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YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Bethel, Alaska
October 2, 2008
9:00 o'clock a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Lester Wilde
 - Robert Aloysius
 - John Andrew
 - William Brown
 - Mary Gregory
 - Paul Manumik
 - Joseph Mike
 - Harry Wilde
 - Greg Roczicka
- Regional Council Coordinator, Alex Nick

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Bethel, Alaska - 10/2/2008)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll call the meeting to order, the time is now 9:18. We'll have the roll call, please. Alex, could you please call the roll we don't have our secretary here -- could you please call the roll for a quorum, please. Please.

MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Roll call.
James Charles.

(No comments)

MR. NICK: John Andrew.

MR. ANDREW: Here.

MR. NICK: Raymond Oney.

(No comments)

MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Raymond Oney had family emergency so he was unable to attend.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Also Edward Hoelscher had a death in the family two days ago so he'll be excused today.

MR. NICK: Okay. William Brown.

MR. BROWN: Here.

MR. NICK: Harry Wilde.

MR. H. WILDE: Here.

MR. NICK: Mary Gregory.

MS. GREGORY: Here.

MR. NICK: Lester Wilde.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Here.

MR. NICK: Paul Manumik.

1 MR. MANUMIK: Here.
2
3 MR. NICK: Joseph Mike.
4
5 MR. MIKE: Here.
6
7 MR. NICK: Greg Roczicka.
8
9 MR. ROCZICKA: Here.
10
11 MR. NICK: Robert Aloysius.
12
13 MR. ALOYSIUS: Here.
14
15 MR. NICK: Nine present, Mr. Chair.
16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Alex. At
18 this time we'll have our invocation and I'll ask my
19 brother, Harry, to give the invocation please.
20
21 (Invocation)
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Before we go into
24 housekeeping items. Public comments are welcome for
25 each agenda item but please fill out a green testimony
26 sheet. Do we have those sheets available. Alex, do
27 you have the testimony. Tina, do you have them.
28
29 REPORTER: They're on the back table.
30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you.
32 Testimony form. They have some in the back there if
33 you need to testify and be recognized by the Chair.
34 Okay, Tina's got some back there, they're blue. Public
35 testimony time limits may be given but I don't think
36 there'll be any time limits today since we're going to
37 have quite a bit of time. But please note the times
38 for the meeting each day, the order of business and the
39 agenda are estimated and subject to change without
40 notice. You can contact any Office of Subsistence
41 Management Staff present at this meeting for the
42 current agenda and meeting schedule.
43
44 Just for your information the Regional
45 Advisory Council arranges its meeting to hear and
46 understand the subsistence concerns of the area where
47 we meet. Please feel free to share your subsistence
48 concerns and knowledge during the meeting. The agenda
49 is an outline for the meeting and is open to the area
50 of subsistence concerns whether it is listed or not.

1 Alex, you got any housecleaning --
2 keeping -- housecleaning or housekeeping.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Larry
7 Buklis, Office of Subsistence Management. Regarding
8 housekeeping items we do have a teleconference facility
9 now and the line will be activated for us. We'd like
10 to turn that on and see if anyone is calling in to
11 listen but then redirect them to dial in again later in
12 the day when we take up the special actions and not
13 have the phone system on all morning because there's
14 going to be a time used on the phone line and we have
15 to keep the costs under control. So we're going to
16 turn it on now, if you don't mind, see if anyone's
17 waiting to listen in and then guide them to dial in
18 again in the afternoon.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. We apologize for
23 the delay this morning in starting the meeting. One of
24 the things that we weren't aware of is the hotel policy
25 to charge use of phone lines and because this never
26 happened to us before when we used this, we didn't know
27 until just a few minutes ago when we were trying to set
28 up the teleconference equipment, and like Larry said
29 it's going to cost us a lot of money if we keep it on.
30 There are several folks who would like to come on line
31 and listen in to your discussions. I think one of them
32 is special action which will be taken up sometime this
33 afternoon and I told the folks from Western Interior
34 that we probably will take up those special actions
35 sometime early in the afternoon today so say about 2:00
36 o'clock this afternoon, so if they call in we'll let
37 them know that we're going to turn the phone lines back
38 on about that time.

39
40 And for those of you who are new to
41 Bethel, we do have sign up sheets up front and we have
42 comment forms, blue forms that Mr. Chair and the young
43 lady back here, Tina, showed you, you need to fill in
44 -- fill out the comment forms and turn them into either
45 us or to Chair and then we'll take care of that.

46
47 And we also had some problems with
48 Refuge printers, so I have only -- we have only limited
49 copies of issues that you'll be talking about on the
50 information table. And there's coffee and limited

1 snacks available up front, too, for you.
2
3 Mr. Chair.
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.
6
7 (Pause - checking teleconference line)
8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm sorry, is it all
10 right if I just leave it on.
11
12 REPORTER: Yes, you can leave yours on.
13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. At this
15 time I think we'll ask for welcome comments from our
16 Orutsaramiut Traditional Chief, Peter Jacob.
17
18 (Pause - checking teleconference line)
19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Technology works where
21 it works but sometimes out in the village we have a
22 little problems at times.
23
24 So at this time Peter Jacob would you
25 like to make the welcome comments.
26
27 MR. JACOB: Good morning. Good
28 morning.
29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning Peter.
31
32 MR. JACOB: Welcome to Bethel.
33
34 (Welcoming Council and public to Bethel
35 - In Yup'ik)
36
37 MR. NICK: Mr. Peter Jacob, Traditional
38 Chief of Orutsaramiut welcomes the Council and he asks
39 us to have a -- you know, all of us to stand and to
40 welcome the Council here in this community because the
41 fact that it used to be Yup'ik tradition to welcome
42 their guests, although we're combining Western and
43 Yup'ik welcome, he says that he thanks the Council for
44 dealing with the traditional subsistence issues that
45 emerges. And even though that we combine Western and
46 Yup'ik traditional welcome, he welcomes all the Council
47 members and he thanks them that they deal with
48 subsistence issues, and to continue Yup'ik way of life.
49
50 MR. JACOB: (In Yup'ik)

1 MR. NICK: I'm going to add what I
2 forgot, that in the Yup'ik traditional way of welcoming
3 their guests they used to have -- they used to perform
4 Yup'ik dances in honor of their guests. And because
5 we're following our tradition, Yup'ik tradition, we are
6 going to shake each other hands welcoming everyone to
7 the community because that was the Yup'ik traditional
8 way of welcoming people as their guests in their
9 community and also showing that, you know, we are glad
10 that you're here.

11
12 MR. JACOB: (In Yup'ik)

13
14 MR. NICK: And what he asks everyone to
15 do is to follow him and do exactly what he says,
16 shaking the Council member's hands, let's welcome them
17 all here.

18
19 MR. JACOB: Welcome to Bethel.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana.

22
23 (Council and public exchange handshake)

24
25 MR. JACOB: (In Yup'ik)

26
27 MR. NICK: Thank you very much for
28 allowing Yup'ik tradition combining it with Western
29 tradition and continuing to practice that at this time.

30
31 MR. JACOB: (In Yup'ik)

32
33 MR. NICK: Thank you for coming to
34 gather here and deal with the subsistence issues and
35 also to continue on with the Yup'ik tradition dealing
36 with these issues. What I would like to advise you is
37 to put love of others in between, instead of fighting
38 amongst each other, I would like to see that you try to
39 resolve those issues knowing there's love in between
40 for others and I would like for you to continue doing
41 that in dealing with the subsistence issues.

42
43 MR, JACOB: (In Yup'ik)

44
45 MR. NICK: And what I would like to see
46 is that you work very closely with Alaska Department of
47 Fish and Game and US Fish and Wildlife Service in
48 dealing with the subsistence resource issues trying to
49 resolve issues in a way that's agreeable to you and to
50 them, and by doing this you will be continuing the

1 Yup'ik way to deal with those issues.

2

3 MR. JACOB: Quyana. Thank you very
4 much for listening to me. That's it, thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Peter.

7

8 MR. NICK: He thanks you for listening
9 to his remarks.

10

11 MR. JACOB: Doi.

12

13 (Applause)

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We also have Tundy
16 Rodgers from the organization, rest of Bethel here.

17

18 MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 MS. GREGORY: Turn your mic on.

21

22 MR. ROGERS: Oh, modern technology.
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair. As you know and most of you up
24 there know, I represent many sections and cross
25 sections of Bethel. Right now I'm here representing
26 ONC and ONC Subsistence Council. It is on your agenda
27 but I have a resolution, No. 08-09-19 supporting the
28 extension of the Lower Kuskokwim moose hunting
29 moratorium.

30

31 I'll read the first whereas and then
32 hand this to you and then if I can I'll try to make it
33 on your agenda for Item 11B whenever you can get to it
34 but my wife is up having day surgery right now so I'm
35 kind of pressed for time. I'll be as straightforward
36 and as blunt as I can.

37

38 The Orutsaramiut Native Council is a
39 recognized tribal organization and non-
40 profit Native Corporation for its
41 members in Bethel, Alaska and supports
42 its members endeavors in all aspects of
43 their self-determination, cultural
44 health and well-being.

45

46 And this is for the extension of the
47 Lower Kuskokwim moose hunting moratorium.

48

49 In my travels up and down the river
50 getting wood to prepare for winter, I have heard people

1 from Tuluksak to the mouth of the river, I'm an elder
2 but elders older than I am, in support of this. Our
3 cousins and relatives on the Yukon did the same thing
4 we're trying to do and you have a sustainable harvest
5 every year with excesses, we're trying to do the same
6 thing. The whole ONC Subsistence Board Council is in
7 support of this, there's not one dissenting vote on
8 there. Some of the most avid hunters in Western Alaska
9 that are from Bethel are in support of this. A lot of
10 the elders from Tuluksak down, I had an elder from
11 Tuntutuliak tell me if we keep this up for two more
12 years they will be able to hunt in the river at
13 Tuntutuliak, the Tagalak and the Tuntutuliak Rivers,
14 they'll be able to hunt there themselves without
15 traveling all the way up the river or flying to the
16 Yukon where you have excess moose. What you're trying
17 to do is the same thing you have done. You sacrificed
18 yourselves over there in the Yukon, extended your
19 moratorium so you could have a sustainable harvest,
20 that's what we are trying to do. There are kids out
21 there, 30 and younger, that there's no closed season,
22 even with that poaching and what -- Fish and Game just
23 butchered a moose, a cow in the Church Slough yesterday
24 because somebody's gun happy. There's no closed season
25 for some of these people. But the rest of us, the
26 elders understand that future generations are at stake,
27 their grandkids, their freezers are at stake. They
28 can't wait for the caribou so they go and they poach,
29 which hurts us, all the rest of us.

30
31 But the Subsistence Council at ONC
32 consider your evaluation and the count, the count is
33 up, the projected numbers for sustainable harvest are
34 at a thousand. Right now, even with the poached ones
35 we're probably a couple more years away because we're
36 probably at the 700 mark, but if we can wait a couple
37 more years to get us a sustainable harvest the people
38 in this area will not have to travel, fly to the Yukon,
39 even though it is good, we come over, we visit, we
40 spend money in your communities and we see our cousins
41 and relatives over there, but with the price of gas and
42 everything, and airfares going up, that's going to be a
43 problem, but if we can have a sustainable harvest in
44 Unit 18 on the Kuskokwim that is a shot that we are
45 looking for. And I think a majority of the people that
46 I've talked to in the area are in support of this.

47
48 So I thank you for your time and if I
49 can make it back for the agenda item, I'll leave you
50 this.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Tundy.
2 Before we go into review and adoption of our agenda
3 let's have some introductions.
4
5 Harry.
6
7 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah, Mr. Chairman
8 and.....
9
10 REPORTER: Harry.
11
12 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman and member
13 of Council. I want to introduce the one that come over
14 with me from Mountain Village, she's the one that's
15 working for -- working with the people and also tribal.
16 She do a lot of things for the people of Mountain
17 Village, not only Mountain Village, also other
18 villages, I want to introduce Viviana Sates (ph), back
19 here, would you stand up, that's her right there.
20
21 (Applause)
22
23 MR. H. WILDE: Thank you.
24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We will start
26 with Viviana, introductions.
27
28 (Laughter)
29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No, I'm just kidding.
31 Start from the back there and go through the
32 introductions, please.
33
34 MS. KENNER: My name is Pippa Kenner
35 with OSM, anthropologist.
36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The back row, there's
38 a group of gentlemen in the back there.
39
40 MR. SUNDOWN: Robert Sundown with the
41 Yukon National Wildlife Refuge.
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Now, there.
44
45 MR. PERRY: Phillip Perry. Wildlife
46 biologist with Fish and Game.
47
48 MR. JONES: Patrick Jones. I'm a
49 wildlife biologist with Fish and Game.
50

1 (Introductions of public - not clear -
2 Mr. Buklis on teleconference with microphone)
3
4 MR. NICORI: James Nicori.
5
6 MR. PAPPAS: George Pappas. Department
7 of Fish and Game, Subsistence Liaison Team, Fisheries
8 Division.
9
10 MR. OVIATT: George Oviatt, Bureau of
11 Land Management.
12
13 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli, Bureau
14 of Indian Affairs.
15
16 MR. RODGERS: Tundy Rodgers, ONC, BNC,
17 city of Bethel and the list goes on.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.
22
23 MR. HAYES: Steve Hayes, Alaska
24 Department of Fish and Game.
25
26 MR. BUKLIS: Larry Buklis, Office of
27 Subsistence Management. I'm the Fisheries Division
28 Chief, and I'm acting as the deputy Assistant Regional
29 Director.
30
31 MS. RUSSELL: I'm Amy Russell with the
32 Division of Subsistence with Fish and Game.
33
34 MR. DUBEY: Bob Dubey with Yukon River
35 Drainage Fisheries Association.
36
37 MR. JACOB: Peter Jacob for ONC and (In
38 Yup'ik)
39
40 MR. NICK: Alex Nick, Council
41 coordinator for YK.
42
43 MR. CANNON: Dave Cannon, Bering Sea
44 Fishermen's Association.
45
46 MR. ANDREW: Timothy Andrew with AVCP.
47
48 MR. NANENG: I'm Myron Naneng.
49
50 MR. ANDREW: I'm Louie Andrew, for Fish

1 and Wildlife, Yukon-Delta.

2

3 MS. GREGORY: Our reporter here.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tina.

6

7 REPORTER: Oh, my name is Tina and I'm
8 the court reporter for the Council.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. And
11 starting on my left, my Anaan is Mary Gregory,
12 introduce yourself as we go down -- I'd like to have
13 the Council to introduce themselves because everybody
14 don't know who we are.

