YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

VOLUME I

PUBLIC MEETING

Long House Hotel
Bethel, Alaska
October 13, 2005
9:00 o'clock a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Harry Wilde, Sr., Chair
Bob Aloysius
William Brown
James Charles
Mary Gregory
Beverly Hoffman
Joseph Mike, Sr.
Phillip Moses
Raymond Oney
Greg Roczicka
Lester Wilde, Sr.

Regional Council Coordinator, Alex Nick

Sophie Evan, Yup'ik Translator
Joseph "Trim" Nick, Yup'ik Translator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Bethel, Alaska - 10/13/2005)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning, we start our meeting this morning. We don't have any secretary but we got couple here -- meeting come to order and roll call, I'll ask Alex do a roll call.

MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. James Charles.

(No comments)

MR. NICK: Willard D. Church.

(No comments)

MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, Willard asked to be excused for personal reasons. Raymond Oney.

MR. ONEY: Here.

MR. NICK: William Brown.

(No comments)

MR. NICK: He's in the building and he might have stepped out. I'll go back to him. Harry Wilde.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Here.

MR. NICK: Mary Gregory asked to be excused, Mr. Chair. Mary Gregory.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, excused.

MR. NICK: Phillip Moses.

MR. MOSES: Yeah.

MR. NICK: Lester Wilde.

MR. L. WILDE: Here.

MR. NICK: Joseph Mike.

MR. MIKE: Here.

MR. NICK: Greg Roczicka.

MR. ROCZICKA: Here.

MR. NICK: William Brown.

MR. BROWN: Here.

MR. NICK: Bob Aloysius.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Here.

MR. NICK: Beverly Hoffman.

MS. HOFFMAN: Here.

MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. We have eight present, and I believe we have a quorum.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Phillip Moses (In Yup'ik), and after that we will be continue standing up after he finish praying and we going to have a moment of silence for John Hanson who pass on, one of our members.

MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

(Prayer)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: We will continue standing up in a moment of silence, remember John Hanson who is pass on.

(Moment of Silence)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: New members of Council, also this Council that who has new reappoint, we welcome them. And also for those people that who participate in our meeting today, we also welcome them. Also we welcome Native Liaison on the Federal Subsistence Board, Carl Jack. Also members of OSM, Laura Greffenius, Don Rivard, Rich Cannon. Also the members of Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. Also members of ADF&G. Also Association of Village Council Presidents, Myron Naneng. Also the tribal representatives. Ann Wilkinson. Maureen Clark. And also for those people that I didn't mention their name, we welcome you on this meeting.

Now, for our honored guest Marty Hanson and brother Ryan Hanson.

It's next to me here that John Hanson's picture and a chair. He'll be here with us until we finish through with our meeting.

At this time I will turn our meeting over to Don Rivard.

Don.

MR. RIVARD: Good morning, Mr. Chair. Members of the Council.

On behalf of the Federal Subsistence Board and all of us with the Federal Subsistence Program, including yourselves, we have provided a memorial plaque for Mr. John Hanson, and I'd like to present this to Harry Wilde to be able to give to the family when the appropriate time comes during this meeting.

Here's the plaque and I'll read what's on it. I think this is a very appropriate picture. This was a picture of John taken two years ago at your Council meeting in Wasilla, and it's while he was speaking.

We'll always remember John as a man of great wisdom and of great concern for his people here out in the region.

And, just, personally, I'll always remember his distinct voice and his words of wisdom.

The plaque reads:

The Federal Subsistence Board recognizes John Alvin Hanson with grateful appreciation for his dedicated service on the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council and for his dedication to the subsistence way of life. He worked tirelessly for the conservation and utilization of subsistence resources for his family, his community and all those who depend upon the bounty of Alaska's lands and waters.

It's dated the 13th of October 1995 [sic].

So I'll give this to you now, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: We present this to you and your family remember that John that been working with us for long time. Not only that, we got a picture of your daddy here and a chair. Our elder member of our -- Phillip was telling me yesterday, only time I will be satisfy if we make sure that John is with us this morning. So we will always remember John.

John and I we are very close friends. And their family, we work together, me and John, just like we are our own brothers, and their family were very close. We will always remember him every time when we have a meeting.

Thank you. Hope you remember us that we support you wherever.

(Applause)

MS. HANSON: Thank you so very much for this honor. On behalf of his family we thank you very, very much.

I know that, although, our family he has left a big void, he's also left a void in the issues that he fought so hard for because the issues were what we depended on. He taught us how to survive with the food that was provided from the land and sea.

Our condolences to you, all of you who worked with our dad. And because know you also have a loss within your group, within the work you provide. Although our dad is no longer here to continue this fight, his work was done, he was called home because he did his work and it was done. He did a good job. There's going to be no one like him. But the work continues and so much you, all continue, do not leave your people in the blind. Each one of you members, he always made sure all the people at home, no matter whether they accepted him to speak or not heard what was happening within this Council. And he made sure that the associations or the corporation or any meetings that he can put his input in or present a proposal affecting the people of this region was heard

one way or the other because it affected all the people of the region and all those that depended on fish and wildlife.

We are the first keepers of this land and sea. We weren't put here, we didn't place ourselves here in this region or where the wildlife and the fish belonged, God made us and created us and put us in this land. We are the caretakers of this land, and we must have a voice to help those preserve for the next generation.

My mom couldn't be here, she is still very weak after 54 years with my dad. She is very, very thankful for this honor. Not very many honors go to my dad for his tireless work. There's so many times that he would up and leave and we learned to survive. He taught us everything of survival, how to survive even without him. We kept the fort down, kept it together while he went off to fight for issues closest to the hearts of all the people that depended on fish and wildlife.

He's here in spirit. We thank you very much.

Mr. Chair.

(Applause)

MR. HANSON: Thank you.

MS. HANSON: Mr. Chairman, we have something that we printed out to hand out. Our printer didn't work very well but we may be able to -- maybe your Staff can get copies for the Council.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-huh.

MS. HANSON: I'll hand them to you.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

(No comments)

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Betty.

MS. HOFFMAN: Beverly.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

(Laughter)

MS. HOFFMAN: Don, I would like your office to also recreate that plaque and place it at a local regional office here so that future generations will be able to see people that worked hard and tireless like John did. I think that it would be appropriate for a plaque to also placed at the Clarence Road Wildlife Refuge Center.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Phillip. (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: Phillip, would you make comments like what you said yesterday.

MR. MOSES: Alex had him know that before John had passed away -- Alex told Phillip that John had passed away on the next phone call that he got. So he remembered the meetings we held here because he was always present, and he was never absent, and he remembers him as speaking eloquently, various issues and would provide perspective and proper direction. And so his involvement while Phillip was on this Council as well was very encouraging and motivating and pleasant to be with and to work with.

So that is my remembrance of John.

Quyana.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester Wilde.

MR. L. WILDE: I first met John when I was a very young man just starting out in this world right out of high school and at that time he was working down at Alakanuk as a store manager for Shepherd Trading Company. I was a smart-ass kid just right out of high school, knew what I was doing and nobody told me what to do because I knew it all. I didn't know then that I didn't know nothing.

(Laughter)

MR. L. WILDE: But I pretended like I

knew a little bit, something about mechanics. But I was happy to see that Marty and Ryan were here to accept the plaque in memory of their dad. And I think of all the children that John had, the two he cared the most for was Ryan and Marty and Marty was always around me when I was that snot-nosed know it all kid down in Alakanuk trying to be a mechanic by showing people that I was a mechanic, and she was the girl that used to take care of me when I wanted something, her folks made sure that Marty was called and she was the one that changed the water when I needed to wash my hands and most of the time she was my little tail. She's a grown woman now and a beautiful young lady. And I've known her ever since she was about seven years old, I guess.

But when I got down to Alakanuk we were having some problems with a project that we were doing and John never told me anything, never came and told me what to do. He let me do what I thought was right for the project. But if there was a potential mistake that he saw from his experience that wasn't going to work he let me know about it. But he sat me down and told me that there was a better way to do things. And I guess that was the reason why John has worked for the area that he's represented in all the different associations and all the different organizations that he was involved in. Because he thought there was a better way of doing the things that were being done for the area and for the people that he served, which are our people, along the Yukon and the Kuskokwim.

He reminded me of another person I knew later on in life which happened to be Beverly's grandfather, Eddie Hoffman. They had the same approach. They had the same deep caring of their people, and they weren't afraid to come out and tell you what they thought, whether -- I just lost my train of thought -- but they helped shape my life for what it is today. They're the ones that helped me make up my mind when asked to serve in the areas that I am serving in now. If it wasn't for them and my brother, I probably wouldn't be sitting here with you. But thanks to my friend, my adopted brother, John, were able to carry on and we're going to carry on the work that he started for as long as we're able.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, thank you. Now, we'll go back to our agenda now. There's anyone here

that would also like to talk concerning John Hanson. Any one of the members of the Council here.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman, although I wasn't as young as Lester when I first met with John but I just wanted to say that when I first met him dealing with the State Board of Game and the State Board of Fish and when I was first getting started in all of this and I look at him just as a shining example and almost a mentor, if you will, I never met anybody with as great of level of integrity and insight when dealing with some of the issues that we have to deal with. He could see right through the whitewash of bureaucracy like you couldn't -- nobody would ever expect.

I mean he'd sit up there sometimes and look like he's half asleep all the time.....

(Laughter)

MR. ROCZICKA: .....but boy I've never met anyone with that level of depth. And I just look at him as such a final example.

There'd be many times over the years when you get frustrated dealing with these and you could go and sit down and talk to John and one of his favorite words, he always says, (In Yup'ik), you just got to keep going no matter -- no matter how much frustration, you can't give up.

And his shoes will never be filled, but it's almost like a challenge to each and every one of us to try to do the best we can to carry on what he showed us the way to do.

There's so much more, I wish I could find the right words for, but I really miss him, but he'll always be with us. And I want to say thank you to the family as well for giving him to us for the years that you had, I know it's very difficult for families for someone to travel and deal with the broad length of issues that he did in both fisheries and the wildlife and standing up and advocating for the subsistence needs of these people.

So not only thank you to John but thank you to your family for giving him to us all those years.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, thank you. We will go back to our agenda. Public comments are welcome to each agenda item. Please fill out the green form, they must be back there, green forms to be recognized or recognized by the Chair. Public testimony, the time limit will be about 10 minutes providing opportunity for all to testify and to keep on the schedule.

Please note the time of meeting each day and the order of business and the agenda is established and are subject to change without notice, contact Alex Nick or one of the members, management members. Area of concern that Regional Advisory Council arranged the meetings to hear and understand subsistence concerns in the area where they need, please feel free to share your subsistence concern and knowledge during the meeting, and it's open to areas of subsistence concerns, whether it is listed or not.

Review and adoption of the draft agenda.

At this time, tonight we going to have an evening session as usual from 7:00 to 10:00.

Reviewing of adoption of unapproved minutes from February 24, 25, 2005 meeting in Toksook Bay. Council you find that in your booklet at Page 5.

Regional Advisory Council concerns and comments.

Housekeeping and announcements by Alex Nick.

And then we go into our proposals we do have a presentation procedures for proposals. Introduction of proposal and analysis. Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments. Federal, State and tribal agency comments. Interagency Staff Committee comments. Fish and Game Local Advisory Committee comments. Summary of written public comments. Public testimony. Regional Advisory Council

deliberation and recommendation and justification.

We will continue on proposal, look like this No. 1 proposal, statewide, allow sale of handicraft made from the nonedible product of subsistence fish and shellfish written by Laura Greffenius.

Proposal 3, start of fish schedule, allow use of king salmon fish gear in the Yukon River District 1, 2, and 3, May 15th, this will be by Don Rivard.

Proposal 4, restrict the depths of the gillnet for both subsistence and commercial fishing, Don Rivard. You'll find this Council in this number that you look at, you find in your booklets on 25.

Proposal 5, remove subsistence fishing restriction before and after commercial openings, Don Rivard. You'll find that on 34.

Subsistence and fish and wildlife issues.

Call for wildlife proposals, Alex Nick.

Review Federal closures, Don Rivard. You'll find that at 39 in your booklets Council.

WCR05-08 for moose in Unit 18, 1991.

Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, Rich Cannon. You'll find that on your booklet, Page 40.

Draft 2006 Fisheries Resource Monitoring, Page 41. Yukon River. Kuskokwim River. Strategic planning update. Partners update. You'll find that on Page 90 in your booklets, Yukon-Kuskokwim.

.805(c) letter and annual reports by Alex Nick. You'll find that on Page 92 in your booklets.

2004 annual reports and annual report reply. You'll find that on 96.

2005 annual report topics.

Agency, organizations.

Office of Subsistence Management reports, briefing review on rural determinations, Carl Jack. You'll find that on 108.

Marine waters, Ann Wilkinson. You'll find that on 119.

Registration hunting reporting news release. You'll find that at 133.

National Wildlife Refuge update.

Yukon-Delta Refuge update.

Togiak Refuge update.

You'll find that at 334 [sic] on your booklets.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Association of Village Council President. My understanding that President Myron Naneng will represent that.

Tribal representatives.

Placer-Dome, Donlin Creek project update.

Review Council business.

Confirm next meeting on February 23 and 24, 2006 in Emmonak, Alex Nick. You'll find that at 104, Council on your booklets.

Determine date of place of fall 2006 fishery meeting, Alex Nick. Council you'll find that 141.

And you see on No. C, Regional Council officers. Last year when we have a meeting in Toksook Bay we say that next meeting we will get officers so because it's not written on agenda here, put it down to Regional Council officers on No. C.

Closing comments, Councils.

Then adjourn.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Introduction Council and meeting participants. Don.

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, while we're discussing the agenda, before we ask for approval of the agenda I would like to find what the -- I'd like to have an update on the no-fly zone proposal that was put in possibly from Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Item C under agency and organization reports. I'd like that placed on the agenda, no-fly zone update on Item C.

MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

MR. NICK: Yeah, before we get to the review and approval of the agenda, I think we need to take care of the introductions first.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, okay. Don.

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. I just have a suggested additional item for the agenda and I'm willing to do that now or I can wait until after the introductions, whichever you prefer to do.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

MR. ALOYSIUS: I think it would be appropriate at this time to get back to our order of business on the agenda because we're jumping back and forth and it's very confusing, not only for me but I'm sure for the audience that we're not following the rules of our meeting.

So, you know, if you're going to go back to the introductions then let's say with it.

MR. L. WILDE: I apologize Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm going to introduce again -- I was introducing earlier and welcome new members of the Council and also member that has reappoint, we will welcome them. And also that we welcome people that will be participating in the meeting.

Like I was introducing, I think, earlier, Native Liaison, Carl Jack, and welcome them. And also members of OSM. We welcomed those, I think I read off this earlier when we were -- and also -- well, I was asked again will you please introduce yourself, people who will be participating in the meeting right now.

Coming this way from Council maybe.

MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: I am Phillip Moses. I'm here from Toksook Bay, from the coastal village of Nelson Island. And I seem to be the only member here today from the coastal region although we have other members.

My name, I've said my name and who I represent and I originate from the coastal region. Is that where we are?

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

MR. ALOYSIUS: My name is Bob Aloysius. I am presently living in Kalskag, and it's not upper Kalskag, it's just Kalskag. I'm one of the newer Council members from up river.

Thank you.

MR. ONEY: Yes, good morning everyone. My name is Raymond Oney. I am from Alakanuk, originally from Marshall now living in Alakanuk. I am serving my second -- been reappointed to this Board just recently.

Thank you.

MR. MIKE: My name is Joseph Mike from

Kotlik. And I've been on the Board since last year and I was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. This year -- I think I have one more year to be no the Regional Advisory Subsistence Board for the lower Yukon and I have been enjoyed being on the Board.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: My name is Harry Wilde. I am originally from Hooper Bay but I moved from Hooper Bay about 50-some years ago to Mountain Village so now I'm from Mountain Village.

MR. NICK: My name is Alex Nick. I am the Regional Council coordinator for YK Council and I'm originally from Russian Mission but I've been living here in Bethel since 1996.

MS. HOFFMAN: My name is Beverly Hoffman, born and raised here in Bethel. My seat here on this Regional Advisory Council started in 2003 representing, it says commercial/sports, but I would like to change that to subsistence/sport because that's my interest area.

Thank you.

MR. L. WILDE: My name is Lester Wilde. I'm from Hooper Bay. I've been a Council member since 1996.

MR. BROWN: Yeah, my name is William Charlie Brown from Eek.

MR. ROCZICKA: I'm Greg Roczicka. I'm a subsistence representative for Bethel and coming up on the end of my first term. I wasn't born but I was raised in Bethel since the late '60s. And just reference back to something Lester said a little while ago about meeting when Marty when she was young in high school, even though we never had the guts to tell her, we called her one of the Tundra Foxes.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go down over there.

REPORTER: My name is Tina, and I'm the court reporter for this Council.

MS. EVAN: Sophie Evan, Translator.

MR. NICK: Trim Nick, Translator.

MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management.

MR. BUE: Fred Bue with Fish and Game, Yukon area manager.

MR. HOLDER: Russ Holder with Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks, Yukon River Fisheries Manager.

MR. CANNON: Richard Cannon with Office of Subsistence Management. I work with the Kuskokwim Fisheries Monitoring Program.

MS. PATTON: Eva Patton, the new Fisheries Monitoring Program Partners Biologist with AVCP, Kuskokwim.

CHARLIE: St. Mary's Tribal Council.

MR. CLARK: I'm Kevin Clark. I'm the assistant manager for the Yukon summer season for Fish and Game.

MR. LINDERMAN: John Linderman, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Kuskokwim area management biologist.

MR. REARDEN: Mike Rearden, Manager of the Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge in Bethel.

MS. WILKINSON: Ann Wilkinson. I work for OSM and oversee the Councils.

MS. GREFFENIUS: Laura Greffenius. I'm a wildlife biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.

MR. KELLY: Andrew Kelly, Emmonak, Refuge Information Technician.

MR. ISAAC: Jacob Isaac from Marshall, Refuge Information Technician, Yukon-Delta.

MR. THERCHIK: I'm David Therchik (ph) from Toksook Bay. I'm an RIT.

MR. JOSEPH: Allen Joseph, I live in Bethel and I'm a concerned resident of the YK-Delta.

MR. HANSON: Ryan Hanson, grandson of John.

MS. HANSON: Marty Hanson originally from Alakanuk, daughter of John Hanson, residing in Bethel.

MR. WALTEMYER: I'm David Waltemyer. I live in Bethel here and work for AVCP as a Yukon Partner Fisheries biologist.

MR. ANDREW: Louie Andrew, born and raised in Bethel. I'm with the Fish and Wildlife Service, RIT supervisor and Native contact rep.

MR. BEANS: Pat Beans, Jr., representing Andreafsky, St. Marys.

MR. ALSTROM: I'm Bill Alstrom, tribal governor. I also serve as the co-Chair of the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

MR. RILEY: John Riley, Sr., Pitka's Point. I'm the vice-President of the village Council.

MR. SUNDOWN: My name is Robert Sundown. I work for Yukon-Delta Refuge.

MR. ADERMAN: Andy Aderman, wildlife biologist with Togiak Refuge in Dillingham.

MS. KRAUTHOEFER: I'm Tracie Krauthoefer. I live here in Bethel, Division of Subsistence, Fish and Game.

MR. HOFFMAN: Martin Hoffman, born and raised in Bethel, State Senator representing the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Bristol Bay, the Alaska Peninsula, the Aleutian Chain and the Pribilofs.

MR. JACK: Carl Jack, Interagency Staff Committee member for the Chair, OSM.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone else that we miss.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's not then now we're ready for our additional on the agenda. Lester, you wanted us to add on the agenda before we approve it?

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'd like to put in under Item C Agency Organization Reports, Department of Fish and Game, I think we have somebody here from there. I'd like to have an update on the no-fly zone for the Lower Yukon.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone else, additional to our agenda. Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Along the same lines of what Lester just said, I was going to ask when we got to the agenda, if there was a place where this Council will address the Board of Game proposals that will be taken up for consideration at the AYK meeting in Kotzebue this November. And I don't know if this Council has had precedent before on how they deal with that. I know that the Federal Subsistence Board or the Office of Subsistence Management does have a liaison that does attend those meetings and they do comment on proposals that affect the Federal program, and there are several proposals not directly to the Federal lands, but for GMU 18 and address issues that spillover because of the dual management system, and some might say they bleed over them.

