what his
4 thing.

5
6 The first thing it was, the only thing
7 that little portion of Unit 21(E) and he would like to
8 see it start the same time, the people go hunting around
9 there.

10
11 But one thing, down below our area, the
12 moose are increasing, and not only that people not
13 hunting very much up this way, also the gasoline has come
14 up -- up to 3.50, around \$3 a gallon so they couldn't
15 afford it if there's no fishing down river. So me,
16 myself, I am an elderly man, you know, I get there, I'm
17 there, I work with some people, some elders at Holy
18 Cross, you know, they talk to me lots and all that, and I
19 really want to work with the people up here because not
20 only moose, there's a lot of important things like salmon
21 and all that.

22
23 So I thank you, Mitch, and -- me and
24 Mitch, we used to work in -- what they call that, that
25 State Advisory Councils, we used to work together.

26
27 Okay, thank you and we thank you that you
28 could be able to make it here.

29
30 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF I think that the
31 thing that I -- and we know, all of us here at the table
32 know this issue has been going on for a long time, as
33 well as salmon issues. But the important part of this is
34 that -- and even prior to the Federal program these
35 things have been raging for a long time, and so -- and
36 we've all worked on them for a long time, not only the
37 21, and that but as you mentioned the salmon, but we're
38 not going to be able to resolve anything, you know, by
39 working individually or by feuding, so you guys are in
40 the right process and I really hope you guys can just
41 pull together and keep the thing going because once you
42 start a dialogue like that, it's important to find a way
43 to keep it going.

44
45 So again, I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mitch.

48
49 Yeah, this morning we're going to go into
50 number 8, Kuskokwim River Drainage Fisheries, A,

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1 subsistence fisheries. Who will moderate that?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we have the
4 fishery manager, both from the Federal and the State will
5 be up here and then we'll need to take a break after they
6 give you the post-season review because we need to set up
7 some other items. So I think that would be Craig
8 Whitmore and Mike Rearden.

9

10 (Pause)

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, I'm sorry, we need to
13 take a break now to set up the powerpoint and then.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS:we'll -- Thank you.

18

19 (Off record)

20

21 (On record)

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, we're ready now
24 for presentation joint Federal and State.

25

26 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Chairs. As we
27 work through these fishery proposals that will be coming
28 up after the presentations and to provide information to
29 the Council members we have today with us, Mr. Craig
30 Whitmore, who's the area management biologist for the
31 Kuskokwim River and then Mike Rearden who's the Refuge
32 manager also in Bethel. And I'll turn it over, first, to
33 Craig and he'll take it from there.

34

35 MR. WHITMORE: Thank you, Pete, and good
36 morning. I have Susan McNeil with me today and she'll be
37 moving through the slides, she's a fisheries biologist
38 with the Department of Fish and Game. And I am going to
39 be giving the same presentation that the Coordinating
40 Fishery Committee members, so bear with me, I'll try to
41 move through it in a timely manner.

42

43 The first slide, please, Susan. The
44 Kuskokwim River is the second largest drainage in the
45 state of Alaska and land mass of the Kuskokwim Drainage
46 is 50,000 square miles and makes up about 10 percent of
47 the land of the state. And you can see that the
48 commercial fishing districts are shown in this slide.
49 District 1 goes from just below Eek Island up to Bogus
50 Creek, it's about 150 miles in length. District 2 is up

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1 stream of there from near Kalskag up to Chuathbaluk and
2 it's about 65 miles in length. And additionally,
3 District 4 near the community of Quinhagak and adjacent
4 to the Kanaktok River is identified. And that fishery
5 takes place in the marine waters where District 5,
6 adjacent to Goodnews Bay takes place within Goodnews Bay
7 proper. I'm just going to be speaking in regard to the
8 Kuskokwim River drainage during this presentation.

9

10 Within the Kuskokwim area there's 38
11 communities and according to the 2000 census, there's
12 about 19,000 people that live within this drainage.

13

14 I'm just going to kind of be picking up
15 the fisheries from the January 2001 Board of Fisheries
16 meeting. At that Board of Fisheries meeting the Board
17 made a determination of yield concern for both chinook
18 salmon and chum salmon. And a yield concern is a concern
19 arising from the chronic ability despite the uses of
20 specific manage measures to maintain expected yields or
21 harvestable surplus above a stock escapement needs. And
22 this determination was based on poor yield or poor
23 harvest in the commercial and subsistence fisheries since
24 1997, as well as poor escapements in some drainages in
25 some years.

26

27 In addressing the yield concern, the
28 Board of Fisheries adopted the Kuskokwim River Salmon
29 Rebuilding Management plan. And the overall objective of
30 that plan is to provide for sustained yield of salmon
31 stocks to meet amounts necessary for subsistence. And
32 they went about this by laying out or providing an
33 overall directive to manage the fisheries conservatively
34 in June and July, and to do that they provided more
35 specific information for each of the primary fisheries.
36 In paragraph C they speak to the subsistence fishery and
37 they limited that to four days a week and to be
38 implemented by emergency order for gillnets larger than
39 four inch mesh and for fishwheels and in the commercial
40 fishery they laid out stipulations in that there has not
41 been a directed king salmon fishery in the Kuskokwim
42 since 1987. And they additionally said there'd be no
43 directed king salmon fishery. If the run showed up in a
44 greater enough strength to provide for a chum salmon
45 fishery then we could go off the schedule. In the
46 sportfishery, it just provides an opportunity to further
47 restrict the sportfishery or even to further restrict
48 commercial fisheries if it's necessary to achieve
49 escapements and to meet amounts necessary for
50 subsistence.

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1 So in just a quick review of the season
2 since 2001, I'd like to point out that there's a co-
3 management scheme that takes place on the Kuskokwim
4 River. The State of Alaska is involved in management of
5 the subsistence and commercial fisheries in conjunction
6 with the Kuskokwim River Salmon Working Group and the
7 Federal government through the US Fish and Wildlife
8 Service is involved in subsistence fishery management.

9
10 Overall, there were some consistent or
11 some uniform things that took place in the fisheries
12 during each of these years. The subsistence salmon
13 fishing schedule was established by emergency order for
14 four days each week. That schedule provided for
15 beginning in June it was closed to fishing, beginning on
16 Sunday through Tuesday and then open to subsistence
17 fishing Wednesday through Saturday and this schedule went
18 into effect in the first week of June from the mouth of
19 the river to upstream to Bogus Creek which is the top of
20 District 1. And the second week of June it went from the
21 mouth of the river upstream to the community of
22 Chuathbaluk. And during the third week of June it went
23 into effect for the entire drainage.

24
25 So things were a little different in each
26 of those years in regard to the subsistence schedule, is
27 that, the George River, there's a weir on that system, it
28 was identified there was a poor return of primarily kings
29 to that drainage that year and so it was closed to
30 subsistence and sportfishing. The subsistence fishing
31 schedule was maintained through the months of June and
32 July and ended on August 1st.

33
34 In 2002 the Federal Subsistence Board
35 adopted and then reconsidered special regulatory action
36 in regard to putting the sportfishing on a schedule
37 similar with the subsistence schedule. And in 2002 they
38 went off the schedule on June 29th.

39
40 In the 2003 season, the schedule was
41 maintained for June and into July, it was rescinded on
42 July 6th and that decision came about during a working
43 group meeting. The agencies recommended at that meeting
44 that the schedule be maintained for an additional week
45 and then reevaluated. The working group made a
46 recommendation based on the information we had from the
47 reports from subsistence fishers as well as our test net
48 information that we had enough fish in the river to go
49 off the schedule and to still meet our escapement goals
50 as well as providing enough for people for subsistence

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1 needs.

2

3

4 So in summary, there was good compliance
5 during each of these years to the subsistence schedule.
6 It was, I think uniformly -- people don't particularly
7 like it but they recognize the need to spread the harvest
8 out over the run, to provide fish to pass the lower
9 portion of the river to the upper portion of the river so
10 people in the upper portion of the drainage have an
11 opportunity to meet their subsistence needs.

11

12

13 And Frank Charles with the working group
14 addresses this issue much better than me, but the working
15 group, repeatedly over the course of the season made the
16 comment that during each of these years since we were in
17 a rebuilding mode that the subsistence fishers took more
18 of a conservative approach to their harvest than they may
19 have if the runs would have been healthy and it was
20 understood everybody would be able to get what they need.

20

21

22 This figure shows along the -- along the
23 X axis, the bottom axis, the harvest in the commercial
24 and subsistence fishery from 1960 up to 2003, and the
25 yellow shows the -- and the Y axis on the left side shows
26 the harvest in thousands of fish and this is for king
27 salmon, and yellow shows the subsistence harvest and blue
28 shows the commercial harvest. And you can see in about
29 1988 Subsistence Division took over collection of
30 subsistence harvest information so the magnitude of
31 harvest prior to about 1978 may be off a little bit and
32 so the harvest in those earlier years was probably more
33 but it was a fairly -- it was an index of fairly constant
34 use. But in recent years you could see that in the last
35 three years, the harvest has been about 75,000 on average
36 for king salmon harvest, where the prior 10 year average
37 was about 112,000. And although harvest has been given
38 up you can see that most of that harvest is coming out of
39 the commercial fishery although the subsistence fishery
40 is slightly reduced as well.

40

41

42 And it was from this information that the
43 Board of Fisheries made the determination there was a
44 yield concern.

44

45

46 This figure shows information in regard
47 to escapement of king salmon to the drainage. I chose to
48 show these rather than all the information we have. In
49 total we have six weirs in place in recent years, there's
50 not a long history to them. The figure on the top shows
51 that Kogruklu River weir escapement, the Kogruklu is

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1 tributary of the Holitna drainage in the upper portion of
2 the Holitna drainage and it's been in place and operated
3 by the Department for about 20 years and you can see that
4 '99 and 2000 were well below the escapement goal, 2001 it
5 approached the goal and the goal was achieved in 2002 and
6 2003.

7

8 And the Kwethluk is an example of
9 information we have from the weirs that have recently put
10 in, we don't have a long history of escapement
11 information from those but it does show that the
12 2002/2003 were improved.

13

14 In addition to the weir information we've
15 been conducting aerial surveys in the drainage as
16 identified in the bottom graph, and this is just an index
17 of the relative abundance of king salmon as enumerated by
18 aerial surveys. And you can see there's about 13 systems
19 that this information is collected from and you can see
20 since about '98 through 2001 we were below our aerial
21 survey index objective where that goal was achieved in
22 2002 and 2003.

23

24 This is a similar figure to the one shown
25 for king salmon on harvest of chum salmon. Again, the
26 subsistence is in yellow, the commercial's in blue. The
27 number of fish is in thousands of fish on the left, so
28 the first bar is 200,000 fish up to 1.8 million. And as
29 you can see there's been no commercial harvest to speak
30 of of chum salmon since about 1999. The recent five year
31 average is about 70,000 chum salmon. The prior 10 year
32 average was about 430,000 chum salmon. During 2002 and
33 2003, there may have been an additional harvestable
34 surplus that could have been taken except for there was
35 no buyer on the grounds and so there was no directed chum
36 salmon fishery in either of those years.

37

38 This figure shows escapement of chum
39 salmon to the drainage. I chose the Aniak River sonar
40 program on the left. There's an escapement goal of
41 250,000 fish. It needs to be pointed out here that the
42 Aniak sonar doesn't differentiate fish species. The goal
43 was set with that understanding and you can see that
44 overall that goal's been achieved on the Aniak River for
45 the last three years.

46

47 The Kogrukluk River weir in the Holitna
48 drainage. You can see there was a poor return in 1997,
49 '99, 2000 and again in 2003. But the escapement
50 objective was achieved in 2001, 2002. And I used the

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1 Takotna River weir, a partner project to show another one
2 of our weir projects. And you can see that there's been
3 a slight decline in chum since the 2001 season. There
4 currently is not an escapement goal for the Takotna
5 River.

6

7 So in summary, as a fishery manager the
8 challenges I see in the Kuskokwim fishery is that it's
9 well understood and I think all users, all management
10 agencies recognize that subsistence is the best use of
11 the salmon resource in the Kuskokwim River. The
12 commercial -- it needs to be recognized that the income
13 from the commercial fishery allows fishers the
14 opportunity to participate in subsistence fishing. Since
15 about the mid-70s through 2001, the average income from
16 the commercial fishery is only about \$4,000 per
17 fisherman. So that income from that fishery allows
18 people to buy gas, maintain their gear and be able to go
19 out and participate in the subsistence fishery.

20

21 In recent years, there's been difficulty
22 on getting processors interested in operating on the
23 Kuskokwim. It's more costly to market fish from the
24 Kuskokwim than from other fisheries that are more closely
25 associated with road systems, and so that's been a
26 problem to get somebody that's interested, that's willing
27 to come in and wait to see if there's enough fish to meet
28 subsistence needs and then additionally be available to
29 process fish on short notice. And in association with
30 the commercial fishery, when a commercial fishery is
31 implemented, the subsistence fishery is closed 16 hours
32 before, during and six hours after the commercial fishing
33 period. So that schedule limits the amount of time
34 subsistence fishers have to take fish. So I always see
35 it's going to be a challenge to implement a commercial
36 fishery, particularly during the chum season when there's
37 still kings in the river and provide enough fishing
38 opportunity for subsistence fishers to get out and get
39 the fish they need in the time period they need to get
40 them.

41

42 That concludes my presentation.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MR. PROBASCO: Are there questions for
47 Mr. Whitmore from Council members.

48

49 MR. MCCANN: Sir.

50

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1 MR. WHITMORE: Yes.

2

3 MR. MCCANN: You got the counting spots
4 on the rivers but I think that we have been hearing on
5 the people, people seeing some, like down coast like
6 Kipnuk area, been telling me that they've been getting
7 salmon in their river nowadays more and more. So I've
8 been thinking about maybe some of that problem we got,
9 you counting them fish low -- getting low, I think that
10 some of them -- some of the fishes are moving to other
11 place, spawning, other spawning areas.

12

13 Because I think the fish is pretty smart,
14 they're smarter than us sometimes, maybe. If the places
15 is corroded or something, something they don't want they
16 got to move. So that might be the problem. Do you have
17 any idea of checking that out?

18

19 And the one thing in the -- when you
20 could them by the air, I think your machine is not really
21 accurate sometimes, maybe. Because it's radio, sometimes
22 we know they don't work right either sometimes. That
23 might be causing some of the counting, too, make it low,
24 some of the fish because a couple years now the
25 subsistence fishing on king salmon up in Bethel, the
26 people are getting a lot of kings and quit earlier some
27 of them, because they're getting enough king salmon for
28 their subsistence.

29

30 So I think some of the counting is --
31 something wrong with that, too. I might be wrong but I
32 think there might be some problem there.

33

34 MR. WHITMORE: Thank you, Billy. We do
35 have a couple new projects that we've implemented in the
36 Kuskokwim River. We have the fishwheel tag mark
37 recapture project up at Kalskag that is trying to get an
38 estimate of total fish passage past Kalskag. And
39 additionally Sportfish Division is conducting a radio-
40 telemetry chinook salmon project for this same thing.

41

42 In regard to colonization or increase of
43 fish in the small coastal streams, we don't get out and
44 survey those systems, so you could be right those could
45 be increasing and we are unaware of that other than
46 information that we hear from people in those communities
47 when they provide us that information.

48

49 Aerial surveys for, you know, we just
50 conduct them for king salmon, in that, they're typically

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1 easier to see, you know, they're red, they're spread out
2 in the shallow waters while they're spawning when we
3 conduct the survey. You know, annually, we kind of keep
4 our fingers crossed that we'll have good weather
5 conditions during that time period. Not all years do we
6 get counts on all systems, and we only utilize
7 information from those systems that we conduct surveys on
8 where we have fair or better survey conditions. So we
9 don't use the information from all streams each year.

10

11 But, you know, during '98 and '99, a
12 couple of those years that were down, those were -- the
13 weather was kind of cruddy and we only, I think, one year
14 we had -- we only did six of the 13 streams that we got
15 fair or better conditions and the other year we got nine
16 of fair or better conditions. So counting them from the
17 air is not a preferred way to do it but it's a -- as a
18 long time aerial surveyor, I'm fairly -- if nothing else
19 it makes a manager feel a little better that some fish
20 got up to the spawning grounds and it's a relatively
21 inexpensive way to get a broad view of fish spread out on
22 the spawning grounds.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MR. MCCANN: Another thing I don't think
27 you mentioned, Goodnews counting there. How is it doing
28 there, in Goodnews?

29

30 MR. WHITMORE: Yes. I -- that's a good
31 point. I didn't focus on the Goodnews and Kanaktok. We
32 had excellent escapement this year for chum, kings and
33 coho in the Goodnews. That fishery, you know, it begins
34 in June. The efforts have been very the last few years
35 because of the low price of fish and so we've had good
36 fish passage in the recent years and the same with the
37 Kanaktok and that's why I kind of focused where we have
38 the stocks of concern in the Kuskokwim River and where we
39 have the subsistence schedule in effect.

40

41 MR. MCCANN: The reason why I'm asking is
42 you're not on the Goodnews area but you might have idea
43 of how the fish spawn there every year, so sometimes it
44 might go down also, that's why I asked that.

45

46 MR. WHITMORE: Yeah, that's true. As in
47 other drainages, you know, there's kind of a cyclic
48 nature to big returns, you know, there's kind of a cyclic
49 nature to big returns and small returns and for the past
50 couple of seasons we've had good returns to the Goodnews.
51 We do have a weir on the middle fork of the Goodnews as

00100

1 well as at about Mile 65 on the Kanaktok, so we do
2 monitor those fisheries, we do sample the commercial
3 catch from those fisheries and we are -- been fortunate
4 the last couple years to have good numbers of fish in
5 those two drainages.

6

7 MR. MCCANN: Thank you.

8

9 MR. PROBASCO: Other questions for Mr.
10 Whitmore. Mr. Charles.

11

12 MR. CHARLES: Thank you. Craig, we
13 talked about Eek a little bit last night with my friends
14 and there are weirs and more research on the rivers,
15 Quinhagak and Kwethluk, and in between Eek River has some
16 salmon go up there too, up the Eek River. I know there's
17 fish camps up the river from the village and they catch
18 salmon there and has there been any kind of research on
19 that river?

20

21 MR. WHITMORE: Thank you, James. We do.
22 That is one of the 13 systems in which we do king salmon
23 surveys on. The Eek River being a tributary, you know,
24 low down on the Kuskokwim, we don't pay as much attention
25 to as the other drainages in that the fish that are
26 returning to the Eek don't have as many people trying to
27 catch them. You know, you have the residents of Eek and
28 you got fishing going on in the lower river by those
29 lower river communities but it's not like those fish have
30 to go past Bethel and past all the other, you know,
31 communities on the river that have -- that create a
32 higher exploitation rate.

33

34 So, no, we don't -- you know, we do
35 annually do our king enumeration and we did have good
36 king passage on the Eek, I don't recall what that number
37 is, but we did have one of the higher year we've ever had
38 on the Eek this year. But we haven't had a weir or
39 anything like that on there.

40

41 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Hanson.

42

43 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
44 Chairman. Yeah, Greg, when I was on the Fish Board we
45 held our meeting in Bethel and the people there they were
46 concerned on chinook salmon and the Department was also
47 concerned. The escapement for chinook, has it improved
48 or is it still the same as '98?

49

50 MR. WHITMORE: The return of king salmon

00101

1 in '97 and '98 were probably the -- and '99 were very low
2 and that's -- those are the years of the escapement and
3 the expectation as well as 2000 and the expectation in
4 2001 that made the Board -- that provided the information
5 to the Board to classify it as a yield concern.

6
7 The returns in 2002 and 2003 were greatly
8 improved. People had less problems meeting the amounts
9 necessary for subsistence during those two years. And
10 the 2003 season people were, throughout the drainage,
11 based on the partners program, on interviewing the
12 subsistence fishers throughout the drainage that people
13 thought there were a lot of king salmon. Our weir
14 projects and our aerial survey showed a vast improvement
15 as well.

16
17 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thanks.

18
19 MR. PROBASCO: Other questions for Mr.
20 Whitmore. Mr. Morgan.

21
22 MR. MORGAN: Thank you, Craig. Out of
23 curiosity, when was the last opening, commercial opening
24 you had in W2 and also how many buyers do we have area
25 wide, counting W2 -- W1 and 2, and what was the average
26 -- what were the average fishermen being paid per pound?

27
28 MR. WHITMORE: Yes. The last period in
29 District 2 was 1998. I think there was only about six
30 fishermen that participated. And then in 19 -- prior --
31 about the 10 years prior to that in looking over that
32 information there was, you know, about 20 fishermen that
33 participated in District 2.

34
35 The price this year for king salmon and
36 red salmon was 35 cents a pound. The price for chum
37 salmon was five cents a pound. And the price for coho
38 was 20 cents a pound.

39
40 And did that -- did I get them all or did
41 you have another one?

42
43 MR. MORGAN: I was just curious how many
44 buyers do we have area wide?

45
46 MR. WHITMORE: This year we had -- you
47 know, we didn't have any -- the processors -- in the June
48 fishery in Goodnews and Quinhagak, you had Coastal
49 Fisheries Development Corporation and they participated
50 there and then when we initiated the coho fishery, they

00102

1 sent a tender and they bought fish just from the lower
2 river communities, they just brought it in -- near Eek
3 they brought a tender in. And then Inlet Seafoods came
4 in to buy coho and then Woodbine sent tenders up from
5 Egegik that bought fish for about half the season before
6 they dropped out. So this last season we had different
7 companies that participated.

8

9 MR. PROBASCO: Okay. We'll move to our
10 next presentation which will be from Mike Rearden, the
11 Refuge manager and he'll discuss State and Federal
12 management on the Kuskokwim.

13

14 MR. REARDEN: Thank you. And I don't
15 have an awful lot to add but I did want to address a
16 couple of the questions that came up, I had a little
17 additional information.

18

19 I think in 2002, there were a couple
20 opportunities for W2 fishermen to fish. I don't remember
21 exactly when they were but the problem was that there
22 were no processors, and so they had to travel way down
23 river in order to deliver and I think there were only two
24 or three people that participated in that fishery.

25

26 And the other one I wanted to kind of
27 address for a second is Billy was talking about coastal
28 streams and fish running up those. We had an interest in
29 that for Yukon bound fish over near Chevak and there was
30 belief that there were fish running up into those short
31 coastal streams and spawning some places out there on the
32 tundra. The data we have indicates that that's probably
33 not happening and you've flown around that area a lot as
34 I have and there just isn't the gravel in the headwaters
35 in a lot of those small streams to provide spawning
36 habitat for king salmon and chums and even silvers.

37

38 So although there are a few fish running
39 up those small streams I think it's very, very limited
40 and I wouldn't expect it to produce very much.

41

42 Craig covered almost everything we do
43 with management on the Kuskokwim. I just had a few things
44 to add to it. One of our goals is to minimize confusion
45 in this dual management system and for that reason we try
46 to maintain regulations and seasons and everything very
47 much the same between the Federal and the State system,
48 and I think we've done a pretty good job of that and the
49 end result is that it provides a better service to the
50 fishermen. And, of course, bottom line is the

00103

1 conservation of fish.

2

3

4 And, you know, in general the State
5 responsibilities for fish management for subsistence are
6 not very much different than the Federal requirements for
7 subsistence fisheries management, and from my viewpoint
8 they've been pretty much identical there on the
9 Kuskokwim.

9

10

11 One of the things we did this year that
12 really helped us and ultimately the users to some extent
13 was instead of us issuing special actions, a written
14 document that had to go into the Federal Register and
15 other places every time we had a season change or a
16 change in the subsistence schedule, we just went along
17 with the State emergency orders because they were
18 identical anyway and then we just -- I made a note to the
19 files that we agreed with the decision and that's how we
20 took care of that. And although it's not something that
21 you saw on a day to day basis, it did help in the process
22 and I think it provided a better service to the
23 fishermen.

23

24

25 Bottom line, when there's lots of fish,
26 the management is a lot easier, especially on the
27 Kuskokwim where you didn't have a lot of desire to go
28 commercial fishing for chum salmon this last year, in
29 particular, because of lack of processors and the cost of
30 fish and all those things. So there really were very few
31 restrictions on subsistence other than the schedule that
32 occurred earlier on.

32

33

34 One of the biggest things we have going
35 on the Kuskokwim is that people have been very compliant
36 and very agreeable to working on rebuilding the fish in
37 the river, and their contribution has been very helpful.

37

38

39 This last year, even though we did a lot
40 of law enforcement, flying over the river and with boats
41 and everything, I think the State wrote one ticket for
42 one fishermen who was fishing when he wasn't supposed to.
43 So compliance by local people was very, very good.

43

44

45 One of the other things that helped us a
46 lot this last year is increasingly we're getting more and
47 better data from the subsistence fishermen on the river.
48 We're getting information all the way from McGrath,
49 Aniak, Bethel and that information is used in the
50 proceedings when we have working group meetings, and
51 that's contributed an awful lot to our understanding of

00104

1 where the fish are in the river and what people feel the
2 abundance is and it's very close to what the Fish and
3 Game test fisheries and the escapement projects have
4 indicated. So I think that we're going to find that's
5 even going to be more useful in the future.

6

7 That's about all I had to add to the
8 discussion on the management on the Kuskokwim for this
9 last year.

10

11 MR. PROBASCO: Is there questions of
12 Mike. Mr. McCann.

13

14 MR. MCCANN: Sometimes we have a little
15 problem with (In Yup'ik).....

16

17 INTERPRETER: I forgot. Those that are
18 making regulations, sometimes before we hear about it
19 it's over and we don't feel comfortable about that. If
20 we work together and we want to work together, like what
21 he said, people who follow the regulations on the
22 Kuskokwim, if they understand and follow the regulations
23 and when they suddenly make regulations, that's not good,
24 sometimes people don't follow the regulations when
25 they're not comfortable but if they follow the
26 regulations of the paper -- if somebody makes a
27 regulations to us, I wonder those that are hearing about
28 it, if not then it would be good to do it immediately or
29 something like that.

30

31 Without doing that it hurts our people,
32 that is our problem. When the Fish and Game -- if --
33 when they do that suddenly we have problems with it, if
34 they make a regulation -- he doesn't really blame Fish
35 and Game because they impose regulation.

36

37 MR. REARDEN: I think we understand your
38 point very much and that's why in the last several years
39 we've spent a lot of time in the villages explaining what
40 the regulations are. And, of course, right now you guys
41 are part of the regulation process so you all have a
42 responsibility of letting people know what kind of
43 regulations you passed when you're sitting here also.

44

45 So I think that we all bear the
46 responsibility of letting people know why we have the
47 regulations and the restrictions we do, and then making
48 them fully aware of that before we enforce it. And
49 that's been our goal the last several years, to make sure
50 everybody knows, and I think on the Kuskokwim it's worked

00105

1 very well. Compliance has been excellent.

2

3 I think everybody understands why we're
4 doing it. And I think they understand why we have to
5 enforce it when we do.

6

7 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Hanson.

8

9 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
10 Chairman. Yeah, Mike, maybe you can tell me, on that six
11 inch mesh that they've been using ever -- I don't know
12 when it went in, way before I was on the Fish Board, how
13 far -- does that go all the way up the Kuskokwim or just
14 certain part of Kuskokwim?

15

16 MR. REARDEN: Well, I should probably let
17 Craig address this, but that's been around since 1985 and
18 that's only in the commercial fishery. In the
19 subsistence fishery eight inch gear and larger is
20 allowed. So it's only when they're having commercial
21 openings on the -- they're supposed to be targeting chum
22 salmon and coho salmon and sockeye when they're fishing.
23 So the only time there's any gear restriction like that,
24 other than special circumstances, which we have had for
25 the subsistence fishery, once, at least, in the last
26 several years, that's the only time that that's imposed.