15

16 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

17

18 I'm Mary Gregory from Bethel. I've
19 been up here for over 50 years and I'm a representative
20 at large member on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional
21 Council.

22

23 MR. ROCZICKA: Greg Roczicka from
24 Bethel as well. I've been two terms now on the Council
25 and deciding whether or not I want to sentence myself
26 to another term as a volunteer.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm Lester Wilde from
29 Hooper Bay.

30

31 MR. ALOYSIUS: That's all.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's it.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MR. ALOYSIUS: Good morning. (In
38 Yup'ik)

39

40 Good morning, my name is Bob Aloysius,
41 I'm from Kalskag. There's no such place as Upper
42 Kalskag and please put that in your memory.

43

44 I was born on the Yukon River, grew up
45 on the Kuskokwim and it's been my mission to listen to
46 my elders and my constituents in this area and bring to
47 the Council their concerns, their dreams for our way of
48 life.

49

50 MR. ANDREW: Hi, I'm John Andrew,

1 Kwethluk.

2

3

(In Yup'ik)

4

5

Yeah, my name's John Andrew. I'm from Kwethluk but I was born and raised part of my life near the foothills, was born in a sod cabin with nobody around except my parents and I've been in and out of many government work since way back around 1967. Up to this date I volunteer some of my time with the Fish and Wildlife and Fish and Game meetings and with AVCP in the past. I enjoy working with our Council over here.

13

14

Quyana.

15

16

(In Yup'ik)

17

18

MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

19

20

My name is William Charlie Brown.

21

22

(In Yup'ik)

23

24

I participate on the working group.

25

26

(In Yup'ik)

27

28

Quyana.

29

30

MR. MIKE: My name is Joseph Mike.

31

32

(In Yup'ik)

33

34

Quyana.

35

36

MR. MANUMIK: My name is Paul Manumik from Nunam Iqua. I was born in Nunam Iqua Alaska which is by the Kusinblack Mountain. I was born in a sod house in January, it's the coldest month of the year. I've served three terms before on this Board and I've gotten back on this past '08 and I continue to serve as long as my health is in good shape.

43

44

Right now I am a Diabetic and I need to watch what I eat. So bear with me, if I'm not here some moments of the day it's -- I need to take a rest break somewhere.

48

49

Thank you.

50

1 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah, my name is Harry
2 Wilde. I was kind of stay back for awhile try to heal
3 myself from open heart surgery and gall bladder problem
4 but I'm doing pretty good right now, that's why I'm
5 sitting here, you see me, I'm the anchor of this table,
6 see. And I was born in Hooper Bay and more like grow up
7 in St. Michael and now I am -- after 69 years I am at
8 Mountain Village so I've been -- I didn't really lost
9 because I had our coordinator -- I work with my
10 coordinator there, he helped me out on what's going on
11 and all that and I appreciate what he has been doing.
12 I'm glad to be here.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you all for your
17 introductions. At this time we will review and adopt
18 the draft agenda, Item 6 on the agenda is review and --
19 well, 7, review and adoption of Draft Unapproved
20 Minutes from March 21st and the 20th, 2008 in Lower
21 Kalskag.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Did you just say there
24 was no Lower Kalskag.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Item 8 is Regional
29 Advisory Council concerns and comments.

30

31 Item 9 is Federal 2009 to 2011
32 fisheries proposal for Council review

33

34 Item 10 Subsistence Fisheries Issues

35

36 A - Salmon Bycatch and Bering Sea
37 pollock fishery update (handout)

38

39 B - Develop Strategic plan for
40 whitefish research in the
41 Yukon/Kuskokwim drainage

42

43 C - Fisheries Resource Monitoring
44 Program

45

46 1 - Draft 2010 Fisheries Resource
47 Monitoring Program Priority Information
48 needs

49

50 2 - Partners for Fisheries Monitoring

1 Program Presentation
2
3 D - Yukon Post-Season Salmon Summary
4 Report
5
6 Item 11 under Subsistence Wildlife
7 Issues, call for 2009/2011 Federal
8 wildlife proposals. The deadline is
9 April 30th, 2009
10
11 Item B under 11 is Kuskokwim Moose
12 Moratorium Update
13
14 Item 12 - Public Hearing on two special
15 action requests
16
17 A - WSA 08-01 from Unit 21E for
18 customary and traditional use
19 determination
20
21 B - WSA 08-03 lead shot use in Unit 18
22
23 Item 13 - Agency Organization Reports
24
25 Office of Subsistence Management
26
27 A - Status of rural/non-rural requests
28 for reconsideration (information)
29
30 B - National Wildlife Refuge Updates
31
32 Yukon-Delta Refuge Update
33
34 Togiak Refuge Bulletin
35
36 13C - Bureau of Land Management Update
37
38 13D - Alaska Department of Fish and
39 Game Update
40
41 1 - Wildlife Conservation update
42
43 2 - Kuskokwim Salmon season summary
44
45 13E - Association of Village Council
46 Presidents Update
47
48 F - Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
49 Association Update
50

1 G - Yukon River Intertribal Watershed
2 Council Update
3
4 H - Tribal Representations
5
6 1 - The Orutsaramiut Native Council
7
8 2 - Kuskokwim Native Association
9
10 13I Municipal Government
11 Representatives
12
13 J - ANCSA Corporation Representatives
14
15 K - Other Organization
16
17 1 - Bering Sea Fishermen's Association
18
19 Item 14 - Regional Council Business
20
21 A - 2007 Annual Report Reply Letter
22
23 B - 2008 Annual Report Topics
24
25 C - .805c Letter
26
27 D - Beaver and related issues in the
28 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region 2008
29 Annual Report Discussion by the OSM
30 Staff
31
32 14E Confirm next meeting date, February
33 24-25, 2009 and select meeting location
34
35 F - Determine date and place of next
36 meeting, closing remarks and
37 adjournment
38
39 Are there any additions or deletions or
40 corrections in the agenda, Council.
41
42 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.
43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Madam.
45
46 MS. GREGORY: That one that Mr. Rogers
47 brought in.
48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, yeah, the ONC
50 extension, Lower Kuskokwim moose hunting moratorium.

1 It's on Item 11B.

2

3 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Anything else
6 on the agenda. Greg.

7

8 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
9 I've been contacted by several folks, you know, in the
10 last couple weeks about this meeting as it became on
11 more people's radar and I do have a couple items to add
12 in on the agenda to have some issues addressed.

13

14 It was requested under that Item B
15 moose moratorium that there also be included and
16 incorporated in that discussion the amounts necessary
17 for subsistence for all of GMU 18 that is looming over
18 us and affects everybody throughout the region. The
19 Board of Game also said with those numbers we're
20 supposed to incorporate the numbers within 21E and GMU
21 19A in making those determinations. There should be a
22 draft proposal requesting to have ready for the spring
23 2009 meeting but that has to be a part of this moose
24 moratorium discussion. Whatever comes out on this
25 moratorium, whatever hunt occurs is going to be driven,
26 controlled by what those numbers will be.

27

28 So we do need to have that included in
29 there.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's incorporated
32 with Item B.

33

34 MR. ROCZICKA: The amounts necessary
35 for subsistence needs to be incorporated in that
36 discussion.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

39

40 MR. ROCZICKA: As well I was contacted
41 by the tribal administrator in Emmonak, he was
42 wondering about putting in a special action request,
43 and this was about two or three days ago and he found
44 out that Ray probably wouldn't be able to make it so he
45 wouldn't be able to bring it over, and he was going to
46 fax me something on it but he did ask to have on the
47 agenda under special action requests for a discussion
48 on extending the winter moose season in the Lower
49 Yukon, below Mountain Village.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Would that be like
2 under.....

3
4 MR. ROCZICKA: That would be Item C
5 under 12 on special actions.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

8
9 MS. GREGORY: Where is that.

10
11 MR. ROCZICKA: Item C under special
12 actions, No. 12, possible extension of the Lower Yukon
13 moose winter season, it's below Mountain Village.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that it?

16
17 MR. ROCZICKA: No. Two more here.
18 Under the organizational reports for the Office of
19 Subsistence Management. Just recently, I believe, in
20 the last week or 10 days there was a court ruling on
21 the State's challenge to the Federal customary and use
22 determinations and I would like an update from Staff on
23 that. I'm not real clear on what the effects of that
24 would be and I'd like their thoughts on that.

25
26 And then also as Item 3 from the
27 Federal Subsistence Board meeting in May that I
28 attended on behalf of the Council addressing wildlife
29 issues, the Federal Board stated that they would be
30 holding meetings as a result of proposals that came
31 from this region over the summer concerning a review
32 and revising their predator management policy, and I'd
33 like an update from Staff if what, if indeed those
34 meetings occurred and where that is at and what the
35 plans are for the future.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So that would be on
38 where?

39
40 MR. ROCZICKA: So that would be the
41 Federal Subsistence Board meetings on the predator
42 management policies.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Under what item?

45
46 MR. ROCZICKA: That would be Item 3.
47 So under OSM reports, Item 13A, you have the rural/non-
48 rural request for reconsideration. I've added item 2
49 on the update on the court ruling of the State
50 challenge to the Federal customary and traditional use

1 determinations. Item 3 Federal Subsistence Board
2 meetings on review and revision of their predator
3 management policy.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any village
6 representatives that they'd like to be placed on the
7 agenda. Anyone else who would like concerns placed on
8 the agenda.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not we'll --
13 Phillip Guy, you need to come up front and center,
14 please.

15
16 MR. GUY: Mr. Chairman and Board, thank
17 you.

18
19 (In Yup'ik)

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone else. Mr.
22 Manumik.

23
24 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman, good
25 morning. There's muskox that are running around loose.
26 They need to be protected and put under moratorium of
27 some kind until they reason a sustainable yield for the
28 whole YK Delta. And also the caribou.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you have an agenda
31 item that you'd like to place it under.

32
33 MR. MANUMIK: It could be under 11C and
34 D.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Where at.

37
38 MR. MANUMIK 11C and D.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 11C and D.

41
42 MR. MANUMIK: Uh-huh.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone else.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not the Chair will
49 entertain a motion for approval of the agenda.

50

1 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.
4
5 MS. GREGORY: I move we adopt the
6 agenda as amended.
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: A motions's been made
9 to adopt the agenda as amended, do I hear a second.
10
11 MR. ANDREW: Second.
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by Mr. Andrew.
14 All in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.
15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.
17
18 MR. ALOYSIUS: Discussion.
19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm sorry, let's go
21 back one step, if I make any mistakes I always have
22 Robert here to correct me, that's why he's sitting
23 here.
24
25 Discussion.
26
27 (No comments)
28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any discussion on the
30 amended agenda.
31
32 MR. ALOYSIUS: Question.
33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question called for.
35 All in favor signify by saying aye.
36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.
38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.
40
41 (No opposing votes)
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried.
44 Review and adoption of draft agenda -- draft unapproved
45 minutes from March 20 and 21 in Lower Kalskag.
46
47 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.
50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that we approve
2 the draft unapproved minutes for March 20, 21 2008
3 meeting in Lower Kalskag.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: A motion's been made
6 to adopt the unapproved minutes, do I hear a second.

7
8 MR. MANUMIK: Second.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
11 Manumik.

12
13 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

16
17
18 MR. ALOYSIUS: On Page 5 there's an
19 omission of members absent. I was not at the meeting
20 so my name should be in the members absent.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, I guess that
23 was.....

24
25 MR. ALOYSIUS: And down at the bottom
26 of the same page, review and adoption of the draft
27 agenda Item 2 it says on Item 3D delete lower before
28 Kuskokwim Working Group because the Kuskokwim
29 Management Salmon Management Working Group -- the
30 correct name -- is not the correct name, the correct
31 name is the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working
32 Group and it's only authorized to deal with fisheries
33 on the Kuskokwim River.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is noted.

36
37 MR. ALOYSIUS: And on Page 7 Regional
38 Advisory Council concerns and public comments, the
39 fourth item down, it says Staff are directed by the
40 Chair to include welcoming remarks by hosting the
41 community -- it should be by the hosting community.

42
43 And the next item, Council members are
44 the voice of people that represent which sometimes
45 making -- it should be makes -- the Council members.

46
47 And down at the bottom, second to the
48 last item, you know, our subsistence way of life is not
49 a lifestyle, it is a subsistence way of life so I would
50 appreciate that to be considered in the writing of the

1 minutes, you know, that the last word on that paragraph
2 be omitted and in its place put way of life, so it will
3 read, there are more and more people in the area and if
4 resource harvest are unregulated, there potentially
5 could be overharvest of resources that could lead to
6 more restrictions on our subsistence way of life.

7

8 And that's as far as I have in the
9 reading of the minutes for that meeting.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Robert.
14 Any further discussion on the minutes.

15

16 Greg.

17

18 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 I picked up on that one that Bob mentioned on Page 5
20 there regarding the name of the working group, and as I
21 recall the discussion as far as the name goes in
22 putting that as a reason for correcting it, actually is
23 that by saying Lower Kuskokwim Working Group it did not
24 reflect at all the nature of that group who has
25 representatives from the head waters all the way down
26 to the mouth, it represents the entire drainage, not
27 just the lower river. We have elders from Telida and
28 Ray Collins sits on there from the Western Interior
29 RAC, middle river, Central Kuskokwim, Holitna,
30 Sleetmute, Kalskag, right on down all the way so it
31 represents the entire river, and that really should be
32 reflected there.

33

34 And the other is it's kind of a
35 question, I guess, on Page 14 under Item E the Partners
36 for Monitoring Programs, where it mentions one full-
37 time and two part-time positions for the Kuskokwim,
38 which is the Kuskokwim Native Association Partners
39 Program, and I'm not sure about the two part-time
40 positions whether KNA has two or not, but ONC also has
41 a part-time fisheries partners biologist as one of
42 those.

43

44 And I believe that's all I had.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other corrections.
47 I think Alex will tell you the same thing, these are
48 excerpts from the minutes, the original minutes are on
49 tape at the office of OSM, so those corrections will be
50 noted. Is that what you were going to state, Alex.

1 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. For the record,
2 Alex Nick, Regional Council Coordinator. When we work
3 on the minutes, we review the transcripts and when we
4 make changes on the minutes, what Council wants like
5 what you're doing now, the revisions of the minutes, we
6 add those like what Bob mentioned, deleting Lower
7 before Kuskokwim, that was the Council's wishes when
8 they were, you know, reviewing the minutes of meeting
9 in Marshall previous to that, that winter meeting. And
10 so what we try to do, we try to do the best we can to
11 make the minutes of the meeting with just the summary
12 of the transcripts and it is now certified by the Chair
13 and also by the coordinator before it is printed into
14 your books so that's all I wanted to say.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Alex. Any
19 further discussion on the minutes.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 MR. ROCZICKA: Question.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's called for.