But anyway I was wondering if that's going to be a part of our agenda, I'd like to address those if we can. There's a good half a dozen that -- and one's an across regional proposal as well that addresses 21(E), or incorporates it, and 19(A) as well for Interior region and Western Interior.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

MR. NICK: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Roger Seavoy provided copies of the State Game of Board Proposals and he wanted us to put those on the agenda. I believe it's going to be under Alaska Department of Fish and Game's reports.

And also, Mr. Chair, Andy Aderman, you can help me on this. Andy requested to give his report earlier because he has to leave tomorrow, I believe.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. ADERMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Andy Aderman with the Togiak Refuge. I have to leave by 11:00 o'clock tomorrow so if it's the wish of the Council to hear from me before then, if we're not to that point I will be available.

Thank you.

MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Ray.

MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you. I would like to get an update on the Moose Planning Committee up in Unit 21(E), I believe.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: I can't understand what you saying, can you move back.

MR. ONEY: Can you hear me?

REPORTER: Yes, that's fine there.

MR. ONEY: Yeah, I would like to get an update on Unit 21(E) Moose Planning. I think this was on the agenda about a year or two ago so I'd like to get an update on that. I know just recently there was a flier that came out on that report but I'd like to hear it for the record on this Council.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Randy Rogers is planning to come to this meeting and I believe he is arriving sometime today or tomorrow. I believe, Ray, that is going to be covered under his report.

MS. HOFFMAN: Who is he?

MR. NICK: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, he's with the Fish and Game, I believe, Moose Management Planning.

Also, Mr. Chair, there is a request to move up Yukon-Kuskokwim Rivers overview of the 2005 salmon season during State and Federal presentation by Russ Holder and Mike Rearden. I believe they wanted to

give that presentation right before the proposals. Right around Item 9.

Is that correct, Don.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.

MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to reiterate what Alex is saying. It was an oversight on our part not to put it where it should be -- this item where it should be on the agenda but we'd like to do the overview of the 2005 fishing season on both the Yukon and the Kuskokwim just prior to you getting the presentation for the fisheries proposals.

And I also just wanted to let you know that Mr. Mike Moses had requested listening in via teleconference on this meeting, and we need to call Pete DeMatteo at my office and then he'll hook us up with Mike Moses and so at some point soon we need to do that.

Also just one tip on the use of these microphones. You don't have to worry about getting too close, if you get too close you get distortion and Tina, over there, she can adjust the volume, you know, I could go way back here and she could adjust it so that it sounds good, so just a reminder on that.

Thank you.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes. Where are you putting the changes on the agenda?

MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It would just be -- we could probably call it 8(B), it'd just be the fisheries update, just prior to No. 9 where you start reviewing the fisheries proposals.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Where was the original place of the item?

MR. RIVARD: I'm sorry, I didn't understand your question.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Where was the original

placement of that item that you're going to move?

MR. RIVARD: It never got on the agenda, that's part of -- that's what I was saying, we inadvertently didn't put that on there so.....

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do we have any more additions to our agenda.

(No comments)

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that we adopt the amended agenda.

MR. L. WILDE: I'll second it.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the floor to adopt the agenda and second by Lester.

MR. ROCZICKA: Question.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: All who favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed, same sign.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Now, it's at this time we review and adopt of unapproved minutes from February 24, 25, 2005 meeting at Toksook Bay.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: In the Regional Council concerns and comments in our minutes it said that I was concerned about the Port Authority in Bethel being proposed, I was mostly concerned about the impact it may have on fish and wildlife, actually that was Donlin Creek/Coalfire Power Plant Proposal. That was what my concerns were along with the Port Authority. I'd like that correction.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Could we have the page and the line number?

MS. HOFFMAN: That's on Page 6 of the draft meeting minutes under Regional Council concerns and comments.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Okay.

MS. HOFFMAN: My concerns actually were about the Donlin Creek Coal Fire Power Plant and the affects and impacts it will have on fish and wildlife resources.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do we have any more corrections of Toksook Bay meeting.

(Pause)

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: I make a motion that we approve the minutes of February 24th, 25th meeting in Toksook Bay.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the floor to accept the -- approve minutes of Toksook Bay with the corrections, is there any second.

MR. ALOYSIUS: (Nods affirmatively)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by Bob. All who favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oppose, say no.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Now, we're on No. 7, Regional Advisory Council concern and comments from Regional Council.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to mention a couple of things and perhaps suggestions to the Office of Subsistence Management. I do appreciate their web site that they have in place there and especially the transcripts that are provided. I'd like to offer, hopefully, a helpful suggestion, if you would, at the beginning of those transcripts, if you could put the agenda of the given Council or the Federal Subsistence Board in front of those. It's only going to be the matter of one to two more pages out of what often is two to three to 400, 500 page documents.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: The phone, please, we're trying to.....

MR. ROCZICKA: In addition that, Mr. Chairman, if they could also provide a web link to all the Federal Subsistence Board's policies that they have in place for those of us who like to stay -- or find out what those policies are and use them in support of our people's.....

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: I just, you know, am having a hard time following Greg with this going on there so I just was going to ask that we wait until they're hooked up or -- are we hooked up?

MR. RIVARD: I'm going to go out here and check.

MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, could we have Mr. Roczicka repeat what he was saying, it was hard to understand with the phone going on over there.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. My request was to ask the Office of Subsistence Management, in the transcripts that they have on their web site of all Regional Councils as well as the Federal Subsistence Board meeting, if they could put up front of each one of those, the agenda for that meeting so you don't have to go through three to 400 pages of documents looking for any discussion that you might have an interest in, what was the opinions of the Council members or the Board members of any given issue.

And the other was that if they could also provide a link to all the policies that the Federal Subsistence Board has in place that we could review at our need.

And following on just general comments, I wanted to -- a lot of us wear different hats and are involved in fish and wildlife management issues at both the State and Federal levels, there are two proposal deadlines coming up that affect our area in the way of a statewide meeting of the Board of Game that's going to take place in January, the proposal deadline for that is November 18th. They have an A and a B list that contain regulations that address issues of a statewide nature that are only addressed every other cycle so you're only able to essentially able to deal with these regulatory items once every four years, not every two years as previously in the regular Game Management regulations. I'd urge everybody to look at that. Part of that is containing ones right now is, of course, the predator management programs, and also the boundary or descriptions for Game Management Units, as well. It's another one that people have brought forward to me that they thought would be worthy to take a look at.

The other proposal deadline is, of course, for the Interior region, Region 3, which contains the middle Yukon and middle upper Kuskokwim regions, 19(A), 21, GMU 24 and the proposal deadline for that is December 9th.

So I just wanted to make people aware of those two.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other Council

concerns.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: I guess I wanted to know who was going to be providing the Donlin Creek Project update.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. That's a gentleman from the Placer Dome company, if that's the right term they use, but he'll be here tomorrow. We told him it'd probably be tomorrow afternoon, after lunch that he would be presenting. So we may need to give him a time certain once he's here. Just for your information. I think the man's name is James Fueg, something to that effect.

Thank you.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: I just would like to also take this time, again, to express my concern and plea that all of us that depend upon subsistence in this area, that we be concerned about that development of that mine and other natural gas exploration projects out there and how they will affect our environment, our social -- the social impact and our way of life in this region, and that continues to be a concern of mine and I look forward to presentations by these people.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Other Council concerns.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's not, I do have a concern and comment.

We are getting to where we have a problem, try to go hunting in Unit 21(A). People from the lower Yukon they go up there, a lot of trash is up in those areas where the people always go moose hunting. We carry our own trash to bring them back to

our village, that's what we've been doing.

Not only that our concern is we get blame, people or flying and chasing the moose and we couldn't do nothing, we're hunting the boat, boat hunters. I've been up there since 1953, I been hunting in that area, maybe I miss about twice, but people from down lower Yukon get the blame for everything that has been done. Not only that it get to where people up river and down river start fighting each other more like, concerning the fish, we have been -- people are start -- in the lower Yukon start complaining we been -- up river people are giving us kind of hard time, pushing us more like through proposals, limited our nets and everything, they limited our -- how we could do fishing without giving us -- we don't fight back, that's what they say.

So I really concern about the subsistence, they try to limit it and all that. I think we need some people. We need somehow that maybe next meeting that this Board could invite the people from up river to attend our meeting. I think that's best thing to do because it's really starting to concern, not only lower Yukon, it's start including Bethel area, too, around here, Kuskokwim, where we represent. I think it would be good if next meeting that maybe those up river people would be they're invited to our meeting.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more concerns from the Council. Yeah, Phillip.

MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: And for a very long time, we, as Yup'ik people, we tried to agree on issues or we do, we have a history of working together in agreement using the few elders as leaders, as people to give us direction. And at that time, in the men's house, they would discuss issues and then if one of them were in disagreement they would not keep it in to themselves but to bring it out into the open to identify a problem and that was how love worked then. Everything was done

out of love, even bringing up different issues, even if one person has something to say or a different point of view, he was always welcome to express his feelings and opinions and that was the beginning of a discussion.

And elders come from that perspective, that even if it is a difficult issue to bring up, elders out of love for their peers and their people, will bring up a difficult issue to bring. And then here we are sitting on this Council.

And it seems like you do not completely understand our subsistence and Yup'ik way of life and they follow along with us, and then here, those of us sitting on this Council, and there is the beginning of disagreement there, the two different cultures, and those of us who live on this land, who were born on this land, who live off this land, and hear the (In Yup'ik) come from way outside our land to tell us how to manage our fish and wildlife and in his eyes, the Fish and Wildlife or Federal agencies are more cooperative. And because we have a history of cooperation, for example, with the Goose Management Plan, we've tried to follow that plan since its inception. But the people so called in charge of the fisheries they open and close our fisheries, even though we are trying to subsist, we're getting rules and regulations for our fishing just for subsistence.

And even now we take only what we can put up. And there are many different areas where we are in disagreement, although he does say that working together and working cooperatively can be achieved.

Quyana.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to read a written statement from family of John Hanson for the Council members.

We, the family of John Alvin Hanson, of Alakanuk, wish to express our deepest and heartfelt appreciation to the Yukon-Delta Subsistence Regional

Advisory Council for the recognition and honoring of our dad.

We thank all the wonderful friends and acquaintances, which are too many to name of our dad and family for providing support in person and through prayers during our time of sorrow. The love and support came in abundance from all over Alaska. We are thankfully, very much, from deep within our hearts.

This appreciation is not just for his final days but also during the years of his life. Our dad had friends and acquaintances he never forgot. He remembered all, especially those he worked with side by side over the numerous years on fish and wildlife issues. He maintained his involvement with such vigor, making sure that people of his region had a voice in these matters, proposals and decisions. He stood firm in his beliefs and values. He held strongly to them, especially since he and his family, as well as his people, depended on the fish and game resources for their survival.

He fought long and hard on some issues. He never always got the support he needed, but, nevertheless, he stood firm and would continue pushing forward.

He believed in our inherent right as Natives and First People to be provided with these gifts from the land and seas. Dad's involvement in this work is done. But his work continues. He taught us to be caretakers and make sure these resources will be available for the next generations. In this work, always be strong, firm, and continue in this task daddy set before you, meaning us.

Dad lived his life to the fullest and encouraged others to make the best of

their lives. Do not take your life for granted he would say, nothing comes easy, earn it through endurance, hard work and patience.

We hope you will also fulfill your dreams and quests to the fullest as he did.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, thank you. Other Council concerns.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to echo some of the comments made by our elder, Phillip Moses.

Being a lifelong resident of this area I've seen a lot of changes. And one of the most effective changes I've seen is where the Feds and the State bureaucracy to come to the level of the people who utilize the fish and the game in a manner that was prescribed to them by their ancestors with love, honor and respect for all creation.

Just because something is not written on paper doesn't mean it's not real. The knowledge, wisdom and experiences of our people far outweigh the bureaucracy that is only weighed -- that is only weighed by this poundage of paper that can be produced and 99 percent of that paper is not even looked at or adhered to. The mind, heart and spirit of the people in this area, to me, are more important than what is written on paper.

And I've seen something that has been, to me, more evident in the way that the Western culture is starting to look to the people for guidance and one of the things that is evident, very clearly, is the creation of these Regional Advisory Councils. But on the other hand it would be nice for all the bureaucrats to come here and live with us for a year, then they would understand exactly what we go through and how our lives are regulated by people who have no concept of what it's like to live on this land, to harvest the

goodness that the Creator gave us with love, honor and respect for the things that we harvest. We need to teach those bureaucrats to hang up their egos and come back to living as human beings for the benefit of all other human beings.

Because believe it or not, every time someone takes a job, they take an oath to serve and that is what I saw in John Hanson. He was following the rules of our people, that when you're able to do something with your life you serve your family, your relatives, your friend, your community and wherever else that you may be called to serve. And this is something that has to be ingrained in the mind and heart and soul of the nonNative people. We have someone, somewhere who made all this possible for us and that we do not -- we do not take ownership because it is not ours to own.

Like Marty said, when her dad said, we're stewards of this land and the water and let's not forget it. We're put on this earth to serve each other, especially those less able than we are but most of all we're here to love, honor and respect all of creation and to make sure that the fish and the game come back, abundantly, as they did years ago, and the only way we can do that is to look to our ancestors, to the teachings of our grandparents so that we, the children, of our parents and the grandchildren of our grandparents and the descendants of our ancestors carry on their mission of looking after everything that flies, roosts, climbs, walk, crawl, slither, burrow and swim on our mother Earth with honor and respect for each and every one of those creatures.

Because look at it this way, there is so much pollution, the air, the land, the water, that we are killing our mother Earth. Look at it this way, when a child gets sick, one of the first thing that happens that gives you an idea, that gives you a hint that something is wrong, the child or even adult, the first thing they do is they have a fever. Our mother Earth is showing that she is giving a fever through climate warming, global warming. We need to do something to stop our abuse of our mother Earth, and it starts with organizations like this.

And we need to remind the people in power to say, hey, slow down, look what you're doing to the people who live in remote areas who have no control

because they, the bureaucrats are controlling.

These are some of the things I have. I hope that we continue to look to our elders for guidance, on proper ways to address the things that are going on.

And like Phillip said, we need to do it with one mind.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Bob. Is there any more Council concern or comments.

William.

MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: May I speak in Yup'ik.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. BROWN: I am from Eek. I've been serving my Eek as tribal Council as their vice-Chair, and also I participate in working group and last year I was appointed by Secretary of Interior to.....

INTERPRETER: I could not attend the first couple meetings since my appointment since my mother's health was not good. I was unable to attend the last meeting after my appointment but I am grateful that I am here, that I am able to be here with you today.

I have a concern regarding moose. I think that it is important that we enforce the moratorium that has been put in place, especially to inform the younger hunters that we have this moratorium in place to multiply, hope to multiply the moose population. I've had a concern since our hunters had to travel and my children had to travel a great distance to harvest their moose in the past, and I am always grateful when they return home after traveling such a great distance to hunt for moose. I am in support of this moose moratorium plan for Unit 18 to have a five year moratorium. It's been three years now, I believe, since it started.

When the moose population multiplies in

this low region our hunters will not have to travel such a great distance to the up river regions. In respect of this plan, I would like to encourage people from our area to adhere and respect the moratorium in light of the fact that moose populations may possibly multiply in time.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Next on our agenda is No. 8, housekeeping and announcement by Alex Nick.

MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm not really good at this but I try.

What I would like the audience to know, especially those of you who are from out of town, I've prepared hotel and car information, it's on the back table over there, the information table. And also for the participants of the meeting, I also prepared and borrowed some information from other agencies, information on restaurants and eating places. It's also on the table.

I would like to remind everyone to sign in if you haven't done that, do sign in so that Tina will have a record of attendance.

And also for those of you who come from out of town, we do have about three local banks here in town. A couple of them are located at the B&C Complex, which is near AC and one is, I believe they call it Front Street, the First National Bank. ATM locations are at AC, in Swanson's and hospital. I don't look for these things too often so I'm only telling you where I see them or find them once in awhile.

And I would like to remind the Council members to make sure you complete your travel vouchers and reimbursable expense. These are very important for you to send it to us because, you know, it's used to figure out how much money was budgeted and how much money is left for travel. And also it helps the Staff to keep track of the expenses. You should have your receipts, taxi receipts and we ask you to avoid paying your own travel because, you know, it may cause some problems in getting you reimbursed if you are traveling on your own for some reason after travel arrangements are made.

And also my wife and I, we've been

talking, and we would like to invite some of the (In Yup'ik) who come here from out of town tomorrow evening for dinner, a simple dinner at our residence and that is 130 Ptarmigan Street in the housing area, and anyone is welcome to come and join us for a simple little dinner. It might not be too much over snacks, beyond snacks, you know, but we try.

And I also would like to thank Marty Hanson, and his brother [sic] Ryan and also Joseph, Joel -- Joseph, sorry -- her husband for being with us. Pardon me for that, I get lost sometimes especially, you know, after John passed away, especially this morning was tough for all of us, and I see some good friends out in the audience as well from lower Yukon.

I would like to ask Refuge Staff to give us assistance in manning the information table. I failed to assign someone on that table and it's very important for someone to stand by there in case someone needed to know about something.

And I think that's just about it, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thanks, Alex. No. 9, on our agenda.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

MR. ALOYSIUS: May we please.....

MR. L. WILDE: Before we start.....

MR. ALOYSIUS: .....have a break?

MR. L. WILDE: Before we start chewing on the meat I'd like to take a little bit break, a break, maybe a 10 minute break.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, we'll have 10 minutes break.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Half an hour.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Or hour.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, 10 minutes break.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Fifteen.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Break, 10 minutes.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, 10 minutes is over.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly, overview of Yukon and Kuskokwim salmon?

MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah, I believe so, that's correct, Alex.

MR. NICK: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're ready for the.....

REPORTER: Harry.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: .....Yukon Kuskokwim River overview of 2005 salmon season. Okay, Russ.

MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. Council members. My name is Russ Holder and I'm with Fish and Wildlife Service, the Federal Subsistence Board delegated manager for the Yukon River. And I have provided a handout to your locations, at your seat locations, an overview summary of the Yukon River salmon fisheries for 2005. And to my left, Kevin Clark, I believe, has provided Yukon River salmon fishery summary also to Council members, and there are additional copies of both handouts in the back for the audience participants if they would like to pick one up. And myself, Fred Bue, with Fish and Game, the fall season manager is also in attendance here and Kevin Clark summer season assistant for Fish and Game sitting to my left, all three of us will be available for questions following my presentation.

Information from the in-season and post-season assessment projects support that both summer and fall season subsistence fishers were provided a meaningful preference to fish on adequate numbers of fish this past season on the Yukon River. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in-season catch report interview project and the weekly YRDFA teleconferences indicated that most of those fishermen were able to meet their subsistence salmon needs this year. Overall 2005 was a successful fishing season in light of meeting escapement objectives, providing maximal subsistence opportunities.

To back up to the preseason are both the Federal and State Yukon River fisheries managers entered the season anticipating that the chinook salmon run could be lower or similar to the below average 2004 run we experienced. Both the summer and fall chum salmon runs were anticipated to be average to below average. Fish and Wildlife Service Staff worked cooperatively with Fish and Game Staff to develop the preseason and in-season management approaches which were distributed in May, as the salmon-colored information sheet entitled the 2005 Yukon River Salmon Fisheries. This sheet was mailed by Fish and Game to all Yukon River subsistence households and commercial fishing permit holders.

To summarize the summer season, it began with a near average ice breakup in Emmonak on May 17th. Most subsistence salmon fishermen delayed their fishing efforts this year due to high water, debris, and high gas prices early in the season. The water level and debris were slow to decrease, although as fish abundance improved, subsistence fishing effort increased. High water level and debris were thought to be causing conservative CPUE estimates in the lower Yukon River test setnet indices and Pilot station sonar passage estimates. Managers early in the season were unsure if a commercial harvest of chinook salmon was going to develop as the chinook salmon run appeared late and less than average. Subsistence salmon harvest information collected during the second week of June by both Fish and Game Staff and the Fish and Wildlife Service in-season salmon catch interview project identified that lower Yukon River subsistence fishing households were on track to meet their subsistence salmon needs. This information was discussed on the special YRDFA, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association Board of Directors and Coordinating

Fisheries Committee member teleconference on, Monday, June 20.