27

28 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thanks. So Eek,
29 Goodnews Bay, Quinhagak, they use both gears, like the
30 Yukon?

31

32 MR. WHITMORE: Again, similar to the
33 Kuskokwim, their commercial fisheries are restricted to
34 six inch or less in the commercial fishery. In the
35 Federal Subsistence Board fishery they can use large mesh
36 gear as well.

37

38 MR. HANSON: Thanks.

39

40 MR. PROBASCO: Other questions.

41

42 (No comment)

43

44 MR. PROBASCO: Well, thank you. To the
45 Chairs, before we get into proposals we'd like to step
46 down so we can hand out those materials and then we'll
47 jump into them if that's okay with you Mr. Wilde and Mr.
48 Sam?

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

00106

1 MR. PROBASCO: Okay, we'll step down for
2 about five minutes to hand down the materials.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

5
6 MR. PROBASCO: Okay.

7
8 (Off record)

9
10 (On record)

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Before I recognize your
13 presentation, I'd like to ask Kuskokwim River Salmon
14 Management Working Group if they have a comment or AVCP
15 if they have a comment for Joint Federal and State
16 presentation. Tim, do you have any comment?

17
18 MR. MORGAN: Hi. My name is Wayne
19 Morgan. I'm one of the co-Chairs of the Kuskokwim River
20 Salmon Working Group, I'd like to add some comments if I
21 may, Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

24
25 MR. MORGAN: I wasn't at your CFC
26 meetings. I know Frank Charles, the other co-Chair gave
27 a little presentation or a talk to some of you members.

28
29 I've been on the working group for the
30 last three and a half years and I wasn't there before,
31 you know, when James was there a long time, Billy McCann
32 is there a long time and I'm fairly new. But not new to
33 the concerns of the river. It's the same all the way up
34 and down the river.

35
36 For this year, the working group,
37 beginning of the year, some of the members, long time
38 members were wanting to step down from the working group
39 at the beginning of the season when we first had our
40 meeting in April because of some concerns with the
41 fishing schedule, the subsistence fishing schedule and we
42 felt that, you know, some of us weren't being listened to
43 by the Department. But we stayed on. We stayed on
44 because we felt better that, you know, we need people
45 there that's been there a long time. We didn't want to
46 let the process go. And this is a special group of us.

47
48 The concerns that I have is with the
49 fisheries on the Kuskokwim, I know Craig gave a very good
50 presentation and I'd like to thank you, Craig, for

00107

1 stepping in and taking a proactive role. He's new to the
2 Kuskokwim fishery management and I appreciate his work he
3 has done for this first year, it's been a lot.

4

5 Some of the concerns I have right now and
6 still do is during his presentation this morning, I know
7 some of you know about this, there was the escapement
8 goals, I don't know if you heard him saying those, but
9 escapement goals are being set on most of the tributaries
10 of the Kuskokwim region. And most of the projects that
11 we have on the Kuskokwim are fairly new, especially with
12 the low return years that we've been having. And these
13 low return years, that's setting a baseline right there.
14 Anything over on the escapement on the weir projects, I
15 see that on these low return years when you have a bigger
16 return, little increase return on these weirs, that's
17 being looked at as a harvestable surplus, based on these
18 returns, that's -- I mean increase over these low
19 returns, that's looked at as a -- I see as a harvestable
20 surplus for like Craig said in his presentation -- last
21 year we -- they opened up the river on the Kuskokwim, you
22 know, to commercial fishing for chum but there was no
23 buyer, and the reason they did that was the only way we
24 could lift the subsistence schedule. No more
25 restrictions.

26

27 And, yes, the escapement goals, I feel
28 that, you know, we should have had a role in it. It's --
29 yes, we did have a role but it was not a -- you know, we
30 could give our recommendations or what not but we weren't
31 in the decision-making process, weren't involved with
32 that. And that's why I'm concerned with these escapement
33 goal numbers. That's been said on the Kuskokwim.

34

35 And also the subsistence schedule, I know
36 all the subsistence fishermen, traditional food gatherers
37 would get what they need and have what they need, they
38 would still reach their goal of, you know, putting fish
39 away for the winter, no matter if the schedule was there
40 or if it wasn't there, they would reach the same amount.

41

42 As a working group member we'd like to
43 say, . yes, we -- because of the little increases in the
44 last two years that has played a role in it as the
45 subsistence schedule, putting a little more return -- I
46 mean returns back. But there hasn't been a directed chum
47 commercial fishery since 1999 so this is five years now,
48 four years -- four and a half, five years, but we have --
49 didn't see no big returns of chum yet, but I'm still
50 hopeful.

00108

1 So that's my concerns about on the
2 Kuskokwim as far as a working group member. Some others
3 here might have additional comment to that.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Do AVCP have
8 a comment on Joint Federal and State presentation?

9

10 MR. ANDREW: Thank you. Mr. Chairman. I
11 appreciate and encourage the Kuskokwim River Salmon
12 Working Group to continue their work because this is a
13 group that is made up of people from the villages,
14 elders, commercial fishermen, sport fishermen and also
15 subsistence fishermen and people from the Department of
16 Fish and Game and also US Fish and Wildlife Service.

17

18 The issues of the Kuskokwim River are
19 primarily covered by Jennifer Hooper who's my deputy
20 director and she attends all the Kuskokwim River Salmon
21 Working Group meetings and does give me a short brief of
22 what those meetings consist of.

23

24 One of the concerns that I have this year
25 regarding the Kuskokwim River -- or the management of the
26 Kuskokwim River salmon is the lack of information to gage
27 the strength of the run on the lower river, like what the
28 Yukon River has. You know, the Yukon River basically
29 have the Lower Yukon test fishery which is based in
30 Emmonak and Emmonak and middle mouth and also up in the
31 north mouth. And then confirmed by the Pilot Station
32 sonar. On the Lower Kuskokwim River the only way to gage
33 the strength of the run is through the Bethel test
34 fishery and there is no main stem sonar with the
35 exception of Aniak River.

36

37 And like the Yukon River, the Kuskokwim
38 River started off this year with subsistence restrictions
39 to the subsistence fishermen. It was very unfortunate
40 that it started off that way. You know, the end result
41 basically, you know, whether we see it as good or bad to
42 the subsistence fishermen is that the fish were able to
43 reach the spawning grounds in large numbers.

44

45 It would be, I think to the subsistence
46 users benefit that we have a way to determine what the
47 actual strength of the runs are instead of waiting until
48 we find out exactly what hits the spawning grounds and
49 then release the subsistence openings.

50

00109

1 And that is basically it, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 Oh, the other thing I'd like to do is

4 introduce Erin Hiebert, she's our Kuskokwim River

5 Partners Program biologist based in our office in the

6 Bethel area; if you could stand please.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, thank you. Tim.

11 Public comments are welcome for each agenda items, I want

12 you to know that. Due to we don't have any forms, if you

13 want to have a comment on any items on the agenda you

14 could get a hold of Vince Mathews or Alex Nick.

15

16 Right now we will go into Federal

17 regulatory fishery proposals, review and recommendations.

18 Before we do, because we're going into proposals,

19 proposal review process, how it works:

20

21 1. Introduce of proposals

22

23 2. Biological, socio-cultural

24 analysis

25

26 3. Agency comments. Federal, State

27 or private

28

29 4. Open floor to public comments

30 specific to the proposal

31

32 5. Summary of written public

33 comments

34

35 6. Regional Council deliberation and

36 recommendation and justification

37

38 Right now the Federal regulatory fishery

39 proposal review and recommendation, you could find it on

40 your booklet, Tab B.

41

42 Yeah, go ahead.

43

44 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Chairs. Before

45 I turn the mike over to Mr. Uberuaga, I want to just

46 briefly explain the papers that we handed out. Of

47 particular importance are the summary of the Coordinated

48 Fisheries Committee Meeting that took place on Friday and

49 Saturday. And the purpose of this meeting was to get

50 your CFC committee together to discuss the various

00110

1 Federal proposals, not only before the Federal
2 Subsistence Board, also the Alaska Board of Fisheries.
3 And throughout this week you'll be working on both
4 proposals, both Federal and State.

5
6 The CFC group spent two days, like I
7 stated and discussed the issues, they wanted to have this
8 dialogue to have a better understanding of the issues on
9 both sides of the issue as well as provide these issues
10 to the Regional Councils so that when they take up the
11 proposals they can have some additional guidance as they
12 deliberate and make their recommendations.

13
14 So as you work through the proposals,
15 I'll just for your reference introduce where they're
16 located as far as a summary of the issues as well as
17 where the State proposals are.

18
19 And your CFC members have participated at
20 this meeting on Friday and Saturday are sitting here with
21 us today are also Council members, of course, are Harry
22 Wilde and Ron Sam, as our Council Chairs, James Charles,
23 John Hanson, Lester Wilde, Robert Walker, Benedict Jones
24 and Carl Morgan. Those people served on Friday and
25 Saturday's meeting as they developed this issues paper
26 that's before you.

27
28 So with that, Mr. Sam and Mr. Wilde, I'll
29 turn the mike over to Mr. Uberuaga who will introduce the
30 Federal Proposal No. 13, and for your reference, there's
31 also a State proposal which is identical that the Board
32 of Fisheries will be identifying and that's Proposal No.
33 136.

34
35 Mr. Sam.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pete. When you
38 talk about 136, is that the same as Proposal 13 under
39 Federal?

40
41 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. They're very
42 close and similar and I only point that out so that you
43 understand that the Board of Fisheries will also be
44 dealing with the same issue. So that as you deliberate
45 on the Federal proposal, you have that understanding.

46
47 Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. And for
50 Councils deliberation I would like to thank all of you

00111

1 for attending the meeting down at Anchorage. And I just
2 want to let you know that this proposal, in a similar
3 form, will come up to cover the Yukon, too.

4

5 With that I would like to go ahead and
6 start the proceedings.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MR. UBERUAGA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 My name is Richard Uberuaga. I work for the Office of
12 Subsistence Management and I'm assigned to the Northwest
13 Arctic, Kodiak/Aleutians and the Kuskokwim areas. Today
14 we're going to talk about Fisheries Proposal 13, which
15 deals with the depth of meshes, the number of meshes you
16 can have on your gillnets in the river.

17

18 Fisheries Proposal FP13 was submitted by
19 the Association of Village Council Presidents and it
20 requests that gillnets with a mesh size greater than six
21 inches be allowed to exceed 35 meshes in depth for the
22 Calista AVCP region of the Kuskokwim River. The
23 proponent states that many families along the Kuskokwim
24 River only have gillnets with mesh sizes greater than six
25 inches that are more than 35 meshes deep.

26

27 The requirement to not allow gillnets
28 with meshes greater than six inches and 35 meshes deep
29 was most likely a conservation measure established by the
30 Department. Gillnets deeper than 35 meshes that are
31 greater than six inches are more effective for catching
32 large fish, principally chinook salmon.

33

34 The existing regulations, it's important
35 to really understand the existing regulations for the
36 Kuskokwim area are:

37

38 The maximum depth of gillnets six inches
39 or greater is 35 meshes in depth. The
40 maximum depth of a gillnet with six
41 inches or smaller is 45 meshes in depth.

42

43 The proposed regulation would make the
44 maximum depth of gillnets of all gillnets in subsistence
45 use 45 meshes in depth.

46

47 Many fishermen along the river use
48 gillnets greater than 35 meshes in depth and six inches
49 in diameter even though it's currently technically
50 illegal. Many people have been using old nets that were

00112

1 45 meshes in depth and they've been using them for a long
2 time. But using a mesh greater than six inches and 35
3 meshes deep is more effective than just limiting yourself
4 to 35 meshes.

5
6 Adopting the proposal to increase the
7 depth to 45 meshes would likely make it more efficient to
8 catch king salmon, to big king salmon.

9
10 This analysis felt that the harvest, the
11 overall harvest was not going to change because most
12 fishermen get what they need, whether they have to fish
13 longer and harder or more efficiently, they get what they
14 need and that's where they stop. So that's what we
15 considered to be a given.

16
17 Right now on the Kuskokwim River there is
18 a vendor selling nets that are larger than six inches in
19 stretch mesh that are greater than 35 meshes deep. He's
20 been selling those recently, I don't know how long, but
21 there are old nets being used and there is a vendor
22 selling some new nets.

23
24 As I said this proposal is not likely to
25 increase harvest levels. There was some concern that
26 these nets being more efficient, fish deeper in the
27 water, are more likely to catch larger fish closer to the
28 bottom and the concern is that they'll catch more female,
29 big female king salmon. That may or may not be true.

30
31 What this proposal does, by adopting this
32 proposal -- what it does is it increases the flexibility
33 for the commercial fisherman right now to become more
34 efficient. As you all know fishing a deeper net you run
35 the big risk of snagging up on the bottom and losing your
36 net.

37
38 So you have trade-offs there also. The
39 conclusion for this analysis from our office was to
40 support this proposal because of the reasons I stated.

41
42 We discussed this at the CFC, we brought
43 up a lot of issues that I would refer you to the sheets
44 that were handed out on Page 4 and 5, there's several
45 issues brought out that I didn't discuss but I would
46 gladly entertain any questions.

47
48 Mr. Chairman, that concludes my
49 presentation.

50

00113

1 MR. PROBASCO: Just one clarification, we
2 reordered the page numbers so all the Kuskokwim River
3 issues are presented on Page 1 and Page 2 instead of Page
4 4 and 5. Mr. Uberuaga didn't know that. So Pages 1 and
5 2 summarizes the CFC's identification of the issues.

6

7 Mr. Chairs.

8

9 MR. UBERUAGA: One item I neglected to
10 mention that kind of helps put this issue in perspective
11 between the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, is that, on the
12 Yukon River for subsistence fishing, you can use nets
13 with greater than six inches mesh up to 45 meshes deep.
14 On the Kuskokwim it's 35. So there is a little
15 difference between the two rivers and those regulations
16 were established a long time ago. But the thinking was
17 that the Yukon being a bigger river will allow 45 and
18 then for conservation measures would allow 35 on the
19 Kuskokwim.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

24

25 INTERPRETER: I thought that we're trying
26 to follow the agenda.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I just said to one of
29 our Council members we try to follow these procedures
30 right now.

31

32 Do we have agency comments from Federal
33 or State or private at this time.

34

35 Dan.

36

37 MR. BERGSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman. My
38 name is Dan Bergstrom, I'm the AY-K Regional Management
39 biologist. I've worked on the Yukon and Kuskokwim area
40 for quite a few years. As far as this issue, the
41 Department really hasn't come up with their final Staff
42 comments for this proposal as far as for Federal. And as
43 we heard, there is a similar proposal in with the State
44 Board of Fisheries.

45

46 I think one of the things we wanted to
47 bring up is I guess we could almost say it's the
48 Department's fault that this proposal came up in a sense
49 because I guess we haven't been communicating with
50 fishermen well enough to explain what the rules are. The

00114

1 current rules have been in there, we think, since about
2 statehood, maybe longer, so, you know, that regulation
3 has been there a long time. I think what's happened is,
4 you know, people didn't really know and they started
5 using a different gear type.

6
7 I think the Federal comments covered it
8 pretty well, that there are some concerns that deeper
9 nets will be more efficient. That's one of the ideas
10 with the subsistence fishing schedule that we've talked
11 about a lot at the working group meeting for the
12 Kuskokwim, and at the CFC meeting, which is, the idea is
13 to make sure enough fish go up river throughout the run
14 to achieve escapements and to also spread out the
15 subsistence opportunities so that people further up river
16 have a good opportunity for catching king salmon also.

17
18 So that's one of our main concerns for
19 you to think about is that, you know, increasing
20 efficiency. The regulation has been in there a long
21 time. We've looked a little bit into how many people
22 might have those nets. We don't think that it's that
23 many. There's quite a few that -- people, generally,
24 where we get some of our gear is Donaldson in Anchorage
25 and they always look up what the rules are and that so
26 they tend to only send people what's a legal gear type or
27 what's in the regulations.

28
29 But that's all we would say is make sure
30 you think about efficiency matters.

31
32 One of the things to think about, too, is
33 when you have your six inch and smaller of 45 and then
34 your larger mesh is the same depth, you know, that you're
35 saying they're both 45 meshes but obviously the depth is
36 a lot different because that larger mesh size is going to
37 be deeper overall than your smaller mesh.

38
39 We did talk at the CFC meeting on the
40 Yukon, the restriction there is only for the commercial,
41 actually subsistence nets in the Yukon, there's no depth
42 restriction there yet, but that will probably be a
43 potential item coming up in the State Board meeting. The
44 restriction on the Yukon is 45 meshes deep for greater
45 than six inch mesh for the commercial fishery, and that
46 came into place in, I think, in about the mid-1990s and
47 that's when people started to get really deep nets there
48 and so there was a restriction put in. What we based
49 that 45 mesh on was that in the Kuskokwim it was a 35
50 mesh restriction and we felt that the Yukon being a lot

00115

1 bigger river, that a little deeper net there would be
2 more appropriate.

3

4 So that's the background between the two
5 rivers.

6

7 And I can answer any questions or if
8 Craig, you have anything.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Councils, do you have a
11 question for Dan.

12

13 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

14

15 MR. MORGAN: I've heard some comments
16 from some of the Council members that all the subsistence
17 needs are being met and to increase it from 35 to 45
18 mesh, it's just simply increases the efficiency. You
19 know, I just want to question, if subsistence needs are
20 being met, you know, I just don't understand why the
21 Departments are in favor. And I was just doing a little
22 figuring here and it's only increasing it from 35 to 45,
23 it only affects six inch mesh, both?

24

25 MR. BERGSTROM: The increase would be for
26 the nets greater than six inch, so that would be, you
27 know, your eight, eight and a half.

28

29 MR. MORGAN: So six inch would still
30 remain at 35?

31

32 MR. BERGSTROM: Well, right -- it's -- it
33 would still be 45, but -- six inch and smaller would be
34 45, too.

35

36 MR. MORGAN: And so that will even
37 through my calculations off a little bit more, so I was
38 going with eight inch at 35 mesh, that's 23 -- almost 23
39 and a half feet deep and if you increase it from six inch
40 -- I mean the six inch mesh from 35 to 45, you're only
41 going down 22 and a half feet. You know, I know if
42 you're going to increase for eight inch, that's even
43 longer. I tend to say this is -- and it's more efficient
44 and a lot of discussion has been brought up about this,
45 it's going to target the kings and the big females going
46 further up river to spawn.

47

48 And as you know the mesh size has been
49 lowered before. The working group recognized this and so
50 I think they're generally opposed to it. I don't think

00116

1 all the members are but as a group they are opposed to
2 this. And it was a restriction back in, what, '98, that
3 you will not target the kings. And this gives more of a
4 target to the kings that all the people up and down the
5 river depends on. That's their number 1 subsistence use.

6
7 I'm wondering, you know, in your
8 deliberations and your recommendations in support, has
9 considered this. Because you're going to -- it's going
10 to be a drastic change. The biggest argument I hear from
11 both Departments that it's going to be more efficient,
12 and that's -- if you're making that on just your
13 determination to support that makes me worried.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Dan.

18
19 MR. BERGSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I want
20 to just be clear that, you know, in the Federal analysis
21 they came to a conclusion of where their position is, but
22 on the State's side we don't yet. You know, we haven't
23 come out in support or against it, we're just saying what
24 the concerns are. We haven't, as all the divisions
25 gotten together yet to come up with a Staff position on
26 it.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary, and then Benedict.

29
30 MS. GREGORY: I prefer to defer with the
31 gentleman in the middle because I've been fishing, my
32 husband and my children and I have been fishing a long
33 time in the Kuskokwim and we don't go in the deep water
34 to fish, we know where the fish congregate. And for
35 years my husband's been telling, since they started
36 counting the fish, the fish counters drift in the middle
37 of the river where it's deep and the fish swim in the --
38 not on the top unless the water is choppy. So I don't
39 think what you have to say, I'm not agreeing with it.
40 Because we don't -- I never see people fishing in the
41 middle of the Kuskokwim, they always go to the bends and
42 the (In Yup'ik) where the fish congregate. I don't know
43 what the (In Yup'ik) is in English.

44
45 MR. L. WILDE: Eddies.

46
47 MS. GREGORY: Eddies. Eddies, where the
48 eddies are. And they don't fish all day, they just fish
49 during the ebb tides and coming in tides.

50

00117

1 MR. UBERUAGA: I would just like to point
2 out that currently there are a number of people using
3 nets that are illegal and if this regulation stays the
4 same that those people will still be fishing with illegal
5 nets and at some point they may be subject to citation
6 for fishing illegally.

7
8 That is something we considered a lot,
9 you know, the fact that people -- if the regulation
10 doesn't change, they're going to have to make their nets
11 comply with the 35 meshes deep, even though it's 45,
12 they're going to go out and have to either buy a new net
13 or cut their meshes down. So that's one thing we thought
14 a lot about too.

15
16 MS. GREGORY: And I also, that gentleman
17 beside you told us, we don't buy it from whoever is
18 selling, that's the first time I've heard about somebody
19 selling nets in Bethel, we always get it from Donaldson
20 or the company in Anchorage, our gear.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Benedict Jones and then
23 Bill.

24
25 MR. JONES: Yeah, this is Benedict Jones
26 from Koyukuk.

27
28 I don't know if you can tell the
29 different species of fish in the Kuskokwim as you do on
30 the Yukon. We could tell the upper headwater fish on the
31 kings by the coloration. And we do on the middle Yukon,
32 which Canadian or upper Yukon bound fish. We can tell
33 and the Tanana River bound.

34
35 As for that larger mesh depth, it does,
36 like Morgan said, it targets the headwater fish and what
37 we try to do is preserve as much female as we can to get
38 to the headwaters, to the spawning grounds. And like
39 everybody else we only harvest so many kings and then we
40 quit.

41
42 Just this last summer the first run of
43 the king, we were catching the middle part of the Yukon
44 had less eggs so I was kind of concerned about that but I
45 asked one of the elders from Galena and I told him that
46 the kings had less eggs this year than the previous year
47 and he said the problem -- that's the fish that's going
48 up to the headwaters of the Yukon River, which I didn't
49 know, I don't even know if you biologists know that too.
50

00118

1 That's all the questions I have.

2

3 MR. WHITMORE: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

6

7 MR. WHITMORE: Mr. Jones, we don't have,
8 you know, as much information on the Kuskokwim as they
9 have on the Yukon in regard to migrational timing of the
10 fish. Through the radio-telemetry study that's been
11 going on, it's become very clear or it's becoming more
12 clear that those fish that come in earlier in the run are
13 going further up the drainage much like in the Yukon as
14 you described. And it also, in the information, if you
15 look at the Bethel test net information compared with the
16 timing of the subsistence harvest, it shows that the
17 subsistence harvest, you reach the mid-point of the
18 subsistence harvest well before the mid-point of the
19 migration of king salmon. And so that's one thing the
20 schedule does, it kind of takes that harvest from the
21 subsistence fishery around Bethel and spreads it out
22 across the entire run rather than just hitting -- putting
23 the majority of the harvest on that first portion of the
24 run in June when everybody's real enthusiastic to go
25 fishing when the weather is good.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MR. JONES: King salmon on the Yukon, the
30 way we tell by the color is the grey color are the upper
31 bound, the Yukon River bound and the reds are the Tanana
32 River bound, that's the way we could tell the different
33 species of fish where they're bound.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bill McCann.

36

37 MR. MCCANN: Yes. I was wondering that
38 -- I might have understood wrong, I don't know, let me
39 say this when regulations come to the village, it's
40 pretty hard to correct it again when it's done.

41

42 These proposals are, to me, it's easy to
43 look at it and the guys that approve the proposal it's
44 done. One person's proposal. Only one person, but times
45 -- sometimes it's doing wrong because it's only one
46 person. Like I said that's why I have been saying that
47 if we're going to make regulations we should public
48 hearing first or proposal done's going to be.

49

50 Now, I want to ask about net mesh.

00119

1 What's to actually for that, is it the commercial or
2 complying with subsistence? Because us people, we don't
3 have too much money to buy extra net for something that's
4 recommended by regulation. If you change the mesh to us
5 that what we got, that's all we got. That's all we got.
6 And the net itself is over \$600 or more, that's a lot of
7 money and some of those people have no money to buy extra
8 nets just because the regulation says you can use only
9 six inch nets.

10

11 That's pretty hard.

12

13 That's why we got to watch what we're
14 doing together like this when we're talking about the
15 people at home, what we're going to give them. Because
16 we give them hard time sometimes just making regulation
17 done to make the regulations. That's pretty hard for the
18 people.

19

20 Is that only commercial, that the mesh is
21 changing, for only commercial or subsistence too?

22

23 MR. WHITMORE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. McCann.
24 The regulation that's before the Councils here is in
25 regard to gillnets greater than six inch mesh. And you
26 can only use gillnets greater than six inch mesh in the
27 subsistence fishery. And this -- the 2003 season was my
28 first season on the Kuskokwim and as Dan pointed out
29 earlier, I was somewhat negligent on getting information
30 out in regard to what the regulations were and it became
31 apparent because I went through the history of the recent
32 years in the Kuskokwim, that the Kuskokwim, unlike the
33 Fish and Game manager, unlike the Yukon wasn't providing
34 information prior to the season in regard to the
35 regulation.

36

37 So regardless of which way, you know,
38 what the regulations are next year, I do plan to provide
39 information out to all the communities in regard to what
40 the subsistence and commercial fishing regulations are,
41 so that information will be available.

42

43 And so right now the regulation is for
44 gillnets that are six inch or less, they can be 45 meshes
45 deep and for gillnets that are greater than six inches in
46 mesh would be eight, eight and a half, whatever net you
47 have can only be 35 meshes in depth. So if the
48 regulation goes to 45 meshes then those people that have
49 35 mesh deep king salmon gear would still be legal
50 because they wouldn't have to go buy a new net, they just

00121

1 for Mr. Bergstrom. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 Do you do scale samples for kings on the
4 high seas and down at Emmonak at the mouth and does the
5 Canadian do scale samples up at the border to identify
6 which species of fish goes in which streams, we ask this
7 question before about the scale sample on the high seas
8 to identify the Yukon and Kuskokwim River bound fish, but
9 you people haven't given us any answer on that.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Dan.

12

13 MR. BERGSTROM: Mr. Chairman, this is
14 Dan. I don't think it's an ongoing thing to look at the
15 scales out in the ocean. They did in the, I know, the
16 mid and late -- most maybe tried to do it in the middle
17 and late 1980s and that's when they did look at kind of
18 stock of origin with scales out there that, you know,
19 about half of the fish were going to Western Alaska and
20 then it was assumed that most of those were going to the
21 Yukon but it wasn't a break down by river. Because like
22 the Kuskokwim we don't have that. But they could tell
23 the difference between Western Alaska and other stocks
24 going to -- further down the Pacific Northwest.

25

26 And then we do, with the sampling, we do
27 along the river to estimate what the harvest is by the
28 stocks in the Yukon, the lower and the middle and the
29 upper being Canada and we do get samples from Canada to
30 do that because we need to have the scales from each
31 region along the river. So we do get samples from
32 Canadian. But that's an overall Canadian component, it's
33 not by stream within Canada because there's obviously a
34 lot of different spawning areas up there.

35

36 MR. JONES: Yeah, does the Canadian scale
37 sample, can you identify right at the lower Yukon, can
38 you identify them before they hit the Canadian border?