26
27 MR. ALOYSIUS: Question.

28
29 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, question is
32 called for. All in favor of the motion say aye.

33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed, same
37 sign.

38
39 (No opposing votes)

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's carried.
42 Regional Advisory Council concerns and comments,
43 Council members.

44
45 Any concerns or comments that you have.

46
47 We'll start from Harry and come on down
48 the row.

49
50 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, it's

1 just really to be good at the meeting. And you
2 understand that I've been gone and couldn't go anywhere
3 and all that, couldn't try to gather subsistence foods
4 and all that because due to my health but I'm doing
5 okay right now from help of the people, you know, all
6 this time that I was working with traditional council.
7 Traditional council are very important organization.
8 They help the people who need in my area, village
9 there, and a lot of times they come over to me and help
10 me, ask me what I need and all that and if I need
11 something I go to traditional council. Like Viviana go
12 to -- I go to Viviana to help me to fill out some forms
13 and stuff. So I really appreciate what they've done.

14
15 But the only thing I'm having a problem
16 with in my campsite, the villages that close, dry up
17 because of beavers. Beavers drying up and you could
18 see some of those curtains that go across that creek.
19 Whitefish are hanging, when the water go down, hanging,
20 sticking in curtain of beavers just destroying my area
21 there. I can't -- I cannot go in there anymore, only
22 thing is when it's high tide so it's a very important,
23 I think, destroying these beavers. They told me, well,
24 it's open year-round now, they must be open to kill
25 year-round but I always tell my grandchildren not to
26 kill them off because you never can tell the -- there's
27 some enforcements and all that they don't tell us if we
28 need to kill them or not but it's really destroying
29 everything, blackfish area and all that, it's really a
30 concern back home.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Harry.
35 Paul.

36
37 MR. M: My concerns are like Harry's in
38 the Lower Yukon River there's too many beaver out there
39 and nobody seems to be hunting them.

40
41 The watershed council had meeting in
42 Emmonak and has told the local people there and
43 attending representatives from different villages to
44 inform their people to hunt those beaver instead of
45 letting them destroy our blackfish fishing areas, and
46 also the whitefish spawning areas, like Mr. Wilde
47 expressed just before me. We are concerned down there
48 about them.

49
50 And also a reason why I asked -- why I

1 brought up the muskox and caribou issue is because they
2 are being hunted and killed and last year I believe --
3 I believe last year or year before muskox were killed
4 and not even being brought home. That's why I brought
5 that issue up so they'll be under moratorium until
6 they're sustainable for people to hunt, legally.

7
8 And the whitefish fishery that we have
9 started out in the Lower Yukon River finally got off to
10 a good start this year, this summer, I mean, this fall.
11 This fall we targeted only bering cisco and people were
12 finally just bringing in the bering cisco to sell and
13 they're also recording whatever else kind of whitefish
14 that they are catching in their nets with the bering
15 cisco, which is good, the data is being kept by the
16 buyers.

17
18 So those are my concerns, Mr. Chairman,
19 thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Paul. Mr.
22 Mike, do you have any comments.

23
24 MR. MIKE: No comments.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Brown.

27
28 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, just a minute,
31 before he goes into -- you notice that some of our
32 group is talking in Yup'ik, they can express themselves
33 better in Yup'ik so if you can't understand -- or want
34 to understand what they're saying, there's an
35 interpreter sitting over there and there's the
36 transcript machines over there so if you need to
37 understand what's being said you can go over there and
38 pick one of those up and that'll help you understand
39 what's going on there -- she's holding one up there,
40 and they're available over here.

41
42 I'm sorry, go ahead, Mr. Brown.

43
44 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

45
46 INTERPRETER: I'm not quite sure what I
47 am about to say, collared animals of caribou, moose,
48 they seem to be mostly affected and their understanding
49 -- actually he don't know -- he knows that, you know,
50 that they're trying to do good with the collared moose

1 and caribou and my concern is that they seem to be
2 declining because of that, for discussion purposes
3 only, if someone would discuss those, the reasons and
4 see if there's a relation to the mortality rates of
5 those animals that are collared.

6

7 MR. BROWN: Quyana.

8

9 INTERPRETER: Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Brown.

12 Mr. Andrew.

13

14 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, quyana. I
15 came down and I wasn't quite ready, I never had a
16 chance to meet with our tribe but I had some people
17 come up to me with their concerns, mainly like Harry
18 and Paul over there, they were mainly concerned with
19 the over population of beavers. Beavers are damming up
20 the spawning creeks, the whitefish creeks that lead up
21 to the lakes and a lot of the people that used to trap
22 for blackfish, they said the creeks that are dammed up
23 they have no more fish in them. The waters are
24 stagnant and polluted, the fish are dead. I've seen
25 them myself when I travel to our berrypicking areas in
26 the upper end -- the upper end of the beaver damms
27 there's a whole mess of dead young whitefish, mostly
28 humpbacks and broadheads and even some cases we see a
29 lot of dead blackfish that cannot migrate out of their
30 lakes.

31

32 And the other area is moose moratorium.
33 In the villages starting from Tuluksak up to (In
34 Yup'ik) and Kwethluk, a lot of the younger men want to
35 see the moose season open and then there are some that
36 are hesitant and pretty sure when they come into that
37 area will have a couple of men coming in from our
38 corporation -- Mr. James over there will have a chance
39 to testify.

40

41 And the other concern they have from
42 the villages, from my village, the elderly people, that
43 some of them are not too happy with the windowed
44 fishing schedule because some of them are not well
45 enough to go out and set them and put them up at a days
46 notice, but this summer was not too much of a problem.
47 Sometimes when they get on schedule, with the price of
48 gas being too expensive it's hard to go in and out,
49 back from the camp to your village, especially for the
50 people that are handicapped and elderly.

1 (In Yup'ik)

2

3 Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Andrew.

6 Mr. Aloysius.

7

8 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. You know, I
9 have to be realistic about what I'm going to say. You
10 know, I'm not the most diplomatic person as many
11 cultured people are. I have a tendency to be blunt and
12 in being so I know that I offend some people. That
13 being said, I apologize if I have offended you and if I
14 offend you now or if I offend you later. But I have to
15 speak from my heart.

16

17 And one of the things that has always
18 concerned me is the simple fact that we here represent
19 our people, and there is one word in our language that
20 covers the whole gamut of why we're here. It's simply
21 (In Yup'ik) and simply translated to me, the pursuit of
22 carrying for and feeding our families, our immediate
23 family, extended family and those not being able to
24 care for themselves by taking only what is needed at
25 the present time. And we practice that by hunting,
26 fishing, trapping, gathering for food, not for sport.
27 We pursue food, shelter, clothing, comfort,
28 companionship in our way. And a lot of times it is
29 against our way of life to be regulated. But one of
30 the things that is very important is that too many
31 times young people accept this saying that if -- if a
32 game animal presents itself to you, take it, but that
33 is not true. When a game animal presents itself to
34 you, you are regulated by the Creator and our ancestor
35 to take it only when it is the time to take it, not to
36 take it at haphazard times of the year. There are
37 certain regulations that we, as the Native people,
38 adhere to, just as well as the Western way of people
39 doing it on paper, we do it with our mind, heart and
40 spirit.

41

42 So this is something that we have to
43 educate our young people. It's our responsibility to
44 do that.

45

46 And the other thing is that, you know,
47 we need to disseminate more information on what the
48 RACs are really to all the people in the villages. And
49 one of the ways they can do that is to have it done in
50 written form, through the paper, or to bring

1 information to the traditional councils. And the --
2 you know, you have tribal councils, you have Native
3 village so and so, so make sure that the information is
4 presented to them. And in there direct them to, you
5 know, give the information out to the people so that
6 they will not be quick to -- what is the RAC, what is
7 the Advisory Committee, what is this, what is that, you
8 know, make sure that you give information where it's
9 needed, and it'd make it a lot easier for us to address
10 the confusion they have in the village setting.

11
12 It's a big, big responsibility and we
13 have a really big, big area. If you look at a map up
14 there, you know, that's maybe 100,000 square miles of
15 land and water that we, our people have lived on --
16 they have lived, loved and they understand their role
17 in nature.

18
19 Doi.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Bob. I
22 think at this time I'm going to my Anaan.

23
24 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. I had a
25 concern about this five year moratorium and I am glad
26 it's going to be on the agenda so I'll preserve my time
27 until then.

28
29 But I'd like for the Fish and Wildlife
30 and the Fish and Game to work together because we had
31 an incident about a week or two ago, the moose was
32 wondering around my area in city subdivision and it
33 went down to the waterfront and when -- like Mr.
34 Aloysius was saying, that when a game present itself
35 sometimes we -- we take it but with all the regulations
36 everybody's scared to hunt or even eat their own food
37 anymore. So I need to bring this out so those people
38 who are working to protect the animals, to do their
39 job, even if they're not on duty. When a situation
40 presents itself like that then they should be concerned
41 for the safety of the animal as well as the human
42 beings.

43
44 It went down to the waterfront in one
45 of the mission -- Mission Road, and I'd like for the
46 people who are working for Fish and Wildlife and Fish
47 and Game to make sure that they are doing their job
48 even though they're not on duty.

49
50 And I will speak to the moratorium when

1 it presents itself on the agenda. And I want to
2 welcome you back to Bethel.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mary. Mr.
5 Roczicka.

6

7 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Most of
8 the stuff I guess I got is for the agenda. Being in
9 Bethel, you know, and being the center point I get
10 people passing through town, I get folks from all
11 villages all around coming up to me because they know
12 I'm part of this Council and have dealt with this
13 relationship between State, Federal and tribal
14 government and resource issues for a lot of years, and
15 it's a pretty spooky place to be, I've said that
16 before. And sitting here as the youngest fellow around
17 this table, I think, too, it's kind of -- it's
18 intimidating and a privilege at the same time. Also
19 the only one here that's probably not fluent (In
20 Yup'ik) either.

21

22 Bob, when you mentioned your one word,
23 it reminded me, though, of a conversation I had with a
24 fellow named Andy Sharp that was on a board that I
25 worked for back -- with NunamKlutzdi in those days and
26 just being frustrated with having to go to these
27 meetings and having to deal with a lot of these issues
28 over and over and over and over and over again and he
29 told me -- he just looked me in the eye and he said (In
30 Yup'ik) that's your life and it's just what you got to
31 do.

32

33 Anyway, there's so much facing us I
34 guess that things are more uncertain of what -- what we
35 got on the Kuskokwim side, one of the biggest things,
36 of course, is the focus that's going on right now on
37 the increased development and exploration activities,
38 not just Donlin Creek up there, which, of course, is a
39 big one and scares the heck out of a lot of us, but we
40 got to try to work the process as best we can to make
41 it as best we can for our future, but up in the Kilbuk
42 Mountains, I believe, there's anywhere from 15 to 20
43 people looking for more mineral exploration and putting
44 in applications for doing exploratory drilling and so
45 forth. The Kilbuk Mountains are an extremely rich area
46 but they haven't been developed in past years because
47 the cost of doing so was so prohibitive but with the
48 price of all the oil that is going up, it's -- people
49 are starting to take a second look at that and what
50 could happen in the Kilbukuks and to the headwaters and

1 all those tributaries that feed into the Kuskokwim is
2 also a frightening thing we need to look at and just
3 try to keep on top of it the best we can.

4
5 Two specific issues and maybe these
6 guys could -- and just to let the Staff know when they
7 get to them, if they could incorporate them into their
8 reports. I was hunting with a fellow from Kwethluk
9 over Russian Mission, went over for moose hunting, he
10 was wanting to know what's going on with Hart Lake,
11 where they used to go up for their ground squirrels, to
12 trap ground squirrels and they went to a charter outfit
13 to bring them out there and they were told you can't go
14 there now, or we can't go there anymore because there's
15 another airplane or charter group that's gone in and
16 they won't let us land there and I'm wondering what the
17 heck, how can that be. How can somebody get a permit,
18 whether it's for an eco-tourism or doing some kind of a
19 guiding operation or something tell other charter
20 outfits they can't -- they don't own the lake and this
21 guy (In Yup'ik), I don't know his English name, but he
22 said they -- they've got all their equipment up there,
23 they've been going up there for years, snowmachines,
24 gas cans, tents, all their gear is up there and now
25 they can't get up there, they're being refused and I'd
26 like an answer from that, from Togiak Refuge or
27 whoever's -- what's going on there and if that's being
28 circulated out that these guys, because they got some
29 kind of a permit, for some commercial activity, they
30 sure don't own the lake and they shouldn't be
31 advertising that people can't go there anymore and
32 displacing folks.

33
34 And the other was somebody from up by
35 Kalskag way was wondering about, in that old river
36 section over there, he said that -- and I think this
37 was mentioned by enforcement a couple years ago, that
38 they put up a fake cow moose or a fake moose sitting on
39 the bank with a camera behind it to take pictures of
40 people to see if they shoot at it when they go by and
41 they were wondering about that entrapment and it just
42 makes me -- I'd like to hear the story behind that one
43 and certainly if it's out there, if shooting at
44 cardboard or a wooden target is subject to citation or
45 something like that.

46
47 So anyway just when the different
48 agencies give their reports, if you could address those
49 couple issues.
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Greg. At
2 this time I'd like to thank Harry for coming back. As
3 most of you know Harry was chairing this organization
4 for a number of years and after getting us all worried
5 and afraid that we might lose him, it's good to see him
6 back, bounce back just like he was probably better than
7 he used to be.

8

9 Anyway, welcome back Harry.

10

11 And thank you all of you Staff for
12 coming to this meeting, we appreciate you coming
13 because our way of life is very important to us and
14 that's the reason why we sit here. If our way of life
15 wasn't important we'd be out there someplace else doing
16 other things that we feel are also important but this
17 is really an important organization for us and on
18 behalf of the Council I would like to thank all of you
19 Staff and members that are here and present for this
20 meeting.

21

22 MR. ALOYSIUS: Break.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: At this time I think
25 Mr. Robert will want me to give you a break because he
26 needs to do something, right, let's have a 10 minute
27 break.

28

29 (Off record)

30

31 (On record)

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're back in session.

34

35 (Pause)

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: f there are things
38 that you need to discuss there's always the hall out
39 there, but, please keep your discussions so they're not
40 understandable up here. As long as we can't hear you
41 we'll be happy with it. We are down to Item 9, there
42 are no proposals for the Council to review. Statewide
43 proposal FP09-01 was withdrawn. Crossover proposal
44 FP09-12 and FP09-13 were deferred by the Board until
45 next spring 2009, and no regional proposals were
46 submitted.