During this same time period, managers became aware that Fish and Game had found significant numbers of salmon were not being counted in the near shore area by the Pilot Station dual-beam sonar. A DIDSON sonar was used then to estimate salmon passage in the problematic near shore area. Managers run size assessment changed after the Pilot Station sonar estimate was recalculated. Based on subsistence harvester progress, the revised Pilot Station passage estimate, and the conservative test net CPUE information, managers at that time projected sufficient chinook salmon had entered the river to provide for escapement including the US/Canada established border passage commitments into Canada, and subsistence needs throughout the drainage, with a small surplus of chinook salmon appearing available for commercial harvest. This information was reported on the weekly Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association teleconference on Tuesday, June 21st. Commercial periods in the lower Yukon River began on June 23rd in District 2. Subsistence fishing was liberalized in Districts 3 and 4, which did not have commercial markets, to seven or five days per week subsistence fishing consistent with the pre-2001 subsistence fishing regulations.

The summer chum salmon run strength was improved over the abundance experienced in 2003 and 2004 with a season passage estimate greater than 2.5 million fish. Although the abundance of summer chum salmon would have allowed directed commercial periods, the summer chum salmon harvest was taken incidental to the chinook salmon fishery, except for five commercial periods in District 6, which targeted summer chum salmon.

In December of 2004, the Federal Subsistence Board adopted a regulation that provided Federally-qualified subsistence fishermen the opportunity to use drift gillnet in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C of the 2005 fishing season. Participants were primarily residents from the villages of Galena and Ruby. A total of 70 fishing permits were issued. Permits were available from Refuge Staff in Galena and Huslia and issuing agents, primarily tribal councils in Ruby, Koyukuk and Tanana. Of the 23 permittees who reported their fishing activity as of the end of

September, 18 people did not fish, of the four permittees that did fish, a total of 21 chinook salmon and zero chum salmon were harvested. It appears that there was a considerable interest in this fishing opportunity but the low harvest effort appears to reflect the verbal feedback that productive drift fishing spots were not located by fishermen within the Federal waters of Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C. And we are continuing to collect additional permit information at this time, so this is not complete.

Post-season evaluation of the chinook and summer chum salmon escapement numbers confirmed that most tributary goals were achieved or exceeded and that chinook salmon passage into Canada provided for an escapement near the upper end of the rebuilt Treaty Agreement goal of 43,000 fish.

Shifting to the fall season. The preseason Fish and Game fall chum salmon outlook was for a run size between 584,000 fish to 776,000 fish. This was updated as we entered the fall fishing season in mid-July by incorporating this year's summer chum salmon run performance resulting in an outlook for a return near the upper end of the preseason range of 776,000.

Consistent with an above average outlook, the liberalized subsistence fishing schedule of seven or five days per week which was in place at the end of the summer season was continued into the fall season. Commercial fishing was initiated in District 1 on July 27th. The in-season run indicators near the mid-point confirmed an above average fall chum salmon run with a run size projection of near one million fish. At the end of the season, more than 1.8 million fall chum salmon had entered the river in four distinct pulses dominated by four year old fish, 94 percent of the returning fish were age four.

This fall season U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Genetics Lab in cooperation with Fish and Game and Canadian Staff provided in-season genetic assessment information of fall chum salmon pulse passage samples collected at the Pilot Station sonar.

Yukon River coho salmon return this season continued the above average production trend with over 184,000 passing Pilot Station through the end of August.

Based on information collected to date, it appears that all fall chum and coho salmon escapement objectives were achieved and that the Yukon River Panel Interim fall chum salmon border and escapement commitments were exceeded.

The outlook for 2006 will be prepared by Fish and Game Staff after escapement information and age composition analysis are completed over the next several months.

And that concludes my presentation, and we'll be available for questions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Russ, how was 2005 run or chum and summer chum -- I mean -- what you call it, the chinook and summer chum run compared to 2004?

MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Charles. The chinook salmon run came in, I'd say a little bit better than 2004 but I believe we did a good job in getting fish out to the escapement grounds. The commercial harvest that I believe Kevin Clark can address was about similar to the 2004 level, just slightly below.

But, you know, if you take the escapement, the commercial and the subsistence harvest, probably the return of chinook salmon was probably in the same range. The summer chum run was doing better, it was continuing to rebound and we had a better run this year but were not able to take advantage of the commercial opportunities due to lack of markets.

MR. CHARLES: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: William.

MR. BROWN: What about, do you guys have any reds in your area, reds mixed with kings?

MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Brown. You're asking regarding reds?

MR. BROWN: (Nods affirmatively)

MR. HOLDER: Mr. Brown, no, we do not.

There are a few, basically relatively rare sockeye salmon, or red salmon that are picked up in the summer season by fishermen.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

MR. L. WILDE: Maybe this question.....

REPORTER: Lester.

MR. L. WILDE: .....would be better.....

REPORTER: Lester.

MR. L. WILDE: This question might be better answered by Fred. I was wondering how you came about estimating the escapement of the salmon at the beginning of the season, that it made your numbers look like they were jump -- that your escapement numbers jumped up quite a bit at the beginning, how did you estimate the numbers that you added on to the escapement of the salmon going up the river from the Pilot Station sonar -- at the Pilot Station sonar?

MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. For the record my name is Fred Bue with Commercial Fisheries Division. I'm the fall season manager. With us we have Kevin Clark. I believe you're regarding the chinook or king salmon run early in the season, maybe Kevin will have a better explanation.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chair. My name is Kevin Clark, I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm the assistant area management biologist for the summer season.

As far as the Pilot Station sonar estimates go, because of the high water and the debris load in the river, the split beam sonar that they were using to enumerate the salmon at that time, there was a zone in there, there was a shadow, and by using the DIDSON sonar they were able to look at where that shadow was and determine that there was actually salmon going by through that zone, so at that point when we used this new instrument to assess the salmon run there at Pilot Station we readjusted the numbers based on what they were seeing with the DIDSON sonar.

MR. L. WILDE: And how was your.....

REPORTER: Lester.

MR. L. WILDE: And how was your numbers adjusted? I mean I know you don't just pick a number from the air, I hope you don't, anyway.

(Laughter)

MR. L. WILDE: How did you adjust the numbers to bring them up to the escapement level that you had that was published?

MR. CLARK: Okay. Mr. Chairman. Not actually having worked at the sonar site, a lot of that that they were doing was mathematical magic as far as I'm concerned, but, basically what they did is they went over a few days and were looking at the numbers that they were generating with the sonar, with the split beam and the number of fish that they were missing with the DIDSON that they got, and then at that point they kind of used those proportions to -- and then they were conservative, too, you know, and actually if we would have had a member of the sonar team here to cover it, they could cover it much better than I can, but from my understanding is that's what they did, they went over a few days to look at the proportion of fish that they were missing during those counts and they readjusted the numbers from that.

MR. L. WILDE: Okay, thank you.

MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ray.

MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Russ, I know in our area we're trying to encourage all our subsistence fishermen to report their salmon catch in hopes of opening up the commercial fisheries in the lower Yukon. I'd like to know, how much of that information is used to determine, you know, to open up the commercial fisheries early?

MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. Ray. It's the third piece of the information that we're using to identify the strength of the returning salmon run. We're looking at the test nets down at the mouth. We're looking at the Pilot Station sonar. And we're

looking at the subsistence information that people are reporting. And so it is a very important piece for people to share with us on how they perceive the salmon run each year, and it's not the only piece but it's a very important piece that we use.

MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. ONEY: Thank you, Russ. And also just recently there was a study that was done by Yukon River Drainage and I believe Fish and Game on traditional ecological knowledge, and how much of that is being used by determining the commercial opening on the lower Yukon?

MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. Ray. I'm not familiar with the specific report that you're talking about regarding the traditional ecological knowledge, but I do try to visit with elders each season and Andrew Kelley, the local Refuge Information Technician there does work in our office and we do visit regarding, you know, what people are saying how the -- you know, the weather conditions, the water conditions, all this, you know, say other information that we -- it's hard to quantify, to explain how it gets used, but, yes, I do listen, I know that the manager, Steve Hayes, does listen, I know Kevin Clark is listening to regarding what people say about all this other information that, you know, isn't included in these reports. So we do try to use that.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: Here on the Kuskokwim several of us on this Council also sit on a Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group, and a lot of this information is shared by people who sit on that working group that give reports to the Department and the Federal agencies. Do you have a similar situation up there on the Yukon, where you tap into those type of resources?

MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. Ms. Hoffman. The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association acts somewhat similarly to the Kuskokwim Working Group, although it can't operate the same.

Because of the geographic separation, you know, 800 miles basically along the Yukon River and all the villages that are widely separated, we participate in weekly teleconferences that the Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association basically acts as the host for. And anybody can dial in to the weekly teleconference and each village is provided an opportunity to speak and anybody can actually get on the teleconference. And we've been trying to encourage fishermen to share water conditions, weather conditions, debris conditions, you know, the kinds of fishing success that people are having, if the fish run is looking similarly or different to the previous year, if the ichtheyphonus level has appeared any different this season. So the YRDFA fisheries teleconference is what we have on the Yukon that does provide localized information to the management Staff of the river.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah, you know, I really encourage that because here on the Kuskokwim we have a lot of miles between the coast and Nickoli and further up. But what I think has happened with that working group is that it developed better understanding amongst all user groups and it developed better understanding of some of the Department's decisions, and also it gave better relationships and understanding between lower and upper river. So I think that, you know, on the Yukon River that's important too.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Other Councils.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Russ, to let you know or State, to let the State know might be no Pilot Station sonar for 2006, next year. The owner of that land, they never get their lease payment from Federal for three years, three -- or two to three years. They're saying that I don't think that we will -- unable to keep it open without letting approve the lease payment. I don't blame them.

These ladies, they don't speak English, they don't know how to speak English. One of them completely couldn't sigh his own name and two to three

years is a long time, I think. One of them was saying that because we don't speak English, I think that's the reason they're ignored their lease agreement. So I thought I could let the State know that these ladies are, that's what they're saying so I don't think they'll continue it or open it for 2006.

Yeah, go ahead.

MR. BUE: Yeah, I appreciate that, Mr. Chairman. Working for the State, I'm not directly involved with the Pilot Station sonar but I'll certainly pass that message along. It is a very important one and it may be a problem with communication or it may be a bureaucracy thing but I'll certainly look into it immediately, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Questions from Council.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. I don't know that I'd have an opportunity later but addressing the concerns that you spoke of, this Council spoke of this morning. You particularly, folks that do work with the Yukon River fisheries know how big the Yukon is, and what you said this morning was inviting up river people to your meetings here. That's something that the State has tried to endorse. You, yourself, have worked on the US/Canada panel for many years. Lester has been on the YRDFA Board. And several of you have been around a lot of these meetings.

This spring I went up to Old Crow, they had a gathering for that purpose. Old Crow is in the northern portions of Yukon Territories, Canada and they had an issue with Ft. Yukon and Old Crow have, even though they're related very closely, they had some communication problems and they worked through a lot of those problems because they were able to meet face to face and it was a very productive meeting. I certainly enjoyed being there. But also it gives you a prospective, Old Crow is over a thousand miles away and they're using the same fish that are passing the lower river fisheries. And they're not people from outside,

they are people that have lived there for a long time, have relied on that resource. And just letting you know that I do see that there are a lot of different people with a lot of different viewpoints and I try to make as many of these meetings just for that purpose, so I can understand your needs, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Russ.

MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. I believe John Linderman and Mike Rearden are prepared to provide you an overview of the Kuskokwim fishing season this past year when you're finished with us.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Okay, thanks for overview, and Mike or now someone for Kuskokwim overview.

MR. REARDEN: Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about the Kuskokwim. I'm just going to have a few comments and then John Linderman has a report that he's prepared that Alex is passing out right now. For the record my name is Mike Rearden and I'm the appointed in-season Federal manager for subsistence fisheries management on the Kuskokwim River.

Here on the Kuskokwim we work very closely on the fisheries management and particularly through the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group, of which four of the people on this Regional Advisory Council are members of that so they're very aware of how we address fisheries issues on the Kuskokwim.

The year started out working with Craig Whitmore with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and he's moved on and we're very fortunate to have John Linderman take his place, somebody who's familiar with this area and has worked with Craig and knows the management issues and knows a lot of the people along the river. So it was about as good of transition of managers that I've ever seen with the Department or anybody, so we're very fortunate to have that.

I think this cooperative effort at working together and working through the Kuskokwim Fish Management Group has worked very well. It was an

activity that was started quite some time ago with the State dealing with commercial fisheries and in recent years they've dealt more and more with the subsistence fisheries and the commercial fisheries as well, and I think that the method seems to be working very well. And I think that the users of the Kuskokwim River have benefitted from the involvement of that Working Group.

John has the report of how things went this year and I'm going to go ahead and turn the microphone over to him and we can both answer questions afterwards if there are any.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. LINDERMAN: Thank you, Mike. Mr. Chair. Council members. For the record my name is John Linderman. I'm the Kuskokwim Area manager for the Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries. And Alex has handed out the preliminary 2005 Kuskokwim Area Salmon Fishery Summary. I'm going to kind of go over some of the highlights of that summary and more of the details can be found in both tables and the text of that report, if folks are interested. And as Mike said, any questions you may have we'd be happy to answer those after this short presentation.

The 2005 Kuskokwim River salmon fisheries were managed according to the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan. Chinook and chum salmon stocks were identified as stocks of yield concern back in 2000 and that continued this year.

Kuskokwim Bay salmon fisheries were managed according to their associated management plans and regulations. From the beginning of the season there was a good showing of chinook and chum salmon throughout the Kuskokwim area. Chinook, sockeye and chum salmon abundance was characterized as above average to near record with early to average run timing and coho salmon abundance was characterized as average to below average with overall late run timing. Amounts necessary for subsistence use is expected to have been achieved throughout the area.

With the commercial salmon fishery, a total of just over 400,000 salmon were commercially harvested throughout the Kuskokwim area in 2005. Almost 500 permit holders participated in the fishery

with an estimated ex-vessel value of $1.5 million.

The subsistence fishing schedule was implemented, specifically for the Kuskokwim River, to clarify -- the subsistence fishing schedule was implemented June 5th down stream of Bogus Creek and on June 12th down stream of Chuathbaluk. This subsistence fishing schedule was discontinued on June 19th when it was scheduled to go into effect for the entire drainage. Subsistence fishing remained open for the remainder of the season with the exception of closed periods before, during and after commercial fishing periods.

Subsistence harvest was described as good to very good for chinook, chum and sockeye salmon, and, again, amounts necessary for subsistence use was expected to have been achieved.

Excuse me, I have my pages mixed up here.

For the commercial fishery, it was opened on June 24th and just to summarize that with the exception of sockeye salmon, the 2005 salmon harvest by species was below the recent 10 year average. Harvest of sockeye salmon was greater than the recent 10 year average. And the total ex-vessel value with the fishery just on the Kuskokwim River was less than the recent 10 year average. Kuskokwim River chinook salmon escapements are evaluated by weirs on up to six tributary streams by aerial surveys on 13 or more index streams and by the recent addition of radio telemetry programs.

The 2005 chinook escapements ranged from above average to record highs at nearly all monitored locations with the exception of the George River where escapement was near average.

Kogrukluk River chinook escapement exceeded the escapement goal range, that is, the one monitoring location where we do have an escapement goal for actual weir escapement counts, is at the Kogrukluk River. It's also the longest running escapement project that we have here on the Kuskokwim.

The improved escapements in 2005 were consistent with the general trend of increasing chinook salmon abundance in the Kuskokwim River since the low

abundance years of 1998, '99 and 2000.

Sockeye escapements are monitored at all six of the river with weir projects, however, sockeye are not a prominent species in many of these systems. Among these locations, Kogrukluk and Kwethluk Rivers receive the largest sockeye escapements. Kogrukluk River sockeye salmon passage in 2005 was at a record high. The Kwethluk River weir was not operational in 2005 and no escapement, no detailed escapement information is available.

A pilot sockeye salmon radio telemetry project was implemented in 2005 at the mainstem tagging site near upper Kalskag. Data collection from the pilot project is still ongoing, however, some interesting information that came out of that project was the Holitna appears to be a much more important spawning location for sockeye salmon in the Kuskokwim than was ever anticipated in the past. And, again, that information is still being analyzed and hopefully more details will come out here in the near future.

Chum salmon escapements are also evaluated through enumeration at weirs on up to six tributary streams and a tributary sonar project on the Aniak River. The 2005 escapements were at record highs at nearly all monitoring projects, again, with the exception of George River where the escapement was near average. Escapements were well above the Kogrukluk and Aniak River escapement goal ranges, those are the two systems that we have escapement goals established for chum salmon. The Kogrukluk escapement was more than triple the previous high, and that's dating back to 1976 and we more than tripled that previous record escapement. And Aniak sonar escapement was among the highest on record.

Chum escapements were exceptionally low in 1999 and 2000 and nearly all chum salmon escapements observed since that time have been above those years. To a certain extent, the chum salmon escapement on the Kuskokwim River this year was at a record high. Some of the projects that we have more consistent and longer term monitoring, again, with Kogrukluk being the main one, with triple the escapement that we've ever seen prior to this year, even accounting for higher commercial and subsistence harvest in previous years, it still is potentially one of the record highs that we've seen in the last several decades.

Coho salmon escapements are evaluated by weirs on up to six tributary streams and the mainstem mark/recapture project near upper Kalskag -- excuse me, near Kalskag.

(Laughter)

MR. LINDERMAN: Coho escapements were average to below average at all monitored locations in 2005. Escapement at the Kogrukluk River weir was within the escapement goal range, however, escapements at other locations were near the lower end of the historic range. Coho escapement at the Takotna River was the lowest in six years of monitoring. Coho abundance in the Kuskokwim River was extremely low in the late 1990s but has generally improved since that time with record highs occurring at all monitored projects -- at all monitored locations in 2003.

And just to briefly go through some Kuskokwim Bay information. Subsistence fishing in the Quinhagak and Goodnews Bay areas was allowed seven days per week throughout the season but, again, with the exception of closed periods before, during and after commercial fishing periods.

Subsistence harvests were characterized as adequate and amounts necessary for subsistence use was also expected to have been achieved in the Kuskokwim Bay area.

The District 4 commercial salmon fishing season opened on June 14th and the District 5 commercial fishing season opened on June 21st.

District 4, chinook and sockeye salmon harvest was -- commercial harvest was above the recent 10 year average, coho salmon harvest was similar to the recent 10 year average and chum salmon harvest was below the recent 10 year average. The total ex-vessel value of the District 4 fishery was above the recent 10 year average. For District 5, which opened on June 21st, harvest for all species, all salmon species were below the recent 10 year average and the total ex-vessel value was also below the recent 10 year average.

For the Quinhagak or District 4 area, the Kanektok River is the primary spawning location and the Kanektok River weir was operational from July 8th through September 8th with preliminary escapement

counts that were above average for all species with the exception of coho salmon. No escapement goals have been established for this project as it's relatively new. Aerial surveys for chinook and sockeye salmon were flown over the Kanektok River in late July and early August and there are escapement goals established for aerial surveys on that river and for chinook and sockeye salmon specifically and those aerial survey escapement goal ranges were exceeded, were well exceeded.

In the Goodnews Bay area, the Middle Fork Goodnews River weir was operational from June 26th through September 12th and escapement -- chinook and sockeye salmon escapement goal ranges were exceeded at that project as well as chum and coho salmon escapement goal thresholds were exceeded. Coho salmon escapement is believed to be higher at this project than what the escapement numbers show because of premature termination of the project in early September. Aerial surveys for chinook and sockeye salmon were not able to be completed this year because of lack of airplane and pilot availability during the optimal time period to be able to conduct those surveys, but fortunately the weir escapement counts that we do have, we met our escapement goals.

And that pretty much concludes my presentation. Again, if there's any questions or comments, Mike and myself will be happy to try and address them.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: William.

MR. BROWN: Yeah, I got a question about cohos for this year. Our prediction from last year was so high and they were interrupting our whitefish fishing grounds, I thought we might have a similar year this year. But somehow most of the commercial fishers are kind of disappointed from earlier closures on the commercial side. What was the factor on those cohos, was it weather, what was the factor, was it water or interception or what?