39

40 MR. BERGSTROM: Mr. Chairman, we can't do
41 that in-season. The way the system works is you need to
42 collect the samples and by the time you get the samples,
43 you know, everything's done at the lower end of the river
44 and then you get the samples from all along river and you
45 have to get them from escapements and then you're
46 comparing the known scales from the spawning areas with
47 what the scales are in the harvest, the unknown, so it's
48 post-season.

49

50 We looked into trying to use the previous

00122

1 year to go into a new year but it didn't work that well.
2 And that's why we do use the scales at this time, but,
3 you know, we do have the genetics that's coming along and
4 that could be something that would work in the season.

5

6 MR. JONES: Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Let me, before I
9 recognize next Council person, we're talking about
10 Kuskokwim, not Yukon. You got to stay with the proposal
11 that's proposed and try to stay with it so that we will
12 go a little bit faster. We're not talking about other,
13 like the Yukon and Kuskokwim, this is Kuskokwim proposal.

14

15 I recognize at this time Mike Savage.

16

17 MR. SAVAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
18 fish right, I guess, probably subsistence right in
19 between the Kuskokwim there, right at Kalskag, I kind of
20 figure it's in between, you know, where all the fish go
21 up river and the other kings that goes to the lower
22 streams.

23

24 I've been fishing in this -- subsisting
25 in this area for about since 1960, '59/60, and every year
26 in that eddy my dad looks at it and he tells me what to
27 do, what mesh to use, how deep not to use, how to set
28 that net to catch food. Once it's done we take it out.
29 Some days -- one year it was so high water we used two
30 nets just to get our fish. If there's a lot of snow in
31 the mountains there's a lot of water down the river and
32 the lower Kuskokwim people have a hard time catching --
33 Kuskokwim River people have a hard time catching fish.

34

35 My dad is 83 years old and I'm not going
36 to sit there and argue with him and tell him you can't
37 use this and you can't use that, he's been doing that all
38 his life. And I pity these elders here, you guys are
39 telling us we're going to have to cut down some more,
40 we're going to have to use lower mesh. My dad says when
41 those fish fight they die. They're fighting to go up
42 river. The current's getting stronger and stronger as it
43 goes up and they lose less fat.

44

45 And my dad's from the Yukon, I mean he's
46 originally from Holy Cross. When they subsistence them
47 days, they subsistence, they're feeding their family,
48 their dogs. Them dogs were their machine. They had to
49 get food for their dogs. Now days we got snowmachines,
50 trucks, planes and all we do is just try to get food for

00123

1 ourselves. I love my granddaughter here too, she loves
2 fish, and you guys are putting this up to us, I mean to
3 them, and we're going to start fishing less and less. I
4 notice even my kids are even eating less and less fish
5 than we used to.

6

7 You guys are hurting -- you know, I don't
8 understand. We're trying to work for the people and
9 we're hurting the people. Our way of life. It's very
10 hard. I mean I sit and listen and sometimes I can't say
11 nothing. And I won't argue with my dad if he tells me --
12 next year if he's alive, and he tells me what to do I
13 ain't going to argue with him. You know the State or
14 Federal are going to argue with him, not me, I won't do
15 that.

16

17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Sam.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Harry. If you
22 look under Department comments, recommendations you will
23 see a lot of the same wording concerning the Yukon when
24 we go into the Yukon fisheries. It says defer to Board
25 of Fisheries. I think the only issue here is the
26 efficiency of your harvest for -- I mean efficiency to
27 fulfill your subsistence needs. I do not think there's a
28 question on how deep it is, it's just a matter of the
29 deeper you go the quicker you meet your subsistence needs
30 and then you will meet your escapement goals anyway.
31 Because the sooner you pull your net out, deep net out,
32 the more fish will go up.

33

34 And I think the only thing the Department
35 is concerned about is the efficiency on how quick you get
36 your fish, get your fish nets out of the water. I think
37 that -- you notice that they defer action on this and I
38 think if we defer action on this it's just that we will
39 recognize all depths or uses of gillnets. And even if we
40 defer it I do not think we will criminalize any one of
41 our people.

42

43 Again, the only issue here is the
44 efficiency, how quick and how fast you get your fish.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're going to open the
47 floor now for comments, public comments. Do public have
48 a comment concerning repeal of 35 mesh depth restriction
49 in Kuskokwim.

50

00124

1 (No comment)

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's no public
4 comment, summary of written public comment. Vince.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we don't have
7 any that were submitted other than the working group,
8 Kuskokwim River Salmon Working Group has a representative
9 here. They may want to speak at this time. My notes
10 show that they oppose this proposal.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Vince. Now,
13 we are going into Regional Council deliberation and
14 recommendation and justification.

15

16 Mary.

17

18 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Asked them already and
21 they didn't respond.

22

23 MS. GREGORY: They were trying.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, okay.

26

27 MR. MORGAN: This proposal seems to me
28 that it's going against what we're doing on the
29 Kuskokwim. We got the fishing schedule for what, it's to
30 conserve the fish, we want to let most of the fish go up
31 river. But then again this proposal is making it deeper
32 to go after the bigger fish and more kings, you know, in
33 a short amount of time.

34

35 And the reason I think it came up is
36 because of our fishing schedule, because people want to
37 try to get fish put away quickly because it's a short
38 amount of fishing time. But it goes against -- as the
39 working group, we accepted the fishing schedule to
40 conserve the fish. As a group, some of us disagreed with
41 the schedule and still do.

42

43 But by us, to accept the proposal then it
44 just goes against what we're doing as the working group,
45 then why do we need the schedule, and if we didn't have
46 the schedule this wouldn't have came up, the proposal.
47 But as the working group, I think -- as a group together
48 we think it's going against what we're doing on the
49 Kuskokwim. We're trying to conserve the fish.

50

00125

1 I don't know if James Charles wants to
2 add or I might have missed something.

3
4 Any questions.

5
6 (No comment)

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

9
10 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 Like Wayne said I'm with the working group and I am
12 really confused about this proposal. And so I am
13 beginning to understand what they want out of this
14 proposal, but it is as we are rebuilding for salmon on
15 the Kuskokwim, I change my mind on this one, too, because
16 what we have -- the nets we have now we use them both for
17 commercial and subsistence, I mean the six inch gear and
18 smaller gear up to 45 meshes deep. But big net, king
19 salmon net, we only use it for subsistence so that's not
20 going to change anything now if we are -- if we keep on
21 schedule fishing.

22
23 So I mentioned the other day that we fish
24 in deep water down in Tuntutuliak Eek area when we try to
25 find the fish for subsistence we have to go out in the
26 deep water and fish in shallow water when it's windy and
27 hard to catch fish out in the deep water. But we don't
28 have to change the net, we -- I mean the depth of net
29 because have been using them for a long time.

30
31 So that's what my thinking was.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tim.

36
37 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
38 For the record my name is Timothy Andrew. I'm the
39 director of Natural Resources for AVCP.

40
41 I would encourage the Councils to adopt
42 this regulation or push for its adoption primarily
43 because it would basically take the 45 mesh or the
44 greater than 35 mesh gear that is currently being used on
45 the Kuskokwim to harvest subsistence salmon and make that
46 gear type legal, you know, as the Department had
47 recognized earlier that there are a number of people that
48 are still using eight inch gear that are greater than 35
49 meshes deep. And it will also allow, as Mr. Charles had
50 expressed, that it will allow people to continue or to be

00126

1 able to subsistence fish for salmon that are in the
2 deeper waters like in the lower part of the river as well
3 as throughout the Kuskokwim River drainage as well.

4

5 The proposal was generated by AVCP
6 primarily to address those issues. And I would be happy
7 to answer any questions if anyone has any questions
8 regarding this proposal.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, thank you. Tim,
11 let me correct, Bill, for your information you was asking
12 who made this proposal, it's made by AVCP. You
13 understand.

14

15 MR. MCCANN: (Nods affirmatively)

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

18

19 MR. MCCANN: Well, even though AVCP made
20 the proposal. (In Yup'ik)

21

22 INTERPRETER: But sometimes when we're
23 meeting together we make a mistake because we need to
24 look to keep our subsistence way of life alive and their
25 fishing nets, they use them all the time to gather our
26 fish. Some villages fish a different way, we have
27 different ways. Maybe fishermen in the lower river look
28 for fish in the deeper waters, we look for eddies and
29 shallow waters to get our fish, just like Mary said. So
30 right now those of us who are subsistence users, we
31 should just leave it as it is. Because it is our
32 priority.

33

34 Subsistence is a priority to us. It
35 always has to be a priority. That is why when we're
36 looking through these proposals, I know that it's easy --
37 they're easy to write down, anybody could write down --
38 write a -- send in a proposal but once they've become
39 passed and approved we need to be diligent in watching
40 our proposals. We need to think of all the people at
41 home, how much money they'll be spending.

42

43 We all know that if the proposal is
44 passed and it becomes regulation we can be fined and have
45 to pay a lot of money once we have -- even if it is AVCP.

46

47 So the biologists that were here talking
48 about fish as experts, they are not experts on fish.

49

50 Thank you.

00127

1 MR. MCCANN: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

4

5 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 Tim that proposal is for up to 45 and we can use smaller,

7 even that proposal is up to 45 and we can use less mesh,

8 deep net.

9

10 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, can I respond?

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tim.

13

14 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 Mr. Charles, yes, that is the effect of this proposal.

16 You could still use mesh depths less than 45 meshes deep,

17 you don't have to use 45 meshes deep if you don't want

18 to. If the area that you fish, you know, is less than --

19 requires gear less than 45 meshes deep, by all means fish

20 less than 45 meshes deep. And the other thing I forgot

21 to express is that this is for subsistence fishing only.

22 The Kuskokwim River is opposed to chinook directed

23 commercial fisheries. So this gear type would be for

24 subsistence fishing only.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

27

28 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I got a

29 question for anybody out there that can answer it. Does

30 this also affect the Kuskokwim Bay where the commercial

31 area is?

32

33 MR. UBERUAGA: The proposal affects

34 waters under Federal jurisdiction. The waters in

35 Kuskokwim Bay are not under Federal jurisdiction.

36

37 MR. L. WILDE: And while we got you

38 there, I'm going to have problems with your last name,

39 but anyway is that the only area where the commercial

40 activity is in the bay there or is there some areas

41 within the Federal jurisdiction where there is activity

42 going on?

43

44 MR. UBERUAGA: This proposal only

45 addresses subsistence fisheries. There are commercial

46 fishing within -- as you know, within the Kuskokwim River

47 managed under the State fishery regulations. This

48 proposal is just for subsistence fishing wherever

49 subsistence occurs in Federal waters. Federal waters are

50 basically up to Aniak.

00128

1 MR. L. WILDE: What you're telling me
2 then is there is not a regulation in effect as is on the
3 Yukon where commercial or subsistence fishers on the
4 Kuskokwim are allowed to use any depth of mesh they want,
5 they're only restricted to 35 mesh, is that what you're
6 saying?

7
8 MR. UBERUAGA: On the Yukon River with
9 subsistence fisheries -- no.....

10
11 MR. L. WILDE: I'm not talking about the
12 Yukon, I referenced the Yukon to get an answer for the
13 Kuskokwim.

14
15 MR. UBERUAGA: On the Kuskokwim River you
16 can only use, currently right now you can only use a mesh
17 size greater than six inches that is 35 meshes deep. If
18 it's 45 meshes deep and it's greater than six inches it's
19 illegal. There are some people using those kind of nets.
20 With mesh sizes less than six inches, you can go up to 45
21 meshes deep. That's what's legal right now for
22 subsistence fishing on the Kuskokwim.

23
24 MR. L. WILDE: Thank you.

25
26 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

29
30 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

31
32 INTERPRETER: I'm going to ask you a
33 question, Tim, the length of the net, are you trying to
34 lengthen the net?

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, if
39 I may respond to her.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

42
43 MR. ANDREW: What we're trying to do is
44 take the mesh, it's not the length of the fish net that
45 we're trying to extend, it's the depth that we're trying
46 to extend from 35 maximum to a 45 maximum, 45 meshes
47 deep. We're not going from 35 fathoms of fish net up to
48 45 fathoms. It's the depth.

49
50 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, for the

00129

1 benefit of my colleagues who don't understand too much.

2

3 (In Yup'ik)

4

5 MS. GREGORY: Okay.

6

7 MR. MCCANN: Mary, (In Yup'ik)

8

9 INTERPRETER: The 35 length mesh, even
10 though we like the mesh to 45 -- he's not agreeing to
11 this proposal. That if we use king gear we are non-
12 compliant. I am -- it is my law to use king gear to
13 gather my fish. Maybe you are trying to break the law.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Carl Morgan.

16

17 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, you know, earlier I did
18 make a comment if we're going to base our determination
19 whether we support or not support this on the basis of
20 efficiency. Now, I hear another reason why we should
21 support this is people are -- some people are ignoring
22 the regulation and using it, and I said, wow. Then am I
23 to hear that some if some of our people along the
24 Kuskokwim are not fishing they can fish, some of the
25 subsistence users can fish outside of the windows, should
26 we pass a regulation to change the regulation so we can
27 have those people excluded because they're not paying
28 attention to the regulation but everybody else is.

29

30 I'm very disheartened to hear this that
31 we're going to want to change some regulations to include
32 -- I don't think it's a wide -- everybody's doing it. I
33 think it's just special -- I don't know how many.
34 Somebody must know the number of people that are not
35 paying attention or abiding by the regulations we all
36 live by.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Rich.

41

42 MR. UBERUAGA: Yeah, I just spoke to Mike
43 Rearden briefly and he said within the last three to four
44 years there's been maybe 30 to 40 times, people seen
45 using nets so it's not too wide spread but some people
46 are using these nets.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

49

50 MR. L. WILDE: Wayne Morgan, I'd like to

00130

1 ask you a question, could you come up here. Was the
2 rationale behind your working group in opposing this that
3 you would like to have the subsistence resource going all
4 the way up the river instead of being caught in the areas
5 on the lower areas, was that the rationale? Or what was
6 your rationale in opposing this, I didn't really get it.

7

8 MR. MORGAN: Okay, that's -- I didn't
9 make that last meeting. I didn't hear the discussions
10 going on but, you know, the ruling on it was to oppose
11 it. Because I was out trying to catch my moose at the
12 time when we had this meeting.

13

14 But I don't know, James or Craig might
15 want to -- or would add to the discussion that went on,
16 if I may, I would defer the discussion to Craig Whitmore
17 if I may.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

20

21 MR. WHITMORE: Thank you, Wayne. There
22 was a long, you know, fairly long discussion in regard to
23 this regulation and, you know, my recollection is pretty
24 much what you identified there, Lester, that with the
25 schedule that they're trying to spread the harvest out
26 over the run and that schedule makes people less
27 efficient therefore by making the gillnets more efficient
28 that kind of goes against the objective of the schedule.
29 That's kind of in short and if James could comment as
30 well.

31

32 MR. L. WILDE: Thank you, Wayne.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

35

36 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For
37 the record my name is Alex Nick. I'm the Regional
38 Council coordinator for Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Council.

39

40

41 What I want to do is I want to try to
42 clarify what seems to be misunderstood by some of the
43 Regional Advisory Council members that has limited
44 English understanding. I just want to clarify that. I'm
45 going to do this in Yup'ik and then I'll translate what I
46 said in English. And the presenters could correct me if
47 I'm wrong.

48

49 (In Yup'ik)

50

00131

1 I'm just going to summarize what I said
2 in Yup'ik.

3
4 What I said in Yup'ik is that current
5 subsistence regulation allowing up to 35 mesh deep
6 gillnets is actually recommended by the Regional Advisory
7 Councils and it's in the -- I could be corrected if I'm
8 wrong, that's what the Regional Advisory Councils
9 approved. But now currently there's a proposal by AVCP
10 that will allow up to 45 mesh deep and what I said in
11 Yup'ik is that anyone who is using 45 mesh deep gillnets
12 for subsistence fishing is in violation of the
13 regulations that the Regional Advisory Council members
14 has approved in the past. But this new regulation AVCP
15 submitted will allow up to 45 mesh deep and I don't know
16 if my understanding is correct, AVCP is trying to protect
17 its fishers so that they won't violate if they're using
18 any deeper nets, you know, like to 45 mesh deep.

19
20 I just wanted to try to clarify that so
21 that Regional Advisory Council members with limited
22 English will understand that.

23
24 Quyana.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Now, I will recognize
27 Carl Jack. I was asked by the Council if you could
28 Yup'ik/English to let some Council understand what
29 proposal is.

30
31 MR. JACK: Quyana, Mr. Chairman. (In
32 Yup'ik)

33
34 INTERPRETER: Right now we have a
35 regulation to use six inch mesh and 35 mesh depth, that
36 is the regulation. But we all know that a lot of our
37 fishermen do not follow that regulation, are just not --
38 unaware of it, they use up to 45 mesh. And AVCP's
39 proposal is to -- they want to -- if anyone wants to use
40 a 35 inch mesh and they'll still be -- illegal as long as
41 their net -- their net is 45 meshes deep or less. So
42 AVCP's proposal is to help since a lot of people do use
43 king gear.

44
45 MR. JACK: For your information I just
46 paraphrased what Alex stated to try to clarify the intent
47 of the proposal.

48
49 Quyana.

50

00132

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, thank you, Carl.

2

3 (In Yup'ik)

4

5 INTERPRETER: Maybe we're finally
6 understanding this proposal. So maybe we're ready for a
7 vote.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm going to ask Mike
10 Savage if he could do a roll call.

11

12 MR. SAVAGE: Okay.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
15 Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Vince.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: We don't have a motion on
20 the floor so people won't know what to vote for or
21 against.

22

23 Sorry.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, sorry. Go ahead,
26 do it.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, where does this
29 position Western Interior, do we just go ahead and concur
30 with YK Delta?

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, once -- Mr.
33 Sam, Mr. Wilde, once there's a motion on the floor, both
34 Councils need to vote on it and we can help you with that
35 roll call. So there's no motion now of what you want to
36 do. So Western has standing on this proposal because
37 Aniak on up falls within your region.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: So if I understand this
40 proposal, correctly, all we're doing is decriminalizing
41 the criminals.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: They're doing it anyway,
46 it's already recognized by the State and so far they
47 haven't written any citations or anything and they
48 haven't gone to jail. All we're doing is just
49 recognizing the uses and efficiency of how they gather or
50 how they subsist, meet their subsistence needs. And if

00133

1 we vote for this proposal we'll be in line with AVCP and
2 if you remember right, ADF&G took no stand on this issue
3 except to defer it to Board of Fisheries. They recognize
4 that this gear is already being used and it is in
5 existence.

6

7 So even if we vote it up or down it still
8 goes back to the Board of Fisheries, right?

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, without a
11 motion on the floor, I'm assuming the motion will be to
12 address Proposal 13, which is a Federal proposal, so that
13 proposal will go to the Federal Board. In December they
14 will look at your recommendations, everyone else's
15 comments and they will decide if they can take actions on
16 -- if you have your map in front of you, take action on
17 all the pink-colored lands on the lower Kuskokwim. You
18 are correct, Mr. Sam, that a parallel proposal written by
19 AVCP, it will be before the Board of Fish in January, I
20 believe.

21

22 So you can take two motions, one to
23 address the Federal proposal and then from there we would
24 see the outcome to see if you need to take action on the
25 State proposal.

26

27 Mr. Chairman, I think you were correct in
28 summarizing that this would recognize -- this proposal,
29 if passed, would recognize the use that is currently
30 going on and that it will address greater efficiency.

31

32 I won't comment on the level of
33 enforcement, I have no knowledge of any of that.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So this is a State
38 proposal. Go ahead, Vince.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, let's make it
41 real easy here. Not to put words in the mouth of the
42 Council, I think it'd be easier for Staff and everyone
43 else, that we just focus on Proposal 13 which is a
44 Federal proposal and then from there we will give you
45 advice on what needs to be done on Proposal 136, advice
46 as far as what procedure to take, not actions, so my
47 words are not misinterpreted.

48

49 So it would be best to look at Proposal
50 13 which is Federal and say, do you want this increased

00134

1 gear depth to go into effect on the Yukon Delta Refuge on
2 the Kuskokwim River.

3

4 And then from there we will have better
5 idea of what to advise you on the parallel proposal on
6 Proposal 136.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, we understand, I
9 think Council also understand this proposal is for
10 Kuskokwim only and it's up for you to accept or reject.
11 Someone has to make a motion on this proposal.

12

13 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Mary, go ahead.

16

17 MS. GREGORY: I move to reject the
18 proposal.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the
21 floor to reject the proposal, who second it?

22

23 MR. MORGAN: I'll second it.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Morgan second it. So we
26 going to do it the way that we has been doing it before,
27 we're going to roll call on it.

28

29 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

30

31 I just told them that we will vote as if
32 we want to accept the motion which is to reject we'll say
33 yes. And if you want to accept the motion we'll say no.

34

35 MR. MCCANN: (In Yup'ik)

36

37 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

38

39 MR. MCCANN: Okay.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You understand, Mike.

42

43 MR. SAVAGE: Yeah.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead and do a roll
46 call.

47

48 MR. SAVAGE: Quyana.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, what parliamentary

00135

1 procedure, point of order, do we -- does Western Interior
2 vote on this and do we vote on a negative motion or where
3 do we stand?

4

5 Vince.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, it's always
8 easier to go with a positive motion, because you have
9 double negatives and it just causes us trouble. So an
10 easier way to go, if the mover of the motion and the
11 second would have an agreement to change the motion to
12 adopt the proposal then when you would vote on it, you
13 would vote, if you didn't like the proposal you would
14 vote against it and then those that would be for it would
15 vote for it.

16

17 Parliamentary, you're always supposed to
18 have positive motions on the floor.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mary.

21

22 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

23

24 I'm not going to change my motion. I
25 already explained to my group what a yes and a no vote
26 means. A no vote accepts the proposal. A yes vote
27 rejects the proposal.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Vince, do you understand
30 what Mary say?

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: I always understand Mary.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: And it is clear on the
37 record that everyone understands which way to vote. If
38 they do not understand then they need to acknowledge that
39 when it comes to their name. But I think everyone
40 understands now correctly.

41

42 MR. WALKER: A yes is no, a no is yes.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ron, you ready. Council
47 you ready.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Harry. Because I
50 think that no matter what we do here today or now will

00136

1 not matter because it will come before the Board of
2 Fisheries. This proposal, all it does is recognize the
3 current use of 35 mesh or more that's already in use.
4 Isn't that right, Don.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don, go ahead.

7

8 MR. RIVARD: Well, I'd like to clarify
9 something. This vote will matter on Federal lands, no
10 matter what the Board of Fisheries decides in the future.
11 If you're Councils were to decide to -- whatever you
12 decide to do and the Federal Board then goes along with
13 your Councils then that's what the regulations will be on
14 Federal lands no matter what happens at the State Board,
15 because this is a Federal regulation on Federal lands.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: So then, Don, if I vote no
18 I would be voting in favor of the proposal?

19

20 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

21

22 MR. RIVARD: No, the motion is to reject
23 the proposal so that's what you'd be voting on. A yes
24 vote rejects the proposal.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: So if I vote no, I.....

27

28 MR. RIVARD: Well, if you vote no you're
29 just.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM:am voting in favor of
32 the proposal?

33

34 MR. RIVARD: No, you're not.

35

36 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

37

38 MR. RIVARD: No.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: So we do we vote in the
41 first place.

42

43 MR. MCCANN: I'm not going to vote
44 anymore now, too confused.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

49

50 INTERPRETER: He's calling for the roll

00137

1 call. If anyone votes no or vote yes.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

4

5 INTERPRETER: We should just take the
6 vote. For discussion purposes we are clarifying the
7 vote, positive or negative vote, motion -- on the motion
8 and the motion is to reject Proposal 13.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Emmitt.

11

12 MR. PETERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, for the
13 record my name is Emmitt Peters. You got me all screwed
14 up here now.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MR. PETERS: You vote for yes for no and
19 yes -- I mean no for yes, I'm -- I'm all confused here.
20 So let's make it simple. Let's say yes for yes and no
21 for no. Otherwise what the hell are we here for. We
22 need to strengthen things out so let's do it right, do it
23 simple.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

28

29 MS. GREGORY: No.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Jack. Carl Jack.

32

33 MR. JACK: (In Yup'ik)

34

35 INTERPRETER: Just so everybody is clear
36 on the vote I am sitting here in front of you if you
37 reject this proposal you will vote yes. Then we will
38 continue fishing a six inch and 35 mesh net. So all of
39 you know that this 35 mesh net we do not use for getting
40 kings, we use the 45 mesh. So when you vote rejecting
41 Proposal 13 and to keep this fishing gear the same we
42 will continue on as status quo, and in the future when
43 police game wardens enforce this regulation those
44 fishermen among us using king gear, 45 meshes deep will
45 be cited.

46

47 MR. JACK: As a Native liaison I have a
48 clear responsibility to give advice to the Council and
49 also to the Federal Subsistence Board and for that reason
50 I came up here to try to clarify what you're going to be

00138

1 voting on. By rejecting the proposal what you will be
2 endorsing is the current regulation that's in the books
3 which is at 35 mesh.

4

5 That's what you will be voting on. Try
6 to clarify what you're going to be voting on.

7

8 Thank you. Quyana.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Mr. Jack.

11

12 (In Yup'ik)

13

14 MR. JACK: (In Yup'ik)

15

16 INTERPRETER: No, if you vote no you will
17 accept Proposal 13.

18

19 MR. JACK: By voting no you'll be
20 accepting the AVCP proposal. So I just want to try to
21 clarify that.

22

23 Quyana.

24

25 MR. CHARLES: (In Yup'ik)

26

27 INTERPRETER: Lengthening the net to 45
28 mesh, I agree to lengthening the net. When we are using
29 a longer net we catch more fish. Since I fish on the
30 Yukon and the people, he watched the fishing -- so he's
31 in favor of lengthening the mesh to 45, and he will vote
32 no -- yes -- no.

33

34 MR. CHARLES: Quyana.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Jack, seems to me
37 they still don't understand yes or no, may I ask you one
38 more time especially people Yukon-Kuskokwim.

39

40 MR. JACK: Yeah, the motion is to reject
41 the proposal.

42

43 (In Yup'ik)

44

45 I just clarified that the motion is to
46 reject the proposal. By voting affirmative you will be
47 rejecting AVCP's proposal. By voting no you will be
48 voting for AVCP proposal to increase the mesh size down
49 to 45.

50

00139

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, thank you. They
2 understand you now.

3
4 MR. JACK: Qu yana.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mike, do a roll call.

7
8 MR. SAVAGE: John Hanson.

9
10 MR. HANSON: Yes.

11
12 MR. SAVAGE: Mary Gregory.

13
14 MS. GREGORY: No.

15
16 MR. SAVAGE: Nick Andrew.

17
18 MR. ANDREW: No.

19
20 MR. SAVAGE: Raymond Oney.

21
22 MR. ONEY: Yes.

23
24 MR. SAVAGE: Robert Nick. Bill McCann.

25 Bill.

26
27 MR. MCCANN: (In Yup'ik)

28
29 MR. SAVAGE: You.

30
31 MR. MCCANN: Yes.

32
33 MR. SAVAGE: Yes?

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

36
37 INTERPRETER: Yes, he opposes it.

38
39 MR. SAVAGE: James Charles.

40
41 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

42
43 MR. SAVAGE: Mike Savage. Yes. Moses

44 Philips -- I mean Philip Moses.

45
46 MR. MOSES: Yes.

47
48 MR. SAVAGE: Lester Wilder, Sr.

49
50 MR. L. WILDE: The last name is Wilde,

00140

1 don't make me any wilder.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. SAVAGE: Oh, excuse me.