47

48 So Item 10, subsistence fisheries
49 issues. The first item is salmon bycatch in the Bering
50 Sea pollock fisheries update, North Pacific Fisheries

1 Management Council staff.

2

3

Alex Nick.

4

5 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Nichole Kimball
6 with the Bering Sea National Pacific Fisheries
7 Management Council [sic] was supposed to send me
8 materials for hand out, I haven't received them as of
9 yesterday so I don't know if she sent them to us by
10 mail or was supposed to send them by anyone. She was
11 supposed to send me enough handout for this meeting but
12 unfortunately we never received those.

13

14

Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Alex.
17 Since that part is usually kind of important for our
18 area, would you make sure that each Council member gets
19 a copy of that report.

20

21

MR. NICK: Yes.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Item B,
24 developing strategic plan for whitefish research in the
25 Yukon Kuskokwim drainage, Caroline Brown, you've
26 changed.

27

28

(Laughter)

29

30 MS. RUSSELL: Mr. Chairman. Members of
31 the Council. Thanks for enabling us to come and
32 present this to you today. But I'm Amy Russell
33 standing in for Caroline Brown. I work with Division
34 of Subsistence at Department of Fish and Game and I'm
35 assigned to the Kuskokwim region. I'm the new Staff
36 for Kuskokwim issues.

37

38 In your packet, I think it's on Page
39 21, that we have a copy of our introduction to the
40 project. Anybody that doesn't have one of these
41 packets there's copies of this on the back table, too.

42

43 Okay, and I'll try to just give a brief
44 description of the project here. This strategic plan
45 is a strategic plan for research on whitefish in the
46 Yukon and Kuskokwim River drainages and this is funded
47 by the Office of Subsistence Management and it's
48 staffed by US Fish and Wildlife Service and Division of
49 Subsistence at Fish and Game.

50

1 We wanted to just give a brief
2 description of the project and then we're here today to
3 invite the council to participate in the development of
4 this strategic plan on whitefish research. The plan is
5 for a study of whitefish in the Yukon and Kuskokwim
6 drainages and it's going to have several components to
7 it and these are going to include a summary of what we
8 know from the scientific research so far on whitefish
9 life history in the state and in this area. A
10 description of the whitefish fisheries that are in the
11 Yukon/Kuskokwim drainages. And we're going to look at
12 a detailed accounting of the way people in other places
13 have studied whitefish and managed whitefish species in
14 Alaska and possibly in Canada. We're going to have a
15 description of information that we need to monitor and
16 manage whitefish species and a section that priorities
17 species to study in the YK-Delta and also where we
18 should be studying whitefish. And in the end the plan
19 will include recommendations for appropriate projects
20 that can assess populations, talk about the subsistence
21 fisheries, talk about monitoring harvest projects and
22 talk about the indigenous knowledge that we have from
23 this area for whitefish.

24
25 And the project is asking for input
26 from people from a wide range of experience and
27 perspectives to make sure we don't miss any critical
28 information about whitefish and any kind of insights to
29 issue and it has the -- the group that we're putting
30 together has a combination of social scientists,
31 scientific researchers, management biologists, members
32 of the RACs, Regional Advisory Councils, we want input
33 from people who fish for whitefish, representatives of
34 Native organizations in this region and we're here
35 today -- I'm here today to ask for this RAC's
36 participation in the working group that we're putting
37 together.

38
39 And from the YK-Delta RAC, we would
40 like to ask for two representatives, one for the Lower
41 Yukon and one for the Kuskokwim River. The
42 representatives that we are asking for, we'd like them
43 to be able to speak to the whitefish concerns for the
44 broad region that they represent and so more than just
45 the areas of villages where people live we'd like the
46 reps to be able to talk about the issues that people
47 have throughout that large region, either Lower Yukon
48 or Kuskokwim.

49
50 We also are going to be asking at the

1 Western Interior RAC meeting for one representative and
2 at Eastern Interior for one other representative so
3 we'll have to see who those representatives end up
4 being, but there potentially could be one other
5 representative who's on the Kuskokwim from that
6 process.

7
8 We gave a presentation about this at
9 the Kuskokwim InterAgency meeting in the spring where
10 Bob Aloysius and Greg Roczicka were present. And we're
11 going to have two meetings involved with the strategic
12 plan. One of them is coming up pretty soon, it's a
13 meeting in Anchorage on November 18th and 19th, which
14 is a Tuesday and a Wednesday, and then we'll have a
15 final meeting next spring in April. So there'll be two
16 meetings involved with the drafting of the strategic
17 plan. We're going to provide travel and accommodations
18 for the representatives who are participating in the
19 group.

20
21 Our goal is to write a research plan
22 that identifies the priorities and provides direction
23 for where research about whitefish should go from here,
24 what are the things that people are most needing to
25 have addressed when we find funding to do some
26 whitefish research. And so we're hoping that this is a
27 document that's meaningful and useful for a lot of
28 different people with different needs and it should be
29 interesting to a lot of people, and we would like
30 representatives that can incorporate a lot of the
31 different concerns from this region.

32
33 So today what we're asking from the
34 Council is the election of two members to represent,
35 one from the Lower Yukon, preferably and one from
36 Kuskokwim at the meeting.

37
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. So you're
41 asking for two reps from this Council, is there any
42 volunteers to be on the -- okay, Robert from the
43 Kuskokwim, and do we have anybody from the Lower Yukon,
44 yes, Mr. Paul Manumik have been appointed.

45
46 MR. ROCZICKA Question.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question, go ahead,
49 Greg.

50

1 MR. ROCZICKA Yeah, I'd ask for
2 unanimous consent on those appointments for volunteers
3 from Kuskokwim and Yukon.

4
5 I do have a question, though, as far as
6 the Western Interior RAC, why you're looking for just
7 one there, because I mean the whitefish, as you know,
8 have been found to spawn all the way up to McGrath and
9 I believe they're probably looking at some kind of
10 migratory patterns within the Yukon where you got your
11 fish on the lower river maybe going up to the
12 Goodpaster or something like that.

13
14 MS. RUSSELL: Yeah, and this is
15 something that we've been discussing for quite a few
16 weeks in our office is how to have the group structured
17 and how many people we could bring in on the project
18 and since we were funded by the Office of Subsistence
19 Management, they asked us to use the RAC structure for
20 the organization of the group and asking for
21 representatives from the area, and, I don't yet know
22 who the Western Interior RAC choice is going to be, but
23 we've got sort of a limited budget for having people
24 fly in for the meetings and so I think they chose two
25 representatives from this region and one representative
26 from each of those regions because they believed that
27 would be a good representation. But I'm actually very
28 interested to hear what the feelings of the Council are
29 about representation and if we have feelings that we
30 need to get more representation, that's something we'd
31 be very happy to go back to the funding source and see
32 if we can get any additional funding for it.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

35
36 MR. ROCZICKA If I could continue
37 there. I mean you're looking for Kuskokwim and Yukon
38 -- I guess my recommendation is from the Western
39 Interior RAC you ought to have a Yukon representative
40 also on there. I know I'm looking at your number of
41 people, it's a pretty healthy list of folks and a long
42 one, but looking at somebody who might not have as much
43 of a direct impact or interest, I mean like I look at
44 John Chythlook who actually represents the Sportfish
45 Division, and sportfish as far as I'm aware has very
46 minimal, in fact, impact or I would think interest in
47 whitefish as a sportfish, so that might be one -- if
48 you're looking if you'd have to bump somebody in order
49 to get somebody else on.

50

1 MS. RUSSELL: And I think that's a
2 really good point. And I'm going to talk about that
3 with Caroline because she's going to be the one working
4 with the Western Interior RAC. I think my hunch about
5 why sportfish would be particularly interested in
6 whitefish is that sheefish are one of the six species
7 that are being discussed in the plan, so that's my
8 guess on that one.

9
10 But, yeah, I'll bring that up with
11 Caroline and see if we can get more funding for more
12 participation.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions
15 about -- Robert.

16
17 MR. ALOYSIUS: I don't have a question,
18 I just have a comment. I want to commend Randy Brown
19 and Caroline Brown for this wording on Page 1 of the
20 schedule, you know, it also makes a -- puts a thorn in
21 my side when people talk about TEK or traditional
22 ecological knowledge, it's too ambiguous. Right here
23 it's very clear, indigenous and local knowledge, that
24 is what I've been after everybody in the fisheries and
25 game, to start using those words, not TEK, because
26 whose tradition are you talking about, but this is very
27 clear when it says indigenous and local, and to make it
28 even more precise, you know, put the name of the
29 people, you know, like (In Yup'ik), you know, make it
30 very precise and let people know where that knowledge
31 is coming from.

32
33 Okay, thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions.

36
37 MS. GREGORY: Mary Gregory. My
38 question is what is the purpose of this study and what
39 are you looking for and what's the end product?

40
41 MS. RUSSELL: The product at the end is
42 going to be a plan for research so it will outline
43 priorities for future research projects on whitefish.
44 And the spirit of it is to have a cooperative decision
45 about what things are most important to do for research
46 in the area and my belief is that for the Office of
47 Subsistence Management, and other funding agencies,
48 this will help prioritize which whitefish research
49 programs will get funding when there's limited funding
50 is available. And this is also a good opportunity to

1 have input on what are some of the concerns that people
2 are having for whitefish about beavers and other issues
3 that have been coming up as really critical issues for
4 whitefish that haven't had any kind of results yet in
5 the research community so we're hoping that this will
6 help us put them at the top of the list.

7
8 MS. GREGORY: So what are you
9 researching, the life of the whitefish or how people
10 use it, you haven't let me see what you want?

11
12 MS. RUSSELL: This is a plan to
13 identify what kinds of research we should be doing so
14 we're not going to be doing research as part of the
15 plan, we're going to be doing an overview of all the
16 scientific research, doing an overview of all the
17 subsistence research and saying what are the gaps, and
18 what are the things that are the critical whitefish
19 issues that need research.

20
21 MS. GREGORY: Okay. How is it going to
22 benefit me as a Native person and a user of the
23 species?

24
25 MS. RUSSELL: With the group coming
26 together to talk about what are the research needs, if
27 there are research needs that you perceive as ones that
28 we really need to be looking at, this would be one
29 opportunity to get those prioritized as important
30 projects and to bring up any concerns about other
31 research projects that you might have that involve
32 whitefish.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

35
36 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. How does this
37 fit into the upcoming call for proposals on the
38 Resource Monitoring Program that's in the Federal
39 system?

40
41 MS. RUSSELL: I'm sorry, the question
42 is how they relate to.....

43
44 MR. ROCZICKA Yeah, how are they going
45 to fall in with that call for proposals coming out and
46 I ask that because the Partners biologist with ONC has
47 been in the process of drafting up a whitefish proposal
48 for actually doing some on the ground partnership with
49 some of the other villages around here on gaining some
50 of the biological data and also looking at habitat

1 concerns with whitefish, you know, you mentioned about
2 the beaver and the with the global warming climate
3 change that's occurring with the lower water levels of
4 warm water temperatures and so forth, how that may be
5 affecting and where your program might fit in with
6 that. And I think it's January, isn't it, the deadline
7 for proposals coming up, oh, no, I'm sorry maybe that's
8 a different call.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Larry.

11

12 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 Office of Subsistence Management. I wanted to assist
14 with this question because we are the program that
15 manages the call that's being questioned -- or
16 questions asked about. You're correct, the next call
17 for Fisheries Monitoring Program projects is in January
18 for several -- I'm sorry, the call will be let out in
19 November and it will proceed for several months, and
20 any number of projects are eligible for that call.
21 They don't have to be identified as a priority need by
22 us to receive consideration but the call will identify
23 priority identification needs as we assess them now.
24 And projects who target those identified needs would
25 have a better chance of making the criteria in
26 advancing. But the call is open to projects, even if
27 they don't match the priority needs we identify.

28

29 For whitefish in this region we are
30 looking to this planning project that's being described
31 to you as providing insight into the priority
32 information needs. So for this coming call that will
33 come out in a couple of months, we would -- we do not
34 anticipate identifying whitefish research projects as
35 an information need at this time because of this
36 planning process, we want to look to the results of
37 that for those priorities. And so I think it would be
38 the next call for projects that would take advantage of
39 this project that's being described to you and that
40 would help us identify where the research priorities
41 are for whitefish in this region, and that call would
42 identify those areas.

43

44 So that is how this project will
45 benefit this region because it will help us to
46 understand where the needs are so when we put our call
47 for projects out there it can speak to the information
48 needs that have been identified.

49

50 So it's a little premature right now

1 for this call to do that because the project is still
2 underway.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further
5 discussion.

6

7 MR. ROCZICKA Just one more follow up
8 then, your meeting you mentioned for November 18 and 19
9 would it be available for people to participate via
10 teleconference, and I am thinking specifically of the
11 Partner's biologists?

12

13 MS. RUSSELL: I'm not sure exactly on
14 the answer to that one so I'd have to check with Randy
15 and Caroline and get back with you because I think
16 we've just started planning it and just gotten the
17 reservation for the location, but I'm sure they'll be
18 able to tell me, you know, so I can get back to you
19 today.

20

21 MR. ROCZICKA Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that it.

24

25 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

28

29 MS. GREGORY: I still can't understand
30 what they want and (In Yup'ik).

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary's having
33 problems, I guess, understanding what the objectives --
34 the objectives are written on Page 21, Mary. There's a
35 review of whitefisheries within the two drainages, a
36 review of biological life history and ethnographic
37 studies that have occurred in the region. I don't know
38 what ethnographic means, but I guess something to do
39 with where they live. And assessment of the data gaps,
40 a review of methods and approaches that have been used
41 around the world to monitor and manage the whitefish
42 species with an assessment of their appropriateness for
43 use in Alaska. Discussion of stakeholders and other
44 interested parties of issues, fisheries, species
45 regional concern and writing and critical review of a
46 strategic plan for whitefish fisheries research in
47 Yukon-Kuskokwim River region. That's what they plan on
48 doing.

49

50 MS. GREGORY: Sorry, I can't -- it

1 doesn't -- it can't take my interest because what's the
2 outcome? What will the outcome be?

3

4 (In Yup'ik)

5

6 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Larry.

9

10 MR. BUKLIS: Some projects gather
11 information on how many fish are in the escapements or
12 in the spawning runs, some projects identify how many
13 fish are being caught and used and some projects help
14 us to plan other studies.

