

00119

1 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

2

3

VOLUME II

4

5

EASTERN INTERIOR

6

WESTERN INTERIOR

7

YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA

8

9

Lake Lucille Lodge

10

Wasilla, Alaska

11

October 15, 2003

12

8:30 o'clock a.m.

13

14

15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16

17 EASTERN INTERIOR

18 Gerald Nicholia, Chair

19 Andrew Bassich

20 Sue Entsminger

21 Allen J. Stevens

22 Virgil Umphenour

23 Larry Williams

24 Philip Titus

25

26 WESTERN INTERIOR

27 Ronald Sam, Chair

28 Angela Demientieff

29 Benedict Jones

30 Emmitt Peters

31 Jack Reakoff

32 Michael Stickman

33 Robert Walker

34

35 YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA

36 Harry Wilde, Chair

37 Nick Andrew, Sr.

38 James A. Charles

39 Mary Gregory

40 John Hanson, Sr.

41 Billy McCann

42 Philip Moses

43 Raymond Oney

44 John B. Thompson, Sr.

45 Lester Wilde

46

47 Regional Council Coordinators:

48 Donald Mike, Eastern Interior

49 Vince Mathews, Western Interior

50 Alex Nick, Yukon Kuskokwim Delta

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Wasilla, Alaska - 10/15/2003)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we do roll call to establish quorum because the first subject up this morning is our three C&T proposals.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, I'll do the roll call if that's okay to the secretaries that are present here.

(No comment)

MR. MATHEWS: Seeing no objection.
Lester Wilde.

MR. L. WILDE: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Philip Moses.

MR. MOSES: Yeah.

MR. MATHEWS: Mike Savage.

MR. SAVAGE: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: James Charles.

MR. CHARLES: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Billy McCann.

MR. MCCANN: Yes.

MR. MATHEWS: Raymond Oney.

MR. ONEY: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Nick Andrew, Sr.

MR. ANDREW: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Mary Gregory.

MS. GREGORY: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: John Hanson.

00121

1 MR. HANSON: Here.
2
3 MR. MATHEWS: Harry Wilde, Sr.
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
6
7 MR. MATHEWS: John Thompson.
8
9 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.
10
11 MR. MATHEWS: YK has a full quorum.
12 Western Interior. Emmitt Peters.
13
14 MR. PETERS: Here.
15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Micky Stickman.
17
18 MR. STICKMAN: Here.
19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Robert Walker.
21
22 MR. WALKER: Here.
23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Carl Morgan.
25
26 MR. MORGAN: Here.
27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones. I believe
29 he's still here, he's just not present at this time.
30 Angela Demientieff, she's not present right now. Jack
31 Reakoff.
32
33 MR. REAKOFF: Here.
34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Ron Sam.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Here.
38
39 MR. MATHEWS: You have a quorum for
40 Western Interior. Eastern Interior. Gerald Nicholia.
41
42 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Here.
43
44 MR. MATHEWS: Philip Titus.
45
46 MR. TITUS: Here.
47
48 MR. MATHEWS: He raised his hand, he's
49 here. Andrew Bassich.
50

00122

1 MR. BASSICH: Here.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Jay Stevens.

4

5 MR. STEVENS: Here.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Sue Entsminger.

8

9 MS. ENTSMINGER: Here.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Virgil Umphenour.

12

13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Here.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, all Chairs,
16 all three Councils have a quorum present.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. A quorum has
21 been established. The first items on the agenda are
22 Proposals 2, 3 and 4, customary trade proposals. And if
23 you want to follow up on these proposals, they are on
24 Page 121, 133 and 147 under Tab B of your tan book.

25

26 If I understand this right, or with the
27 indulgence of the respective Councils we will follow the
28 same format we did yesterday under the management
29 proposals. That is, we have Staff analysis, ADF&G,
30 public comments, written comments and then we will delay
31 action until it comes down to Item F, which is Regional
32 Council motion and deliberation. If I understand this
33 right we'll have Jerry Berg and do we have anybody from
34 ADF&G?

35

36 Go ahead, Jerry.

37

38 MR. BERG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good
39 morning everyone. As the Chairman mentioned, we're going
40 to be starting with Proposal 2 and that can be found on
41 Page 123 in your booklet, that's the tan colored book we
42 were working out of yesterday under Tab B, Page 123 is
43 where the Staff analysis begins.

44

45 As many of you know, the Federal
46 Subsistence Board made some clarifications to the
47 customary trade regulations last January. And when they
48 made those clarifications they did recognize that there
49 may be regional differences and that customary trade is
50 different in separate regions and they wanted to allow

00123

1 for those changes and that's why we're seeing some of
2 these customary trade proposals come forward now and I
3 think we'll probably see more in the future.

4

5 This Proposal 2 was submitted by Richard
6 Burnham from Kaltag and requests that regional
7 modifications to the recently revised customary trade
8 regulations prohibit customary trade of salmon in the
9 Yukon River drainage any time a salmon stock is
10 determined by the Alaska Board of Fisheries to be a
11 management or a biological stock of concern.

12

13 Mr. Burnham feels that his proposed
14 changes would provide protection for salmon and provide a
15 reasonable opportunity for subsistence users when there
16 are conservation concerns. He also states that the
17 proposed changes would prevent overharvest and limit the
18 sale of subsistence caught salmon. And without going
19 through the details of all the regulations, just as a
20 quick reminder on the customary trade regulations, as
21 changed by the Federal Subsistence Board last January
22 they do allow the cash sale of subsistence-caught fish to
23 be sold as whole fresh fish under the three categories
24 listed in the regulations.

25

26 And under Item No. 11 it's between rural
27 residents, rural residents may exchange in customary
28 trade subsistence caught fish for cash from other rural
29 residents, so that's the rural to rural.

30

31 And then under 12, it provides for
32 transactions between a rural resident and others, and
33 under that provision a rural resident may trade fish for
34 cash from individuals other than rural residents, so for
35 example, someone from Anchorage or Fairbanks, if the
36 individual who purchases the fish uses them for personal
37 or family consumption. So if I were to buy some fish
38 from Gerald, I would have to actually personally consume
39 those fish, I couldn't use them for any other purposes.

40

41 And then No.13 was the provision that no
42 sale or purchase by a fishery business is allowed. You
43 may not sell to any individual business or organization
44 required to be a licensed as a fisheries business as part
45 of their business transactions. So it still would allow
46 somebody that has a fisheries business to participate in
47 customary trade as long as it wasn't part of their
48 business.

49

50 So that's all I'm going to go through on

00124

1 the actual regulations, unless there's any questions.

2

3 (No comment)

4

5 MR. BERG: However, I would like to
6 highlight a point that I think many people may not have
7 understood previously, and that's the information that
8 starts at the bottom of Page 126 in your book.

9

10 Although Federal regulations allow for
11 customary trade, State health regulations require that
12 fish sold under a customary trade provision must be
13 unprocessed, whole, fresh fish or if processed, such as
14 dried, salted, smoked fish, if they're processed in any
15 way, they must meet government food health standards. So
16 you can either sell subsistence caught fish for customary
17 trade as whole, fresh fish or if they're processed in any
18 way the seller would need to meet the government health
19 standards.

20

21 However, both State and Federal
22 authorities recognize that rural residents have
23 historically processed and sold subsistence fish in
24 limited and non-commercial quantities. Small scale sales
25 of processed subsistence fish have not been the focus of
26 these regulations by law enforcement. A priority for
27 Federal enforcement of these provisions will be on large
28 scale cash sales that are not consistent with customary
29 and traditional practices.

30

31 So as we heard yesterday, Yukon River
32 chinook summer and fall chum salmon were identified as
33 stocks of concerns in September of 2000. These
34 determinations are being reviewed again this year as part
35 of the AYK Board of Fish cycle.

36

37 Adopting this proposal would
38 unnecessarily restrict subsistence users in the Yukon
39 River drainage by not allowing the subsistence priority
40 afforded under Title VIII of ANILCA. Although a fish
41 stock may be designated as a stock of concern, commercial
42 subsistence and even sport harvest may all occur in any
43 given year depending on that year's assessment of run
44 strength and projected escapement. Under this proposal
45 all fisheries could remain open while a specific
46 subsistence use, customary trade would be restricted.

47

48 Management of the various Yukon River
49 fisheries is complex and is based on the annual
50 assessments during the various salmon runs. Prohibiting

00125

1 customary trade when a stock is designated as a stock of
2 concern would ignore the variations in run strength in
3 any single year.

4

5 The current customary trade regulations
6 adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board are intended to
7 prohibit potentially large sales of fish and no
8 significant increase in the customary trade of fish is
9 anticipated.

10

11 Customary trade of fish has been a
12 longstanding practice. Federal customary trade
13 regulations apply only to exchange of fresh fish because
14 these regulations do not exempt users from food
15 processing health standards and the number of Federal
16 subsistence users who hold the necessary food processing
17 permits are few to none. Common small scale changes of
18 processed fish that have traditionally gone on outside
19 these requirements are not being actively pursued by
20 enforcement personnel.

21

22 The preliminary Staff conclusion is to
23 oppose this proposal.

24

25 Mr. Chairman, that's all I have at this
26 time, I'd be happy to try to answer any questions.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I think we'll
29 go ahead and wait on questions as we did yesterday for
30 when we go into deliberations.

31

32 Fred Bue.

33

34 MR. BUE: I apologize, Mr. Chairman,
35 again. We got our messages mixed up. I'm the State of
36 Alaska Fish and Game representative here. The State
37 comments are -- excuse me.

38

39 (Pause)

40

41 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, my name is
42 Terry Haynes with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
43 and I'll stand in for Fred. The Department has written
44 comments on this proposal that appear on Page 132 of your
45 book. Basically indicate that we're deferring comments
46 until after we've reviewed the Staff analysis.

47

48 At this point, though, because the State
49 regulations do not provide for customary trade on the
50 Yukon, we're here to listen to this discussion and to get

00126

1 more information before we develop final comments on this
2 proposal. So we're not taking a position at this time.
3 We're here to listen and gather more information and then
4 make an informed position after this meeting.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Agency
9 comments, anything other than Fish and Wildlife and
10 ADF&G.

11

12 (No comment)

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not.....

15

16 MR. STICKMAN: TCC, there's Mike right
17 there.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mike Smith, Tanana Chiefs.

20

21 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for
22 once again allowing Tanana Chiefs to participate in these
23 proceedings.

24

25 In regards to the customary trade
26 provisions, Tanana Chiefs is seriously concerned about
27 further restrictions on customary trade at this point.
28 The discrepancies between the State and Federal laws and
29 the issues that are brought up in regards to that
30 discussion would dictate to a certain extent how we
31 approach this issue.

32

33 It was mentioned earlier in the earlier
34 reports that the primary, you know, one of the primary
35 discrepancies is the requirement of the State regulations
36 that smoked fish and stuff like that have to meet State
37 safety requirements. So technically if, you know,
38 somebody has sold a package of salmon strips that were
39 smoked traditionally they would be breaking State law.
40 Those are concerns that we have.

41

42 But generally speaking we are opposed to
43 any further restrictions at this time on customary trade
44 issues until we can further answer the whole issue in a
45 more comprehensive manner.

46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Clarify.

50

00127

1 MR. SMITH: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have a stand up or
4 down on this or what?

5

6 MR. SMITH: We would be opposed to this
7 proposal at this time.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
10 agencies. Tim Andrew.

11

12 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 Timothy Andrew, director of Natural Resources for AVCP.

14

15 AVCP supports these proposals prohibiting
16 customary trade for the cash sales of subsistence caught
17 fish, their eggs and their parts. Based on a resolution
18 that was passed by our convention in March of 2002 and it
19 is currently being diorated (ph) at this point.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tim. Any more
24 agency comments.

25

26 (No comment)

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Public comments from the
29 audience.

30

31 (No comment)

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: I do not have any requests
34 for this green sheet for Proposal No. 2. Summary of
35 written comments. Vince.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. I don't know
38 of any. If Staff do know of some written comments on
39 that they should come forward, but none in our records
40 here.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince.
43 Regional Council deliberation. Discussion. Virgil.

44

45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal 2,
46 Staff recommendation -- or move to adopt the Staff
47 recommendation for Proposal 2.

48

49 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Second.

50

00128

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion by Virgil
2 Umphenour and seconded by Gerald Nicholia to approve
3 Staff recommendation on Proposal 2, C&T, customary trade
4 of salmon on the Yukon River when there is a designation
5 of stock of concern.

6
7 Discussion.

8
9 Gerald.

10
11 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I don't know what
12 Richard Burnham is trying to do, I don't know just like
13 these people down river, this is going to hurt the people
14 I represent in District 5. Shit, that's only how they
15 make money sometimes.

16
17 I'm going to vote this down, that's what
18 I'm going to do. And if it comes out to be region
19 specific and we don't agree to it, I recommend deferring
20 this to our own region if it's going to be region-
21 specific.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Virgil.

24
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
26 know exactly why Richard Burnham put this proposal in.
27 He's a fisherman that lives in Kaltag which is District
28 4A, they haven't had a commercial fishery since '96
29 basically. He knows some people that abuse subsistence
30 and someone was bragging to him that he makes 25 to
31 \$30,000 a year selling strips and that is the exact
32 reason why he put this proposal in.

33
34 Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Virgil. Any
37 further discussion.

38
39 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

42
43 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 This is in our district here, what Richard Burnham put in
45 here, in this Proposal 2 here -- or the number is, I
46 believe, FP04-2, like Gerald says, you know, their
47 district is going to oppose it because they have a lot of
48 concern with their cash and carry. Well, that has a lot
49 to do with ours, we haven't had a commercial season in
50 six years. Where we are from we don't abuse this program

00129

1 because we mainly use it for travel to the hospital, it
2 cost people to go to Bethel, \$500, and that's a lot of
3 money, plus room and board there.

4

5 And we feel that this is another
6 regulation that's going to imply and hurt the rural
7 residents from our area.

8

9 I can't speak for where Richard Burnham
10 is, but I believe that if somebody is going to put in a
11 proposal like this, should go directly to the Federal and
12 do something about it rather than make the rest of us
13 suffer. And I really think the lower Yukon should go
14 with us along on this too, in support us with this
15 proposal, as Gerald says from the Eastern Board.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert.
20 Further discussion. Sue Entsminger.

21

22 MS. ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
23 have a question of the people on the Yukon River. I
24 personally do not use the fish on the Yukon River, I'm
25 closer to the Copper River. But when a stock is of
26 concern and I know that everybody has an interest in what
27 piece of the pie they get, but if there's a stock in
28 concern, somewhere, somehow you have to try to manage
29 that stock. And I guess seeing that there's got to be a
30 way, is what I'm saying, and I'd like to hear from the
31 people how would you manage that stock when it's a
32 concern and you're allowing commercial sale that probably
33 could hurt that fishery?

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further discussion. Carl.

36

37 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
38 Chairman. This proposal only attacks subsistence again.
39 It hasn't addressed the commercial opening. So we're
40 pitting our priorities again, the State and the Federal
41 priority statement, subsistence, all other uses. This
42 doesn't address the commercial or other sports.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl.

47

48 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Ron.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald.

00130

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, all I see is
2 this is just restricting the people from Tanana, Rampart
3 and Manley and further up the river. Like how much more
4 restrictions are you going to put on those people? You
5 got so many damn laws now a days that you're not going to
6 even -- you can't even enforce the regulations in our
7 country. There's so many other violations going on by
8 outside hunters that really makes them boil and then to
9 lay this on them, it's like you guys don't even know what
10 you're doing. Just seeing this thing, it started out
11 small, and now we've been dealing with it for the last
12 three or four years.

13

14 It's like redundant.

15

16 And so for this to pick on the people
17 that I represent is, I don't know how much regulations do
18 you want to imply on us. Are you going to watch us when
19 we go to the bathroom, too?

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.
22 Virgil.

23

24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Our mandate is to provide subsistence opportunity and as
26 it says in the Staff comments under justification, it
27 says that Congress did not intend to distinguish between
28 important and unimportant subsistence uses, and so I
29 don't think we have a choice but to support the
30 Department's recommendation to reject this proposal.

31

32 However, this is an isolated problem and
33 the only way it can really be resolved is people have to
34 -- if people really are doing what Mr. Burnham told me
35 they were doing or told him they were doing then he needs
36 to just report them to enforcement. That's the only way
37 that type of a thing can be handled.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Philip Titus.

42

43 MR. TITUS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The
44 State, they got no -- they can't prosecute you for
45 selling me dry fish but the Federals can? Can't we just
46 straighten it out for the benefit of all the fishermen
47 that use this resource instead of putting more
48 regulations on people who just want fish on their table?

49

50 Thanks.

00131

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.

2

3 (No comment)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, I will call for a
6 clarification, I've heard two different sides on this.

7

8 The motion is to adopt the Staff
9 recommendation to oppose the proposal. And if I read
10 this right, all this proposal would do is put more
11 restrictions on us; is that correct?

12

13 MR. BERG: Mr. Chairman. Yes, Proposal 2
14 does ask to put an additional restriction on subsistence
15 users when there is a designated stock of concern. And I
16 guess as just one point of clarification, a stock of
17 concern does not prevent commercial fisheries from being
18 opened, it just identifies that there is a concern on
19 that stock and it would not prevent commercial fishing,
20 and so therefore we're recommending that it also not
21 prevent people from participating in customary trade on
22 that stock as well.

23

24 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks for that
27 clarification. Again, under our discussion, you keep
28 hearing about the stocks of concern but again nobody
29 addressed the commercial openings. Again, you hear from
30 one person that our mandate, as subsistence Regional
31 Advisory Councils is to provide for more subsistence
32 activities.

33

34 And a yes vote will support Staff
35 recommendation to oppose the proposal. A no vote means
36 that you vote against Staff recommendation and you vote
37 for the proposal which puts more restriction on
38 subsistence activities which we'll probably go on with or
39 without this proposal, or with or without the State's
40 recognition of customary trade on smoked salmon and
41 salmon strips.

42

43 Any further discussion.

44

45 MR. TITUS: Call for the question.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called
48 for. Do we need a roll call vote on this or a simple
49 voice vote will count?

50

00132

1 MR. TITUS: Voice.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. A voice vote, all
4 those in favor of Staff recommendation signify by saying
5 aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

10

11 (No opposing votes)

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried,
14 unanimously. Before I go into Proposal 3, I would like
15 to acknowledge the presence of a Federal Subsistence
16 Board member, I would like Judy Gottlieb to stand up
17 please and be recognized.

18

19 Thank you for attending this meeting.

20

21 As you know, all our work here or within
22 any of our Regional Council meetings are all
23 recommendations that go to the Federal Subsistence Board.

24

25 With that taken care of, we'll go into
26 Proposal 3, Page 133. Jerry Berg.

27

28 MR. BERG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
29 Proposal 3 was submitted by the Yukon River Drainage
30 Fishermen's Association and requests regional
31 modifications to the recently revised customary trade
32 regulations.

33

34 YRDFA feels that deleting reference to
35 eggs would fit customary and traditional practices on the
36 Yukon River and would allow enforcement to prevent
37 abuses. The proponent also states that the proposed
38 changes would make it clear that the sections referring
39 to fisheries businesses do not apply to commercial
40 fishery, fisheries entry commission permit holders or
41 crew license holders.

42

43 YRDFA supports fish eggs as part of
44 customary trade but recognizes the inflammatory nature of
45 subsistence caught roe sales and any wordings of roe
46 sales in regulatory language. They support the sale of
47 eggs as a customary trade activity only if it does not
48 become a large business activity like in years past and
49 believe that customary trade of fish eggs can be
50 authorized under the regulatory wording, fish and their

00133

1 parts.

2

3

 We have already discussed much of history
4 of the customary trade regulations so I won't repeat that
5 here unless there's any questions. I will briefly
6 reiterate though that the Federal regulations allow for
7 subsistence caught fish to be exchanged for cash as long
8 as they are unprocessed whole, fresh fish. I just want
9 to repeat that because I think we didn't highlight that
10 point enough in the past or they -- or if the fish are
11 processed such as dried or smoked salmon the processing
12 must meet government food health standards.

13

14

 The small scales of processed subsistence
15 fish have not been the focus of law enforcement and the
16 priority for Federal enforcement of these provisions will
17 be on large scale cash sales that are not consistent with
18 customary and traditional practices.

19

20

 Adoption of this proposal would not
21 change the subsistence, the substance or meaning of the
22 current regulation but would make it more vague and could
23 lead to confusion. Removal of the phrase or their eggs
24 would lessen the inflammatory and emotional response
25 associated with salmon egg sales in the Yukon River
26 drainage. However, the customary trade for fish for cash
27 of fish eggs would still be legal in the Yukon River
28 drainage since fish eggs are included under the current
29 regulatory language, fish or their parts, eggs being part
30 of the parts of the fish.

31

32

 The ability of law enforcement to enforce
33 the current regulations would not change.

34

35

 The proponents other intent with the
36 proposed regional modification is to clarify the
37 individuals who hold commercial permits may engage in
38 customary trade of fish. This is already allowed in the
39 current regulation. The current existing regulatory
40 language does not allow customary trade with licensed
41 fisheries businesses or other Alaska businesses as part
42 of their business transactions. So in other words, they
43 can participate as an individual in customary trade they
44 just can't conduct customary trade as part of their
45 business. And that provision was added to our regulatory
46 language, administratively after this proposal was
47 submitted.

48

49

 Commercial limited entry permit holders
50 are not fishery businesses as defined under Alaska

00134

1 Statutes. Clarifying that a commercial limited entry
2 permit holder or crew can engage in customary trade
3 through a formal regulatory change we feel is
4 unnecessary. This clarification has already been handled
5 administratively as reflected in the current regulations.

6
7 So the preliminary Staff conclusion is to
8 oppose this proposal. We feel that the removal of the
9 phrase or their eggs from the current regulatory language
10 would not change the substance or meaning of the current
11 regulation but would make it more vague. The ability of
12 law enforcement to enforce the current regulations would
13 not change. And the existing regulatory language that
14 prohibits customary trade with holders of fisheries
15 business licenses, if that customary trade is part of
16 their business transaction, commercial limited entry
17 holders are not defined as fisheries businesses under
18 State Statute and may engage in customary trade under
19 these Federal regulations. Clarification has already
20 been done administratively. So for that reason we would
21 oppose this proposal.

22
23 That's all my comments, unless there's
24 any questions, Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jerry. Mr.
27 Terry Haynes, ADF&G.

28
29 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As
30 with the last proposal, the Department is deferring our
31 comments on this proposal until we hear the discussion
32 that the Councils are having today and then we will
33 develop comments for presentation at the Federal
34 Subsistence Board meeting.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Agency
39 comments. Mike Smith, Tanana Chiefs.

40
41 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For
42 the record, my name is Mike Smith, Tanana Chiefs
43 Conference.

44
45 We, too, are opposed to this proposal as
46 making it -- it could actually make the issue even more
47 vague like the Departments have indicated. It has no
48 real practical effect as far as the regulation goes and
49 we just don't feel it's warranted at this time.

50

00135

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mike. Any
4 further agencies.

5

6 (No comment)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: I do have a request for
9 public comments and that is Jill Klein, who is going to
10 address this since I got this green sheet. Jill Klein.

11

12 MS. KLEIN: Hello, thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 My name is Jill Klein with the Yukon River Drainage
14 Fisheries Association also known as YRDFA.

15

16 I think Jerry did a good job of
17 explaining why we had submitted the proposal so I won't
18 repeat too much of it. But I just wanted to let you know
19 that YRDFA had worked on this proposal last year at its
20 annual meeting in Kotlik, and as Jerry had mentioned the
21 main -- there are two main points of it.

22

23 The first one was to take out the word,
24 eggs, and for the main reason that it could be seen as
25 inflammatory and that there are high emotional responses
26 to the sale of eggs on the Yukon River, but it wasn't to
27 take eggs out of customary trade. And we had felt that
28 it would be included in the language, their parts, which
29 you had heard.

30

31 It seems like in the analysis of the
32 proposal there are two statements being made, that, one
33 is that it will make it more vague, and another part of
34 it is saying that the ability to enforce the current
35 regulations would not change, so I'm not sure legally
36 what the exact answer is. But I think the YRDFA Board
37 would like to see the ability for enforcement is still
38 there. And so if taking out the word, eggs, made that
39 harder to do then I don't think we'd want to go along
40 with that. What we were looking for, are the answers to
41 that question from Federal Staff.

42

43 The second part was about commercial
44 permit holders. And when YRDFA was briefed at their
45 annual meeting they hadn't had the information that
46 commercial permit holders would be excluded or included.
47 So hearing that it will be accomplished administratively,
48 not that I know exactly what that means, is good to know
49 and I think the YRDFA Board would be content with that.

50

00136

1 So I think we still support the first
2 part with the word, eggs, as the proposal. If the second
3 part is going to be handled administratively then we
4 don't need to push that. So I just wanted to brief you
5 on that.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jill. Any
10 other agencies. Mr. Andrew, you're still here, did you
11 want to testify?

12
13 MR. ANDREW: (Shakes head negatively)

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. If I understood you
16 first, you were for all these proposals or what?

17
18 (No comment)

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further agencies.

21
22 (No comment)

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Public comments from the
25 audience.

26
27 (No comment)

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, summary of written
30 comments.

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, there were no
33 written comments submitted on this proposal. Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince.
36 Regional Council deliberations. Gerald.

37
38 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, there's no
39 Staff recommendation, you know, what do you guys got,
40 Jerry Berg?

41
42 MR. BERG: Mr. Chairman, actually our
43 Staff recommendation should be found -- maybe it would
44 left out of your book, but it should be at the top of
45 Page 141, preliminary conclusion is our Staff
46 recommendation to oppose this proposal.

47
48 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, okay, thank
49 you. Since Stan Zurey ain't here I'm just going to say
50 this anyway, the intent from the Eastern Interior

00137

1 Regional Advisory Council was to -- that we didn't want
2 eggs in there because it was too controversial and this
3 is what he said from the YRDFA -- from him and the Bill
4 Fluris and the people that I represent. Is that they
5 asked for eggs to be taken out five times and you guys,
6 your Staff and whoever's writing it up put it in back
7 five times. And we asked or to any other business as
8 defined under State laws be deleted two times and you
9 guys put it back in two times. We had as part of your
10 business, business transaction, twice, and I don't know
11 what happened to that.

12

13 But this is just the part that really
14 irritates us is you guys, we give you a proposal and you
15 guys, I don't know, adobe or whatever, Windows, or
16 whatever your excuse is, you guys shouldn't be changing
17 these proposals.

18

19 It's not whether I'm against this
20 proposal or for it, you got to have the proponent's true
21 intent written down. It gives people a different view
22 when you change the wording and there's no excuse for
23 that.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Regional Council
26 deliberation.

27

28 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt the Staff
29 recommendation for Proposal 3.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion on the floor by
32 Virgil Umphenour to adopt the Staff recommendation which
33 is to oppose this proposal. Is there a second.

34

35 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Second.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Gerald
38 Nicholia for the record. Billy McCann, you had your hand
39 up?

40

41 MR. MCCANN: Yeah, I'm going to tell you
42 about my -- one time with the eggs was open one time.

43

44 (In Yup'ik)

45

46 INTERPRETER: Since there are so many
47 different people, especially the younger people, they
48 don't like to follow our laws and rules and then at one
49 time the buyers were buying salmon eggs, a lot of young
50 people, a few people went out fishing and were just

00138

1 selling their eggs and burying the rest of the fish. So
2 it's dangerous to talk about fish eggs. And right now
3 when we're trying to increase our fish stocks, if we say
4 yes to allow sale of eggs or trade, it's dangerous.

5
6 There are some young people, when they
7 want cash, we cannot watch them all the time. That is
8 why the proposed -- if we start try to -- those fish eggs
9 should eventually become grown salmon.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.
12 Philip Titus.

13
14 MR. TITUS: I got a question for Jerry.
15 It says all processed fish. Is it from the health
16 department or how I process the fish, it tastes better
17 when I process it than by going by health regulations.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MR. BERG: Well, Mr. Chair, Mr. Titus.
22 Yeah, any -- I think that's been a point in our
23 regulations that we haven't emphasized enough and that is
24 that these customary trade regulations in Federal
25 regulations only apply to fresh, whole fish so once
26 they're processed in any way by you or anyone else then
27 they would need to have -- need to comply with the State
28 health standards in order to be a legal sale at that
29 point. But we understand that there's been small scale
30 operations that have traditionally occurred in years past
31 and the intent is not to pursue those small scale
32 operations but more to prohibit large scale sales such as
33 Mr. Umphenour was alluding to, if people on the river do
34 see large scale operations I think law enforcement would
35 like to see that and would probably pursue something like
36 that.

37
38 But if it is processed, legally, it would
39 not fall under these regulations unless you have the
40 Alaska State health permits necessary to sell those
41 processed fish.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald Nicholia.

44
45 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, Jerry Berg.
46 You know the only whole fish that comes out of District 5
47 that's for sale is commercial, and whole fish that people
48 get is always given away. He don't sell whole fish to
49 each other, we only sell strips and maybe dry fish. We
50 don't sell, we give it away.

00139

1 MR. BERG: Mr. Chairman. I guess a brief
2 response, and I think we understand that that there's
3 very little fresh, whole fish actually sold under these
4 customary trade regulations and that's, I guess, just the
5 point that I wanted to highlight that these regulations
6 actually apply to very little that actually occurs
7 legally. But the intent is not to pursue and make
8 something illegal. We're not intending to pursue the
9 traditional small scale practices that have occurred.
10 But it's mainly to prevent larger scale operations that
11 might come up in the future.

12
13 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks, Jerry. Lester
16 Wilde.

17
18 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I'm the co-
19 Chair for the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.
20 And although, as Jill pointed out there was clarification
21 maybe supposedly made on portions of this proposal, I
22 will be opposing the Staff recommendations on behalf of
23 the YRDFA Board.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Lester.
26 Virgil, I think you had your hand up.

27
28 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 When our RAC, the Eastern RAC, basically what the Federal
30 Subsistence Board, which took our recommendation on
31 customary trade on the changes and they changed it a
32 little bit. But as Gerald said, we had taken the word
33 eggs out and I know I was disappointed, I don't know how
34 many of the other members were when the Board finally
35 made their decision and came up with the final wording.
36 But I know that our recommendation was to take the word,
37 eggs, out and so I'm also going to oppose the
38 Department's regulation and support YRDFA's proposal.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl Morgan.

41
42 MR. MORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
43 was just, you know, kind of wondering back and trying to
44 think when there was a roe opening, but that was a
45 commercial roe opening, this wasn't a subsistence roe
46 opening. And if I can remember back, looked like that
47 was a pretty expensive operation, like you hear him say,
48 it must be delivered fresh or processed. If you're going
49 to do either or it's an expensive venture. You're going
50 to have to buy equipment, you're going to have to buy the

00140

1 tools, or if it's going to be delivered fresh, you're
2 going to have to fly them eggs out in planes, and then
3 once it hits a hub, then it's got to go another
4 destination on another plane, it's a very expensive
5 operation. I can remember when it was a roe opening
6 because Aniak is kind of hub for kind of the Yukon, there
7 was a lot of planes coming in, and all it was was fresh
8 roe. It went from 180, 185, 207 right on to the Wein,
9 Wein was there waiting for these eggs to be delivered,
10 once it was filled then it left either directly to
11 Seattle or wherever, because of the State law, fresh. Or
12 if you're going to process it, it's an expensive
13 operation. And I'll tell you what if it's happening with
14 the subsistence people we're going to notice, we're going
15 to notice right now because it's a large scale operation,
16 it's not cheap to process roe.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Harry.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I will request for a
25 roll call.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Harry. For my
28 clarification, the Staff recommendation was to oppose
29 this proposal because it does not clarify anything and
30 all it did was made the wording a little bit more vague;
31 is that right?

32

33 MR. BERG: Mr. Chairman, yes, that's
34 correct. We felt like by removing the word, eggs, it
35 might make the regulations a little bit more vague,
36 because it does say, fish, their parts -- fish, eggs or
37 their parts, so by just leaving parts in, eggs are parts
38 of the fish, but if you remove eggs then it just makes it
39 a little bit more vague so we thought it would be more
40 specific by leaving the word, eggs, in there.

41

42 And I guess just to follow up on what Mr.
43 Morgan was saying that a processed fish, you could not
44 sell the eggs legally under customary trade just the eggs
45 by themselves unless you had the State health permits
46 because once you cut that fish open and take those eggs
47 out that's a processed fish so you would have to have the
48 State health permits to do that legally under customary
49 trade regulations.

50

00141

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Ron.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald.

6

7 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You know in the
8 Eastern Interior meeting we took out eggs because there's
9 turmoil and stuff it causes and we excluded Section 13,
10 and from the Eastern Interior's point of view we stated
11 that it was going to be as that, and I personally stated
12 that we don't want to deal with this anymore. All you're
13 doing is putting more restrictions on the people that I
14 represent and hurting them more. This C&T thing is just
15 blown out of proportion.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.

18

19 MR. TITUS: I got a question.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Philip.

22

23 MR. TITUS: I got a question, Jerry, you
24 guys can't tell the difference between the eggs and fish
25 head?

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.

30 Della.

31

32 MS. TRUMBLE: I have more of a question,
33 I guess. Being a part of the committee, or the group
34 that put together the C&T and it was my understanding
35 that because of the regional differences, that each
36 region had the right to amend their or add to their
37 customary trade as they needed. What exactly is that
38 process? If I'm hearing that these groups have asked
39 this to be deleted numerous times, what exactly is the
40 process for that to happen so that it does reflect what
41 their wishes are?

42

43 MR. BERG: Mr. Chair. Ms. Trumble.

44 Well, this is exactly the process to go through for
45 regional changes. This is the opportunity for these
46 three Councils to weigh in. The Federal Subsistence
47 Board made a statewide regulation and they came up with
48 what they felt like was the best start to those
49 regulations that would apply statewide and they wanted to
50 allow for regional differences, and we're starting to see

00142

1 some of these regional differences proposed in front of
2 these Councils.

3

4 So this is your chance to make regional
5 changes to the customary trade regulations in your
6 region. So your recommendations will be forwarded to the
7 Federal Subsistence Board and they will make the final
8 decisions in December, depending on the recommendations
9 and the public input on customary trade regulations for
10 your regions. Now, these proposals address the entire
11 Yukon River so it actually would include all three
12 Councils, but this is the process to go through to make
13 regional changes.