6

7 MR. L. WILDE: And my vote is yes.

8

9 MR. SAVAGE: John Thompson.

10

11 MR. THOMPSON: No.

12

13 MR. SAVAGE: And how do you say this
14 Thaddius Tikuin, absent. Harry Wilder -- Wilde, Sr.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

17

18 MR. SAVAGE: Eight yes and three no.

19

20 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, my vote was
21 yes, it just come out wrong.

22

23 MR. SAVAGE: Oh, yeah, I got it here.

24 Yes -- okay, I got three no, eight yes, and two absent.

25

26 MR. L. WILDE: We still need to get
27 Western Interior.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Western Interior, Vince
30 roll call.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I need
33 to correct the vote that was just announced, with the
34 change of Mary's vote it is actually nine to two.

35

36 MR. SAVAGE: Nine to two.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: So no did mean yes.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Let me get my list here,
43 sorry.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Roll call.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Emmitt Peters.

48

49 MR. PETERS: Yes.

50

00141

1 MR. MATHEWS: Micky Stickman.
2
3 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.
4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Robert Walker.
6
7 MR. WALKER: Yes.
8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Carl Morgan.
10
11 MR. MORGAN: Yes.
12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones.
14
15 MR. JONES: Yes.
16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Angela Demientieff.
18
19 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.
20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Was that a yes?
22
23 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: (Nods affirmatively)
24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. Jack Reakoff.
26
27 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.
28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Ron Sam.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.
32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Well, obviously we have a
34 unanimous vote of a yes which rejects the proposal, both
35 Councils have a majority rejecting the proposal.
36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Right now we
38 going to take a break, I'm tired of sitting down, until
39 1:30. 1:30. Come back at 1:30.
40
41 (Off record)
42
43 (On record)
44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, we have a key
46 here, I don't know who it belongs to. So check your
47 pocket and see if it belongs to you. That's a room key.
48
49 And next, I'm going to give these people
50 to have a chance to talk about moose right at this time,

00142

1 they want to travel back to their home. I think they
2 come over to talk about that so I give them a chance to
3 do that, an opportunity.

4

5 Randy Rogers.

6

7 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman.

8

9 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

12

13 MS. GREGORY: I'd like to move to suspend
14 the rules to change our agenda and hear the people who
15 are sitting down there.

16

17 MR. L. WILDE: I'll second that motion
18 for the record, Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, there's a motion
21 to give you that chance.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

24

25 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second. Discussion.

28

29 (No comment)

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All who favor say aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed, say no.

36

37 (No opposing votes)

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. You got
40 your authorization.

41

42 MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Chairman Sam and
43 Chairman Wilde.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Before we start, did you
46 want to add anything Vince Mathews?

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. Alex has got a
49 housekeeping thing here that he can explain, it's dealing
50 with some other lost material, I think. You want to

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1 explain that Alex. Sorry the interruption Randy, but
2 it's.....

3

4 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For
5 the record my name is Alex Nick, Regional Council
6 coordinator for YK Council. Carl Jack left a blue packet
7 at the reception booth with important information. He
8 couldn't find it. He has briefing paper drafted for
9 Mitch Demientieff to present at.....

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: AFN.

12

13 MR. NICK:AFN Board meeting and
14 other documents. He asks if anyone finds that packet to
15 return that packet to Carl Jack.

16

17 I'll say this in Yup'ik.

18

19 (In Yup'ik)

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MR. JACK: I got it back, thank you.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Boy, you're magic Alex.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, you could go
32 ahead.

33

34 MR. ROGERS: Okay, I appreciate the
35 opportunity to speak here, Mr. Chairman, and I apologize
36 for the schedule thing. I ended up on kid duty and got to
37 get back to Fairbanks before day care closes.

38

39 I wanted to give a quick update to both
40 Councils on our Central Kuskokwim Moose Planning Project.
41 It's a great opportunity to have both Councils here that
42 have an interest in this. You know, hopefully folks have
43 seen our Central Kuskokwim newsletter that went out this
44 summer to ask for public comment. We'll have another one
45 of those coming out real soon.

46

47 Just last Friday we completed a planning
48 committee meeting in Aniak and we'll be preparing to
49 release a public review draft plan in the next few weeks
50 here. And, again, we'll have another one of these

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1 newsletters to summarize that and ask for public comment.

2

3 Before I go into what the plan has, just
4 a few elements of how we've gotten here, the planning
5 process we've used. We started with the Regional Moose
6 Management Summit in Aniak just about a year ago right
7 now. And we covered all of GMUs 19(A), (B), 18, 21(E)
8 and 17(A) (B), and we had folks from both Councils at
9 that meeting.

10

11 Following the summit, I'm going to try to
12 cut this real short because I know you're pressed for
13 time and Toby Boudreau, the area biologist from McGrath
14 is here if we need any information on moose population
15 data but we're going to respond to questions because of
16 your time limits.

17

18 Anyhow, following the moose summit we
19 formed a planning committee with representatives of
20 diverse interests. We have lots of folks from the
21 Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee, representatives of
22 Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee, ONC, KNA, we have
23 guides, transporters and environmental representatives
24 and some advisory committees from some of the railbelt
25 areas.

26

27 We've had five meetings now to get to the
28 point of producing this public review draft plan. We
29 sent out this newsletter this last summer. We sent it to
30 every resident of Unit 19(A), every community there, to
31 every hunter who had signed up to -- or submitted a moose
32 harvest report for 19(A) (B) for the last couple years
33 and all the people that had been interested in the
34 planning process, so a couple thousand of those
35 newsletters.

36

37 We got 70 written responses back from
38 those and we got responses from every community in 19(A).
39 We got a number of responses from folks in the YK Delta,
40 Bethel and other communities, a number from McGrath, some
41 from Railbelt communities.

42

43 Overall we had strong support for the
44 planning effort and the mission to rebuild the moose
45 population in Unit 19(A) and (B). We had a lot of
46 comments strongly favoring implementing wolf predation
47 control and support for reductions in moose harvest
48 including closing the winter seasons where cow moose are
49 often taken. There was also support for reducing non-
50 resident hunting. People supported using registration

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1 permits, but were less supportive of using antler
2 restrictions like spike-fork 50-inch or four brow-tines.
3 Basically the more complex it got, I think the more
4 support kind of tapered off. But overall strong support
5 for the effort.

6

7 It really struck me, too, that comments
8 from different areas, including the local communities
9 from the YK Delta and the railbelt were very similar and
10 all supporting wolf predation control and reductions in
11 harvest.

12

13 Going into some of the main
14 recommendations of the plan and I'm just hitting some of
15 the highlights right now, what you will be seeing and
16 we'll make sure you guys all get copies of the
17 newsletter. First off, the committee, the majority of
18 the committee is recommending implementing wolf predation
19 control with the main priority for wolf control being the
20 areas along the Central Kuskokwim River and main
21 tributaries that are important for providing moose for
22 subsistence hunters. We didn't have complete consensus
23 on wolf control and there's going to be controversy on
24 this before the Board of Game yet. One representative
25 did not agree with that at this time. But we're
26 following what the majority of the group wants to do as
27 far as moving forward to the Board of Game. We will be
28 making sure that people are aware of both of the views on
29 this.

30

31 So I think it will be important for the
32 Board of Game and others to hear what Councils and
33 individuals have to say about this. We need to hear from
34 the rural people that are immediately affected.

35

36 We're going to have two moose management,
37 moose harvest management alternatives. Both alternatives
38 will reduce non-resident hunting and will close the
39 winter resident seasons.

40

41 Alternative A is kind of designed to
42 maintain diverse hunting opportunity and will be the
43 preferred alternative if wolf predation control is
44 approved.

45

46 Alternative B is a little bit more
47 conservative harvest management with greater reductions
48 in hunting opportunity. Alternative B involves
49 completely closing Unit 19(A) to non-resident hunting
50 which is essentially Tier I under the State management

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1 system. And this might be necessary to do if predation
2 control is not approved. That's the view of the
3 committee members.

4

5 Both alternatives are recommending a dual
6 system for managing resident hunting within Units 19(A)
7 and (B). The first option would be for any bull similar
8 to the way the regs have been but hunters who want to
9 take any bull will need to use registration permits now.
10 Those would be made available in the communities within
11 19(A) and up to five days before the season begins which
12 is similar to the system set up in McGrath right now that
13 Ray Collins is familiar with.

14

15 The other option would be to hunt under a
16 general harvest ticket but with antler restrictions to
17 spike-fork 50-inch or four brow-tines.

18

19 The idea behind this, the registration
20 permits for any bull are intended to be more geared
21 towards residents that hunt the Kuskokwim River area by
22 boat. An extra advantage of going to registration
23 permits out there would be to improve harvest reporting
24 and data on subsistence use in the area.

25

26 The spike-fork 50-inch option under the
27 general harvest ticket is intended for residents who fly
28 in from Anchorage area, don't want to have to stop into a
29 local community to pick up the permit and folks from that
30 area are more likely to be accustomed to dealing with
31 spike-fork 50 restrictions.

32

33 In addition to getting better harvest
34 data through the registration permits, the draft plan
35 also includes a recommendation to conduct household
36 subsistence use surveys for big game in Unit 19(A)
37 communities. Caroline Brown in our Division of
38 Subsistence is coordinating this process. The Division
39 is hoping to receive a grant for this through the Fish
40 and Wildlife Service 809 funding program.

41

42 We anticipate submitting some proposals
43 to the Federal Subsistence Board to achieve consistency
44 between State and Federal hunting regulations in Units
45 19(A) and (B). A couple of these proposals will likely
46 be, first, to eliminate the November, January and
47 February moose seasons under the Federal regulations.
48 Second would be to require the State registration permits
49 for any bull or use of a harvest ticket for bulls with
50 spike-fork 50-inch or four brow-tine antlers. Change the

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1 season in 19(B) from September 1 to 30 to September 1 to
2 20. Change the bag limit that's currently two moose for
3 residents of Lime Village to two bulls only and there is
4 a possibility, too, of reducing the overall Federal
5 harvest quota for the village. And I need to do a little
6 bit more consulting with folks in Lime Village to get a
7 workable number from them before we advance the proposal.
8 There may be a proposal to extend the brown bear season
9 in Unit 19(A) and allow harvest of one bear per year.
10 Roy Nowlin the management coordinator in our office is
11 working on a proposal to ease some of the regulations,
12 simplify regulations for brown bears throughout interior
13 and he'll be at the Western Interior and Eastern Interior
14 Councils later this week to explain that.

15

16 What we're going to end up having to do
17 because the plan will still be out for public review, we
18 need to get basic placeholder proposals in and when we're
19 through reviewing all the public comment that comes in
20 there may be a little bit of alteration of some of the
21 initial proposals that go in.

22

23 Now, the planning committee will meet in
24 February to make final recommendations to the Board of
25 Game after we've gone through as much public review as
26 possible with Advisory Committees. We're going to hope
27 to hold meetings in each of the villages out there in
28 19(A) and it's going to be a busy schedule.

29

30 You know, I guess the bottom line is that
31 we're hoping that this Council, both Councils will take a
32 close look at the plan and let us know what you think
33 about it, tell us what you like, what you dislike, what
34 will work best for hunters from your area and hopefully,
35 you know, the desired outcome would be support from both
36 Councils when we go before both the State Board of Game
37 and the Federal Subsistence Board.

38

39 So that's to keep my report short, what
40 we have. If there's any questions I'd be happy to
41 respond to them, or if you want more information on
42 biological issues, Toby would be happy to help out.

43

44 Thank you, very much.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ron.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
49 I would like to thank both Councils indulgence for
50 allowing Randy to speak and I do have one question. That

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1 is when does the State Board of Game meet in Fairbanks to
2 discuss our area, is it this year or next?

3

4 MR. ROGERS: It's this year. It will be
5 at the end of February and early March. It's going to be
6 a combined statewide and Interior meeting. So it will be
7 very important for Advisory Committees to get a chance to
8 get together and consider proposals for that meeting,
9 too. Proposal deadline will be in early December.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. My second question
12 is that do you have this in proposal form, what you're
13 bringing up right now?

14

15 MR. ROGERS: I haven't had a chance to
16 get the wording in proposal form because we just had this
17 planning committee and Central Kuskokwim Advisory
18 Committee meeting Thursday, Friday and Saturday in Aniak
19 so I barely had time to get home, and we didn't know
20 until that meeting, exactly, what shape the proposals
21 need to be. So what I plan to do is after the meeting
22 today go back, get proposals put together and get them
23 into this Federal system before the deadline later this
24 month. Then those would be in your packet to consider
25 later this year.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. I sure appreciate
28 it. And I know I appreciate your efforts in Unit 24, 21
29 and all that area so you have kept us on the mailing
30 list, please continue to do so, anything within our area.

31

32 MR. ROGERS: Thank you. And let me just
33 mention, I know, an item of interest to many members on
34 the Council. We are pretty much planning to conduct a
35 Koyukuk Moose Management meeting probably towards the end
36 of January to review some of the issues there, see how
37 that plan is working and we're also hoping to get
38 involved in a more complete effort to deal with moose
39 issues in Unit 21(E) in the GASH area and probably
40 starting up this spring once we get this plan to the
41 Board of Game.

42

43 So we're working to follow through on
44 issues that I know are of interest to the Council here.
45 And we would want to involve folks from the YK Delta in
46 that planning effort also.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

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1 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Randy, when are we getting -- or Toby, I don't know which
3 one of you can answer this, but when are we going to have
4 another moose count in 21(E), is that going to be this
5 year, next year or is it even planned at this stage here?
6

7 MR. BOUDREAU: For the record, my name is
8 Toby Boudreau and I'm the area biologist in McGrath.
9 Member Walker, we have plans for trend area counts in the
10 Holy Cross area but as far as a second density estimate
11 there are no immediate plans for this fiscal year. But I
12 feel pretty confident if we can continue to collect the
13 trend area count, that that will be real helpful. So far
14 our calf twinning counts that we have been getting done
15 in the Holy Cross area do indicate good numbers of twins
16 so.
17

18 I can't tell you exactly when the next
19 density estimate will be but I imagine in the next couple
20 of years we'll probably get another one done out there.
21

22 MR. WALKER: My second question is, you
23 know, we just went through an issue here with the Lower
24 Yukon, Lower Kuskokwim RAC here and one of our concerns
25 was the count of moose that we didn't have and I believe
26 it's five years since the last one we had. And we would
27 like, if possible, for you to speed up the process so we
28 can really have definite numbers down on paper so we'll
29 know what we're going to be dealing with rather than just
30 throw it up in the air, come down, okay, this is the
31 answer we're going to take; we don't want to have to do
32 that.
33

34 You know, we want to have specific
35 numbers to let us know so if we have to deal with the
36 issue we'll know what to deal with.
37

38 Thank you.
39

40 MR. ROGERS: Well, we are, I'll just
41 comment, stretching our budgets as much as possible to
42 get work done throughout Unit 19. And I know that Toby
43 won't neglect 21(E) either, and I'm sure he'll take your
44 suggestions under advisement and we'll do the best that
45 we can there.
46

47 While I have the mike I'd also like to
48 say thanks to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of
49 Subsistence Management. They've helped provide some
50 funding to support these planning projects, the Unit

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1 19(A) one now and with any luck maybe the 21(E) project.
2 And with the cost of travel to these areas, it's really
3 helpful. It enables us to put out nice looking quality
4 publications like this and, you know, it's part of a team
5 effort that we're making to address the issues out there
6 to coordinate between the State and Federal process.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions from
11 Council.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Jack.

16

17 MR. REAKOFF: For Toby, is that -- how is
18 your adult bull population in 19(A), do you have adequate
19 adult bull numbers for breeding or do you have very low
20 numbers or why are you wanting to go to a spike-fork 50
21 four brow-tine?

22

23 MR. BOUDREAU: Member Reakoff, I guess
24 the reality is is we don't have a lot of good trend area
25 information for 19(A) and (B) right now. We just radio-
26 collared a bunch of animals to try to increase our
27 knowledge of moose in 19(A) and (B).

28

29 But to address your specific question
30 about why we want to go to a spike-fork 50 for the
31 general harvest ticket and then a registration permit, it
32 was just a way to reduce non-local taking of, you know,
33 of all moose. And just a way to reduce harvest but not
34 by leaps and bounds. And if people were so inclined to
35 go into the villages in 19(A) they could get an any bull
36 permit if they wanted to go before the season. So it's
37 just a way to reduce harvest a little bit.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Jack.

40

41 MR. REAKOFF: I'm personally opposed to
42 four brow-tine. The more I look at that issue, four
43 brow-tine is killing some of the better genetic stock of
44 moose that we have. I've looked at hundreds of moose and
45 I've never seen a runt four brow-tine or brow-pull moose.
46 I'm of the opinion that targeting four brow-tine moose as
47 a management tool is an incorrect management regime. I
48 would rather see a three brow-tine regulation to retain
49 large bulls and breeding component. But I plan on making
50 a proposal for Unit 24 to eliminate the four brow-tine

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1 for non-resident hunters. I feel that four brow-tine is
2 culling a very important stronger gene type out of our
3 population and I would like the Councils to understand
4 that it's my opinion that that's eliminating a certain
5 phenol-type out of the population, that's the best
6 genetics. And if you keep doing that on a yearly basis
7 for many years, pretty soon you're not going to have the
8 larger and stronger moose to get through deep snow.

9

10 So I'm opposed to a four brow-tine, I
11 would rather see a three brow-tine which has more of an
12 across the board harvest technique. And so that's my
13 opinion about that four brow-tine thing.

14

15 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

18

19 MS. GREGORY: Can you explain what you
20 just told us, the difference between the two harvest
21 methods?

22

23 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, they're
24 talking about going to spike-fork, there would be one
25 spike or two spikes like this or the moose would have to
26 be big and have four brow-tines. Well, if you protect
27 all the smaller moose and you kill only the biggest ones
28 pretty soon you're not going to have big moose you're
29 going to be breeding smaller ones and when deep snow
30 comes -- I come from the country where the snow gets
31 deep, those biggest ones make it through the deep snow,
32 the small ones they die, they winter-kill. I seen seven
33 and a half feet of snow fall kill 50 percent of the
34 moose, half the moose died. Only the biggest ones made
35 it.

36

37 So this four brow-tine thing is a
38 management thing that's exploding in the State management
39 but I feel that it's incorrect management as it gets more
40 and more common to use four brow-tines, I feel that we're
41 endangering our gene stocks in Alaska.

42

43 MS. GREGORY: Thank you. I agree with
44 you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

47

48 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One
49 more question here since I'm on the subsistence Board
50 here I speak for the area that I represent here, Anvik,

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1 Grayling, Shageluk, Holy Cross.

2

3 You mentioned there, Toby, that we have
4 abundance of moose in 21(E), well, apparently as many
5 people as I could talk to in the four villages there, 40
6 percent of the people didn't get their moose even though
7 they hunted 20 days. So that's why what are you telling
8 me, what am I supposed to believe?

9

10 I don't think we have the abundance of
11 moose that we did have five years ago as the last count
12 was 40 or 5,800 moose. I think we're probably down to
13 less than a third of that now. That's what I'm getting,
14 this message from this area from where I'm living here,
15 Toby.

16

17 MR. BOUDREAU: Well, if I could just make
18 a quick comment. I guess the last time we did a density
19 estimate was February of 2000 and since then we've been
20 unable to get trend area data done in the fall because of
21 poor fall survey conditions and we've been earnestly
22 trying to gather that data. And, you know, most areas --
23 most populations in the state are actually not managed on
24 density but managed on trend so you look at the bull/cow
25 and the calf/cow ratios in the fall and that's how we
26 kind of monitor populations.

27

28 Now, there's no doubt that the moose
29 population, you know, could be declining some. I think
30 that the recent efforts by the Advisory Committee, the
31 state advisory committee to close the 21(E) winter hunt
32 is no doubt going to, you know, change the trajectory of
33 that population and I don't know if it will necessarily
34 -- I don't know what the trajectory actually is because
35 we've only done one density estimate ever. I would hope
36 that, you know, we'd find the funds sometime in the near
37 future but you have to understand that that \$35,000 that
38 it costs to do that density estimate is twice my normal
39 area budget for the entire area for moose. So it all
40 comes down, basically to money.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Morgan.

43

44 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, thank you. Toby,
45 following the lines of what Jack said, I know he said
46 something about the big four tine moose. What's the
47 ratio between the bull/cow ratio?

48

49 MR. BOUDREAU: Where exactly, Member
50 Morgan?

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1 MR. MORGAN: I'm sorry. 19(A) or (B).

2

3 MR. BOUDREAU: Well, actually that's one
4 of the problems we've been having in 19(A) and (B). The
5 only recent bull/cow ratios from the fall that we have is
6 eight calves per 100 cows and six bulls per 100 cows and
7 that was in a small area in the Holitna. Now, that could
8 be just an anomaly because of some fairly shallow snow
9 conditions when we did the survey or it could be the
10 reality. The problem was is that we did that count in
11 2001, the conditions -- we couldn't get one done in 2002
12 and we're hoping that we can get something in 2003. And
13 that also ties into the fact that we just collared 38
14 moose in the Holitna and in 19(B) from Whitefish Lake all
15 the way to upper Kogruklu Creek and also we put 10
16 collars in the Aniak drainage to try to examine -- or to
17 try to help us get better trend area data, get some
18 distribution and movement area, get better calving data
19 and also get some adult mortality data from that area
20 because these really poor weather conditions have made
21 gathering data on moose in that region of the Kuskokwim
22 very difficult.

23

24 So I can't really give you an answer of
25 what the bull/cow ratio is in the Aniak but I know we're
26 trying to get that.

27

28 MR. MORGAN: That was just a spot check.
29 What's the ideal bull/cow ratio for bull/cow ratio for
30 the ideal situation to have as many calves return?

31

32 MR. BOUDREAU: Member Morgan, I guess the
33 bottom line is a moose population can probably have 98
34 percent pregnancy rates from probably 10 bulls per 100
35 cows, however, the number of bulls available for hunting
36 in that ratio would be very small. I would guess that
37 probably a good healthy population might be anywhere
38 between 25 and 30 bulls per 100 cows.

39

40 MR. MORGAN: Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Benedict.

43

44 MR. JONES: Yeah, Toby, I just want to
45 ask a question about your bear removal last spring and
46 what's the survival rate of the calf moose after the bear
47 removal?

48

49 MR. BOUDREAU: Yes, sir, Member Jones.
50 To date our calf survival was -- I'm sorry, a better way

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1 to put it would be the number of calves or the percentage
2 of calves that were killed by black bears was basically
3 declined by 50 percent. So in the two years previous
4 that we were doing calf mortality studies up to fall we
5 had about 40 percent of the calves being killed by black
6 bears and this year it's right around 20 percent were
7 killed by black bears. And we only had about 25 percent
8 of the bears that we moved, black bears, return, to the
9 area so far.

10

11 MR. JONES: Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you. I was
14 going to give you that much but it's getting dead now.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MR. ROGERS: Thank you very much.

19

20 MR. BOUDREAU: Thank you.

21

22 MR. MOSES: Mr. Chairman.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

25

26 INTERPRETER: He would like to ask a
27 question.

28

29 MR. L. WILDE: There's a question here.

30

31 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

32

33 INTERPRETER: In his area there's a bear
34 with a cub and those women who gather quit gathering
35 because they're scared of the bears because they're not
36 usually living in that area. What can they do to the
37 brown bear areas in our area even if it's not closed, can
38 they be killed -- is it good if they have them killed.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

41

42 INTERPRETER: Harry has explained that
43 the people right here are explaining about the moose that
44 the black bears kill. If you want to know we can ask
45 Fish and Wildlife.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, thank you.

48

49 MR. MCCANN: Mr. Chairman.

50

00155

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bill McCann.

2

3 MR. MCCANN: (In Yup'ik)

4

5 INTERPRETER: What we voted earlier, I
6 would like to make a motion to speak more about the
7 proposal that we made earlier to fix it because I think
8 it was made by a mistake and he makes a motion to fix it.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

11

12 INTERPRETER: Before the people leave,
13 Proposal 13, he wants to know if Proposal 13 should be
14 put back on the table.

15

16 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

17

18 INTERPRETER: A while ago we voted that
19 we didn't want to put it back on but those who want to
20 discuss more about it can put it on the table.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

23

24 INTERPRETER: Awhile ago we were speaking
25 about these thing, about that, the Councils -- it's still
26 in the Council's hands and it hasn't been removed, if we
27 need to the motion we are able to do that.

28

29 MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John Thompson.

32

33 MR. THOMPSON: I am -- he seconded it to
34 discuss the motion purpose.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, the translation
37 from this side, Proposal 13, they want to put it on the
38 table again. So they moved and a second. I think I will
39 request for roll call.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you want him to explain
42 the motion?

43

44 MR. SAVAGE: Mr. Chairman, can you
45 explain the motion please, in English.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion is to
48 reconsider or -- motion Proposal 13 and put it out on top
49 the table and talk about it more so we do it by the
50 motion, a roll call.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: So for Western Interior's
2 understanding, there is a motion which we all voted on --
3 there is a motion to reconsider what we voted on earlier
4 and we went with the YK District, the home district when
5 we voted yes, so if we vote yes on this motion on roll
6 call, we'll bring it back for reconsideration on Proposal
7 13. Is that clear?

8

9 (Council nods affirmatively)

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Harry.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mike.

14

15 MR. SAVAGE: Harry.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

18

19 MR. SAVAGE: John Hanson.

20

21 MR. HANSON: Yes.

22

23 MR. SAVAGE: Mary Gregory.

24

25 MS. GREGORY: No.

26

27 MR. SAVAGE: Nick Andrew, Sr.

28

29 MR. ANDREW: No.

30

31 MR. SAVAGE: Raymond Oney.

32

33 MR. ONEY: No.

34

35 MR. SAVAGE: Robert Nick. Gone. Bill

36 McMann.

37

38 MR. MCCANN: Yes. Young Man?

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MR. SAVAGE: McCann, I mean, excuse me.

43 James Charles.

44

45 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

46

47 MR. SAVAGE: Mike Savage. I'll vote yes.

48 Philip Moses.

49

50 MR. MOSES: Yes.

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1 MR. SAVAGE: Lester Wilde.
2
3 MR. L. WILDE: No.
4
5 MR. SAVAGE: John Thompson.
6
7 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.
8
9 MR. SAVAGE: Theodore is gone. Two gone.
10 I got six yes and four no.
11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: How many no?
13
14 MR. SAVAGE: Four.
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Four.
17
18 MR. SAVAGE: I got six yes and four no.
19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Western Interior.
21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Vince.
23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Well, just to make it clear
25 on the record, the counts we got were on the YK Regional
26 Council in an affirmative and four rejecting and now we
27 can do a roll call on Western Interior.
28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Jack.
30
31 MR. REAKOFF: So now we're voting
32 affirmative is for the proposal?
33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: No for reconsideration.
35
36 MS. GREGORY: We're going to talk about
37 it.
38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Right now the motion on
40 the floor is to reconsider it.
41
42 MR. REAKOFF: Oh, do we want to.....
43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.
45
46 MR. REAKOFF: Oh.
47
48 (Laughter)
49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Vince, go ahead

00158

1 and do a roll call.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Is everyone clear on the
4 motion.

5

6 (Council nods affirmatively)

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. All heads
9 nodded that they understood.

10

11 MR. PETERS: Yes.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Micky Stickman.

14

15 MR. STICKMAN: No.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Was that a no?

18

19 MR. STICKMAN: (Nods affirmatively)

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Let the record reflect no.
22 Robert Walker.

23

24 MR. WALKER: I'm still lost in this whole
25 process here. This is to bring it back.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: To bring it back.