15

16 This project is like that. This
17 project is simply trying to gather information about
18 what is known about where whitefish spawn and how
19 they're used and local knowledge about whitefish and
20 identify what isn't known and where we need to learn
21 more. That's all it's trying to do. So that later
22 work can take advantage of that and so that the money
23 that's spent and the time that's spent later is well
24 spent. So they're going to be looking at the biology
25 and the uses and the local knowledge and the
26 ethnography is more the cultural traditions and uses of
27 the fish. They're not going to be studying those
28 things in detail, they're going to be kind of surveying
29 what is out there and what is known and what isn't.
30 And then the later work can be targeted better and be a
31 more effective use of the funds that are available.

32

33 MS. GREGORY: There's a lady who might
34 give me my answer. Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

37

38 MS. KENNER: Thank you, very much.
39 It's wonderful to be here today. I'm Pippa Kenner.
40 And I'm a cultural anthropologist at OSM in Anchorage.
41 And I wanted to have a shot at answering your question.
42 I work closely with people like Amy and I've done her
43 job before and also I work at OSM with the Fisheries
44 Monitoring Program which is partly funding it.

45

46 One of the things the strategic plan
47 will do that's very important is that we'll get what's
48 called a traditional taxonomy. They'll be asking
49 people what they call fish in Yup'ik because what we
50 have found in the past when we've done these kind of

1 projects is that what you call a lake trout, for
2 instance, and what I call a lake trout may be two
3 completely different fish; we've actually discovered
4 that. So as you go up to the Yukon, the Yup'ik words
5 for these different kinds of fish change and shift and
6 mean different things, so it's very hard to research
7 the use of those fish when we don't know what we're
8 talking about. I have several examples of that.

9
10 And then also in order for us to fund
11 these projects there has to be a tie to, one, Federal
12 land and waters but also to subsistence. And so what
13 we'll want to know is we're going to check the data we
14 have and see what's out there to find out what people
15 use and will ask for projects that focus on fish, the
16 types of fish that people use and rely on. That'll be
17 the priority information needs.

18
19 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. And then you
20 want to use next year in March 2010 a strategic plan,
21 can you enlighten me a little bit on that, too?

22
23 MS. KENNER: Basically that will be the
24 answers to these questions that I'm posing, where, what
25 people fish for, what they rely on, where they do it
26 and what those fish are called in a Western taxonomy so
27 we can inform the biologists, that will basically
28 what's in the strategic plan.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Does that help you out
31 any Mary?

32
33 MS. GREGORY: No.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Maybe you could get
38 together with her later and discuss this with her.

39
40 MS. GREGORY: Yeah.

41
42 MS. KENNER: I failed.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions.
45 Mr. Brown.

46
47 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

48
49 INTERPRETER: Mr. Chairman. I have a
50 question. Will -- how if they were to do a study and

1 also monitor, would there be an improvement of what
2 there might be in regards to the whitefish in both
3 drainages.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Did you have your
6 earpiece because he was interpreting for you.

7
8 What was your -- could you.....

9
10 MR. BROWN: What I said was about after
11 all these projects are and researches are done, what's
12 the next you guys are going to control the resources,
13 that's my question, about the whitefish.

14
15 MS. RUSSELL: I did want to say this
16 because it's kind of -- it easily gets pretty fuzzy
17 what's a strategic plan for research and what's another
18 kind of strategic plan, but this plan outlines a
19 strategy for research and we're asking for
20 representatives that will come and talk about all the
21 issues that people have with research, so these very
22 issues that are being brought up right now are the
23 kinds of things we hope the representatives will bring
24 to the table and say there's places where research is
25 necessarily wanted. And, you know, this is just a plan
26 that outlines a strategy for how to research whitefish.
27 So it doesn't have anything to do with like a
28 management plan or a different kind of strategic plan.
29 And any questions from the management point I'll have
30 to pass along to the managers because we are -- this
31 project is being staffed by two researchers, one is a
32 scientific research and one is a social-scientist
33 research who's done subsistence studies and this only
34 has really, you know, implications for how to pick what
35 is good whitefish research.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Mr. Jacob, do
38 you have a question.

39
40 MR. JACOB: (In Yup'ik)

41
42 INTERPRETER: It'll be translated by
43 Alex, if you have a question, I would ask -- Alex will
44 translate for him.

45
46 MR. NICK: Peter Jacob wanted me to
47 translate for him while he comment on the whitefish
48 presentation.

49
50 First of all he would like to use his

1 cell phone as an example.

2

3 MR. JACOB: (In Yup'ik)

4

5 MR. NICK: And looking at the cell
6 phone he's going to use an example of the message he
7 received, he's going to check on it.

8

9 MR. JACOB: (In Yup'ik)

10

11 MR. NICK: He was demonstrating that he
12 is responding to message, he just say, hi, and he just
13 say, oh, and he wanted Amy to know that this is just an
14 example he's using.

15

16 MR. JACOB: Peter Jacob's question to
17 you is this project coming from Fish and Game or are
18 you starting this project on your own?

19

20 MS. RUSSELL: This is an Office of
21 Subsistence Management project that they have asked US
22 Fish and Wildlife Service and Subsistence Division of
23 Fish and Game to work on but it is not a Fish and Game
24 derived project.

25

26 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

27

28 MR. JACOB: (In Yup'ik)

29

30 MR. NICK: What Peter Jacob stated was
31 that he -- in his personal observance, Alaska
32 Department of Fish and Game does research on the
33 fisheries resources. They try to find out about fish
34 like using samples, how old fish is and et cetera. And
35 he stated that if you work very closely with Fish and
36 Game that would show some results.

37

38 MR. JACOB: (In Yup'ik)

39

40 MR. NICK: What he stated is that when
41 Yup'ik people used to do their own conservation work,
42 meaning that, you know, they did their own studies on
43 the fisheries resources such as small fish like -- like
44 freshwater fish, they observe all the fishery
45 activities very closely and when -- when the -- the --
46 they call it (In Yup'ik) -- I think the best one I
47 could use in English is in -- later in the summer the
48 frozen plants, you know, they surface on top of the
49 water, you know, and these freshwater fish they spawn
50 underneath these plants using that as a cover.

1 And not only that, the elders used to
2 observe, they used to observe what happens after that,
3 when in the summer -- early spring or in the summer the
4 water in that respective spawning area is changed by,
5 you know, like what they call new water in Yup'ik, it's
6 the replacement of the water that was there, you know,
7 by draining it and replacing it with, you know, new
8 water after thaw. Yup'ik people used to be very happy
9 about it because they know that the eggs will survive
10 with the freshwater.

11
12 MR. JACOB: Quyana.

13
14 MR. NICK: He says thank you.

15
16 MR. JACOB: Thank you, very much, Mr.
17 Chairman.

18
19 (In Yup'ik)

20
21 MR. NICK: Yeah, he thanks you for
22 listening and also he asked the Chair and the Council,
23 he would like to comment regarding subsistence issues
24 when he's allowed to do so during this meeting.

25
26 MR. JACOB: It's okay.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, that's okay.

29
30 MR. JACOB: Quyana.

31
32 (In Yup'ik)

33
34 MR. NICK: What he also said is that in
35 the old days, our ancestors, they used to have their
36 own meetings in a kaseem (ph), during the meeting they
37 would try to resolve an issue. They would look at
38 different ways to resolve that issue and then they'd
39 finally come up with an agreement. This is how it
40 would probably be better to resolve this issue. He's
41 talking about, you know, the local issues. And then
42 when they finally agree upon an issue -- you know
43 resolution of that issue, they -- they would say let us
44 try to deal with this, this way, and then they'd
45 proceed from there.

46
47 MR. JACOB: (In Yup'ik)

48
49 MR. NICK: He said that there are two
50 issues that needs resolution at this point. One of

1 them is beaver issue. Beaver issue needs to resolved.
2 The Council needs to really seriously look at the two
3 issue -- one is beaver issue and the other is wolves --
4 wolf. And what he said is that beaver destroys a lot
5 of fish habitat and it -- it refuge (ph) also affects
6 the resources as well. And at times maybe lead to some
7 declining of resources.

8

9 He -- he said that the wolves are
10 killing off moose and so considering these two issues
11 he would like to see the Council do something. Start
12 to tackle with the issues until resolution is reached
13 of the problem, beaver issue and wolves.

14

15 MR. JACOB: (In Yup'ik)

16

17 MR. NICK: What he said is that he is
18 the host of a Yup'ik talk show on KYOK and what he
19 would like to see the Council do is to work very
20 closely with Fish and Game towards the resolution of
21 the issues and what needs to happen between Fish and
22 Game and the Council is good understanding between
23 them. What -- and then when that understanding and the
24 resolution is reached, what he would like to do -- do
25 his part, is to make that known to the audience, radio
26 audience, because the fact the radio audience is always
27 blaming Fish and Game for all the problems that are
28 arising within the region. By doing that there will be
29 resolution that will be reached down the road.

30

31 MR. JACOB: (In Yup'ik)

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. NICK: Mr. Jacobs says that --
36 well, he reiterated the Council should do something
37 about beaver issues because the fact the beaver issues
38 have a problem with the -- the beaver dams are actually
39 killing off some of the resources and he has witnessed
40 that as, you know, personally he witnessed that -- that
41 happen in the region.

42

43 And also he would like the Council to
44 work closely with Fish and Game and deal with the issue
45 with wolves killing off moose -- moose in the region.
46 And he thanks the Council for allowing -- allowing him
47 to speak before them.

48

49 He said that he won't be here after
50 lunch because the fact that he is going to a dental

1 appointment because his wife don't smile at him
2 anymore.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

7
8 MR. JACOB: Quyana.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana.

11
12 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

13
14 I'm just saying that we are an advisory
15 group of people, we are not the Board, we are not the
16 policy-making board, we can only suggest to the Fish
17 and Game Board of -- State Board of Game and in that
18 capacity we serve the people.

19
20 MR. JACOB: (In Yup'ik)

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana, Peter. Any
23 more questions concerning the development of the
24 strategic plan.

25
26 Robert. Mr. Aloysius.

27
28 MR. ALOYSIUS: I just want to say that
29 I think this is a great plan. Because for me it's
30 going to open up some -- or present more information as
31 to why the whitefish are so important to our indigenous
32 people in this area.

33
34 They use harvesting and the history of
35 the whitefish will be brought up and hopefully shared
36 with more than the people in this area, but in the
37 whole United States because, you know, most Americans
38 are red meat eaters and they don't have any clue as to
39 the benefits of fish, whitefish and, you know, the
40 salmon that we harvest and consume. I think this will
41 be very important to bring out information as to why
42 whitefish are so important to us and the people of this
43 area.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Robert.
46 Before we go to lunch I want to remind everybody if you
47 want to address the Council to make sure that you fill
48 out these sheets and turn them in to either myself or
49 to Alex.

50

1 At this time we'll break for lunch and
2 we'll be back at 1:00 o'clock, that'll be enough time.

3

4 (Off record)

5

6 (On record)

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: As to the next topic,
9 we'll go down to Item C, Fisheries Resource Monitoring
10 Program, Draft 2010 Fisheries Resource Monitoring
11 Program Priority Information Needs, Pippa Kenner.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There is no Pippa
16 Kenner here, but you will take it I suppose -- oh,
17 that's who that is.

18

19 (Pause)

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Item C on Page
22 2, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, Item 1 is
23 Draft 2010 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program,
24 priorities, okay, you got it.

25

26 MS. KENNER: I'm here.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Pippa.

29

30 MS. KENNER: Yes.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

33

34 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
35 the record, again, my name is Pippa Kenner and I work
36 for the Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage,
37 and you're going to see me more than a couple of times
38 over the next day or two, I'm wearing different hats
39 and will be doing different presentations.

40

41 But right now for those of you new to
42 the Council, now we're going to talk about another
43 aspect of the Federal Subsistence Management Program,
44 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

45

46 The priority information needs document
47 can be found on Page 23 of your Council books or in the
48 handout on the table in the back of the room. As
49 described on the cover page this document is the draft
50 priority information needs that will guide fisheries

1 research projects beginning in 2010.

2

3 OSM has two functions. We work on
4 regulatory issues, changing the hunting and fishing
5 subsistence regulations as needed and we oversee
6 research primarily fisheries research that provide
7 information needed for subsistence fisheries
8 management. The two parts are important because
9 effective management and regulations are dependent upon
10 good information and sound science.

11

12 It's the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
13 Program projects that provide information for
14 subsistence fisheries management. In order to decide
15 what projects to fund, we first have to come up with
16 issues and information needs that are needed to more
17 effectively manage fisheries around the state. That is
18 what is before you today and what I'm talking about
19 now.

20

21 Right now the document is a draft and
22 we are looking for the Councils to let us know if there
23 are any other research needs that you think should be
24 included in the requests for proposals. This is not an
25 action item you have to vote on, we are looking for
26 your ideas and suggestions.

27

28 The Monitoring Program funds projects
29 of two types, stock, status and trends projects and
30 harvest monitoring and TEK, or traditional ecological
31 knowledge projects, which I will call ILK, indigenous
32 and local knowledge projects.

33

34 The first type of projects, that is the
35 stock, status and trends, focus on studies of fish
36 populations and stocks. They can be weir projects that
37 count fish age, sex and length projects, also known as
38 ASL projects, that provide information on fish
39 population structure and genetic studies of fish
40 populations among other types of research. The second
41 type of project category is harvest monitoring and
42 indigenous and local knowledge projects. These types
43 of projects provide information about subsistence fish
44 harvest that is needed for better management of the
45 fish. Why fish are harvested at a certain time and
46 place, who harvests, what are harvested, where they are
47 harvested, when, how, et cetera. This information is
48 used to document harvest to show how much a community
49 depends on fish and how much is needed to document --
50 and how much is needed and to document local

1 observations and changes.

2

3 There is about \$6 million in 2010.
4 These dollars are divided up by region around the
5 state. Monies are generally divided up according to
6 amounts of Federal public lands and management issues.

7

8 All proposals addressing subsistence
9 fisheries on Federal public lands will be considered,
10 but there has to be a connection to Federal lands and
11 waters.

12

13 The 2010 request for proposals for both
14 the Yukon and Kuskokwim regions is focused on high
15 priority information needs that were developed by
16 strategic planning efforts involving Federal and State
17 managers and Staff, RAC members and other regional or
18 area experts.

19

20 The document in your Council book is a
21 summary of the priority information needs for all six
22 regions of the state. But we're only going to discuss
23 the Yukon and Kuskokwim regions today.

24

25 Also included in the document is an
26 interregional category that calls for projects
27 addressing climate change and its effects on
28 subsistence fisheries. OSM is asking all investigators
29 to consider examining climate change effects to
30 subsistence uses of fish and on fish populations as
31 part of their projects. OSM is also specifically
32 requesting proposals that focus on effects of climate
33 change on subsistence resources and uses and how
34 management practices can be better adapted to deal with
35 these effects.