MR. LINDERMAN: Yeah, Charlie, I guess the factor that may have contributed to the lower abundance that we saw for coho this year can't be identified directly right away. Certainly there's been

a correlation, so to speak, between water levels and coho salmon run timing more than anything else. But whether that affects abundance of fish in a given year, I haven't seen the evidence to show that if low water levels might actually affect the overall run size for coho salmon.

With regards to the commercial fishery and the reduction in commercial fishing time this year that we saw that was directly related to the lower run strength that we saw this year compared to previous years and that is somewhat reflected in the escapement numbers that we saw at monitoring projects.

Some of them, with the Kogrukluk, being not an exception but Kogrukluk escapement was relatively good at the one project we do have an escapement goal. We were within the range and we were just below the pre-2004 escapement goal objective as well. So we did fairly well, or average, so to speak at Kogrukluk, but other projects, other monitoring projects did not see as good of escapements as what Kogrukluk saw. Tuluksak was about average, but George River, Tatlawiksuk River and Takotna River weirs were all below average for coho salmon. So the amount of fishing time that we saw for commercial fishing on cohos this year corresponded with that reduced abundance that we saw this year for coho salmon. The actual reasons for that are, I guess, unknown at this time. But if water level plays any part in that it's probably more delaying the actual passage of those fish, and even that's uncertain as to whether or not that's definitely occurring.

I guess a question for you is whether or not folks that have been going out whitefish fishing have been seeing a lot of coho salmon in like the Johnson River, some of the Eek Lake area and in and around those areas, are they seeing many coho salmon up in those areas in the fall time here?

MR. BROWN: I got one more. This year it's different, we got pikes all over now.

MR. LINDERMAN: Okay.

MR. BROWN: Thank you.

MR. LINDERMAN: Okay, thank you, Charlie.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: I'm wondering, you know, all of us, I think along the Kuskokwim felt that our subsistence needs were met with the kings.

In regards to the cohos, my concern is on interception on the high seas, that that might attribute at a higher level than you think. I was on the Kisaralik at my camp last year when we had very low water and it was quite an abundance of cohos. This year I was up there for three weeks straight and was able to make a lot of observations. The same type of weather, very low water, and very few coho. Almost the same situation. Upon returning on August 21st, 22nd, you know, the weather turned extremely bad and rainy.

What projects are being conducted right now as far as high seas interception of coho and how it's affecting our numbers here on the Kuskokwim?

MR. LINDERMAN: Beverly.....

MS. HOFFMAN: Mike, I'd like you to answer that.

MR. REARDEN: I'll defer to John, I think he knows a lot more than me about that.

MS. HOFFMAN: I just wanted to hear you say that.

(Laughter)

MR. REARDEN: I know did.

(Laughter)

MR. LINDERMAN: Thank you, Mike. Mr. Chair. Beverly. With respect to any projects that are looking at -- again, I might not be the best person to answer your question as much as you may like, Bev, but there is an ongoing monitoring program for high seas bycatch that's been going on for quite some time. And the only information that I've heard from that project is that bycatch is up. But from the standpoint -- it's unclear whether or not that bycatch is up because of abundance or whether that bycatch is up because of

changes in -- regulatory changes specifically with respect to those areas where high seas fishing is occurring.

So as far as I know and the information that I've seen and received, it's still unclear as to how that differentiates.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

MR. ALOYSIUS: John, if I were to look at this sonar report from 56,000 chinook in 1980 to zero -- all the way from 1984 to today, you know, I would be of the opinion of what happened to all the king salmon? Even though it says down here, sonar counts for the Aniak River are generally not apportioned to species but some salmon dominate throughout -- okay, is there any way that we could see some figures on the king salmon going up the Aniak River?

MR. LINDERMAN: Mr. Chair. Bob. There is, hopefully proposals will be accepted to put a weir, a fixed weir on the Salmon River of the Aniak. With respect to the Aniak sonar project even with regards to chum salmon, the number that you see reported there isn't specifically saying that that's the number of chum salmon. If anything, it's looked at as an index of the overall abundance of salmon in general, or fish in general that are returning to the Aniak River in each year. And some of the work that's been done trying to apportion those counts by species has shown that the vast majority of those fish that are being counted are chum salmon. So that's where it's used as just an index of chum salmon abundance, specifically chum salmon abundance in the Aniak River.

There is, as I stated earlier, there are proposals that are in the works that are going to try to address chinook salmon specifically in the Aniak River drainage by trying to put a weir on the Salmon River. Now, that will not specifically be used to actually -- it will be used to count chinook salmon and all salmon species, but it's going to be used in concert with the chinook salmon radio telemetry project to try and gain more clarity, more accurate estimates of overall chinook salmon abundance up stream of Kalskag as part of that radio telemetry project.

And potentially we won't know until if and when that project goes forward, but it has got the potential to maybe use the Salmon River on the Aniak as an index for the entire Aniak River drainage but we won't know until if the project goes forward, until there's several years of data to try and show that connection.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

MR. JAMES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. John or Mike, which river does most of the sockeye go to spawn?

MR. LINDERMAN: Mr. Chair. James. Initially it was always believed that the Stony River was probably one of the larger contributors to Kuskokwim River sockeye salmon, there's a lake at the headwaters of the Stony called Teleqwana Lake that was believed to have one of the larger escapements of sockeye salmon to it. That lake is actually within Lake Clark National Park, it's way, way up there in the Stony River drainage at its headwaters. And bearing in mind that this is very preliminary information, the pilot radio telemetry project that was started this year has shown that over half, almost three-quarters of only 100 tags, so it was a minimal sample size of just 100 tags, but over half of those tags were found in the Holitna River drainage, both in the mainstem Holitna as well as the Hoholitna drainage, and that was an unexpected finding.

Now, things to keep in mind with that information is because the sample size was so low you have to be concerned about biases that potentially the salmon that were tagged were just those sockeye salmon that were headed for the Holitna drainage. And, again, there is proposals in the works to try and expand upon that project in coming years to increase the number of tags that are put out on sockeye salmon, radio tags that are put out on sockeye salmon to gain more clarity about the Holitna River, specifically, and how much its contribution to the sockeye population it is contributing.

But it was interesting information, nonetheless, to find that the vast majority of tags returned to the Holitna River.

MR. JAMES: Thank you.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Is there any plans to do a similar project above Sleetmute so that, you know, they can identify the sockeyes that are going up past the Holitna?

MR. LINDERMAN: Mr. Chair. Bob. I guess the main way that they can tease that out is, and, again, it's going to relate to the number of tags that are being put on -- how many fish are being tagged in general, but there is different monitoring or tracking stations that are able to pick up or identify those tags, those radio-tagged fish, and they extend all the way up to McGrath. So by finding out how many fish go past those sites at the mouth of the Stony River drainage then they can determine how many fish of that total population actually went up stream of the Stony River.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Well, I was asking specifically if you had plans to install a fishwheel like you do at Kalskag area above Sleetmute so that you can monitor the fish that are going up past the Holitna River drainage?

MR. LINDERMAN: Mr. Chair. Bob. With respect to radio telemetry it's really not -- unless you're planning to tag more fish and release more fish up stream of Sleetmute area, it's not totally necessary to do that because those fixed stations are able to pick up those tagged fish in the same way that you'll be capturing them -- or recapturing them using fishwheels. So if you're just putting a spaghetti tag or a floy tag on a fish then you would need to have a recapture method such as a fishwheel or a fish weir to be able to recapture just those tags. But with the radio tags, all you need is those fixed stations to get that recapture aspect out of the project. That serves as being a recapture when you get a hit on those fixed stations from those radio tags.

Does that answer your question, Bob?

MR. ALOYSIUS: Partly, thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: I expressed my concern earlier about the development of Donlin Creek on the upper -- middle Kuskokwim, I should say, and how it's going to affect this area and possibly the fisheries and environmental impacts that it might have in this area. And specifically, you know, in what happens when we have the kind of rains that we did and high waters and earthquakes that we had up there earlier in the summer, this is a huge, huge project that's going to have incredible impact in this area. And the barges that are anticipated to go up the river that -- I mean a lot of barges that are going to affect things, what is the State and the Federal agencies doing right now, what are you guys doing right now to monitor this and the possible effects that it's going to have on our fisheries and the game?

MR. REARDEN: Well, Bev, as far as the Federal government's doing, we're doing the same thing the public is doing, is just monitoring what their intentions are. I've been to meetings to discuss what they're hoping to do, but they haven't really embarked on the process yet of saying we are actually going to do it. Once that starts and the EISs and all of the assessments on the biological impacts start then we have the opportunity to get involved.

I share a lot of your concerns also. I'm very concerned about the amount of fuel that's going to be carried up the Kuskokwim River in barges. I'm concerned about the amount of waste that's going to be deposited from the results of mining up there in the Donlin Creek area. And none of us are going to be on this Earth when a lot of this stuff begins to have some impact on the river, they're storing incredible amounts of waste up there that will be there into perpetuity, be there forever, acid leaching rocks and things like that. So I urge all of us to really get involved in going to the meetings where they're discussing what they're hoping to do and participate in the process when it comes to determining what the ecological impacts are going to be and how they're going to be addressed.

MS. HOFFMAN: Will a stand be made if it looks like there's possible adverse effects on the fisheries and the game in this area? Are you able to make a stand in opposition to it?

MR. REARDEN: If the biological information suggests and it's in conflict with what they propose to do, then, yes, of course, we all -- both the State and the Federal government can do that.

MS. HOFFMAN: And will you be present when they give their presentation to us, Donlin Creek?

MR. REARDEN: I will be, tomorrow.

MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: William.

MR. BROWN: I got one more question about those sonar systems, how do you identify those species on Aniak River because one time I was using my sonar, I couldn't identify the species, I just see them, you know, one object just passing by, how do you guys identify those species?

MR. LINDERMAN: Mr. Chair. Charlie. We don't necessarily -- the sonar itself doesn't speciate. It doesn't determine what species is what in the number of fish or the fish that they're counting through the sonar beams. There have been efforts to try and apportion -- they generate total counts, essentially, of all the fish that are passing through the sonar beam, and there have been attempts to try and apportion those counts out by species by doing netting and seining projects, where they actually do some driftnetting and they also do beach seining and the number of fish by species that they catch in those driftnets and in those beach seines, they apply those proportions of those species to the counts that they're seeing.

That hasn't been shown to be accurate enough to rely upon. So what they do now is through that information they've been at least been able to say with some certainty that the vast majority of those total counts of fish are chum salmon. So they essentially are just using those total counts as an index of chum salmon abundance in a given year. But they are not specifically trying to tease out those total counts as to the actual number of fish per species. It's just looked at as an index of chum salmon abundance because they have determined that the total number of fish returning to the Aniak River, the vast majority of the total number, the vast majority of

those fish are chum salmon.

MR. BROWN: Thank you. Because sometimes it's hard to identify between sockeye and chum, you know, on the commercial side even though they're -- some young folks, they can't identify them, that's why I just ask about that.

MR. LINDERMAN: Uh-huh.

MR. BROWN: Thank you.

MR. LINDERMAN: You're welcome.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

MR. ALOYSIUS: For the record, and part of clarification to the people here, our representative from Eek, William F. Brown, is affectionately known as Charlie Brown.

(Laughter)

MR. ALOYSIUS: So William F. Brown and Charlie Brown are one in the same.

(Laughter)

MR. BROWN: Yeah, that's my local name. Thank you.

(Laughter)

MS. HOFFMAN: One more question, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: In regards to the commercial fisheries on the Kuskokwim, when we have our meetings and discuss whether or not subsistence goals are made and escapement, you know, enough fish are getting to up river, and at our management -- Kuskokwim Management Working Groups, nobody likes to talk about prices or bring that type of thing up, and they say it's not our area to discuss that sort of thing. I'm always disappointed in that. And I'm wondering, I'm not a commercial fishery, I don't own a permit, but I'm

wondering is there a way for you to work with the commercial, the marketing and the processors to give our people a better price? This whole marketing thing, I think that our processors are lacking in that field and they need assistance in that field, if we're going to have a viable commercial fisheries on this river.

What are your thoughts about that?

MR. LINDERMAN: Mr. Chair. Beverly. I guess, the Department, it's not one of our responsibilities to try and dictate what the market will do. And in fact, I would question whether or not, it's reasonable for a State agency to insert itself into what's primarily a free market-type of economy.

Now, that being said, it's not that the Department doesn't try to encourage practices and/or procedures that -- for example -- to give you an example, trying to encourage buyers to come into an area because of the fisheries that exist in that specific area, one of the best reasons or best ways that I can see to try and improve prices is through increased competition for the resources that are available. So there are ways where the Department can try to encourage interest in purchasing fish in a specific area, but to try and insert oneself into what's essentially a free market is not the responsibility of the Department to be able to do that. And I would question the, I guess, the wisdom of doing something like that to begin with.

But, again, that's not to say that the Department doesn't try to encourage practices or procedures that will help to improve the market in and of itself, and the market for salmon is outside the scope, specifically, of the Kuskokwim area. And within my responsibility it's difficult for me to be able to have any influence on what that market will bear and what that market dictates for the prices of salmon.

So I'm not sure if that answers your question as well as you'd like, but do you understand where I'm coming from, I guess, in that regard?

MS. HOFFMAN: Well, I guess, you know, I still -- if there's going to be a commercial fisheries and you're managing it, whether it happens or not, I would encourage you to do everything possible to assure that our people can at least meet the price of

gas.

MR. LINDERMAN: And I understand. And I understand the concerns. And definitely I would like to see an improvement in the market in general. I guess to give you another example, there was a start up operation this year, the community of Akiachuck started their own processing operation, it was a very small scale operation, they were only looking to do two to 3,000 pounds of chum salmon and maybe a thousand pounds of coho salmon and that's something where the Department worked very closely, as well as other State agencies, in the permitting and licensing process, to get that operation going and we encourage anybody that's interested in trying to create more of a market for the fish to move forward with those operations. And the Department and, myself, specifically, worked very closely with Akiachuck to try and get them up and operational as quickly as possible. It certainly didn't happen as well as I would have liked to have seen, but I think that it would set a very, very good example for the rest of the communities in the Kuskokwim area in general to see an operation like that succeed and increase the market share, especially on the local level.

MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you. I just want to encourage that. And I also see that Bob Harren is here in the back from our Congressional Office, and I hope that you're able to attend these meetings for the next two days, Bob, and I would like to also just suggest that you do whatever possible from a Congressional standpoint to encourage that.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's no more question, we'll have lunch break and we'll be back about 1:30 because some of our Council don't have any -- they got to cash their checks.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, we'll be back at 1:30.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: We start No. 9, Federal 2006/2007 Fisheries Proposals for Council review. Presentation, how the procedure works on Council's -- I'll repeat it again so you will understand.

Introduction of proposal and analysis.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments.

Federal, State and tribal agency comments.

Interagency Staff Committee comments.

Fish and Game Local Advisory Committee comments.

Summary of written public comments.

Public testimony.

Regional Advisory Council deliberation, recommendation and justification.

So the first on our proposal is Proposal 1, statewide, allow sale of handcrafts made from the nonedible byproduct of subsistence harvest fish and shellfish.

Laura here?

MS. GREFFENIUS: Right here.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, yeah.

MS. GREFFENIUS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. My name is Laura Greffenius and I'm a biologist on the Staff of the Office of Subsistence Management. And this Proposal FP06-01 begins on Page 12 in your books, and this was summarized by Helen Armstrong, who's an anthropologist on our Staff. She's presently in Nome at their Council meeting and so I'll be presenting this one to you.

This proposal was submitted by the Office of Subsistence Management and it requests that Federal regulations permit the sale of handicrafts made by rural Alaskans from the nonedible byproducts of

subsistence harvested fish or shellfish.

In the past few years the discussion at the Council and Board meetings about the sale of bear handicrafts brought a closer scrutiny to Federal Subsistence regulations regarding the use of other subsistence resources used for handicraft purposes. And as a result of these discussions we realized that the Federal regulations do not accommodate the existing practices with regard to the sale of the handicrafts made from nonedible byproducts of fish.

So this proposal would correct an administrative oversight by allowing a practice described in ANILCA for the making and selling of handicraft articles out of nonedible byproducts of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or family consumption.

This proposed regulation would provide the same opportunities to Federal subsistence users as are being proposed under State regulations and it affects all areas of the state, but it does not change seasons, harvest limits, methods or means or customary and traditional use determinations.

So the current regulations pertain no provisions to allow for the sale of handicrafts made from fish parts so the proposed Federal regulation, if you look at the top of Page 15 in your book would read:

> You may sell handicraft articles made from the nonedible byproducts, including but not limited to skin, shell, fins, and bones of subsistence harvested fish or shellfish.

So that would be the new proposed regulation.

And the State is also correcting their regulations, and their regulations would most likely be close to what we are proposing as well and that would go through the Board of Fish.

There are no known conservation concerns regarding the use of nonedible byproducts of subsistence harvested fish or shellfish for making handicrafts. And the adopted proposed regulatory language does not provide any additional harvest

opportunity for subsistence users because the current salvage regulations require that the harvest occur primarily for consumption. And because the fish and shellfish cannot be harvested solely for raw parts to be made into handicrafts it is not expected that there would be any increase of fish harvest that will occur should this regulation be adopted.

So adopting the proposal would benefit subsistence users by providing for existing practices allowing the same opportunities to subsistence uses under Federal regulations as the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is proposing under State regulations as well as reducing the regulation complexity. There's no known conservation concerns and adopting this language in the regulations does not provide any additional harvest opportunity for subsistence users.

So the preliminary conclusion is to support the proposal and for the reasons that I've already mentioned it would provide for what's already being done, the existing practices, it's in ANILCA, it would reduce regulation complexity and it would be an opportunity for subsistence users to harvest and use primarily for consumption but to make handicrafts, and there's no conservation concerns.

And I should mention that the -- I attended the Western Interior Council meetings -- the Western Interior and Eastern Interior Council meetings and those Councils both supported this particularly proposal. And that concludes my presentation.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. We ask Alaska Department of Fish and Game comment for this Proposal 1, statewide.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chair. I'm Kevin Clark with Fish and Game. Basically the Department has submitted a similar proposal to the Alaska Board of Fisheries to provide for the sale of handicrafts made from skin and nonedible byproducts of subsistence harvested fish or shellfish so we've got a mirrored proposal before our Board.

So that's all I have.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

REPORTER: Harry.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll follow these procedures where.....

REPORTER: Harry.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: .....we're looking at these proposals.

REPORTER: Harry, microphone.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on our -- what?

REPORTER: Your microphone.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, mic, can't forget that.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, No. 3, Federal, State and tribal agency comment.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's none then we'll take Interagency Staff Committee comment.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: We go to the next one, Fish and Game Local Advisory Committee comments.

MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

MR. NICK: I was faxed the minutes from the Lower Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee and they wanted me to read this into the record.

On Proposal FP06-01, they would like to see this made legal. I believe -- I'll just read it the way it is. It says, would like to see make legal what is already being done. This would be less heartache to the people affected. And they voted 8-1 in support of the proposal.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. James.

MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee have not met this year so we are meeting last part of this month so no comment from Lower Kuskokwim River Advisory Committee.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any other Fish and Game local Advisory Committees.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Summary of written public comments.

MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. We have three comments in support of the proposal.

The AHTNA Tene Nene, I believe, Subsistence Committee supports the sale of handicraft made by subsistence users from nonedible byproducts from fish and shellfish. Subsistence users should be allowed to sell these handicrafts.

Chilkoot Indian Association. The Chilkoot Indian Association supports the sale of handicraft made by subsistence users from the nonedible byproducts of fish and shellfish. This statewide change has the potential to help economically deprived regions to generate needed cash. It also makes sense to use as much of the harvested fish to minimize waste and this change would also promote cultural skills with the tribes.

Third written comment is from Karen Pletnikoff, Aleut -- I'm sorry, Karen Pletnikoff Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association. This proposal offers more opportunities for subsistence users.

And, Mr. Chair, we're supposed to be receiving comments from Mike Moses of Mountain Village but unfortunately they're having problem with receiving fax.

Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, thank you, Alex. Next is public testimony. If there is anybody here in the public, you -- this is statewide concern and you want to have testimony on. Public.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there is none we'll go into Regional Advisory Council deliberation and recommendation and justification.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Betty [sic]. Okay, go ahead, Bob first and then Betty.

MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that we adopt.....

CHAIRMAN WILDE: I mean Beverly.