14

15 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Call for a question
16 and a clarification on how this vote is going to go.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mary.

19

20 MS. GREGORY: A yes vote and a no vote,
21 what do they mean.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. The motion was to
24 accept Staff proposal to oppose the proposal; is that
25 right, Virgil?

26

27 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's correct. So if
28 you agree with the proposal then you need to vote no. If
29 you agree with the Department, which is to oppose the
30 proposal then you would vote yes. I'm going to vote no.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Roll call has already been
33 requested by Chairman Wilde. Vince.

34

35 MR. SAVAGE: Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Who are you? Where are
38 you?

39

40 MR. SAVAGE: Mr. Chairman, right here.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Mike Savage.

43

44 MR. SAVAGE: Can you clarify that more on
45 the voting part?

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Philip.

48

49 MR. TITUS: A yes vote means you're
50 supporting this proposal to vote it down. But a no vote

00143

1 is to support the proposal as it's written. A yes is no
2 and a no is yes.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: We've gone through this
7 for a good many days.

8

9 MR. MCCANN: They tried to turn it around
10 though.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: We've gone through this a
13 good many days, it's not getting any clearer.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: So if we vote this down,
18 it doesn't mean much, if we vote it up it doesn't mean
19 much, all it does is just clarify a few wording issues,
20 that's about all it does; is that right?

21

22 (No comment)

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Can you answer that or no?
25 Because the way I look at this proposal, we'll drag this
26 thing down too far and we're trying to fine tune
27 something that cannot be fine tuned by wording; is that
28 right?

29

30 MR. BERG: Yeah, I guess I'll take a shot
31 at it, Mr. Chairman.

32

33 If you look on Page 136 in your book, you
34 can see the language that's been proposed by YRDFA and
35 the portions with the strikeout are what has been
36 proposed by YRDFA. I do want to recognize that Mr.
37 Nicholia was correct, we had some errors in our printing
38 of the proposal booklet before, we didn't get that right,
39 but it is correct in this version in your book on Page
40 136. So all those portions that have the strikeout
41 through the wording, that's the recommendation as
42 proposed by YRDFA.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jerry. Is that
45 clear to everyone now?

46

47 (No comment)

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, the question has
50 been called and a roll call has been requested. One last

00144

1 recognition, TCC.

2

3 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
4 just wanted to pointed out the fact that if this
5 regulation is adopted as written right here it would also
6 remove the authority of the Federal Subsistence Board to
7 recognize regional differences.

8

9 MR. BERG: No, this would be the regional
10 difference for the Yukon River.

11

12 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 Clarification with, I guess, would distinguish between
14 the Yukon River drainage, I didn't appreciate that, thank
15 you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks. Roll call
18 vote has been requested.

19

20 MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John Thompson.

23

24 MR. THOMPSON: You are conducting this
25 meeting, so give us a direction. I don't want to let it
26 happen again like the other day, please direct us how to
27 vote, yes and no.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: That would be illegal.
30 That would be illegal, totally illegal no matter if it
31 happened before.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, then Alex.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Thompson
38 is not telling you how to vote he just wants
39 clarification of what is on the table and with your
40 indulgence, I think it would be best if Alex Nick would
41 explain it in Yup'ik, if that's okay with you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Alex.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Thompson is not asking
46 how to vote, he's asking what is he voting on.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I think
49 Alex Nick if you could translate it to the Yukon-
50 Kuskokwim Council.

00145

1 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
2 name is Alex Nick. I'm the Regional Council coordinator
3 for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council. I'm going to
4 explain the Staff recommendation and then I'm going to
5 explain the motion.

6
7 (In Yup'ik)

8
9 INTERPRETER: The makers of Proposal 3,
10 while they are saying that they would not -- are opposed
11 against this proposal, so the motion is that they want to
12 follow Staff recommendations on Proposal 3 and a yes vote
13 means that you will not accept Proposal 3. But if you
14 have a no vote you will approve Proposal No. 3.

15
16 But this proposal, the makers of this
17 proposal -- let's -- a yes vote turns down No. 3 and a no
18 vote accepts Proposal 3.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

21
22 MR. MCCANN: (In Yup'ik)

23
24 INTERPRETER: Some of us a couple days
25 ago because we had a confusion earlier in our conference
26 so we really truly want to understand how to vote so to
27 avoid a mistake as a few days ago.

28
29 MR. MCCANN: Quyana.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Roll call has been
32 requested, question has been called. Vince.

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we'll go
35 by Council then, correct?

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: What is the request?

38
39 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It doesn't matter.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: It doesn't matter.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Then we'll go by
44 Council then, thank you. Since this is a Western
45 Interior proposal we'll start with Western Interior.

46
47 Emmitt Peters.

48
49 MR. PETERS: Yes.

50

00146

1 MR. MATHEWS: Micky Stickman.
2
3 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.
4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Robert Walker.
6
7 MR. WALKER: Yes.
8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Carl Morgan.
10
11 MR. MORGAN: Yes.
12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones.
14
15 MR. JONES: Yes.
16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Angela Demientieff.
18
19 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.
20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff.
22
23 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.
24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Ron Sam.
26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.
28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, it passes unanimously
30 there, the motion. Eastern Interior. Virgil Umphenour.
31
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: No.
33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Sue Entsminger.
35
36 MS. ENTSMINGER: No.
37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Jay Stevens.
39
40 MR. STEVENS: No.
41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Andrew Bassich.
43
44 MR. BASSICH: No.
45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Philip Titus.
47
48 MR. TITUS: Yes.
49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Gerald Nicholia.

00147

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yes.
2
3 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Yukon-Kuskokwim
4 Delta. Lester Wilde.
5
6 MR. L. WILDE: No.
7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Philip Moses.
9
10 MR. MOSES: No.
11
12 MR. MATHEWS: No. Let the record reflect
13 the answer was no. Mike Savage.
14
15 MR. SAVAGE: Yes.
16
17 MR. MATHEWS: James Charles.
18
19 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Billy McCann.
22
23 MR. MCCANN: Yes.
24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Raymond Oney.
26
27 MR. ONEY: No.
28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Nick Andrew, Sr.
30
31 MR. ANDREW: No.
32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Mary Gregory.
34
35 MS. GREGORY: No.
36
37 MR. MATHEWS: John Hanson.
38
39 MR. HANSON: Yes.
40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Harry Wilde, Sr.
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
44
45 MR. MATHEWS: John Thompson.
46
47 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.
48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, let me
50 just take a second to consult to make sure I have the

00148

1 right votes.

2

3

(Pause)

4

5

6

7

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MR. MATHEWS: Okay. For Yukon-Kuskokwim, motion passed six in the affirmative against five, 6-5. Western Interior was unanimous for the motion. And Eastern Interior, the motion failed four to two.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. The next item on the agenda.

MS. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chairman, before we go on.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

MS. ENTSMINGER: This is a point of clarification, I want to know did we vote to keep eggs in or vote to keep them out? We voted to.....

CHAIRMAN SAM: That's what I gathered, Jerry.

MR. BERG: Yes, the Eastern Interior Regional Council voted to.....

CHAIRMAN SAM: Wait, we're not talking -- we're just talking about the overall vote, the yes vote was to keep it in, right, to keep the eggs in there, right?

MR. BERG: That's correct. A yes vote was to adopt the Staff recommendation, which was to leave eggs in, correct.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, that's clarified. Next item on the agenda is Proposal 4 on Page 147. Jerry Berg.

MS. MCCLLENAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm Pat McClenahan.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Pat.

MS. MCCLLENAHAN: The Staff analysis is at Tab B, Page 149.

00149

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

2

3 MS. MCCLLENHAN: Fisheries Proposal 04-04
4 was submitted by the Association of Village Council
5 Presidents, AVCP.

6

7 It requests that non-rural residents be
8 prohibited from purchasing or receiving in customary
9 trade for cash any subsistence harvested fish, their
10 parts or their eggs that are harvested on Federal lands
11 and waters, within the Chalista AVCP region.

12

13 The reason that AVCP requests the
14 regulatory change is that residents of the Yukon-
15 Kuskokwim Delta don't customarily allow unlimited cash
16 sales of subsistence caught fish. They expressed in a
17 resolution that cash sales of subsistence caught fish,
18 their eggs or their parts to non-rural residents or
19 businesses is in conflict with the customs and traditions
20 of this region. The issue of maintaining traditional
21 practices is especially important to them at a time when
22 the region is experiencing low salmon returns.

23

24 Map 1 on Page 151 gives you a picture of
25 the extent of the Chalista AVCP region and also the
26 extent of Federally-administered lands there.

27

28 In regulations, customary trade is
29 defined as the exchange for cash of regulated fish and
30 wildlife resources to support personal or family needs,
31 but which excludes trade, a significant commercial
32 enterprise.

33

34 Under Federal regulations, exchange of
35 subsistence caught fish for cash is allowed. These fish
36 must be unprocessed, as we've heard in the last
37 proposals. That is, they must be freshly caught fish or
38 if they are processed, the processing must meet
39 government food health standards.

40

41 In recent harvest history, the Alaska
42 Board of Fisheries has designated the Yukon and Kuskokwim
43 salmon stocks as stocks of concern and salmon runs there
44 are being managed conservatively due to lower than
45 average returns in recent years.

46

47 If adopted, the proposed regulatory
48 change will recognize the customary and traditional
49 practices of the residents of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta
50 with regard to cash sales of subsistence caught fish,

00150

1 parts and eggs to non-rural residents.

2

3 Leaders in the region have expressed

4 serious.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pardon me. We need some
7 clarification up here, with concurrence of two Chairs,
8 Eastern and Western, we need clarification at this time
9 right now to make any further moves, from what we've
10 seen, this is area specific and area specific only and if
11 it is, I don't think we should have Eastern Interior or
12 Western Interior involved and have it deferred to YK
13 Delta Regional Advisory Council; is this correct?

14

15 MR. L. WILDE: Yes, it is.

16

17 MR. WALKER: Yes.

18

19 MS. MCCLENAHAN: This is the Chalista

20 AVCP region.

21

22 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

25

26 MR. WALKER: This is a question I was
27 going to bring up here during discussion, is that, we are
28 in District 1, 2 and 3, the only village in the Western
29 Interior is Holy Cross, that's in District 3, so I
30 believe that this resolves this issue right here to defer
31 the lower Yukon-Kuskokwim could take care of this one,
32 without us having to go against them, whatever, or cause
33 more hard feelings as it is already. I believe we should
34 just abstain now, walk out, let them take care of it.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's -- Jack.

37

38 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. This
39 described area includes part of the Western Interior
40 region, it does not include any of the Eastern Interior
41 region, but it includes an area from above Aniak in the
42 Kuskokwim drainage and so I feel that we should entertain
43 this proposal.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald.

46

47 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Since it doesn't
48 involve the Eastern Interior region I don't want to
49 infringe or input on the YK region. If they want this
50 region specific, I want Eastern Interior out of it.

00151

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pat.

2

3 MS. MCCLENAHAN: Mr. Chairman, it was
4 just pointed out to me and I'd like to comment to you
5 that Eastern Interior region has a positive customary and
6 traditional use determination for the region we're
7 talking about. They are able to fish there and so it's
8 up to you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I don't think the
11 Eastern Interior has a positive customary and traditional
12 use in the YK region.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: We need some clarification
15 on this because on one hand someone could say that all
16 residents of the Yukon River and on the other hand we
17 could say that it is out of our region. While the
18 Western Interior has some stake in this proposal by
19 having part of our boundary involved, does that still
20 make us -- I mean does that force us to partake in this?

21

22 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Pete, clarify
25 that, please.

26

27 MS. GREGORY: I was going to do it.

28

29 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, it is the
30 option of the Councils to act on whatever proposals they
31 feel appropriate. The only thing that we're trying to
32 point out is that this proposal does have application to
33 two Regional Advisory Councils. And as far as the
34 clarification for what Mr. Nicholia was talking about, as
35 far as customary -- or C&T findings for this area, we
36 need to probably step down to clarify that with Staff.
37 But there are Western and YK do have issues with this
38 proposal.

39

40 Mr. Chair.

41

42 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mary.

45

46 MS. GREGORY: On Page 151 it describes
47 the AVCP Chalista region.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

50

00152

1 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Where?

4

5 MR. L. WILDE: Over here.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Lester Wilde.

8

9 MR. L. WILDE: According to Proposal 4
10 and the written, as it is written, it states prohibit
11 sale of Yukon River district -- Yukon River District 1, 2
12 and 3, that's all it says -- oh, I'm sorry, it includes
13 Kuskokwim River also.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I got about 10
16 hands up -- everybody's hands are up.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pat, for clarification
21 purposes, Pat, please.

22

23 MS. MCCLLENANAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 If you look on Page 150, it provides the customary and
25 traditional use determination for this area. It says,
26 the customary and traditional use determination for Yukon
27 drainage salmon other than fall chum salmon is residents
28 of the Yukon River drainage, including the community of
29 Stebbins. For fall chum salmon, the customary and
30 traditional use determination is residents of the Yukon
31 River drainage, including the communities of Chevak,
32 Hooper Bay and Stebbins, Scammon Bay. The customary and
33 traditional use determination for freshwater fish species
34 other than salmon including sheefish, whitefish, lamp
35 ray, burbot, sucker, grayling, pike, char and blackfish
36 is residents of the Yukon northern area. And it goes on
37 and it gives you the C&T for salmon for the Kuskokwim
38 area.

39

40 That means that this is relevant to
41 anyone on the Yukon River.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: What line was that now?

44

45 MS. MCCLLENANAHAN: It can be found at Page
46 150 at the bottom where it says customary and traditional
47 use determinations and then it goes on on 152 at the top
48 [sic].

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would like to.....

00153

1 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, go ahead, Robert.

4

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

6 When this proposal was drawn up here, Pat, it says Yukon
7 River District 1, 2 and 3 for Kuskokwim River salmon, why
8 didn't they put in Kuskokwim River W1, W2 or W3 or W4; I
9 need more clarification on this? I think we should just
10 defer it back to wherever it came from and have them
11 redraw this up here because I don't feel this is
12 appropriate that we use numbers on the Yukon, and they
13 use the word Kuskokwim River. AVCP should just pull this
14 and redo it, that's my feelings here. Otherwise it's
15 just another confusion here that -- we're already
16 confused already.

17

18 I don't know what you people are trying
19 to do here but, you know, this is a feeling that we're
20 getting kind of among ourselves here that you are trying
21 to confuse us in such a way that we cannot work together
22 anymore, and that's what the feeling I'm getting.

23

24 So I'd like the Associated Village
25 Council Presidents to pull this and rewrite it with the
26 words W1, W2 or W3 or 4.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. As Pete
33 Probasco pointed out, we're obligated to provide this
34 information and background on this to all areas that have
35 a positive customary and traditional use determination,
36 we're not telling you that you have to take this up and
37 vote it up or down. So we're just obligated to present
38 that.

39

40 I caution you to say that it's region
41 specific and, et cetera, because the same logic would
42 apply to the proposal yesterday for driftnet fishery in
43 4A.

44

45 So I'm not saying that you need to take
46 this up, I'm just saying that we are obligated to make
47 sure that all three Councils or whatever combination of
48 the Councils that have a positive C&T are exposed to
49 this. If they decide they don't want to do it or if they
50 want to defer it to the other, that's fine. The deferral

00154

1 part, our scheduling makes difficult because if you want
2 to work with Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, they're only with you
3 today. Tomorrow you go into separate meetings.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Harry.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Because of this
10 proposal, it's only for Y1, 2 and 3, and Kuskokwim River,
11 I would like to take this tomorrow during our Yukon-
12 Kuskokwim meeting. I don't think it's fair to include up
13 river while they're not on this proposal. Tim.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald.

16

17 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I believe this is
18 just another misprint. It's just like you guys are going
19 over their intent. I don't feel like the Eastern
20 Interior should indulge in their personal regional ways,
21 I don't think so.

22

23 MR. MCCANN: Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Before we go, Billy, could
26 you make it brief because right after your presentation I
27 will ask all three Councils to suspend the rules and go
28 out of order to recognize Tim Andrew. Billy, go ahead,
29 short.

30

31 MR. MCCANN: Can I make a motion to table
32 this because we're confused.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. So it would.....

35

36 MR. MCCANN: I make a motion to table this
37 and then somebody else can work on it.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

40

41 MR. L. WILDE: Question.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

44

45 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Second.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Gerald

48 Nicholia.

49

50 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Question has been

00155

1 called.

2

3 MS. ENTSMINGER: We don't have a second.

4

5 MR. L. WILDE: There's no.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, seconded by Gerald
8 Nicholia, and if I remember parliamentary procedures,
9 there's no discussion, right. No discussion. So all
10 those in favor of tabling the motion [sic], signify by
11 saying aye.

12

13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

16

17 MS. ENTSMINGER: No.

18

19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried, thank you.
22 We'll take a 10 minute break and then we'll go into the
23 next agenda item.

24

25 (Off record)

26

27 (On record)

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time the Chair
30 will call the meeting back to order. Next item on the
31 agenda, the Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposals and
32 somewhere within our deliberations on the Board of
33 Fisheries Proposals I would like to, with the concurrence
34 of all three Councils, I would like to discuss the
35 ichthyophonus issue. I think it has a big bearing on our
36 stocks of concerns, where 25 percent or less of big
37 females with roe are reaching the spawning grounds.

38

39 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You want to discuss
40 ichthyophonus? Do you want to discuss ichthyophonus?

41

42 MR. TITUS: Eggs.

43

44 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: No, ich, you know,
45 that disease?

46

47 MR. TITUS: Uh-huh.

48

49 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Do you want to
50 discuss it?

00156

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Well, we'll talk about it
2 a little bit.

3
4 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yes.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: We'll bring it up a little
7 later. At this time I would like to go into session on
8 Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposals, who is it, Pete?

9
10 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Thanks, Ron. Right at the break I passed out a paper and
12 I put it on top of your papers, and it's identified as
13 Agenda Item C, and the intent of this two page document
14 is to provide Council members a guidance as we work
15 through the State Board of Fish proposals.

16
17 A lot of these issues that have been
18 identified, you'll see that they're numbered 1 through 7.
19 Many of these issues we've already discussed and took
20 action on based on the work that you did yesterday. For
21 example, if we go to issue one it says allow drift
22 gillnets in Districts 4B and 4C, you had a specific
23 Federal proposal, Proposal No. 5 that you took action on,
24 so our recommendation as Staff, to conserve time, is that
25 your action on the Federal proposal will suffice as far
26 as making recommendations to the Board of Fish for
27 Proposals 161 through 163.

28
29 If you look at this paper and you
30 continue down, Issue 2 deals with subsistence fishing
31 schedules and periods. You took specific actions on
32 Federal Proposal 9 and Federal Proposal 11. Those, in my
33 opinion, would serve as Councils' recommendations to the
34 Board of Fish addressing Proposals 132, 152 and 154
35 through 158.

36
37 If we go to Issue 3, which is closures of
38 Federal waters to commercial harvest of chinook and chum
39 salmon, you addressed yesterday two specific proposals,
40 Proposal No. 8 and No. 10, Federal proposals. Your
41 action, in my opinion, would suffice to provide
42 recommendations to the State Board of Fisheries for
43 Proposal 166.

44
45 And Issue 4 is the issue on using kegs or
46 buoys of any color, your action on Proposal 12 would
47 provide recommendations to the Board of Fish to address
48 State Proposal 135.

49
50 Now, when we get to Issue 5, which is the

00157

1 Toklat River Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan, there are
2 no Federal proposals, but there are two State proposals.
3 State Proposal 150 and State Proposal 151. I would
4 reference the group to the issues paper that was
5 developed by many of your Coordinated Fisheries Committee
6 members sitting here to focus on Page 3, which addresses
7 the issues that the Coordinated Fisheries Committee
8 discussed. Specifically the intent of these two
9 proposals would take the Toklat Fall Chum Salmon
10 Management Plan and blend it with the Yukon River Fall
11 Chum Management Plan. So instead of having two
12 management plans, you'd only have one.

13

14 The other proposal still addresses Toklat
15 and what it's recommending is taking the existing optimum
16 escapement goal, the Department has, since the last time
17 the optimum escapement goal was developed, has more data,
18 they have a better analysis and they are recommending a
19 biological escapement goal. And what a biological
20 escapement goal does is allow Federal and State managers
21 to provide more opportunity for subsistence users to fish
22 when the run is of lower abundance. If we stick to an
23 optimum escapement goal, which is a much higher goal,
24 that actually serves as a restriction in years of low
25 abundance for Federal Subsistence Board users.

26

27 My recommendation, Mr. Chairs, is for the
28 Regional Advisory Council here to specifically address
29 Proposals 150 and 151 and we have Mr. Bergstrom and Mr.
30 Bue here, who are very familiar with those plans and the
31 intent so it's your wishes, Mr. Chair. That's Issue 5.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald.

34

35 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, Pete, I confer
36 with you on that, we already addressed it, one, two,
37 three, four and that we should just address Issue No. 5,
38 150 and 151 because we already took action and that, what
39 you just said, will cover our intent to the State Board.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Virgil.

42

43 MR. UMPHENOUR: I agree with all of it
44 except for Issue No. 2. State Proposal 132 is to clarify
45 the intent of the Board of Fish when they establish the
46 window schedule, and that is actually my proposal and I
47 was the Chair of the Board of Fish Committee that did
48 that and there's only one way people will know what was
49 in my mind when we did that three years ago and that's to
50 hear it from me.

00158

1 The subsistence proposal that we
2 addressed, No. 9 and 11 did not address State Proposal
3 132, I think we need to address that so the State Board
4 of Fish knows what the three RACs position is on that
5 proposal, otherwise I agree with what you just said.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: It was my understanding
10 that we did address 132, or did we?

11
12 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. My opinion,
13 based on the discussions, the lengthy discussions and my
14 notes, you addressed fishing schedules and periods. And
15 my notes reflect that the Regional Advisory Council felt
16 that when the salmon stocks are of low abundance, the
17 fishing periods were necessary. And their concerns were
18 also echoed that when these runs do rebuild that it's
19 necessary to reevaluate these fishing schedules or
20 periods, if you will, and that these restrictions should
21 be lifted or drastically reduced. There was no specific
22 actions on what to do with those periods, but they were
23 discussed.

24
25 Now, Mr. Umphenour's proposal 132 is
26 asking for clarifications as far as what happens with
27 those subsistence fishing schedules with other fisheries,
28 commercial versus subsistence; if I'm correct, Mr.
29 Umphenour.

30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: That is correct. The
32 reason for that proposal is to clarify what happens to
33 the windows when there's a commercial fishery. And then
34 the second issue here is we've all agreed we want to talk
35 about ichthyophonous, and this is the best proposal that
36 -- it's the proposal that's most applicable that ties in
37 with the ichthyophonous issue because we're talking about
38 -- the main issue is quality escapement on the spawning
39 grounds and reasonable equal opportunity for all
40 subsistence users, that's the issues. And the windows,
41 that's the reason the windows were put in and we need to
42 address ichthyophonous at that time because it's -- the
43 report that we have from Dr. Kosan that says up to 25
44 percent of the salmon getting counted as escapement may
45 not be spawning and I think a that's appropriate place to
46 discuss that subject.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pete.

00159

1 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Sam, I appreciate and
2 respect Mr. Umphenour's comments, however, we do have a
3 limited day today, and my suggestion and it's just a
4 suggestion to the Councils is that we take Issue 5 and
5 Issue 6 and discuss them as the three Councils. You will
6 see that Issue 7 deals with the Koyukuk River, I don't
7 think that would be appropriate to discuss here with the
8 three Councils since this deals with the Western Interior
9 Council. Then if there's time remaining and your desire
10 to discuss ichthyophonus as well as Proposal 132, do that
11 after we finish Issue 5 and Issue 6.

12

13 Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pete. What's
16 the wishes of the Councils.

17

18 (No comment)

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: I have no problem with
21 deferring Issue 7 into the Western Interior's alone
22 meeting.

23

24 MR. WALKER: I agree with that.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: So without further adieu,
27 the Chair will entertain a motion to defer Issue 7 into
28 the Western Interior Region's deliberations.

29

30 Jack.

31

32 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I make a
33 motion to defer Issue 7, State Proposals 160 and 164 to
34 our Western Interior meeting tomorrow.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: And ask unanimous consent?

37

38 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

41

42 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Second.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Gerald.

45 Seeing no opposition, motion carried. Vince.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, just for my
48 knowledge then all three Councils then agree to move that
49 issue to Western Interior.

50

00160

1 (Councils nod affirmatively)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Lester?

4

5 MR. L. WILDE: I was just trying to look
6 at somebody.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. The Chair will
11 entertain a motion to address the fact that we addressed
12 Issue 1, Issue 2, Issue 3 and Issue 4 and that no further
13 action is needed and the Chair will entertain a motion to
14 that effect for discussion purposes.

15

16 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I so move.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

19

20 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Second.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Gerald.

23 Discussion.

24

25 MR. TITUS: Question.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Virgil.

28

29 MR. UMPHENOUR: I don't know where we're
30 going to talk about ichthyophonus. I don't know how much
31 of the agenda it's going to take -- you know, we need to
32 discuss ichthyophonus and Proposal 132 was not discussed,
33 and they should be discussed, I think, even if we just
34 take a short period of time to discuss it, I think we
35 should discuss it so that everyone understands the
36 ramifications of ichthyophonus and the effects of
37 Proposal 132 on our spawning escapement. We do need to
38 address that somehow.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: So Virgil, in effect, you
41 would amend the motion to withdraw Proposal 132.

42

43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right, I move that 132
44 stay on the agenda, only 132 out of that group of
45 proposals.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Now, if I remember right
48 the motion was to move Issue 1, Issue 2 without amended
49 Proposal -- without amending -- or with amending to
50 withdraw Proposal 132 for discussion purposes, was there

00161

1 a second on that.

2

3 MS. ENTSMINGER: Second.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Second by Sue Entsminger.

6 So the main motion would read that we do away with
7 discussions or actions on Issue 1, 2 without 132, 3 and
8 4. The amendment was to pull 132 out for further
9 discussion; is that understood by everyone?

10

11 (Councils nod affirmatively)

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that parliamentary
14 procedure correct? I believe it is.

15

16 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: We got to vote on the
17 amendment.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. The amendment
20 before us is to bring up State Proposal 132 for further
21 discussion and this is only to address the ichthyophonous
22 issue. Is that clear?

23

24 (Councils nod affirmatively)

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: And to get more
27 clarification on Virgil's desire to come up with a stand
28 for the Board of Fisheries.

29

30 MR. TITUS: Call for the question, Mr.
31 Chairman.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called for
34 on the amendment. Again, we're just withdrawing State
35 Proposal 132 before we adopt Issues 1, 2, 3 and 4. All
36 those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye.

37

38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

41

42 (No opposing votes)

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Now, the
45 main motion before us is to adopt Issue 1, 2, 3, 4 as
46 amended. So the motion has been made and seconded, so
47 all those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

48

49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

00162

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed, same sign.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Issue

6 No. 5. Pete.

7

8 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
9 did briefly summarize what the two proposals addressed,
10 Proposals 150 and 151, I don't think I need to repeat
11 myself. I think it would be more appropriate, Mr. Chair,
12 to ask questions for clarification for State or Federal.

13

14 Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pete. For
17 discussion purposes the Chair will entertain a motion to
18 adopt Issue 5.

19

20 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

23

24 MR. L. WILDE: Move to accept Issue 5.

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved by Lester Wilde,
29 seconded by Jack Reakoff of Western Interior. Discussion
30 on Issue 5. And if I heard Pete Probasco correctly, all
31 this issue does or this proposal does is provide for more
32 subsistence use by going from optimum escapement goals to
33 biological escapement goal which is more free if I
34 remember right. Pete.

35

36 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. My
37 understanding of your motion would be to support
38 Proposals 150 and 151, which, in part, does two things.
39 One, it takes the Toklat -- the separate Toklat fall
40 management plan and puts it into the overall Yukon fall
41 plan, so instead of having two plans it makes one and
42 then it changes the optimum escapement goal to a
43 biological escapement which provides a range for managers
44 to manage for, which in runs of low abundance provides
45 more opportunity for subsistence users. And I would go
46 to Dan if he has any other comments.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Dan.

49

50 MR. BERGSTROM: Yeah, 151 is the proposal

00163

1 on the Toklat River escapement goal. And the Department
2 will be supporting the change there to move from the OEG,
3 which was the old goal that was based on older
4 information and we would recommend going to use the
5 escapement goal which is 15,000 to 33,000 for managing
6 the Toklat River.

7

8 And the other comments we had regarding
9 Toklat is we do have a tagging project in the Tanana and
10 Kantishna, so we have a lot more information than when
11 the Toklat plan was originally adopted.

12

13 So that was the key element on 151. And
14 then as Pete said, in 150, that's the fall chum plan and
15 more work will be done on that prior to the Board meeting
16 with YRDFA and the Advisory Committee and others on
17 bringing in the parts of the Toklat River plan as a
18 section of the fall chum overall plan. And there's some
19 redundant regulations between those two so it will
20 simplify regulations but we want to make sure the Toklat
21 is still covered to conserve that stock if necessary.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Dan. Pete, for
24 my clarification, the motion as presented or as I asked,
25 would that cover the incorporation of this -- these
26 Toklat issues into the Yukon River Fall Chum Management
27 Plan?

28

29 MR. PROBASCO: Yes, Mr. Chair. And as
30 Mr. Bergstrom pointed out it's a process that you're
31 supporting as you develop the plan with the various
32 entities, Yukon River Delta Fishermen's Association, the
33 Department, with the Board of Fisheries of incorporating
34 that. That said, it's not going to do away with the
35 management of Toklat, it's just taking that plan and
36 making it a section of the fall chum salmon management
37 plan. And because the fall chums are still a management
38 concern, Toklat would still be listed under the overall
39 management plan as a management concern.

40

41 Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pete. One more
44 question. You know we went through this list covering
45 the Federal proposals and it's quite extensive, do we
46 have to go through all this whole list as far as proposal
47 adoption is concerned?

48

49 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. I think it
50 would be appropriate if there are other entities, public

00164

1 or agencies, like YRDFA, TCC or AVCP to comment to the
2 Councils. Mr. Chair.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. The next -- if
5 we follow this proposal review procedure, next on the
6 list is agency comments, if there are any.

7

8 (No comment)

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not -- okay, Mike
11 Smith, Tanana Chiefs.

12

13 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mike
14 Smith, Tanana Chiefs Conference.

15

16 The issue of escapement goals is an
17 extremely complex one. As you all know the decision as
18 to how many fish are needed to sustain salmon runs and to
19 provide for subsistence opportunity and stuff are
20 extremely complex. TCC is generally opposed to the
21 lowering of escapement goals in any form or manner. We
22 feel that the current system by which escapement goals
23 are established and developed is somewhat flawed. We
24 will be developing official positions on this and be
25 discussing it further in the January board meeting.

26

27 Our concerns in regards to this specific
28 proposal is that what ends up happening is you're pitting
29 up river subsistence users against down river subsistence
30 users. Additionally, the subsistence users up river
31 would be restricted to -- their subsistence activities
32 would be further restricted under this proposal in the
33 sense that it's my understanding that they fall under the
34 fall chum plan, that their subsistence schedule gets cut
35 back to two 48 hour periods. We're concerned about that.

36

37 The whole issue of BEGs and whether or
38 not they're sufficient is controversial enough, at least
39 in our minds to warrant a concerted effort on the part of
40 the regional organizations to question these activities.

41

42 So in that regard we'd be opposed at this
43 time to the lowering of any escapement goals and actually
44 believe that escapement goals should be probably be
45 enhanced up and down the river.

46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mr. Smith. Any
50 further agency comments.

00165

1 (No comment)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not we'll go into
4 public comments. Jill Klein.

5

6 MS. KLEIN: Hello, my name is Jill Klein
7 with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

8

9 As you have been briefed this is a YRDFA
10 proposal and it was jointly developed with the Department
11 of Fish and Game. YRDFA has not had the chance to fully
12 work through the four points of Proposal 150. We had a
13 general discussion about the fall chum management plan at
14 our meeting in Kotlik this past spring and we will be
15 having a meeting this coming weekend where we will
16 discuss our general positions on proposals and work
17 through this particular proposal.

18

19 The general points you've already heard
20 about. The first point, though, that hasn't been
21 mentioned yet is to try to allow some subsistence harvest
22 on a lower run size, and to my understanding this was to
23 talk about run size projections and at what point in a
24 run size projection you allow subsistence fishing to take
25 place, and possibly that number would be changed. And as
26 Mike brought up there are questions over BEGs, what
27 ranges they should be at and at what level you allow
28 subsistence fishing to take place and how many fish we
29 need to get up to the spawning grounds.

30

31 So this proposal is just trying to
32 address that there have been -- people have not been able
33 to meet their subsistence needs from the fall chum in the
34 past few years and to bring up the question of the debate
35 over escapement and subsistence, at what level you need
36 to get escapement and at what level you can start
37 fishing. So we would like to get public input so if the
38 Regional Councils have input on that we'd like to hear
39 that at this time. If you have any strong feelings or
40 opinions, at what level subsistence use should be allowed
41 and what levels escapement goals need to be set up.

42

43 There is a separate Toklat proposal that
44 came out of TRM, Tanana, Rampart, Manley Advisory
45 Committee that also talks about the OEG versus the BEG.
46 So basically reviewing the fall chum management plan, it
47 was worked on, I think, in 1994 so we'd just like to
48 review it. It's almost 10 years later, see how it's
49 working for users on the river and how we can better meet
50 the goals of meeting escapement subsistence and then

00166

1 other uses as there are surpluses.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jill. Any
6 further public comments.

7

8 (No comment)

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, do we have any
11 written comments, summary? I know these are State
12 proposals but do we have any?

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I can't even
15 comment about that, the State would have to handle that
16 because I have no involvement in it.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Since we are discussing
19 State proposals, request from my co-Chair here, Gerald,
20 that we do away with summary of written comments on our
21 deliberations.

22

23 Next on the agenda is Regional Council
24 deliberations.

25

26 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved by Gerald.

29

30 MR. TITUS: Second.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Second by Philip Titus.
33 There is a motion to adopt, what is it?