36

37 It's important to note that while
38 Monitoring Program project selections will not be
39 limited to information needs identified in this
40 document, people can submit any project for funding,
41 but proposals addressing other information needs must
42 show why the project is needed to better manage
43 subsistence fisheries here.

44

45 Since 2001 the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta
46 and Western Interior Councils, with guidance from the
47 Kuskokwim Fisheries Resource Coalition have identified
48 a broad category of issues and information needs in the
49 Kuskokwim area. These include collection and analysis
50 of indigenous and local knowledge, harvest assessment

1 and monitoring, salmon assessment and escapement, non-
2 salmon fish species assessment and marine and coastal
3 salmon ecology.

4
5 Additionally the Kuskokwim area
6 research plan completed in 2005 has been used to
7 prioritize monitoring projects. A strategic plan
8 addressing the management of whitefish species which
9 was presented to you earlier today in the Yukon and
10 Kuskokwim drainages is currently being developed and
11 will be completed by 2010. Priorities for future
12 monitoring or research directed at whitefish in the
13 Yukon River will rely on the recommendations within the
14 completed strategic plan.

15
16 On Page 26 you can see that for the
17 Kuskokwim area for salmon, priority information needs
18 include obtaining reliable estimates of chinook, chum
19 and coho salmon escapement, such as through weir
20 projects and monitoring and assessing subsistence
21 salmon harvest post-season in the Kuskokwim area. Of
22 particular interest is a study that will study methods
23 that can be used to produce area wide estimates of
24 salmon harvested for subsistence. Small pilot projects
25 including one or two villages will be considered.

26
27 Since its inception the Monitoring Plan
28 for the Yukon region has been directed at information
29 needs identified by the three Yukon River Councils with
30 input from subsistence users, the public, Alaska Native
31 organizations, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the
32 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and partner agencies
33 and organizations.

34
35 On the Yukon, additionally, the US and
36 Canada Yukon River Salmon Joint Technical Committee
37 Plan has been used to prioritize salmon monitoring
38 projects in the Alaska portion of the Yukon River
39 drainage. A strategic plan addressing the management
40 of whitefish species in the Yukon and Kuskokwim
41 drainages is currently being developed and, again, it
42 will be completed by 2010. Priorities for future
43 monitoring or research directed at whitefish in the
44 Yukon River will rely on the recommendations within the
45 completed strategic plan. Social-cultural research is
46 important in the Yukon region, especially in the
47 context of weak salmon runs and the consequent affect
48 on users, communities and other resources. Several
49 ongoing studies are examining the continuity and change
50 in salmon harvest and use patterns in the Yukon River

1 drainage. Recommendations for further research that
2 may come from these studies cannot be determined at
3 this time. For this reason no further social-science
4 issues were identified as priority information needs at
5 this time.

6

7

8 Beginning on Page 25, you can see that
9 for the Yukon River, the 2010 requests for proposals is
10 focused on seven priority information needs and all are
11 focused on salmon. They are:

12

13 Estimate or index in-season run
14 abundance of chinook, summer chum, fall
15 chum, and coho salmon

16

17 Estimate stock contributions and run
18 timing for chinook and chum salmon with
19 an emphasis on Lower Yukon River
20 mainstem fisheries

21

22 Obtain reliable estimates of chinook
23 and chum salmon escapement such as
24 through weir and sonar projects

25

26 Evaluate effects on salmon stocks and
27 users or fishery management practice
28 implemented to conserve chinook salmon,
29 such as gillnet mesh size, gillnet
30 depth and windowed openings

31

32 Evaluate long-term management
33 applications such as escapement goal
34 development and run reconstruction of
35 existing Yukon River chinook and chum
36 salmon escapement projects

37

38 Develop and evaluate methods for
39 including quality of escapement
40 measures in establishing chinook salmon
41 spawning goals and determining the
42 reproductive potential of spawning
43 escapements

44

45 Examine long-term trends in age, sex
46 and length composition of chinook
47 salmon harvest and escapement in
48 relation to environmental changes and
49 harvest practices

50

To conclude the interregional category

1 can be found on page 27 it is for projects that include
2 two or more regions. While OSM is asking investigators
3 submitting proposals for any single region, to consider
4 examining or discussing climate change effects, OSM is
5 also interested in projects that focus on understanding
6 management implications of climate change on
7 subsistence resources, uses in fisheries. The
8 interregional 2010 request for proposals is focused on
9 one priority information need and that is research that
10 documents effects of climate change on subsistence
11 resources and uses and determines how subsistence
12 fishery management can be better adapted to deal with
13 these effects.

14
15 Again, what we're looking for from the
16 Council is not a vote, but ideas and suggestions of
17 research that the Council feels should be a high
18 priority.

19
20 Mr. Chairman, this concludes my
21 presentation and I'm happy to answer any questions the
22 Council may have.

23
24 In addition to that, I had a handout --
25 I have a handout for this presentation. It's a handout
26 that's not in your book and it details every project in
27 the YK-Delta area that's ever been funded and also the
28 ones that are ongoing now. So if you don't mind I
29 think I'll go get them and hand them out because that
30 would probably be more informative than much of what I
31 could say.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

34
35 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Robert -- Robert
38 Aloysius has got a question for you, Pippa.

39
40 MR. ROCZICKA She didn't hear you.

41
42 (Pause)

43
44 MS. GREGORY: Pippa, we're waiting on
45 you.

46
47 (Pause)

48
49 MS. KENNER: I'm sorry, thank you for
50 your patience.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert had a -- Mr.
2 Aloysius had a question for you.
3
4 MR. ALOYSIUS: On the bottom of Page 25
5 it says on the Yukon River salmon, that last item,
6 estimate stock contribution and run timing for chinook
7 and chum salmon with an emphasis on Lower Yukon River
8 mainstem fisheries, what do you mean by mainstem
9 fisheries?
10
11 MS. KENNER: What page are you on?
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: On Page 25.
14
15 MR. ALOYSIUS: Last line.
16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Buklis.
18
19 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
20 think that second point addresses the timing of the
21 chinook and chum stocks and the various stocks in the
22 fishery in the lower river Yukon River mainstem. By
23 mainstem, they mean the main river.....
24
25 MR. ALOYSIUS: Oh.
26
27 MR. BUKLIS:not up in
28 tributaries.
29
30 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.
31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions.
33
34 MS. GREGORY: I have a comment to make,
35 Mr. Chairman.
36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.
38
39 MS. GREGORY: When she was making the
40 presentation she was jumping from paragraph to
41 paragraph, if anybody's going to make another
42 presentation I would ask you to prepare yourself and
43 get things ready and then explain to us what we're
44 doing because we had a hard time following you.
45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mary.
47
48 Mr. Greg.
49
50 MR. ROCZICKA: Pippa, maybe it's a typo

1 there but under the Kuskokwim region, I noticed in the
2 last sentence it says that priorities for future
3 monitoring or research directed to whitefish in the
4 Yukon River will rely on recommendations, it's probably
5 just a typo, on Page 26 under the Kuskokwim region
6 priority information needs.

7

8 MS. KENNER: You are a quick reader,
9 that is an accident, that's incorrect, it should say
10 Kuskokwim.

11

12 MR. ROCZICKA: But overall, getting
13 back to that earlier discussion, the questions we had
14 regarding the whitefish and that the call for proposals
15 this time is going to be focused on climate change and
16 effects on species, habitat and things that the climate
17 change may be affecting, and that was kind of a focus
18 that we were looking for there and whitefish utilizing
19 a very different set of habitat than the salmon would
20 be something that you'd want to, I would think, focus
21 into.

22

23 I guess this is a long range and long-
24 term thing. The problem's not going to go away and
25 it's only going to get worse so it becomes a question
26 for OSM Staff, I guess, how soon they want to start to
27 address it and start to identify those things and it
28 occurs to me that climate change studying -- or
29 observation of different impacts for salmon can pretty
30 much be done a lot -- at least on the Kuskokwim and to
31 some extent, I think, the Yukon, in some of the
32 platforms that are there already with the existing
33 research projects as far as water levels, water
34 temperature, aquatic life, the insects, and plant life
35 and so forth and what kind of change that are occurring
36 there and, you know, those are all in place already and
37 I think with minimal amount of effort and time or money
38 could be, you know, incorporated in and addressed to
39 some degree whereas the whitefish are not going to have
40 that. They're -- you know, as I say, you know, we're
41 talking to a large degree a totally different set of
42 areas that are affected by beaver dams and things of
43 that nature that we talked about earlier and their
44 rearing and rearing areas and staging areas and
45 whatever else there may be in the large lakes and the
46 Johnson River or along the slower tundra streams and
47 sloughs and so on, so I just wanted to ask you guys to
48 put that in your thoughts as those proposals come
49 forward.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further
6 discussion.
7
8 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.
11
12 MS. GREGORY: Some of the stuff in here
13 remind me of what we're already doing, what -- what are
14 we doing now in the way of monitoring and then what's
15 -- what is new that you are presenting right now from
16 what we're doing already?
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Larry.
19
20 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. The purpose
21 of this discussion is to let you know the information
22 needs items we have in hand and that we're prepared to
23 announce in the call for new proposals and to see if
24 these square with your sense of what's needed; if you
25 have more you think that should be on this list, if
26 there's things on this list that you don't think are
27 such a high priority, that's the kind of feedback we
28 want.
29
30 And so what we're hearing about climate
31 change, salmon and whitefish being different habitats,
32 the use of existing projects as a platform for learning
33 more, that's the kind of feedback we're looking for.
34
35 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.
36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.
38
39 MS. GREGORY: Can we add beaver to
40 that, too, because we've been talking about beaver and
41 it's -- I know it's open 24/7 and 365 times a year but
42 nobody's hunting them and they're creating a lot of
43 havoc on our fish habitat so you need to address that,
44 too.
45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other suggestions.
47
48 (No comments)
49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there are then

1 maybe later on during the meeting, because she's also
2 going to be available, if you think of anything else
3 you could come and approach her on it.

4

5 Thank you, very much.

6

7 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you.

8

9 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think at this time,
12 let's see where are we at, before we go into the
13 Partners for Fisheries and Monitoring Program, we'd
14 like to make a presentation. If I can have a motion to
15 suspend the rules for this occasion I would entertain
16 it.

17

18 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair, I move to
19 suspend the rules and allow.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made to
22 suspend the rules, do I hear a second.

23

24 MR. ROCZICKA: Second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
27 Roczicka. All in favor say aye.

28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed. At this
32 time we'll call on Larry Buklis and Alex Nick.

33

34 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 We'd like to call forward Harry Wilde if he would.

36

37 (Applause)

38

39 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. We have a
40 certificate of appreciation for Harry Wilde and I may
41 I'd like to read it. It says, certificate of
42 appreciation for Harry O. Wilde, charter member of the
43 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory
44 Council from 1993 to 2008 with gratitude for 15 years
45 of continuous service to the people of the Yukon-Delta
46 through the Federal Subsistence Management Program.

47

48 It's signed by Peter J. Probasco, the
49 Assistant Regional Director for Fish and Wildlife
50 subsistence management and Michael Fleagle, Chair of

1 the Federal Subsistence Board. Mr. Wilde, on behalf of
2 the Federal Subsistence Management Program we want to
3 congratulate you and thank you.

4
5 (Applause)

6
7 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah, I have something
8 to say.

9
10 Because I learn how to be hungry when I
11 was young, that's why I been keep up -- try to keep up
12 -- try to represent especially children, even in the
13 Kuskokwim and Yukon wherever I go I do my best to help
14 them. I appreciate this certification from the Federal
15 and I appreciate -- just like what I did -- little
16 things that I done, very small things, but I thank you
17 and you could tell them that I'm thankful of this.

18
19 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you.

20
21 (Applause)

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Buklis
24 and Mr. Nick.

25
26 We are down to Item 2, Partners for
27 Fisheries Monitoring Program presentation. Anybody's
28 going to -- who's going to be handling that.

29
30 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Larry
31 Buklis, OSM. My understanding is this is a place on
32 the agenda that's an opportunity for some of the
33 partners to review their work or present their work and
34 I don't know if they're here or ready to do that or not
35 but that's the purpose. We coordinate with some of the
36 partner programs to conduct field work and this is
37 their chance to come forward and speak to what work
38 they're doing.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And those partners are
41 AVCP, for one.

42
43 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I think
44 currently in this region ONC and KNA are the partner
45 organizations.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

48
49 MR. BUKLIS: But if they are present
50 and want to review their work, they can, that's what

1 this is about.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Greg.

4

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

6 I'll step side ways or put on an ONC hat for a minute.

7 We did receive a part-time position, you know, we

8 applied for funding for the full-time partner's

9 biologist that was available through previous calls for

10 proposals but due to the funding cutbacks and so forth

11 what was formerly funded in the neighborhood of 1.5

12 million went down to about 600,000 divided between

13 several regions, so ONC did receive a part-time

14 position that was for about three months of the year.

15 We did hire the former partner's biologist that was

16 employed by AVCP to step into that position, come up

17 and started in April, we were able to find some

18 supplementary funding and also in a partnership with

19 KNA to keep her around for roughly four months so she

20 had quite a learning curve coming up to speed with all

21 the fisheries projects which ONC has been doing for the

22 past eight years. And it was quite a load off in our

23 department and I'm basically speaking for myself to not

24 have to ride herd on those projects over the summer, a

25 tremendous relief in many ways. She did continue with

26 working on the science camps and identifying people

27 through the ANSEP programs which we have also done

28 through ONC over time in the past and gotten people

29 involved in that, Alaska Native Science and Engineering

30 Program, working with Mike Rearden, Fish and Wildlife

31 Service. And we had her specifically now in the latter

32 portions looking towards more long-term projects and

33 seeking other funding opportunities that can expand

34 this position hopefully in the future into a full-time

35 position.

36

37 Right now she is currently back

38 pursuing her Master's degree in Winnipeg over in

39 Manitoba, Canada, and she had expressed the interest to

40 be involved in this meeting by teleconference but then

41 going back and forth with the coordinator they weren't

42 able to match up their times as to when she had to be

43 in class and weren't able to coordinate it and as I

44 understand it your teleconference system is down anyway

45 so she wouldn't be able to be here.

46

47 But that's just a brief overview of

48 where we're at with ONC.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Anybody

1 from KNA here present.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Dave Cannon, do you
6 have an idea or.....

7

8

MR. CANNON: I have an idea, yeah.