MR. ALOYSIUS: .....Proposal FP06-01.

MS. HOFFMAN: I'll second it.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the floor by Council.....

REPORTER: Harry. Harry.

MS. HOFFMAN: Harry, your mic.

REPORTER: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the floor by Bob Aloysius to accept this proposal.....

MR. ALOYSIUS: (Nods affirmatively)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: .....and second by Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: (Nods affirmatively)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any discussion.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: I recommend also that we accept this proposal. One of the best checkbook covers I've ever had for 20 years has been a salmon skin checkbook cover.

(Laughter)

MR. L. WILDE: And you bought it illegally.

MS. HOFFMAN: I don't think I bought it illegally, AVCP was selling it.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more discussion from Council. Recommendation. Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll speak in favor of it. As reflected through the Staff comments and also the public who chose to put in comments on this proposal, it's more of a housekeeping than anything. So I suggest we support it and I'm ready for the question.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester Wilde.

MR. L. WILDE: Call for the question.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion has been asked for question has been asked for and question. So we are ready to vote, all who favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed, say no.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Proposal 1 accepted by Council.

REPORTER: Harry, microphone.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: The next on our proposal list is FP06-03, start the fishing schedule allowing use of king salmon fishing gear in lower Yukon district 1, 2 and 3. Don Rivard. Council you'll find

that in your booklet on Page 18.

Don.

MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name, again, is Don Rivard. I'm with the Office of Subsistence Management. I'll be presenting the next three proposal analysis to your Council. All three were written by Richard Uberuaga who was your fisheries biologist for the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. Mr. Uberuaga turned 55 on September 26th and he had his 30 years in and retired on September 30th, so he's no longer with our Staff.

The draft Staff analysis begins in your booklet on Page 19.

Proposal FP06-03 submitted by the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council requests that the Federal windowed fishing schedule in the Yukon River for the harvest of chinook salmon begin on May 15th. This proposal was submitted because in some years and an example is last year, 2004, subsistence harvest occurs on the early part of the chinook salmon run before the windowed subsistence fishing schedule starts.

The proponent states that starting the windowed schedule on May 15th would ensure that the entire run is protected and the burden to protect the early segment of the chinook runs would be shared more equitably by all fishermen on the river.

The proponent requests the proposal only affect chinook salmon gear, such as nets greater than six inches stretch mesh.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted the windowed subsistence fishing schedule in the 2001 season to provide closed periods for salmon to pass through sections of the river with reduced harvest. The windows schedule is implemented early in the season to:

1. Limit harvest when there is a much higher uncertainty of total run size.

2. Distribute the harvest throughout reducing the impact

on any particular part of the run.

3. Spread the harvest opportunity among all subsistence users.

Federal and State in-season managers develop the regulatory subsistence fishing schedule, including the start date and a preseason management strategy each year prior to the fishing season and that usually occurs in April.

The windowed subsistence fishing schedule is implemented chronologically consistent with the migratory timing as the chinook salmon run up stream.

For the past five years, that's 2001 through 2005 that the windowed fishing schedule has been in place, the schedule has been implemented each year in District 1 starting between either May 29th and May 31st. The first chinook salmon generally arrive at the Yukon River mouth shortly after river ice breaks up and moves out. At the start of the fishing season, effort is normally low because fishermen are just trying to harvest a fresh fish for dinner, for example. Intensive fishing effort usually occurs later after fish camp preparations have been made and the salmon runs are well under way. The timing of salmon entering the river depends on several factors including run size, water temperature and wind direction.

Many subsistence fishermen believe that an early river break up means the chinook run will also be early. When break up is late, chinook salmon come in late. The average Yukon River break up at Alakanuk from 1983 through 2004 was on May 23rd.

In 2005 the chinook salmon run appeared to have average run timing. The first reported chinook salmon harvest in 2005 was on May 25th. As of June 5th, 2005, subsistence salmon fishing effort in the lower river was low due to high and fast water conditions.

If adopted, this proposal could increase the effectiveness of the current windowed fishing schedule if large numbers of chinook were present prior to the start of the windowed schedule. However, the fishing effort and chinook salmon harvest

in the lower Yukon River during May is likely small because salmon are generally not abundant in the river until the 1st of June.

The high cost of gasoline is causing many fishermen to wait until the chinook salmon run is fully underway and fishing becomes more efficient and cost effective.

Fishing early in the season when the water is high and the river is full of debris can result in lost and damaged nets and a lower probability of success.

Again, this proposal would start the windowed fishing salmon schedule on May 15th for Federal users only. That's something to keep in mind. And make fishing regulations in Federal public waters more restrictive than in State waters.

The conclusion, therefore, from Staff, is to oppose the proposal. The justification, establishing this starting date for the Yukon River windowed subsistence fishing schedule in regulations earlier than the date managers have been implementing the schedule would have little effect on the schedule's effectiveness. Only a small amount of chinook salmon harvest is thought to occur before this schedule has been implemented in recent years.

Numerous factors currently combine to keep harvest to a minimum until the fish run is well under way including high gasoline prices, run size, water temperature and wind direction.

Normally there is not enough information available at the start of the season to accurately assess run strength and to justify implementing an earlier Federal windowed subsistence fishing schedule. The average date of the Yukon River break up over a 40 year period is close to the recent opening dates.

And, Mr. Chair, I will also tell you what the Western Interior and Eastern Interior Councils did with this proposal. Keep in mind that this was a Western Interior Council proposal, and they voted to table this after hearing the analysis, and I'll give you their reasons why. With the current salmon fish returns of 2005, this proposal is moot. But in future

years when the river is clear of ice early in the season it results in an inequitable situation for subsistence fishers across the drainage having the windowed fishing schedule implemented later than May 15th. The Council felt a tabled motion would keep the issue of equitable opportunity and conservation burden alive.

The Eastern Interior Regional Council took no action earlier this week. They reviewed the Council book materials and they heard this similar presentation by another member of the OSM Staff and they herd the comments by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The proponent, the Western Interior Council voted to table this proposal. Under Robert's Rules of Order, if a motion is tabled at the end of the meeting, the motion fails. Fishermen all along the river need to work together.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Don. Alaska Department of Fish and Game comment.

MR. ROCZICKA: Can I ask a question.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman, do we ask questions of their presentations at the time or do we wait until the end at deliberation?

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

MR. ROCZICKA: I'd like to ask something for clarification from something he mentioned during his report.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, okay.

MR. ROCZICKA: Quyana. Don, you made reference and you pointed it out as a specific note of importance of the difference between State and Federal waters, what do we have in the Yukon, I thought pretty much the entire drainage was considered part of the conservation units that surrounded it or is it just the surrounding banks where there's no -- anyway, could you please the difference what we have between State and

Federal waters on the Yukon?

MR. RIVARD: Well, I'll give you an answer to the my best of my understanding and maybe some of the in-season manages can chime in if they feel that needs better clarification. But there is a checkerboard of ownership right along the river itself. And so there are designated areas of Federal and State managed waters.

So this proposal, if it were passed would only affect Federal users.

MR. ROCZICKA: Understood. But doesn't the regulation apply throughout the -- gets back into water runs downhill and it stays in the same channel, how do you.....

MR. CLARK: Yeah, hello, this is Kevin Clark with Fish and Game. Mr. Chairman. Greg. Basically the situation we have now is this proposal would only apply to Federally-qualified subsistence users in Federally-qualified waters where the Federal government has a reserved water right. And those areas are mainly in the Yukon drainage in 4-B and C, 5-D and there's a few other patchworks that are adjacent to National Parks and et cetera, the Federal ground, it's not river-wide. Much of the area wouldn't be covered. It's just this would only apply to those areas that the Federal government does have the reserved water right.

And Russ could probably qualify it better, too.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Russ.

MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify, as Kevin indicated, Portions of 4, 5 and 6 but also District 1, District 2 and the majority of District 3 are Federal waters in the Yukon River.

MR. ROCZICKA: Along with 4, 5 and 6, if I'm correct, what six management units?

MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. Greg. Basically all of District 1, all of District 2, a majority of District 3, portions of District 4, portions of District 5, and only headwater area in the

Tanana River drainage but it is not in the subdistricts 6-A, 6-B, 6-C, it does not include that, it's in the very headwaters so basically we do not have management authority within the majority of the fishing area within the Tanana.

MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, that cleared it up for me.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, what was Alaska Department of Fish and Game's recommendation.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chair. Bob. I was waiting to have the Chair ask me for that.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, your comment.

MR. CLARK: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Department agrees with the fact that in some years subsistence fishing and harvest occur prior to establishment of the subsistence fishing schedule. It was understood when developing the time period for initiating the schedule, that there would be years with a relatively small proportion of the entire chinook salmon run migrating before the schedule was in effect as well as years when there would be no chinook salmon running before the schedule started, depending on timing of break up.

An important element in setting the timing of the start of the schedule was the desire not to have the schedule in place for a long period of time when no salmon were present. Subsistence fishers do target other species with large mesh gillnets. Conservation measures and providing for subsistence priority must be balanced. It is understood that a traditional use pattern exists whereby a number of

subsistence fishers harvest fish, fresh fish early in the spring and summer. During earlier runs these fishers will have an opportunity to harvest some chinook salmon as they have traditionally.

Clearly, most subsistence fishers are treated similarly as the schedule is implemented chronologically such that fishers along the river will have a similar opportunity based on migratory timing.

Although poor runs occurred from 1998 to 2000, the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks are not classed as either a conservation concern or a management concern. In all years, except for the very poor chinook salmon run in 2000 there has been reasonable opportunity for subsistence fishers to meet amounts necessary for subsistence. A majority of escapement goals have been met or exceeded since 2000, specifically the agreed to escapement objectives for the Canadian mainstem has been met every year since 2000 with 2001, 2003 and 2005 being the three highest spawning escapement estimates on record. Escapement goals in the Chena and the Salcha Rivers have been met or exceeded annually since 2000 with the upper end of the goals doubled in the Chena River in 2003 and in the Salcha River in 2001, 2003 and 2004.

These three stocks combined represent the majority of the Yukon River chinook salmon.

At this time it does not appear necessary to be more conservative in the management of subsistence fishing time in the Yukon River based on chinook salmon stock status in the past five years and to provide for a subsistence priority.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: No. 4, Interagency Staff Committee comment.

(No comments)

MR. ALOYSIUS: You skipped No. 3 -- I mean, yeah.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Fish and Game Local Advisory Committee.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: I skip Federal, State and tribal agency comment.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do we have a tribal here.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there is none then Interagency Staff Committee comment.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Fish and Game Local Advisory Committee comment.

MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

MR. NICK: Yeah, as stated earlier, Sherry Wright would like for us to read these into record from the minutes of lower Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

The comment on Proposal FP06-03 says this might end up restricting people to two 36 hour periods per week which could hurt them. There are not that many fishermen but currently they can catch seven days per week at that time. If this would prompt ADF&G to begin earlier they would perhaps support. There are also other fisheries that occur at this time that could be

adversely impacted. ADF&G reported that they begin their work with break up. Advisory Committee prefers status quo. And their vote was 0-8 oppose.

Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, thank you. Any other written comment.

MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman, no comment from lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Summary of written comment.

MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

MR. NICK: We received written comment from Mike Moses of Mountain Village. His comment on Proposal FP06-03 says:

Current regulations allow taking of subsistence king salmon provided the dorsal fin is removed. This special provision should only be mandated when commercial fishing opening are announced. I have yet to see anyone removing dorsal fins from king salmon. I have no objections to allow the use of king gear starting May 15th.

Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other written comment.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's none, public testimony. I will ask Allen Joseph.

MR. JOSEPH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I first read the proposal I thought it was

beneficial but after reading it over, it seems to me I would oppose this proposal or recommend that this proposal be voted down.

I oppose this proposal with the understanding as a lay man that this proposal adds to further restrictions to subsistence. Now that salmon stocks have greatly improved in both Kuskokwim and Yukon River, our need for stripped subsistence fishing controls are less needed.

When this kind of proposal, I believe, is needed only when our salmon stocks are suffering and in times of improved salmon stocks or when they're improving we shouldn't impose any more restrictions. The years when we had restrictions was pretty tough and if we had salmon stocks that were suffering this kind of proposal would be reasonable.

I thank the in-season fisheries managers for their work when it was needed or when subsistence fishing restrictions were needed and I applaud them for their work but at this time I request Advisory Council to oppose this proposal.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Allen. Any other public testimony.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: As myself I'm really concerned about this.

The reason I'm concerned about this, in the Yukon they continuously they -- our subsistence is pushed back all the way almost down to nothing. Sometimes the weather, when the weather starts raining and all that, we could not able to put up dry fish to our family anymore.

Not only that there's some of us people that, villagers, they're out in summer fish camp, they call it, they could not able to fish, they're waiting for when the window is going to be open and all that. I think that subsistence is supposed to be highest priority but not anymore. It's not no longer highest priority because we have people that subsist, they having a hard time and harder and harder. I think that

something have to be done and we continue more like fighting and try to have a fish or subsistence for our people, our childrens and our own family.

That's the reasons I'm really concerned. Because take me as an example, I went down to Thirtysix mile fish camp, that's where we are from Mountain Village and we spent in fish camp just about a whole month until sometime in the fall, this law looks like it's tieing, and tieing us, push back -- put us back. We have to sometime, we have to scrunch along and try to get the fresh fish because of the regulations.

No wonder that one of the elders was saying subsistence is just like willow or tree, the roots are caving in because of the law and regulation. We cannot continue to subsist the way we used to. So I think it's very important that really that our children and our family should come first.

When I joined this Federal Subsistence Advisory Committee, I had one aim to myself and why I'm joining it. I grow up in very poor family. In fact my parents died when I was 15 years old, I tried to survive my own sister and brother but the ways today are different. Sometimes you go out there and you have to try to look for some other food to eat even if fish are swimming in the river. So whatever it is, when this recommendation come from Advisory Committee, I will stand for and I will not accept it because of the people that I know.

That's all I have.

MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Phillip.

MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: What I've heard in our discussions, our land and our homes, times are different than from my time and subsistence has always been our way of life and that is still the way things are. Sockeye come into our area but chums are -- when they arrive -- they are not harvested as they don't dry as well. Those chums that are right first, they refer to as secondary subsistence food and we don't have bears in our area that eat this fish. But seals prey

on the chums. They harvest these chums, after the chums, the sockeye because they dry easier in our area. The chums don't dry as well and we don't harvest as many because they don't dry as well as the reds.

As we discussed, the fish that are swimming up the head of the Yukon, there are reds -- for those of you that were a little bit older and caught what we harvested in the summer for winter's use and that is what we harvest in the summer is what we would use in the winter.

Although I am not from that area, I have concerns for these closures and restrictions because I know they have a lot of older people in that area that harvest and subsist on the species. And reflecting on our subsistence lifestyle, we harvest this fish and then in those times when we had dogs for travel those were our fish that we harvested to feed and that is what we subsist on. And these documents that you see and are discussing, the issues that are addressed, many times local knowledge is not used particularly from the elders in our deliberations before regulations are changed and these proposals for fish regulatory changes are -- and the elders and the people from our area are not relied on and those that harvest fish from this area, we need to respect the traditional users, particularly the elders from the areas in question, particularly in the Yukon region because this is our lifestyle and what we harvest are the reds in this area.

We take as much as we need estimating how much would provide for the winter and they migrate, they are harvested by those along their migratory path and when they diminish in numbers there is shortage and quotas are not met, this does not affect my home area in the coastal region, but when the restrictions are imposed and closures set a lot of those that are using the fish, although, they may not agree with the law they comply and there are openings for commercial use in this area that we hear about. I think it's important that we not impose closures on those that use this resource for subsistence food because that is what sustains us and we are not used to nonNative foods and that's what we live on and this has not changed for many, many, many years.

Closures sometimes affect the drying season when it's not good for drying. If we use the

traditional ecological knowledge to a greater extent perhaps we will be able to satisfy them with the knowledge that they are being consulted.

Although we had abundance traditionally we just take what is needed. I wanted to make these statements because we like what we eat and if we don't have it it's not a good thing because we are not used to food that is bought now from the stores.

We, from our region, the people, this is our way of life. We traditionally do not rely on what is bought from the stores but that's the way things are today. Unlimited resources and money cannot just rely on that alternative but the food that we take from the rivers. I do not agree with the restrictions and closures on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers for people that rely on the resource because sometimes it does not -- the closures occur when the drying time is good and they're open when the weather is inclimate.

And that's the way things seem to be and that's what I wanted to say and this is the extent of my statements in regards to the fish and our reliance on the resource as a source of food.

I wanted to share this at this point. Regulations are established on paper and documents and this is what we're stuck with although we use this resource we are not consulted before changes are made.

The original people, particularly from the Yukon River that rely on the fisheries, the fish for a social food to provide for the winter and the Yukon River people know their river from years of using it, they know the migration of fish and they know the years when there is going to be a shortage in advance, they know when there was not going to be fish, depending on the season they estimated how the following season would be,that's how it's always been among the men that fished from that area.

This is all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana. Regional Advisory Council deliberation, recommendation and justification.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah, just continuing on with our comments, I do want to say that this Council is very much a part of, I would hope, the decision-making process and our recommendations are taken into consideration and even though I am not a big fan of the schedule, I saw its importance with our fish being stocks of concern.

And I oppose the proposal before us for all the reasons that have been stated before.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

MR. ALOYSIUS: I, too, oppose the proposal based on the simple fact that, like, Mr. Moses, said, we have enough restrictions on our people's ability to go out and subsistence for the first fish they encounter in the spring.

And a point of clarification for Mr. Moses, this proposal did not originate from the other side, it is originated from the Western Interior, what do they call themselves, yeah, the Western Interior -- oh, where am I?

MS. HOFFMAN: Western Interior.....

MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah.

MS. HOFFMAN: .....Alaska Subsistence.....

MR. ALOYSIUS: Western Interior Regional Advisory Council.

(In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (No interpretation)

MR. ALOYSIUS: Quyana.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ray.

MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very much opposed to this proposal also for the reasons as stated earlier. And also, you know,

we are the most regulated users on the planet as far as subsistence. Everything that we do has a regulation. And to this, I think is just one more insult to us, as the people, of users, on the Yukon for the salmon, and, therefore, I would oppose this proposal also.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

MR. CHARLES: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: After listening to all the comments that are in opposition of this proposal if.....

MR. CHARLES: I move to oppose this proposal, No. FP06-03.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's your motion?

MR. CHARLES: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's.....

MS. HOFFMAN: I'll second.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a.....

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Point of clarification, remember we agreed that we were going to make positive motions. This is a negative motion. If we make positive motions and if you don't like the motion you vote against it.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Bob, I try to look for -- so I make roll call so I want to make sure that if everyone answer do not, here on the Council, I think that's the way I would like to say there is a motion and second and rejected.

Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman, I'd offer a friendly amendment to both the maker and the second in order to get to what Bob was saying, that your motion would be to support the proposal and for us all to vote no.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: Just a further clarification, that's to support the opposition of the proposal?

MR. ROCZICKA: You move to adopt a proposal, and you either say you like it or you don't, yes or no, that's what Bob is trying to get at, that's a positive motion. Any time we move to do something, you move to adopt it and if you don't like it, you say no we don't want to adopt it and then everything's always yes or no, clear and cut.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, because rules of order are that you make a positive motion and if you make a negative motion, that's going contrary to the rules of meetings. So every motion has to be made in a positive way and your vote in the end determines what the outcome of that motion is and if you don't like the motion you vote against it. It's as simple as that.

MR. L. WILDE: So we're requesting a roll call then?

CHAIRMAN WILDE: May I ask Carl, will you -- maybe you could give us a clarification.

MR. JACK: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: Just as Bob commented about making a positive motion to accept this proposal, a yes vote would support the proposal and a no vote would be to reject the proposal. It's the same thing, vote yes to support the proposal or vote no to not support it.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

MR. ALOYSIUS: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: If anyone wants to support this proposal say yes, if you don't, say no. So a motion in reverse as the original one was would make it confusing on a yes or no vote, which we tried to clarify in our previous meeting.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

MR. CHARLES: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: I would like to amend my original motion to support this proposal.

MS. HOFFMAN: Second.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Question.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: I still have a little bit problem. We could do it by roll call.

MR. L. WILDE: It's up to you how you want to do it.

MS. HOFFMAN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think that right now we could call for roll call.