34

35 MR. UMPHENOUR: To adopt State Proposal
36 151.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Support State Proposal 150
39 and 151, is that the way the motion would read, to move
40 to support State Proposals 150 and 151?

41

42 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's correct.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. There is a motion
45 on the floor to support State Proposals 150 and 151, it's
46 been seconded. Any further discussion. Gerald, and then
47 Micky.

48

49 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: TRM, Tanana, Rampart
50 Manley Advisory Committee put that proposal in to change

00167

1 the optimum escapement goal to a biological escapement
2 goal. It ain't lowering the escapement goal. Because
3 every year that there was -- like the year before last
4 year, if this biological, the BEG was in place then we
5 would have been able to, our people in District 5 would
6 have been able to subsistence fish for fall chum. But in
7 that year, two years ago it almost made the escapement
8 goal to allow us to subsistence but this Toklat River,
9 with the OEG has restricted us ever since the bad runs
10 and I believe it does restrict down river people, too.
11 And that's why we put it in so it will provide the people
12 from Tanana, Rampart, Manley more opportunity to provide
13 for subsistence.

14

15 That's one of the main reasons that we
16 put it in there because it restricted us more and we
17 believe that to institute the BEG would let management in
18 low returns manage in the lower end for subsistence.
19 It's not lowering escapement goal, it's giving them a
20 range to operate under so we could get fall chum, what we
21 heavily rely upon.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Gerald. Micky
24 Stickman.

25

26 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, I'm confused. I
27 don't know the difference between an OEG and a BEG. Can
28 you show us what kind of numbers you're talking about for
29 -- well, for the sake of the fish I would like to know if
30 this is an allocation issue or a conservation issue or
31 what's going on here?

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Dan.

34

35 MR. BERGSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I
36 wanted to talk a little bit about the escapement goals.
37 First, just in general the Department is doing a review
38 of escapement goals in the AYK region and that includes
39 the Kuskokwim and the Yukon, and the public is involved
40 with the review and are invited to meetings. And so thee
41 will be a report before the Board of Fisheries meeting
42 that will go over how the goals were developed and what
43 they mean.

44

45 And so I do want to make it clear that,
46 you know, the public is involved and they'll have plenty
47 of time or at least they'll have time before the Board
48 meeting to look at what the escapement goals are.

49

50 With the specific case here of the

00168

1 Toklat, the reason it's an OEG or an optimum escapement
2 goal is because it was the Department's goal back, I
3 think we probably developed it in the early 1980s or mid-
4 1980s and when we had discussions on the Toklat River
5 about 10 years ago now, that goal was put in regulation
6 so when the Board has it in there, in regulation the
7 Board has it in there like that, that it becomes an OEG,
8 it's also the BEG at the time. Now, we've had a lot of
9 different definitions of what the goals are and we have
10 that in escapement goal policies, so that's how it would
11 be now, is an OEG because the Board put it in. The
12 Department also can have it as a BEG. So it was the same
13 and now it's changed, we've done a new analysis, we did
14 it back before the meeting in January 201 and came up
15 with the new BEG range and that's 15 to 33,000. At that
16 last board meeting we discussed it but it was just by the
17 thoughts of the board at that time they made no changes
18 to the fall chum or the Toklat plan.

19

20 But that's the difference, the
21 Department's recommending is different from that OEG.
22 Generally an OEG is put in different from a BEG to allow
23 some other fisheries aspect rather than just the
24 escapement goal. It's like for fall chum, the low end of
25 the BEG for the entire river is 400,000 and the board put
26 in an OEG, optimum goal of 350,000 so that we could fish
27 a little bit lower down for subsistence. So this case of
28 the Toklat is kind of different. It's unusual to be up
29 higher than what the range is.

30

31 And I think -- you know, like I said
32 earlier the Department will be supporting changing it to
33 use the escapement goal, the BEG.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks, Dan.

36 Gerald.

37

38 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, Dan he asked
39 what's the difference between an OEG and a BEG. An OEG
40 is a number regardless of what comes in that has to be
41 met, that 33,000 has to be met in the Toklat River,
42 that's an optimum escapement goal. And what TRM is
43 requesting that it be to a BEG from 15,000 to 33,000 so
44 that way it will -- the Department could be -- even in --
45 like I said, they almost made 33,000 but they didn't and
46 that restricted. What this BEG would do give the
47 Department a little management flexibility to when it
48 doesn't reach 33,000 they could manage the lower end to
49 allow us to fish for fall chum.

50

00169

1 OEG is a set number and if you don't meet
2 that number, we're not allowed to fish. And if we change
3 it to a BEG, it gives them flexibility to manage that
4 Toklat.

5
6 You got that Mick.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Gerald.

9
10 MR. STICKMAN: So actually the BEG is
11 lower than the OEG right now, the proposal so as far as
12 conservation it wouldn't be doing the fish any good.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: In short, a quick yes or
15 no, a quick yes or no answer will do.

16
17 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Mr. Stickman.
18 The biological escapement goal will provide and safeguard
19 the fish. It's developed with better data. The optimum
20 escapement goal of 33,000 that Dan was referring to was
21 developed some years back with minimal data. Now, that
22 we understand the Toklat better, we have better
23 information, we can get the range of escapement goals
24 that still will provide the biological requirements to
25 reproduce that run and still provide surpluses for
26 harvest. So the 15 to 33 is still going to meet and
27 satisfy the biological concerns and should -- of course,
28 there's a lot of factors, Mother Nature, et cetera, but
29 it should provide a harvestable surplus.

30
31 Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Again, we're
34 getting hung up on numbers. We could wheel and deal with
35 numbers all darn day and never get nowhere. What this
36 proposal does is create for more subsistence activities
37 and that's all it does, it grants more flexibility to
38 provide for subsistence gathering. And from what I see
39 this is all that this does.

40
41 Gerald.

42
43 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Question.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called.

46
47 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Lester.

50

00170

1 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Philip
2 has had his hand up for the last couple minutes, I'd like
3 to have you recognize him.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Philip Titus, thank you
6 Lester.

7
8 MR. TITUS: My question is to whoever is
9 up there. This fish that's going up the Toklat, how many
10 people fish on it, do you know?

11
12 MR. BERGSTROM: Mr. Chairman. As far as
13 the Toklat stock itself, obviously it comes all the way
14 up the river so some are taken along the whole river
15 below the Toklat. And then there's a few fishermen,
16 there's been two to four. And in the earlier years there
17 used to be, I think, maybe up to nine who fished in the
18 Kantishna, you know, which flows into the Tanana. So
19 there's a few fishermen right in that area that catch the
20 fish that go to the Toklat.

21
22 MR. TITUS: It seems like these few
23 fishermen is having a lot of effect on the drainage for
24 just a few fishermen and you've put a lot of money into
25 -- I don't know it seems like -- it's the south bank
26 fish, the fish that come up the river, the Toklat is the
27 south bank fish. I'm sure you guys done this they don't
28 fish on it.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Virg.

31
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 The Toklat River is a special management plan and the
34 reason why it's a special management plan is there were
35 two court cases after they closed the Kantishna River and
36 the Toklat to subsistence fishing back 12 or 13 years
37 ago, whenever it was and YRDFA spent a lot of time on it,
38 there was projects, assessment projects. The Department
39 spent a lot of time on it. The Board of Fish has
40 addressed it eight different times. And the Yukon Fall
41 Chum Management Plan, I think that was the first OEG put
42 in in the state, maybe, that differed from a biological
43 escapement goal. The Department fought it like crazy but
44 the Board passed it anyway. So now OEGs are a common
45 occurrence throughout the state there's no reason why not
46 to make this an OEG.

47
48 The other thing is is a lot of the
49 regulations are scattered throughout the regulation book.
50 It's better to have them all in one spot that affect one

00171

1 area so it's only common sense to include the Toklat as
2 part of the Fall Chum Management Plan.

3

4 I'm in favor of the proposal.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Gerald.

9

10 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, Virg, are you
11 in favor of 151, too, you were just talking about 150?

12

13 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, I favor both of them.

14

15 MR. TITUS: So what are we voting on, 150
16 or 151?

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Both.

19

20 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Both.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Both.

23

24 MR. TITUS: What's the difference?

25

26 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: One proposal is to
27 include the Toklat River since it's one management plan
28 into the overall management plan into and the other
29 proposal is to change the OEG, that's that one number to
30 the BEG, a range. The mover was in support of both of
31 these proposals and it's been seconded and the question
32 has been called.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. The question has
35 been called, all those in favor of supporting Proposals
36 150 and 151 signify by saying aye.

37

38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed, same sign.

41

42 (No opposing votes)

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Issue
45 No. 6, Proposal 174. Pete Probasco.

46

47 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 State Proposal 174 is a proposal that the CFC,
49 Coordinated Fisheries Committee on Friday and Saturday
50 spent considerable time discussing. The proposal is

00172

1 fairly straightforward. The proponent is requesting that
2 the sportfishery openings and closures align with the
3 subsistence fisheries openings and closures.

4

5 So in other words, when a subsistence
6 fishery is closed the sportfishery would be closed. When
7 the subsistence fishery is open the sportfishery would be
8 open.

9

10 And that's Proposal 174 in a nut shell,
11 Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: ADF&G.

14

15 MR. BURR: I'm John Burr with the
16 Sportfish Division from Fairbanks. I have a couple of
17 comments about this proposal.

18

19 First off, that's not the proposal in a
20 nutshell. The proposal requests that the.....

21

22 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I can hardly
23 hear him.

24

25 MR. BURR: I will try again and put it
26 over here. Can you hear me better now? This proposal
27 asks that the highly efficient gear types, the net
28 fishery and the fishwheels which are controlled with this
29 schedule -- anyway, let me start again here.

30

31 This proposal is asking that the fishing
32 schedule that applies to the gillnets and to the
33 fishwheels be applied also to the rod and reel
34 sportfishery. I know that we're going to talk later on
35 today -- oh, the other part of this proposal is that it,
36 again, request that the sportfishery be regulated in
37 correspondence with the level of abundance of king
38 salmon.

39

40 We are probably going to talk later on
41 this morning about the purposes again -- we're going to
42 talk again about the purposes of this schedule that the
43 Board of Fish put together as part of this management
44 plan. And of course, the purposes of that schedule are
45 going to improve the quality of escapement, to not focus
46 on one part of the run and to distribute more fish up
47 river.

48

49 The schedule was not primarily directed
50 at reducing the harvest, the subsistence harvest of king

00173

1 salmon but to provide these windows so the fish could go
2 through and wouldn't be impacted by these highly
3 efficient gear types.

4

5 In all of the Kuskokwim and most of the
6 Yukon River there is a rod and reel fishing opportunity
7 seven days a week. So what this would do would take the
8 sportfishery and put it in with the highly efficient net
9 fisheries while continuing to have this rod and.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pardon me, but I think
12 that this proposal just addresses the fact that we cannot
13 have one fishery open while the other one is closed. And
14 this is, again, commercial versus subsistence, and I
15 think that is all that this proposal addresses. The
16 windows and everything else will probably come up when we
17 revisit Proposal 132. As far as I'm concerned all this
18 proposal addresses is the openings and closings of both
19 subsistence and/or sport fisheries. We cannot have one
20 open while the other is closed. And I think, again, my
21 statement is clear, it is just another proposal that
22 states the fact that commercial interests and subsistence
23 just don't always agree with each other.

24

25 That's all it states as far as I'm
26 concerned.

27

28 Gerald.

29

30 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, John Burr,
31 you're just confusing me. This proposal is put out
32 because when we're restricted, closing, we're restricted
33 from subsistence and we see another person allowed to
34 fish that hurts me inside. That hurts. It doesn't
35 matter what your management schemes are. And when we see
36 you guys playing out there with fish and letting it back
37 loose, that's playing with our food. So I'll be in
38 support of this proposal.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Pardon
41 the Chairs for going off our line of proposal review
42 procedure and we'll now go into agency -- other agencies.

43

44 (No comment)

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are there any other
47 agencies.

48

49 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Jennifer.

50

00174

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jennifer just state your
2 name and agency you represent, please.

3

4 MS. HOOPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 Regional Councils. My name is Jennifer Hooper. I am
6 Deputy Director of the Natural Resources Department for
7 AVCP and, yes, this is a proposal that was submitted by
8 AVCP.

9

10 And basically the background is exactly
11 what Gerald's comments were just a few minutes ago. Ever
12 since subsistence has been restricted in our rivers, AVCP
13 has felt it has been unfair and unequitable that other
14 uses are continued to allow seven days a week when
15 subsistence people have to stay home and pull their nets
16 out of the water.

17

18 I know we've heard over and over again
19 that the take by sports fishermen is minimal, mortality
20 is low, but I was just reading through the proposal and
21 under what will happen if nothing is done, the already
22 waning public support for the Yukon River King Salmon
23 Management Plan as it relates to the subsistence
24 restrictions may evaporate completely. It's harsh but I
25 think it's reality. People, subsistence people will
26 continue to see that everyone is treated fair and
27 equitable when we're all facing low returns.

28

29 And just to add a few more things. An
30 issue paper was submitted by AVCP in March along with two
31 proposals to the Federal Board regarding the same issue
32 and we had support from four village councils. And I
33 know we have some resolutions on the books related to
34 this. I don't have them with me now. But just to
35 reaffirm AVCP's position and to offer some background.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
40 agency comments.

41

42 (No comment)

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more public comments.

45

46 (No comment)

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Regional Council
49 deliberations.

50

00175

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: This proposal, I think I
2 understand why it's written. One of the elders in Bethel
3 area was telling me that he was really broken heart, how
4 the subsistence, it's not a priority the way he looking
5 at. Because sportfishermen was fishing and he have to
6 stay on the beach and looking at him because the
7 subsistence was closed.

8

9 That's why I think this proposal written,
10 make sure that when subsistence closed, the commercial
11 should close too. I really wholeheartedly support what
12 AVCP was doing.

13

14 Mr. Chairman.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Harry. At this
17 time the Chair will entertain a motion to support
18 Proposal 174.

19

20 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
21 174 as written.

22

23 MS. GREGORY: Second the motion.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved by Virgil.

26

27 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Second.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Gerald and
30 Mary. Any further discussion.

31

32 MR. WALKER: Ron.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

35

36 MR. WALKER: Question.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called
39 for.

40

41 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I want to say
42 something.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Gerald and then
45 Virgil.

46

47 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, thank you,
48 Jennifer. I like your comment waning public support for
49 our management plan.

50

00176

1 I agree. I agree with this. You know,
2 even in Tanana we have people like Lester Cobbs coming
3 down to Fish Creek and stuff and they says, yeah, this is
4 not a sports fishery but you could look back through the
5 ages, look what happened to the Dall River and their
6 fish, their subsistence residents or Steven's Village.
7 So I'm in favor of this, I like that public, waning
8 public for support for your guys management plan.

9

10 Thank you, Jennifer.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Virgil.

13

14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. I would like
15 everyone to get out the Coordinating Fisheries Committee
16 handout they've got and get to Page 4 on it please,
17 because I have some comments because I'm totally opposed
18 to this. I'm opposed to it for a number of reasons.
19 While you're getting it out I'll just talk just a little
20 bit here.

21

22 The first thing is the subsistence in the
23 AVCP region is seven days a week, 24 hours a day with a
24 rod and reel. I was one of the Board of Fish members
25 that supported that proposal and got it passed as the
26 first rod and reel subsistence fishery passed in the
27 state of Alaska. The traditional means was with a pole
28 and line, not with a reel on it, but we passed it that
29 way anyway and determined that that was customary and
30 traditional because it was in recent times. The reason
31 this was brought about was because of a State Trooper
32 that used very poor judgment and gave two elderly ladies
33 in Bethel a citation for fishing without a sportfish
34 license with a rod and reel. That's what brought the
35 whole issue to a head, and that's the reason the Board of
36 Fisheries passed it.

37

38 This proposal is an extremely
39 encompassing proposal. It's put in by AVCP, but they
40 want -- AVCP's proposal would affect the entire Yukon
41 River drainage, a big part of the Yukon River drainage is
42 in a non-subsistence area. That's the Fairbanks
43 Northstar Borough where I live, where over 80,000
44 Alaskans live. And many of these people are not
45 Federally-qualified subsistence users. Their area is a
46 non-subsistence area, and so the only way they can go
47 catch fish to eat to feed to their families is two ways.
48 One, is with their sportfishing license and the
49 sportfishing licenses do pay for the management of all
50 State fisheries. Not only this resident license but the

00177

1 non-resident licenses, which cost \$100 a piece. There
2 are more non-resident sportfish licenses sold in the
3 state of Alaska to support the management of our
4 fisheries than there are resident licenses. And so these
5 people that live in the Fairbanks Northstar Borough, they
6 can go personal use fishing but with the poor runs we've
7 had the Department does not want them to use the
8 efficient gear of a gillnet or a fishwheel so they've
9 been totally closed many times in the recent past.
10 That's for personal use fishing, because they might catch
11 too many fish with their gillnet. And so the only way
12 they have to catch salmon to eat is with a rod and reel.
13 That's their method of subsistence, which it is also
14 AVCP's method which goes seven days a week.

15

16 And so these people, number 1, that's the
17 only way they can catch fish to feed their family unless
18 they want to go to the grocery store. Many of them have
19 lived in Alaska their entire life and are elders.

20

21 Number 2, the largest spawning system for
22 king salmon in the entire Yukon River drainage, the two
23 largest -- two of the larger systems and the largest is
24 right in the Fairbanks Northstar Borough. The Salcha
25 River is the largest producer of king salmon in the
26 entire Yukon River drainage.

27

28 Now, I'm going to change the subject a
29 little bit here. What was said about what will happen if
30 nothing is done, what Jennifer just said, what will
31 happen if this passes is what I want to address, is there
32 will be approximately 80,000 people that live in the
33 Fairbanks area will go ballistic, they have a lot of
34 power in the Legislature. With the Republican
35 Legislature that the State has, what's happened in the
36 past when they've got mad at the State, Department of
37 Fish and Game over certain things they've cut the budget
38 and right now that's why the State Advisory Committee's
39 can only have one meeting a year, and some of you people
40 are on your advisory committee and you know you only get
41 that one meeting a year and that's because politicians
42 got made, they cut Fish and Game's budget and you got
43 your meetings cut out.

44

45 That's another thing that would happen if
46 this passes or could happen. Because there's going to be
47 a lot of mad people when they get their fishing
48 restricted.

49

50 Now, there's a special management plan

00178

1 for the sportfisheries, especially in the Tanana drainage
2 and that is that the sportfishery starts out very
3 conservative until they know how many king salmon are
4 coming up the river because they have a tower on each one
5 of these rivers and they count each and every fish and
6 you've been given reports on that earlier in the meeting,
7 as to how many fish have been going up the Chena and the
8 Salcha River. If there's not enough fish for escapement,
9 they don't even get to sportfish, they're closed. It's
10 managed strictly by how many fish make it back to those
11 rivers.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Virgil Does that conclude
14 your.....

15

16 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm almost done, about
17 one more minute, please.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just one.....

20

21 MR. UMPHENOUR: Just one more minute is
22 all I want.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Forty-five seconds.

25

26 MR. UMPHENOUR: So what I'm saying is
27 that if AVCP really wants this to happen they should only
28 do it in the AVCP region but they're going to hurt their
29 own people that have given up on being commercial
30 fishermen to support their subsistence activities and now
31 are commercial sportfish guys to support their families.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion. I
36 think we've discussed this. It doesn't matter if we go
37 up and down again, there will be a lot of people against
38 it and a lot of people for it.

39

40 Any further discussion.

41

42 MS. ENTSMINGER: I just have a question.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question. Go ahead, Sue.

45

46 MS. ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
47 just had a question, is Virgil is correct that this would
48 shut down the whole Yukon River and there are some places
49 that are non-subsistence?

50

00179

1 MR. BURR: As written that's what the
2 proposal would do.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pete, did you have
5 something to add?

6
7 MR. PROBASCO: I guess I would refer to
8 my State counterparts. My question is how the Board of
9 Fisheries views the personal use areas as it relates to
10 management of a subsistence fishery? that would be the
11 question. And I think it would probably take a legal
12 interpretation so I think we're unsure as far as how it
13 would apply to a personal use area.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. For my
16 clarification and the rest of the Council members
17 clarification, if this passes all it does is just passes
18 on a recommendation to the Federal Board.....

19
20 MS. ENTSMINGER: State.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM:and directs our
23 representative or member who will represent us there to
24 testify on our behalf, this has not yet passed the State
25 Board of Fisheries and I don't know which way they'll go
26 but all this is is our recommendation to our member,
27 that's as far as it goes; is that correct, Pete?

28
29 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Ron, that is
30 correct and they also would be able to speak on all three
31 or their respective Councils concerns, in other words,
32 the issues pro and con to the proposal. So it gives them
33 a lot of leeway with the Board of Fisheries.

34
35 Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, this has not passed
38 the Board of Fisheries or not even us at this time and
39 all we are doing is making a recommendation, I want that
40 clear.

41
42 Any further discussion.

43
44 (No comment)

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not -- I'll go voice
47 vote. If not, all those in favor of supporting Proposal
48 174 signify by saying aye.

49
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

00180

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed, same sign.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: The record will note that
6 Virgil Umphenour voted no. The next item on the agenda
7 is to revisit Proposal 132 and the only other reason that
8 we will want to revisit it is to develop a stand or
9 reiterate a stand on ichthyophonus. What's the correct
10 proceedings on revisiting, Pete?

11

12 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. I would
13 recommend we do the same process, we bring Proposal 132
14 to the table. We will briefly describe it for you, what
15 we view the intent is.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, let's proceed.

18

19 MR. PROBASCO: Okay. Mr. Chair.
20 Proposal 132, and most of you do have the Board of Fish
21 packets is found on Page 134 and we do have Tracie here
22 that's very familiar with this issue and essentially as I
23 stated earlier, Proposal 132 is requesting that the Board
24 of Fish clarify on the record what their intent was with
25 the fishing schedules as they pertain to subsistence and
26 commercial fisheries.

27

28 And Tracie, do you have anything else
29 you'd like to add?

30

31 MR. KRAUTHOEFER: Mr. Chair, thank you. I
32 do have some comments and this is concerning the
33 ichthyophonus, not so much the proposal.

34

35 MR. PROBASCO: Just the proposal first,
36 Proposal 132.

37

38 MR. KRAUTHOEFER: 132 is similar to the
39 other proposals that you saw before you in the Federal
40 regulations where if, enacted, this proposal would keep
41 the Department from allowing subsistence fishing beyond
42 the two 36 hour periods, and if I also understand it
43 correctly, that commercial fishing would also have to
44 occur during that same timeframe. And therefore, if
45 subsistence fishers were out there, you would have
46 commercial fishing and subsistence fishing occurring at
47 the same time.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Dan, you had something to
50 add, ADF&G?

00181

1 MR. BERGSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I
2 think Virgil has talked about this, this is the one that
3 is his proposal, and it's kind of difficult to kind of
4 get exactly what's going on, it says clarify the Board's
5 intent. We have seen -- how we view it is that what it's
6 asking for is that the subsistence schedule always be in
7 place through the runs, so you'd have the schedule in --
8 and each district, as you know, has different times,
9 different districts have different schedules. But how we
10 understand the proposal, it's asking to stay in that all
11 the time.

12

13 And the Department will be recommending
14 as they did -- this came up as an ACR, this last spring,
15 and we'll be recommending to have more flexibility that
16 the schedule goes off if there's commercial periods and
17 it changes how the fishery operates and we would
18 recommend that as we did this last summer, that as the
19 run looks better, that the time would increase over the
20 schedule, that there be more subsistence fishing time and
21 we did that like in District 4 this last year, even
22 though they didn't have commercial fishing, we delayed a
23 little bit to protect the front end of the run which was
24 protected all along the river and then we put in more
25 subsistence fishing time. And we want to base it on the
26 size of the run that when there's more fish there's a
27 little more flexibility in the fishing time in matching
28 up with what the traditional times would have been before
29 that schedule was put in.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pete, for my
32 clarification, you said we addressed it under Federal
33 Proposal what?

34

35 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. When I
36 presented the issue papers for you, you spent
37 considerable time yesterday discussing Proposal 9 and 11
38 as the Federal proposals deal with subsistence fishing
39 schedules and periods. And I felt that because your
40 discussion focused on schedules and periods and that the
41 Councils, when they discussed, I heard no one object to
42 the need for fishing schedules when the stocks were of
43 low abundance.

44

45 And I did hear, also, though, that there
46 were members here that felt that when we did rebuild
47 these runs that the subsistence fishing schedules need to
48 be reviewed and also discussed the importance of
49 maintaining those schedules once those runs are rebuilt.

50

00182

1 And that was based on my recommendation,
2 I thought you had covered the topic. But with respect to
3 Mr. Umphenour, his proposal does step a little bit
4 further, in that, it's trying to seek clarification, what
5 happens with the fishing schedules as they pertain to
6 commercial and subsistence fisheries.

7

8 Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pete. So with
11 that, we have already gone through Staff analysis and
12 agency -- I mean ADF&G comments; is that correct, Vince?

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Agency comments.

17

18 (No comment)

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Other agency comments.
21 Ethan Schutt, Tanana Chiefs.

22

23 MR. SCHUTT: Good morning, my name is
24 Ethan Schutt, I'm the general counsel at Tanana Chiefs
25 Conference.

26

27 As I understand Virgil's concerns, one of
28 the issues that he's been really forcing to the table
29 here is the ichthyophonous issue. And to me, this is the
30 elephant that's been sitting in the corner the whole time
31 we've been here.

32

33 Ichthyophonous, the preliminary scientific
34 indications have infection rates ranging between 25 and
35 45 percent of the fish. Yesterday we got into an
36 emotional debate about increased efficiency in Ruby and
37 Galena that might have had a net effect of a thousand
38 fish at the maximum. We're talking about an infection
39 that's possibly hitting 30, 40, 50,000 fish in the
40 system. The magnitude of this issue blows all these
41 other issues out of the water.

42

43 If we don't address ichthyophonous now and
44 we wait for five years to have a full scientific
45 understanding then we've wasted one whole life cycle of
46 salmon. Ichthyophonous must be considered in the
47 management plans, these Councils really should state a
48 position on ichthyophonous so that State and Federal
49 managers have a clear picture of what the subsistence
50 users care about. And what the subsistence care about

00183

1 and it's been stated over and over is the viability of
2 these stocks, first and foremost. If these stocks don't
3 remain viable then you don't have a subsistence use.
4 Eventually your subsistence use will be cut off
5 completely in order to preserve the stocks and rebuild
6 them.

7

8 If we can't address ichthyophonus then
9 we'll be here in five years trying to figure out how we
10 can have some Tier II fishery on the Yukon-Kuskokwim
11 drainages.

12

13 A secondary issue on ichthyophonus is
14 that the debate is occurring almost entirely on the king
15 salmon fishery. We all know that the chum salmon are the
16 biological drivers for the system. It's the chum salmon
17 carcasses that put the nutrients on the spawning grounds
18 to allow for good productions of fish stocks. So people
19 really should be considering ichthyophonus in the chum
20 salmon populations as well.

21

22 I think the position of TCC has been made
23 clear in its special action request earlier this summer,
24 that ichthyophonus is a serious management concern and
25 that we have been pushing for State and Federal managers
26 to put a buffer in place in their management plans to
27 account for this known -- scientifically known issue that
28 does not have, you know, the impacts are not fully
29 understood, but the impacts are very serious. There are
30 indications that the fish that are infected with
31 ichthyophonus are not spawners. They die before they
32 reach the spawning grounds or they reach the spawning
33 grounds, particularly the females with eggs that have
34 become shriveled and that they're not biological
35 reproductive. The whole management regime is based on
36 raw aggregate numbers. You do have a system wide
37 management based on a raw aggregate number principally
38 derived from things like a sonar counter at pilot
39 station.

40

41 If your whole management regime is based
42 on this raw aggregate number and you're deciding fishing
43 schedules and user allocations but you're making no
44 allocation for this known reduction in your spawning
45 stock then you're basically omitting a significant
46 mortality rate just the same as pulling them out of the
47 river with a net or a rod or reel or however you're
48 pulling them out of the river, they're not going into the
49 spawning grounds and being productive.

50

00184

1 I think, you know, some of this is also
2 poorly understood because the stock that breed in Canada
3 and some of the other further reaches are affected at a
4 higher level or there are indications that they are
5 affected at a higher level than the stock that spawn
6 further down on the lower tributaries.

7
8 So there are a number of significant
9 issues with ichthyophonus and in my mind is the most
10 significant issue and these three Councils should state
11 their position to the Federal Subsistence Board so that
12 it's clear to the State and Federal managers.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further public
17 comment. Jennifer.

18
19 MS. HOOPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
20 Councils. I just have a couple of quick comments. I am
21 not in a position to make a statement on behalf of AVCP
22 regarding ichthyophonus. We realize how it is a grave
23 concern of a lot of people and that it could have great
24 impacts on the fisheries. I just wanted to make a note
25 that AVCP as stated by Tim before, is against having
26 windows set in stone that do not give the Department and
27 the Service flexibility to manage for all user groups.
28 And I also think you're almost being pushed to find a
29 specific proposal where ichthyophonus fits and I think
30 it's -- as far as I know it's in your purview to make
31 recommendations separately from trying to find an
32 existing proposal to fit an issue in that might not be
33 the best place.

34
35 So I'm just -- an observation that I get
36 the sense that you're trying to be pushed into making a
37 decision based on a large separate -- although tied
38 issue.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jennifer. As
41 all three Councils are aware, we do not have a motion on
42 the floor so one option we do have in front of us is to
43 revisit State Proposal 150 and 1511 and do incorporate
44 the ichthyophonus issue into the program. We could do
45 that by amendment. I think that may work before we go
46 back into Proposal 132. But that is at the pleasure of
47 the Councils.

48
49 Gerald.
50

00185

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, thank you,
2 Chairman. Ethan, I think all we could do right now is
3 support the concept of keep funding those studies of
4 ichthyophonus because it seems like they're always -- and
5 I don't know how we could incorporate ichthyophonus into
6 a management scheme or plans or anything but it is a
7 serious issue that should be -- should be taken up but I
8 think the only thing that these three Councils can do is
9 support funding for further ichthyophonus studies and
10 more funding at that, I think that's the only thing we
11 could do right now.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Lester Wilde, then Micky
14 Stickman and then Jack. One, two, three.

15

16 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, if you look
17 at the Proposal 132 as it's written in the book, I don't
18 know exactly what this proposal is it only states a
19 problem and it mentions ichthyophonus as part of the
20 proposal and the proposal is confusing to me because as
21 far as I can tell there is no proposal, it's just a
22 statement, unless there are some parts of it missing.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky Stickman and then
25 Jack.

26

27 MR. STICKMAN: I'm a little bit confused
28 here because, you know, we're dealing with numbers and
29 fishing schedules, different stocks of fish, but, you
30 know, we sit on these Councils for the subsistence people
31 in our regions, you know. And ichthyophonus is a big
32 deal, because like Ethan said, they don't even have the
33 true mortality rate of the fish that do die with
34 ichthyophonus so it does have an affect on all
35 subsistence users that do use the fish because there is a
36 mortality rate there that's not incorporated into the
37 management plan.

38

39 I would say in effect, it probably
40 lessens the amount of time that we are allowed to
41 subsistence fish, basically. That's what I think.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack Reakoff.

46

47 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'm
48 distraught to try to bring this issue into a proposal. I
49 felt that this -- I feel strongly that this issue should
50 have been on our agenda. I feel that our biologists

00186

1 should have had this on our agenda. And this
2 ichthyophonus problem is an extremely concerning issue.
3 I obtained this latest copy of Dr. Kosan's here, I had
4 this copied off so that all of these Council members can
5 take a look at it in their spare time.

6
7 But the bottom line is if you look at the
8 past four years of data, from 1999 through 2003, the 2003
9 data is not complete, I caution everybody on that. The
10 managers are concerned about that issue, but there's
11 infection rates ranging with female chinook on the Yukon
12 ranging between 28 to 42 percent. There's a few of the
13 chinooks getting to the spawning ground that are found
14 dead in the spawning ground but only a very few. This is
15 a very concerning issue.

16
17 I feel that in the future, managers of
18 the fishery should be very cautious about bemoaning of
19 over escapements, slight over escapements when we have a
20 perceived over escapements when we have a very serious
21 concern coming on and this ichthyophonus was not known,
22 according to Dr. Kosan in Pacific salmon before the mid-
23 80s, in the mid-80s it began showing up in the Yukon.

24
25 I'll let Virgil talk.

26
27 MR. MCCANN: Mr. Chairman.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Billy McCann, then Virgil,
30 and then who else?

31
32 MS. GREGORY: Me.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Billy McCann, Virgil
35 Umphenour and Mary Gregory.

36
37 MR. MCCANN: Okay. I'm kind of worried
38 now on my mind talking about the fish disease. I better
39 do it in my Eskimo, maybe you could translate it better.

40
41 (In Yup'ik)

42
43 INTERPRETER: I'm worried about this
44 ichthyophonus problem that's been brought up. And he's
45 very concerned right now. Because he knows that -- he's
46 kind of afraid that we're talking about fish so much and
47 then is that how we're going to lose our fish stocks
48 through this disease, from our creator, since we're
49 fighting about them so much.

50

00187

1 I'm going to give you an experience about
2 we had a lot of reindeer herds. Then once people started
3 fighting over them, the wolves killed them all off and
4 now we do not have any reindeer herds, so let's not fight
5 too much. That's why we have to keep in mind -- he's
6 completely worried now about the disease and our managers
7 aren't even seeming to be concerned about that.

8
9 And even though they're managing and
10 making a living off our fish, that is why those of us who
11 are subsistence users, it's up to us, our villagers, our
12 people's fish, we need to look into this issue further
13 and find out where that disease comes from before it
14 spreads, it's scary.

15
16 Maybe our fish stocks will be completely
17 depleted through that disease so we need to find out what
18 that disease is, where it is, where is it coming from.

19
20 And then our fishing, our subsistence
21 fishing schedule, you need to -- we need to ask our
22 people who actually subsist out there, because they do --
23 we have to watch the weather before we go out to eat and
24 when the weather is good before all the flies are out,
25 but we need to have our -- the people who are working on
26 these fish so it's important since our people at home who
27 are the ones actually looking at the fish, we need to
28 consult them too.