28

29 MR. WALKER: To bring it back. Yes.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Mr. Walker was
32 explaining he needed clarification and he understands
33 that this is just to bring the proposal back. His vote
34 was yes.

35

36 Okay. Carl Morgan.

37

38 MR. MORGAN: No.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones.

41

42 MR. JONES: No.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Angela Demientieff.

45

46 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: No.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff.

49

50 MR. REAKOFF: No.

00159

1 MR. MATHEWS: Ron Sam.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the motion
6 for reconsideration by Western Interior fails, five to
7 three or three to five -- three were in support of it,
8 five were against.

9

10 What does that mean so we don't spend a
11 lot of time explaining this. What that means is that the
12 actions of Western Interior will remain as they were this
13 morning. What Yukon-Kuskokwim now can discuss -- can
14 look at another motion to bring Proposal 13 before --
15 another motion to address Proposal 13 in the positive.
16 So Western can still participate if the Chair agrees but
17 your recommendation stands.

18

19 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

22

23 MR. L. WILDE: Mathematically, that's
24 total of the two -- I didn't count them but could you
25 tell me total counts of both.....

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: But we didn't really want
28 to go that way with the majority of the two Councils
29 because they're two separate Councils. So we can give
30 you that figure but it wouldn't have a bearing on the
31 question before you because Western Interior does not
32 want to reconsider the proposal.

33

34 MR. L. WILDE: That somehow doesn't seem
35 fair to me but I guess I'll go along with the majority.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So Yukon-Kuskokwim
38 Council, we will reconsider this recommendation?

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chair, I was
41 affirmative with another message I was getting. I
42 apologize for not paying attention, what was the question
43 that was directed to me, Mr. Chair?

44

45 (Pause)

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Let me just explain
48 what I understand what's happening here is that Yukon-
49 Kuskokwim has now brought the proposal back to the table
50 and they're going to discuss it and I believe Western

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1 Interior will be sitting here listening in on that, so
2 the issue of Proposal 13 is before you.

3

4 It would make it easier now if someone
5 would make a motion to address Proposal 13. And one
6 recommendation, which I did talk to the Chairs is one
7 motion would be to move to adopt the Staff recommendation
8 contained in the meeting booklet and that be seconded and
9 then you can start deliberating on that. That way it's
10 clear to the audience and to the record what you're
11 talking about.

12

13 That's just a suggestion.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Sam.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: And so with Western
18 Interior's vote, the way it was on roll call vote we are
19 completely out of it now, we won't even talk, right?

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think you're advice
22 on that would be appreciated by Western Interior, you
23 could be sharing that but as far as developing another
24 recommendation no, it's off the table.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: I mean it stands, it's not
29 before you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John Hanson.

32

33 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
34 Chairman. Yeah, I move to have Proposal 13 on the table
35 for discussion.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think we did that
38 already.

39

40 MR. HANSON: Okay, if it's done already
41 then I'll just pull my motion off. For discussion
42 purposes I want to discuss a little more on this Proposal
43 13.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead, John.

46

47 MR. HANSON: Proposal 13 as it is written
48 it has repeated 35 mesh depth restriction on nets with
49 six inch or larger and then they have the existing
50 regulation that says the maximum depth of gillnet is as

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1 follows, and then it goes six inch or smaller or is 45
2 mesh, six inch mesh and not greater than six inch mesh is
3 35 mesh, so the new regulation would read now like the
4 maximum depth of gillnet is 45 mesh deep, this is for six
5 inch and smaller for six inch -- greater than six inch it
6 will be 35 meshes deep. And the way we voted earlier was
7 we voted for -- the proposal from AVCP was to protect the
8 elders from getting citations from the troopers. If they
9 enforce it, the elders that use 45 mesh, they'd be cited
10 because the regulation as it is it's 35 mesh.

11

12 And I talked with the rest of the -- a
13 few of these other members here and they want to get it
14 back so it's up to them to talk about it now.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, let me call
17 proposal maker AVCP up in the front here, Tim.

18

19 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 And thank you for reconsidering this proposal.

21

22 One of the things that I failed to get
23 information on and failed to get information to you all
24 earlier was the convention resolution that addresses this
25 issue. This issue was taken up in our March convention
26 in Bethel where a quorum was present of the 56 villages
27 within the AVCP region. The convention addressed
28 Resolution No. 03-03, if I can get the help of Staff to
29 maybe distribute to the RAC members and you will see that
30 this resolution addresses this issue, supports this issue
31 and we took wording from this resolution and put into the
32 proposal language to be considered at this meeting. And
33 the resolution itself is self-explanatory. It basically
34 explains, you know, what the issues are behind the 35
35 mesh restriction and how it restricts our subsistence way
36 of life and possible issues that arise out of restricting
37 it to that level.

38

39 And I'd be happy to answer any questions,
40 Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yukon Delta Councils,
43 you got question for AVCP at this time.

44

45 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

48

49 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
50 have been in support of this proposal like I mentioned

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1 the other day at CFC meeting because where I come from we
2 have a few miles wide of river and there's more than one
3 channel and in deep water we need deeper net to catch
4 fish.

5

6 But what made me change my mind and vote
7 this morning was looking at the reports we saw the other
8 day from Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group, ADF&G
9 and Fish and Wildlife Service on conservation measures
10 that was reported, because Kuskokwim Salmon Management
11 Working Group is mainly concerned about the conservation
12 on the river and rebuilding -- salmon rebuilding now and
13 that's what made me change my mind and vote the other way
14 and then I was planning to.

15

16 Because my people at home may have deeper
17 net than me but they will be cited if they find out that
18 they're using deep nets. So that's my comment. I don't
19 have a question now, Mr. Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Other Council. Billy
22 McCann.

23

24 MR. MCCANN: (In Yup'ik)

25

26 INTERPRETER: What they voted, when they
27 voted awhile ago as I understand -- he is starting to
28 like what was voted on. At first I didn't really
29 understand it because I didn't like it and then when they
30 started talking about it I got confused. And I thought
31 it was good. And after I voted, that what AVCP wanted I
32 didn't understand and started going against it and I
33 realize that I am hurting myself and my people. But
34 regulations, if we follow the regulations and follow it,
35 those who watch us then I would hurt myself and my
36 people. If I don't follow the rules, a rule that was
37 already made, a regulation and if they use their nets
38 then I will have to pay a fine.

39

40 These regulations that are done that are
41 made, we know -- some of our relatives break the rules
42 when they fish and then they were reported and were cited
43 to pay a fine. That is why I want it to be reconsidered
44 so we will not hurt our people because I don't want our
45 people to be hurt.

46

47 When we gather together we don't confer
48 nothing -- but we want what's best for our people.
49 That's why we come here. That's what my concern is,
50 that's how I am. I want what is right and I think about

00163

1 that and I don't want -- sometimes we make mistakes and I
2 don't want to hurt our people, and without understanding
3 it correctly I voted differently. So I would like to
4 reconsider this proposal -- to reconsider so we can fix
5 it even though it's not changed we can fix it to make it
6 better for our people.

7

8 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

11

12 MS. GREGORY: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

13

14 INTERPRETER: If this was only for king
15 salmon, for chinook salmon. This past summer when they
16 fished they used 35 mesh, if it becomes illegal will they
17 buy another net or will they make changes, will they
18 change their net. Even though I don't take this into
19 reconsideration right now we can do more research, it's
20 not -- we have one more meeting and it's not close to
21 summer yet. So if we can speak about it at another
22 meeting.

23

24 My mind will not be moved about this.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Nick Andrew.

27

28 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

29

30 INTERPRETER: Thank you. What Billy
31 McCann said, I am supporting it. But what Mary Gregory
32 is saying, what I think she is saying, people will not be
33 able to use 35 mesh. If somebody wants to use 35 or can
34 -- will they be able to use a 45 mesh but it can't exceed
35 45 mesh but if it's.....

36

37 MR. ANDREW: 35, 10 mesh or five mesh or
38 one mesh.....

39

40 INTERPRETER:but they'll be able to
41 use the 35 mesh. I am in support of 45 and I want that
42 to be using the 45, it would be better for our people.

43

44 And if they're going to fine us, they
45 don't wait or -- and they always tell us where the court
46 is. They made me go to court when I was fishing and they
47 didn't say I'll pay your fare, come to the court.....

48

49 MR. ANDREW: I had to pay it myself.

50

00164

1 Quyana.

2

3 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

6

7 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

8

9 INTERPRETER: I don't really like it --
10 some people don't really like me but this is the way I
11 feel, we, in the Councils are sitting for our people and
12 even if ANILCA talks and use our tradition, our trying to
13 make a rule about fishing, about our subsistence fishing,
14 that is not good.

15

16 MS. GREGORY: We're supposed to speak for
17 our people back home.

18

19 (In Yup'ik)

20

21 INTERPRETER: We didn't make this. But
22 for those who are working for Kuskokwim Working Group,
23 they are opposing it, they don't want to use it.

24

25 She will argue with that as much as she
26 can. And when she goes home she can speak about it, I
27 voted at KYUK, Bethel. If they don't like it they won't
28 like it. If they like it they will support it. I am not
29 thinking about myself. Even if she's fined.....

30

31 MS. GREGORY: If they fine me, yes, fine
32 me because I'm Yup'ik, and I'm doing my own thing, my own
33 culture. Too many regulations make me a less human
34 being, a less Yup'ik. And my elders are like that, every
35 time they turn around, somebody's putting regulations on
36 them, that's no way to live.

37

38 I'm very, very against this. And I know
39 it's not the regulation it's because we, as a group are
40 being used as a puppet now.

41

42 We do whatever you guys tell us to do,
43 I'm not going to do that. I'm not going to let other
44 people tell me how to live my own life, how to fish, what
45 kind of gear to use.

46

47 I'm standing for my own culture, my own
48 human being, my own existence.

49

50 MR. MCCANN: Mr. Chairman.

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tim.

2

3 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In
4 response to Mary, or Mrs. Gregory, is that we are not
5 trying to further regulate how people are to take salmon
6 on the Kuskokwim River, in fact, what AVCP is working
7 towards, what the convention is working towards with its
8 membership of 56 villages during the March convention was
9 to make it easier so that people in the region, the
10 people that fish with 45 mesh deep or 40 mesh deep, or
11 the gear that they have used, that they only possess,
12 prior to the adoption of this 35 mesh restriction here,
13 this is gear that they had before, to be able to use that
14 mesh, to use whatever mesh they can possibly use up to 45
15 meshes deep to take salmon that they need to feed their
16 families.

17

18 As some of the regulators had said
19 earlier that this proposal would not have any effect on
20 any of the migrating salmon and because people would stop
21 when they take salmon to the amount that they need. And
22 you all, everyone of you understands that, that you will
23 only take what you need to feed you and your families,
24 you will not take above and beyond that amount, you know,
25 to wasteful situations. You will stop when you have
26 reached the limit that you and your family can process.

27

28 And, Mr. Chairman, and members of the
29 Committee, we are not trying to further impose any more
30 restriction on the fishery than necessary, what we're
31 trying to do is loosen it up to where you don't -- where
32 you're not restricted to 35 mesh deep where you can go 45
33 if you wanted to, if that's the only gear that you have.

34

35 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bill McCann.

38

39 MR. MCCANN: The lady, Mary, I am not
40 going against her. I'm not going against her. But to do
41 it a job well done and to speak about this -- those who
42 make the regulations is going to work on it and will be
43 fining us if we do it that way. That was what I was
44 thinking about and I tried to remove it so like he said,
45 we've been to court -- he said if he wanted to go to
46 court he'd have to pay his own way to Fairbanks and he'd
47 have to pay for his own meals and he doesn't want to go
48 against -- but he's trying to make things easier and
49 better, that's why I am taking this up.

50

00166

1 Without changing this, but to make it
2 easier and better, I know we can do that.

3
4 When these are ordered we can't take them
5 out. We can't put on the table, but the person who made
6 the proposal, it can be fixed by the person who made the
7 proposal, that's why we take it and put it back on the
8 table. Some of the wordings can be changed it would
9 probably be better and not have different feelings about
10 it.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

13
14 INTERPRETER: This proposal, it wasn't a
15 State proposal, but it was from the State for subsistence
16 that's where it's set -- since he's the Chair person, I
17 don't tell you what to do. But I want you to hear about
18 it, he's just trying to follow the procedures. I can't
19 say to you to do this or that or don't do this or that,
20 it's up to you.

21
22 You are sitting there so you can work and
23 help others.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Johnny Thompson.

26
27 MR. THOMPSON: Quyana, Chairman. (In
28 Yup'ik)

29
30 INTERPRETER: Because of this we are
31 recalling this. Even if we want or even if we don't want
32 to, if we fix this in front of the Board, if we put this
33 -- expose this to the Board and they'll be able to
34 enforce it. That is what we are afraid of though.

35
36 Up river -- up north, that's how it is
37 for us. It's different in the Kuskokwim. It's the State
38 and the Federal -- if they -- if the State and the
39 Federal work together and have the same consensus it
40 would work, it would be good, but sometimes there are
41 disagreements, one wants to go this way and the other has
42 a different feeling.

43
44 That is how it will be if we drop this.

45
46 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ray.

49
50 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ray

00167

1 Oney. Yeah, this morning when I voted I took into
2 consideration, even from my own experience, what I've
3 seen.

4

5 This past summer we had unusual low
6 water, very low, my friend from the Interior will attest
7 to that, and we -- I was fishing 35 mesh deep net and
8 that's the only net that I use for my subsistence fishing
9 and I was getting large salmon, big salmon. And what
10 came to mind was that these big salmon were the spawners
11 that were going up to Canada to spawn. And if we allow
12 the deep mesh net to use for subsistence, then we're
13 allowing ourselves to kill off what is going up to spawn.

14

15 I don't know if AVCP has a position with
16 the Kuskokwim Working Group, I haven't heard that. Maybe
17 earlier you mentioned that the lady, your co-deputy
18 director was involved with the discussions while the
19 working group were in session. And you know, I'd like to
20 see that, to see AVCP work with the Kuskokwim Working
21 Group to, you know, have a position with them to bring up
22 these issues that come before us.

23

24 Like I said from my own experience, you
25 know, we had very low water this past summer and like I
26 said I was using small mesh net, 35 mesh net and we were
27 getting big fish and that's what I'm afraid of, that
28 we're going to catch those spawners, those big fish that
29 are destined to go and spawn.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tim.

34

35 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
36 appreciate the comments of Mr. Oney. We do work -- we do
37 have a representative at the Kuskokwim River Salmon
38 Management Working Group, and the members of the
39 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group aren't
40 necessarily members of the traditional councils or the
41 village councils in which -- the villages where they're
42 from, they're not necessarily RAC members, they're not
43 necessarily Fish and Game Advisory Committee members.
44 They are members that have been selected in the
45 communities and the delegates that have been sent to the
46 convention to consider these resolutions may be different
47 people as well. So, you know, just by human dynamics
48 those forces might be separate.

49

50 And you're very well aware and I'm very

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1 well aware that those possibilities exist in the
2 villages. And, Mr. Chairman, the only thing that I can
3 possibly do at this point is express what the convention
4 has directed me to express to you and also to the Federal
5 Subsistence Board that this is the position of the 56
6 villages.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9

10 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

13

14 MS. GREGORY: With due respect to Mr.
15 Andrew, we do have RAC members on the Kuskokwim Working
16 Group.

17

18 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

21

22 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
23 pose a question to the Refuge manager and the cop of the
24 Kuskokwim, Mike Rearden is here.

25

26 MR. JACK: Mr. Rearden took Mr. Cannon to
27 Palmer, he should be back shortly.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Carl Jack, I didn't
30 understand what you're saying, will you come forward here
31 in the front and talk.

32

33 MR. JACK: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, my
34 understanding is that Mr. Rearden took Dave Cannon to
35 Palmer but should be back shortly. That's my
36 understanding.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex Nick.

41

42 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, because we have
43 interpreters, I'm going to say this in Yup'ik because I
44 want to clarify something for the Regional Advisory
45 Councils.

46

47 (In Yup'ik)

48

49 INTERPRETER: This Regional Advisory
50 Council sponsor these regulations at some point, they're

00169

1 the regulations that you have supported in 1998, since
2 that -- and in 1999 the subsistence fishery was taken
3 over by Federal management from the State. It's in this
4 fishery regulation right now on Page 24. It's the
5 regulation that you brought forth to the Federal Board
6 that on the Kuskokwim and Yukon, subsistence fishing --
7 Federal subsistence fishing regulation that the Regional
8 Councils approved and adopted, and AVCP is trying to
9 loosen the restriction when they passed a resolution at
10 their March convention. And we can't tell you what, as a
11 Regional Council how to act, however, all the discussions
12 that we've been listening today towards Proposal 13, the
13 Federal Board will follow the Regional Council's
14 recommendations.

15

16 The Federal subsistence regulations
17 affect us on Federal land and water.

18

19 MR. NICK: Quyana.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think Councils you
22 understand now what it is now. So my understanding in
23 order to repeal this proposal someone have to make a
24 motion to repeal it and somebody have to second it and we
25 have to vote on it.

26

27 (In Yup'ik)

28

29 INTERPRETER: What are we going to do
30 with Proposal 13. Someone before -- the Chair is
31 entertaining a motion towards Proposal 13.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead Vince.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I would suggest that
36 Billy McCann, Ray Oney and Harry Wilde, we get together
37 and we'll draft up a motion for you and bring it back to
38 you within 15 minutes or so. That might make it easier
39 for you. We'll just draft a motion up if no one's
40 comfortable, we can help you draft one up and that way it
41 will be clear to everybody what you're voting on.

42

43 It can be any members of the Council but
44 I'm just trying to get a small group so we can draft up
45 some language for you for a motion so we can be clear
46 what everybody's looking at.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You want to have a

00170

1 break?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, let's put it that
4 way, I want to have a break.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We'll take 15
9 minutes break.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 (Off record)

14

15 (On record)

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Look like we're going to
18 have evening meeting tonight. We still have one page
19 more left, we supposed to be through with everything
20 today because we got another meeting tomorrow for -- with
21 -- right now this is announcement we have goes to Yukon-
22 Kuskokwim Councils. We are going to cancel this right
23 now in this meeting. We do -- we'll take it back again
24 at our meeting in a couple days, something like that.
25 You sleep over it and so we will talk about it more.

26

27 But at this time we'll go down to number
28 3, Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposal, AYK Region, it's
29 on Page 3. Pete, are you there -- over there -- go
30 ahead.

31

32 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chairman, this is Don
33 Rivard. Just for the record, my understanding is that
34 the YK Council is tabling more discussion on Proposal 13
35 and that you will take it up in your meeting on Thursday;
36 is that correct?

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's correct.

39

40 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
43 the record my name is Pete Probasco. I'm with the Office
44 of Subsistence Management. For all you Council members,
45 I'd like you to have out in front of you the document
46 that we handed out this morning that summarizes the
47 Coordinated Fisheries Committee meeting issue paper on
48 the Kuskokwim and I would like you to turn to Page 2.
49 And the intent here today is, if you recall, three years
50 ago was the first time that Regional Councils had the

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1 opportunity to go before the Board of Fisheries to
2 represent their Councils and discuss fishery issues. The
3 unfortunate part about three years ago is none of the
4 Councils were able to address State proposals and take
5 action on them. So when a Council member went before the
6 Board of Fisheries all he could do was speak on local
7 knowledge and could not represent actions taken by the
8 Council.

9

10 Our intent here today is to take these
11 issues, have the Regional Councils address them and make
12 recommendations on these issues so that you're
13 representative, when they go to the January Board of Fish
14 meeting in Fairbanks can speak to the Board of Fish on
15 behalf of the Council.

16

17 It's real important to understand that
18 the Regional Councils are given the same leeway at a
19 Board of Fish meeting as advisory councils. So you have
20 freedom to serve on any committee that the Board of Fish
21 initiates and you also have the ability to speak on any
22 proposal as far as your Council. So it's again it's
23 important to review these issues, make recommendations so
24 that your representative in January of this year can
25 represent your Council.

26

27 So the first issue today we discussed at
28 the CFC meeting on Friday and Saturday was the
29 subsistence fishing schedules and periods on the
30 Kuskokwim River, which are in the management plans and
31 have been -- both Federal and State have been using as
32 management guidelines for the past three years.

33

34 There are proposals that cover the entire
35 length of the issue. There's proposals that recommend to
36 do away with the schedule. There's proposals that
37 recommend to shorten fishing time.

38

39 And if you look on Page 2 at the top of
40 that page you'll see that the CFC talked about it in
41 great length and these are the issues that they covered.
42 And at this time I'd like to -- before I turn the mike
43 over to either Mr. Bergstrom or Mr. Whitmore is that
44 subsistence schedules were initiated by the Board of Fish
45 to help facilitate the rebuilding plan for Kuskokwim
46 River salmon stocks to move fish up river and to meet
47 subsistence needs throughout the river drainage.

48

49 So at this time I'll turn it over to Mr.
50 Bergstrom or Mr. Whitmore for additional comments.

00172

1 MR. WHITMORE: Thank you, Pete. The
2 Board of Fisheries met in January of 2000 and implemented
3 the Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management plan
4 that went into effect for the 2001 season. And as you
5 recall during my earlier presentation this morning I kind
6 of laid out the 2001, 2002 and 2003 seasons. And
7 additionally, you could see that during those years that
8 the king salmon harvest was fairly low, more in the 7,000
9 range than in the 100,000 plus range. There was very
10 little or no commercial harvest of king salmon in those
11 years so it was mostly just all subsistence harvest.

12
13 And during the 2001 season the schedule
14 was in place for all of June and July. We went off the
15 schedule on August 1st. And it was about the third week
16 of June in 2002. And then in the first week of July in
17 2003 that we went off the schedule. And during each of
18 those years, all the reports that we got from the
19 Partners Program that was interviewing subsistence
20 fishers throughout the drainage was that people achieved
21 the amounts necessary for their subsistence use and the
22 benefit of the schedule was that it put pulses of fish up
23 river and allowed the harvest to be spread out over the
24 course of the king salmon run and allowed people in the
25 upper portion of the district to get the amounts
26 necessary.

27
28 MR. PROBASCO: So, Mr. Chairs, we have,
29 like I said numerous proposals here. These proposals are
30 numbers 130 through 134. Proposals 130 and 131 recommend
31 eliminating the fishing schedule in the upper river of
32 the Kuskokwim. Proposal 132 requests that the Board
33 clarifies their intent as far as the schedule in regards
34 to commercial and subsistence fisheries.

35
36 And Dan has a comment here.

37
38 MR. BERGSTROM: I think Proposal 132 is
39 the one from Virgil Umphenour and it's kind of difficult,
40 somewhat to read but how we've understood it and talking
41 to Virgil, that proposal really is -- it says clarify but
42 what his feeling was is the schedule should always be in
43 effect, you know, through the entire season regardless of
44 whether there's commercial or what the run size is.

45
46 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Dan. And then
47 Proposal 133 which is submitted by AVCP is discussing
48 when the schedules would be implemented once a fishery,
49 commercial fishery is announced.

50

00173

1 And then Proposal 134 is the Department
2 proposal and it's asking for specific adjustments within
3 the management plan.

4
5 So what I would hope to accomplish here
6 on these fishing periods and schedules is a discussion
7 and recommendation from the two Councils. How they view
8 the importance of fishery schedules or if they do not and
9 what they would recommend to the Board of Fisheries as
10 far as making any adjustments, if appropriate.

11
12 Mr. Chair.

13
14 So the first question, Mr. Wilde, I would
15 ask to help facilitate the discussion is a discussion
16 around the fishing schedules as far as the rebuilding
17 plan for Kuskokwim River salmon stocks. Do the Councils
18 view this as an important measure to continue because
19 these stocks are listed as a management concern, they're
20 still in the rebuilding process, so a general discussion
21 on the fishing schedules would be appropriate.

22
23 Mr. Sam. Mr. Wilde.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Pete, do we have a
26 meeting on these issues later on in the week?

27
28 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Sam, you will have a
29 tri-Council meeting that will specifically look at Yukon
30 fishing schedules and periods, but this is dealing
31 strictly with the Kuskokwim, so you are correct that when
32 we get into the tri-Council meeting we will also be
33 discussing it for the Yukon, but right now we're focused
34 on the Kuskokwim River.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: But are you looking for
37 action one way or the other on these proposals right now
38 because I think we're kind of lost after yesterday and
39 this morning?

40
41 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Sam. Mr. Wilde. The
42 actions that the Council could take was you could discuss
43 it like an issue, like the CFC and then whoever
44 represents your Council at the Board of Fisheries could
45 say these are the issues and concerns that the Councils
46 raised. Or you could take it a step further and actually
47 develop your own recommendations on schedules and
48 periods.

49
50 Keep in mind the difficulty we had at

00174

1 Friday and Saturday as far as keeping consensus points
2 but we had a very good process as far as outlining
3 issues, the importance of schedules or the concerns of
4 relaxing schedules.

5
6 So you have two options. You can further
7 discuss the issues so that you can speak on behalf of
8 your Council or actually make recommendations.

9
10 Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: For the benefit of the
13 rest of our Council we had a CFC meeting down at
14 Anchorage for two days, we discussed this pretty much in
15 depth. And I thought at that time we more or less
16 recommended -- made some recommendations at that time, up
17 or down, didn't we?

18
19 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Sam, the CFC
20 purposefully avoided making recommendations because if
21 you recall we discussed that we did not want to do the
22 work of the Council, but we wanted to thoroughly look at
23 the issues and discuss them so that when we got before
24 the Council, we could facilitate this process of
25 discussing Board of Fish proposals better. That was the
26 whole purpose of the CFC meeting.

27
28 Now, we're looking for the Councils to
29 actually discuss this so that when you go before the
30 Board of Fish you can represent your Council legally at
31 the Board of Fish meeting, whatever actions they elect to
32 do. And, again, the actions could be further discussion
33 of the issues, reviewing what the CFC did or take
34 specific actions on schedules.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Pete, I think the
37 recommendation, what we did over in Anchorage, I think it
38 would be good -- we're going to have separate meetings in
39 couple days or so, why don't we -- because Council is
40 over here, they don't know nothing about what we
41 discussed in Anchorage. I think better to present this
42 to them in our meeting.

43
44 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Wilde, that's
45 definitely an option that you could elect to do. We also
46 discussed the importance to at least provide the
47 opportunity so that all people living along this drainage
48 could discuss it together at once. But if you feel
49 better in helping Council members understand it do it
50 individually by the Councils, that's definitely your

00175

1 option. But we first thought between the CFC and the
2 Regional Council Chairs to try to do it on a drainage
3 wide basis first.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, the reason I tell
8 you when we start in Anchorage, I will not really make a
9 recommendation without the Council. And I ask for that
10 in separate Council meeting because we do a lot of
11 translation and Yup'ik and all that, it's very -- take a
12 lot of time to let some of our Council to understand.

13

14 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Wilde, and I respect
15 that. And again it's your option. You do have a very
16 aggressive agenda, a lot of issues to cover and we were
17 hoping to deal with some of these State proposals at this
18 joint meeting. But I'll turn over to Vince and see -- he
19 has his hand up.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Vince.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Well, maybe I can help you
24 out here. I think what you need now and I'm pretty sure
25 Staff could do it is maybe we could summarize what
26 happened on those two days from the CFC so everyone
27 knows, those that didn't attend those two days in
28 Anchorage will know.

29

30 The other thing that you need to know is
31 think about the Board of Fish. If you guys can work out
32 something here and go in together to the Board of Fish,
33 how much more that will be listened to than if on
34 Thursday one of you think this way and one of you think
35 that way. So I'd highly encourage you to at least listen
36 to what happened in Anchorage and then think if you want
37 to work separately on this.