MR. NICK: James Charles.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

MR. L. WILDE: Before we vote, just for clarification, the motion was to adopt Proposal FP06-03.

MR. NICK: You ready for a vote, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. NICK: James Charles.

MR. CHARLES: Yes.

MR. ALOYSIUS: No, no.

(Laughter)

MR. CHARLES: Yeah, no.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Here's what I understand, if you don't accept this proposal you say no.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Right.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: But if you accept it the way it's written you say yes.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Right.

MR. CHARLES: Okay, Mr. Chairman, no.

(Laughter)

MR. NICK: Mr. Oney.

MR. ONEY: No.

MR. NICK: Mr. Brown.

MR. BROWN: (Shakes head no)

MR. NICK: Mr. Brown votes no. Harry Wilde.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: No.

MR. NICK: Phillip Moses.

MR. MOSES: No.

MR. NICK: Lester Wilde.

MR. L. WILDE: No.

MR. NICK: Greg Roczicka.

MR. ROCZICKA: No.

MR. NICK: Bob Aloysius.

MR. ALOYSIUS: No.

MR. NICK: Beverly Hoffman.

MS. HOFFMAN: No.

MR. NICK: Okay, we have.....

MR. L. WILDE: Joseph Mike.

MR. NICK: Oh, I'm sorry, Joseph Mike. I'm sorry.

MR. MIKE: No.

MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, we have 10 no, zero yes, motion fails.

MR. ALOYSIUS: No, the motion did not fail, the adoption was rejected.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, make sure because Mary is not here. And this proposal is not accepted by lower Yukon Advisory Committee.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next proposal is.....

REPORTER: Harry, your microphone.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. The next proposal is FP06-04 reduce depth of gillnet for both subsistence and commercial fishing. Don Rivard. You find this in your booklet on Page 25.

MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management. The Staff analysis begins on Page 26 of your book. Again, this was an analysis that was written by Richard Uberuaga.

Proposal FP06-04 submitted by the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council requests that in the Yukon River drainage, all gillnets with greater than six inch stretch mesh may not be more than 35 meshes in depth. The Council, the Eastern Interior Council has submitted this proposal as an agenda change

request to the Alaska Board of Fisheries for it's 2005 work session as well.

The Council expressed concerns that the use of deeper nets target larger female chinook salmon thereby reducing the overall size and altering the genetic make up of the fish reaching the spawning grounds and potentially increasing the impacts of ichtheyphonus which is believed to have a disportional higher rate of infection in female chinook salmon.

The Eastern Interior Council also requests that the proposed regulation apply to both subsistence and commercial fishing gillnets. However, the Federal Subsistence Management Program does not directly manage commercial fishing in the Yukon River. So this analysis will focus on the proposed regulatory changes under Federal jurisdiction.

Gillnets are highly selective gear. Larger mesh sizes target larger chinook and smaller mesh are more effective for smaller chinook and other species. Mesh size regulations can significantly alter the sex ratio and age class composition of chinook salmon stocks.

Traditional ecological knowledge contends that the larger, older female chinook salmon tend to swim deeper in the river. There is little disagreement that deeper nets catch more chinook salmon but there is no scientific evidence supporting that larger chinook salmon are disporportionately harvested over males.

The lower numbers of larger, older female chinook salmon is a concern of many users along the Yukon River. In February 1998, the US/Canada Joint Technical Committee reviewed the availability of age, sex, length information for Yukon River chinook salmon trying to determine whether a decrease in size had occurred. Their analysis concluded that the data did not indicate any substantial sustained change in the fish size for Yukon River chinook salmon.

In 2004 the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requested further investigation of age, sex and length trends in Yukon chinook salmon by the Office of Subsistence Management. The OSM Staff followed up on this request and analyzed historical age, sex and length information on Yukon

chinook salmon and there's a draft report out now on this and this draft report identifies two trends. A small decrease in the large chinook salmon spawning in most tributaries and a marginal decrease in the average length of older chinook salmon spawning in several tributaries. That analysis concluded that gillnets are size selective for harvesting chinook salmon, however, the analysis could not assign a specific cause to these identified trends.

If adopted, this proposal would make the Federal subsistence fishing regulations more restrictive than the State's commercial and subsistence regulations and result in a checkerboard of State/Federal regulations creating the potential for management and enforcement challenges.

This proposal might increase the amount of subsistence fishing effort necessary to harvest chinook salmon since people would have to fish longer with shallower less efficient nets to harvest their fish.

The proposed regulation would create an additional hardship on Yukon River subsistence fishermen because they would have to shorten their existing nets to 35 meshes deep.

The preliminary conclusion then is to oppose the proposal and the justification are the following. It would make Federal subsistence regulations more restrictive than the State's commercial and subsistence regulations. Again, establish a checkerboard of regulations that could potentially management and enforcement challenges and possibly increase the effort that would be required to harvest chinook salmon since people would have to fish longer with less efficient gear.

The Western Interior and the Eastern Interior Councils both also heard this proposal.

The Western Interior Regional Council opposed this proposal, however, their Council is very concerned that the decline in the size and age of the returning salmon. Council members reported good returns of salmon this year as far as the number of fish but they are not seeing the large fish in the quantities they did in the past. The Council felt the decline of age and size of fish is due to the

commercial fishing. The Council directed a letter be sent to the State and Federal agencies managing the fisheries to share the Council's frustration with the lack of action to resolve the decline in the age and size of the returning salmon that are important to Yukon River subsistence fishers.

The Eastern Interior Regional Council, who made this proposal, support the proposal as written. The Eastern Interior Council reviewed the Council book materials and heard the presentation by the OSM Staff and the comments by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the TCC, the Tanana Chiefs Conference and the public. The larger chinook are being targeted in the Yukon River gillnet fishery. There are fewer large fish in the Yukon River chinook salmon run than there were in the past. There is continuing long-term detrimental genetic impacts on the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks as a result of the size selective large mesh gillnet fishing practices. A number of research studies have documented that size selective fishing is detrimental to fish populations and may impact the genetic viability of these stock. Small fish on the spawning grounds beget small fish in the future. Large chinooks swim in deeper water, shallower nets would allow more large chinook to make it up stream to the spawning grounds. Gillnets are the most effective chinook salon fishing method used in the Yukon River. The Eastern Interior Regional Council believes that a restriction in depth of gillnets is the first step in the conservation of large Yukon River chinook salmon for present and future generations of Alaskans. Traditional ecological knowledge interviews of upper river fishermen have consistently reported a definite decline in the size of chinook salmon.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Don. Alaska.....

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman, if I could ask a question of clarification again.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: And I may have missed it when you were going over those size and length observations that were observed in the Canadian escapement you mentioned or in your escapement projects

and perhaps Rich would be the one to answer this.

I heard you say that there was some limited reduction in size and length but do you have year class age correlations in there as well?

MR. RIVARD: I don't have that information right in front of me. There is a draft report out from our office.

MR. ROCZICKA: I was looking for it in your fisheries report of 2005, I didn't see it there but.....

MR. RIVARD: This is the report that I -- it's still in draft form. It's called Chinook Salmon Age, Sex and Length Analysis from Selected Escapement Projects on the Yukon River. I don't have that specific information on hand, I'd have to look this up and get back to you later, Greg.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alaska Department of Fish and Game comment.

MR. CLARK: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.

Although poor runs occurred from 1998 to 2000, the Yukon River king salmon stocks are not classified as either a conservation concern or a management concern. In all years except for the very poor chinook salmon run in 2000 there has been reasonable opportunity for subsistence fishers to meet amounts necessary for assistance. The majority of the escapement goals have been met or exceeded since 2000, specifically the agreed cross-border escapement into Canada and the Chena and Salcha Rivers being met or exceeded since 2000 with the upper end of the goals being doubled in the Chena in 2003 and in the Salcha River in 2001, 2003 and 2004.

A decline in the proportion of seven year old chinook salmon was observed in the commercial harvest in the mid-80s but this proportion has been increasing since the mid-90s. The decrease may or may not be related to harvest as

environmental conditions can play a major role in determining the age class composition of the run and the return.

Studies of the incidents of ichtheyphonus in the Yukon River chinook salmon are ongoing. Presently whereas females appear to be infected at slightly higher rates than males, there appears to be no identifiable impact on spawning success.

Although this request may relate to conservation of a proportion of the returning Yukon River chinook salmon the stock is not classified as either a conservation concern or a management concern. The depth of gillnets fished in the Yukon River is a major issue and the public will want to thoroughly discuss this issue. The Alaska Board of Fisheries cycle for the AYK region will come up after the next year's fishing season, so that will be the 2006/2007.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, thank you. Next Federal, State and tribal agency comment.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's none -- okay, Myron Naneng, AVCP.

MR. NANENG: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. My name is Myron Naneng. I'm the president of the Association of Village Council Presidents.

Our comments regarding to this proposal sees it as a way to further reduce the subsistence opportunities and efforts by our people on the Yukon River. With high increase in fuel prices, there's a mention in the report that there's going to be more effort on the part of our people on the Yukon to try and catch these fish that they need for subsistence. Many of our people on the Yukon River will not have that money to make that concerted effort to try and catch whatever they need for their subsistence uses.

Therefore, unless there's really a need for conservation efforts, a real conservation concern, AVCP does not support this proposal. But we need to see how it may dramatically impact our people and at this time with the price of fuel, and the cost that it's going to be affecting our people, and it already is, AVCP does not support this proposal.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Myron. Next Fish and Game Local Advisory Committee comment.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Interagency Staff Committee comment.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's none, Fish and Game Local Advisory Committee comment. James.

MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman, no comment from Lower Kuskokwim AC.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other Fish and Game Local Advisory Committee's here.

MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

MR. NICK: We received comment from Lower Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee and Ray Oney could help on this written comment which is to be read into record.

FP06-04 35 mesh is too shallow that time of year. Could go with a shallow net on the coast. Y2 to Y3 60 meshes, 40 mesh now is just right for Y3. Y1 to Y2 prefer 45 mesh minimum. Pilot Station area 95 mesh deep in the river. The areas fished at 60 feet to 70 feet depth. May be above Y4 they need a reduction but don't know about further up the river. One member believes 35 mesh might actually increase the harvest because people will move to shallower areas. When they start moving snags around it can change the

channel of the river. And their vote was 0-8 opposing.

Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, thank you. Any other written comment.

MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, if we're on the written -- summary of the written comment, we received from Mike Moses, and the comment reads:

Commercial fishermen can live with current restrictions of commercial gear of 45 mesh deep. This is in the lower Yukon Delta. Even though this area is in the low land and the lower Yukon River has very deep channels as compared to the upper Yukon River where the water is draining off the highlands. This drainage on this part of the upper Yukon provides drifters with an additional opportunity to drift to shallow farther up in the Yukon. King salmon up in the highlands have little chance of making it if 45 mesh deep nets are used in the highlands of the upper Yukon River.

Once again, the lower Yukon Delta has very deep channels where the king salmon swim below the restriction of 45 mesh deep nets.

His comment on subsistence fishing.

Subsistence fishermen generally use commercial fishing gear for subsistence, therefore, additional gear should not be mandated to subsistence harvest users. I have no objection as long as the current restriction of 45 mesh deep apply, however, I would object to using deep nets further up in the upper Yukon River where salmon would be more vulnerable to drift fishing in the shallows.

Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, thank you. Any other written public comment.

(No comments)

(Ms. Gregory arrives)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If none, public testimony. Any public testimony on Proposal 04. Allen.

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

I'll provide a short statement concerning this proposal. I oppose this proposal simply because I believe salmon stocks are improving and further restrictions aren't called for and are not necessary. And I think subsistence fishing is unfairly blamed for low salmon counts anyway.

Not to step aside from the subject but subsistence fishing, I think, takes only tens of thousands of salmon while other fisheries like high seas fisheries takes hundreds of thousands of salmon and we pay for it or we -- we get blamed for it and, therefore, our fisheries have to be restricted.

I encourage the Advisory Council to vote no on this proposal.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any other public testimony.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's not Regional Advisory Council deliberation, recommendation and justification.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. As far as I've known, the assumption that deeper nets targets females has never been proven. As far as -- I've attended the meetings. The prevalency of this

assumption seems to stem from the Eastern Interior, mainly from the processor that is up in Fairbanks and at the present time, YRDFA, the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association has been mandated to get into the study of the results of deeper nets in fishing for king salmon and their results have not been made in public and I have not heard what the results of that study has been.

But we do have written comment or written studies by Dr. Dr. Cosan, who is from the School of Aquatic and Fisheries Science from the University of Seattle, Washington. In his report, in his abstract, he states that before -- concerning ichtheyphonus and the infection of ichtheyphonus in females, this report from Dr. Cosan states in his abstract that in 1985 ichtheyphonus was unreported among Pacific salmon from the Yukon River, now it infects more than 40 percent of returning adult chinook salmon. Overall infection prevalence reached about 45 percent in the Yukon River and about 30 percent in the Tanana River between 1999 and 2003. Mean infection prevalence was greater in females than males in the mainstem Yukon River during each of the five years of this study, but infection prevalence in males increased each year until difference was no longer significant.

That's all, Mr. Chairman. And because of what I've seen in this study and because of not being able to get the written proof or nobody's proved to me yet that deeper mesh net target larger females, I'm going to be opposing this, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. To get a motion on the table for discussion so we can put it into context here, I'd move to support this proposal. Move to adopt. And if I get a second I'd like to speak to my motion.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.

MR. L. WILDE: For discussion purposes I'll second the motion.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think Bob did the second.

MR. L. WILDE: Okay, I'll give it to

Bob.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: I will request for roll call.

MS. HOFFMAN: What about discussion.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Discussion.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Correct, discussion.

MR. ALOYSIUS: I, too, oppose the proposal based on the simple fact, again, that we're asking to be restricting the lower Yukon's ability -- I mean the residents of the lower Yukon and their ability to harvest salmon.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Now I will request for roll call.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: No, this is something new.

INTERPRETER: Mary's question was that we had discussed this at a previous meeting.

MS. GREGORY: Okay.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Request for roll call.

MS. HOFFMAN: Wait.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Roll call.

MS. HOFFMAN: No, wait, there wasn't a call for the question. I think it's still in discussion.

MR. CHARLES: Question, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, question been called for. I'll request for roll call.

MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I'll begin with James Charles. James Charles.

MR. CHARLES: No.

MR. NICK: Raymond Oney.

MR. BROWN: No.

MR. NICK: William Brown.

MR. BROWN: No.

MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

MR. BROWN: No.

MR. NICK: Quyana. Harry Wilde.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: No.

MR. NICK: Mary Gregory.

MS. GREGORY: No.

MR. NICK: Phillip Moses.

MR. MOSES: No.

MR. NICK: Lester Wilde.

MR. L. WILDE: No.

MR. NICK: Joseph P. Mike.

MR. MIKE: No.

MR. NICK: Greg Roczicka.

MR. ROCZICKA: No.

MR. NICK: Bob Aloysius.

MR. ALOYSIUS: No.

MR. NICK: Beverly Hoffman.

MS. HOFFMAN: No.

MR. NICK: 11 nays.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion on Proposal 04 is rejected by the Yukon.....

MR. NICK: Eleven nays, yeah.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you understand that it's rejected by Lower Yukon Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Councils.

(Council nods affirmatively)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: I was requesting -- asked for to take a break at this time. Ten minutes break.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Fifteen.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ten minutes break.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: We are ready.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: We do have one more proposal Council. We will look at the time and our agenda, how far we will be by 5:00 o'clock. We may not be able to have an evening session but we'll see how far we're at then.

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, we're ready for Proposal 5, is that what you're saying?

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. We are ready for Proposal No. 5, remove subsistence fishing restriction before -- after commercial opening. Don.

MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management. The analysis begins in your book on Page 35.

Proposal FP06-05 submitted by the Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge requests changes to the current Kuskokwim District Federal subsistence regulations which would align Federal and State

regulations for subsistence closures periods before, during and after State commercial fishing periods.

Until 2004, the Federal and State subsistence fishing regulations prevented the subsistence harvest of salmon by net or fishwheel 16 hours, during and six hours after each State commercial salmon fishing period in District 1 excluding Kuskokwuak Slough, I hope I didn't slaughter that too badly, and in District 2.

In January 2004, the Alaska Board of Fisheries changed State regulations to allow the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to establish subsistence fishing closures around commercial fishing periods by emergency order. Also in 2004, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game changed, by emergency order, the time period for the subsistence closures to six hours before, during and three hours after the commercial periods to allow for more subsistence opportunity. This action was agreed to by the Federal in-season fishery manager, however, the State's new subsistence fishing closure hours were not changed in Federal regulations.

Adoption of this proposal would all the Federal Subsistence Management Program to be flexible and consistent with the State Management Program. State management plans and actions would continue to be followed and would provide a regulatory format that could incorporate annual changes through emergency orders as long as they continued to provide for the Federal subsistence priority.

The Staff conclusion then is to support this proposal. The new Federal regulation would allow annual changes through emergency order by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to schedules, openings, closings and fishing methods without requiring an annual change in Federal regulations as long as the Federal subsistence priority was maintained.

Now, this was also taken up by the Western Interior Council at their meeting just over a week ago and the Western Interior Regional Council recommended to support the proposal as written. And their justification is they support this because it would provide increased flexibility for in-season management that results in timely responsiveness to subsistence needs.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Anything to Don.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If none, then Alaska Department of Fish and Game comment.

MR. LINDERMAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. The Department has brief comments with regards to this proposal.

If the Federal program has regulations that duplicate those of the State, those regulations should align with State requirements.

In this case the State regulations provide more subsistence fishing opportunity than Federal regulations.

This proposal would promote coordinated management to have the Federal regulation linked to the State's emergency order so that as management conditions change over time and the State adjusts the closure period around commercial openings, the Federal regulations will automatically reflect those changes without having to go through the regulatory process again.

Those are the extent of our comments, thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Federal, State and tribal agency comment. Myron.

MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Myron Naneng from the Association of Village Council Presidents.

We will support this proposal only if they do not use the commercial fishing as the use of allowing for subsistence openings to occur.

Now, a few years ago when there was no commercial fishing in District Y3 on the Yukon Delta

they did not open subsistence fishing and that was not fair to the people in that area. So if this regulation, as proposed does not use the commercial fishing as standards to open or close the subsistence fishing areas, then we would support it. We'd like to see subsistence fishing occur at any time but not to use the standards of commercial fishing to allow for subsistence.

Does everybody understand what I'm talking about?

Because a few years ago what happened was that because there was no commercial fishing in District Y2 on the Yukon River, that people in Russian Mission were not allowed to fish for salmon for subsistence purposes. So we got to keep that in mind. We don't want to see any of the proposed rules or regulations or emergency orders be used to restrict subsistence.

Thank you.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair, may I ask a question.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: This is affecting the Kuskokwim fisheries, it's my understanding that there's always been closures for subsistence before and after commercial fishing. Has there ever been a time during the commercial fisheries on the Kuskokwim that there's been no closures to subsistence?

Do you understand what I'm asking, Robert, you look perplexed?

MR. SUNDOWN: No, I don't understand Bev.

MS. HOFFMAN: I'm just asking, like, now it's, what, six hours before and three hours after, and it used to be a lot longer; is that correct?

MR. SUNDOWN: Yeah, 16 hours before.

MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah, 16 hours. And I just wondered in the history of commercial fishing since the '60s, was there a period of time where there

were no closures around the commercial fishing, no subsistence closures around the commercial fishing schedule?

MR. SUNDOWN: Yes, that's correct, but where and what point in time that was in effect, I couldn't tell you.

MS. HOFFMAN: But in most recent years, Myron, there's been closures before and after and has AVCP's stand always been the stand that you take today?

MR. NANENG: The stand that we're taking today is that if the regulation is adopted, that we do not want to see the same occurrence of what they did on District Y3 of the lower Yukon. And also it's been stated by State representatives that the subsistence closures, or these windows were established because they've historically occurred, but that's not necessarily true.

The windows were established for conservation purposes only. And when the windows were established, we've had the situations like the '93 and '97 and between, since then, subsistence closures and no subsistence fishing opportunity because of these conservation concerns, and we don't want -- if the regulations and emergency orders are in place where they will allow for subsistence openings -- if there's a substantial number of salmon that can be caught we don't want the emergency closures to be justified, that's the practice that we've always had -- attitude, if you understand what I mean.