29
30 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, thank you,
31 Billy. I think I have written down here Mary.....

32
33 MS. GREGORY: Virgil.

34
35 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Oh, Virgil, then Mary
36 and then John Hanson, okay.

37
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
39 In 1999, I bought fish in District 5, in the rapids area,
40 that's 40 miles up river from Tanana, this was in a
41 commercial fisher.

42
43 A couple months later Tanana Chiefs
44 Conference was going to have a party so they wanted 200
45 pounds of Yukon king salmon fillets for their dinner. So
46 I took 29 king salmon out of my freezer, nice looking
47 king salmon on the outside, I started fillet those king
48 salmon, I noticed that a lot of them had ichthyophonous so
49 I called Lewis Barton, the biologist at Fish and Game at
50 Fairbanks to come and watch while we fillet these 29 king

00188

1 salmon. When we finished fillet the 29 king salmon, 15
2 of the 29 had ichthyophonous so bad that I gave them away
3 to dog mushers for dog food.

4
5 These fish, if you see them, once they're
6 opened and fillet and have ichthyophonous very bad, you
7 know that that fish is not going to live much longer.

8
9 Now, if you look in my proposal it says
10 that in the year -- I didn't put the year 2002, but it
11 was 2002, only 12 percent of the king salmon that I
12 bought in the village of Nenana, most of them and a few
13 from up near -- below Fairbanks in the commercial
14 fishery, that only 12 percent of these fish were females.
15 Now, it's in Dr. Kosan's report that as high as -- well,
16 Jack, I think, just said 42 percent of the females have
17 had ichthyophonous, it's in his report that they die
18 probably over -- over half of them die before they get to
19 the river they're going to go up. I know for a fact that
20 this summer, because I work with Dr. Kosan, I store his
21 supplies and things like that for him in Fairbanks, I
22 know that there were 12 king salmon with these radio tags
23 in them that were near the mouth of the Chena River and
24 they weren't moving. It was assumed that they were dead
25 and he was going to go get divers, they had some divers
26 and they were going to try to find these dead king salmon
27 with the radios in them to try to figure out if those
28 king salmon died at the mouth of the Chena River from
29 ichthyophonous. But I had to leave and go sheep hunting
30 and I didn't talk to him since.

31
32 But, anyway, if 25 percent of the king
33 salmon don't get to the spawning grounds and that's the
34 guess in his report, that 25 percent don't, then if you
35 take the spawning escapement for Canada and you go from
36 our report, if you look on Page 72 of our book that we
37 all have, our joint RAC meeting book, it has total run of
38 Canadian origin chinook salmon and it has in the clear
39 bar escapement. You see that in '98, '99 and 2000 -- or
40 '98/99 and 2000 they were way below the escapement. In
41 2001 when we had no commercial fishery and the windows
42 were open throughout the entire season they got up a
43 little over 40,000. But if you take 25 percent off of
44 that 40,000, then you're down just barely making
45 escapement. Then you take 2002, you take 25 percent off
46 that you're way, way below the escapement goal.

47
48 And so what I'm trying to say is the
49 Board of Fish and the Department can take action. What I
50 think they need to do is they need to use what's called a

00189

1 precautionary principle in the sustainable salmon
2 fisheries policy which is a regulation of the Board of
3 Fisheries. They need to use that regulation and use the
4 precautionary principle and try to figure out how many
5 more king salmon they need to put on the spawning grounds
6 to account for the ones that are going to die of
7 ichthyophonus before they get there.

8

9 But this, like the person from Tanana
10 Chiefs said, this is an extremely serious issue and we
11 need to be paying attention to it because if we don't, we
12 may not have enough fish for subsistence and you really
13 will have some real windows because you'll be closed and
14 won't get the fish, to catch a fish to eat and it would
15 be ashamed if that happened because we don't adhere to or
16 look at the precautionary principle.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Virgil. Mary
21 Gregory and then John Hanson. And just for all Councils,
22 just to refresh our memory, we do not have a motion on
23 the floor one way or the other, and I just got a note
24 that under Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan for 2004,
25 which is next on our agenda will discuss ichthyophonus
26 projects.

27

28 So how far do we want to go into this
29 discussion? We still have 132 before us.

30

31 MS. GREGORY: My turn.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mary Gregory.

34

35 MS. GREGORY: Unless my English is messed
36 up, my English comprehension, this is not a proposal for
37 ichthyophonus, instead it's trying to do away with the 24
38 hour day and I'd like Mr. Umphenour to explain because it
39 doesn't address the ichthyophonus disease, it only
40 mentions it in your problem area.

41

42 So this is different, it says Proposal
43 132 speaks to fishing seasons and periods on these Alaska
44 Statutes and Yukon River king salmon Management Plan and
45 also fishing seasons and fishing periods and Kuskokwim
46 River Salmon Building Management, and Mr. Umphenour
47 doesn't want 24 hour opening in those areas.

48

49 And as far as I can remember we've been
50 fishing for 24 hours since I was a little girl. The only

00190

1 windows were put like two years ago. So we didn't have
2 windows until two years to rebuild the Kuskokwim
3 management plan, work with the State people there.

4

5 So this is not ichthyophonus, don't get
6 it wrong, we're not dealing with the disease here, we're
7 dealing with openings.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: John Hanson.

10

11 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 This proposal here is, I finally got to it, it is not a
13 proposal because it only tells what's happening on the
14 windows but I presume it's for District 1, 2 and 3. We
15 don't have 24 hour fishing periods in those districts, we
16 only have two 36 hours.

17

18 And I think what I am going to propose is
19 that I'll just call for a vote not to support it because
20 I think there's another one, one more, 132 in here
21 someplace from Virgil, this one here is for Yukon River
22 King Salmon Management Plan and the other one has the
23 same thing.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Again, for our
28 clarification, we did ask Pete Probasco and ADF&G to
29 introduce to us 132 but we suspended the rules because we
30 did not have a motion one way or the other. So to
31 clarify where we're at, I know we've lost a good half an
32 hour or 45 minutes of just trying to incorporate
33 ichthyophonus into this issue -- into this proposal.
34 However, we did get a note that we can -- ichthyophonus
35 will be discussed in our Fisheries Resources Monitoring
36 Plan. That may be the way to go as far as ichthyophonus
37 is concerned, which is next on our agenda.

38

39 So I guess we're back to revisiting
40 Proposal 132; is that right? Is that correct, Pete?

41

42 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. You did bring
43 132 to the table, and you summarized it very well. We
44 started discussing 132 and then we moved to ichthyophonus
45 and it's your pleasure, Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. At that time we're
48 trying to incorporate the issue of ichthyophonus into the
49 proposal. However, we can bring ichthyophonus up under
50 Fisheries Resources Monitoring Plan; is that fine with

00191

1 everyone?

2

3

Jack, then Virgil.

4

5

MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I was unaware that ichthyophonous was anywhere in our packet. I still don't see it, and I guess it's somewhere. I want to discuss that at an appropriate time and it's probably not in this proposal.

10

11

CHAIRMAN SAM: Virgil.

12

13

MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, I all I want to do is clear up what my proposal is. The reason my proposal does not say exactly -- it doesn't propose something. Up at the top it says fishing seasons and periods and it gives a whole bunch of different regulation numbers, what those are are the regulations that are in the regulation book.

19

20

21

My proposal was just to clarify what Dr. John White from Bethel who chaired the Kuskokwim Committee three years ago or this January will make three years ago and the committee that I chaired which was Yukon River committee, what our intent was as regards to the windows in those proposals. On the Kuskokwim it was a fishing schedule of four days a week of fishing and three days a week of not fishing. In the Yukon River for District 1, 2 and 3 it was two 36 hour periods per week. That's all that proposal is to do is to clarify what the Board of Fish's intent was when they passed those two regulations.

32

33

34

That's why it doesn't have a whole bunch of writing and, in fact, what the Department of Fish and Game did is took my agenda change request and the Board of Fisheries, when I appeared before them for my agenda change request, they did not want to address it at that -- what they did is scheduled it for this board meeting coming up in January because the agenda change request took place -- when I appeared before the board was last spring so they want to readdress it and that's why it's in the book.

43

44

45

But the window -- but the ichthyophonous is very important, because the reason for -- Dr. White and I putting these windows in -- we've heard this probably 50 times at this meeting was to get quality escapement on the spawning grounds. Part of quality escapement on the spawning grounds is allowing for the

50

00192

1 fish that have ichthyophonus, and we could make a motion
2 here, right now, that would be nothing more than to write
3 a letter from the three Councils asking the Board of
4 Fisheries to consider ichthyophonus when they review the
5 management plans. We could do that.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Virgil. Again,
10 we do not have a motion on the floor, we can take any
11 action we want, and it's getting to the point where as
12 far as I'm concerned, we're not obligated to introduce
13 anything at this time. It is five after 12; Vince, just
14 to clarify, quickly and then I saw that Lester had his
15 hand up there, too.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, maybe I could
18 give a suggestion here that's been provided to me. Why
19 don't we separate out the ichthyophonus question and
20 Staff's available to draft the resolution that would
21 address the concerns. We'll bring that back after lunch.
22 Take up 132 now if you so desire and vote it up and down,
23 and then ichthyophonus would probably come up during the
24 appropriate time after I talk to other Staff. But we
25 could work during lunch to come up with a resolution that
26 will maybe speed this along.

27

28 That would be before all three Councils
29 to present to the Federal Subsistence Board if they agree
30 to that resolution.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Lester Wilde,
33 and then Gerald Nicholia.

34

35 MR. L. WILDE: Was there a motion for
36 anything on 132?

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's no motion
39 whatsoever.

40

41 MR. L. WILDE: In that case I'll leave my
42 remarks until there is such a motion.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald.

47

48 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I don't think we
49 should even do anything with 132, really.

50

00193

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, as far as revisiting
2 132, I think all w wanted was some clarifications on
3 language and I think that's all you wanted to be
4 reconsidered, is there anything else to add.

5
6 Vince. Virgil.

7
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: Nothing else then on 132.
9 But I would like to make a motion to do what Vince just
10 said and we could look at that, whatever the Department
11 comes up with after lunch and at that time we can decide
12 whether we want to vote on that or not.

13
14 MR. TITUS: Second.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion and
17 there's a second. Now, I got to know the motion before I
18 go any further. The motion was to introduce a resolution
19 specifically addressing ichthyophonus; is this correct?

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, it'd be just
22 a lot easier for the Council just to direct Staff to
23 draft up and you give us a couple of people instead of
24 going through a formal motion on this and then we'll
25 bring it back before you and then you can take and do the
26 resolution up or down or modify. I don't think we need a
27 motion on this.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: So withdrawal of the
30 third, fourth, fifth, sixth, second and the maker of the
31 motion.....

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM:there is no motion --
36 no motion on the floor, so just directing Staff to come
37 up with a resolution.

38
39 Let's all leave it at that and go to
40 lunch. After lunch, Harry Wilde will be Chairing and
41 we'll go into Fisheries Resources Management.

42
43 Pete.

44
45 MR. PROBASCO: Yes, Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: 1:30, all right.

48
49 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. That completes
50 our work on all fisheries proposals at this point.

00194

1 (Applause)

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. What time do
6 we want to come back, is 1:30 fine?

7

8 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, 1:30.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: 1:30, let's try to get
11 things done. 1:30. Chairman Wilde will call the meeting
12 back to order at 1:30.

13

14 (Off record)

15

16 (On record)

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're going to start.
19 If you guys want to talk, go out there and talk outdoors.

20

21 (Pause)

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're ready, let's go.
24 Vince, housekeeping.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, it's a
27 small one. It's been corrected, those that I mentioned
28 this morning, the YRDFA board members saying that you
29 were going to go into Anchorage tomorrow night, that's
30 changed, you're going to stay here. So if you got
31 questions on that get a hold of myself or if Jill is
32 still here. That's the only housekeeping thing I have at
33 this time.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Vince. Next
36 agenda is the resolution.

37

38 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Jack.

41

42 MR. REAKOFF: We drafted a resolution
43 during the lunch hour. This will be the from the Yukon-
44 Kuskokwim Delta, Western Interior and Eastern Interior
45 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils:

46

47 Whereas, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta,
48 Western Interior, Eastern Interior
49 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory
50 Council, Tri-Council, have a major

00195

1 interest in the production of salmon for
2 customary and traditional uses and
3 associated uses such as commercial
4 harvest;

5
6 Whereas the ichthyophonus is a major
7 threat to spawning salmon production in
8 the Yukon River drainage;

9
10 Whereas the ichthyophonus is estimated to
11 increase female mortality by 25 percent
12 prior to spawning;

13
14 Now, therefore, be it resolved that the
15 Tri-Council respectfully requests the
16 Federal Subsistence Board and the Alaska
17 Board of Fisheries to implement
18 precautionary principles from the
19 sustained, both salmon fisheries policy
20 and conservation mandates from ANILCA
21 based on best available science. FSB,
22 the Federal Subsistence Board and the
23 Board of Fish make a mortality allocation
24 for ichthyophonus based on best available
25 science, US Fish and Wildlife Service and
26 the Office of Subsistence Management to
27 continue funding of Dr. Kosan's research
28 on ichthyophonus in the Yukon River
29 chinook in 2004 and future years.

30
31 And this would be signed by the three
32 Chairs and dated. And there's supposed to be some other
33 copies being developed for all of the Council members
34 here pretty soon.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ron.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald.

41
42 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I move to adopt this
43 proposal from the Western Interior concerning
44 ichthyophonus.

45
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Second.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ron.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, for clarification

00196

1 purposes it is a Tri-Council, and look at the heading,
2 it's YK-Delta, Western Interior, Eastern so just for the
3 record it is being introduced under a Tri-Council
4 heading.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We have discussion for
9 resolution.

10

11 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester Wilde.

14

15 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I just would
16 like to know what this precautionary principles of
17 sustainable salmon fisheries policy is exactly, in
18 totality? I really don't know what that is.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ron.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, to clarify it,
23 Virgil did touch on it before we broke for lunch and I
24 think Virgil Umphenour is the only one that -- I mean he
25 can explain it at this time. I would ask that you do,
26 Virgil.

27

28 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
29 Just a second, let me find it in the reg book here. I've
30 got it, I think on the next page here -- I wish I would
31 have had a warning here before I was going to have to
32 find this.

33

34 (Pause)

35

36 MR. UMPHENOUR: This is in the
37 sustainable salmon fishery which is in regulation, 5 AAC
38 39.222, policy for the management of sustainable salmon
39 fisheries. A precautionary approach involving the
40 application of prudent foresight that takes into account
41 the uncertainties in salmon fisheries and habitat
42 management, the biological, social, cultural and economic
43 risks and the need to take action with incomplete
44 knowledge should be applied to the regulation and control
45 of harvest and other human induced sources with salmon
46 mortality.

47

48 A precautionary approach requires
49 consideration of the needs of future generations and
50 avoidance of potentially irreversible changes, prior

00197

1 identification of undesirable outcomes and of measures
2 that will avoid undesirable outcomes or correct them
3 promptly. Initiation of any necessary corrective measure
4 without delay and prompt achievement of the measures
5 purpose on attained scale not exceeding five years, which
6 is approximately the generation time of most salmon
7 species.

8

9 That, where the impact of resource use is
10 uncertain but likely presents a measurable risk to
11 sustained yield priority should be given to conserving
12 the productive capacity of the resource.

13

14 Appropriate placement of the burden of
15 proof of adherence to the requirements of this subsection
16 and those plans or ongoing activities that pose a risk or
17 hazard to salmon habitat or production.

18

19 A precautionary approach should be
20 applied to the regulation of activities that affect
21 essential salmon habitat.

22

23 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Les.

26

27 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, in that case
28 it would strengthen your statement in what will happen if
29 nothing is done, it states in your proposal that you
30 submitted -- if we let seven days per week, 24 hours per
31 day take place with large mesh gear the only thing that
32 gets to the spawning grounds are runts. Am I right in
33 assuming that?

34

35 MR. UMPHENOUR: If that question's to me,
36 that was justification that I had on my agenda change
37 request, and that has absolutely nothing to do with our
38 resolution. Our resolution is addressing our concern for
39 ichthyophonous.

40

41 MR. L. WILDE: Well, my question was the
42 reason why I wanted to know what was in the implication
43 of implementing precautionary principles of the
44 sustainable salmon fisheries policy and I think that
45 would probably fall under it.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Chairman, point of
48 order.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ron.

00198

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: While this resolution does
2 not have a number, I think at this time the only thing
3 that we are addressing at this moment is the resolution
4 in front of us. And I believe that it was motioned and
5 seconded. And at this time I think just for
6 clarification sake, I honestly believe that the only
7 thing we are addressing is this resolution in front of
8 us.

9

10 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I would like
11 to differ with you. I think that this implicates other
12 things when it states the sustainable salmon fisheries
13 policy.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone else want to.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, let's clarify the
18 issue.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ron.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Is there anyone in
23 the audience, I think this addresses -- while it
24 addresses different issues, the only thing still in front
25 of us is this resolution, that's where I'm coming from.

26

27 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Les.

30

31 MR. L. WILDE: I would like to amend this
32 resolution and strike out the first, therefore be it
33 resolved, because in Item 3 it addresses ichthyophonous
34 and funding for the Yukon.

35

36 MS. GREGORY: I second the motion.

37

38 (In Yup'ik)

39

40 INTERPRETER: She wants to remove Item 1
41 for it to be worked on, for this -- the fish that have
42 the disease of ichthyophonous so that the fish will not be
43 depleted. Inside ANILCA it says -- it states that.....

44

45 MS. GREGORY: Second the motion is, I
46 think, this is a dual -- I think it has two purposes
47 here.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ron.

50

00199

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I think this
2 resolution was purposely drawn up in that manner to
3 address both the Board of Fisheries and the Federal
4 Subsistence Board because what we're dealing and
5 operating under, this dual management is a memorandum of
6 agreement that is signed by about 10 different -- 10
7 different arms of the ADF&G and about five or six more of
8 the Federal Subsistence Management system, and that
9 memorandum of agreement is already in place and this -- I
10 think that we're addressing both the Federal Subsistence
11 Board and the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Gerald.

14
15 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 Ron, I think what Harry is trying to allude to is that
17 precautionary principles from the sustainable salmon
18 fisheries policy, precautionary principles. That's too
19 much to leave in there, because it could allude to
20 anything.

21
22 And we don't want to leave questionable
23 things in there where we may be meaning one thing, saying
24 that, but this audience, these two agencies could take it
25 for another meaning. What I see in here is that we got
26 to be very careful of what we put down in resolutions
27 because we may have one intent but these people may use
28 this -- I could see where they could use this
29 precautionary principles, where they could like use this
30 against us for our subsistence fishing and stuff.

31
32 So the Federal Subsistence Board and the
33 Alaska Board of Fisheries implement further studies and
34 something -- I don't -- I think it should just be the
35 Federal Subsistence Board and Alaska Board of Fisheries
36 take note that ichthyophonous is adversely affecting, and
37 we don't need all that other stuff in there, because it
38 will -- it leaves too much room for it to go against us.

39
40 That's what I'm trying to say here.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Virgil.

43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. I spent about
45 five years getting this sustainable fisheries policy,
46 myself and a couple other people in regulation. It does
47 exactly the opposite of what you're afraid of. What was
48 just stated.

49
50 It is a policy that holds the

00200

1 Department's feet to the fire and they have to follow the
2 guidelines set out in the sustainable salmon fisheries
3 policy. There were a number of times in the past where
4 various Board members had different interpretations of
5 what is sustained yield, for example, one Board member, I
6 remember, thought that in the Nome area that if there was
7 enough yield for bears to have salmon to eat that we
8 didn't need any yield for humans to have salmon to eat
9 and so that's one of the reasons why we have a
10 sustainable salmon policy, we're the only state in the
11 United States that has a policy such as this, and what
12 it's for is so that we can have responsible management of
13 our fisheries, and that needs to stay in there.

14

15 That's what holds the Department's feet
16 to the fire, and the Board's feet to the fire.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

19

20 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Les,
21 wanted to pull out now therefore be it resolved, well, a
22 resolution's got to have this portion for the body to
23 make it work. If it's not in there then it's just a
24 letter written to the Federal Subsistence Board and the
25 Board of Fish. So Les, if you're reconvene on what you
26 said there, you know, you understand what I'm saying Les?

27

28 MR. L. WILDE: If I was going to go
29 through this whole thing it would take me an hour and I
30 don't want to take too much time, so I'm just stating
31 that that first paragraph, if it's to be left in there,
32 then I have no problems with having the first part left
33 in where it states that the Federal Subsistence Board and
34 the Alaska Board of Fisheries implement precautionary
35 principles, period.

36

37 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Precautionary
38 principles involving.....

39

40 MR. L. WILDE: Period.

41

42 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA:ichthyophonus,
43 how about that?

44

45 MR. L. WILDE: Yeah, that'd be okay.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Gerald.

48

49 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, thank you.

50 Yeah, Lester, how about that, what I just told you, the

00201

1 Federal Subsistence Board and Alaska Board of Fisheries
2 implement precautionary principles involving
3 ichthyophonous in sustainable salmon, that sounds a little
4 better?

5

6 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.

7

8 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay.

9

10 MR. L. WILDE: I would agree with that,
11 Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, you know, I'm
14 having a little bit problem. I never -- never been
15 taking care of resolution without a number. If it's my
16 way of doing it I wouldn't even work on this one. But
17 what happened to the number of this resolution?

18

19 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Vince.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'll take
24 responsibility that there was no number put on this
25 resolution so we can just call it right now, 03-01 so
26 everyone's clear on that and we'll clean that up down the
27 road, this is -- we can get over that.

28

29 I would request of the Chair, if I could
30 ask a question of Lester, to get some clarification on
31 his motion.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

34

35 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I will
36 withdraw my motion with the consent of my second.

37

38 MS. GREGORY: I consent.

39

40 MR. L. WILDE: And agree with the motion
41 that -- with the inclusion of the paragraph as read by --
42 or implemented by Gerald.

43

44 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: So you want me to
45 amend it?

46

47 MR. L. WILDE: Yeah, I would agree to the
48 resolution as you presented it to the Council where it
49 states that the Federal Subsistence Board, the Alaska
50 Board of Fish implement precautionary measures --

00202

1 precautionary principles involving ichthyophonus.

2

3 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, I agree.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: So the motion has been
8 removed from the floor then. Mr. Chairman, I think it
9 would just be easier to talk about possible changes to
10 this instead of doing it each change by motions. Just
11 bring them up, there were quite a few people that worked
12 to write this and maybe they can help and then at the
13 end, once we get all the things together we can make it
14 one big motion, otherwise we're going to be a long time
15 here possibly with each change.

16

17 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, wait, Gerald.

20

21 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay.

22

23 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: This is how it's
26 going to read. This is what we're going to agree to, if
27 I see opposition we're going to change it again before we
28 vote on it. The Federal Subsistence Board and the Alaska
29 Board of Fisheries implement precautionary principles
30 involving ichthyophonus from the sustainable salmon
31 fisheries policy in conservation mandates from ANILCA
32 based on best available science.

33

34 Call for the question and get it over
35 with.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ron. Ron.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, just for my
40 clarification, all we're doing is adding two words
41 precautionary principles and that's, involving
42 ichthyophonus, right? Is that correct?

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Virgil.

45

46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. We had Ethan
47 from Tanana Chiefs attorney help us write this.

48

49 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah.

50

00203

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Mr. Chairman, I would
2 request that he be allowed to come to the table.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We are open for motion.
5 There's a motion and who seconded it.

6
7 MS. GREGORY: I'll second it.

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Mary. Discussion.

10
11
12 MR. UMPHENOUR: Mr. Chairman.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Virgil.

15
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: I would like if we could,
17 the people that worked on this, to be able to explain it
18 a little bit better and I think Ethan from Tanana Chiefs
19 might be able to help a little bit as far as how strong
20 the resolution would be whether we need to make this
21 amendment or not. I'd like to have him and Jack Reakoff
22 both speak if we could before we take a vote on this.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Mr. Stickman.

25
26 MR. STICKMAN: I agree with Virgil.
27 Well, from what I understand, the precautionary principle
28 as it's stated in the original proposal, correct me if
29 I'm wrong, Virgil, those principles are tools that the
30 Board of Fish uses in the management of the fish?

31
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's correct. They're
33 required by regulation to use that.

34
35 MR. STICKMAN: So with that explanation I
36 believe I would just support the proposal as it stands.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more discussion.

39
40 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Jack.

43
44 MR. REAKOFF: We drafted this language to
45 try to get the Board of Fish and the Federal Subsistence
46 Board to take note of this -- the severity of this issue.
47 But it's my opinion if Lester wants to only use the first
48 part of that sentence up through implementing the
49 precautionary principles, involving ichthyophonus,
50 period, if that's what you want, I'm willing to adjust to

00204

1 that, myself.

2

3 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, that was
4 what I wanted from the beginning, that the rest of that
5 be deleted and the sentence stop at ichthyophonus.

6

7 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, that was why
8 I seconded his motion.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Gerald.

11

12 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: This is the Federal
13 Subsistence Board and Alaska Board of Fisheries implement
14 precautionary principles involving ichthyophonus. That's
15 how we're going to -- that's what we're going to be
16 voting on. And just vote yea or nay.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called
19 for. All who favor say aye.

20

21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed, same sign.

24

25 (No opposing votes)

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we'll clean
30 up the language and if, with your patience, we will try
31 to get that signed before you leave for your homes in the
32 next couple of days.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Vince. Next.

35

36 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chairman, my name is
37 Cliff Schleusner. Myself, and Dr. Wheeler will be
38 presenting the 2004 Draft Fisheries Resource Monitoring
39 Plan for the Yukon River.

40

41 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I think you
42 need to go to your mike so our translators can articulate
43 understand you.

44

45 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Thank you, Mary, is this
46 better?

47

48 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

49

50 MR. SCHLEUSNER: All right, I'd like to

00205

1 spend a moment getting everyone familiar with the
2 materials we're going to be discussing today. We're
3 going to be speaking about the information in the salmon-
4 colored book. This contains all the information about
5 the Draft Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan. We'll be
6 speaking under Tab A, the introduction, Tab C, which
7 contains the Yukon River Draft Fisheries Resource
8 Monitoring Plan, and also Tab D, which contains the
9 information on the inter-regional projects.

10

11 I also passed out, during the break, the
12 Yukon River issues and information needs, and we'll be
13 speaking to those also. There will be two main
14 objectives of my presentation. The first one will be to
15 have the Councils review and update the Yukon River
16 issues and information needs, I think we've heard today
17 that ichthyophonous is a major issue that could be
18 articulated within the Yukon River issues and information
19 needs, which drives the research request for our program.

20

21 And the second objective which is also an
22 action item will be to develop Council recommendations on
23 the Technical Review Committee's Draft Fisheries Resource
24 Monitoring Plan for the Yukon River.

25

26 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan
27 projects have been reviewed based on four ranking factors
28 that are developed by the Federal Subsistence Board, they
29 are strategic priority, technical and scientific merit,
30 past performance and the partnership and capacity
31 building of the projects that we received funding
32 requests for.

33

34 A lot of the projects that we received
35 this year were continuation projects that had excellent
36 track records, were scientifically and technically sound
37 that also incorporated capacity building so strategic
38 priorities was a critical component of the review process
39 this year.

40

41 There were six considerations under
42 strategic priorities; Federal jurisdiction, whether or
43 not the project was linked to Federal Conservation Unit
44 or a Federal subsistence fishery, the conservation
45 mandate, allocation priority, data gaps, or the need for
46 the information for Federal Subsistence management, the
47 role of the resource or how important it was to the
48 subsistence harvest and also local concerns. And again,
49 these local concerns are highlighted within your issues
50 and information needs for the Yukon.

00206

1 The Federal Subsistence Board has set
2 funding guidelines for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
3 Program within the seven regions of Alaska. The Yukon
4 River receives approximately 23 percent of the funding
5 for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. As you
6 recall, last year we only recommended funding projects
7 for one year. This was to allow the TRC the opportunity
8 to prioritize, not only the new projects requesting
9 funding but the existing projects that we have a history
10 of funding so that we could make sure that we were
11 addressing the highest priority information needs on the
12 Yukon.

13

14 This year there's approximately \$6.1
15 million to fund fisheries research in Alaska through the
16 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, of that, the Yukon
17 River receives approximately 1.3 million to fund both
18 stock, status and trends and the harvest monitoring and
19 traditional ecological knowledge studies.

20

21 Annually we develop a call for proposals
22 requesting research. This call includes your issues and
23 information needs. The TRC then reviews the proposals
24 that come in and along with input from the Federal and
25 State in-season managers develops a Draft Fisheries
26 Resource Monitoring Plan. This plan is then presented,
27 as I'm doing today, to the Regional Advisory Councils and
28 where we solicit your recommendations and comments on the
29 TRC recommendations. These are then forwarded to the
30 Staff Committee and they take into consideration both the
31 TRC comments, the Regional Advisory Council comments and
32 develop a funding recommendation for the Federal
33 Subsistence Board. The Federal Subsistence Board then
34 meets in December and finalizes the Fisheries Resource
35 Monitoring Plan and approves funding.

36

37 I'd like to refer you to the issues and
38 information needs document that I passed out. This is
39 kind of a busy slide, it's just kind of a placeholder,
40 we've passed that document out before you. It's just a
41 hand out that was just passed out.

42

43 As you remember in 2002, the Councils
44 empowered this Coordinating Fisheries Committee to review
45 and update the issues and information needs for the three
46 Regional Advisory Councils on the Yukon. They worked
47 with both Federal and State managers to update the issues
48 and information needs, and annually we have a request of
49 the Councils, if there's any additional issues and
50 information needs that need to be added to this list or

00207

1 any changes that need to be made, we make them during the
2 Council meetings.

3

4 One change this year that we're
5 requesting that in the 2005 call we'd like to remove
6 issues three and four from the issues and information
7 needs. These involve the Bering Sea and contaminants
8 issues, and it's a Federal Subsistence Board policy --
9 well, they're -- not to fund contaminants issues and the
10 Federal Subsistence Board has no jurisdiction in the
11 Bering Sea. So to avoid confusion from our potential
12 investigators we'd like these removed from the call so
13 that we don't receive proposals in which we are not able
14 to consider them for funding.

15

16 At this time I'd like to open it up to
17 the Councils, if there's anything that they'd like to add
18 to their issues and information needs or discuss.

19

20 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, Cliff, you were
21 just mentioning stock, status and trends earlier or were
22 you just on information?

23

24 MR. SCHLEUSNER: This is just for the
25 stock, status and trends projects.

26

27 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay. Concerning 04-
28 228.....

29

30 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Well, we will get,
31 actually to the individual projects in -- right after
32 this.

33

34 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Well, what are you
35 asking for then?

36

37 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Just updates to the
38 issues and information needs document. This is the
39 Council's list of issues and research needs on the Yukon
40 River. This is sent out annually with the call for
41 proposals to solicit proposals to address these issues.
42 So one of the things that has been discussed today that
43 is addressed under one bullet two, is ichthyophonous. I
44 mean it states in your issues and information needs to
45 assess the effects of naturally occurring phenomenon on
46 fisheries, specifically identified issues include
47 environmental disasters and climate change like the 1994
48 and 1998 floods on the Koyukuk River, unusually cold
49 winters, increasing river temperature, pathogens and
50 beavers but it does not specifically speak to

00208

1 ichthyophonus.

2

3 If it's the Council desire we could
4 incorporate that into the issues and information needs
5 this year so that in '05 when the call goes out it would
6 be identified clearly.

7

8 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I would like
9 to see the ichthyophonus be included in that list with
10 the pathogens.

11

12 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, go ahead.

15

16 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Reakoff. I took the
17 liberty of writing up a sentence that could be injected
18 into this if it would be the pleasure of the Council I
19 could read that to you. Determine the effects of
20 ichthyophonus on Yukon River salmon, it could be that
21 simple, to be interjected into the issues and information
22 needs.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I think
27 that's a very good sentence in that it says salmon and I
28 feel that chum salmon and other species should be looked
29 at also.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

32

33 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, could you
34 also include the Kuskokwim -- Yukon and the Kuskokwim?

35

36 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chairman, the
37 Kuskokwim has its own issues and information needs list
38 and that issue was already added to it.

39

40 MR. L. WILDE: Okay, I apologize, thank
41 you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

44

45 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Since this list was
46 originally adopted by consensus from the three Councils,
47 would it be appropriate to get this amendment approved by
48 the three Councils at this time?

49

50 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I move to amend this

00209

1 to include Jack's ichthyophonus deal in there.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Will you put your mike
4 on.

5

6 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I move to include
7 Jack's deal in there, could you explain that.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion. Is
10 there any second?

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Second.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by Ron.
15 Discussion.

16

17 MR. REAKOFF: To clarify, I would like to
18 use, what was that sentence again, future funding should
19 be appropriated for investigation of ichthyophonus in
20 salmon species on the Yukon River; is that about right,
21 something like that?

22

23 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

26

27 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Just as a point of
28 clarification, you'd like future funding also to be added
29 to this sentence, determine the effects of ichthyophonus
30 on Yukon River salmon?

31

32 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

33

34 MR. SCHLEUSNER: On Yukon River salmon --
35 the purpose of this is just to list the issues, it then
36 goes out with the annual call for proposals which is a
37 funding request. It's a funded mandate. So I'm not sure
38 it would be -- it'd be kind of duplicative to ask for
39 funding. This would actually go out annually with the
40 call.

41

42 MR. REAKOFF: I'll restate that.
43 Investigate ichthyophonus on salmon in the Yukon.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray Oney.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

48

49 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50 Raymond Oney. I don't know if it's mentioned anywhere in

00210

1 this paper here about including the problem of
2 permafrost. Over the years we've heard about the
3 problems of melting of the permafrost in different areas.
4 And if we could include that also in this paper to get
5 funding to study that.

6
7 You know, like I mentioned yesterday or
8 the day before yesterday, that due to the problem of deep
9 frost the melting of the permafrost, it might have some
10 effects on the spawning grounds.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ron.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Chairman, we have a
17 motion on the floor and if we want to include that and
18 further expand this list I think we should move one
19 motion at this time, first.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, there was a motion
22 and there's a -- to include those amendments.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Another sentence.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All who favor say aye.

27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed, say no.

31
32 (No opposing votes)

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried.

35
36 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
37 Next two slides, actually, there you go.