9

10

(Laughter)

11

12

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

13

14

MR. CANNON: My name is Dave Cannon and
15 I used to be the Refuge biologist here in Bethel for
16 the Yukon-Delta Refuge and then I was the partner
17 biologist up in Aniak for KNA for a few years. And the
18 only thing I can report is that the partner's biologist
19 is my neighbor, lives right next door in the same
20 apartment complex so I see what's going on up there and
21 -- Mike Talhauser is the biologist, he and David
22 Orabutt have, this summer, I would see them out there
23 at midnight working on boats and getting ready for next
24 day's work so what I can say is that they've done a
25 tremendous job up here and unfortunately I know David
26 Orabutt, he's resigned here recently to move back to
27 Wisconsin. I think he has a girlfriend. But anyway
28 they've done a tremendous job out there.

29

30

So I think that's a good sign for the
31 Partner's Program, of all the good work going on.

32

33

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Dave.

34

35

MR. CANNON: You're welcome.

36

37

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary, did you.....

38

39

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

40

41

CHAIRMAN WILDE:have.....

42

43

MS. GREGORY: Can't you give some kind
44 of a report.

45

46

MR. CANNON: Well, they were involved
47 in all kinds of projects.

48

49

They did a rainbow trout radiotelemetry
50 project with the Department of Fish and Game Sportfish

1 Division. I think they placed 50 or so transmitters in
2 rainbow trout on the Aniak.

3

4 They were involved with a study that
5 was done on the Holitna River on sockeye salmon. It
6 was an Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim sustainable salmon
7 initiative project and their intern Glenn Lindsey from
8 Bethel here, he participated on that.

9

10 I know they were involved with the
11 fishwheel project, the coho salmon tagging project
12 there out of Kalskag.

13

14 They were involved with just all kinds
15 of projects. I know the different weirs this summer,
16 the George River, Tatlawiksik weir. From what I can
17 tell they had a very successful high school intern
18 program this summer, where they -- I don't know how
19 many students spent a week or more at the different
20 weir projects up there.

21

22 But they have done a tremendous amount
23 of work, collected a lot of good information and have
24 worked very well with the people up in the middle
25 Kuskokwim.

26

27 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. Can we get
28 that in writing, too, and you can send it to Alex, you
29 can email it to him after you get the information and
30 then he can disperse it to us.

31

32 MR. CANNON: Sure. I could do some
33 kind of a write up.

34

35 MS. GREGORY: Because I'd like to see
36 something that's being a positive thing that's
37 happening around here and have proof of it.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: My Anaan, he's not
40 really with KNA, but, you know, if the report comes we
41 should get it from KNA.

42

43 MR. CANNON: I'll -- yeah.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Could you request that
46 from your neighbor?

47

48 MR. CANNON: I can do that. I can do
49 that when I see him next at around midnight I'll
50 mention it to him.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

2

3 MR. CANNON: Okay, you're welcome.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We are down to Yukon
6 post-salmon summary report, US Fish and Wildlife
7 Service, Fairbanks Staff.

8

9 MR. MCLAIN: Mr. Chair and Council
10 members. Alex is passing out a written copy for you
11 and I have additional copies on the back table of our
12 overview of the 2008 Yukon River salmon season.

13

14 My name is Tom McLain. I am the deputy
15 Yukon River Federal fisheries manager working with Russ
16 Holder with Fish and Wildlife Service and Steve Hayes
17 with ADF&G is with me here also relative to the
18 overview on the Yukon River salmon season for 2008.

19

20 In summary, the management of the
21 summer salmon season was very challenging due to the
22 chinook salmon run size returning later and in less
23 numbers than expected. Along with the near average
24 abundance of summer chum salmon and the large return of
25 pink salmon. The fall chum salmon run was late and not
26 as strong as projected, while the coho salmon run was
27 near average in timing and abundance. Subsistence
28 fishers have stated that they had to work harder than
29 usual to achieve subsistence harvest goals for chinook
30 salmon and in many cases may not have achieved their
31 goals.

32

33 Overall 2008 was a difficult fishing
34 season in terms of managing for escapement objectives
35 providing reduced chinook salmon subsistence fishing
36 opportunities and for ADF&G to provide limited
37 commercial opportunities for summer and fall chum and
38 coho salmon.

39

40 Pre-season the US Fish and Wildlife
41 Staff worked cooperatively with ADF&G staff to develop
42 the pre-season and in-season management approaches were
43 distributed in May as the pink colored information
44 sheet for the 2008 Yukon River salmon fisheries. This
45 sheet was mailed by ADF&G to all Yukon River
46 subsistence households and commercial fishing
47 permit holders.

48

49 The managers entered the season
50 anticipating that the four primary Yukon River salmon

1 runs would return with sufficient abundance to meet
2 escapement objectives, provide for normal subsistence
3 harvest and maybe provide for additional harvest
4 opportunities.

5
6 The chinook salmon run was anticipated
7 to be below average and likely similar to the 2007 run.

8
9 The summer and fall chum salmon runs
10 were projected to be average while coho salmon were
11 anticipated to be average to above average. This was
12 pre-season.

13
14 For the summer season, the run strength
15 assessment of the in-season abundance of chinook and
16 summer chum salmon was based on the Lower River test
17 fishery, Pilot Station Sonar and subsistence fishermen
18 catch reports. The summer season began with a later
19 than average ice break up in the lower river, low
20 waters levels, low debris and low fish abundance.

21
22 The first pulse of chinook salmon was
23 observed in the ADF&G Lower River test nets project on
24 June 14 through 17, with subsequent chinook salmon
25 pulses occurring on June 23, 24 and on June 26 through
26 June 29. Chinook salmon entry timing was about four
27 days later than average and finished with a near
28 average cumulative CPUE as measured by the ADF&G Lower
29 River test net project. The preliminary end of the
30 season Pilot Station sonar estimate was approximately
31 130,600 chinook salmon as compared to the 2007 passage
32 of 125,500 fish. The summer chum salmon run strength
33 of 1.6 million fish was near average.

34
35 Most subsistence salmon fishermen
36 delayed their fishing effort due to high gas prices and
37 low fish numbers early in the season. The windowed
38 subsistence salmon fishing schedule was initiated on
39 May 26th in District 1 and was implemented
40 chronologically up river as the run progressed up
41 stream. Both State and Federal managers became
42 concerned about the strength of this year's chinook
43 salmon run when the first pulse passed Pilot Station
44 that translated to less than 15,000 fish. Concern
45 escalated when fish passage remained low for six days.
46 Managers decided to restrict subsistence fishing time
47 by half for a one to two week period in the Alaskan
48 portion of the drainage due to the concern for
49 insufficient escapement. Subsistence salmon in-season
50 harvest information collected by both US Fish and

1 Wildlife Service and ADF&G indicated that some
2 fishermen were able to obtain their subsistence harvest
3 goals if they had started fishing early, although many
4 fishers did not. Many fishermen reported fishing one
5 to two weeks more than average until suspending their
6 fishing efforts until the fall.

7
8 After over 80 percent of the chinook
9 salmon run had passed through a fishing district,
10 summer chum salmon commercial opportunities were
11 pursued if there was a processing interest and the
12 subsistence salmon fishing schedule was liberalized to
13 seven or five days per week.

14
15 In December 2004 the Federal
16 Subsistence Board adopted a regulation that provided
17 Federally-qualified subsistence fishermen the
18 opportunity to use drift gillnets no more than 150 feet
19 long and no more than 35 meshes deep to harvest chinook
20 salmon in Subdistricts 4B and 4C. The original
21 regulation allowed drift fishing the last 18 hours of a
22 fishing period. In the spring of 2008 the Federal
23 Subsistence Board liberalized the drift fishing time to
24 align with the regulatory openings that were usually
25 two 42 hour periods per week.

26
27 In 2008 a total of 25 permits were
28 issued by the Koyukuk Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge
29 Complex Staff to Galena, Ruby, and Koyukuk rural
30 residents. Of the 24 permittees who have reported
31 their fishing activity as of September 18, 10 reported
32 fishing with a total of 44 chinook salmon harvested in
33 82 hours of fishing. It appears that there remains
34 some interest in this fishing opportunity but
35 Subdistricts 4B and 4C fishermen have not reported
36 finding productive drifting spots within the Federal
37 public waters.

38
39 Based on the pre-season outlook, no
40 directed chinook salmon commercial periods occurred.
41 11 summer chum commercial periods occurred at the end
42 of the summer season with 150,000 summer chum salmon
43 and 4,300 chinook salmon harvested.

44
45 Post-season evaluation of the chinook
46 and summer chum salmon escapement numbers confirmed
47 that most Alaskan escapement goals were near the low
48 end of the desired escapement goal ranges. The
49 escapement of 38,097 chinook salmon passed Eagle Sonar
50 provided for a spawning escapement goal into Canada of

1 32,500 fish. This was much less than the 45,000 or
2 more than the US/Canada Panel set for an escapement
3 goal for 2008. Canadian aboriginal fishermen agreed
4 in-season to decrease their aboriginal harvest to half
5 or to approximately 4,000 fish, their usual take, while
6 commercial and domestic fisheries and sportfisheries
7 were not allowed to fish in Canada in 2008 due to the
8 low run strength.

9
10 For the fall season, the 2008 fall
11 season run timing was near average for the quarter and
12 three-quarter points of the run but the mid-point was
13 delayed until almost the three-quarter point, meaning
14 that the run was much weaker in middle portion of the
15 run than expected. The in-season run size projection
16 remained near 500,000 to 600,000 fall chum most of the
17 season, well below the pre-season projection of 1
18 million fish. Based on sonar cumulative passage
19 estimates and the cumulative commercial harvest, the
20 2008 fall chum salmon run was estimated to be 730,000
21 fish. The fish entered in three significant pulses,
22 first on July 27th through August 2, and then August 12
23 to 14 and August 25 through 27. Post-season the up
24 river project information confirmed that the 2008 fall
25 chum run size was less than the pre-season projection.
26 The coho salmon run appeared to have average timing and
27 a slightly below average run size for the season, the
28 lowest since 2002.

29
30 Based on the pre-season outlook fall
31 chum salmon commercial fishing occurred during the
32 early portion of the run, was suspended during the
33 middle portion of the run due to a less than expected
34 run size and resumed under the Coho Salmon Management
35 Plan during the late portion of the season.

36
37 The Yukon commercial harvest was about
38 119,301 fall chum salmon and 35,676 coho salmon as of
39 September 30, 2008. The final numbers from periods 10
40 and 11 for Subdistricts 5B and 5C and for Period 9 for
41 Subdistrict 6A, 6B and 6C have not been reported as of
42 yesterday, October 1.

43
44 Next year the outlook for 2009 will be
45 prepared by ADF&G after escapement information and age
46 composition analysis are completed over the next
47 several months. Should the trend of poor productivity
48 continue into 2009 management staff are discussing
49 options for altering subsistence fishing to ensure
50 enough fish get to the spawning grounds.

1 On the next page I've got just an
2 overview of what the Yukon River Salmon Assessment
3 Projects that we coordinate out of our Fairbanks Fish
4 and Wildlife field office and for results for 2008.
5 I'm not going to go through those, they're in front of
6 you there.

7
8 Last, I want to review what our in-
9 season subsistence Monitoring Program results were,
10 this is a project that Jon Gerken has been conducting
11 for us.

12
13 Local village interviewers collected
14 information gaging the progress towards subsistence
15 salmon harvest goals for chinook salmon, the fishing
16 conditions, and the quality of the subsistence catch.
17 In 2008 163 households were interviewed in 10 villages
18 along the Yukon River, these were Emmonak, Marshall,
19 Holy Cross, Nulato, Huslia, Allakaket, Galena, Fort
20 Yukon, Circle and Eagle. The percentage of harvest
21 completion ranged from 90 percent high in Emmonak to 24
22 percent, the low in Huslia. Emmonak, Marshall and
23 Eagle were the only villages that achieved near their
24 historical average percentage of completion of
25 subsistence harvest. And this is for chinook, this is
26 not for chum, this is just strictly chinook. Five of
27 the villages had achieved less than 50 percent of their
28 harvest needs as of August 16, when the study was
29 complete. And, again, the number of interviews
30 conducted in each of the villages, the percent of
31 harvest completion and the historical average are on
32 the table.

33
34 Are there any questions.

35
36
37 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

40
41 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik) What's your
42 name, again?

43
44 MR. MCLAIN: Tom McLain.

45
46 MS. GREGORY: Tom.

47
48 MR. MCLAIN: Yes.

49
50 MS. GREGORY: It's a very well written

1 report and I want to thank you for it and explaining
2 what's happening in the Yukon.

3

4 (In Yup'ik)

5

6 When you let us know what's happening
7 and comparing from different years, that means you've
8 been doing your work which is good.

9

10 MR. MCLAIN: I want to thank you for
11 the compliment and I also want to thank all of you for
12 the opportunity to be able to present here. And Lester
13 and I go back more than a few years on the Yukon Panel,
14 I've always appreciated the opportunity to be with him
15 so thank you very much for the opportunity.

16

17 Steve, do you have anything to add.

18

19 MR. HAYES: Mr. Chairman. Council
20 members. Just for the record my name is Steve Hayes.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Wait, I got a question
23 for Tom, first, before you Steve.

24

25 MR. ROCZICKA: Before you run off into
26 another report, appreciate it.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Greg.

29

30 MR. ROCZICKA: It's been a few years
31 since I was on that Yukon River Panel in the late '80s
32 and early '90s so I'm not up to speed on it anymore,
33 but in your -- that paragraph on the second page about
34 mid-section on evaluation of escapements, you have two
35 different escapement goals referenced there, 38,000
36 passed the Eagle Sonar for spawning ground escapement
37 being less than the 45,000 escapement goal from the
38 US/Canada Panel, and the 38,000, I mean your escapement
39 goal is 32,500 for going on the spawning ground and
40 then you have the 45,000 as the Yukon/US/Canada Panel
41 so you're sitting right about mid-range there actually,
42 not too far -- I don't know, what's the difference
43 between those two?

44

45 MR. MCLAIN: Let me explain just what
46 those numbers stand for. The 38,097 fish were the
47 number that were counted at the border sonar at Eagle.
48 When you take out the total allowable catch up stream
49 of that, below the spawning grounds and this is
50 commercial and subsistence harvest at Eagle plus the

1 First Nation's harvest on the Canadian side, out of
2 that 38,000 only 32,500 fish made it to the spawning
3 ground. What the US/Canada Panel agreed upon as an
4 escapement goal on the spawning grounds was for 45,000
5 or more fish so that was the biological escapement goal
6 that the panel desired and was recommended by the Joint
7 Technical Committee by the Panel that we work to
8 achieve, we fell short this year, we only got 32,500 on
9 the goal. The count at Eagle is our best enumeration
10 and I think it's a very solid enumeration of what we're
11 actually getting into Canada. We can subtract out what
12 the subsistence and commercial harvest is at Eagle to
13 let us know what we actually get to Canada. This
14 number that gets to Canada is then what DOF, the
15 Department of Fisheries and Ocean in Canada uses to
16 determine what regulations they put in place for the
17 numbers of fish that cross their border. The 45,000
18 goal is what both sides have agreed upon as a desired
19 escapement on the spawning grounds.