We're trying to -- from the standpoint of AVCP, we're trying to -- we'd like to see as much opportunity for subsistence fishermen to be able to catch their fish for subsistence purposes and not be regulated by the fact that commercial fisheries are opened or closed, and not use these commercial fisheries as a standard to open or close subsistence fisheries.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And following up on that, I'd ask Mr. Rivard, or perhaps Mr. Linderman, then, for the State or Federal managers to clarify again on the record that that technical glitch that was in the way before, that a

subsistence fishery could not occur until a commercial opening took place that was in place a couple years ago and I understand was fixed through regulation. If we could have that clarified and stated on the record, please.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. LINDERMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair. Greg. That is correct. It was clarified from the standpoint that the schedule is implemented by emergency order and commercial periods are also opened by emergency order, and it was found by the Board of Fish that it wasn't necessary to specifically state that there was a separation between commercial and subsistence since it's left to the Department's discretion to open and/or close commercial periods and to implement and rescind the subsistence fishing schedule by emergency order. There is that separation there by default because it's able to be done by emergency order.

MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you.

MR. SUNDOWN: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

MR. SUNDOWN: Mr. Chairman. Members of the Board. Also just from the perspective of the Yukon-Delta Refuge here, you know, this is a streamlining proposal for us. And, you know, this is one of the situations where the State actually had more lenient regulations for subsistence but more specifically, you know, when you can fish subsistence before and after a commercial fishing period.

So, you know, for us, I mean this would allow us to better mirror those lenient activities before, during and after a commercial fishing period.

And the history of management of fisheries on the Kuskokwim for those of you who participate, it's fairly comfortable. Everybody gets in the room and meets with the Working Group and makes a joint decision, and for those of you who participate in that it's a fairly comfortable process, there's no surprises.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(Laughter)

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Russ.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Oh.

MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. Greg. I wanted to clarify the situation. In the first year in which the windowed subsistence fishing schedule was in effect on the Yukon River, for District 3 when the commercial fishing activity occurred in Districts 1 and 2 and there wasn't commercial fishing activity in District 3, the first year that the schedule was in place, the subsistence schedule was not liberalized beyond the two 36 hours that the Board of Fisheries had implemented.

In subsequent years, in most recent years, we worked that out with the State managers and if there has not been commercial activity available in District 3 we have liberalized the windows either to five or seven days a week opportunity, therefore, District 3 fishermen, if they did not have a commercial fishing opportunity.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

MR. ALOYSIUS: You know, another reason for the closures before, during and after the commercial fishing is simply because when they were fishing together, subsistence fishermen and commercial fishers fishing, guess what happened, a lot of the subsistence fishermen dumped their fish into the commercial fishery boats and had them sold. So that was one of the reasons that the regulation was passed to restrict that activity.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other Council.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on.....

REPORTER: Harry.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg, do you want to say something?

MR. ROCZICKA: I heard you saying next, and I should have waited to hear what you were going to do, I was just wondered if you were ready for our deliberation and action, I was ready to make a motion.

MR. ALOYSIUS: No, number 4 is next.

MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Interagency Staff Committee comments.

REPORTER: Harry.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do we have any.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's none.....

REPORTER: Harry.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: .....then.....

REPORTER: Microphone, thank you.

MR. L. WILDE: Remember to press your microphone when you're going to talk.

REPORTER: Thank you.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Please.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, okay, thank you. Fish and Game Local Advisory Committee comment.

MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman. Lower Kuskokwim AC, no comments.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's none.....

REPORTER: Harry, I'm sorry, your.....

CHAIRMAN WILDE: I keep on wanting to forget it.

(Laughter)

REPORTER: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Summary of written public comments.

MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

MR. NICK: We received one from Mike Moses written comment says:

Deep in my heart I would favor removing these restrictions that apply to subsistence harvesters of fish. All fish apply, whether red or white meat when it comes to subsistence fishing. Traditionally our ancestors look upon the weather conditions and exclusively the tides to subsist for fish. The weather and the tides do not coexist with the timeframes given to subsistence users.

Elders specifically are heavily burdened with the task of setting and removing subsistence nets. Many have since moved their fish camps closer to the village. Some have quit camping altogether.

It makes no sense for our tribes to continue to wait for further instructions from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as to when and how to subsist.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on these proposals.

Mike Moses of Mountain Village.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other written public comments.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's none, Regional Council deliberation, recommendation and justification.

MR. NICK: Public testimony.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Public testimony for this Proposal 05. Allen Joseph, he's not here?

MR. L. WILDE: Yeah, he left.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Now, then Regional Advisory Council deliberation, recommendation and justification.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman, move to adopt Proposal FP06-05.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Moved and seconded by Bob. I will ask for roll call.....

MS. HOFFMAN: Discussion.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Discussion.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: I mean, discussion. Any discussion from -- James.

MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman, I have a comment like Bob's comment awhile ago about illegal activity before, during and after. When there was subsistence fishing at the same time when commercial fishing is going on there were some illegal fishing, those days, so back in maybe middle '70s, Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee had a meeting to work with State managers those days and we start closing during -- I mean before, during and after commercial fishing because of those illegal fishing happenings those days. I was one of the buyers those days and the people delivering fish to me were delivering old fish and I knew that there was some illegal fishing when we were subsistence fishing before, during and after so I have an experience of illegal activities.

So I'm not going to support this proposal.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: One, I thought the whole idea of supporting the proposal and why I want to support it was just that it prevented some of those one or two people that would throw in subsistence fish into their commercial catch.

I like the idea of aligning the Federal and State, it's more in align. And I guess that's why I would be in support of the proposal and understanding that the State has the three hours after just for that protection. So I think if you support it you're preventing that from happening. And I guess I want some clarification.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.

MR. RIVARD: I think all three of us here at this table are probably willing to make a couple comments.

James, right now all this proposal is doing is allowing the Federal regulations to match the State. The State has it now, recently, what, a year or so ago, instead of it being a closure 16 hours before, they went down to six hours, but the Federal regulation didn't change, it stayed at 16. The State also, instead of having six hours after commercial fishing staying closed, they went down to three, but the Federal regulations stayed at six.

So what it's doing is it's more restrictive, the Federal regulation is more restrictive than the State, so Federally-qualified fishers have to wait longer before they can start subsistence fishing than State people do, the people that are fishing State regulations. So this is just aligning it, there's still a closure before, during and after a commercial fishery.

Okay, thank you.

MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Don. Thank

you, Mr. Chairman. I now understand what this proposal is. And we now have more protection officers on the river and that make me change my mind.

(Laughter)

MR. CHARLES: So that would help us subsistence fishermen and I like to see a lot of subsistence fishing so thank you, Don.

MR. LINDERMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, okay.

MR. LINDERMAN: Further point of clarification also is that the way the current State regulations are stated, that those closed periods before and after, it would always be closed during the commercial openings but the before and after time periods are left at the discretion of the Department and they are set by emergency order and that can be done on a period by period basis or on a seasonal or on a schedule type basis, so this regulation and the adoption of this Federal regulation would align Federal regs with that ability within setting those time periods by emergency order. It wouldn't specifically be six hours before, three hours after, it would essentially follow the State regulations of giving the Department discretion to determine what those time periods would be before and after.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ray.

MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will support the resolution as long as there is no stocks of concern.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. I wish the people who write these things up would speak plain English, to align means to make same as, so that's the whole thing and it's just making sure that the State regs go around the same line and the same as the State regs, so, you know, I'm for it.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Other discussion. William.

MR. BROWN: As a subsistence fisherman in my area, I usually stay in camp. I support this six and three hours before and after.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (Is translating in Yup'ik not English)

MS. GREGORY: And I don't want to be that way. We're trying to get into to copy the State regulations all the time and I don't think that's fair because we're supposed to speak for our people and I speak for my people and the elders and those who are less fortunate than we are. This will be happen after commercial fishing has happened, so we're not going to open the commercial fishing right away but this will be afterward.

And I'd like to, like Mr. Oney here, I'm for conversation, if we exploit everything and our fish will be gone in the river if we open it too much for commercial fishing. And besides we have to have a good buyer, every summer you have high time people coming up to buy fish.

(In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: During the commercial season at times there's no buyers, we are.....

MS. GREGORY: Especially when nobody wants to come out and buy fish. Some of those guys (In Yup'ik), I live here in town and I know what's happening. My son is a fisherman, he's also a subsistence fisherman. There's (In Yup'ik) and I don't like this one and two business, if we're going to open it we should open it all the way.

(In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: The closures before and after.....

MS. GREGORY: So I'm not supporting this proposal, and even though I don't support it I'll

pass, I know, but.....

(In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: I know -- you need to understand this.....

MS. GREGORY: We might as well disperse because it's going to be under State regulations all over.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other discussions from Council.

(No comments)

MS. HOFFMAN: Question.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called for. I'm going to request for roll call. If you agree with this proposal you say yes and if you not agree with it, say, no.

MS. GREGORY: Ray Oney.

MR. ONEY: Yes.

MS. GREGORY: Phillip Moses. (In Yup'ik)

MR. MOSES: Yes.

MS. GREGORY: Beverly Hoffman.

MS. HOFFMAN: Yes.

MS. GREGORY: Greg Roczicka.

MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik) William Brown.

(Laughter)

MR. BROWN: Yes.

MS. GREGORY: We know him as Charlie. Lester Wilde.

MR. L. WILDE: Yes.

MS. GREGORY: Joseph Mike.

MR. MIKE: Yes.

MS. GREGORY: Myself, no. James Charles.

MR. CHARLES: Yes.

MS. GREGORY: One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, eight yea and one nay.

MR. ALOYSIUS: You forgot me.

MS. GREGORY: Oh, I'm sorry, Bob Aloysius.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.

MS. GREGORY: That makes it nine nay [sic] and one nay.

MS. HOFFMAN: How about Joseph Mike.

MS. GREGORY: I did already.

MS. HOFFMAN: How about Harry.

MS. GREGORY: Three, four, six, eight, 10 -- oh, I'm sorry. Harry Mike.

(Laughter)

MS. GREGORY: Harry Wilde, I'm sorry.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: I say no.

MS. GREGORY: Okay.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'll say no.

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik) Joseph, did I call you, Joseph Mike.

MR. MIKE: Uh-huh.

MS. GREGORY: I did. So we have two nays and nine yea's. Okay. Motion passed.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, yes had it. That's the end of our proposals. Next on our agenda is No. 10, Subsistence Fish and Wildlife Issues, Alex Nick.

MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll do this in Yup'ik since we got interpreter, it look like everybody's getting a little too comfortable. Okay.

(In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETERS: Today wildlife proposals are going to be opened. The deadline for proposals, for wildlife proposals will be October 21. Whoever wants to submit a proposal has -- you can -- you are -- from the villages, we are open to help you submit the proposal before the deadline. Like last year we will proceed thus until the deadline and that's it for wildlife proposals.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Can you clarify the call for wildlife proposals for what period?

MR. NICK: Call for wildlife proposal is going to be for FY'06/2007, right, '06/2007.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Don't we have dates, you know, September 1 through July or what?

MR. NICK: It begins on June 1st, I believe. June 1st to.....

MS. GREGORY: June 1st 2006?

MR. NICK: Pardon me?

MR. ALOYSIUS: What year?

MR. RIVARD: For fish and wildlife regulations.....

MR. NICK: Hold on for a moment, I got information right here.

(Pause)

MR. NICK: Pardon me, maybe I'm the one that needs to be looking out because I grabbed the wrong book, too, that woke everybody.

(Laughter)

MR. NICK: Okay, each person especially the Regional Advisory Council should always have a booklet like this and everyone from the villages so that you will know what we're talking about. These regulations, Bob, to answer your question, are effective July 1st through June 30th of that respective year.

MR. ALOYSIUS: I know that. But my question is, what period are you asking for proposals, is it 2006, 2007, 2008?

MR. NICK: It will be for fiscal year 2006 to 2007. It will be for July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. It's the next cycle. Does that answer your question Bob?

MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

MS. HOFFMAN: And when are they going to be taken into consideration?

MR. NICK: Bev asked when these proposals will be taken into consideration. The Regional Advisory Council are going to be taking up these new proposals during their winter meeting, that's this winter.

MS. GREGORY: In February or March?

MR. NICK: Actually February or March, this winter. And then the Federal Board, I believe, will take those proposals up in May -- is it May, in the spring, next spring?

MR. RIVARD: (Nods affirmatively)

MR. NICK: May. (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETERS: For proposals.....

MR. NICK: We have it also on the web site, Subsistence Management Program web site and I also have copies of these in my office if anyone needs those.

Doi.

Any more questions.

(No comments)

MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: I do have a question for Don Rivard. You know, when we were down in Toksook, we make a proposal, make a proposal, controlled use area in the lower Yukon. Control use area for moose hunting. And then we didn't present it to the Board at that time and we let them know that we first going to present it to the State, and we did present it to State, maybe this time if it's wish of Council we could then, now ask for support from the Federal Board.

How will that be, Don.

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Don Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management.

You, your Council, any individual can submit a proposal on any subject you would like related to wildlife until October 21st, so if you would like to resubmit your proposal from last year in the same form or slightly different form you're certainly allowed to do that.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any more wildlife proposals.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's not, if you understand when the time -- yeah.

MR. ADERMAN: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

MR. ADERMAN: Andy Aderman with the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. I have a proposal -- while I don't have it written right now, I'd like to pass on the idea of the proposal to the Council. It will be submitted by the October 21st deadline.

This proposal concerns moose in the Goodnews River drainage.

Moose hunting on Federal lands in the Goodnews area has been closed for a long time. It's been closed the last two years under State regulations. Later on in this meeting I believe you're going to be addressing Board of Game proposals that affect Unit 18. One of those proposals deals with moose in the Goodnews area.

Togiak Refuge has provided some comments to the Board of Game, which I would like to read, and then I will talk a little bit more about how I see a Federal proposal being submitted.

Our comments are in regard to Board of Game Proposal 22, which would close the moose season in the Goodnews River drainage. Togiak Refuge supports this proposal, however, on September 28th of 2005, Staff from the Togiak Refuge, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Conservation here in Bethel met with representatives from the Traditional Village Councils of Goodnews Bay and Platinum along with a newly formed Goodnews River Moose Advisory Committee to discuss future moose hunting opportunities. We collectively agreed to a three year moratorium beginning in 2006 on moose hunting unless 100 moose are counted before that time.

This last April we counted 23 moose in the Goodnews drainage and that was in April, and it was pretty poor survey conditions. It's very possible that we could count 100 moose in the Goodnews River area within the next year or two, given that the similarities in the Goodnews area compared with the Togiak area, in both habitat and weather conditions are very similar.

In Unit 17(A) or in the Togiak area there were less than 25 moose back in 1992, right now there's somewhere between 900 and 1,000 moose, that's right next door to the Goodnews drainage.

So, again, we advocate that the season be reopened in the most administratively simple and timely manner when 100 moose are counted or when the three year moratorium expires, whichever comes first.

So along that lines, we will submit a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board that will allow that season to be opened when either of those conditions are met first, either we count 100 moose or

three years is up.

That's all I had, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, thank you. My understanding that right now we will not take care of wildlife proposals, only at the time at the next meeting.

On our agenda, Review of Federal Closures, Don Rivard.

MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is an item that there's a briefing in your book on Page 39, and I'll read a little bit of that.

Don Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management.

The OSM initiated a process of evaluating existing closures of Federal public lands to hunting, trapping and fishing for the purpose of providing the Regional Advisory Councils and the Federal Subsistence Board with an opportunity to review these closures. There are currently 30 occurrences in Federal subsistence wildlife regulations where Federal public lands are closed to non-Federally-qualified subsistence users. These 30 closures are distributed over nine of the 10 regions.

For your region, for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta there's one closure and Laura's going to speak to that in a minute.

Let me just explain to you why we're doing this. Section .815(3) of ANILCA allows closures, when necessary, for the conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife and to continue subsistence uses of such populations. The existing closures represent both situations.

For example, closures for the hunting of muskox in Unit 22 were adopted because of the relatively low and recovering muskox population. Another example, for the Unit 2 deer closure, that was adopted because rural residents provided substantial evidence that they were unable to meet their subsistence needs because of competition from other users of the resource.

Fish and wildlife populations are known to fluctuate based upon weather patterns, management actions, habitat changes, predation, harvest activities, disease and so on. Subsistence use patterns are also known to fluctuate as reliance on a species in low abundance may be offset by greater use of other species. As human populations vary, access changes, water levels vary, et cetera, or as subsistence users alter their activities due to social influences.

It is for these reasons that the validity of a Board's decision to establish a closure may change over time. So the Office of Subsistence Management has initiated this process to review the existing closures to determine whether the original justifications continue to apply. All closures adopted prior to the 2001 regulatory year are included for this 2005 review. A summary of the closure reviews, which are applicable to your Regional Council are provided.

And I believe that this was sent to you in the mail, and I hope everybody's got theirs, we'd asked that you bring it along with you to this meeting.

The review summary contains a brief history of why the closure was implemented along with a summary of the current resource condition and the Office of Subsistence Management recommendation as to whether the closure should be continued or deleted from the regulations.

Following the presentation by Laura Greffenius, the Council is to consider the OSM recommendation and share their views on the issue. Input from the Council will be helpful in the development of regulatory proposals needed to consider the appropriate adjustments to the regulations. All proposals that are developed at the conclusion of this review process will be considered through the normal regulatory cycle. And as Alex mentioned, the current call for proposal window closes on October 21st.

The Council may choose to work with the OSM Staff to develop a proposal, so you do have that option of developing a proposal or not.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Laura, you got

something.

MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. I'll present a current existing closure and this one is WCR-05-08. And this one is you're very familiar with, Unit 18 for moose. And the Federal public lands in Unit 18 are closed to the hunting of moose except by rural Alaska residents with a customary and traditional use determinations during the Federal open season. And the customary and traditional use are for all the rural residents in Unit 18 and also for upper Kalskag, Aniak, and Chuathbaluk, so those are in the Western Interior, so we also presented this at Western Interior.

So this particular closure first appeared in the 1991 and 1992 Federal Subsistence Regulations and this closure has been in the permanent regulations ever since.

So in the lower Yukon River, the population has approximately 2,000 animals due to the successful five year moratorium on moose hunting in the region. The current management objective includes managing the population for stability and for subsistence needs.

For the area from Mountain Village to Piamuit, with a population of 800 to 1,000 moose it meets the management objectives for population and subsistence needs.

The current moratorium on moose hunting exists for the remaining two hunt areas of Unit 18, the lower Kuskokwim River drainage and that portion south of and including the Kanektok River drainage. The moratorium was established because the population did not the management goals for the two hunt areas or local subsistence needs. Cooperative management objectives for these areas include a five year closure to all moose hunting to facilitate population growth and to provide for a harvestable surplus. The moose populations of the lower Kuskokwim River drainage and the area south of and including the Kanektok River each have a population of less than 100 moose making the moratorium highly necessary.

As far as harvest, the harvest appears to have significantly increased in the Yukon River portion of Unit 18 and this is due to cooperative

management that has helped to substantially increase the moose population of this region.

So the OSM recommendation is to maintain the closure, and for the reasons, as I already mentioned, because of the additional hunting pressure that has been placed upon the moose population in the remainder of Unit 18 and because of the rebuilding of the Unit 18 moose population is an ongoing process over the past years, continuance of the closure is warranted to ensure opportunity for local residents who hunt moose in northern regions in the unit -- in the northern region of the unit, while moose hunting is prohibited in much of the unit affected by the moratoria leaving the closure in regulation will not negatively impact local or non-Federally-qualified hunters who hunt moose on State or private lands in the remainder of Unit 18.

And as I mentioned, the Western Interior did also hear the information on this particular closure and they supported the OSM recommendation to maintain the closure but they also said it hinged on the home region and deferred to this Council just to have the final say on what you'd like to do and what comments you had on this particular closure.

So that concludes my presentation.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: William.

MR. BROWN: I would like to ask you what about the predators like the wolf population, are they still the same as previous years, on wolf, predators?

MS. GREFFENIUS: Mr. Brown, I'm sorry, I didn't understand your question.

MR. BROWN: Years ago we used to have predators like wolf, wolf numbers, they climb up, you know, the numbers, are they still the same as a few years back, you know, that are killing both caribou and the moose?