38
39 Okay, this map is located on Page 91 of
40 your salmon colored book, and it's a map of all of the
41 projects that were proposed for funding in 2004 in both
42 the stock, status and trends and the harvest monitoring
43 traditional ecological knowledge categories.

44
45 There were 12 projects that were
46 submitted for -- or that are under consideration for
47 funding under stock, status and trends and 10 under the
48 harvest monitoring, traditional ecological knowledge.

49
50 This is Table 3 on Page 94. This table

00211

1 has the project numbers, titles, TRC recommendations and
2 the proposed funding request amounts. As you look
3 through this list, you realize that 11 of 12 of these
4 projects are existing projects, projects that have been
5 on the ground, have been operating. Nine of the 12 have
6 been before the three Regional Advisory Councils before
7 and have been funded through this program. Only one of
8 the projects is actually a new submission to Fisheries
9 Resource Monitoring Program.

10

11 Because these are existing projects, have
12 a proven track record and have a lot of the criteria that
13 are used for ranking them, the TRC relied on the Federal
14 and State managers input on strategic priority for the
15 value of the information provided by the proposed
16 projects.

17

18 This table is found on Page 95. In 2004,
19 the Technical Review Committee was tasked with evaluating
20 a program, funding priorities for new projects as well as
21 existing projects. As I spoke to earlier, we only funded
22 projects one year to reduce the amount of continuation
23 funding and allow the TRC a chance to prioritize the
24 funding of projects through the Fisheries Resource
25 Monitoring Program. This list represents that
26 prioritized funding for the Yukon River. At that point
27 it just became a budgetary exercise where you add up the
28 column on the right-hand side until you reach the funding
29 limit for the data type for stock, status and trends and
30 that's where that line is drawn.

31

32 If one of the projects above the line was
33 withdrawn or another funding source was secured as was
34 the case last year with the Chandalar River sonar
35 project, Project 234, then the TRC would recommend
36 funding the next highest priority project on the list
37 which, in this case would be the Lower Yukon River
38 Cooperative Salmon Drift Test Fishing Project.

39

40 I guess I would like to speak to these
41 projects individually and I would like to go through all
42 of them and then open it up for Council discussion on
43 individual projects and answer questions if that'd be
44 agreeable to the Councils.

45

(No comment)

46

47

48

49

50

MR. SCHLEUSNER: Basically I've broken
the projects up into three broad categories -- Jerry,
we're kind of off the screen on this one, I don't know

00212

1 why.

2

3

4 We have tributary escapement monitoring
5 projects. There were five of them that were submitted
6 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program for the 2004.
7 All of these projects are existing projects and all of
8 these projects have been supported by the Fisheries
9 Resource Monitoring Program in the past.

9

10 I'll just go down the list Project 206,
11 the Tozitna River Weir. It's a cooperative project
12 between BLM and the Tanana Tribal Council. It's been
13 operating for three years. It's the only escapement
14 project in 4B and 4C, and it was given a high, medium-
15 high priority by both the State and Federal in-season
16 managers and the TRC is recommending that project for
17 funding.

18

19

20 Project 208, the Eastfork Andreafsky
21 River Weir. This project's been operating for 10 years
22 and supports a large data set on the Lower Yukon. It's
23 an important lower river index and one of the few
24 projects that actually monitors coho in the Yukon River.
25 It was given a high, medium priority by the Federal and
26 State in-season managers and it's a US Fish and Wildlife
27 Service project. This project was actually presented
28 with two funding options. Option A was to fund the
29 project through September which would include coho,
30 capturing the coho run; and Option B was without coho.
31 The TRC has recommended funding this project through the
32 coho season and that would be Option A.

32

33

34 209, the Gisasa River Weir was rated as a
35 high priority information priority by the Federal and
36 State in-season managers. It's been operating for 10
37 years. It's a US Fish and Wildlife Service project, and
38 it's one of the core monitoring projects for the Koyukuk
39 River. And this project was recommended for funding.

39

40

41 Project 214 is the Chandalar River Sonar.
42 Again, this project was given a high information priority
43 by both the Federal and the State managers. It's been
44 operating a dual beam sonar to count fall chum escapement
45 up the Chandalar for eight years. It's a US Fish and
46 Wildlife Service project. And it was recommended for
47 funding by the Technical Review Committee.

47

48

49 Project 211, the Henshaw Creek Weir.
50 This project is relatively a new project. We've got
51 three years of weir data on this and one year of tower

00213

1 data. It was given a medium, medium-high priority by the
2 in-season Federal managers, although it's a -- and it's a
3 cooperative project between the Fish and Wildlife Service
4 and the Tanana Chiefs Conference. One of the strongest
5 points of this project was the capacity building
6 component as there was a plan to have the Tanana Chiefs
7 Conference actually take over operation of this weir over
8 a three year period. But the strategic priority of this
9 project brought it below the line of available funding
10 and it was not recommended for funding by the Technical
11 Review Committee.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ron.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I see it was not
16 funded, did Tanana Chiefs take over this project or what?

17

18 MR. SCHLEUSNER: The project right now
19 does not have a funding -- well, the Federal Subsistence
20 Board makes the final funding decision for the Fisheries
21 Resource Monitoring Program but as of now the project
22 wouldn't have a funding source if it was not funded
23 through this program, although we are exploring other
24 options to fund it through different means.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. I will
27 pursue this through Western Interior. Thank you.

28

29 MR. SCHLEUSNER: This map here shows the
30 distribution of the projects recommended for funding, the
31 project numbers in red are the projects recommended for
32 funding by the TRC that shows the distribution of
33 escapement projects throughout the Yukon River drainage.

34

35 Project 211, the Henshaw Creek Weir, one
36 of three escapement projects in the Koyukuk River up in
37 the headwaters was not recommended for funding.

38

39 We had three main stem salmon escapement
40 projects proposed. All three of the projects were
41 recommended for funding with modification.

42

43 Project 217, the Rampart Rapids Fall Chum
44 Salmon Abundance Project, this project funds a mark
45 recapture study at Rampart Rapids that produces a weekly
46 abundance estimate in the main stem Yukon River. This
47 project is a Fish and Wildlife Service project. It was
48 given a medium-high, medium priority by the Federal and
49 State in-season managers and has operated there for eight
50 years providing that information. The TRC recommended

00214

1 this funding with modification since this project was an
2 expensive project, there was one question on one of the
3 -- well, actually the mixing of salmon between the mark
4 and recapture.....

5

6 Gerald.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald.

9

10 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, this 04-228,
11 wasn't there some kind of study that was going on in the
12 rapids to this kind of effect, and where's that report,
13 because I remember three years ago we did something like
14 this for rapid genetic stock identification to identify
15 harvest proportions. I remember agreeing to that, where
16 is the report for that study and they're going to allow
17 this here?

18

19 MR. SCHLEUSNER: This.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You know, what
22 actually is going to come out of it, I mean come on man
23 we had this in here for the rapids, and I don't see like
24 no rapids information for this genetic stock, so I mean
25 where's the report for that, if you're going to start
26 this one?

27

28 MR. SCHLEUSNER: I'll speak to 04-228
29 following the Ramparts, but this is an in-season stock
30 identification project but I'll speak to that following
31 the Ramparts. But to my knowledge there has not been any
32 project similar to that at Ramparts right now.

33

34 But anyway, the Rampart Rapids project
35 produces a weekly abundance estimate for fall chum above
36 Rampart Rapids. The modification to the proposal is to
37 allow the TRC to review the project report for '04 prior
38 to funding for '05 and '06, and the question was complete
39 missing between the mark and recapture site. And they're
40 doing a study this year to identify whether or not that
41 is a problem and then that will be addressed pending the
42 TRC review.

43

44 Project 228, the genetic stock ID for
45 fall chum. This is the only new project before the
46 Councils. It's a new pilot study and it's basically
47 trying to develop a method of -- or I guess employ a
48 method of mixed stock analysis in-season to where they
49 would take fish captured from Pilot Station, the
50 apportionment nets in-season, do the genetics on them and

00215

1 try and get the individual stocks teased out of those
2 runs and this would be directed at fall chum.

3

4 To my knowledge, Gerald, to answer your
5 question, there has not been a genetic study like this
6 proposed anywhere on the Yukon. We do have a chinook
7 genetic study that we are funding that is under way that
8 is not completed. It was the only continuation project
9 funded through '04.

10

11 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, Cliff, you
12 know, I go up to Stan Zurey's camp all the time for the
13 last 10 years or whatever and I asked those guys what
14 they're doing for the last three or four years, those
15 Federal people in there and they said they were doing
16 this right there, I mean what are they doing out there,
17 really? I mean if we're going to allow something like
18 this and if they're doing the same thing at the rapids
19 place, I mean like where is their report? They tell me
20 they're doing this genetic stock identification thing
21 four years ago, man, like where's the report and we're
22 going to allow this, which looks like the funding is
23 going right back into your office.

24

25 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Nicholia, they've
26 actually been developing a genetic baseline to be able to
27 identify these separate stocks since the '80s so they've
28 been collecting fish and identifying them and building a
29 baseline so that they could do some sort of mixed stock
30 analysis and actually give the in-season managers new
31 information at Pilot Station. If this project works they
32 would be able to take the test fishery which apportions
33 the run which the fall chum tend to come in pulses, if
34 those pulses were unique stocks of fish it would allow
35 the in-season manager an opportunity to direct the
36 harvest at a stock that is showing a surplus or a high
37 run or protect a harvest on a stock that comes in maybe
38 weak in-season, actually directing the harvest at a
39 specific stock.

40

41 And this is just proposed as a two year
42 pilot study. '04 they would actually go out and test on
43 known stocks to make sure that they have the
44 discrimination or ability to do what they're saying to
45 the accuracy that they're hoping for. And then in '05
46 they would actually go out and test this in-season and
47 try and turn this information around in three to seven
48 days and return that information back to the in-season
49 managers.

50

00216

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Virgil.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, I know that this
4 issue has been addressed in the past by the genetics
5 department from both the State and the Feds, and so the
6 baseline now is such that they can -- how many different
7 discreet stocks have they identified that are in the
8 baseline?

9

10 MR. SCHLEUSNER: The proposal speaks to
11 the Delta, Chandalar, Sheenjek, Black, Big Creek, Fishing
12 Branch and the Kluani for the fall chum.

13

14 MR. UMPHENOUR: So they can differentiate
15 those?

16

17 MR. SCHLEUSNER: They claim they -- they
18 can differentiate those and part of this project, the
19 first year of it would be to verify that, that they could
20 do that to the accuracy that they're hoping for in order
21 to provide this information in-season.

22

23 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Mr. Chair.

24

25 MR. SCHLEUSNER: The TRC has recommended
26 the project for funding with modification. The
27 modification came as a sampling design issue that was
28 addressed and in the IP stage, we've actually received a
29 modified IP for this and it was corrected.

30

31 Project 231 is the chinook radio
32 telemetry study. This is an Alaska Department of Fish
33 and Game study and the National Marine Fisheries Service.
34 This is a telemetry project looking at chinook salmon in
35 the main stem Yukon River. I think we've all heard about
36 this project in which they're putting a thousand
37 transmitters out and they have 37 remote tracking
38 stations and they're actually tracking these fish or
39 tagging them near Russian Mission and tracking them to
40 their spawning grounds.

41

42 This project was recommended for funding
43 by the TRC with modification and again since it's an
44 expensive project, one of the things the TRC wanted was
45 to review the report prior to agreeing to fund 2005 and
46 2006 just to make sure that the objectives of the project
47 were being addressed as they were written in the
48 investigation plan.

49

50 This again is a slide showing the

00217

1 distribution of these projects, the Rampart Rapids
2 tagging Project 217, the genetics project 228 and 231,
3 the chinook telemetry project are basin wide.

4

5 We had four remaining projects, three
6 test fishing projects and one scale sampling project.
7 234 is the Kaltag scale sampling project given a high
8 rating by the in-season managers. The investigators, the
9 city of Kaltag it collects ASL data from local
10 subsistence harvest. This was recommended for funding.

11

12 The following three were test fishing
13 projects. And those were not recommended for funding.

14

15 229 is the Lower Yukon test fishing
16 project. It's a cooperative project between Alaska
17 Department of Fish and Game the Emmonak Tribal Council
18 and it collects run timing on chinook and chum and drift
19 gillnets at Big Eddy and Middle Mouth.

20

21 The TRC felt the primary application of
22 this project was to management of the commercial fishery
23 which lowered the strategic priority for the Federal
24 Subsistence Management Program below the level of
25 available funding and it was not recommended for funding.

26

27 204, 205 are Ramparts catch per unit
28 effort studies. One is the chinook and summer chum study
29 and the other is the fall chum study. The objectives of
30 these studies were to look at run timing and catch per
31 unit effort. There was some concern over the efficiency
32 of the fishwheels during events of high water and a
33 recapture and their ability to recapture fish thus
34 artificially inflating the catch per unit effort
35 estimate. And there was some concern over duplication
36 with the fall chum project running right next to the
37 Rampart Rapids tagging project which produces a weekly
38 abundance estimate right at the same site.

39

40 And some of the run timing information
41 for the chinook project is being provided through the
42 chinook telemetry project. So neither of these projects
43 were recommended for funding and received the lowest.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Gerald.

46

47 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Oh, sorry, go ahead.

48

49 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You know I was going
50 to respond to these Cliff. Because just for -- is it

00218

1 because Stan Zurey's information is so contradictory to
2 both of the agencies, both agency's information, is that
3 one of the reason -- I want it on the floor out of you
4 guys because I heard it through the grapevine, was that
5 one of the reasons that these projects are not funded?
6 Like give me a straight yes or no answer.

7

8 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Absolutely not. I was
9 at the TRC meeting and sat through the deliberations the
10 TRC did on both of these projects and the State has
11 several seats on that committee and that was never
12 mentioned during the deliberations of these projects.

13

14 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Well, that's not what
15 I kind of heard.

16

17 And, you know, I think there's just way
18 too many State and Federal managers for just a few fish
19 and few subsistence users, man. I wish there was a way
20 you guys could control your -- do you guys all actually,
21 like you sit in one office, do you all actually work
22 together or go out and I'm doing this, and I'm doing that
23 and we'll just have to report to these people or
24 something like that?

25

26 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Well, I can't speak to
27 the work that the other offices do, but our office is
28 located in the Frontier Building, the Office of
29 Subsistence Management, which is primarily the Staff
30 that's working on this meeting right here, that are
31 actually working at the meeting.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I have a question for
34 presenter Council.

35

36 MR. SCHLEUSNER: There's one slide, the
37 following slide is the end of my presentation.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, okay.

40

41 MR. SCHLEUSNER: It just shows the
42 distribution of those projects.

43

44 I'd like to open it up at this time, Mr.
45 Chairman, for comments on the TRC's recommended Draft
46 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, and, again, I
47 remind the Council that this is an action item in which
48 we're asking the Councils to make a recommendation to
49 adopt or modify the TRC Draft Fisheries Resource
50 Monitoring Plan.

00219

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Gerald.

2

3 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, as I was
4 alluding to earlier, if there's anybody here that's
5 familiar with that other project besides these two
6 projects of what's going on, that genetic testing, and
7 what they're trying to do at Rapids, at that other little
8 camp, I'd really like to know, what is that other project
9 there that's going on in the Rapids besides Stan's --
10 those guys that's always doing -- they say they're --
11 they tell me they're doing genetic testing or something.
12 I want to know what that project really is? That is an
13 ongoing project, it's been going on for the last four
14 years as I recall.

15

16 MR. SCHLEUSNER: I know that the
17 Conservation Genetics Labs does collect samples from that
18 site as part of their baseline, I'm not sure what the
19 project is though other than the Rampart Rapids tagging
20 project is at that same camp.

21

22 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Now, what are they
23 trying to take scale samples and stuff for? What is
24 actually being done in that camp there that they got? I
25 know they're not monitoring Stan's wheel's, he's already
26 doing that, what actually are they doing there?

27

28 MR. SCHLEUSNER: That one project that
29 was before you, that 04-217 the Rampart Rapids fall chum
30 salmon abundance estimate project is what is the main
31 reason that camp is there. And that's where they are
32 marking fish at the wheels and then recapturing them at
33 the Rampart wheel.

34

35 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, may interject
36 something here, please?

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Let me recognize Virgil
39 here first.

40

41 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 Project 204, if that project is not done then there will
43 be no in-season project that monitors Canadian chinook
44 salmon specifically will there?

45

46 MR. SCHLEUSNER: The chinook radio
47 telemetry project would be monitoring the run timing of
48 the Canadian bound fish as well.

49

50 MR. UMPHENOUR: It will monitor the run

00220

1 timing but it won't, other than just using the ratio and
2 proportion of how many they've tagged, it's not going to
3 really give any other indication other than run timing?

4

5 MR. SCHLEUSNER: They are actually trying
6 to get, out of that project, a main stem and a main
7 tributary abundance estimate with that chinook telemetry
8 project.

9

10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. And then the
11 other part that's mentioned in the book about the
12 mortality on fishwheels with live boxes and how Mr. Zurey
13 is -- all the modifications he's made to the fishwheel
14 and et cetera, you're pretty much finished with that or
15 what's the status on that?

16

17 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Stan Zurey's been an
18 incredible investigator. He's been -- has an incredible
19 work ethic, he's been a great investigator for the Office
20 of Subsistence Management. He's actually helped pioneer
21 the video recapture system that is operating at Rampart
22 Rapids at his catch effort wheels, and also at Tanana and
23 this year it's being employed at the Rampart recapture
24 wheel for the Tevis' tagging project. All of the
25 modifications that he's helped design and pioneer are
26 being employed to help minimize the impacts to these
27 fish. So they're being used at Ramparts and at other
28 sites as well.

29

30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Will you state your name
33 and who you are and what's your job.

34

35 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
36 name is Jeff Adams. I'm the branch chief, so I supervise
37 the people that operate the Rapids Rampart mark recapture
38 that Mr. Nicholia alluded to referring to the genetic
39 samples. I work for the Fish and Wildlife Service in
40 Fairbanks.

41

42 And Cliff is correct in that the previous
43 genetics samples that have been collected at Rapids
44 Rampart are being used to define the baseline that will
45 be used for this project that Cliff referred to to
46 establish the run timing and proportion the run. So what
47 Cliff was talking about was correct, is that, all the
48 genetic samples prior to this have been used to establish
49 set baseline.

50

00221

1 MR. MCCANN: Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bill McCann.

4

5 MR. MCCANN: (In Yup'ik)

6

7 INTERPRETER: I want to ask you a
8 question. Are the king salmon with the radio tags, where
9 -- do you know where those salmon go to spawn, following
10 their radio signals? Do they actually, those radio
11 tagged chinook, do they actually reach their spawning
12 ground or where do they go? Do you know how many? Maybe
13 you all know how many salmon -- king salmon was tagged
14 with a radio? Do some of them not reach their spawning
15 ground? Maybe those little radio tags are expensive too.

16

17 Where do those kings go or do they go
18 somewhere you're not expect them or are they caught
19 somewhere else in the world?

20

21 That's my question.

22

23 And then the different reports that have
24 been presented, that they're presenting.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

27

28 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chair. Mr. McCann.
29 I'd like to speak to his question but perhaps if I don't
30 answer it completely enough there could be a State
31 biologist here that might be able to address it. They
32 actually tag about a thousand fish. And the fish are
33 captured in subsistence and fisheries throughout the
34 Yukon River drainage, in which case the tags are returned
35 and then they're reimplanted in fish. So some of the
36 fish are captured and some of the fish do reach the
37 terminal spawning areas and they have identified areas
38 where they were surprised at the number of chinooks that
39 went up. One of those specifically being the Chandalar
40 River, has had a large proportion of chinook going up it
41 that is, to date, been unmonitored.

42

43 So they do go into the terminal
44 fisheries. They have 37 towers set up throughout the
45 Yukon River drainage, that's -- I think there's 26 in the
46 United States side and 11 in the Canadian side. They
47 also use aerial flights over the tributaries to determine
48 that the end location.

49

50 Along with the -- just the radio tags,

00222

1 they have data tags that they're putting in these fish
2 that record depth and water temperature and these tags
3 are recovered off the spawning grounds and tell how deep
4 the fish was swimming and on what days and what water
5 temperatures it was seeking.

6

7 So I guess if that helps answer your
8 question or if there's more clarification then let me
9 know.

10

11 MR. MCCANN: And I'd like to know also,
12 if you tagging that fish, where exactly are you tagging
13 it, mouth of the river or -- because the fish coming up
14 from the mouth of the river all the way up. But if you
15 are -- I think that if you take it by -- right by the
16 spawning area it's not going to go anywhere. I think
17 it's going to be there. I think the -- is that how --
18 where -- where about are you tagging it, where exactly,
19 how far from the spawning area?

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

22

23 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
24 McCann. The fish are tagged near Russian Mission.

25

26 MR. MCCANN: I think it's wasting money.
27 Wasting money.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So we could hear you,
30 when you guys talk, turn your mike on, we appreciate it.
31 Any more question from Councils.

32

33 If there's not, you ask Councils support
34 for these projects, money?

35

36 MR. SCHLEUSNER: That's correct. Mr.
37 Chairman, I'd ask the Councils to vote to support the TRC
38 Draft Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan for the Yukon
39 River for the stock, status and trends projects.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Gerald.

42

43 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You know, when I
44 first got on this Council they used to -- before these
45 projects runs through the Technical Review Committee they
46 used to go before us and that's a better way for us to
47 understand each project, but it took too long. And now
48 it seems like they're just throwing it in our face and
49 the decision is already made, you know.

50

00223

1 For me to approve that is like, I don't
2 know, there's a lot of good projects out there and
3 there's a lot of if projects out there, and I don't know
4 about you guys but I don't think I want to approve it.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Councils, I think it's a
7 request, the gentleman here, the presenter make, maybe by
8 motion vote, just what you want.

9
10 Gerald.

11
12 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, I move to
13 approve the Technical Review Committee recommendations on
14 funding the projects they're going to fund.

15
16 MR. STICKMAN: Second.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion and a
19 second. Any discussion.

20
21 (No comment)

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's no
24 discussion.....

25
26 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chairman.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Della.

29
30 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I
31 think you can't see that far.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead. I couldn't
34 see you that far, go -- or with the window.

35
36 MS. TRUMBLE: I kind of wanted to
37 reiterate a little bit of what Gerald said, just because
38 I know this is going to come strongly from our Council on
39 Friday. And it is a concern on how the selection process
40 is being made and that committee. And I'm not sure what
41 the answer is and whether some of the RACs can be a part
42 of it as a committee member when the selection is being
43 done, because I feel strongly also that when this is
44 happening, some of the reasons and concerns why these are
45 brought forward by the Councils are not necessarily
46 getting the full input as to what that importance is.
47 And we also feel that once a selection is made that we
48 don't really get a chance to change that also.

49
50 But I just wanted to say that. I do

00224

1 support exactly what Gerald is saying.

2

3 MS. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

6

7 MS. ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 As a Council member for, this will be my third year

9 actually, first meeting of my third year. This kind of

10 thing is new to me and I'm sure it's like new to some

11 other people that's new to the Council especially if

12 you're not involved in fisheries, like a lot of people

13 here are.

14

15 And this is like the second time I've

16 seen this and it's actually kind of confusing to me to

17 look at all of these things and determine, you know, what

18 are they doing and I'm kind of like Gerald I see all this

19 money being sent and there's some concerns and then it's

20 just thrown at us like this prior to a meeting and it

21 seems a little bit overwhelming, a lot of material to

22 consume at once and just vote on it altogether.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ron.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I,

27 too, was pretty hesitant, like Gerald, not to approve of

28 this selection process or recommend approval of these

29 recommendations. But it's still behooves us and benefits

30 all of us, I think, to have some projects ongoing and

31 ongoing. It used to be at one time where we prioritized

32 and selected these projects well ahead of time, and I can

33 see -- also can see where Sue Entsminger's coming from,

34 in that, we finally find out that we need to approve of

35 this selection process at the last minute or at the

36 presentation itself, because our agenda doesn't say that

37 we have to approve of it.

38

39 But like Gerald, I think I will go with

40 his motion and approve of these recommended selections

41 and funding because we do need ongoing studies and

42 projects and programs continually being funded throughout

43 the Yukon and Kuskokwim areas.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more discussion.

48

49 (No comment)

50

00225

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not.....

2

3 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

6

7 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was
8 just wondering who were the TRC? Who's involved in the
9 Technical Review Committee, are they some people that are
10 sitting in this RAC committee now or who are they made up
11 of?

12

13 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

16

17 MR. KLEIN : Mr. Chair. I'm Steve Klein
18 in the Fisheries Information Services Division of the
19 Office of Subsistence Management, and we're responsible
20 for the overall implementation of the monitoring program.
21 And I think it would be helpful to summarize the process
22 that we use to fund the program.

23

24 The TRC, which is really the Technical
25 Review Committee, that's composed of three members from
26 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I Chair the TRC.
27 And then there's one member each from Fish and Wildlife
28 Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management,
29 Bureau of Indian Affairs, and National Park Service. And
30 then in addition, we have two people with the Partners
31 for Fisheries Monitoring Program which we're going to
32 discuss after this. We have two local people that are --
33 in the past year they were with AVCP and the Native
34 Village of Eyak. So it's some of the best scientists in
35 the world and then we have two partners that participate
36 in it as well.

37

38 I think it's a committee that looks at
39 these projects very seriously and brings some solid
40 recommendations.

41

42 But that's the scientific part of the
43 program.

44

45 The other part is getting input from you
46 and that's why we're here today. You have the scientific
47 recommendations, but if there's changes, if there's a way
48 we can do this program better, this is your opportunity
49 to provide your advice to us and we're here to listen and
50 if there's better ways we can present this information.

00226

1 We try to get these books out to you a month in advance
2 so that you can review the projects. We have a two page
3 summary of each project within your books and I'm sure
4 you get very overwhelmed with the material, but if
5 there's a way to do it better, we really want you to be
6 informed in providing us your recommendations on how to
7 implement this program and what projects you think, with
8 your local expertise that think will improve management
9 of these fishery resources.

10

11 And as an example, ichthyophonus, I think
12 you've added some value on the priority of ichthyophonus
13 to us today and that adds value to the overall program.

14

15 Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mike.

18

19 MR. SAVAGE: Mike Savage from Kalskag.
20 Last summer the Fish and Game out of Fairbanks was doing
21 a survey for the sportsfishermens, we're not getting that
22 report too. Are we going to get it next year or what's
23 going to happen? I mean you guys say you are
24 partnershiping and why, if you guys are partnershiping
25 with other organizations, you should include everyone
26 that's in there instead of hiding something from us.
27 Like the sportsfishermens.

28

29 I may be wrong but that's what I think's
30 going on in the Kuskokwim.

31

32 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Savage. Mr.
33 Chairman. I'm not aware of any report being hidden from
34 you. We're with the US Fish and Wildlife Service Office
35 of Subsistence Management, if there's a report that you
36 need from the Alaska Department of Game and Fish -- or
37 Fish and Game, then all you need to do is let us know and
38 the Staff here will provide that information to you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions.

41

42 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Jack.

45

46 MR. REAKOFF: As a Council member, I
47 would like to see synopsis of completed projects, that's
48 something that I would like to see, the outcome of some
49 of these extended projects are. And if I have further
50 interest I would like to actually see the full report,

00227

1 but I would like to see a synopsis of each final.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Vince.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I know it
8 wasn't the best attempt, but we tried -- the posters,
9 many of the posters that are on the wall, that have been
10 up here for a few days are some of those projects. And
11 it was an idea I had and we're going to keep working on
12 to have these posters available as one method to get
13 information out. They're not the complete method, so any
14 advice you have on how to do that would be great.

15

16 But do look at these posters. I can't
17 point out which ones because I hauled a whole bunch here.
18 But there are many of them that are directly related to
19 these FIS projects.

20

21 So that's one effort that we have to show
22 you what has happened with these projects. So that's one
23 method.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more discussion.

26

27 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Steve.

30

31 MR. KLEIN: Steve Klein, again, Mr.
32 Reakoff what we try to do during these fall meetings is
33 to present the Draft Monitoring Plans and get your
34 recommendations on which projects should be funded and
35 your recommendations go to the Federal Subsistence Board,
36 and then we also try to get your issues and information
37 needs to kind of direct what research should be done.

38

39 In the winter meetings, we will present
40 summaries of the projects. There'll be a handout that
41 summarizes all the projects we've funded through this
42 program, and then we'll also bring in some principal
43 investigators that are working on the projects and
44 perhaps like Dr. Kosan, for example, would be good to
45 bring to the winter meeting.

46

47 So to share the information that we
48 collect this program, we try to do that during the winter
49 meetings and then also I would refer you -- you can
50 contact Cliff or Polly to get information on the program

00228

1 and also on our web site, if you have internet access,
2 many of the reports are posted there.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ron.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
9 just wished that we had earlier involvement in this
10 selection process. At this time I feel that I have no
11 choice but to back up and support the Staff
12 recommendation because I feel that all these projects are
13 important and they should be in place. As I stated
14 before, we used to select these projects and prioritize
15 -- at least prioritize them before they'd come to the
16 TRC. And I really feel that we are being left out and
17 forced to accept these recommendations.

18

19 And if I do at all, it will be very
20 reluctantly because other than voting on this, I had no
21 involvement at all with the selection process, and I want
22 that on record.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, I think just about
27 every one of us here that we understand what it is and
28 the presenter request for action.

29

30 MR. STICKMAN: I agree with my fellow
31 Council members on the selection process but at this time
32 I'd like to call for the question, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Vince Mathews, I think
35 everyone is now understand because this is a lot of
36 money, I never seen this kind of money in my hands all my
37 life, I am 73 so I wonder if you could roll call.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'd also
40 love to have that money in my hands, too.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we're going
45 to do this by Councils. Eastern Interior. Virgil
46 Umphenour.

47

48 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: Sue Entsminger.

00229

1 MS. ENTSMINGER: I don't know how to
2 vote.
3
4 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Abstain.
5
6 MS. ENTSMINGER: I'll abstain then.
7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Jay Stevens.
9
10 MR. STEVENS: Yes.
11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Andrew Bassich.
13
14 MR. BASSICH: Yes.
15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Philip Titus.
17
18 MR. TITUS: Yes.
19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Gerald Nicholia.
21
22 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: No.
23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, I'll go to Western
25 Interior. Ron Sam.
26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.
28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff.
30
31 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.
32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Angela Demientieff.
34
35 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.
36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones.
38
39 MR. JONES: Yes.
40
41 MR. MATHEWS: That would be yes, the
42 record would reflect. Carl Morgan.
43
44 MR. MORGAN: Yes.
45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Robert Walker.
47
48 MR. WALKER: Yes.
49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Micky Stickman.

00230

1 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.
2
3 MR. MATHEWS: Emmitt Peters.
4
5 MR. PETERS: Yes.
6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Unanimous with
8 Western Interior. Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Lester Wilde.
9
10 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.
11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Philip Moses.
13
14 MR. MOSES: Yes.
15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Mike Savage.
17
18 MR. SAVAGE: Yes.
19
20 MR. MATHEWS: James Charles.
21
22 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Billy McCann.
25
26 MR. MCCANN: Yes.
27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Raymond Oney.
29
30 MR. ONEY: Yes.
31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Nick Andrew.
33
34 MR. ANDREW: No.
35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Mary Gregory.
37
38 MS. GREGORY: No.
39
40 MR. MATHEWS: John Hanson.
41
42 MR. HANSON: Yes.
43
44 MR. MATHEWS: Harry Wilde.
45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
47
48 MR. MATHEWS: John Thompson.
49
50 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

00231

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the vote
2 total for Yukon-Kuskokwim is nine to two, so it passes.
3 The Eastern Interior was -- that doesn't add up -- well,
4 we had one abstention, I'm sorry I'm looking over my
5 shoulder and my glasses are fogged, we have three yes,
6 one no, and one abstaining.

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So yes have it.

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on our agenda is A
13 -- you want a break?

14
15 MR. TITUS: Yes.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 (Off record)

22
23 (On record)

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, let's go. Next on
26 agenda is Partners Fisheries Monitoring Program.

27
28 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, thank you. My
29 name is Polly Wheeler and I'm an anthropologist. I work
30 for the Fisheries -- can you not hear me or hear me too
31 well? Usually it's not a problem with hearing my voice.

32
33 I work with the Fisheries Information
34 Services, the same outfit that Mr. Klein and Mr.
35 Schleusner work for. And actually we're not quite at the
36 Partners Program yet, Mr. Chair. We still have, what I
37 consider to be the best part of the program and that is
38 the harvest monitoring and traditional ecological
39 knowledge projects.

40
41 So if you could bear with me and I'll try
42 and keep it short and sweet. I know you've got a lot on
43 your plate. But if you could bear with me and I can talk
44 about these projects a little bit and then we can talk
45 about the Partners Program.

46
47 Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I didn't quite
50 understand what you're saying.

00232

1 MS. WHEELER: Okay. As Cliff had talked
2 about earlier, we have two kinds of projects that we fund
3 under this program. There's the biological projects, the
4 stock, status and trends. And then there's the harvest
5 monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge projects.
6 Cliff talked about the biological projects, the stock,
7 status and trends projects, and I'm going to talk about
8 the harvest monitoring and traditional ecological
9 knowledge projects.

10

11 There's about 10 projects that are also
12 for the Yukon River.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

15

16 MS. WHEELER: Okay, thank you. As I
17 said, for the record my name is Polly Wheeler and I work
18 with the Office of Subsistence Management.

19

20 I oversee -- whereas Cliff is a biologist
21 and works with Yukon River projects, I'm a social
22 scientist and I work with all of the projects statewide
23 that have to do with harvest monitoring and traditional
24 ecological knowledge.

25

26 If you look at your hand out, and I think
27 there was some confusion about this earlier, there's a
28 handout, it's a four page -- sorry, three page handout,
29 it's called Yukon River Region Subsistence Fisheries
30 Monitoring Issues and Information Needs. Everybody find
31 that in your mess of paper on your desks?

32

33 Anyway, this is sort of the guiding
34 document for selecting projects for the Yukon River.
35 Does everybody have that?