38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. As far
42 as Western Interior goes, Robert, myself and Carl
43 attended the CFC breakdown on these issues at the
44 Millennium Hotel. And I think to bring everybody up to
45 speed we would like a quick summary like you suggested
46 which this does cover, but all it doesn't list any
47 recommendations because at that meeting in Anchorage we
48 said that we didn't want to do the Councils work. And
49 everything that's listed on the second page is just a
50 brief summary of the discussion that was presented; am I

00176

1 right?

2

3

MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Sam, that is correct. It highlights those issues that surround the schedules and periods. Why schedules are here, why some people feel they should be relaxed, why some people feel they should be in place. So it tries to cover the entire issues, if you will, all issues of the schedules and periods.

10

CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the consensus of the Western Interior, do you want to listen to a brief summary of what happened down at Anchorage?

14

MR. PETERS: Yeah.

16

(Council nods affirmatively)

18

CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, to move along, I think that would do for Western Interior but we would have to have consensus from YK Delta. Because I think what a brief summary would do is bring everybody up to speed because there's only three of us that was present because of weather.

25

So Harry, if you want a brief summary presented to both Councils, I think all it will do is cover the highlights of these three pages.

29

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, I think so. Yeah, go ahead.

32

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

34

MR. PROBASCO: So Mr. Chair, you're asking us to do a briefing of what took place on Kuskokwim?

38

CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

40

MR. PROBASCO: Okay. And I'm just going to work off of what's on Page 2 at the top of Page 2, that's what we discussed. And, again, the CFC members met and the purpose was to understand the issues surrounding the various proposals that the Board of Fish and the Federal Subsistence Board will be addressing.

47

Specifically on subsistence fishing schedule periods for the Kuskokwim River. Those were implemented during the January Board of Fish meeting in

00177

1 2001 for the purpose of providing windows of escapement
2 of fish that were, if you will, not harvested, to provide
3 for better escapement, improve the quality of the
4 escapement and to move fish up river so that people
5 throughout the drainage, throughout the communities would
6 improve their subsistence access to those resources.

7

8 The Department pointed out during their
9 presentation, both the State and Federal, that they felt
10 that these past three years that these windows were in
11 place that is has helped improve both escapements and
12 subsistence opportunity. However, it was also pointed
13 out by the CFC members that many people felt based on
14 what they've historically done that these windows were a
15 restriction on subsistence opportunity. They also felt
16 that once it was considered that these stocks were
17 rebuilt they were back to their healthy status that a
18 review had to occur so that the public could intercede
19 and make recommendations on if the windows were needed in
20 the future.

21

22 The Kuskokwim River stocks are still
23 going to be recommended as a management stock of concern
24 when the Board meets in January and that means that the
25 rebuilding efforts and management plans focusing on
26 rebuilding these stocks will remain in effect.

27

28 Other individuals spoke on the need to be
29 flexible within the plan. They felt that if in a
30 particular year if stocks were healthy that the managers
31 should look at relaxing the schedule as soon as they can.
32 And in fact, both area managers, Federal and State
33 pointed to what occurred in 2002 where the schedules were
34 relaxed fairly early and provided seven days a week
35 fishing.

36

37 Another point was that we have to be
38 cognizant or we have to be concerned about the biological
39 integrity of the stock, the quality of the escapement.
40 We have to make sure that we have adequate females up
41 river, not just numbers, and they felt that the schedules
42 provided for that opportunity.

43

44 Also pointed out that the majority of the
45 subsistence harvest on the Kuskokwim occurs in the lower
46 river, which resulted in the question is it really
47 necessary to have the subsistence fishing schedule in the
48 up river sections, or districts, if you will. There was
49 a lot of discussion around that, feeling that maybe the
50 subsistence fishing schedule was more appropriate in the

00178

1 lower rivers versus the upper rivers.

2

3

4 And the Department and along with the
5 Federal managers will be working with the Board of
6 Fisheries this year as well as the Federal Subsistence
7 Board as we work through in refining these management
8 plans.

8

9 So Mr. Chair, that's a brief recap of
10 what we discussed at the CFC meeting.

11

12 I'll turn to see if Dan or Craig have
13 anything to add.

14

15 Mr. Whitmore.

16

17 MR. WHITMORE: Yes, I have one comment.
18 In regard to the subsistence harvest in the Kuskokwim
19 River about 20 percent of the harvest occurs up stream of
20 District 1, and, so, you know Pete made a reference to
21 how much, so it's about 20 percent of the totals up
22 stream of District 1 and so the exploitation rate on that
23 part of the river is less. And Proposals 30 and 31 are
24 just asking to eliminate the schedule in that portion of
25 the river up stream of District 1.

26

27 Additionally, at the working group
28 meeting it came out that the lower river fishermen, that
29 those fishermen that are fishing downstream of the
30 Johnson River, you know, since the river's broader there
31 there's a lot of different channels and fishing's
32 difficult there because the fish are spread out over a
33 broad area. They had me look into it and about 20
34 percent of the harvest occurs downstream of the Johnson
35 River. So about 60 percent of the harvest, you know,
36 occurs between the Johnson River and Bogus Creek, the
37 upper marker of District 1.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions. Robert.

40

41 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
42 Whitmore, when you say District 1, you mean W1, am I
43 correct?

44

45 MR. WHITMORE: Yes, that's correct.

46

47 MR. WALKER: Thank you for the
48 clarification.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: So we are still looking

00179

1 for some recommendations on this Proposal 133, 134?

2

3 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Sam, the way I would
4 view it is if I was selected as the Council member to
5 represent the Western Interior to discuss these proposals
6 before the Board of Fish what would I be comfortable in
7 presenting to the Board of Fish. So I would say that you
8 would want to discuss this issue to the point where you
9 feel there's enough information that your individual that
10 you elect to represent you at the Board of Fish meeting
11 can accurately and adequately represent your Council.

12

13 So that could be just a discussion of the
14 issues or you could actually take action on the
15 proposals.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Our last experience with a
18 Board of Fish meeting was totally negative. Our
19 representative was pretty much given a poor report back
20 to the Western Interior which we didn't like. So I don't
21 know how to handle this issue. It just made us look
22 pretty bad from their point of view if you remember
23 right.

24

25 Do we have any suggestions from Western
26 Interior.

27

28 Jack.

29

30 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'll just
31 speak as to my personal feelings about the windowed
32 openings. As long as these salmon runs are stocks of
33 concerns, those windows allow people to harvest and it
34 allows fish to move up river for spawning. And it's my
35 personal opinion that during these times when the fish
36 populations are in dire straits that those windows are
37 necessary to allow those escapements. And even though
38 they're hardships on subsistence users we still have to
39 look at making these runs return.

40

41 And so I feel that there could be
42 thresholds that when certain levels of fish have entered
43 the river and are going to meet their escapements and
44 have moved past the majority of the fishing time, maybe
45 the subsistence schedules could be relaxed. But I still
46 feel that those subsistence schedules, at least on the
47 Yukon and the Kuskokwim River to this point have worked
48 pretty well to accommodate escapement and still allow
49 subsistence use.

50

00180

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Any
4 further recommendations.

5

6 (No comment)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Suggestions.

9

10 (No comment)

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pete.

13

14 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Sam. Mr. Wilde. I
15 would also suggest that -- I know that I went through the
16 fishing issues that the CFC discussed. Mr. Reakoff
17 captured one of the major points that we spent a
18 considerable amount of time discussing during our CFC
19 meeting. I would recommend that Council members take a
20 look at those issues, and if there are other issues that
21 are listed there that are of particular concern that they
22 want to mention on the record I would recommend that they
23 do as well.

24

25 Mr. Chair.

26

27 Dan.

28

29 MR. BERGSTROM: Mr. Chair. From the
30 Department's perspective, I mean if you're going to talk
31 about it, kind of the issue is whether, you know, the two
32 RACs talk about it now or you do it separately on
33 Thursday and come to some kind of possible decisions then
34 on how you would support or not support these proposals.

35

36 I think we would prefer, you know,
37 looking at it somewhat now. Because the idea is the same
38 for this group kind of as the Kuskokwim Working Group.
39 They have representatives from up river and down river,
40 and some of these issues like the fishing schedule, maybe
41 if you talk about it together you can decide, you know,
42 this one section of the river should they be off or not.
43 I think the working group, James was there, but I think,
44 you know, they talked about that some, and in the end, I
45 think the vote ended up being kind of that they felt that
46 fairness wise they should just keep the schedule for the
47 entire river.

48

49 But that's the kind of discussion you can
50 do and you have all the representatives here so you don't

00181

1 have one group say, well, without hearing from the other
2 and they'll go well they might go one way and the other
3 group goes another way. Maybe you can come to a decision
4 that's together on it and that will help everybody out.

5

6 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

9

10 MS. GREGORY: Yeah. What the proposal,
11 what you are trying to do is copy what the working group
12 and the Department of Fish and Game have done this summer
13 or a couple of summers ago and I think if we just keep it
14 to -- at the local level it might -- it will work better.
15 Because once you put a regulation on then everybody tries
16 to follow it and then it gets messed up.

17

18 Even if it's an AVCP resolution I still
19 would like to think that the Kuskokwim Working Group and
20 the Department of Fish and Game is the proper place to
21 take care of this because we did it. One of our RAC
22 members sits on that committee and Robert Nick and they
23 work together with the working group which speaks for the
24 people in the Kuskokwim who are affected by the fish or
25 the scheduling. And a lot of times we don't like what's
26 going on, some of us like it, but give us another four
27 years and don't -- don't take over regulating our river
28 just yet, let us do it on our own.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

31

32 MR. MORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
33 would feel comfortable in looking at the hard work that
34 the working group did on this. And, you know, since this
35 is a State proposal and we are a Federally-recognized
36 RAC, I think we've got other counterparts out there that
37 do the same thing that represent some of -- some of you
38 may sit on the State RACs and I'd really like to see the
39 two RACs what are their recommendations. Because I think
40 -- and as far as the State Board, the Board of Fish,
41 they're looking at these two State Regional Advisories
42 and I think the State has kind of looked around and says,
43 hey, you know, these Regional Advisory groups are very
44 important and the Federal -- as far as the Federal RACs
45 has really proven that.

46

47 And I think that before I make a
48 decision, I know it would be more work for our
49 coordinator but I would like to see what was the
50 recommendations of the State RACs.

00182

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. I think
4 the other way we could go through with what we met on
5 down in Anchorage, the CFC, if we did the same thing that
6 we did down there, that is go proposal by proposal, that
7 would last one whole day, wouldn't it?

8

9 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, looking at the
10 amount of time you have left today and what's on your
11 schedule, or the number of proposals, it would take a
12 day, it'd take quite a while to get through that stuff.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any wishes or
15 suggestions on how to -- I don't know that we can
16 expedite this, I think that we will have to spend some
17 time. Because in front of you you have Arctic Yukon
18 Kuskokwim finfish, proposals group by topic and we have
19 this many proposals to work on in the next two or three
20 days. Whether we take up Kuskokwim issues right now
21 while we're meeting with YK Delta would only expedite our
22 own respective Council meetings. If we took this up here
23 we wouldn't have to discuss this within Western Interior
24 only or YK Delta only meetings that we have scheduled
25 later on in the week.

26

27 Sooner or later we'll have to make some
28 kind of recommendations on this. Whether we do it here
29 or we do it within our respective Council meetings, it's
30 up to you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Sam. I think it's more
33 -- it would be faster if we do it in our meeting. We got
34 to see something to State proposals. We're not going to
35 just look at the whole thing like that, the proposals
36 belong to the Yukon River and the Kuskokwim. We should
37 look at it, not in here but when we have our own meeting.
38 We make a decision on them and then we combine together
39 up river and down river. If we do it here, right now, we
40 will never finish all these proposals, maybe another week
41 or another month the way we're going, that fast, with a
42 couple of proposals we've been working on for two days.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman -- Mr.
47 Sam and Mr. Wilde. If you look at Pete and Dan and Craig
48 over there there's only one of them, there's only one of
49 each one of those you can't split them in half even
50 though some days I'd love to split Pete in half.

00183

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: If you both take these up
4 on Thursday, they can't be at both meetings. They only
5 can be at one. So it would be best, as the posters fall
6 down, to talk about these now and work on them as best
7 you can. If some of them you can't, then we'll figure
8 out a way but we don't -- the whole reason for this
9 meeting was to have the two Councils so you could hear
10 each other on these proposals, so you would know what
11 each other feel so when you go before the Board of Fish
12 on the State proposals, you're not going to be blindsided
13 by the other Council, you'd already know. And then if
14 there's consensus you would have a stronger position in
15 front of the Board.

16

17 For the Federal one you would also be
18 stronger in front of the Federal Board because you'll
19 have worked together and the Federal Board will know that
20 you both aired and talked to each other.

21

22 So I understand what Mr. Wilde and some
23 of the others want, but the water, close the river, no
24 matter what we do, and the fish go up that river, same
25 river, and so I think it's time for these two Councils to
26 start talking these things out as best we can. You have
27 an opportunity now before the Board of Fish, a golden
28 opportunity that will not come back, Pete, for
29 another.....

30

31 MR. PROBASCO: Three years.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS:three years.

34

35 So I'll stop there, I'm starting to get
36 on my soap box. But it is an opportunity, you work
37 together to find out where you can work together, where
38 you can't and maybe we can work something out.

39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Les.

45

46 MR. L. WILDE: Pete. In total, how many
47 proposals are we looking at?

48

49 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Wilde, what we're
50 recommending and we're not recommending we go through

00184

1 that whole packet, because we just don't have that kind
2 of time, so if you go to the issue paper that the CFC
3 looked at, that number of proposals is greatly reduced.
4 Like on the subsistence fishing schedules, we're
5 recommending that we address five proposals. And then
6 when we go down to closing Federal waters to commercial
7 fishing, we're talking about one proposal. And then when
8 we go to the sportfish issues, as far as making the
9 subsistence fishing schedule and sportfishing time equal,
10 we're talking about one proposal.

11

12 So what we're looking at for this joint
13 Council to discuss is a total of seven proposals.

14

15 Mr. Chair.

16

17 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

20

21 MS. GREGORY: I would rather work with my
22 own groups proposals rather than work with the other one.
23 We already demonstrated, Vince, that we can work together
24 as a group on Proposal 13 we did that. And I don't know
25 what's going on in the Yukon or the upper Kuskokwim River
26 and we have their representatives here, and so whatever
27 they do I'll support them. But if I have a problem with
28 mine, I would rather -- like this one, I'd rather the
29 working group and the Department of Fish and Game keep at
30 the regulating our river for salmon because they're doing
31 a good job right now.

32

33 That's my concern. And I represent not
34 organizations, I represent the Kuskokwim people and
35 surrounding villages that use the river for subsistence
36 and not organizations.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Sam.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, when is the Board
41 of Fisheries meeting?

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: I'll defer that to -- it's
44 in January, but I don't remember the dates.

45

46 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Sam, the meeting is
47 January 12th through January 19th in Fairbanks.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Just a little
50 while ago Pete mentioned that we highlighted seven

00185

1 proposals at that CFC joint meeting in Anchorage and Carl
2 asked about what Kuskokwim River Salmon Management
3 Working Group's positions were. On Page 2 of this little
4 synopsis we have a summary, a brief summary of what the
5 working group recommended. And if you want to go briefly
6 through them this will cover all the proposals on the
7 Kuskokwim, right, it will cover them?

8

9 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Sam, that will cover
10 at the top of the page, that will cover all the proposals
11 dealing with fishing schedules and periods. At the
12 bottom of the page there's a typo but that proposal deals
13 with closing the commercial fishery, it's only one
14 proposal. It's Proposal 140. And then if you turn the
15 page to Page 3 where it says align sport and subsistence
16 fishery openings, it says in the Yukon River, that should
17 say the Kuskokwim River and that proposal is number 145.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: What is the wishes of the
20 respective Councils.

21

22 (No comment)

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we want to go over
25 these proposals one at a time? We have until January,
26 too, that's what the option we have is.

27

28 (No comment)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Someone.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

35

36 MR. L. WILDE: I'll wait.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

39

40 MR. WALKER: Sorry, Les.

41

42 MR. L. WILDE: Robert, you're bigger than
43 me.

44

45 MR. WALKER: Thanks, I needed that. Mr.
46 Chairman, I think we should -- let's recess for five
47 minutes so we can discuss it in a small caucus here and
48 we can go from there.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Before we break,

00186

1 Lester, you had one concern, too.

2

3

MR. L. WILDE: Yes. I was going to say that we've got an awful lot of proposals to go through and it would help us, I think, to expedite our meetings a little bit more if the two Councils could go ahead and discuss these seven proposals, we'd get them at least out of the way before we get to our next meeting and our own.

9

CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert, you want to break for five minutes to caucus?

12

13

MR. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

15

16

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Western Interior, could we caucus please, real quick over here.

18

19

(Off record)

20

21

(On record)

22

23

CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I would like to reconvene.

25

26

I understand that YK Delta will take up all these proposals individually at their meeting on Thursday when we break out. So to meet our obligations, Western Interior's obligations on Kuskokwim proposals the Chair will entertain a motion up or down at this time. Is there a motion of any kind, any way, shape or form?

32

33

Carl.

34

35

MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I hate to be the bearer of good news or bad news, just the way you take it I guess. But I'd like to make a motion that we support State Proposal 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135 [sic].

39

40

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

41

42

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, could Mr. Morgan go over those, I didn't have my pencil in my hand.

44

45

MR. MORGAN: It's on Page 2, this little hand out. But for your information, I'd like to make a motion to support Proposal -- State Proposals 130, 131, 132, 134, 135 [sic].

49

50

Thank you.

00187

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

2

3 MR. WALKER: I second, Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved and
6 seconded that we support these proposals in order to
7 expedite.

8

9 Any further discussion.

10

11 (No comment)

12

13 MR. WALKER: Question.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called.
16 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye,
17 Western.

18

19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed.

22

23 (No opposing votes)

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank
26 you.

27

28 What's the next move on the agenda?

29

30 MR. PROBASCO: Well, Mr. Chair, Mr. Sam,
31 Mr. Wilde. I'm somewhat confused. I understand the
32 action that you've just taken. There are still two other
33 issues that we were hoping to discuss on Board of Fish
34 proposals. One was Proposal 140 that deals with the
35 closure of Federal waters to commercial harvest, Federal
36 and State waters. And then Proposal 145 that aligns
37 sport and subsistence fishing openings in the Kusko.

38

39 My understanding is that the Yukon
40 Kuskokwim Delta Regional Council will address those at
41 their individual meeting. What is the intent of the
42 Western Interior?

43

44 Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Western Interior, do we
47 want to go ahead and support 140 and 145?

48

49 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Mr. Whitmore
50 pointed out to me that Proposal 140 deals with District

00188

1 or Section W4 and says that your Council would not have
2 to deal with that one, is that correct, Mr. Whitmore?

3

4 MR. WHITMORE: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
5 Probasco. You very well could decide to work, you know,
6 to address that proposal. We haven't spoke to that issue
7 in very much detail. Currently it's very infrequently
8 does that commercial fishing season open before June
9 16th. So it's not nearly as big an issue as many of the
10 other issues that are before you, so I don't see that as
11 a high priority.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: When you talk about W4,
14 what area are we talking about?

15

16 MR. WHITMORE: During my presentation,
17 when I showed W1 and W2 down on the coast near the
18 community of Quinhagak and the Kanaktok River, there's a
19 small district down there that about 40 fishers
20 participate in a commercial fishery there.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. So with that in
23 light -- we were only discussing Proposal 140, right?

24

25 MR. PROBASCO: That's correct.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: With that in light,
28 Western Interior Chair will entertain a motion to take no
29 action on Proposal 140. Is there a motion to that
30 effect.

31

32 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Robert.

35

36 MR. WALKER: I make a motion for Proposal
37 140, do not support it.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: What was the motion?

40

41 MR. WALKER: We will not take any action.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

44

45 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Micky. Any
48 further discussion.

49

50 (No comment)

00189

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, all those in favor
2 of taking no action on Proposal 140 signify by saying
3 aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed, same sign.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Proposal
12 145, a brief synopsis, Pete.

13
14 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
15 Sam. Proposal 145 requests -- the proponent requests
16 that the sportfish openings coincide or are identical to
17 the subsistence fishery openings for the Kuskokwim River.
18 Currently they are independent of each other. So in
19 other words if an area was closed for subsistence fishing
20 then the sportfishery would be closed as well. It would
21 be on the same schedule. Everything would be the same.

22
23 Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pete. At this
26 time the Western Interior Chair will entertain a motion
27 to support Proposal 145 at this time, for expediency
28 sake.

29
30 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

33
34 MR. MORGAN: I'd like to make a motion to
35 accept State Proposal No. 145.

36
37 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved and
40 seconded that we accept Proposal 145. Any further
41 discussion.

42
43 (No comment)

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, all those in favor
46 signify by saying aye.

47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

00190

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Vince.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, just to get
6 it clear for the record the action you took on 145 was to
7 support Proposal 145, is that -- we couldn't catch it
8 here quick enough, it was to support?

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that was our action.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further proposals?

15

16 MR. PROBASCO: That's it, Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. We do have the
19 option of reconsidering at our Western Interior meeting.
20 We'll see how we go because at that time I believe both
21 Pete, Dan Bergstrom and Craig Whitmore, right.....

22

23 MR. WHITMORE: Yes.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM:will be involved with
26 YK Delta's deliberations and I expect and -- and I really
27 appreciate your help at this time and was that all you
28 were looking for as far as action was?

29

30 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Sam and Mr.
31 Wilde. And again, the action that you have taken will
32 provide clear guidance to whoever you select to send to
33 the Board of Fish on your behalf in January.

34

35 Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pete. Now, do
38 we go back to the joint meeting?

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. If I
41 understood correctly that the Yukon-Kuskokwim will take
42 up those proposals on Thursday that you just addressed.
43 Then that would bring you back to the agenda and right
44 now what is before you would be the Fishery Resource
45 Monitoring Plan 2004. And I'm not -- I'm thinking we may
46 need a few minutes to fire up the machine, so would it be
47 possible for a true five minute break.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Make it 10. Ten minute
50 break and then we will reconvene, both Councils.

00191

1 Thank you.

2

3 (Off record)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: We'll reconvene. I think
8 you had some housekeeping, Vince.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, no, I didn't
11 have any housekeeping. I just would request both
12 Councils, we're shifting gears here and to give full
13 respect to the Staff here because this is a whole other
14 topic that you're dealing with, the Fishery Monitoring
15 Projects, so I'm sure you'll give full attention to the
16 Staff here because they've been patiently waiting to
17 address this.

18

19 So that's the only housekeeping I have.

20

21 The other thing is is if some need to go
22 to some place to get their check cashed, please let us
23 know on that after the meeting so we can accommodate
24 that.

25

26 That's all I had. Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time we'll go into
29 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan, Kuskokwim only. Go
30 ahead.

31

32 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
33 Council members. My name is Richard is Cannon and I'm
34 going to give you, hopefully, a fairly short briefing on
35 the proposed Kuskokwim Fisheries Resource Monitoring
36 Program for 2004. If the Council members could find this
37 orange, pumpkin colored, or salmon colored notebook, that
38 has the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan materials
39 inside of it.

40

41 This plan has been developed by an Inter-
42 agency Technical Review Committee made up of State and
43 Federal fisheries scientists and social scientists and
44 they developed this plan as a proposal. They take it to
45 your Councils and give you an opportunity to comment on
46 it and then your comments and other comments from the
47 public then go on to the Federal Board where they'll make
48 the final decisions about funding for each year, and this
49 is for 2004, so for next field season, these projects
50 would then be in the water.

00192

1 This report is divided up into a number
2 of tabs. Under Tab A is an introduction, it just talks
3 about the program, the funding and the procedures that
4 are used. Under Tab B is the part that I'll be going over
5 with you today. This is for the Fisheries Monitoring
6 Plan for the Kuskokwim region. Under Tab C is the one
7 for the Yukon, you'll be getting a briefing on that
8 probably on Wednesday during your tri-Council meeting.
9 Under Tab D are some inter-regional projects that affect
10 more than one region and you'll be getting a briefing on
11 that as well on Wednesday. And under Tab E is some real
12 short -- sort of a short briefing on the Fisheries
13 Partners Program. And Steve Klein will give you just a
14 short discussion on that today.

15

16 Next slide. Okay, skip that one.

17

18 Okay, there's just a couple things I want
19 to let you know about as we start this. The ranking
20 factors, these are the criteria that this Technical
21 Review Committee uses to making their decisions.

22

23 Can everyone hear me?

24

25 (Councils nod affirmatively)

26

27 MR. CANNON: Okay. The most important
28 criteria that it has to meet a strategic priority. Is
29 the project going to provide information that's important
30 to Federal Subsistence Management. The second thing, is
31 the project technically sound, is it a good project,
32 technically. Third, has the investigator done a good job
33 in the past in getting the work done. And then the
34 fourth thing is, is the project really trying to build
35 partnerships or capacity building with local people,
36 local communities and regional organizations.

37

38 This next slide is found under Tab A on
39 Page 5. On all of these things I've tried to put the
40 page number up at the top so if you want to refer to
41 that. But I just wanted to bring to your attention that
42 for this year, we're looking at, for the Kuskokwim
43 \$1,384,000 worth of projects, that's a lot of money. And
44 it's actually over 50 percent now of all the fisheries
45 projects that are funded on the Kuskokwim River are
46 funded through this program.

47

48 I'm going to talk to you about some of
49 the input that's used to identify the issues and data
50 needs that really drive this program. Your Councils

00193

1 developed those back in 2000 and then every year they're
2 updated and we always are looking for comments from
3 Council members about important issues in your areas. We
4 get input from other people as well. We're always
5 talking to the fisheries managers for the Kuskokwim, we
6 meet with them to talk about this program to make sure
7 we're meeting their needs. We work with a group out in
8 Bethel, Kuskokwim Fisheries Coalition, it's made up of
9 State and Federal agencies as well as the tribal
10 organizations. So they get together and actually set
11 priorities for this program. In turn we work very
12 closely with the Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working
13 Group, you've heard them referred to a number of times
14 during your meeting, and of course your Kuskokwim
15 Coordinating Fishery Committee representatives working
16 with the working group also look at our program and make
17 sure that priorities are met and needs are addressed.

18

19 There's a new initiative that I think
20 will be very helpful that's just getting started, it's
21 called the Kuskokwim Strategic Planning and there'll be a
22 short presentation later in this meeting from Ben Greene
23 with the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association who will tell
24 you about that program.

25

26 I need to bring one thing to your
27 attention about the issues and data needs as they exist
28 today. Now, I've put a copy in front of you, if you
29 could find it, it just says issues and data needs for the
30 Kuskokwim. We're going to make a change to that. Two of
31 the items that you had identified as being important to
32 your fisheries are coastal ecology, you know, what's
33 happening in the estuaries and the marine environment as
34 well as contaminants and fish. Now, we know that these
35 are important subjects, they really are, but the Federal
36 Board made the decision that other organizations, other
37 funding sources were addressing that. So just to avoid
38 confusion, we're not going to add that to the list when
39 we send out a call for proposals. It's not that we don't
40 think it's important we just don't want any confusion.

41

42 One of the meetings that I had this year
43 with the managers from the Kuskokwim resulted in some
44 important changes and direction for the program and
45 that's why I'm bringing this to your attention now. One
46 thing that they told me was that there are a lot of needs
47 on the Kuskokwim, it's never really gotten the funding it
48 really deserved, because there's so many needs they've
49 really tried to focus on just getting some good basic
50 information about chum and chinook salmon, and because of

00194

1 that we've tended not to, in some cases, fund coho
2 projects. We haven't run like a weir through the whole
3 season. Well, they told us that after thinking about this
4 they didn't want us to do that, they'd rather have that
5 data because really subsistence is about all these
6 fisheries, they all have a role. And so to the extent we
7 can, we're going to try to run whole projects and run
8 them right through coho season. So we'll try to do that
9 in our program.