MS. GREFFENIUS: That wasn't addressed in this particular write up. If there was a more in-

depth Staff write up, we would probably address that but it wasn't addressed for this particular write up, it was mostly a summary of the existing closure. So I'm sorry I don't have the information on that.

(Pause)

MS. GREFFENIUS: Mr. Chair. I just wanted to add that I was presenting the information that does exist and it's just an opportunity for the Council to comment on what you want to do with the closure, continue it or any changes. It was just an opportunity for the Council to comment.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, there's one thing that I don't quite understand, why you didn't present this at this winter when we're working on wildlife proposals.

Don.

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, Don Rivard. This was a process that was initiated, I think, about two or three months ago by our office, so it wasn't something that we were considering at the time at your last Council meeting. We realize that we need to start doing a review of long-term closures and see if it's still valid to continue those closures so that's something that we've done just recently. And apparently Carl Jack has something he'd like to add.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Carl Jack.

MR. JACK: Yeah, Quyana. (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: This is a briefing on closure reviews and you need to remember that the deadline for call for proposal window is October 21st and this is a wildlife issue. But this closure review, they are following mandatory procedures by the Wildlife Service and this is why they are bringing this up because of the proposal window that has a deadline of October 21st.

MR. JACK: Quyana.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana, Carl. Any questions from Council. Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: I'll toss one out there. I don't know if it would be Laura or someone else, just in that paragraph where you have -- can you guys remind me again or give me the definition of what the conservation of healthy populations to continue subsistence uses of such populations is and is that tied only to human harvest, as it appears to be now, or how does OSM see itself as far as managing populations to provide for those subsistence needs or is it only going to be the human harvest that's only identified in managing for healthy populations and providing for subsistence?

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Roczicka. This is Don Rivard. Are you touching on predator control, I just want to clarify this?

MR. ROCZICKA: Predator control as it's mentioned down in -- or predator management is mentioned as one of the factors, I mean predator management is not the answer all across the board for everything, it can be in some cases but it's been avoided certainly. And I'm very familiar with the predator management policy as well having put in significant amendments to it and requested.

But I guess I'd just like to hear where subsistence management is going in the future? What is a healthy and abundant population to provide for subsistence needs in the minds of the managers? It hits the whole point of can you really say you're managing for subsistence if you're only managing the human harvest and not managing the population, that's where I have a very difficult time trying to figure things out.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair, can I ask a question.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: If there was a proposal initiated to open up this area, then it would be opened up to all Alaska residents, correct, if there was, to -- you're wanting to stay with the status quo, that it's closed except to the hunting of moose except by rural residents, correct?

MR. RIVARD: (Nods affirmatively)

MS. HOFFMAN: And if there was a proposal there to not maintain the status quo, then anybody could hunt; is that what you're saying, I'm not clear?

MR. RIVARD: Well, right now it's only open for moose hunting for Federally-qualified subsistence users that have customary and traditional -- a positive customary and traditional use determination in Unit 18.

MS. HOFFMAN: Yes.

MR. RIVARD: If the closure were taken off from the Federal point of view, then there would be -- people would be allowed to hunt under State regulations in Unit 18.

MS. HOFFMAN: Unit 18.

MR. RIVARD: And then there would be a State hunt allowed there.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

MR. ALOYSIUS: I'm getting more confused because I don't have anything in front of me to follow and it's just.....

MR. L. WILDE: They sent it to you Bob.

MS. GREGORY: Yeah, they sent it to us.

MS. HOFFMAN: It came in a separate mailing.

MS. GREGORY: Uh-huh.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Then it's probably still in the mail.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Just a reminder, this was something that we just were bringing up to the Councils for them to comment on. There's no action required. In this particular case our recommendation is that the closure remain in place. There's been other times for other Councils that we've made a recommendation that the closure be taken off so

that then allows the Council to have the opportunity to say, yes, we agree with that or, no, we don't agree with that, the reasons for it, and if they did agree with it they might sponsor the proposal themselves.

This is the first time this is being done. This is what I call kind of a pre-proposal. It's letting you know that there's a possibility, a proposal being generated from these closure reviews, and if one or several do occur and it pertains to Unit 18 then your Council will get that proposal before them at your next meeting. So, again, it's a little different, it's a little new but it's not something that you need to act on but we're just bringing it to you for your information so that you know what we've been doing and what may result as whatever comes of this.

So I help that helps a little bit to clear this up.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly, then Mary.

MS. HOFFMAN: You said that you just initiated the review of the different areas that have closure, is there a policy as to how often you're going to be reviewing these closures, because if it was since 1999, isn't that a little bit of a long time?

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Yes, Beverly, we've decided that we're going to be looking at these, I think, every three years now.

We realized that they can't stay on the books forever and ever without being looked at.

MS. HOFFMAN: Okay.

MR. RIVARD: So I think it's like every three years we're going to be looking at it.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Carl Jack.

MR. JACK: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: And we are to understand that we -- that the closures, Federal lands, the State will review the closures as we do and maybe the State

may present proposals. So I want you to be aware of that.

MR. JACK: Quyana.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: The five year moratorium that we started is almost over. But I do like this report. And since we do not know where we stand in that it's our -- our five years is going to be up pretty soon for the moose moratorium in Unit 18.

And it will be good that if we hear reports.....

MS. GREGORY: And we get the numbers from the State people, do we know when they're going to count them, do we ever -- the State people usually come and tell us what population the moose is at in Unit 18, as soon as the moratorium started or am I in the wrong place? Are we talking about the same thing?

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. To answer Mary's question. The current one that's -- we're in kind of in the second or third year, that's for the lower Kuskokwim. The one that we brought to you right now is the -- there was a five year moratorium or even more on the Yukon River, the lower Yukon, and so the regulations reflect that. Part of that is -- that moratorium is now lifted but the regulation is still in place on the Federal side, that only Federally-qualified users can hunt in Unit 18, in that lower portion of the Yukon, and that's what we're bringing forward to you now, is whether or not that closure ought to be lifted, and our Staff recommendation is to maintain it in place, partly because there are moratoriums in other parts of 18 so the hunting pressure could go to other places.

MS. GREGORY: So this particular report that Laura is giving us pertains to the Yukon area or the Kuskokwim?

MR. RIVARD: To the lower Yukon area, yes.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions from Council.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman, not a question but just a comment on the report. I am in support in maintaining the current closure of this area. We do have some State proposals that will be before us next that do reflect the -- more of a focus and a support of a subsistence hunt and the utilization of that population primarily for subsistence purposes.

So I appreciate the report. And I say we should leave it status quo for now. I wouldn't see any kind of proposals coming forward this cycle dealing with the lower Yukon.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions from Council.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's not, thank you, and we'll continue to 5:00 o'clock. Next on our agenda is Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, Rich Cannon. You will find it, Council, on your booklet on Page 40.

MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. My name is Richard Cannon. I work with the Office of Subsistence Management with the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. And I am the fisheries biologist that works with the Kuskokwim program and the Northern Region program. This afternoon I'm going to be covering materials that provide you a briefing on the 2006 Monitoring Plan, and it will cover essentially three sections.

First is the Draft on 2006 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan for the Yukon and Kuskokwim regions. We will also be talking about one interregional project that affects both the Yukon and the Kuskokwim. And then I'm going to give the Council an overview of what's going on with strategic planning. And then, as well, a brief overview on the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program for the Yukon and Kuskokwim.

Most of this report is for the Council's information, however, as in past years your Council will be asked to give their recommendations on the proposed projects the Fisheries Monitoring Program will fund in 2006.

We just handed around a work sheet titled 2006 Draft Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan. That work sheet provides tables that show the Technical Review Committee's recommendations as well as the recommendations of the Eastern and Western Interior Councils for the projects that are coming before you today.

And I will also take you briefly through the report and highlight some of the materials that I feel that the Council will want to consider during their discussions of this Monitoring Program.

Again, as in past years our report to you on the Monitoring Program includes an introduction. It provides some history and some statewide perspective about the program. I want to remind the Council that the Subsistence Monitoring Program funds both harvest monitoring and traditional knowledge projects as well as biology projects like weirs, test fisheries, tagging and genetic studies.

Our Office of Subsistence Management Staff and the Technical Review Committee, which is made up of agency fishery experts reviews all the fishery study proposals and makes a recommendation to the Councils and to the Federal Subsistence Board about which ones of these studies to fund.

On Page 45 of your workbooks, Figure 1 shows how the funding pie for 2006 would be divided up among State, Federal and tribal organizations. Can everyone find that, it's on Page 45.

(Council nods affirmatively)

MR. CANNON: This chart shows that about 31 percent of the funds would go to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, about 45 percent to tribes and about 24 percent to Federal agencies. This years funding is somewhat less than the 2 million that was available in 2005 and much less than in the 2004 Monitoring Plan, when over $6 million were available for new funding commitments.

It is important to know that each year the Monitoring Program funds from five to $6 million, but because many projects are funded for three years, we have three commitments, money available for new projects will be less in some years. So every year the Program funds about five to $6 million but new start up projects will vary how much money we have to spend year to -- will vary year to year.

If you look at Table 1 on Page 43, you will see that the Yukon and the Kuskokwim are each getting about 25 percent of the funds in 2006. Since 2000, the first year of this program, this percent has ranged from about 20 to 25 percent. Pages 46 through 52 presents the regional overview for the 2006 Yukon Fisheries Monitoring Plan. This overview presents the recommendation and justification of the Technical Review Committee and I wanted to highlight some of the materials in this section.

First Table 1 in this section, on Pages 48 and 49 provides a list of all the projects that have been funded on the Yukon since this program began in 2000. There are a total of 67 projects at a cost of about $9.3 million funded or committed for funding through 2007. For the Yukon that's probably about 30 percent of all the fisheries programs that are funded come out of your program. So it's very significant.

If you look across the top of the table you will see that the funds for the Monitoring Program, as I said, are committed through 2007, so in 2004 and 2005 you committed funds that will go all the way through 2007 in some cases. This is because the projects can receive up to three years of funding.

Sixteen Yukon projects funded in 2004 and in 2005 will receive funding again in 2006.

And, again, these projects will receive funding again next season in addition to the four proposed projects that are being considered today for 2006 funding, these are new ones.

On the bottom of Page 52 you will find the Technical Review Committee's prioritized list of these four proposed studies for the Yukon. You will note that there is a line drawn under Project 06-253, which is traditional and ecological knowledge and harvest survey of nonsalmon fish in the Yukon Flats.

The Technical Review Committee recommends funding all projects above this line for 2006. So the recommendation would be to fund three of the four projects.

The Technical Review Committee felt that these three studies above the line were strategically important, met your issues and data needs, were technically sound, provided capacity development to involve local people and organizations and the investigators had shown that they could do the work. And the cost of these three projects was within the funding guidelines for this region. And that is for 2006, for the Yukon, it's about $319,000. The total of these projects would come up to about $267,000.

Pages 53 through 63 provide summaries of each of these projects and a justification of why or why not each proposed investigation plan was recommended for funding.

At this point I'm going to stop and ask the Council if there's any questions so far in my presentation and then I'll lead you through the action items which will ask the Council to provide a recommendation on what the TRC has provided you.

I suggest that what we do is to then go through the work sheet. Do you have any questions at this point?

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: On the first page, all of these things that were funded up to Yukon River Subdistrict 5A fishwheel, those other ones that were studies being done on the ichtheyphonus, chinook salmon, we had a report on that one. But on the other side where humpback whitefish and beaver interactions even whitefish interactions, I don't think I ever recall getting a report to my knowledge.

Why is that?

MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. Ms. Gregory. That's a very good question, I'm glad you brought that up. We are trying to make these --

there's a lot of reports here as you can see and we're trying to make these available. For people that have access to the internet and I know not everybody does, you can go to our OSM web site and go to the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and get copies of these reports.

In some cases, during your spring meeting, we will bring the investigators in and we'll talk about some of the reports and the projects when people have expressed an interest. But frankly there's so many of these things that it would take several days to go through all the reports. Maybe there's a better way we need to distribute these to people but certainly if you see anything in there that you would like a copy of, then after we get through with this, I will meet with you and I will try to get them to the Council members. At least that would be a start as to how to get this information back to you.

MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions to Rich from Council.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Do you have another one?

MR. CANNON: Yes, I'd like to now take you through the action items because we need your recommendation on these. And I'll start with -- and you can just follow through and you can see how the Eastern and Western Interior Councils, how they voted on each of these proposals.

Yes.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: As we go through each proposals, if we have additional questions of each one, we can do that, right?

MR. CANNON: Certainly.

MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you.

MR. CANNON: I'll start with, I'll just give you an overview of the project and then at that point it's essentially up to your Council, I can go through them all or you can take actions on these one at a time, that will be up to you.

But let me start with 06-202, spawning distribution of fall chum salmon in the Tanana River drainage using radiotelemetry. It's a three year project and you can find the summary of that project on Pages 53 and 54.

The project would use radio tags or radio telemetry to assess the spawning distribution of fall chum salmon stocks in the Tanana River. The technical and scientific merit of this project was ranked high by our Technical Committee. But the majority of its members felt that the Tanana drainage, which is not Federal waters or within a Federal Conservation Unit has only a limited connection to the Federal Subsistence Management Program. In addition the primary application for the data by this project would be to assess the impacts to spawning habitat from proposed development, a use which is by, under the Federal Subsistence Board policy, outside the responsibility of this Monitoring Program.

While improved assessment of Tanana River fall chum stocks would be certainly beneficial to know, the limited application of the information to the Federal Subsistence Management Program and limited funding this year prevented the TRC, the majority of the TRC from recommending to fund this project.

So this is one that the TRC recommended no on.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: The Eastern Regional Advisory Council, in their comments, they didn't recommend this, this is in their also?

MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. Ms. Hoffman. Yes, that is the case. I was not at the meeting but I understand that when this was presented people understood that the real issue here is the amount of money we have to spend and when you look at

this priority for this project compared to the other ones you have to make these choices.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair. I think that's what he wants us to do, take action, make our recommendations.

MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. If I could make a recommendation, just to help you through this. The other Councils have simply decided to allow us to go through all of these, there aren't that many, and then at that point you could either decide to agree with the recommendation for funding or take special action on specific proposals. That's the way the other Councils have chosen to do this.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: You're saying you went through all of them first and then the Council took them all into account at one time?

MR. CANNON: And either agreed or disagreed.

MS. HOFFMAN: Agreed or disagreed, okay.

MR. CANNON: Yes.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

MR. ALOYSIUS: You have three and a half minutes and you said that we were going to break at 5:00 o'clock this evening and recess until 8:30 tomorrow morning.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, I think give this opportunity right now, we have to work on those, approve them or I think it would be better, I don't know about the Council, if we take a break right now and come back to meeting tomorrow morning about 8:00

o'clock, the Council could have a chance to look at that tonight.

How does Council want to go.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: I've only been to, I think, two of our Council meetings, but I think at the past two Council meetings, and not that we have to do it the same, but we took them on an individual basis, if I remember correctly.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: These proposals won't take long since these are action items, I think it might be better to review them real quickly and then take action.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. Since we've had the information on 06-202, I would request we act on that on particular one and if we're going to come back -- no use repeating the report again in the morning on that one particular proposal.

MS. HOFFMAN: Right.

MR. L. WILDE: I think it might be a good idea to go ahead and act on that one 202.

And Mr. Chairman, along that vein, I would like to oppose funding for Proposal 06-202.

MS. GREGORY: Second the motion.

MR. L. WILDE: Oh, okay, I'll rephrase that. I move that we support the recommendation of 06-202.

MS. GREGORY: Second the motion.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the floor and been second to support that 202. Discussion.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

MR. ALOYSIUS: What will happen to all this money if the funding for this is not recommended, I mean where would it go?

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Rich.

MR. CANNON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. If the Federal Subsistence Board and our program decided not to spend the money then it would go back into the Fish and Wildlife Service budget.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more discussion.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would tend to support the motion as made going along with the recommendations of the Western and Eastern Interior as well as the Technical Review Committee in not funding this. I think they have a much better idea what their priorities are and where they want to spend the dollars that are allocated in their specific region just as we would on the Kuskokwim. And so unless some representatives from the Yukon side got strong differing opinions, I'd tend to support the recommendations from the Regional Councils up in that area and support the motion as made.

MR. L. WILDE: Question, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question been called for. I request for roll call.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Will you clarify the vote?

CHAIRMAN WILDE: What?

MS. GREGORY: I'll read the motion. Motion made by Lester Wilde, Mary Gregory to support the recommendation of TRC, the Western and Eastern RACs not to fund this program. That's what it is.

MR. L. WILDE: Mary, could you repeat that again just to make sure you're saying what I'm saying?

MS. GREGORY: Yeah. You and I made a motion to support the recommendation of the TRC, Technical Review Committee, Western and Eastern RACs not to fund this program, that's what it is.

MS. HOFFMAN: So what you're saying is if we say yes.....

MS. GREGORY: You want it.

MS. HOFFMAN: .....we're going with them?

MS. GREGORY: Yeah.

MS. HOFFMAN: We don't want it.

MS. GREGORY: You don't want it.

MS. HOFFMAN: Okay.

MR. L. WILDE: Well, because of the earlier discussion -- Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Lester.

MR. L. WILDE: Because of the earlier discussion that we've had and Bob seems to always have problems with having a negative motion and that was the reason why I made the positive motion to accept 06-202, so if you don't want the money to go into that particular proposal then vote no.

Somebody misconstrued my motion, or put in their own language as to what they thought I meant.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Betty [sic].

(Laughter)

MS. HOFFMAN: Just for further clarification, I think that when the Technical Review Committee and West/East Advisory Councils, there was a similar motion to Mr. Wilde's, that the motion maybe on the floor was to support the funding, while all these other people voted no, so I agree with the wording of the motion.

I will vote no.

MS. GREGORY: When you vote no.....

INTERPRETER: If you vote no you'll be in opposition, it's one of those motions that's a trick motion.

MS. HOFFMAN: No.

MR. L. WILDE: No, Mary, it's not. If you vote no, you mean no.

MS. HOFFMAN: If you vote yes that means you support funding it.

MR. L. WILDE: Correct.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Request for roll call.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Roczicka.

MR. ROCZICKA: I vote to concur with not funding it, whatever.

MS. GREGORY: Yes or no.

MR. ROCZICKA: Not to fund it.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Brown.

MR. BROWN: No.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Wilde.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Which one?

MR. L. WILDE: No.

MS. GREGORY: Hoffman.

MS. HOFFMAN: No.

MS. GREGORY: Elder Wilde.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: No.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Mike.

MR. MIKE: No.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Charles.

MR. CHARLES: No.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: No.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Aloysius.

MR. ALOYSIUS: No.

MS. GREGORY: Ms. Gregory. No. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10 -- two, four, six, eight, 10. Do we have 10 people here?

MR. ALOYSIUS: Eleven.

MS. GREGORY: Supposed to be 11, who did I miss.

MR. ALOYSIUS: No, he's not here.

MS. GREGORY: Oh, he's not here, okay.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: No has it.

MS. GREGORY: Nays.

MS. HOFFMAN: Before we break, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: I just want to make sure that you are recommending that we maybe follow the other Councils in going through all of the proposals here for funding and then vote on them all at one time. So if our group is going to do that, I'd like to make sure that if folks have not read through the recommendations for proposed projects that they do so tonight.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

MR. ALOYSIUS: If I recollect correctly, we did act on each of these proposals individually, not in a group, right.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah, that's what we did in the past but that doesn't mean we have to do that again. If reading through these proposals and looking at the recommendations from other Councils, unless there's a specific project that you feel strongly about I have no problem with going through them all first and making a recommendation on them all, unless there's a specific project that you're concerned about.

It would save a lot of time.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

MR. ALOYSIUS: May we address that first thing in the morning.

(Laughter)

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: I move we recess for the evening, and come back at what, 9:00 o'clock -- 8:00 o'clock.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: We won't have an evening session tonight. I think it would be better go ahead and come back at 8:00 o'clock in the morning because some of them, they're planning to go home, some of the speakers. If it's okay with the Council we could break now until 8:00 o'clock in the morning.

MS. HOFFMAN: I think, though, we need to take into consideration somebody said they were leaving from Togiak.....

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

MS. HOFFMAN: .....in the morning at 11:00, so we need to make sure we fit you in. Remind us.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, we recess until 8:00 o'clock in the morning.

(Off record)

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 28th day of October 2005.

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Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
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