36

37 (Pause)

38

39 MS. WHEELER: Okay. This is how we --
40 this is how projects are selected for the Yukon River.
41 If get -- you know, when we put the call for proposals
42 out, there's always a pocket of money that goes with the
43 call for proposals and every year we put out a call for
44 proposals. The proposals that come in need to address
45 these issues and information needs. And somebody had
46 asked earlier, sort of, where the opportunity is for the
47 Council to have input, and this is at the ground level.
48 Because if we get proposals in, this is research
49 proposals, not regulatory proposals, but if we get
50 proposals in that don't address an issue that you all

00233

1 have identified as being a critical subsistence issue for
2 your area, then they're not even considered.

3

4 So this is really important in terms of
5 looking at what projects are selected, you know, how
6 people come up with projects and what projects are
7 eventually selected for funding for the Yukon River
8 region.

9

10 Okay.

11

12 On the last page of this are the issues
13 that my projects, and I can say my projects, I guess,
14 because I oversee them all, but they're the issues that
15 my projects address, and there's two broad categories.
16 There's subsistence harvest monitoring and then there's
17 traditional ecological knowledge. And if you look
18 through these you can see that some of them are pretty
19 general, a lot of them, actually are very general, which
20 is good, in that, a lot of the projects that we get sort
21 of can take from this general list and come up with
22 something more specific. But if you feel that there's an
23 issue that should be more specifically defined on this
24 issues and information needs, then we need to hear it. I
25 mean here's your opportunity to fill us in so that when
26 we put the call for proposals out, people know what the
27 issues are that you're concerned with.

28

29 Okay.

30

31 And I wasn't here yesterday but I know
32 there's been a lot of talk about, and I'm just going to
33 give you an example, looking at sort of maybe harvest
34 decline, subsistence salmon harvest declines in the upper
35 river. That might be a specific issue that you want to
36 identify as being one that ought to be addressed when the
37 call for proposal goes out. And that's just an example.
38 I'm sure you can think of others.

39

40 But just for process, I wasn't sure if
41 that was clear. That this is really your opportunity for
42 input and it's really important because this guides what
43 then comes in -- what you're going to be looking at a
44 year from now in terms of projects that you're going to
45 be able to consider. This is the first opportunity for
46 input, and it is really important.

47

48 So I just wanted to make sure that that
49 was clear and if there are other issues, like I said,
50 that you want to add to this for the subsistence

00234

1 monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge. And up
2 there on the screen for the benefit of people that don't
3 have that handout is just basically what Council members
4 are looking at in your hand out. It's the issues and
5 information needs for the harvest monitoring and
6 traditional ecological knowledge data type.

7

8 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, Polly, assess
9 whether or not what is harvest for subsistence salmon
10 equates to, what is needed for subsistence, how are you
11 going to go about gathering this information? Like are
12 you going to go like house to house or just take a random
13 estimate?

14

15 MS. WHEELER: Well, the nice part about
16 my job is that we get to oversee the projects we don't
17 actually have to come up with how to do them. But
18 there's any number of ways that you could look at this,
19 Gerald, I mean you could look at it from historic
20 perspective. You could go back and look at historic logs
21 of what was taken and then compare that with post-season
22 harvest assessments now. That would be one way of
23 looking at it. There's what we call sort of, you know,
24 sitting down and doing interviews with key knowledgeable
25 people in communities and talk about this issue, you
26 know, what is it that you -- you know, if you could have
27 as much fish as you wanted, how many fish would you want,
28 that kind of thing.

29

30 So there's any number of ways that you
31 could go about doing it. We have not gotten a proposal
32 addressing this particular issue. If you'd like to talk
33 about it further with me and we could maybe think of some
34 approach or think of people that could do it.

35

36 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Polly, I was just --
37 my question that I was going to ask is is this -- this
38 part that I asked about, subsistence use amount
39 committee, is this in any way related to that committee
40 or whatever or just totally different?

41

42 MS. WHEELER: It could be related. We
43 have not had a proposal that addresses this issue, but if
44 we did and it was funded then that information could be
45 used for the subsistence use amounts group.

46

47 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, that's what I
48 was kind of hinting on.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

00235

1 MS. ENTSMINGER: I just have one
2 question, Polly. You're asking us, if there's anything
3 additional or whatever, changes to this, is that just at
4 this meeting or is that ongoing?

5
6 MS. WHEELER: Well, it's easier to do it
7 at this meeting because you have everybody here but it is
8 an ongoing process. This is not intended to be the final
9 word on what the issues are for the Yukon. It's supposed
10 to be something that as issues come up, like the
11 ichthyophonous issue, as issues come up they can be added
12 and on the other as issues are addressed, they can be
13 taken off.

14
15 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Mary.

18
19 MS. GREGORY: On your Page 1, I want to
20 ask you under stock, status and trends, what type of
21 fresh water resident species are you talking about?

22
23 MS. WHEELER: This would be any species
24 that's important for subsistence. So far we've funded,
25 and I'm probably not the best person to answer this but
26 that's never stopped me before. So far we have funded a
27 number of non-salmon projects and specifically whitefish
28 projects, not a lot of them because salmon has sort of
29 been the most important issue on the Yukon and on the
30 Kuskokwim as well.

31
32 Member Gregory.

33
34 MS. GREGORY: Well, have you considered
35 doing something about the ling cod or the burbot because
36 I'm a burbot fisherman and sometimes we catch fish that
37 are diseased and we wanted to know how to test them
38 because it's our main diet right now, from October until
39 maybe December, in my area.

40
41 MS. WHEELER: To my knowledge, we have
42 not done a specific study on ling cod or burbot, but if
43 the Council feels that that's an important issue that
44 should be addressed in the call for proposal then I would
45 encourage you to add it to the list of issues and
46 information needs for the region.

47
48 MS. GREGORY: I think it should be
49 included because a lot of times when we catch the -- they
50 come from different areas, some of them come from Nelson

00236

1 Island along the Kuskokwim, we can tell them by what type
2 of fish they're carrying in their stomachs because when
3 we cook them we cook the whole fish, stomach included and
4 when we clean it we find these things. And a lot of
5 times their liver is the most affected, sometimes the
6 fishes liver would be very flat with blotches in it.
7 Other -- we can tell a healthy liver from a sick liver,
8 so it's my concern because I'm a user of that fish.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

11

12 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
13 listen to the lady's report first before we have
14 questions. It would probably expedite things a little
15 bit.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

18

19 MS. WHEELER: Okay. On Page 99 of your
20 salmon colored book, the one that we were looking at
21 earlier, on Page 99, I'll give you a chance to get that
22 out, make sure it's the salmon one and not the orange one
23 on Page 99 in that book there's a table which is also --
24 Jerry, can you go ahead a couple of slides -- actually
25 back up one please, thank you. For the benefit of people
26 sitting in the room that don't have their books you
27 probably can't even read that anyway, but in any event it
28 is Table 4 from your Council books which is, again, on
29 Page 99. I would note that there is an error on that
30 table.

31

32 The second project down, Project 04-253
33 should read Upper Tanana subsistence fish traditional
34 ecological knowledge, you'll notice that there's
35 traditional ecological knowledge camp in Ft. Yukon is the
36 title on both of the first two projects, and that is a
37 great project but we certainly don't need to fund it
38 twice. So the real name of the project, for 04-253 is
39 Upper Tanana subsistence fish TEK. I don't know if I
40 just confused you or clarified things but hopefully I
41 clarified it.

42

43 There were 10 projects submitted under
44 the harvest monitoring, traditional ecological knowledge
45 data type -- is everybody with me on the table?

46

47 (Councils nod affirmatively)

48

49 MS. WHEELER: Got it?

50

00237

1 (Councils nod affirmatively)

2

3

MS. WHEELER: Okay. There were 10 projects submitted for review by the Technical Review Committee and eight of the 10 projects were recommended for funding by the Technical Review Committee. There were a couple of projects that were recommended for funding with modification but the modifications were all fairly simple, kind of refining the approach a little bit. So again, there were 10 projects overall, eight of the 10 projects were recommended for funding in this data type.

12

13

14

On Page 98 in your book there is the Technical Review Committee's prioritized list of projects. So those are the projects that again address an issue that's been identified by the Regional Advisory Council, is technically sound, the proposer has the experience to do the project and there's a good capacity building component.

20

21

22

So those eight projects, the eight projects above the line are the projects that the Technical Review Committee felt met all of the criteria for project selection and also fell within the amount of money that we had to spend in this particular region.

26

27

I'm going to go through each of the projects quickly. There's full project descriptions in your book beginning on Page 149 but I'm just going to touch on some of the key points of each of these projects just to give you a sort of little bit of information about the projects, and I recognize that you have a lot of information before you so I'll try and hit on the highlights and not bore you with the finer details.

35

36

37

The first project in that chart is a pretty exciting project actually, it's one of the first that we've had in our program that's trying to combine sort of Western biological science and traditional ecological knowledge. We have two investigators that both have a lot of experience in this particular area, it's in the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, and they're looking at whitefish which is an important subsistence species in that area. And they're trying to combine using radio telemetry and local knowledge to build a model of whitefish ecology, sort of understand whitefish both from sort of the traditional Western scientific perspective but also from the traditional knowledge perspective.

50

00238

1 And that's an exciting project and
2 certainly the principal investigators are competent to do
3 the work.

4
5 The next project is a project that you're
6 all familiar with or should be anyway, it's the Yukon
7 River Drainage Fisheries Teleconferences that happen
8 every week. This year they happened Tuesdays at 1:00
9 o'clock for the whole fishing season. This project would
10 fund the teleconferences, YRDFA teleconferences. YRDFA
11 also asked for a component to do in-season monitoring,
12 but that component in the investigation plan, the
13 Technical Review Committee felt it was really not very
14 well developed, and kind of technically flawed so they
15 opted to fund the teleconference component but not the
16 other component because it wasn't -- you know, one of the
17 criteria is scientifically sound and the Technical Review
18 Committee felt that that part wasn't technically sound.
19 So that was funded with that modification.

20
21 The next project, 265, is a project that
22 was actually submitted in response to the Federal
23 Subsistence Board's request for more information on
24 customary trade. Obviously based on the discussion this
25 morning, it's a pretty big issue. The Federal Board
26 asked specifically for proposals that come up with some
27 more information on regional practices dealing with
28 customary trade. So this project is using two
29 communities and looking at customary trade practices in
30 two communities on the Yukon River.

31
32 The next project is the upper Tanana
33 subsistence fisheries project. That's proposed by a
34 number of different partners. I know Connie Friend is in
35 the audience, she's one of the investigators on that
36 project. And that's looking at -- or collecting
37 traditional ecological knowledge and doing harvest
38 assessment on whitefish -- or actually non-salmon fish in
39 the upper Tanana region. Initially it was just focusing
40 on whitefish but it's expanding out a little bit. Again,
41 those guys don't have a lot of salmon, except for Copper
42 River salmon, but in terms of Yukon species they use non-
43 salmon species, specifically whitefish. There was a
44 study that was done in '88 looking at harvest assessment
45 so this will build on that. And the Technical Review
46 Committee did recommend funding that project.

47
48 There's also four more projects here on
49 this sheet. All these projects are recommended for
50 funding or with some modification. There's Project 255,

00239

1 which is collecting traditional ecological knowledge of
2 upper Yukon salmon fishery. This project was endorsed by
3 the Native Village of Eagle, sorry, I was going to say
4 Native Village of Eyak, that's a ways away. It was --
5 and again, it's collecting information on salmon in an
6 area with a lot of Federal waters, so there's a clear
7 Federal nexus.

8

9 The next project is an exciting project,
10 it's a two year project. And actually in the project
11 description in your book it says that it's a three year
12 project but it's not, it's a two year project. It's
13 proposed by Tanana Chiefs Conference, Council of
14 Athabascan Tribal Governments and Fish and Game. It's
15 funding a camp to facilitate exchange of information
16 between fisheries biologists and local people. So it's
17 got, again, a Western scientific base but also relying on
18 local knowledge, so it's sort of an exciting project, a
19 new one for this -- really a new one for this region.
20 And that is recommended for funding for two years.

21

22 There's the Tanana conservation outreach
23 project, Project 256, which is Stan Zurey's project. We
24 funded this -- OSM has funded this project for four years
25 now. They included a component for genetic analysis,
26 but, again it wasn't -- I talked to Stan about that, it
27 wasn't real well developed and Technical Review Committee
28 felt that he needed to work more with the Genetics Lab
29 and with Fish and Wildlife Service to better develop that
30 component. But they recommended funding the camp, the
31 outreach effort which they have funded in the past.

32

33 And then that last project which is
34 hidden by Jack's head actually, is the Hooper Bay
35 subsistence monitoring project, which is also a project
36 that's been funded by our office for four years now
37 looking at using subsistence catches as a measure of run
38 strength. The Technical Review Committee recommended
39 funding that project for one more year to see if the --
40 you know, to sort of finish out the life cycle and to
41 evaluate, at that point, whether they need to continue
42 funding that project.

43

44 And finally, Jerry, the next two slides,
45 those are the two projects that were not recommended for
46 funding. One of them, the 266 project is looking at
47 harvest assessment and traditional ecological knowledge
48 in the middle Yukon River, in the Kaltag area. It is a
49 good project, sound investigation plan but the
50 investigators have a lot on their plates right now and so

00240

1 the recommendation was to have them finish up with
2 existing projects and then maybe next year resubmit the
3 project for funding consideration.

4

5 And the final one is in-season salmon
6 harvest assessment in the upper Yukon, and this project
7 was not recommended for funding. The Technical Review
8 Committee felt that the investigation plan was
9 technically flawed and couldn't recommend that for
10 funding.

11

12 So, Mr. Chair, with that brief, not too
13 brief, but with that summary, I would ask you know that
14 if you have any questions on any of the projects I'm
15 happy to answer them, and if you would consider accepting
16 the Technical Review Committee recommendations for
17 funding or changing them at your pleasure.

18

19 Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Gerald.

22

23 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, Polly, I have a
24 question concerning 04-265, traditional ecological
25 knowledge of customary trade on subsistence fish on the
26 Yukon River.

27

28 MS. WHEELER: Yes.

29

30 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: How are you going to
31 go about getting that, have a person going into people's
32 camps or homes and ask questions?

33

34 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. Council member,
35 Nicholia, that project is proposed by Yukon River
36 Drainage Fisheries Association. One of the people that's
37 going to be working on that project is actually from
38 Grayling and so they're going to be doing what they call
39 focus groups. So they're going to have groups getting
40 together and talking about practices that people do and
41 there's also going to be one on one interviews that are
42 part of that project as well, so it's not going to be
43 people going to camps and finding out what's going on in
44 a spying fashion, but rather talking to people and kind
45 of trying to find out -- figure out what's, you know,
46 describe what some of these practices are because the
47 Federal Board feels that they just don't -- you know,
48 they could benefit by additional information.

49

50 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah. I was just

00241

1 going to state that don't bother some people around
2 Tanana because they're just -- they wouldn't ask a
3 question about C&T regardless of how nice you are to
4 them.

5
6 MS. WHEELER: Just for the record, Member
7 Nicholia, they will always ask, people don't have to
8 participate in anything, you know, if people don't want
9 to participate they don't have to. And I also don't think
10 they'd be doing it in Tanana because they're really
11 trying to look at the Federal application rather than the
12 State application. But people always have the ability to
13 say no.

14
15 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Concerning that
16 Tanana outreach program, am I getting this wrong, but I
17 thought you were going to fund it 36,000, 37 and 37 for --
18 actually Kathleen told me to ask you this, it says, fund
19 with modification, what's the modification in there? I
20 seen it but what else do you want her to do on this
21 project?

22
23 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. Member
24 Nicholia, it's a little bit confusing because the project
25 was they added another component this year. It just used
26 to be the Tanana outreach, the camp, and then they added
27 another component with genetic analysis, trying to
28 differentiate summer chum from fall chum but it wasn't
29 real well developed in the investigation plan so the
30 Technical Review Committee said we'll fund the camp, in
31 fact, we'll fund it a slightly higher level than we've
32 funded it in the past, we'll fund that component but they
33 need to work on that, sort of getting a strong scientific
34 sampling for the genetic component part.

35
36 So the camp part is in tact, but the
37 genetic component part is not.

38
39 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I was just going to
40 give you guys a little praise on that because from a
41 grade school to a junior high perspective those kids are
42 really interested and they like that, you know.

43
44 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. Member
45 Nicholia, hey, we're happy with that project and we'll
46 take compliments any way we can get them.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Billy McCann and Jack.

00242

1 MR. MCCANN: You were talking about
2 whitefish a little later -- I mean awhile ago, you're
3 checking the whitefish also but too far away.

4
5 I know the whitefish been going down hill
6 maybe five or six years now out on tundra. But one of
7 the guys that talked to me about -- but whether -- I
8 think most of them are about beaver dams, damming the
9 sloughs. I wonder what you guys thinking about that
10 beaver dams because they're the ones that are killing the
11 whitefish also. Because one guy told me that one time he
12 was up at Leek, close to the lake and he would walk up to
13 the -- over the dam and there were a lot of fish above
14 the dam trying to come out, so he had -- they had a net
15 with him, so he set his net below the dam and break the
16 dam down and by golly the fish goes out and fill up his
17 net.

18
19 So why don't you guys go into that if you
20 protect the whitefish. We need whitefish also. But the
21 beaver's in the law, too, I guess you can't do anything
22 about according to the law, but it's open now to hunt --
23 people to hunt, but the dam is not -- nobody talking
24 about -- but the guys think that -- Natives saying that
25 when the break the dams the beaver pull it back in again,
26 pretty smart. So I told him, yeah, we can be smart, too,
27 get the dynamite and blow it up.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MR. MCCANN: So what do you think about
32 that?

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 MR. MCCANN: Is that something you guys
37 can be working on?

38
39 MS. WHEELER: I'm not sure that's
40 something our program could fund.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 MS. WHEELER: I'm not saying it's not
45 important. We actually have funded a project that looked
46 at the inter -- sort of beaver/whitefish interactions on
47 the Yukon Flats. In your issues and information needs
48 there are some general descriptions that could cover a
49 project like that for your area Member McCann, but we
50 haven't had a proposal to do so. But, again, I think

00243

1 we'd probably steer clear of the dynamite stuff because
2 that's not really in our purview.

3

4 Mr. Chair.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. MCCANN: When the beaver used to be
9 up river, not down like the tundra back, Johnson River,
10 something like that, down river, there were hardly any
11 beaver those days but there were a lot of whitefish on
12 the lakes. But lately they're moving down toward the
13 coast and damage the sloughs where the whitefish live.

14

15 That's why I say, you guys should get the
16 dynamite and blow it up.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Jack.

21

22 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. Polly I was
23 wondering 04-255, the traditional ecological knowledge of
24 the upper Yukon River salmon fishery, questions I have
25 about that harvest there. That harvest varies
26 dramatically and it doesn't seem to correlate with run
27 strength and I would like to be able to understand what
28 the reasons are in that survey information, maybe that
29 correlates to water level or various issues and I would
30 like to know what those issues are.

31

32 MS. WHEELER: I can talk to the
33 investigator on that project. The investigator is a
34 person by the name of Dave Krupa, he works for the
35 National Park Service and I can talk to him. The
36 Technical Review Committee had actually recommended that
37 he also maybe ask some questions on customary trade but
38 certainly reasons for various in harvest is a theme that
39 I'm hearing loud and clear at this meeting. So I would
40 recommend -- in fact, tell the investigator that that's
41 something he needs to address, looking at, you know,
42 changes over time and why.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Johnny Thompson.

45

46 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
47 Several years ago when I make a report to Fish and Game,
48 that old site, they used to call that Chakuluk (ph)
49 River, remember some time ago it was pretty warm that
50 summer and later on when they went out for berry picking

00244

1 they start seeing these dead whitefish. That lake must
2 have been pretty warm at that time so I guess that
3 whitefish didn't survive. So that's one of the things
4 that may be one of the problems, too, if there's warm
5 spells in the summertime.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

8

9 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
10 move that we support the selection of the TRC for funding
11 the TEK projects as presented.

12

13 MR. STICKMAN: Second.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the
16 floor to support funding and a second. Discussion.

17

18 (No comment)

19

20 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called
23 for. All who favor say aye.

24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed, say no.

28

29 (No opposing votes)

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried.

32

33 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. I have two more
34 projects that I'd really love for you to take a look at.
35 They're in the inter-regional category and this is sort
36 of a weird category, but as this program has developed,
37 there's always a couple of projects that cross regions so
38 they can't legitimately sort of take the funding out of
39 one area if it's a project that crosses regions.

40

41 On Table 3 on Page 193 and Table 4 on
42 Page 194 in your books and this is the last time that
43 I'll refer you to pages. Like I said this inter-regional
44 funding category is four projects that cross regions. We
45 had three projects submitted this year in the inter-
46 regional category and the Technical Review Committee is
47 recommending funding all three projects.

48

49 Two of the three projects are basically
50 data base projects. It's trying to pull information

00245

1 together, specifically subsistence harvest information so
2 that it can be more effectively used, so it can be
3 reached, so it's in one place but so that it can be more
4 effectively used by managers and also by the public.

5
6 It's Project 04-701, which is developing
7 a shared fishery data base, again, this is with Federal
8 and State management, the more coordination and the more
9 sharing that we can do in terms of information, that
10 would be a good thing.

11
12 And then there's Project 04-751, which is
13 subsistence harvest data base update, and that's
14 basically pulling together the subsistence harvest
15 information, putting out reports. I don't have a copy of
16 the most recent one with me but we just got the 2001
17 harvest reporting document and it's got all of the
18 regions in one place, which seems like a really good idea
19 but it hadn't been done up to that point. So it's
20 pulling this information together.

21
22 So those are the two projects that we
23 would ask your approval of if you're interested in
24 approving them at this point, Mr. Chair. The Technical
25 Review Committee did recommend funding the two projects,
26 they're well within the budget guidelines. So that's all
27 I'll say about those projects unless you have any
28 questions.

29
30 Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Gerald.

33
34 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I move to fund these
35 two projects -- I mean move to support your
36 recommendations to fund these two projects.

37
38 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion, and it has
41 been second. Discussion. Andy.

42
43 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 Polly, I was wondering, would these data base reflect
45 both past harvest data, present harvest data and would it
46 be possible to add projections of what future harvest
47 might be placed on the resource? It seems to me we spend
48 a lot of time looking at what's been done in the past and
49 we spend a lot of time speculating on what's going to
50 happen this year, but I'd like to start seeing a few

00246

1 numbers from time to time done scientifically giving us
2 our best guess of what kind of harvest patterns we're
3 going to want to see in the future.

4

5 It seems like it would be very important
6 information for us. We have a very finite resource with
7 these fisheries and we see population growth in all
8 villages and this, to me, means that we're going to have
9 increased harvest pressure on the resources, and I think
10 it would be very useful information to have projections
11 on what we might be looking at for harvest in five years
12 and in 10 years, so on and so forth.

13

14 So I don't know if it's possible to make
15 those projects and have that reflect in the data base but
16 I think it would be very important information for the
17 Council to look at for future decisions on management
18 policies and management procedures.

19

20 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Benedict.

23

24 MR. JONES: Yes. Polly, you're asking
25 for reaching across from one region to the other, do you
26 have the floating funds to fund this from all different
27 regions?

28

29 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. Member Jones.
30 Yes we do. We have this category that we have inter-
31 regional to cover projects just like this so that we're
32 not pulling a funding out of a particular region, but we
33 have, I think it's about five percent of the overall
34 funding that's available so it's a smaller percentage
35 but, yeah, we have the available funding and these three
36 projects combined are well under the funding that's
37 available for the inter-regional category.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other question from
40 Councils. Philip.

41

42 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

43

44 INTERPRETER: He wants to -- ever since
45 he was a small boy, his village, he has never left that
46 area and right now he's here before he even left his
47 village or moved from his village. He's always gone for
48 subsistence and it has never changed. Whatever they
49 caught has never changed up to this day.

50

00247

1 There's many different kinds -- in his
2 opinion there's different kinds of fish like burbot,
3 whitefish, small whitefish, humpies and also king salmon.
4 They're always at Toksook Bay. And in the ocean there's
5 tom cods, small fish, what we call devil fish and
6 halibut. And sometimes they call them devil fish,
7 they're dark and they look scary. Even they're small
8 they look scary. They weren't really care for eating
9 those fish.

10

11 He didn't say all the fish, there's also
12 halibut, the devil fish, those are the kinds and also
13 bigger flat -- flounders, the flat fish, they're skin's
14 very rough.

15

16 In my opinion they haven't changed and
17 sometimes they're more abundant up to this day ever since
18 I was small. And we've never lost a lot amount of fish.

19

20 Sometimes there's less, but today in my
21 opinion, my thinking, my village and the people around me
22 he thinks that the people won't want management.

23

24 Also when I go to meeting, when I go
25 home, I don't report but I give these to the Council
26 members, whatever I receive I give them to the Council,
27 he doesn't keep them.

28

29 In his opinion with all the little fish
30 and talking about young children, ever since he started
31 participating his relatives are the Council members, he
32 will report to the Council, he will finally report
33 because he got scared of the fish that are not being
34 affected and they're not being -- the people who aren't
35 afraid fish as much as they want. If they want this type
36 of fish they get it. Some of them get burbot. The
37 burbot don't go out to the ocean. The whitefish, the
38 small whitefish don't go out to the ocean.

39

40 Those types, he knows those types of fish
41 ever since he was small. Somebody -- fish -- Fish and
42 Game wants to manage those, in this opinion people won't
43 like that, because those aren't being depleted or hurt.
44 Sometimes there's just a little but the next year they
45 have a return.

46

47 He would also want to add the king
48 salmon, in his opinion, is it from the cold or is it from
49 the warm weather? There's some kind of sickness that
50 gets to them, and he thinks that the weather is getting

00248

1 warmer and warmer, maybe it's from the warm weather that
2 affects the fish, the king salmon. That's his opinion
3 about the disease.

4

5 Sometimes the fish that are in streams,
6 they don't die, they stay in the water all winter long,
7 in the cold water. These, herren (ph) fish don't stay,
8 the reds don't stay, whenever there's ice, our area, when
9 it's cold, those are the fish that are in the ocean, they
10 go further out. When there's ice on the coast -- he just
11 wanted to say that report.

12

13 He didn't ask, but he just wanted to
14 report that for your information because he's afraid that
15 their land -- nothing has really happened to their area,
16 subsistence wise.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MR. MOSES: Quyana.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there other
23 discussion from Councils.

24

25 (No comment)

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's not, there
28 was a motion and second and now discussion. If you
29 support this recommendation for funding, the motion's
30 been on. I'm going to ask for the vote.

31

32 All who favor say aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed, say no.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. This
41 last request for funding is supported by the Councils.

42

43 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, very much, Mr.
44 Chair. Mr. Chair, the issues and information needs, I
45 guess I would ask that you do look at them and think
46 about them and if there's something that is not on there,
47 you can certainly, in your individual meetings take
48 something up. I will be here tomorrow and I'll float
49 around so that if there are issues and information needs
50 that you feel that you want to have added to this, then

00249

1 we will be available -- or I will be available tomorrow
2 in your individual meetings.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, okay, thank you.
5 We will be still continue on our agenda here. Next is
6 Organization Report on Yukon River Issues Affecting
7 Subsistence Users, Native cooperation regional village,
8 tribal council.

9

10 Okay, Vince, do you have something?

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Before
13 I go I think Mr. Klein has something to say and then I
14 have one housekeeping thing before you get into
15 organizational reports.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead and do your
18 housekeeping.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Mr. Chairman,
21 there's two items under organizational reports. One
22 talking about salmon contaminant studies, and there's one
23 talking about Migratory Bird Co-Management Council.
24 We've had discussions with them, the OSM leadership and
25 they've agreed, due to the time that you guys have spent
26 here that they will not be presenting tonight. So there
27 will not be a report on salmon contaminant study by Keith
28 Mueller, nor will there be a report on the Migratory Bird
29 Co-Management Council.

30

31 The only other item I had is to follow up
32 with Polly, if you think of other issues and information
33 needs after tomorrow, give one of them a call or your
34 coordinator a call and then we will note it for the
35 meeting in winter. So it's not like everything has to
36 come together tomorrow on issues and information needs.
37 It's a, I think, what the lawyers call a living document.
38 So bring it up at the following meeting, it'd be great if
39 you could do it tomorrow, but if not, we can bring them
40 up at the winter meeting.

41

42 That's all I had and I think Mr. Klein
43 still would like to speak to you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you, Vince.

46

47 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

50

00250

1 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair, I wanted to
2 briefly cover the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
3 Program and Gerald, you should like this program, earlier
4 you were complaining there's too many State and Federal
5 biologists and anthropologists out there.

6
7 Well, when the Federal Subsistence Board
8 built this monitoring program, they said well it
9 shouldn't just be all Federal and State biologists and
10 anthropologists implementing these projects and what they
11 created was this Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
12 Program. And the Partners Program, we've dedicated a
13 million dollars to local and Alaska Native organizations
14 so that they can hire biologists and anthropologists and
15 social scientists to help us implement the Partners
16 Program. And I'm going to ask two of our partners to
17 come up here and rather than listening to me, to hear
18 from them what they're accomplishing.

19
20 From the Partners Program we have Kim
21 Elkins who is from Tanana Chiefs Conference, and also
22 after Kim does a brief presentation we'll have Joe
23 Schlossman from CATG do a quick presentation. We also
24 have two Partners in the audience, Erin Heibert with
25 AVCP.

26
27 MS. HEIBERT: Thank you, Steve.

28
29 MR. KLEIN: And also David Waltemyer with
30 AVCP. And they're representing your regions, they're
31 helping us implement these monitoring projects and
32 they're doing some great things and I'll let you listen
33 to them on some of their fine work.

34
35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36
37 And I'll turn it over to Kim.

38
39 MS. ELKIN: Good afternoon, RACs, and Mr.
40 Chair. This is Kim Elkin. I am from Tanana Chiefs
41 Conference. I'm based out of Fairbanks. And as you know
42 Tanana Chiefs Conference works with 42 Interior villages,
43 so I'm just going to briefly discuss our summer
44 experience, this summer the different projects we worked
45 on and then talk about some future projects that we have.

46
47 And so up here, this presentation, I'm
48 going to talk a little bit about youth training. We
49 worked specifically with eight villages, weir experience.
50 We visited two weirs, and I'll get into that. And then

00251

1 we also worked with the TCCC, which is the Tribal
2 Community Conservation Corps based out of Nenana, it's an
3 Americorp program, and then I'll talk about some future
4 projects.

5
6 So this next -- as far as the youth
7 training is concerned, we implemented a project under the
8 Youth Opportunity Grant which is part of Tanana Chiefs
9 Conference, which basically works -- this program in
10 particular works with eight villages and they provide
11 opportunities for youth in those villages to participate
12 in different work programs and so we set up a specific
13 fisheries project for them.

14
15 So what we did was we hired and trained
16 two youth ranging in age from 14 to about 18 years old to
17 collect subsistence data from, particularly king salmon,
18 but also chum salmon as well. And we worked with eight
19 villages and I have them listed after this slide. But we
20 had these youth collect age, sex, length from salmon,
21 some fin clips for genetics research and heart samples
22 for the ichthyophonous studies.

23
24 So as far as hiring and training is
25 concerned, the youth were selected by the youth
26 development specialist, which is in each of the villages
27 and then myself and our intern, Valli Peterson, performed
28 the training this summer. And these are the villages
29 that we worked with in particular, Kaltag, Holy Cross,
30 Nulato, Huslia, Allakaket, Minto, Galena and Ruby. And
31 the last two, Galena and Ruby, we actually funded under a
32 different pot of money that we had. Those first six
33 villages were funded under the Youth Opportunity Grant.

34
35 Kind of the next couple projects we
36 worked on, we actually went and visited two weirs. We
37 visited the Henshaw weir and the Tozitna weir, and that
38 was just to give Valli and I an idea of why weirs are an
39 important part of research on the river, and we also got
40 a chance to work with some people from Tanana when we
41 were on the Tozitna River.

42
43 So basically the purpose and most of you
44 know, as far as weirs is concerned, and this was a
45 learning experience for us, is to monitor escapement, to
46 calculate the abundance of sexually mature adults and to
47 record the migratory timing of salmon. The picture there
48 on the left is actually -- well actually both of them are
49 on the Tozitna River.

50

00252

1 I don't know, most of you probably know,
2 the Henshaw weir is funded through -- or was funded
3 through OSM, it is on the Koyukuk River between Allakaket
4 and Bettles, and then the Tozitna weir is about 50 miles
5 up stream of the Yukon River and we actually worked with
6 two local hires from the Tanana area, and they worked
7 with us on this project while we were out there.

8
9 So basically as far as for the weirs --
10 as far as weirs are concerned, we basically took age,
11 sex, length, fin clips and removed scales as part of the
12 ASL data collection and this is what happens on all the
13 weirs throughout the state.

14
15 And then I'll just talk briefly about the
16 TCCC Americorps group that we worked with based out of
17 Nenana. We had them for five weeks but we actually got
18 to work with them for four weeks because of weather
19 conditions we couldn't get work on the Salcha river. But
20 basically these are the Americorps members we worked
21 with, many of them are from various villages around the
22 Interior as well as along the coast of Alaska.

23
24 The first couple of days that we had them
25 we actually did anything related to fisheries science
26 that we could think of to get them sort of involved,
27 anything from statistics to weirs to any type of
28 monitoring projects and the purposes of them as well as
29 anything related to fisheries science. We spent the
30 first two days training them in the classroom that way,
31 they really didn't like that that much but we had to kind
32 of put an emphasis that that's important as well and
33 we'll go out and have some fun like this picture shows.
34 We took them out on the Chatnega River and took them
35 seining, and a lot of them enjoyed that. We collected
36 some invertebrates and fish species. And we took those
37 invertebrates into the University of Alaska lab and
38 actually looked at them under the dissecting scopes and
39 they were actually able to look at stomach contents and
40 that. So we were kind of exposing them to the whole
41 aspect of fisheries science. And we also got them in at
42 the Fish and Wildlife Service lab in Fairbanks to age
43 scales, and we also -- salmon scales and we also looked
44 at otoliths from whitefish.