10

11 The other thing we heard loud and clear
12 that to the extent we can we need more emphasize on non-
13 salmon species because they're important to subsistence
14 too. It can't be a big part of the program right now but
15 we're trying -- as you'll see we're trying to maintain
16 some effort for studying whitefish, for example, which
17 are an important subsistence species well.

18

19 We get really valuable input from the
20 working group and from key local representatives in the
21 region. And this is just an example of some of the
22 comments that we're recording. You'll notice Nixie
23 Mellick's name is up there and we have his, Ray's,
24 Willard Church, others, we write these things down and
25 this information is going to help us do a better job in
26 the future of really focusing in on key projects. So we
27 are listening to people, I wanted you to understand that.

28

29 Okay. There's a map on Page 18 in that
30 book that's kind of helpful. It shows the location of
31 the various projects and then on the right side there
32 it's the name of the project so that's a good reference
33 for you.

34

35 We got over 25 proposals this year for
36 projects, initially, and then the TRC, after they
37 evaluated it they reduced the number of the stock, status
38 and trends projects which are the biology projects down
39 to 12 and then with the harvest monitoring, traditional
40 ecological projects they reduced that down to actually
41 five and then they combined some for cost efficiency.
42 We're going to go through these in a little more detail.

43

44 On Page 23 there's a table that's
45 important, it shows the funding breakdown that we're
46 recommending over the next three years for 2004, 2005,
47 and 2006. This slide shows that the stock, status and
48 trends projects and it looks like we're going to be able
49 to fund -- our recommendations will be to fund all but
50 one of them and that one's on the bottom, and we'll talk

00195

1 about that in a minute. I also need to let you know
2 there were a couple of errors on that table.

3

4 Project 309 actually should be Kuskokwim
5 Native Association Internship Program, so if you want to
6 make that change.

7

8 And 310 is the Tatlawiksuk weir. If
9 everybody can get that and I'll just move on then.

10

11 This same information for the traditional
12 ecological knowledge and harvest monitoring is found on
13 Page 25, that's just for your reference. You'll notice
14 in this particular case we're funding -- recommending
15 funding all but one of those and that one, 04-355 is
16 actually just a different option from 04-355 Option B, so
17 we're funding one of the options. And each of those
18 projects is only going to be funded -- we're recommending
19 funding for one year.

20

21 I'm going to talk about the benefits of
22 these projects a little bit and I'm not going to spend a
23 lot of time, I know you're time is limited. But for the
24 stock, status and trends projects, what we're trying to
25 do on the river is we're trying to develop for the salmon
26 species an assessment for the first time, really, of
27 total adult return, the abundance, the migration timing,
28 escapement and the population structure, that's the age
29 and sex of the population for the salmon species. And
30 then we're also trying to do, like I said, something for
31 whitefish, we're trying to monitor, begin to monitor
32 their abundance, their distribution, their timing and
33 population structure. That's what you need to really
34 manage a fishery.

35

36 The first project we feel is the most
37 important one and that's Project 308, it's the Kalskag
38 chum, sockeye, coho mark recapture study, you've heard it
39 mentioned this morning. When the managers talked it's an
40 attempt to really provide abundance estimation for the
41 entire river and it's not -- it's made up of more than
42 just this project but this is the central one. It's
43 being done by Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the
44 Kuskokwim Native Association. The project actually costs
45 about \$600,000, they're asking us for \$103,000 as a
46 contribution and we're recommending funding this.

47

48 This is kind of how the project operates,
49 real briefly, the tags are placed on the fish, those
50 ribbon tags, I don't know if you can see the upper left-

00196

1 hand picture, they're just a ribbon tag that's put in on
2 the fin and those tags then are put in -- they're put in
3 down by Kalskag and then with fishwheels and nets and
4 then they're recaptured below Aniak and they compare the
5 marked and unmarked ratio and they can get an estimate of
6 the total abundance of fish going above Kalskag. Now,
7 the weirs that are shown on there are an important of
8 this project because we also do recaptures in the weirs,
9 George, Takotna, Tatlawiksuk and Kogrukluuk. We get the
10 down river assessment from two other weirs which are the
11 Kwethluk and the Tuluksak weir.

12

13 So because of the importance of these
14 weirs, this program is funding three of those weirs,
15 we're asking for continuation funding of those. The
16 Kwethluk weir is done by the Kwethluk Village Council and
17 Fish and Wildlife Service; Tuluksak by Fish and Wildlife
18 Service and the village council there in Tuluksak;
19 Tatlawiksuk by KNA and ADF&G.

20

21 I just throw this up here because we're
22 also doing this for king salmon, those weirs are an
23 important part of the king salmon project. Project 02-
24 046 is a radio-telemetry study where we're getting
25 estimates, we're going to be getting estimates of
26 abundance of king salmon. They don't need funding in
27 2004 but the weirs do. So the important thing about this
28 slide is that those weirs play a big role in that study
29 as well. And those little towers are where the receiving
30 stations are located on the Kuskokwim.

31

32 I'm going to talk now about another
33 tagging study that's on the Holitna River and it's being
34 done by the Department of Fish and Game and KNA.

35

36 This study, they're trying to determine
37 really if the Kogrukluuk weir, you see down at the lower
38 part of the slide is an arrow there with weir written
39 next to it, that's on the Kogrukluuk, that weir's been
40 there for over 20 years, and it's been the primary
41 assessment project for the Kuskokwim. And we really need
42 to know is it giving us an accurate picture of or an
43 index, really, of the fish coming into the, even coming
44 into the Holitna River, and this tagging project is
45 allowing us to do that. This is something that the
46 working group members Ray and Nixie and others have
47 wanted done and this project is attempting to do that.
48 So we're recommending another two years of funding to
49 really get enough data to make that determination.

50

00197

1 We've mentioned capacity building is a
2 big part of this program, and we really believe in it, in
3 this program, that it provides a valuable asset to our
4 overall effort in working in the Yukon and the Kuskokwim.
5 One of the projects that's been around and been very
6 successful, we believe, is done by Kuskokwim Native
7 Association, they have an internship program that we're
8 recommending -- it's a small project but the Technical
9 Review Committee wants to see it continued.

10

11 And this project, high school students,
12 up to year 16 years, they actually get high school credit
13 for this, they learn about fisheries and habitat, other
14 things that are important about conservation in the
15 classroom and then they actually get it out into the
16 field. They go onto the tagging projects. They go onto
17 the weirs. And that one down on the lower right-hand is
18 the Whitefish Lake study, they get out there and actually
19 get their hands into the projects and the goal here is
20 for young people to get an understanding of these
21 programs and fisheries, but actually get the training
22 that they could actually then take and get a job in the
23 future, and a lot of them have. There's been about six,
24 seven young people that have gotten jobs in the summer.
25 So we think this is a really good program.

26

27 One of the things that's done, with all
28 thee programs, is there's a lot of biological sampling.
29 People measure the fish, their length, they determine the
30 sex of the fish and they take a scale, and that needs to
31 be coordinated. There's over 24,000 of these samples
32 taken every season.

33

34 So with the information, especially with
35 the scale samples has to be taken and the scales pressed
36 and read and aged and that's a real demanding job. So
37 this funding that we're requesting then pays for all of
38 that work. And that's again, over 24,000 scales and
39 that's a whole new thing for the Kuskokwim to have a
40 program dedicated to that.

41

42 Goodnews Bay fisheries are important as
43 well, and you've heard them mentioned. We've got a
44 project, a weir project, on the Kanaktok River weir. The
45 project is developed by Fish and Game and the Native
46 Village of Quinhagak and then one in the Goodnews River,
47 the Middlefork of the Goodnews and that one is done by
48 Fish and Game and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. They
49 have a lot of local hires there from Goodnews and
50 Platinum.

00198

1 Just shows the location of the two weirs
2 and another thing that's being done with those weirs is
3 that there's a dolly varden study that's being supported
4 by fish that are captured at the weir so it does double-
5 duty for both salmon and for dolly varden.

6
7 This is the whitefish project I told you
8 about, it's being done on Whitefish Lake. There's been
9 some preliminary work done to kind of look at movements
10 in and out of the lake. The Technical Review Committee
11 felt it was time to take the next step so they're
12 providing funds for KNA and the US Fish and Wildlife
13 Service to begin a radio telemetry study on whitefish.

14
15 You see Whitefish Lake there, it's near
16 Aniak and those radio transmitters will be implanted in
17 the whitefish and they'll be tracked to their spawning
18 areas and their goal is to get samples for genetics so we
19 can look at stocks and eventually then understand their
20 entire distribution and begin to make some estimates of
21 abundance. So we're real excited for the potential for
22 this work.

23
24 There's some salmon stock biology studies
25 that were proposed, one for coho salmon that was proposed
26 by the US Fish and Wildlife Service Genetics Lab and then
27 one for chinook salmon by the Alaska Department of Fish
28 and Game Genetics Lab. And when the Technical Review
29 Committee looked at these two proposals, now there had
30 been some preliminary work done on baselines. They have
31 to go out into the spawning areas and collect samples to
32 see what -- so they can determine what the genetic
33 character, they're looking for these genetic markers that
34 help them identify a specific spawning stock. And once
35 they do the marker work then they do simulations, they
36 see how well they can sort out the different stocks when
37 they have known simulations, known mixtures.

38
39 Well, that's the stage they're at right
40 now. And when the TRC looked at that, they felt that in
41 both cases the work wasn't ready to take it into a real
42 mixed stock fisheries. So they wanted more work done on
43 developing the markers. So in both cases they've told
44 the investigators to finish that work up. In the case of
45 the coho they're willing to fund them to develop more
46 baseline. In the case of the chinook they've had more
47 funding in the past, they've already had about \$250,000
48 of funding, they want them to finish up their work and
49 then bring a new proposal back once they're done with
50 their baseline work.

00199

1

2

3

That just shows some of the aspects of
the genetics work.

4

5

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The salmon harvest assessment work is really important, too, in finding about the harvest, subsistence harvest. There were two projects that were mentioned this morning, 353, Bethel in-season harvest monitoring, that's where we're hiring ONC basically to go out into the subsistence fishery and collect information every week about how people are doing with their harvest and that information then is put together and then given to the working group and the managers. And they get a sense then of how the subsistence fishery is going right during the season. That same type of project is being done by KNA up in the middle part of the river around Aniak and that's Project 355, and the TRC is asking for continued funding for those two projects.

Project 359 is a project that we worked with the investigators, there were three projects that we combined into one and then we found out very late in the process that the State lost their funding for the subsistence. This is the post-season survey that gives you the hard numbers on subsistence harvest, and this has been going on since the 60s. Very important information. They're losing funding. So our program has then agreed to pick this up for another year and then talk to the State for future funding of this work, how it's actually going to be handled.

We have Proposal 351 which is a traditional ecological knowledge project. What we're trying to do is really work with our investigators to find traditional knowledge projects that have a specific or direct application in the fishery. And we're giving this project special attention. And you'll notice that our office is actually involved in this study because we really want these kind of studies to, you know, really hit the mark in terms of providing us information that will help us do a good job with management. So this is a pilot study and we're going to go into a Kuskokwim Bay community and work with four knowledgeable elders to get their input, work up that data and then bring it back to the Technical Review Committee and the Councils to report on it here in about a year. That's Project 351.

Well, that concludes my presentation and if you have any questions or comments I'd be happy to take them now. Thanks.

00200

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Rich
2 Cannon.

3
4 MS. GREGORY: I have one.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mary.

7
8 MS. GREGORY: Your Project 51, what
9 village are you going to?

10
11 MR. CANNON: Mary, I'm not sure yet, I
12 think they're trying to work that out. I can't really
13 tell you.

14
15 MS. GREGORY: Because the Kuskokwim Bay
16 villages up to Quinhagak go to the mouth of the Kuskokwim
17 to fish so I would encourage you to not just go to
18 village, but four different villages.

19
20 MR. CANNON: Mary, I'll take that
21 comment, those suggestions back to Polly Wheeler who's
22 our anthropologist.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
27 Rich.

28
29 MR. MCCANN: Mr. Chairman.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Billy.

32
33 MR. MCCANN: (In Yup'ik)

34
35 INTERPRETER: You just mentioned that
36 where do the fish go, you're trying to find out where the
37 fish go and he's thinking that where -- are you going to
38 tag the fish at the mouth of the Kuskokwim or are you
39 going to tag the salmon from the spawning area. Once a
40 salmon reaches his spawning river he will not go
41 anywheres, where are you starting your tagging.

42
43 MR. MCCANN: Maybe you can give me answer
44 if you understand my words.

45
46 MR. CANNON: Yes, Billy, Mr. McCann. The
47 tagging will be done down by Kalskag.

48
49 MR. MCCANN: But spawning area you're
50 talking about. Okay, it seems to me that the fish is

00201

1 going up a stream, he's not going to go back. I don't
2 think he's going to go around and go to the mouth of the
3 river and go back somewhere, I think he's going to
4 continue to go up until it spawn.

5

6 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. Billy, I want
7 to make sure I understand your question. Were you
8 talking about the radio tags? I missed the first part of
9 your comments.

10

11 MR. MCCANN: Yes. You know what you're
12 putting on a fish, you put the tag and you put the radio,
13 you know that, but you said something about where the
14 fish is going, that's what you want to know. That's why
15 I'm asking where you tag -- exactly where you tag the
16 fish because I'm thinking about up the stream, up the
17 stream the fish is not going to go back, because I know
18 the fish go up to the stream, he's up there until it
19 dies, spawn. Young ones they go back, I guess.

20

21 MR. CANNON: Mr. McCann, we tag the fish
22 down by Kalskag and we then track them with airplanes and
23 with remote towers as they go up to the spawning areas.
24 So we're doing what you said. We're looking for them as
25 they go from Kalskag up river to their spawning area.

26

27 MR. MCCANN: Okay. That means that you
28 tagging the fish up river, you're not tagging where they
29 like -- like Johnson River -- from Johnson River on down
30 -- up where it's going, you only know, if I understood
31 right from Kalskag only going up. That's all you're
32 looking at.

33

34 MR. CANNON: Mr. McCann, yes, that's
35 right. That's where we do the tagging. But we have
36 projects below Kalskag to look at fish in the Kwethluk
37 and the Tuluksak, so we look at -- with weirs, we look at
38 the fish that go inside the -- up into the Kwethluk and
39 Tuluksak Rivers. The Eek and the Kisaralik, I know are
40 important spawning areas, too, but we don't have the
41 money to look in each one of those rivers so we're
42 looking at two of them below Kalskag.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
45 Rich. Nick Andrew.

46

47 MR. ANDREW: Sound like my thing's not
48 loud enough, can you hear?

49

50 MR. CANNON: Yes.

00202

1 MR. ANDREW: You know where that, after
2 you tag the fish you know where it goes, one time that
3 was long time ago when Johnny Thompson and Alex Nick used
4 to work for those Fish and Game up at Oyak (ph), that's
5 about 23 miles above Marshall, I happen to go in that
6 little creek upper end of our air field there, they call
7 that little creek, Wilson Creek, when I went in there I
8 see lots of fish and I was looking at them, it was clear.
9 I start seeing fish with tag. I went back and get my
10 spear and I was getting them, you know, I got enough for
11 gas, five gallon gas, and then I went up to Oyak and they
12 gave me a dollar each and then that Fish and Game is
13 looking at it and they says, these the ones we were
14 tagging up at Oyak, they came down about like 23 miles
15 back down and went in that little creek there.

16

17 Quyana.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

20

21 (No comment)

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Were you looking for
24 anything from the Councils, Rich.

25

26 MR. CANNON: What we'd like, of course,
27 are your comments which you have provided. Also is, if
28 you'd like, if you agree with what you're recommending
29 then you could take an action to do that, you know, just
30 an agreement.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: I guess it's quite obvious
33 that any kind of studies that we get within the river
34 system, especially the small tributaries and more data
35 that we gather it is a pat on your back and this data-
36 gathering assists us in all our decision-making for
37 proposals.

38

39 So at this time I would really thank you
40 for making this presentation and providing this
41 information.

42

43 That KNA internship program, how much are
44 you spending on that one in hiring young people and
45 making use of them?

46

47 MR. CANNON: It's less than \$25,000.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that a year?

50

00203

1 MR. CANNON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: That sounds good for young
4 kids. Any other further questions.

5

6 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

9

10 MR. REAKOFF: There's one project that I
11 feel would be worthwhile on the Kuskokwim River and that
12 would be an ichthyophonus investigation, and I don't see
13 any of that there. Ichthyophonus is on the Yukon River
14 and I would really like to see that ichthyophonus would
15 be tracked or surveyed or something on the Kuskokwim
16 also.

17

18 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Reakoff.
19 Ichthyophonus has been identified in the past, you know,
20 in some samples in the Kuskokwim so it does occur in the
21 drainage but we haven't heard from subsistence users
22 about the cysts that so many of the Yukon fishermen have
23 observed. Now, that's something that we definitely could
24 screen for and we'll -- you know, what we'd have to do is
25 put that into the mix of needs for the Kuskokwim.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

28

29 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, my other
30 comments would be that all of those projects presented
31 were very worthwhile and I personally would like to
32 endorse those.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you looking for not
35 only endorsement but some kind of action or anything?
36 Vince.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: It would be best for the
39 record if you did pass a motion and we can help you put
40 that motion together that you would support the Fishery
41 Monitoring Plan as presented by Rich Cannon in your
42 salmon-colored book.

43

44 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Lester.

47

48 MR. L. WILDE: I'd like to move that we
49 support the Monitoring Program as presented by Rich
50 Cannon.

00204

1 MS. GREGORY: I second the motion.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.

4

5 (No comment)

6

7 MR. WALKER: Question.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called.

10 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

11

12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

15

16 (No opposing votes)

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank

19 you, Rich. Anything else?

20

21 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

24

25 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, I would invite

26 the Council members, when you have time at breaks to go

27 around and take a look at the posters that are up in the

28 room here. They were prepared by investigators working

29 on both the Yukon and the Kuskokwim and they provide a

30 lot of information.

31

32 And then we have one additional

33 presentation on the Kuskokwim Monitoring Program and

34 Steve Klein would like to provide you a real short

35 briefing on the Partners Program.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Steve. Do we

40 have any kind of papers on this?

41

42 MR. L. WILDE: On E.

43

44 MR. KLEIN: Yes, Mr. Chair, on Tab E

45 there's a short description of the Partners For Fisheries

46 Monitoring Program. Rich just covered what we're trying

47 to do with the whole Fisheries Resource Monitoring

48 Program, and as Rich said, 50 percent of the projects in

49 the Kuskokwim are being funded by the Monitoring Program.

50 And I just want you all to realize that Rich is working

00206

1 ensure that funding forever and, in fact, I think it
2 ought to build and I we need more of these positions in
3 Alaska Native and rural organizations.

4

5 The way we're implementing it is with
6 five year agreements so we have a commitment at least
7 through five years as long as there's funding coming.
8 And Mr. Tom Boyd, in the very back there, he's a very
9 strong advocate for this program and he's working hard to
10 keep that program rolling and hopefully we can build upon
11 it in the future.

12

13 Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: I truly commend you on
16 this program. Because I think that it is well
17 worthwhile, this partnerships program. I know that we
18 have a partnership with TCC, too, and I think that this
19 project is well worthwhile.

20

21 Were you looking for recommendation or
22 anything on this?

23

24 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. We're just trying
25 to tell you the good news about the program and there's
26 no action necessary by the Council, except maybe drop by
27 Mr. Boyd and tell him you think it's great.

28

29 Mr. Chair.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: On the record, yes, we
34 really believe that this is truly a worthwhile program,
35 and it does -- at one million a year it does boost the
36 economy.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Mr.
41 Steve Klein. If not, thank you, and I have one more
42 question for Rich. Were you looking for some kind of
43 direction or maybe it's directed at Jack, were you
44 looking for some kind of direction or priority or just
45 make a suggestion or a motion to seek funding for a
46 geofarm on the Kuskokwim, a study?

47

48 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to see funding
49 obtained for at least a small monitoring program for that
50 ichthyophonous. It's become quite an issue on the Yukon

00207

1 and I think it would be worthwhile to monitor that, you
2 know, maybe take some samples at processing plants, at
3 subsistence camps and so forth. I think that would be a
4 worthwhile project.

5
6 That's my opinion that that should be
7 looked at since it's been a building concern on the
8 Yukon.

9
10 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Mary.

13
14 MS. GREGORY: I thought we did that
15 already and it was found not to be -- it wasn't -- found
16 not to be toxic or something. It wasn't going to hurt
17 human consumption.

18
19 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chair. Mary. The
20 ichthyophonus isn't harmful to humans but it can be
21 harmful to fish and that's what Mr. Reakoff is talking
22 about, the concern on the Kuskokwim is that some of these
23 fish that are infected actually may not make it to the
24 spawning grounds because of higher mortalities. But
25 you're right, eating the fish is not going to hurt a
26 human being. It may not smell good, which is a problem,
27 but it won't hurt you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, did you have
30 anything?

31
32 MR. REAKOFF: (Shakes head negatively)

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Would a motion to
35 seek funding for this project be in order or not?

36
37 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, that's
38 certainly an option that the Councils have and certainly
39 would welcome any kind of input like that.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

42
43 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I would like
44 to make a motion that the OSM investigate providing a
45 project on the Kuskokwim for monitoring ichthyophonus.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

48
49 MR. BENEDICT: Second the motion.

50

00208

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Benedict. Any
2 further discussion. This is a suggestion and we just
3 want to go on record to seek some funding and look into
4 seeking funding.

5
6 Briefly, Mike Smith.

7
8 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
9 Jack, I just wanted to let you know Tanana Chiefs, this
10 summer, through the program where we went out and
11 collected samples of subsistence-caught fish. We took
12 age, sex and length information, genetic samples and then
13 biological samples for ichthyophonus. We worked with Dr.
14 Kosan on that and have shipped numerous heart samples to
15 him.

16
17 We had an effort in Huslia and we hope to
18 expand that program next year using youth opportunity
19 grants and some other money we have to expand the
20 collection of that data. I know in some preliminary
21 indications, just the stuff that we analyzed and stuff,
22 our best samples came out of the Nulato area and it
23 showed somewhere between about a 27 percent infection
24 rate at Nulato-caught subsistence fish.

25
26 But we hope to expand that program in the
27 future and are working toward that.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks for the information
30 Mike. This motion addresses the Kuskokwim River. Any
31 further questions.

32
33 (No comment)

34
35 MR. WALKER: Question.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called, so
38 all those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

39
40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

43
44 (No opposing votes)

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Does that
47 conclude your report?

48
49 MR. CANNON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank
50 you.

00209

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Rich Cannon and
2 Steve Klein for your reports. Thank you.

3

4 The next item on the agenda -- where are
5 we?

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, sorry to
8 interrupt. You mentioned earlier that I might have had a
9 housekeeping item and we do have a housekeeping item. We
10 need clarification from the mover of the motion from
11 Western Interior. We have two interpretations of the
12 numbers of the proposals he mentioned. And so we're not
13 asking you to revisit or revote or anything, we just need
14 clarification that the mover of the motion was Proposals
15 130 through 135, and it would also help Staff and your
16 neighboring Council to just briefly touch upon your
17 justification for supporting Proposals 130, 131, 132,
18 133, 134 and 135.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. It was
21 our understanding that we -- I mean for your information
22 we do have two members on the Kuskokwim working group who
23 we seated through this program and also appointed them to
24 the Coordinating Fisheries Committee under OSM. So it
25 was our intention and justification to help support or
26 comment the Kuskokwim Working Groups efforts. And we
27 kind of mirrored some of -- we mirrored their -- we just
28 supported their actions and we may revisit one or two of
29 them.

30

31 That's it.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, then
34 that explains those. And that would also apply to the
35 other proposals also. I don't have the numbers in front
36 of me, I can't find them as quickly, 140 and et cetera,
37 that same.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: That 140, again, is out of
40 our area, out of our jurisdiction and it has no bearing
41 one way or another on Western Interior, so it took no
42 action.

43

44 145, is just something that we always
45 support or oppose depending on the presentation of this
46 proposal. And one of our strongest stances has always
47 been that if sportfishing is open subsistence should be
48 open, too, and align both. Do not have sportfishing open
49 while we do not have subsistence open. And that is the
50 justification for that so that's all done.

00210

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, thank you for your
4 patience. Some of us just can't write enough so
5 appreciate you just clarifying the record.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Where you go now is into
12 organizational reports.

13

14 Mr. Chairman, we can assess who is
15 willing to speak and then we could continue or you could
16 break and come back. I would recommend you continue but
17 it's the call of both Councils.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, just for our
20 information and clarification, we are meeting as a tri-
21 Council when, tomorrow, the day after?

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you meet tomorrow
24 9:00 Eastern Interior is already starting to arrive
25 today, so tomorrow morning at 9:00 o'clock you start the
26 tri-Council.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Would it be more expedient
29 if we just have these presentations before all three
30 Councils instead of having them jump from day to day or
31 have them change day to day?

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: No, it would be best to
34 cover them now because they're addressed to the
35 Kuskokwim, so Eastern Interior would have no interest --
36 well, they would have interest in them, they have no
37 standing on the Kuskokwim. I don't know how many reports
38 are out there. I know that Bering Sea Fishermen
39 Association has a report they want to give and I don't
40 know what other ones want to. So we could probably get a
41 show of hands and then, you know, see how many are from
42 the organizations are planning to speak tonight and then
43 we can assess the time.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the pleasure of the
46 respective Councils, do you want to continue or take a
47 five minute break, 10 minute break?

48

49 (No comment)

50

00211

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any direction.

2

3 MS. GREGORY: Go on and then go to
4 dinner.

5

6 MR. L. WILDE: Let's get it done.

7

8 MS. GREGORY: Get it over with and go to
9 dinner.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that the consensus,
12 keep going.

13

14 (Councils nod affirmatively)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Hearing no objections
17 we'll start with the Native organizations. AVCP. If they
18 want to give their report.

19

20 Again, it is 5:22.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Wayne Morgan. Again,
25 state your name and your organization. Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Two minutes.

28

29 MR. MORGAN: Wayne Morgan, Kuskokwim
30 Native Association. Natural Resources director and soon
31 to be the realty officer for KNA. I'll just give a
32 short, true, five minute report.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MR. MORGAN: First, KNA would like to,
37 you know, you heard about the fishery stuff, fishery
38 issues, I think a little -- everybody touched on that and
39 the Kuskokwim. And the projects that KNA has are several
40 projects.

41

42 The success for those projects is because
43 of the cooperation and collaboration between ourselves
44 and KNA, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association and Alaska
45 Department of Fish and Game, Office of Subsistence
46 Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Kuskokwim
47 River Salmon Management Working Group and various other
48 groups.

49

50 And with those several projects that KNA

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1 has and wants to keep on having is primarily run by two
2 people in my office, that's myself and biologist Dave
3 Cannon and we have two other people that we get in the
4 summertime to help us out. So there is a lot of work. A
5 lot of work.

6

7 Fishery issues, that's one thing, the
8 main thing I want to talk about. You guys already heard
9 a lot about fisheries in our area so I don't need to go
10 into that anymore.

11

12 One thing of our concern in the area, you
13 know, we don't have any pink land in our area, so you
14 know what I'm talking about, 19(A), 19(B), hunting
15 issues. Like Randy mentioned earlier, you know, this
16 planning group got together last year, this moose
17 planning group got together, you know, trying to address
18 the issues of the declining moose populations in our
19 area.

20

21 This year I can attest to that there is
22 hardly any moose between 19(A), I didn't get one and a
23 lot of people didn't get one from my area. I'm talking
24 about the locals. The local people of that unit are
25 people feel that we're not being heard within, you know,
26 about our concerns. And it's -- we go to Game Board
27 meetings, we're part of this moose management planning
28 effort and like Randy mentioned it's people from the
29 Lower Kuskokwim area, people from Upper Kuskokwim and
30 people from outside of the area that's involved
31 commercially and environmentally. So we bring in
32 everybody to try and address the issues. But I feel
33 that we aren't addressing the issues. We're still trying
34 to not, like, what was the expression at one of the
35 meetings, please don't hurt anybody's feelings. And the
36 main feelings that aren't being listened to and heard is
37 the people from that unit. And that is still a concern
38 today, even though after Randy's report. Because you
39 know the issues.

40

41 No surveys. Enough surveys. Density
42 estimates. And we ask why don't you do those density
43 estimates. Why can't you do more. No money. No money
44 to do those surveys, density estimates for moose within
45 my area. And we keep hearing that, no money, but we're
46 getting millions of dollars in fisheries, which is good.
47 You know, fishery studies and all that, we get -- we
48 spend millions of dollars a year on the Kuskokwim alone
49 studying fisheries. And you got scientists from, I'd say
50 about 30 or 40 scientists, biologists studying fisheries,

00214

1 up. No, I haven't. Trying to go through these planning
2 efforts trying to get something done as a group. Trying
3 to. Tried to.

4

5 But no we haven't gone on our own to make
6 a separate proposal to address some of these issues. And
7 I still want to try to still work with the people that
8 are involved, like this all State land, you got to work
9 with all the other people that are involved in there, and
10 try to come out with an answer.

11

12 That's all, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Wayne. Any
15 questions for Wayne.

16

17 (No comment)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not. AVCP.

20

21 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, my
22 apologies for not being prepared earlier. I just kind of
23 instinctively said no when our name came up. Thank you
24 for this opportunity to address you again, members of the
25 Yukon Delta Regional Advisory Councils and also the
26 Western Interior.

27

28 There's been some concerns that AVCP has
29 regarding our fishery on the Kuskokwim River. One is
30 that when there is a -- when the season started off with
31 restrictions and then the Department of Fish and Game
32 announces a commercial opening and then after that -- or
33 until that point the subsistence schedules are
34 miraculously lifted. And one of the things that I have
35 pointed out to you earlier in one of my presentations is
36 the lack of salmon enumeration projects below the Bethel
37 test fishery or a lack of a way to find exactly what is
38 going up the rivers, like the Yukon River, like the Yukon
39 River projects has -- you know, there is that need and
40 it's a need that is needed to liberalize some of the
41 subsistence efforts early in the season, especially in
42 low production years like this year.

43

44 And if there's any way possible that we
45 can possibly get more money to develop some kind of a
46 project that will give us, at least those preliminary
47 numbers it would very much have a -- it would have a
48 positive impact on the subsistence fisherman.

49

50 We have, along with several different

00215

1 organizations, along with the local organizations there
2 in Bethel we have thought about the issue of -- the size
3 of the community of Bethel and it's impact on our fishery
4 resources. It's a growing population there and I believe
5 the population there is about 6,000 people and growing
6 more and more every year. We're seeing a huge number of
7 people coming in from different parts of the state and
8 also from the Lower 48 as well, and when those people go
9 out and subsistence fish or under the umbrella of
10 subsistence they have an impact on species, they have an
11 impact on the local users and also users further up the
12 river. And we hope to sit down with ONC, we hope to sit
13 down with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
14 perhaps with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and try to
15 plan what to do with the population in Bethel.

16

17 During the years that we were severely
18 restricted, there were some voluntary efforts in trying
19 to reduce the amounts that the local, the non-traditional
20 people or the users -- or the non-traditional users of
21 the resource and their impact on the fishery. We've
22 asked these people to voluntarily restrict themselves
23 from taking the resource and keeping -- or leaving the
24 resource to those that truly need the resource, the
25 Native people in Bethel that have lived there for many,
26 many years and rely on the resource.

27

28 Anyway, we hope to come up with some kind
29 of possible solution in planning for instances when that
30 type of issues come up.

31

32 We have concerns on the 21(E) on the
33 moose, on the customary and traditional use
34 determinations as we have expressed. Many, many people
35 have hunted in that area, especially when we did not have
36 any moose populations in the Lower Yukon area. People
37 have traditionally and customarily gone up to the lower
38 portions of 21(E) and hunted moose. And, you know,
39 that's both for the September hunting season and also for
40 the winter season as well when that was established. And
41 some of these people have long-term, you know, current
42 long-term practices and hunting in that area.

43

44 You know, there's a person by the name of
45 Art Dall, Sr., in Bethel, who 50 years ago used to travel
46 up there to hunt moose for subsistence purposes. And
47 there are countless others from the villages that have
48 traversed those long distances, especially through with
49 dogs, with snowmachines, when the snowmachines came
50 around in their pursuit to harvest subsistence moose.

00216

1 We have another area that affects the
2 people in the AVCP region, and it's within the AVCP
3 region that the Unit 19 moose issues. I'd like to
4 correct Wayne in AVCP's participation in trying to
5 resolve this issue. We have sent Jennifer Hooper up to
6 Aniak to meet with the Central Kuskokwim Fish and Game
7 Advisory Committee and also with the moose working group
8 to try and put our input into resolving this issue. And
9 prior to Jennifer we've also had Dario Notti participate
10 in that as well. And we hope to continue to provide our
11 input in hopes that we can resolve some of the issues
12 surrounding the Unit 19 moose issue and protecting our
13 people's subsistence hunting and fishing rights or
14 subsistence hunting rights in the area.

15

16 In Unit 19, which covers very much of our
17 area, it's a huge expanse that goes from Platinum all the
18 way up to Kalskag and over to Kotlik on the north side
19 there and Russian Mission on the Yukon -- or excuse me
20 Paimuit on the Yukon River side. The lower Kuskokwim
21 area, the Lower Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory
22 Committee area which consists of 11 villages starting
23 from Tuluksak down to, I believe it was Tuntutuliak down
24 to Eek and the tundra villages have all decided to start
25 a Lower Kuskokwim moose moratorium until the population
26 of the moose comes up to 1,000 moose within an immediate
27 count area.

28

29 This proposal was supported by the
30 majority of the villages, we did not gain the support
31 from the villages of Kasigluk and Akiak during one of the
32 AVCP conventions. They have chose not to support this
33 because they would like to continue to hunt moose despite
34 -- hunt moose and feed their families despite what the
35 other villages feel.

36

37 This issue is going to be taken up in the
38 November Board of Game meeting which is going to be held
39 in Anchorage, both our Staff, perhaps myself and an
40 additional Staff member will likely attend this meeting
41 and provide our input and what we plan to do and what we
42 plan to do to assist the program is submit a proposal, if
43 we can possibly get funding from other sources to do
44 education programs, conduct education programs within the
45 villages within the media, whether it's done by the two
46 local newspapers that we have up there in Bethel or KYAK
47 or through the individual meetings within the villages.

48

49 That is basically it and I'd be happy to
50 answer any questions if any of the Regional Advisory

00217

1 Council members have any questions.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any questions
4 for AVCP representative, Mr. Andrew.

5

6 (No comment)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just go ahead.

9

10 MR. ANDREW: Just one additional issue
11 that kind of stands out in looking through our meeting
12 agendas that does not appear on there is addressing some
13 of the special action requests that we have submitted to
14 the Office of Subsistence Management this past summer
15 addressing our chinook salmon fishery on both Kuskokwim
16 Rivers. What we'd like to do is see that appear on
17 future agendas to where the RACs would be informed about
18 some of these issues that we have presented to the
19 Federal subsistence managers.

20

21 With that, thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mr. Andrew.

24

25 MR. MCCANN: Mr. Chairman.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Billy McCann.

28

29 MR. MCCANN: I'd like to know maybe you
30 can't answer it but you said something about the people
31 coming from out of state and hunting. I wonder if one of
32 the Fish and Game or somebody here knows about -- there's
33 a law that has to be -- a person has to be resident for
34 so many years, be here for so many years.

35

36 (In Yup'ik)

37

38 INTERPRETER: Is there a law that you
39 cannot hunt until you're a resident for some years? You
40 cannot hunt unless you're an Alaskan resident or is there
41 a way a person can hunt, who can answer that question?

42

43 MR. MCCANN: (In Yup'ik)

44

45 INTERPRETER: (In Yup'ik)

46

47 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

48

49 MR. MCCANN: Are you guys listening to
50 what I said? I want an answer.

00218

1 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman. My name is
2 Terry Haynes with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
3 I wasn't listening to the translation of your question.
4 But one has to be a resident -- in order to be a resident
5 and to qualify for a resident hunting license, one has to
6 live in Alaska for 12 months.

7
8 MR. MCCANN: Okay. I'm asking about
9 eligibility on the resident from -- coming from out of
10 state, Korea, someplace else, how many years does some
11 law that says we have to be resident for doing something
12 in that, so I'm asking about if that resident -- being a
13 resident how many years you can be hunting or no, you
14 don't have to wait for that resident law?

15
16 Do you understand me.

17
18 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, if I may, I'll
19 give it my best shot.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, go ahead.

22
23 MR. ANDREW: What we have here is
24 basically we have two jurisdiction. We have State
25 jurisdiction and we have Federal jurisdiction. In
26 Federal hunting areas, like for example the Yukon-
27 Kuskokwim Delta or Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.
28 If you want to hunt within those boundaries you have to
29 have customary and traditional use determinations for
30 those, I mean for hunting that specie or for fishing that
31 specie. Like for example, the rainbow trout that I had
32 told you about earlier.

33
34 In order to be able to fish for rainbow
35 trout in the Quinhagak, or not -- excuse me, in the
36 Kwethluk River or the Kisaralik River, you have to have
37 customary and traditional use determinations for that.
38 If you do not have customary and traditional use
39 determinations you cannot hunt of fish for those species.

40
41 Now, on the State land, if you're asking
42 about residency and the ability to hunt, anybody and
43 everybody from different areas can come hunt on State
44 land.

45
46 Is that true, sir?

47
48 MR. HAYNES: It's not true for moose
49 hunting in Unit 18 because moose hunting on State lands
50 in Unit 18 is not open to non-residents of Alaska.

00219

1 MR. ANDREW: But residents of different
2 parts of Alaska can?

3

4 MR. HAYNES: But all state residents are
5 eligible, yes.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

8

9 (No comment)

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you for your
12 report. Tanana Chief's Mike Smith.

13

14 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I got to get my
15 material for my report.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If
20 you'd offer me a minute I think I can find my spot here,
21 oh, yes, here it is.

22

23 I want to thank you all and I'll give my
24 presentation at the meeting later on in the week, thank
25 you very much.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mike. It is
30 now 5:50, ONC, are you here. Yes, thank you. State
31 your name and speak into the mike, please, thank you, for
32 the record.

33

34 MR. DULL: Hi, I'm Byron Dull from ONC. I
35 was one of the fish technicians for the Native Council.
36 I was asked to come and speak, Greg Roczicka, the natural
37 resources manager couldn't make it out. So I handled
38 with my work partner, Moe Anvil, the in-season
39 subsistence from Napaskiak to the mouth of the Eek River
40 for the past three months.

41

42 We collected information throughout the
43 week to the end of each subsistence opening on how the
44 salmon runs were doing weekly and presented our
45 information to the Salmon Working Group meetings every
46 week. We also distributed age, sex, length kits and
47 trained willing fishermen and their kids how to collect
48 scales and the data. We exceeded our goals this past
49 year by about 300 and our goal was a thousand kings.

50

00220

1 In between runs, during commercial
2 openings are when all the fishermen were berry picking.
3 When work was slow for us we'd get recruited to help with
4 test fishing up the surrounding rivers and once at the
5 Ignatti weir and helping put in the Kwethluk River weir.

6
7 Having the privilege to work as a
8 fisheries technician was a really rewarding experience.

9
10 And that's it. Any questions.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for -- Jack
13 Reakoff.

14
15 MR. REAKOFF: You were collecting samples
16 from subsistence caught fish, is that what you said?

17
18 MR. DULL: The fishermen were -- we
19 trained them and collected the scales from them after
20 they did the sampling.

21
22 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, how big of a
23 deal would it be to save the hearts for ichthyophonus in
24 your sampling, would that be just an additional sample
25 that people could take?

26
27 MR. DULL: You'd have to speak with the
28 people that organize our -- the work we do. Would they
29 have to be frozen or put into an alcohol tube or some way
30 of preserving it?

31
32 MR. REAKOFF: Those are good questions.
33 I think that would be a good time to take samples,
34 though. So I would like to see that incorporated into
35 your project.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

38
39 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Mary.

42
43 MS. GREGORY: I'd like to commend Mr.
44 Dahl?

45
46 MR. DULL: Dull.

47
48 MS. GREGORY: For your work. Keep at it.
49 We need more people like you.

50

00221

1 MR. DULL: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

4

5 (No comment)

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: After two days and looking
8 forward to three or four more it's good to see a young
9 face anyway.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: We'll all have old faces
14 in a couple more days.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: ADF&G. Thank you for that
19 report, ADF&G, Caroline Brown.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we announced
22 earlier that it'd be best timing for Caroline and she
23 spoke to both of you about it, the best timing for that
24 would be on Thursday for her to present that. So it
25 wasn't timely to bring that up now unless something has
26 changed.

27

28 MS. BROWN: (Shakes head negatively)

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: She's shaking her head no.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Vince for
33 that update and timely information. Bureau of Land
34 Management, Jeff Denton.

35

36 MR. DENTON: My name is Jeff Denton. I'm
37 with the Anchorage Field Office with the BLM. The
38 materials we have to present would probably be more
39 appropriate at the tri-Council meeting so we'll wait
40 until then to make our presentation.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Sure
43 appreciate that tonight.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Fish and Wildlife Service.
48 Mike Rearden.

49

50 MR. REARDEN: Mr. Chairman, I intend to

00222

1 give to my comments to the Lower Yukon folks on Thursday
2 so I don't have any comments today.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for excluding
5 us.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. National Park
10 Service.

11

12 (No comment)

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Not here. Bering Sea
15 Fishermen's Association, I do understand we do have
16 someone here.

17

18 MR. GREENE: Yes, we do.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right, thank you.
21 Again, for the record, speak into the mike and state your
22 name.

23

24 MR. GREENE: Thank you, very much, Mr.
25 Chairman. For the record my name is Ben Greene, I'm with
26 Bering Sea Fishermen's Association. I have a quick
27 powerpoint presentation which will take me just a moment
28 to set up. So I don't know if you want to go on a very
29 quick break or just let us set up and it will just take
30 me a moment.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, while they're
35 setting it up I could cover some evening housekeeping
36 stuff, if that's okay.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, go ahead. And just
39 for our information, too, is there any other organization
40 or advisory groups around, just for our information?

41

42 (No comment)

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you.
45 Housekeeping while we're setting up.

46

47 MR. GREENE: I do have paper copies of my
48 presentation for any Council members or others that would
49 like to just follow along. This is merely a printout of
50 the presentation that I'm going to give. I'm going to

00223

1 try to give this in 10 minutes or less. I have every
2 intention of moving swiftly.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thanks, Alex for
5 distributing the pamphlets. Thank you.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, while
8 they're setting up, two things for the people in the
9 public section. We need you to turn in all the FM
10 receivers tonight. We need to inventory them and you can
11 get them tomorrow. But just to make it clear to Staff
12 and that, the first priority on these will be to the
13 Councils. We do have a full Council coming in tomorrow.
14 So please turn them in.

15

16 For the two Councils that are present
17 here, if you have personal items or whatever at the
18 table, maybe take them back to your room. You can leave
19 your books here and that, but we got to completely
20 rearrange the room to add another Council. So with that
21 take home -- you can leave us a tip if you want.....

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MR. MATHEWS:but take home your
26 other personal items because we're going to have another
27 whole Council, the room will look completely different.
28 So we're going to be setting that up tonight or tomorrow
29 morning. So take whatever personal items when this
30 meeting is adjourned and then that would help us.

31

32 And I think that's it for now.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. There's no
37 tipping allowed today, that lunch was pretty cold.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex, would you
40 translate what he's saying so others will understand over
41 here.

42

43 MS. GREGORY: I can do that. (In Yup'ik)

44

45 INTERPRETER: There will be three
46 Councils so they'd appreciate it if you take your
47 belongings and return the receivers.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Mary, leave
50 your name tags there. We want to make sure we put you in

00224

1 the right spot.

2

3 INTERPRETER: Return the receivers.

4

5 (Pause)

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: So this is the last one

8 right?

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Um?

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: This is the last

13 presentation?

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

16

17 (Pause)

18

19 MR. GREENE: Okay, I think we're almost

20 there. I apologize for the technical glitch. It's the

21 fault of a labor-saving device.

22

23 I think it was two weeks ago today that
24 the Anchorage Daily News carried an article entitled
25 Coalition to Study Western Salmon. And it was an article
26 covering the National Research Council's effort to do a
27 comprehensive research planning effort and in that
28 article, John White, former Board of Fish member, I
29 think, aptly summed things up. He stated that we are
30 fishing in scientific darkness. We don't understand why
31 things crashed and -- and he was referring to this years
32 returns, we don't know why things improved. So it was
33 from this scientific darkness that is spawned strategic
34 research planning efforts. And what I'm going to talk
35 about is the Kuskokwim strategic planning effort which is
36 part of the National Research Councils and the larger
37 planning efforts.

38

39 The key point to what I'm talking about
40 today is that this is the efforts of the Kuskokwim
41 Fisheries Research Coalition, the KFRC, and I just want
42 to introduce that term. I think everybody is probably
43 familiar with it but I want to emphasize that the key
44 word, the operative word is coalition. It is truly a
45 group exercise involving different departments of ADF&G
46 as well as different departments within US Fish and
47 Wildlife Service. So we've got commercial fish,
48 sportfish, Subsistence Division, we have the Kenai
49 Fisheries Resource Office and then we have a myriad of
50 Native groups, the Association of Village Council

00225

1 Presidents, Tanana Chief Council, Kuskokwim Native
2 Association, the McGrath Native Village Council,
3 Orutsaramiut Native Council and of course the working
4 group. These are up here in no particular order, and the
5 list, despite going to 14 as of today, is actually
6 somewhat of a flexible list of interested parties.

7

8 As many or most or all of you are aware,
9 the National Research Council has a strategic long-term
10 planning exercise for the entire AY-K region involving
11 site visits and many of you have attended meetings in
12 Bethel or St. Mary's or Aniak talking to National
13 Research Council folks. This will be followed by a
14 workshop next month and the completion of a report.

15

16 And as the next slide shows, this
17 process, next, is happening parallel or is paralleled by
18 a research -- strategic research planning effort on the
19 Kuskokwim. The writing here might be a little bit too
20 small to read, don't worry we're going to go into detail
21 in just a moment on this.

22

23 Parallel to both of these strategic
24 research planning exercises are various funding
25 initiatives. We heard from Rich Cannon and he guided us
26 through step by step some of the Office of Subsistence
27 Management's funding initiative high points of that.
28 There is also the AYK Sustainable Salmon Initiative as a
29 funding initiative. Both of these funding initiatives
30 rely upon the completion of strategic research plans.
31 For example, Rich Cannon, gave a great presentation and
32 appeared to all of us as being exceptionally generous in
33 doling out funds for different projects but actually Rich
34 is holding money back from us because we have not
35 completed a strategic research plan. So the US Fish and
36 Wildlife Office of Subsistence Management funding will
37 become contingent upon a complete strategic plan within
38 the watershed. So this will greatly enhance Rich's
39 ability to fairly allocate funds.

40

41 The next slide is horribly complex and I
42 hate to do this to you, but, yes, there are many
43 interconnections between the National Research Council's
44 funding, I'm sorry planning exercise and the Kuskokwim
45 planning exercise and these two funding initiatives,
46 including -- you'll notice there is an arrow -- I don't
47 know whether you can read it but there is an arrow from
48 the RAC meetings which are going on right here, right now
49 to the very first step or actually the second step of the
50 Kuskokwim strategic planning exercise, and that arrow

00226

1 reminds me why it was that I was here at 8:30 this
2 morning and I've been diligently taking notes in the back
3 of the room, because things that come up at this meeting
4 will become incorporated into this strategic plan. Tim
5 Andrew noting the need for a total run abundance in the
6 lower river, I took notes. The call for ichthyophonous
7 studies in the Kuskokwim, I took notes. And this will
8 become incorporated into the Kuskokwim plan.

9

10 Okay, for the remainder of my time let's
11 make it a little bit simpler, let's focus just on the
12 Kuskokwim and let's go step by step.

13

14 Starting off, the very first thing we
15 need to accomplish is to gather all of the information
16 needs and we're going to gather these needs from the
17 regional groups, from the individual interested parties,
18 the stakeholders within the region. These are
19 information needs which are required to prosecute, manage
20 and sustain salmon fisheries in the Kuskokwim.

21

22 The next step will be to inventory all
23 the current fisheries monitoring and research, the
24 infrastructure which is the river. Between these two
25 lists, if you will, the list of all the information needs
26 and the inventory of the current infrastructure, we will
27 conduct a gap analysis and we can draft an assessment of
28 the unmet research needs. Once we've subtracted one list
29 from the other we will have a gap analysis and then we
30 can assess these unmet research needs and prioritize
31 these research needs. Because a list is just a list and
32 it requires some additional work and the prioritization
33 of these unmet research needs will have to be a group
34 process involving representatives from all of the
35 different organizations. Remember I noted 14 different
36 organizations within the KFRC. We will be together in
37 one room or at least a representative from each of those
38 14 organizations and entities will be present for a group
39 process of prioritizing the unmet research needs.

40

41 Finally we can produce a final planning
42 document which will be a strategic research plan for the
43 Kuskokwim.

44

45 This is sort of a reiterate of slide.
46 And I sort of come back to it and back to it and back to
47 it, there's a reason for that. The planning effort will,
48 and must emphasize full participation of stakeholder
49 groups, a coordinated effort by all the interested groups
50 is absolutely vital for the success of the plan.

00227

1 So we'll have the stakeholder groups,
2 whether they be Native groups, Federal groups, State
3 groups, the Salmon Management Working Group. They will
4 be working through a subcommittee of the KFRC and I will
5 be functioning as the liaison so I'm in charge of keeping
6 everybody in the loop. I will be riding herd, if you
7 will, making sure that ideas that are coming from the
8 different stakeholder groups become incorporated into the
9 plan. We have contracted a private planning enterprise
10 in Anchorage, LGL Research Associates to help us turn the
11 crank and write the plan but remember, this isn't to be
12 LGL's strategic research plan, it is certainly not
13 intended to be Ben Greene's strategic research plan, it
14 is the KFRC's strategic research plan, and we hope that
15 all of the different stakeholder groups throughout the
16 watershed can take possession of this plan, call it
17 theirs, recognize that their input is incorporated into
18 the final plan.

19

20 Quickly go over some of the goals and
21 objectives of this plan. The intent is to update earlier
22 strategic planning efforts that have been done. And it
23 will mostly be updated in the sense that it will be
24 produced collaboratively with input from all of the
25 stakeholder groups.

26

27 The uses of the plan, several-fold. One,
28 I think it will be very useful as a plan to assist
29 individual groups within the region to focus, coordinate
30 their research and monitoring efforts, to strengthen
31 their own natural resources programs and to arrive at a
32 widely accepted prioritization of research needs. And
33 the reason a widely accepted prioritization of needs is
34 important is for the last step there is assisting the
35 funding initiatives, whether it be OSM and their funding
36 dollars which they will be allocating or AYK SSI, or
37 BSFA, there are many different groups that channel funds
38 to individual projects up and down the river and having a
39 widely accepted prioritization of the unmet research
40 needs will really help these groups in focusing their
41 funding efforts.

42

43 Key steps of the plan, we've broken it
44 down into five steps. Each of these steps have specific
45 deliverables that will be delivered to the KFRC
46 subcommittee as well as specific dates by which time
47 these should be completed, necessarily some of the dates
48 will become flexible deadlines rather than rigid
49 deadlines and you could debate whether that's good or
50 bad, but nonetheless the first is to identify all of the

00228

1 issues and all of the information needs, then to
2 inventory the current monitoring infrastructure, prepare
3 a comparative assessment of the unmet research needs,
4 that's after doing a gap analysis, prioritizing -- I
5 mentioned this as a group effort that should be done by
6 the end of March, and then a final draft of the plan
7 should be in paper, on the books by the end of May, which
8 this is all timed to work with the funding initiatives
9 which I think is shown in the next slide.

10

11 Yeah, and this is the interaction with
12 the National Research Council's, their larger scale
13 research restoration plan and noting that our inventory,
14 our gap assessment will be concurrent with the NRC
15 workshop which, as I mentioned, is the middle of
16 November, next month. We will be doing a comparative
17 assessment in advance of the interim NRC report. The
18 final draft of the Kuskokwim research plan as well as the
19 final NRC report will both become vital for providing
20 input for the next years of the Federal year '05/06
21 rounds of funding for both OSM and Sustainable Salmon
22 Initiative.

23

24 And I think we're just about there, next
25 slide. There's contact information for me so if nothing
26 else in the packet that was handed out, nothing else
27 might be that vital, this should be vital because as I
28 emphasized from the get-go, and I will emphasize again
29 and again and again, we want input from all of the
30 interested different groups, the Native groups, the State
31 groups, the Federal groups and that way it can be a plan
32 that everyone in this room and beyond can take possession
33 of and that's what gives this plan, this strategic
34 research plan a prayer of success. If it is our plan, if
35 we can all, each person in this room can point to
36 something in the final plan that is there because of
37 their individual input.

38

39 I'm out of time, thank you.

40

41 I'd be happy to take any questions.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Thanks for your
44 presentation. You got me kind of wondering, how did you
45 find funding to get started and how long have you been in
46 existence?

47

48 MR. GREENE: Thank you, very much for
49 that question. It was a perfect question to remind me of
50 something I was meaning to talk about. The KFRC, as a

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1 coalition and spearheaded by Mike Rearden and Doug
2 Molino, put in a grant proposal to the AYK Sustainable
3 Salmon Initiative for \$30,000. That funding proposal was
4 funded and there have been additional funds that have
5 been received from Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge,
6 from ADF&G, from US Fish and Wildlife Service, and most
7 recently Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, having
8 brought me back into the loop for this process.

9

10 So I have been working in and around the
11 Kuskokwim and focusing on different Kuskokwim fisheries
12 issues -- I have personally been working on this for
13 almost a decade with different affiliations, and there, I
14 hope I answered your questions.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, appreciate your
17 answer, too. Any further questions for Bering Sea.

18

19 (No comment)

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you for your
22 presentation.

23

24 MR. GREENE: Thank you, very much.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything else on the
27 agenda.

28

29 (No comment)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not the Chair will
32 entertain a motion to adjourn the YK Delta and the
33 Western Interior Joint meeting, is there a motion.

34

35 MS. GREGORY: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mary, is
38 there a second.

39

40 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Jack Reakoff.
43 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

44

45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those opposed.

48

49 (No opposing votes)

50

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2 adjourned.
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CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. We are

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 86 through 230 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR and YUKON DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS MEETING, VOLUME 2 taken electronically by Nathaniel Hile on the 13th day of October 2003, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock a.m. at Wasilla, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 31st day of October 2003.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04 □