45
46 So as far as future projects, the one
47 that you guys made recommendations on to support the
48 science camp that we're planning on for the next few
49 summers is based out of Ft. Yukon. We're actually going
50 to work out of Davey James' fish camp and we'll have a

00253

1 fishwheel there and we'll be working with ninth and 10th
2 graders in particular and trying to expose them to
3 Western science as well as traditional ecological
4 knowledge. We'll be bringing in elders from Ft. Yukon
5 and the surrounding villages to participate in this camp.
6

7 And then TCC is also a co-investigator on
8 the radio-telemetry study with Randy Brown, which was
9 also part of this process here.

10
11 And then we'll continue to have the youth
12 data collection.

13
14 So basically our whole mission, as far as
15 TCC is concerned is to reach out to all of our member
16 tribes and hopefully we can increase this data
17 collection. Next year we're hoping to hit 10 villages,
18 include the same eight that we worked with and increase
19 it up to 10 and hopefully, I mean it might be unrealistic
20 but I'm not saying it is, but to include all 42 villages
21 and hiring youth.

22
23 So basically our goal is to employ youth
24 and increase local hire for fisheries jobs throughout the
25 TCC region.

26
27 And this is our Staff currently, Mike
28 Smith who is also in the audience, he's the director of
29 our subsistence management part of it. And then there's
30 myself and then we had Valli Peterson that's helping us
31 out as well.

32
33 And this is actually in Emmitt's fish
34 camp, so this is a picture I have back there.

35
36 And that's it.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Gerald.

39
40 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, Kim, did I hear
41 you guys, you're asking for support on those two
42 projects?

43
44 MS. ELKIN: Well, that's what you guys
45 were making your decisions on and I was just saying that
46 those were possible future projects that we have and you
47 guys already decided that so right here, that was the TEK
48 camp in Ft. Yukon and then the radio telemetry TEK study.

49
50 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay. Good report.

00254

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana.

2

3 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Kim. And then Joe
4 Schlossman with CATG is another biologist hired under the
5 Partners Program and he's got another quick presentation,
6 and we appreciate you allowing us to do this.

7

8 Thanks. Joe.

9

10 MR. SCHLOSSMAN: I would like to take a
11 moment to thank all three Councils for the opportunity to
12 give this presentation. I'm based in Ft. Yukon and I
13 moved there in November, and so I'm still new and I'm
14 trying to figure things out. And I spent a lot of this
15 summer learning about how things work on the Yukon River
16 and some of the issues surrounding subsistence salmon.

17

18 The Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
19 Program has four primary objectives. And those are to
20 assist with the development of fisheries monitoring
21 program projects; facilitate partnerships among rural
22 organizations and government agencies; on-site technical
23 assistance to fisheries resource monitoring projects. I
24 was to mentor a student intern and assist primary
25 investigators in recruiting rural residents for positions
26 and contracting opportunities for Partners for Fisheries
27 Monitoring projects.

28

29 This is a picture from the biotechnician
30 training camp that was held at Twin Bears and I was
31 teaching students how to remove otoliths from salmon.

32

33 Our secondary objectives are to act as
34 co-investigators on fisheries projects, identification of
35 important issues and information needs concerning
36 subsistence fishery management on Federal lands; to help
37 restore fisheries resources -- or help resolve fisheries
38 resource and user group conflicts; community outreach and
39 education. And I will be serving a term every three
40 years on the Technical Review Committee.

41

42 Ft. Yukon is located at the confluence of
43 the Yukon and Porcupine Rivers. And the next slide will
44 show the Yukon watershed and the Yukon Flats area in its
45 entirety. Those maps were generated by Gary Lawrence, he
46 used to work for CATG as a GIS technician.

47

48 These were our achievements for year one.
49 I mentored a student intern, his name was Simon Thomas
50 and he lived in Ft. Yukon and right now he's a college

00255

1 student at University of Alaska-Fairbanks. And I worked
2 with two additional high school interns, Gary Simple and
3 Stacy Titus. They helped me with the lower Chandalar
4 fall chum carcass survey that I performed. I
5 participated in -- or we participated in the installation
6 and operation of the Eastfork Andreafsky River weir.
7 Participated in the installation and operation and
8 removal of the Chandalar River split-beam sonar camp.
9 Assisted in test operation of the Dizen sonar on the
10 Chandalar River. Assisted in the US Fish and Wildlife
11 Conservation Genetics Laboratory in obtaining samples
12 from chinook salmon returning to the Chandalar River.
13 Participated in the Ramparts Rapid tag recovery project,
14 that's the project that Tevis Underwood is running, doing
15 a harvest assessment. Participated in -- or conducted a
16 US Fish and Wildlife sponsored weir feasibility study of
17 the Black River and Salmon Fork areas near Salmon
18 Village.

19

20 And the background for this slide is
21 actually a map that David Salmon drew for us. This was
22 the perfect combination of Western science and TEK. I
23 went up there to do a weir feasibility study of the Black
24 River and I was just fortunate enough to be there when
25 David Salmon and Davey Jones and a couple of
26 archaeologists were up at the abandoned Salmon Village.
27 And I got to talking with David Salmon and he was telling
28 me about growing up in that area and then he started
29 talking about salmon, and, you know where the spawning
30 grounds were and he was kind enough to draw us this map
31 and it totally changed the focus -- you know we were
32 focused on the Black River and now it would be a lot more
33 feasible to put a weir on the Salmon Fork, and that's a
34 future project that I'm still working on.

35

36 I also conducted a US Fish and Wildlife
37 sponsored fall chum carcass survey of the lower Chandalar
38 River near Nunti and that's near the village of Venetie.
39 And there's Simon Thomas there in the lower left. He was
40 my intern and that's a picture at the rapids -- Rampart
41 Rapids tag recovery project. And the center picture
42 there, that's me, Bill Hawser and Jim Finn, we were at
43 the biotechnician training camp at Twin Bears and the
44 lower right pictures is the crew at the Andreafsky, and
45 the upper right picture that is David Salmon at Salmon
46 Village.

47

48 Our future plans for the CATG natural
49 resources partners position are to continue to identify
50 and investigate things that impact subsistence salmon --

00256

1 I can't even read that.....

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5harvest and escapements. Identify
6 and improve salmon spawning sites where possible.
7 Installation and operation of a weir on the Salmon Fork
8 and that's a tributary of the Black River. Continued
9 participation with the Chandalar River split-beam
10 enumeration of fall chum project. Continue assisting the
11 US Fish and Wildlife Conservation Genetics Lab. And to
12 continue assisting researchers by recruiting local
13 technicians.

14

15 Any questions or comments.

16

17 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

20

21 MR. KLEIN: So that's just a sampling of
22 some of the activities that we have going on with the
23 Partners Program. This is year one of implementation. I
24 think they're doing some great things, both in terms of
25 doing some sound science in your communities and also
26 building capacity in your communities.

27

28 So please work with them. A lot of
29 people are and we very much appreciate their efforts. I
30 have three handouts that are making their way around.
31 One is just a contact list of the seven partners that
32 have been hired through the Partners Program. A second
33 handout is a facts sheet that just describes the Partners
34 Program, and it's just a summary of the program. And
35 then thirdly, is a call for proposals for social
36 scientists. We have seven positions hired through the
37 program now, we're looking to employ one more social
38 scientist position, and that's being advertised now and
39 we're looking forward to filling that in one of your
40 organizations.

41

42 And we very appreciate the time to brief
43 you on this program today.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. We were put down
48 how long that organizations are supposed to talk to
49 present -- it's supposed to be 10 minutes but I give
50 everybody chance to talk and we still got a lot of them

00257

1 to go. Appreciate what you presented and I think it
2 helps some people that need to know some things and I
3 thank you for that.

4

5 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Take a little break.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll have a 10 minutes
10 break.

11

12 (Off record)

13

14 (On record)

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Association Village
17 Council Presidents. Yeah, go ahead.

18

19 MS. HOOPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
20 Regional Councils. I just wanted to take a quick minute.
21 I know everybody's ready to leave after four days, I'll
22 probably be the first one out the door.

23

24 Anyways, just wanted to make a couple of
25 comments on AVCPs actions and involvement in fisheries in
26 the last year.

27

28 This past summer AVCP submitted a special
29 action request to the Federal Subsistence Board to lift
30 the restrictions on subsistence after commercial
31 fisheries had begun all basically relating to the issues
32 in Districts Y3 and then the lower districts being put
33 back on the schedules after commercial openings had
34 stopped. Anyways, that SAR was denied. It was late in
35 the season, but we still felt it was necessary to submit
36 that to the Board.

37

38 In regards to the windows, I just wanted
39 to, I guess, reiterate AVCPs position that we -- although
40 we do not want to see windows put into concrete
41 regulations, which would take away the flexibility from
42 the managers, we do believe they are necessary when
43 returns are poor to provide adequate escapement and to
44 spread the harvest equally throughout all subsistence
45 users along the rivers.

46

47 Also we've had a good working
48 relationship with TCC this past summer and we dealt with
49 the preseason noise and hype about low returns and what
50 actually came back with SARs and other things. We were

00258

1 comfortable in the relationship we had with them and look
2 forward to working with TCC in the future.

3

4 Real quick, we want to suggest for the
5 record that the Joint State and Federal protocols for
6 determining amounts necessary for subsistence need to be
7 revisited and changed where necessary.

8

9 Also you just heard a brief description
10 of the Partnership Program and also were introduced to
11 our Yukon biologist David Waltemyer. Of course AVCPs
12 villages go up through Russian Mission, but initially it
13 was hoped that all of the partners biologist on the Yukon
14 would stay in contact with each other and work together
15 where possible and to continue the -- keep the -- as we
16 all know, fish don't know the boundaries so we need to
17 all continue to work together.

18

19 Real quickly, AVCP supplies technicians
20 at the Pilot Station sonar and we are also looking to
21 reinstate the Marshall test fishery that we had once
22 operated to help kind of check the numbers that go past
23 Pilot Station, the sonar, and to help put to rest any
24 questions on actual chinook and chum numbers.

25

26 And also last and quickly, AVCP continues
27 involvement with the AYK Coalition. You heard a brief --
28 or I'm sorry, two of the Councils heard a brief
29 presentation the other day by Bering Sea Fishermen's
30 Association who are kind of housing this group, and
31 they're looking at further into studying the fish and why
32 the returns have been so poor and to incorporate all --
33 the whole life stage of the salmon including their time
34 in the Bering Sea. So this group is in existence looking
35 to further add to hopefully answer questions that we all
36 have about our fish.

37

38 So that's real quick what AVCP's been
39 working on and thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Your report. Council of
42 Athabaskan Tribal Government, is here.

43

44 (No comment)

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Nobody here. So
47 Kuskokwim Native Association.

48

49 (No comment)

50

00259

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Not here. Orutsaramiut
2 Council.

3
4 (No comment)

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll go to the next on
7 agenda, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

8
9 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: No, no, Tanana
10 Chiefs.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Others. Oh, Tanana
13 Chiefs, I thought they go through this already. Tanana
14 Chiefs, excuse me.

15
16 MR. SCHUTT: Ethan Schutt for Tanana
17 Chiefs Conference again. I won't go into any of the
18 substantive issues. I think we've had the opportunity to
19 address those as they came up within the individual
20 proposals.

21
22 The Tanana Chiefs Conference organization
23 sure does appreciate the opportunity to speak directly to
24 the Council members on these important issues. We
25 appreciate your dedication to conservation and to
26 meaningful subsistence priorities and we look forward to
27 working with you all in the future.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Now, we go
30 to Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

31
32 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: No, no, no.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think there's one more.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Native Village, Orville
39 Huntington and some other organizations. Orville
40 Huntington, you had a brief report.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Because he's not written
43 on agenda here, excuse me, yeah, go ahead.

44
45 MR. HUNTINGTON: Orville Huntington with
46 the Koyukuk Refuge in Huslia. That's where I was born
47 and raised. The protocol you see in front of you, if you
48 have it, is the Huslia Research Protocol.

49
50 All the stuff you talked about the last

00260

1 couple days, all those things when you approve research,
2 it has to go through the Huslia Tribal Council, the
3 village Huslia Tribal Council members are going to be
4 involved in any type of research. And that's because of
5 intellectual property rights, a lot of our property is
6 being stolen. I mean that's the way Huslia feels, I'm a
7 Huslia Tribal Council member, so that's what they tell
8 me.

9

10 And we have deep respect for others
11 beliefs but they also have to respect ours. I don't think
12 it's appropriate to laugh about stuff when you're talking
13 about animals. You got to be more respectful than that
14 because we don't do that when those marine mammals start
15 coming up Koyukuk River, we don't laugh about them, it's
16 really disrespectful to talk about animals in that kind
17 of way.

18

19 Research with tribal government is a
20 touchy subject, and the Huslia Tribal Council passed a
21 research protocol to protect the people of Huslia. If
22 anybody's got research they have to sign off on.....

23

24 INTERPRETER: Please talk into the
25 microphone, turn your microphone back on please.

26

27 MR. RIVARD: Your microphone.

28

29 INTERPRETER: Please talk into the
30 microphone for me.

31

32 MR. RIVARD: Please hold on there.

33

34 MR. TITUS: Vince did it.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. HUNTINGTON: Anyway, the last thing I
39 was going to talk about is my weather report. It's not
40 on your agenda but we did a study on climate change and
41 one of the things that came out of it is I wrote a report
42 and that should be available to you guys.

43

44 But for all those things they talk about,
45 traditional ecological knowledge is really touchy stuff
46 at home, that's how come they adopted that Huslia
47 Research Protocol, that they asked me to present. It
48 puts me in an awkward position because I'm a tribal
49 member, but, I'm sorry, that's just the way it is. I
50 work with everybody that I can, you know, as a Fish and

00261

1 Wildlife Service employee I usually have pretty thick
2 skin, but sometimes, you know, you have to draw the line,
3 and I know you guys are tired and I don't think you guys
4 need to listen to me, but I appreciate it.

5

6 I'm just bringing that information
7 forward, that they gave me to give you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Orville.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ron.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, that little research
16 presentation you just heard, up and down the Koyukuk
17 River, we have adopted this property rights issue, too,
18 because all the research money that goes in there and
19 gathers all that information out of Native villages and
20 people that have no idea that these -- the publication of
21 these issues or their knowledge goes a long ways so we
22 have them sign off on a property rights, that any
23 ecological or local knowledge that goes out of our
24 village is the property of the village and individuals.

25

26 Thank you, that's all I had.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Division of Commercial
29 Fishery, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Vince.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, they shared
36 with me earlier -- remember these agendas are drafted
37 months ago and they shared with me earlier that the two
38 listed there, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Tracy
39 Lingnow and Division of Sportfish will not be presenting.
40 They talked to you already unless they've changed their
41 plans.

42

43 (No comment)

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: How about Bureau of Land
46 Management.

47

48 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
49 Jeff Denton with the Anchorage Field Office with the BLM.
50 I have one item here, it's informational in nature for

00262

1 your folks. Some of you are aware, many of you probably
2 are not.

3

4 But Senator Stevens' office has tasked
5 the BLM with completion of the land transfers in Alaska
6 with a target date of 2009. He has facilitated some
7 legislation in Washington to speed up that process and
8 remove some of the administrative procedural hang-ups of
9 that program. This program will involve the Native
10 allotment conveyances as well as the village corporation,
11 regional corporation and State selections and
12 prioritization and basically the conveyance of those
13 lands to those entities.

14

15 The biggest impact in terms of the
16 Federal Subsistence Board, especially with BLM lands is
17 all those over selections then will return back to BLM
18 Federal public lands which will then fall under the
19 Federal Subsistence Program. Currently most of those
20 lands do not with their selected status. The amount of
21 land will vary a great deal from region to region,
22 depending on current status and amounts of lands. But
23 overall, statewide, and in particular probably the
24 Western and Eastern Interior regions, in particular,
25 we're looking at 10 to 15 million acres statewide and in
26 some areas this will make, when it's all done, an
27 additional maybe 20 percent of the land mass that
28 currently exists under the Federal program, it will be a
29 20 percent potential increase in that in certain areas.

30

31 So this is just informational item for
32 you folks so you're aware of it. In the next six years
33 you can expect probably significant changes within the --
34 especially the wildlife regulation manual, the maps in
35 there, the little yellow squares that are BLM land will
36 probably change radically over the next few years.

37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 If there are any questions I would
41 entertain them now.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Walker.

44

45 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
46 Mr. Denton, it's always nice to see you at our meetings
47 all the time.

48

49 On the maps that you do, when are you
50 going to do the next upgrade, you said two to three years

00263

1 when you're changing the land over from BLM to
2 corporations and the State, what not, this map up here,
3 did you do an upgrade on this yet or is it still in the
4 process of being done?

5

6 MR. DENTON: Yeah, we intend to hopefully
7 do that about once every five years, simply because
8 they're really expensive to produce and we want to have,
9 you know, enough changes on those that it will last for
10 another five years and be relatively effective for users
11 out there. And with this major change in conveyance, we
12 may even delay that until this particular area, your area
13 there is nearly complete and then we'll actually have a
14 map that's good for a very long period of time.

15

16 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Denton.

17

18 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Jack.

21

22 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. I wanted
23 these Councils to know that there was a meeting with the
24 BLM regional director and the BLM resource advisory
25 council in Wiseman this summer on July 10th, and our
26 Western Interior Regional Council has requested that the
27 BLM investigate providing guide areas on BLM lands, right
28 now they're utilizing the same status as State lands.
29 And I talked before that resource advisory council, and
30 informed them of the issues, that there's unlimited
31 amounts of guides hunting on top of each other which
32 lends to over utilization of the resources. And so that
33 council is interested in seeing some work done on whether
34 it's possible for BLM to do that on BLM lands.

35

36 The Park Service, on Park Preserve lands
37 and the US Fish and Wildlife does it on Refuge lands, and
38 with the escalating numbers of guides hunting on BLM
39 lands in certain areas for moose and dall sheep
40 especially, that's becoming a -- getting to be a big
41 issue.

42

43 So I wanted this Council to know that we
44 had had that meeting and that is under investigation by
45 the regional office for Alaska here in Anchorage. And I
46 would like to know if Mr. Denton has any further
47 information on that.

48

49 MR. DENTON: I don't have any further
50 information on that. I know this has been an issue a

00264

1 long time, and actually from a biologist standpoint I
2 can't agree with you more. We have significant, you
3 know, problems and conflicts with resource management
4 related to that issue. So I guess you're kind of
5 preaching to the choir to me. But those decisions get
6 made at a lot higher level than I'm at but I know the
7 folks at the ground level are in agreement with you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ron.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
12 think Jack covered it well, and that was one of my
13 questions because we do have it on our agenda. But it
14 seems like it's taking too darn long because up in that
15 area, upper Koyukuk where I come from, too, is that we're
16 already worried about our moose resources and that wide
17 open guiding system or allocation, that really worries
18 us.

19

20 That's all I had, thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Virgil.

23

24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Did I hear you say that on the lands that are -- where
26 different groups of over claimed the land or claimed the
27 same land, that most of that was going to revert to BLM
28 or are they going to make some kind of decision on who
29 gets it?

30

31 MR. DENTON: Okay. The land selection
32 process in Alaska and conveyance process is quite
33 complicated. The Statehood Act allowed the State of
34 Alaska to select and actually be conveyed, I believe it's
35 103 million acres, they're reaching -- you know, they've
36 already picked up 90-some million acres on that. They're
37 allowed a 25 percent overselection. So when all this
38 comes to an end with State lands, that 25 percent over
39 selection -- these selections are all out of the BLM land
40 base, to start with, so those over selections will revert
41 back to BLM when the whole process is done and become
42 Federal public lands again.

43

44 The Native selections, have no 25 percent
45 or percentage over selection that was allowed and so some
46 of those over selections are considerable, some of them
47 are under selected, but there is -- there will be a
48 considerable amount of land over selection with the
49 village corporations and regional corporation conveyances
50 when they are complete. Then it's resolved between the

00265

1 State. Because some of these lands are top filed on
2 again by the State. So there's an orderly progression
3 that has to occur for this whole process to end.

4

5 And it will start with the Native
6 allotments. The Native village corporations and regional
7 corporations will come next on the list of getting things
8 done because some of those lands that would be released
9 there are top filed on by the State and then they'll be
10 resolved and then the State gets their selections
11 conveyed to them, and then what's left over then of all
12 that will revert back to BLM Federal public lands, which
13 will be under the Federal Subsistence Program.

14

15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Next is Fish
18 and Wildlife Service.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I misinformed
21 you before and I need to apologize for that. Fish and
22 Game did have someone to speak and they did talk to me
23 before but when I unplugged the microphones I forgot. So
24 there is a presentation, it will be very brief, and
25 Marianne See will present that from Fish and Game, and
26 again I apologize, they did have a report.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

29

30 MS. SEE: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair. All
31 Chairs, and all members of the Councils. My name is
32 Marianne See. I am the assistant director of the
33 Division of Subsistence at Fish and Game. And it's an
34 honor to have a few minutes of your valuable time this
35 afternoon.

36

37 Rather than speak about the Division of
38 Subsistence programs, which really you've heard much
39 about those in the projects that were described earlier
40 today, I'm representing a number of other organizations
41 including Fish and Game to just give you a very brief
42 summary, an update about an initiative that we think is
43 probably of real interest to you. It's the AYK
44 Sustainable Salmon Initiative. This is a partnership,
45 the hand out that's coming around is just a few general
46 points that we want you to know about because this
47 partnership was started up as a response to the great
48 declines in salmon that were experienced throughout this
49 entire portion of the state, a huge portion of the state
50 over the past several years. And the idea here was to

00266

1 get any different organizations to be able to put
2 together a plan for how to find out what is happening
3 with salmon. What are the important questions? What is
4 the kind of information that will help figure this out,
5 and to apply research funds to make sure that these
6 questions get answered.

7

8 So to do this, Congress has appropriated
9 at this point \$10 million that can be used over several
10 years and there's another five million dollars that's
11 being considered. So there may be as much as \$15 million
12 that become available for these kinds of studies.

13

14 The groups involved in this, as I
15 mentioned, there are many. The partnership includes the
16 Association of Village Council Presidents, Tanana Chiefs
17 Conference, Kawerak, the Bering Sea Fishermen's
18 Association, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the
19 National Marine Fisheries Service, the US Fish and
20 Wildlife Service, and many other organizations that are
21 interested in this work.

22

23 There's actually a formal agreement
24 between the organizations I just mentioned for the
25 purpose of developing a plan and funding projects and
26 also for making sure that there's not a duplication of
27 effort with other initiatives that look at some of these
28 kinds of questions.

29

30 So very briefly, the whole goal of this
31 right now is to fund projects that are really going to
32 answer important questions but to plan and to figure out
33 what are those questions. And to do that the group does
34 not want to be hasty in making decisions about what is
35 funded. There is a real effort here to look at
36 developing a plan very carefully and making sure that
37 there's a range of concerns that are heard and are
38 considered and that Western science and traditional
39 knowledge are fully involved in the way the questions are
40 developed and answered.

41

42 The products will include a science plan
43 that looks at important information and priorities to
44 answer the questions. We hope to get new tools for
45 predicting the salmon runs. We want to think in new ways
46 about salmon so we answer these questions and really get
47 information that people can use. And we want to improve
48 the kind of information that's developed, including
49 traditional knowledge and Western science.

50

00267

1 This plan is different because it's so
2 big. It covers the entire region, the entire AYK, so it
3 includes Bering Sea and the Western Alaska drainages as
4 well as the rest of the entire drainages. There's a real
5 commitment to coordinating with the existing kinds of
6 efforts, not to duplicate any efforts that are going on,
7 but also to integrate, in other words to look across many
8 different kinds of specialties, not just to look at one
9 kind of science or one kind of question.

10

11 There are two committees where, basically
12 this is a way of making sure work gets done, that people
13 are responsible to coordinate with other people, and that
14 jobs can be assigned out. So these are not the only
15 people involved but they're the ones that kind of get all
16 the work to do. There's a steering committee that
17 develops the overall priorities and there's a technical
18 committee. And the technical committee will actually
19 develop the plan but we'll do that with a lot of
20 organizations. They will just be like the coordinators.
21 They also review the project proposals and will help
22 figure out ways to improve the way people can get at
23 information that they want.

24

25 The steering committee, you have a list
26 in your handout of those people. They represent the
27 organizations that I mentioned to start with and many of
28 those name are familiar t you, I'm sure you all know many
29 of these people, and I won't read them into the record
30 because it's in the hand out. But there are eight people
31 on the steering committee to represent those eight
32 organizations that I mentioned. And again, you should
33 look at them as coordinators, they are there to help
34 engage all the people that are interested and concerned
35 with these issues.

36

37 The technical committee reports to the
38 steering committee and there are six members of which I
39 am one, and there are a number of different areas of
40 expertise. All of the people on these committees have
41 worked in these kinds of issues for some time. And,
42 again, they are essentially coordinators to other people
43 with these same interests.

44

45 The progress to date is very early, this
46 is just the start of this whole program which will run
47 for several years. So all that's happened so far really
48 is some very early steps toward getting some proposals
49 out that will help get information pulled together for
50 planning purposes, for developing a plan. But the next

00268

1 big step is to have a workshop that's scheduled for next
2 month, the invitations are starting to go out this week
3 to get people together who represent regional and local
4 concerns, Western science, management of the fisheries
5 and to get them all together in one place for three days
6 to hear each other, to hear questions and concerns, to
7 talk about what data are really available and to start
8 developing some of the major themes and questions that we
9 think collectively should be answered. So that's an
10 important workshop that's coming up.

11

12 On the front of your hand out is the web
13 site and there will be a lot of information there so that
14 will be a source of more details because I don't want to
15 get into all of that today, your time is -- my time here
16 is limited with your agenda, but we want to make sure you
17 know about all this.

18

19 There is also a new call for proposals
20 that will be -- actually I think it was released today,
21 and that will be asking for ideas for some proposals that
22 could happen this next summer to answer some specific
23 questions as part of initial data gathering, but, again,
24 it's before the plan is developed so it's only going to
25 be some proposals that will be funding.

26

27 The very last page of this hand out I
28 gave you is kind of a complicated looking diagram but I
29 want you to look right in the center of it where it says,
30 science plan, that is what ultimately we want to develop,
31 but it's going to take some time, a couple of years,
32 probably, to get this plan together.

33

34 As part of doing that, as I mentioned,
35 one of the early steps is this workshop next month. We
36 also have help from a committee, a national committee
37 representing many, many different kinds of specialties.
38 They're from the National Research Council. And they are
39 also in many cases very familiar with Alaskan issues and
40 science, and they will be assisting in developing the
41 science plan questions and issues. So they will be
42 participating in the workshop next month.

43

44 It's very important to mention here that
45 this initiative is fully funding 30 participants from
46 local and regional areas who will be selected in
47 coordination through the three regional organizations I
48 mentioned, Kawerak, AVCP and Tanana Chiefs. The intent
49 is to fully fund 10 each from those regions to make sure
50 that there is very specific participation representing

00269

1 regional and local concerns, in addition to others who
2 may come to the workshop, we don't want cost to be a
3 barrier to participation. There will probably be
4 somewhere around a hundred people or so at this workshop
5 is our estimate so far. And there is more information on
6 the web site.

7

8 Over on the left side of that diagram is
9 a series of boxes just to show that we are very aware of
10 all these other kinds of planning efforts and research
11 efforts and there's a real intention to make sure these
12 are coordinated, that there's a way to link these up,
13 that no one is duplicating efforts and that we can build
14 and learn from all the information that's coming out of
15 those other efforts.

16

17 That's a very brief overview, Mr.
18 Chairman, but I will be happy to answer any questions at
19 this time.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Councils you have
22 questions.

23

24 MS. GREGORY: I have.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

27

28 MS. GREGORY: I have two questions and a
29 comment. What's your ultimate goal and for whose benefit
30 is this study going to be? And I'll say my comment after
31 you answer me.

32

33 MS. SEE: Mr. Chair. Member Gregory. If
34 you look at that big diagram at the end of your hand out,
35 at the very bottom it says the outcome -- the goal of
36 this whole initiative and I'll read it onto the record,
37 is improved understanding and management of salmon to
38 sustain forever the salmon resources of the AYK region.
39 This is to benefit all people and to recognize the
40 dependence of the people in the region on these
41 resources.

42

43 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

46

47 MS. GREGORY: My observation of your
48 presentation is like you're trying to duplicate the us
49 because we're already doing that. We're doing research
50 and we're trying to make sure that everybody -- when I

00270

1 die that my grandchildren will eat the fish that I'm
2 eating, and I say if there's too many people doing the
3 same thing I think we should, instead, try to help each
4 other right rather than to create another wheel to get
5 the sled going.

6

7 MS. SEE: Mr. Chairman. I would agree
8 with you that there is no one who wants to duplicate the
9 work. I think this is an opportunity with additional
10 money to help fund the same kinds of questions that are
11 important to everyone here. It's a way, also to add on
12 to the value of the studies that you heard about earlier.
13 There would be no duplication of that work, there would
14 be close coordination.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Other Councils.

17

18 (No comment)

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions Councils.

21

22 (No comment)

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

25

26 MS. SEE: Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: National Park Service.

29

30 (No comment)

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yukon River Drainage
33 Fishermen Association.

34

35 MS. KLEIN: Hello, my name is Jill Klein
36 with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association. And
37 I just wanted to give you all a brief update on what
38 YRDFA has been working on this past summer, and most
39 recently with respect to upcoming Board of Fish proposals
40 and Federal Subsistence Board proposals.

41

42 I didn't testify yesterday on many of the
43 issues that you spoke about and the reason is that the
44 YRDFA board of directors which come from Yukon River
45 communities, like most of you here today, they have not
46 yet met to take action on proposals and issues concerning
47 the Yukon River fisheries, so they will be meeting this
48 coming weekend and will take action on the proposals.
49 And once we do take action I will make sure to send out
50 to the Regional Council Chairs and if individuals would

00271

1 like it also, specifically, we can send out our actions
2 taken so that everybody knows what we've worked on. In
3 addition, we will also send that out to others, besides
4 the Regional Advisory Councils.

5
6 Many of you know that we work during the
7 season to run the in-season YRDFA Salmon Management
8 Teleconferences. The CFC members, some of them have
9 participated, or some of you have participated regularly
10 in the conferences and we look forward to carrying them
11 out again next year. As you saw, it was recommended for
12 funding. And we do hope to have more participation.
13 Granted, it's sometimes hard when there's so many people
14 on a teleconference not speaking face to face, but we
15 would like to have as many regions as possible
16 represented so that managers and fishers can work more
17 closely together and there can be more input that's
18 accurate and accurately represents different regions.

19
20 I also just wanted to briefly let you
21 know about some of the other research projects that YRDFA
22 is working on.

23
24 We are doing projects such as smelt out
25 migration project on the Andreafsky River. We're also
26 doing aerial surveys to count returning coho to the Anvik
27 River. We also are working in the areas of capacity
28 building and still traditional ecological knowledge.

29
30 Two of the projects that I think were
31 more interesting this past summer, one of them was the
32 Twin Bears Camp, which you heard about I think through
33 two of the Partners Programs as they joined in the camp,
34 either as instructors or brought the Americorp students
35 to participate in. But this was a biotechnician training
36 fisheries camp and it was for three weeks. And the idea
37 -- it was also a cooperative project with the National
38 Park Service and University of Alaska-Fairbanks
39 Cooperative Extension. And the goal of this was to bring
40 youth or young people that are interested in working as
41 fisheries technicians or getting involved in fisheries
42 issues to enable them to spend three weeks working in a
43 camp to learn about the different aspects of life in a
44 remote camp, how to do sampling, traditional knowledge
45 projects, fish biology, ichthyophonus, lots of different
46 issues were on the curriculum.

47
48 And so being that all of you are here
49 today I would like to encourage you we are going to try
50 to do the project again next year, this year we did it

00272

1 outside of Fairbanks and we would like to do it in the
2 lower river next year, and so we would like to have
3 people recommend people from their communities that could
4 participate in such a camp.

5
6 We also did a project that we're calling
7 the Yukon River Educational Exchange Program which is
8 funded by the Yukon River Panel. And this program is --
9 it's main goal is to try to get Canadians and Alaskan
10 fishers together to learn more about each others
11 fisheries due to the Yukon River Salmon Agreement being
12 signed last year in Washington. So we were able -- this
13 is the second year it was funded, we were able to bring
14 five Alaskans as well as five fishers from Yukon
15 Territory to different parts of the river and spend a
16 week in each location, meeting different people, going to
17 fish camps, going to test fishery sites and just
18 developing people to people relationships. We also would
19 like to continue to do this project next summer, so,
20 again, I encourage all of you as Regional Advisory
21 Council members, we are looking for people that are
22 participating through the fishery, be it through
23 professional jobs or through sitting on Regional Council
24 seats like yourselves. So if anyone is interested in
25 participating in such a project we would welcome you.

26
27 Just one other area I wanted to let you
28 know about is that last year at the Kotlik meeting, YRDFA
29 did pass a resolution about the radio telemetry project.
30 And I'm not sure that we sent out the resolution to all
31 the Regional Council members but as you all saw it is a
32 project that is being funded through the OSM program, and
33 so I just wanted to update you about the resolution.

34
35 While the YRDFA board of directors knows
36 that this is a valuable project and it does contribute
37 extremely valuable information to the fishery there is
38 concern, I think, from Yukon River residents about the
39 invasiveness of the radio tag that are being placed
40 inside salmon. And so the YRDFA board passed a
41 resolution to support the project but only for the news
42 two years in the hopes that agencies that are running the
43 project would evaluate it, look at the data that it's
44 collecting and see what kind of -- how long this project
45 is really going to go on for. And what kind of
46 information it's giving. So I would just urge the
47 Regional Councils, as group that is helping to fund the
48 program, to also think about this issue.

49
50 That's all I have. Thank you.

00273

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

2

3 MS. GREGORY: I just want to commend you
4 for doing a good job for the people you are working for.
5 YRDFA needs to be very proud of her, she's up with it.

6

7 MS. KLEIN: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Other questions from
10 Councils.

11

12 (No comment)

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Jill. Bering
15 Sea Fishermen Association.

16

17 (No comment)

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Other organizations.
20 Don Rivard.

21

22 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
23 Rivard, with the Office of Subsistence Management. As
24 we're winding down here for the tri-Council meeting, I
25 just wanted to take the time, if you'll allow me, to
26 acknowledge the people that have helped put this all
27 together.

28

29 First of all, I'd like to thank each and
30 every one of you for coming here today and this week.
31 For your flexibility because you all were going to meet
32 in other places. And your willingness to come here and
33 meet together as three Councils at one time.

34

35 We did a lot of planning for this meeting
36 and I wanted to acknowledge the people that have done the
37 work behind the scenes to put this all together.

38

39 For some of you you're having eight days
40 straight of meetings and we recognized that at the outset
41 and we tried to design these meetings and the agendas so
42 that it wouldn't be too big of a burden that have to be
43 there for eight days in a row. It started with the CFC
44 meetings last week and there's five days of meeting here
45 and some of you will be attending the YRDFA meeting on
46 Friday, so that's eight days in a row for some of you.

47

48 As far as for the OSM Staff there were a
49 lot of folks that were involved in putting this all
50 together, this meeting, and we started planning these

00274

1 meetings in May, so it's been five months of planning and
2 my Staff has just -- I want you to know I'm very proud of
3 the Staff at OSM for what they've done because they've
4 really worked hard. There's been a lot of thought that's
5 been put into these meetings and I want to acknowledge
6 them.

7

8 From the Interior Region's Division Staff
9 which are the division at our office that works with your
10 three Councils, first of all your Council coordinators,
11 Vince Mathews, Alex Nick and Donald Mike, and then your
12 other Staff that work for you are Jerry Berg, Pete
13 DeMatteo, Pat McClenahan, Pat Petrivelli, Richard
14 Uberuaga. From FIS Staff there's Richard Cannon and
15 Cliff Schleusner and Polly Wheeler. You saw Pete
16 Probasco here a lot, he had a lot of planning, especially
17 for the CFC meeting. And then our support Staff in our
18 office, just putting all these arrangements together,
19 making sure that everybody has a plane ticket and arrives
20 here on time and that the hotel arrangements are in place
21 and the meeting arrangements are in place and that's
22 Nancy Barris, Martha Corey and Theresa Burke. So I just
23 wanted to let you know of the names of the folks that
24 work for your Councils a whole lot behind the scenes so
25 that when you get here hopefully all you do is just
26 concentrate on the work and you're not thinking about,
27 you know, did you get your plane tickets or whatever on
28 time. Some of those snafus happen anyways, but I can
29 assure you as the supervisor of many of these people that
30 they're really working hard to make sure that there's the
31 least amount of problems as possible before you guys all
32 start traveling.

33

34 And we really enjoy working with you all
35 and we're here to serve you and we'll continue to do the
36 best job that we can.

37

38 Thank you, very much, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, thank you. At
41 this time, I'd like to ask Ron for a closing comment.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
44 realized quite some time ago the task before us facing
45 this tri-Council meeting. We had one before, we were new
46 so our theme was unity, it kind of worked through the
47 years.

48

49 We had some disagreements on some
50 proposals and you know that our first day got us to the

00275

1 point where we couldn't move so that the unwritten theme
2 of unity for this tri-Council meeting went out the door.
3 We did not agree on quite a few proposals, but then again
4 that is our prerogative. A lot of these proposals were
5 area specific and you know that we deferred a few of them
6 to our respective Western Interior Council meeting
7 tomorrow.

8

9 I still appreciated the logistical work
10 that Staff had to do so I would like to thank all and
11 every one of you.

12

13 I would also like to thank all the
14 Native organizations who deemed it important enough to
15 make your presentation before us. I know a lot of you
16 spent just as many days as we did hear at Wasilla and in
17 Anchorage and will continue meeting with us in Anchorage.

18

19 Again, I would like to thank Vince,
20 Donald, and Alex for putting up with us. I was working
21 nine hours a day, six days a week and got to the point
22 where I'd pick up my message phone and send a message
23 back to Vince, Vince, don't call, I'll call back
24 sometime.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would like to thank all
29 of you for putting up with us and bearing with us and God
30 bless, and I hope we did mend some fences, and again I
31 would like to acknowledge and thank Della Trumble for
32 being here at this meeting.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Gerald Nicholia.

37

38 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, I feel really
39 privileged to be here working amongst and with you guys
40 for the people that we represent. I'd like to thank OSM
41 for bringing us here together. ADF&G for being here with
42 their information. It takes a lot out of us. It takes
43 us away from our homes, our families. Sometimes it seems
44 like forever that we're sitting here. I'm glad to see us
45 work together and accomplish a few things. We may have
46 some disagreements and stuff, but I really appreciate
47 working with you guys. It's been an honor to tell you
48 the truth to be sitting here amongst with you and being
49 one of the Chairmans of the most lucrative Councils out
50 of all the 10 regions.

00276

1 I was kind of worried when I first showed
2 up, you know, here, I came here the first few days and I
3 was kind of worried how this tri-Council was going to
4 work but I seem to have a natural ability to kind of make
5 people work together somehow but I don't know how the
6 hell I do that because I manage the river system and the
7 road system at the same time and it's very hard for me to
8 keep Council members together because of the decisive
9 issues from both areas. I really appreciate the Council
10 members that I have and just thank you all.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, thank you. Me,
13 myself, I don't know what comment I would say. But this
14 is my first time, I'm here in this city, and Tom, I
15 didn't satisfy yet, I still need to go out there and hook
16 some fish without license.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: But anyway, one of these
21 days maybe I will. And I want to thank each one of you,
22 especially for those the ones there that come from long
23 ways. We got some people here that come from out in the
24 end of the Yukon, in Bering Sea, and people from Holy
25 Cross side.

26

27 And also that I appreciate people that
28 work with us, it's not something new to me that once in
29 awhile that we have to straighten out some things and I
30 think that most of all I appreciate our lady over there
31 from Bethel [sic] that's related to me, and I really
32 respect what she has been done and I thank you for your
33 time and this opportunity that we could able to work
34 together.

35

36 I know these two Chairman here, and I
37 work with them before. So we get along very good and I
38 think at this time I'm going to give chance to closing
39 comment from each side of this Council here. Maybe start
40 from Yukon-Kuskokwim Councils.

41

42 MS. GREGORY: I'd like to thank everyone
43 for being here, even though we disagree a lot we come
44 into common ground which takes a special skill to do.
45 And I appreciate the people who listen to us and try to
46 see how we live out there because we are all different --
47 the way we do things are different even though we're from
48 another village, our dialects and our foods sources are
49 different.

50

00277

1 So thank you for putting up with me.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, me, too. I'm one of
6 your elders sitting up here. I'm very glad to see you
7 guys what you guys been doing working together. I hope
8 everybody's keep working together and we'll get done
9 something like this.

10

11 Thank you, very much.

12

13 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

14

15 INTERPRETER: For myself, being involved
16 in this RAC, it's a -- even though he does not speak or
17 is literate in English, and because of that fact, and I
18 appreciate the friendship that's been shown to me. And
19 it gives him a good feeling and that he has not been
20 uncomfortable to him. He feels like a child that he's
21 still learning, but he's grateful also for the help his
22 fellow Council members have given him.

23

24 MR. CHARLES: I want to thank everybody
25 who work hard to put this meeting together. The Staff
26 and our coordinators. When we meet with other regions
27 like this we learn a lot of things that we didn't know,
28 even small things makes a lot of difference in our
29 culture in subsistence hunting and fishing.

30

31 And I want to thank our three Chairs for
32 running a good meeting.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MR. THOMPSON: I don't have nothing much
37 to say but I want to thank everybody that participated in
38 this meeting and makes a lot of difference for us to
39 understand each other.

40

41 The only thing that, you know, makes us
42 disagree is difference where we came from. But even at
43 that, I think we will accomplish something later on and
44 understand each other instead of, you know, opposing each
45 other.

46

47 Quite a while back there was a lot of
48 disagreements and that was about 20 years ago and now it
49 makes a big difference. There's some new faces, maybe
50 that's why things are more accomplished by young people

00278

1 because they begin to understand both the Native and
2 White man's way of life and it makes a big difference.

3

4 So, quyana, for working together.

5

6 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
7 want to thank Western Interior Council, Eastern Interior
8 Council, even my own Council here, YK Delta, for having
9 this meeting together. This way we can accomplish more
10 instead of having to knock heads with each other even if
11 we don't agree with all the things that we do, still
12 we'll accomplish. And I hope in the future when we have
13 to work on proposals we'll work on them like we're doing
14 now.

15

16 And I want to thank all the Staff of
17 Subsistence Management, Fish and Game personnel that gave
18 us the information. Even Fish and Game gave us old
19 information last year, which we already ate and all gone,
20 the new one never came out for 2003. Maybe next time we
21 do we'll have it in front of us.

22

23 Thank you, very much.

24

25 MR. L. WILDE: I'm not much of a speaker,
26 but I will say one thing, this forum is nothing new to
27 most of us that are here because we've had this forum for
28 the last 10 or 12 years with Yukon Drainage Fisheries
29 Association, and I've known from the very beginning that
30 with the three Councils, if it can work in YRDFA it can
31 work with OSM.

32

33 And when YRDFA first started out the
34 people that were in opposition to it said that there
35 could never be a consensus within the whole river and I
36 think there might have been some reservations on the part
37 of some of Staff that maybe there would be some problems
38 here with this forum with the three Councils meeting.
39 But we've always had faith in our people all the way up
40 and down the river. And with the information that is
41 supplied to us by Staff, the up to date, except for one
42 year, according to John, with the information that's
43 supplied to us by Staff, we're able to -- our decisions
44 are a lot easier and it makes it easier for us to make
45 our decisions on the issues that we need to make
46 decisions on.

47

48 And I would like to thank all the Staff
49 members that had anything to do with this forum, and also
50 would like to say that it's good to see all of the

00279

1 members of Western and Eastern Interior down here to
2 just, if not for anything else, but at least for the
3 different views that we've been able to get from the
4 different Councils. I want to thank each and every one
5 of you for, at least, giving me some education on some of
6 the things that we need to decide and to help me in my
7 personal growth.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman for
12 allowing me to speak. To thank the people who are
13 sitting here to work together, our differences that we
14 may have that we've seen here since yesterday. It's been
15 hard on us and we've worked long hours in trying to work
16 out these proposals, and I'm glad we came to some
17 consensus on some of the proposals that came before us.

18

19 And I'd especially like to thank the
20 invited guests from the Kodiak Aleutian RAC Committee,
21 too, to be here and having her allow to hear some of our
22 concerns. I'm sure she's got the same concerns in her
23 area, and I would like to thank her for being here with
24 us also.

25

26 I'd just want to say have a safe trip
27 home to your families and enjoy the fall.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MR. SAVAGE: This is my first meeting
32 meeting all together like this, and it is interesting and
33 I'm thinking about my grandkid, and I was just kind of
34 smiling there sometimes. I hope she can see -- works
35 better with other groups than I can. Sometimes I butt
36 heads with everybody but it's -- I'm glad that
37 everybody's here and everybody comes to these stuff.
38 Because looking at the food we eat, it doesn't matter
39 where we are, we pretty much eat the same thing and it's
40 fish and I hope we still have it then.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MR. MCCANN: (In Yup'ik)

45

46 INTERPRETER: He is very thankful to
47 everyone for meeting here together. And Fish and
48 Wildlife and other associations. We're all inside --
49 there are no experts on this land but what we are facing
50 each other and working together, things are going to not

00280

1 use by the way people say we hear them, even they -- even
2 the person seems uneducated, they speak with -- and even
3 teenagers, we should listen to them. Sometimes those
4 children don't listen -- I mean don't forget and are very
5 smart.

6
7 He's thankful that we work together and
8 we are learning, learning, even the traditional things,
9 even the White people who are working and trying to help
10 us, they want to help us and he hopes that they will
11 learn from us, too, just like this. Since this meeting I
12 have learned -- I have learned since I was a young child
13 and I have learned lots when I attend meetings when I'm
14 participating, I even understand what I made a mistake on
15 and for that I am thankful.

16
17 And our traditional ways and subsistence,
18 you should think about it and think about your boards and
19 maybe some day I won't be alive but I always tell my
20 friends that I will go up to heaven as fast as a jet.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 I am very thankful for that, for me
25 having.....

26
27 MR. MCCANN: Thank you very much.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Billy.
30 Eastern Interior.

31
32 MR. BASSICH: Yes. I just wanted to thank
33 the Chair for running a very well run meeting and the
34 Staff that put this together, and all the Departments and
35 other agencies that contributed. I think without the
36 contribution of such a vast array of people we wouldn't
37 get really good information and with good information
38 comes good policy-making and good decisions.

39
40 And I especially want to thank -- I'm
41 thankful for the ability to sit at a table with such a
42 diverse group of people and to be able to learn from all
43 of you. It's very important for me to be able to learn
44 about your homes and your lives and how you live and
45 what's important to you. I hope you'll forgive me if I
46 question you too much about that, but it's very important
47 to me and I think it's very important for the future of
48 the fisheries stocks. And I hope that everybody will
49 just remember at all times in discussions, that although
50 we have many differences, the one thing that keeps us all

00281

1 together is our love and our need for -- and our respect
2 for the resources, the fish and the game that we depend
3 on, and that pulls us all together and that should always
4 be able to help us make good decisions.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MR. STEVENS: Well, I'm probably the
9 young buck here in the whole group so as you know
10 patience is a virtue. So I would really like to thank
11 those people who took their names off the agenda today.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MR. STEVENS: On a serious note, boy, you
16 really have to have an open mind when you come to things
17 like that. I've learned so much in the last couple of
18 days just sitting here and listening. I would like to
19 thank all three Boards for their input as well as the
20 Staff out in the audience, and the audience itself.
21 Thank everybody for being here.

22

23 I was kind of worried when I first got
24 here because I thought it was going to be kind of a
25 boxing match, you know, so as soon as I got here I
26 started shaking hands around the table trying to meet
27 people.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MR. STEVENS: But it was far from that
32 and we came to some agreements and some disagreements,
33 but I think overall we did a good job.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MR. TITUS: I'd like to thank all the
38 volunteers that showed up for this meeting because it's
39 pretty important that we come and express our views to
40 share with each other up and down the river. We may not
41 see eye to eye but the fish sure taste good.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MR. TITUS: And when our smokehouses are
46 running over and we have all the fish we need, we'll know
47 all this time we've put into these meeting paid off and I
48 wish that they'd come pretty soon.

49

50 Thanks.

00282

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. One thing
2 about the Federal takeover on Federal lands is that
3 people can get together like we can now because the State
4 doesn't have the money for their ACs to even meet hardly,
5 especially the ones that represent these areas because
6 they're multiple villages, so that's real good.

7
8 I enjoyed myself here at this meeting and
9 I thank everyone for participating.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 MS. ENTSMINGER: I want to also reiterate
14 that it's for me, a pleasure to serve on the Council as a
15 non-Native person and I really respect all of the people
16 and all of the Councils and where you come from and where
17 you live. It is a learning process. It's great to hear
18 from the different areas, a lot of the areas I have been
19 to and some I haven't. And it's really neat to see
20 people like Jack Reakoff who I hadn't seen in many years
21 because of the tri-Council meeting, and meet people in my
22 area, like Andy down there who I never met before.

23
24 I want to thank all the people that put
25 the meeting on and thank Donald Mike for getting us our
26 travel arrangements and everybody for what they're doing.
27 And also I wanted to say to you, Virgil, even though
28 sometimes you act like a wolverine in a trap, you do have
29 a lot of good information to bring us.

30
31 And I think Della being here is she can
32 delineate or help us sometimes understand things that we
33 didn't, and it was a good meeting.

34
35 Thank you, everyone.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Western
38 Interior Council.

39
40 MR. STICKMAN: I just wanted to thank the
41 Office of Subsistence Management for all the work that
42 they put in. I want to thank our coordinator, Vince
43 Mathews. I want to thank my fellow Board members on the
44 Western Interior and also the Eastern Interior and the YK
45 Delta.

46
47 I know, you know, it's kind of hard to
48 speak of the issues when they're close to your home and,
49 you know, it's hard when you have disagreements because
50 you know as a Native person that grew up in the area, you

00283

1 know, I've been there from the time I was born in 1959,
2 and I'm probably not going to leave the area, I'll
3 probably be there when I die so, you know, the concerns
4 that I bring before all of you are concerns that I'm
5 going to live with for the rest of my life so it's very
6 important to me and they're important to the people that
7 I live with. But I also have to realize that the Western
8 Interior is a big region, so I'd like to first of all I'd
9 like to apologize if I create any hard feelings among the
10 Board here, that's not my intention. My intention is to
11 do exactly what we're supposed to do and that's create
12 increase subsistence opportunity when we can.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. REAKOFF: I'd like to thank the
17 Chairs for keeping our lines tight in this meeting, they
18 worked real hard to make sure that we stayed on track.
19 And I appreciate the elders who are here, for the wisdom
20 that they lend to this meeting, and the history that they
21 bring to this meeting, for the younger people like myself
22 who don't have that history.

23

24 I commend all of the Council members,
25 including Della, who came here to learn about each others
26 regions and our differences and I hope there's no hard
27 feelings in our differences and I'm very proud that we
28 did work together on various issues.

29

30 I commend the Alaska Department of Fish
31 and Game for coming, all their hard work and all the
32 input that they have. And the other organizations that
33 brought information and ideas to this table. And, of
34 course, the months of work that our OSM Staff has put
35 into making this meeting possible. All of who, which,
36 work together for the benefit of this resource and the
37 longevity of this resource and for the subsistence users
38 who rely on those resources.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: I'd like to thank
43 everyone, especially those on the Western Interior, our
44 Chairs, OSM office, Department of Fish and Game, Della.
45 Our coordinators who work so hard to get us here and who
46 have been real helpful to us. Jill from YR DFA, our
47 fearless leader, who taught us how to get along by her
48 quiet ways, thank you, Jill, so I can sit here with
49 anybody now after being with YR DFA. And interpreters,
50 thank you so much. I don't understand any other language

00284

1 other than English, thank you, for interpreting for us, I
2 really appreciate it.

3

4 Mostly why I come here, the meetings, is
5 because my main reason for doing anything in the world is
6 for children, kids and young people. Anything I learn
7 will help our kids grow up and learn all the things that
8 we value, all the things that we know. Our family can
9 hear us talking and we tell them things, somewhere down
10 the road they'll remember what they heard. And I really
11 appreciate listening to the elder people talking about
12 how it was yesterday. Yesterday was a good time. I tell
13 my kids about my yesterdays and they wonder how I got
14 through it all but I tell them, well, that's the way it
15 was because right now they're used to everything being
16 there.

17

18 And thanks to all the other people from
19 the other, Tanana Chiefs and AVCP, and Innoko Wildlife
20 Refuge, and the other ones, I fail to mention. I really
21 enjoyed coming here to Wasilla, it's the first time I've
22 been here and it's a beautiful place, and I'd like to
23 come back here again sometime.

24

25 MR. PETERS: Hello. I'm very pleased how
26 the meeting has turned out. The first time I have been
27 working with three delegates, you know, three different
28 committees. And it's very confusing at times, for me, to
29 try to bear with them, and you know how that is. It is
30 very difficult to get a good team together, and when we
31 work together we have a good Staff, and by golly we do
32 have a good Staff. We're going to come out on top of
33 this sooner or later. We're going to be recognized by
34 the outside, and we're going to be recognized by the
35 whole State of Alaska.

36

37 I thank the Boards for bearing with us,
38 bearing with all the things we've been talking about. I
39 know it's tough. It was even tough for me to vote
40 because I wasn't too sure. And it's very heartbreaking
41 when I break somebody's heart, but I just don't have no
42 choice but to go along with what I think.

43

44 And I want to thank -- I'm going to miss
45 two of my best friends, and that's Billy and Philip,
46 they're good entertainers in the evening. We're going to
47 smoke peace pipe next time we come around here.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

00285

1 MR. PETERS: Anyway, I'm very pleased
2 with the Chairman, they done an outstanding job holding
3 the meeting together. And it's very difficult to find
4 people like that, they're right on top of everything, and
5 it's very nice. I thank you very much. And now I can
6 get back to my dogs and take out the whip and honk on to
7 Nome.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MR. JONES: My name is Benedict Jones. I
12 want to thank the Staff for putting up this meeting and
13 the tri-Council members for meeting here in Wasilla.
14 It's really an honor to represent my peoples from the
15 villages.

16

17 This was four different cultures who met
18 here for the last three days, it's really a working
19 experience to have knowledge of each other's lives of
20 what we have been learned from the time we were kids.
21 And hopefully we will try to save stellar sea lions for
22 Della.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MR. JONES: I really appreciate that what
27 we came here we have accomplished some of the proposals,
28 and some that we didn't get. My Native name is Gotonecha
29 (ph), and I think I fulfill my name, what my name means
30 is a gatherer of the peoples, my Native names which is it
31 stands for -- is to gather the peoples together on the
32 river and I think I fulfill that name. My great-grandpa
33 Louie Pilot from Cochran he was a chief back in the late
34 1800s, so I think I fulfill my duties with all what I'm
35 doing for my people.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MR. WALKER: My name is Walker, so
40 apparently I got to be the last in the line here. It
41 seems like everything I do something, wherever you have
42 the name W, you were always last in line.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. WALKER: I'd like to thank the
47 Chairs, Sam, Nicholia and Wilder.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

00286

1 MR. WALKER: Which really did hold this
2 tri-Councils together. I mean there was frustrating
3 moments. There was no anger or nobody wanted to jump up
4 and fight but there was frustrations but they did hold
5 the tri-Councils together regardless of how and what we
6 voted on, some of them were frustrating. I could see
7 we're going to lose, we're going to win. Actually when
8 you really stop and think about it it was really
9 educational.

10

11 I learned something from the lower Yukon,
12 something from the Eastern and something from our own
13 Board. It's just a learning experience as you go along,
14 even from Mr. Mathews when he's housecleaning.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MR. WALKER: It is interesting to know
19 that somebody's got to take care of the cleaning.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. WALKER: I'd like to thank the Staff.
24 OSM. Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And other
25 people that came here. My brother-in-law, Ted Kruger,
26 who is a GASH board member, I enticed him to be here so
27 he could see firsthand how things operate, and this is my
28 first tri-meeting, and I felt like, overwhelmed. You
29 know, I kind of got mad at the Staff a little bit today,
30 I didn't get mad at you guys, just the Staff, I got
31 frustrated at.

32

33 But I'd like to thank Donald and who
34 else, Alex, for helping to coordinate and make the travel
35 and all this -- put up in this hotel here. Della, first
36 time I met her and thank her for being here. And I'd
37 like to thank my new friend, Philip, I met over there,
38 Philip Moses, is -- there are characters still in the
39 Yup'ik nation.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. WALKER: And our assistant Chairman
44 Micky, and Jack. Angela. Carl's not here. Emmitt. Mr.
45 Benedict here, who's our elder spokesman. I just really
46 -- you know, I've known some of you for a long time but I
47 didn't know all of you. Billy McCann I never met before.
48 You know, I'll tell you something too, we talked among
49 ourselves too and we do have spaceman in our inglects
50 too.

00287

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. WALKER: So they've been there, too.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MR. WALKER: You know, they probably met
8 up there and talked it over who claims the dark side or
9 clear side.

10

11 I didn't want to leave anybody out. If I
12 left anybody out, I apologize. This character here, I
13 can't leave him out either.

14

15 So thank you, we'll meet again. There'll
16 be still trying times, don't say that everything is going
17 to be good from now on, there's still trying times, we're
18 still learning. AVCP thank you. Tanana Chiefs. Who
19 else -- somebody said them all awhile ago.

20

21 Thank you, very much, Mr. Chairman.

22

23 MS. TRUMBLE: I am not sure where to
24 start. I am Della Trumble and I am the Chair for the
25 Kodiak/Aleutians. This is my second time that I've
26 attended a tri-Council meeting and I had honestly had
27 asked somebody else in my Council to attend because I've
28 been busy number 1, and number 2, sometimes I feel like
29 I'm walking in the Lion's Den when I come in here.

30

31 I want to say that I really, my heart
32 feels really good to look and see at the three
33 organizations and regions working together. The
34 Kodiak/Aleutians are comprised of the Eastern Aleutians,
35 the Western Aleutians and Kodiak, the distance is
36 tremendous as is yours, and to watch all of you work
37 together as Councils and to try to resolve your issues,
38 to respectfully hear each others views, I've learned so
39 much this trip just being able to talk to people
40 individually. To be able to listen to all of you. That
41 I can carry that back to my region and my Council and let
42 them understand that our concerns and our way of survival
43 are the same as yours.

44

45 One of the motto's I use all the time and
46 I think when I go into these meetings because a lot of
47 times they are controversial is that we agree to
48 disagree, respectfully, and I found that to be sort of
49 the underlying rule of this meeting and I thought that
50 was really great.

00288

1 The Kodiak/Aleutians we are having our
2 meeting on Friday in Anchorage and that's starting at
3 9:00 and if any of you are able to be there and can take
4 some time, I would really enjoy it if you can stop by so
5 I can introduce you to our Council at the Millennium.

6
7 And the last -- I've been on the Chair
8 for the past three years so I've had the opportunity to
9 spend time with Harry and Gerald and Ron and have gotten
10 to know them pretty well and I think we've gotten to come
11 to a good understanding, and I really appreciate that and
12 I respect that.

13
14 I like Robert's comment about getting to
15 know Philip, because even if I can't understand his
16 language, we got to spend some time last night and I
17 really had a good time and I have never laughed so hard
18 in a long time. It was great, because even if I couldn't
19 understand him I really had a good time. But it was just
20 that opportunity to get to know all of you better and
21 hopefully for you to get to know me in our region.

22
23 I'd also like to thank Tom Boyd and Fish
24 and Wildlife and ADF&G, and I know there's been, the
25 coordinators, I think you guys got some great
26 coordinators. But again, I really thank you for the
27 opportunity.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, thank you. And
32 before we adjourn, I'd like to ask Vince, do you have any
33 housekeeping or something.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Where and when are we
38 going to have a meeting and all that.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I've got to ask a
41 Staff person to help me on the first part so if Pat
42 Petrivelli can come up here.

43
44 Mr. Chairman, many of you know from the
45 Coordinating Fishery Committee that I've been gone for a
46 year for leadership training and what I learned there is
47 the three Rs. And that's Resource, that's obviously you
48 guys are very respectful of the resource. Respect, you
49 respect each other, respect the knowledge, and you
50 respect all the users. The third one is Recognition.

00289

1 And the third one, as a team we've been struggling with
2 trying how to figure out how to recognize all your hard
3 work. And part of my leadership training is is sometimes
4 you have to step out and do it on your own, so I'm
5 stepping out now on my own, this is nothing from OSM.

6

7 But I wanted to show some recognition to
8 several of the Council members. And some of these are
9 serious and some of them aren't.

10

11 The first one here is going to Philip
12 Titus. He gave me a very good insight, I think he surely
13 has forgotten about it in Tanana, we had a very rock and
14 roll meeting in Tanana.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: And he pulled me aside at
19 the airport when the airport was late and he says, Vince,
20 he says I'm telling all the Council members to bring
21 their guns.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: And since I have to worry
26 about safety I said, Philip, you know, what are you
27 talking about and he said, well, you know I'm going to
28 tell them to bring their guns if you don't get it right
29 the first time we shoot over your head, next time we
30 shoot lower.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: And that one will be for
35 Philip.

36

37 (Applause)

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Mr. Chairman, and
40 these are just randomly done. Our phones get very busy
41 and that's why we have 800 numbers, so you can talk to
42 us. But there's a Council member in Western Interior,
43 when she calls I don't know if I should answer the phone.
44 Part of the reason is every time she calls she has a
45 different color fish. First time she called and said all
46 the fish are glowing in the smokehouses. So we
47 investigated that. Next time she called and said the
48 fish are blue, I believe is what you said, Angela. So I
49 thought a very appropriate award would be to give her a
50 glowing fish so this goes to Angela Demientieff for all

00290

1 her time of keeping us informed of all the different
2 types of fish out there.

3

4 (Applause)

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: I'm randomly selecting
7 these and trying to remember what they all meant. This
8 one here, this comes from Staff ideas. As a coordinator
9 you get a lot of Staff in your office and many times we
10 get together on these fish things and we go, we got to
11 get a hold of Harry Wilde, we got to know where Harry
12 Wilde is, where is Harry Wilde? How come we can't get a
13 hold of him? Well, I called up two biologists and I
14 asked them, I said, can I get a radio-collar for Harry
15 Wilde, and they said, no, no, we recycle those and we use
16 them so we can't.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: So what I came up here with
21 is a cat collar that Harry can wear then we'll hear him
22 when he comes. So thank you, Harry.

23

24 (Applause)

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: The next one and I'll go
27 quicker on these as I get along. This one is to Virgil
28 Umphenour, I don't know him that well, we have worked
29 together and we've been to auctions together. But I
30 think Virgil is a very good Council member because he's
31 always looking for different angles of how to get things
32 accomplished.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Now, seriously that's very
37 important as a Council member because as Staff we're
38 buried in paperwork. And I don't know if we ever see
39 angle other than a right-angle.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: So this goes to Virgil.

44

45 (Applause)

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: The next one I didn't
48 consult with the biologists with, I was afraid to. This
49 is a calculator, as you can see, and there's one Council
50 members that plays a very important role with statistics,

00291

1 and I'm pretty sure there's some biologists that do not
2 want to have Jack Reakoff have a calculator.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: But I think he should have
7 a calculator and this is one he can put on his belt so
8 when he's out in the field and he's trying to figure out
9 the bull/cow ratio he can do it there.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: So this is a calculator to
14 provide for Jack Reakoff which plays a very valuable role
15 on the Council of helping us understand how to present
16 statistics better. I think sometimes we don't achieve
17 that but Jack is working to make it better.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 (Applause)

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the next one is an
24 airplane, and I did some research on this airplane. This
25 one we don't recognize your volunteer services enough and
26 this one is to James Charles. As I understand, he
27 travels to a lot of the working group meetings on his
28 own, by his own plane. And I think it should be
29 recognized that these Council members, all of them, spend
30 a lot of time getting to these meetings. And we need to
31 recognize that, so he is one that is really stepped up to
32 the plate and has his foot in the canoe for the working
33 group, foot in the canoe for the various groups and then
34 on his Council. And so I wanted to recognize that.

35

36 (Applause)

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: This one I don't know if I
39 can get through but we'll try. This goes to -- well, let
40 me give you a history of this one, it's another person
41 when they call I don't know if I want to answer the
42 phone. This goes to Gerald Nicholia.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Because when he calls, I'll
47 go, you know, okay what's up and then how are you doing
48 and he goes, oh, I ran into a tree with my snowmachine.
49 Next time he calls he goes I flipped the boat or next
50 time it's something else. And for those that are on

00292

1 Eastern Interior you've known several times he's come
2 into the meetings with stitches. So this is a band-aid
3 box to him. But in seriousness he's in Tanana, he's in
4 the middle of all this, he is a band-aid.....

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. MATHEWS:between the three
9 regions. So that's a very valuable role and that needs
10 to be recognized. So this is my attempt, a band-aid.

11

12 (Applause)

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The next one I learn
15 so much from you that it's hard to put in volumes. This
16 one goes to Mary Gregory because she keeps us to the
17 point, to the facts and helps us be focused. But you'll
18 also notice that it's very a small notebook, we don't
19 want her taking too many notes.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: But anyway, this is to
24 recognize that is another valuable role on the Councils
25 is for Council members to keep us on track, keep us
26 focused. We, again, are buried in paperwork and sometimes
27 cannot see beyond the written words. So, thank you,
28 Mary.

29

30 (Applause)

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And I don't know if this
33 one will make it back. This is wood from my Cub Scout
34 projects, and so if there's little nicks in it was from
35 them. This one is to Ron Sam, and the apple as you know
36 goes to a teacher but you usually put the apple out the
37 first thing in the morning, right, to the teacher so you
38 have a good day with the teacher. Ron is a morning
39 person. If I'm not in the office by 7:30 I have two
40 calls from Ron already waiting. So Ron has been for me,
41 my early bird coach, and that's been very helpful because
42 at times I don't understand what's going on, Staff don't
43 understand what's going on and like all you Council
44 members, he takes an extra moment in his busy schedule to
45 explain to a person in the huge bureaucracy what it
46 means.

47

48 So this goes to Ron Sam, as the early
49 bird apple. There's no worm in it Ron.

50

00293

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: But thank you.

4

5 (Applause)

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Now, to the true
8 housekeeping stuff. We will announce where the different
9 meetings, where you're going to meet, we have some more
10 discussions this evening as the team to address that. Be
11 patient with us tomorrow and the presenters because we're
12 going to be rotating them around and they all want to
13 spend quality time with you. So we will do our best to
14 get you the best presenters here at the best time.

15

16 It's hard to do that, it took Della four
17 times to remind me to do these awards.

18

19 The shuttle schedule we will also
20 announce tomorrow because a lot of that has changed, so
21 bear with us. But the main thing is, is we need to know
22 if you're leaving with someone else, you know, to get to
23 Anchorage to get to your planes, we kind of need to know
24 that so we can work that out.

25

26 I think that's all, I'm getting too
27 nervous now, I think that's all of it at this moment. I
28 think I forgot something.

29

30 MR. BERG: I just want to say that Vince
31 has been the leader in putting this meeting together,
32 he's probably put more hours in than anybody in our
33 office to put this meeting together. He's probably more
34 committed to helping people in your three regions than
35 anybody I've ever worked with, and I just want us all to
36 give a big hand to Vince because he's really helped to
37 put this meeting together and done a great job.

38

39 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I promise not to
40 choke you Vince.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, that's the last
45 one and this time someone make a motion to adjourn our
46 tri-Council meeting.

47

48 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

49

50 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

00294

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tomorrow morning Yukon-
2 Kuskokwim will meet at 8:30 in the morning next door
3 here. Vince, you know where the Eastern and Western
4 Interior will then meet?

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: Well, we know for sure
7 where YK -- Yukon-Kuskokwim, they're meeting in the
8 Frontier room, that's where you met before when you
9 caucused. Right now we need to talk about the best
10 locations for the two other Councils. So we'll announce
11 that and we'll make sure that it's the best for you. But
12 Yukon-Kuskokwim will be across the hall, the other two
13 we're still working on these rooms here.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, thank you, and
16 good night.

17
18 MR. NICK: Yeah, there's one other thing
19 for YK Council members if you want to take your packet
20 with you, please do so otherwise leave them all together
21 in your seat there and we'll move them over to meeting
22 room.

23
24 (In Yup'ik)

25
26 Quyana.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, good night.

29
30 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 1st day of November 2003.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04 □