20

21 Does that help clarify it?

22

23 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, it did, it
24 clarified that real well. So if you added on that --
25 the additional human harvest and other fisheries you
26 guys should be looking to get 50,000 over the border,
27 in that range, to provide for the aboriginal fisheries
28 in that area, so, yeah.

29

30 MR. MCLAIN: Yes. The desire at the
31 border sonar is actually closer to 55,000 to allow for
32 a catch both at Eagle and on the Canadian side.

33

34 The one thing I wanted to really point
35 out in here is the fact that both sides shared equally
36 in the pain of not having numbers of fish this year.
37 We all gave up to try and get fish on the spawning
38 grounds and it was not an easy year for anybody.

39

40 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions
43 for Tom or.....

44

45 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Harry.

48

49 MR. H. WILDE: This is not a question.
50 But this summer month of June some of us we know it's

1 not going to be that many fish, why -- what's the
2 reason we know it's not going to be that many fish, is
3 something wrong, might be out in the ocean, might be
4 something wrong, first time I ever 65 years in the
5 Yukon water, this year second week of June, people
6 start talking, these fish are small and some of them
7 even they catching king salmon, month of second week of
8 June even they be catching pink salmon. We were
9 wondering what is going on because we've had a
10 teleconference, you know, wondering how far the fish
11 are and all that. It's -- me, I've been in the water
12 for quite awhile and first time I ever see that early
13 second week of June, white nose king salmon and the
14 pink salmon, they even they're catching sheefish and
15 all that. So I been wondering all this time something
16 must be happening out there, something, because never
17 seen that early of those fish that we used to catch in
18 late, late of month of July too.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MR. MCLAIN: That is a very good
23 observation and I thank you for that. At the
24 Andreafsky weir, which is out of St. Mary's, we were
25 seeing the pinks earlier this year, chinooks were
26 running later and the summer chum were running later so
27 it's been an interesting year. I don't think any of us
28 have answers right now.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further comments.

31

32 Mr. Manumik.

33

34 MR. MANUMIK: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
35 Chairman. Tom, the same report was given to us by a
36 guy fishing up in Devil's Elbow area, same time
37 catching female pink salmon during the same run that
38 Mr. Wilde was talking about, that's up in Devil's Elbow
39 area, that's pretty far up the river and that's unusual
40 for us, even the first week in June we were catching
41 pink salmon at the mouth, south mouth.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other
46 comments.....

47

48 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE:or questions.

1 Mr. Mike.

2

3 MR. MIKE: My name is Joseph Mike. I
4 got a question on the Pilot Station Sonar, does that
5 sonar work 24 hours a day during chinook season or do
6 you have to stop it maybe two or three days?

7

8 MR. HAYES: Mr. Chairman. Pilot
9 Station sonar does operate every day, they do three
10 three hour sonar shifts per day and then they drift
11 three times a day for three to four hours. So they're
12 continuously going 24 hours, but the sonar itself
13 doesn't go 24 hours a day. In other words, they have
14 to stop for a period of time so they can drift their
15 nets through that sonar area. But it is working seven
16 days a week throughout the entire season.

17

18 MR. MIKE: You operate that three days
19 a week 24 hours.

20

21 MR. HAYES: I'm sorry, can you repeat
22 the question.

23

24 MR. MIKE: That sonar is operated three
25 days 24 hours a day.

26

27 MR. HAYES: It's operating everyday
28 throughout the entire summer and fall season, it's just
29 that the actual sonar itself that just counts the fish,
30 it doesn't separate out what the fish are. They
31 operate that in shifts everyday do they do three shifts
32 a day for three hour shifts, but it is going everyday.
33 But they do have to stop the sonar for a period of time
34 during the day so they can drift nets through the sonar
35 area so they can apportion out what the species from
36 the sonar counts, so it is operating every single day,
37 just not 24 hours a day.

38

39 I hope that helps.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Does that answer your
42 question, Mr. Mike.

43

44 MR. MIKE: Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Paul.

47

48 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman. Tom.
49 These surveys you did in the villages, those were just
50 in the villages, right, not fish camps, not counting

1 the fish camps.

2

3 MR. MCLAIN: In each village we had a
4 surveyor who essentially conducted interviews amongst
5 the villages, whether it was in -- not necessarily in
6 the village, but it was in the camps, too, they were
7 going out to the camps and getting interviews there.
8 So it was more than -- in each village we had an
9 interviewer and they conducted, like in Emmonak, 47
10 interviews. The majority of those actually were out in
11 the fish camps. So at Eagle, essentially there was two
12 subsistence fishers they got more of the information
13 from. In Galena they had 28 fishers. Not all of them
14 in just the village, they were out in the fish camps to
15 get the information.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

18

19 MR. MANUMIK: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Brown.

22

23 MR. BROWN: Yeah, I got a question
24 about you guys, you guys are using sonar, how you guys
25 tell the difference between chinook and other species,
26 identify the difference between the chinook and other
27 salmon.

28

29 MR. HAYES: Well, the sonar doesn't
30 tell the difference between what the species are,
31 between salmon and let's say whitefish, chums and
32 kings, that's why we have a drift project using
33 gillnets that they drift through the area that the
34 sonar's located and depending on how many kings and
35 other chums and other species, like whitefish, they
36 catch, they'll apportion that out to what the sonars
37 are. So the sonar's just counting, let's say blips,
38 numbers of blips, and then by doing the drift,
39 depending on what they catch for species, it gets
40 separated out to those numbers, and that provides us
41 with a daily estimate of how many chums, how many
42 kings, how many other species were caught.

43

44 MR. BROWN: Because for myself one time
45 I used the sonar instrument with the recording paper, I
46 couldn't tell the difference between the salmon and
47 other species only -- only by catching by gillnet so I
48 wouldn't identify the difference between those other
49 species.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. MCLAIN: Maybe I might be able to
4 clarify a little bit on the sonar. Essentially your
5 sonar system just gives you targets. And then like
6 Steve mentioned, by running the drifts -- or seining or
7 some way of apportioning what is in the river with the
8 nets is how you determine the percent that's
9 attributable to those numbers of targets. So the sonar
10 will tell you how many targets went by, the drift
11 fishing or seining or whatever you end up doing will
12 tell you how many chinook, how many chum, et cetera are
13 in the river. It's a ratio that you're looking at and
14 then you use that to apportion what you're actually
15 seeing. And Pilot is really more of a good index of
16 what we have going up through, Eagle Sonar, it's a lot
17 more discriminatory than the Pilot Station because it's
18 different circumstances, able to utilize and it's
19 better suited to sonar and also you don't have species
20 apportionment issue that you do down in the lower
21 river, so it is an issue that's being addressed and I
22 think addressed very well with the sonar program, but
23 it's not an easy number to get to as Steve can well
24 attest.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

27

28 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, I'd like to hear a
29 little bit more about your in-season subsistence
30 monitoring, you know, we have a similar program here on
31 the Kuskokwim with the working group on a weekly basis
32 tries to report on 40 to 50 through the course of the
33 season, how do you guys run yours there specific to
34 chinook as well, you know, how often do you conduct
35 your interviews and where does it go and how do you,
36 you know.

37

38 MR. MCLAIN: The interviews are done
39 weekly as the season occurs, and Jon Gerken gathers
40 this over the course. I think he did 10 weeks of
41 interviews and it's a progression up river.
42 Essentially trying to track how successful the fishers
43 over each week and how closely were they completing
44 their subsistence needs for chinook and also for the
45 different summer and fall chum. So he was trying to
46 track the progression as the runs moved up river, how
47 successful with lower, middle and upper fishers were on
48 achieving their subsistence harvest needs and what
49 their goals were. And what you're seeing here is just
50 an assessment of where the fishermen that were

1 interviewed felt they were on meeting their harvest
2 goals. So it's not just straight cut and dry but it
3 does give us an indication of how well the fishermen
4 are doing throughout the river in meeting the needs
5 that they have within subsistence harvest.

6

7 MR. ROCZICKA: Okay. I mean you
8 weren't still asking people in Emmo on the -- since
9 your last interview are the 16th of August, you still
10 weren't asking lower river guys how they were doing on
11 their kings then, right?

12

13 MR. MCLAIN: Most definitely not. No,
14 it we essentially tracked it -- essentially the project
15 went for 10 weeks, but we followed it up river as it
16 was going. And pretty much interviewers were very
17 strong participants in the YRDFA teleconference, too,
18 and so we rely on as many different tools as we can to
19 try and understand what the run's doing, how it's
20 progressing and how the users are meeting the needs,
21 both lower and upper river.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further
24 questions.....

25

26 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE:discussion.
29 Mary.

30

31 MS. GREGORY: Maybe it would help -- it
32 would help me if you could put the dates of the onset
33 and the dates of the close out, was August the close
34 out date or did it go beyond that?

35

36 MR. MCLAIN: We went through August 16.
37 I'm trying to remember, I think it was just about that
38 first week in June is when he started. I was busy in
39 hiring people, I wasn't overseeing John that directly
40 on that but I think it was the first week in June that
41 began that.

42

43 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, I like to see dates
44 when stuff are started and then when they're
45 discontinued so that we can do our own comparison of
46 what's happened.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mary.
49 Thank you, gentlemen.

50

1 MR. MCLAIN: Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We had a.....
4
5 MR. HAYES: I just had something to
6 add.
7
8 REPORTER: Steve.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.
11
12 MR. HAYES: I just have something to
13 add.
14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.
16
17 MR. HAYES: Tom ran through the
18 overview of the season.
19
20 Like he said it was difficult year for
21 subsistence and commercial fishers along the river and
22 we did have to reduce subsistence fishing time, as you
23 heard. And what we've seen this year is what we saw in
24 2007, was that the Canadian portion of this run was
25 week again this year as it was in '07. So what we're
26 looking at this -- what -- you know, typically we do
27 our projections within the next few months and then in
28 the spring we'll come to these meetings and we'll
29 present kind of our management strategies for next year
30 and working with Federal managers and of course we want
31 to go to these meetings and get input from the local
32 users on how to handle this again, if it does happen
33 next year.
34
35 Based on, you know, the parent year
36 escapements for next year's runs and the age comp that
37 we've seen, you would expect that we should have enough
38 fish to meet escapement and subsistence uses next year.
39 Any other harvest, for example, commercial, maybe, you
40 know, so I would foresee that we would enter the season
41 next near with a similar management strategy as we had
42 this year, starting the subsistence schedule towards
43 the end of May and, of course, delaying any type of
44 decision on a directed commercial fishery until the
45 mid-point of the run. But one thing that we're looking
46 at and wanting to work with local users on this winter,
47 is how to address the early portion of the run when
48 those Canadian fish are coming through, usually it's
49 the first 50 percent of the run. In over half the
50 Yukon fish, you know, spawn in Canada.

1 So we're trying to figure out a way to
2 slow down the harvest on the front end of the run,
3 whether it's pulling one of the scheduled periods early
4 on, starting in the lower river district to let that
5 fist pulse of fish go through. I think if we would
6 have done that this year, which originally we were
7 looking at pulling a period, we probably would have got
8 more fish across the border into Canada. We delayed
9 doing that because the projection was starting to
10 improve so we backed off and just reduced fishing time.
11 I think looking back and if we're presented with this
12 next year we may have to look at actually pulling a
13 period starting in the lower river.

14
15 And, of course, we want to get input
16 from the local users, that was a big thing for us this
17 summer on the YRDFA teleconferences. You know we had
18 our ideas on how to do this but we started to get
19 input, you know, we found users up river, subsistence
20 users didn't have the small mesh gillnets so you're
21 virtually eliminating fisheries. We looked at
22 restricting fishwheels, which a lot of, you know,
23 District 5, they're not catching a lot of chum and the
24 chum they do catch are poor quality, so we chose to
25 just reduce time. And, of course, in the lower river
26 we did reduce the mesh size down to six inch or
27 smaller. But I think what we're looking at over the
28 winter as we want to come up with other options that we
29 can have available to us if we're presented with this
30 next year, is that we may have to do things a little
31 differently.

32
33 So we're going to be working with
34 fishers this winter and getting input on how to handle
35 this next year.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you have anything
38 else to add, Tom.

39
40 MR. MCLAIN: I do. I want to support
41 Steve and Fish and Game very much as far as the fact
42 that there's a lot of concern, you know, where are we
43 going to be at on getting our numbers of fish on the
44 escapement grounds where we need them to spawn. So
45 it's going to take all of us working together to try
46 and figure out, okay, what options are out there and
47 how can we best do the job to make sure that future
48 generations have fish. So I think it behooves all of
49 us to start putting our thinking cap on, to start
50 working with some thoughts and ideas and

1 recommendations that we can all live with that will
2 help us achieve that goal.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Tom.

5

6 Robert.

7

8 MR. ALOYSIUS: Who did the interviews
9 in the villages, is that Fish and Wildlife Staff, State
10 Staff or local people?

11

12 MR. MCLAIN: The interviews were all
13 local hires actually employed through YRDFA under
14 contract. We paid each of them for conducting the
15 interviews, but they are local hires. Started out, we
16 had refuge information technicians helping us but it's
17 evolved where now we have local hires doing it all.

18

19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. The reason I
20 ask that is because a lot of times a lot of people are
21 reluctant to give information to somebody from Fish and
22 Wildlife or somebody from Fish and Game, and like
23 numbers that are not real. But if they have somebody
24 that they know from the village then they're more free
25 to be telling the truth for numbers.

26

27 MR. MCLAIN: We're all a lot more
28 comfortable dealing and talking with those who we trust
29 and know and, you know, I think the information is more
30 accurate and is more willingly shared.

31

32 You know, for me to walk into a fish
33 camp unknown by anybody else, if I was in that fish
34 camp I'd say who are you, and I fully agree that it's
35 very important to have people who know the other people
36 gathering the information, we get better information.

37

38 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you have any more
45 questions.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, than you
50 gentlemen.

1 MR. HAYES: Thank you.
2
3 MR. MCLAIN: Thank you.
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: At this time I think
6 we need to suspend our rules to -- we had a date at
7 2:00 o'clock on a public hearing on two special action
8 programs so if it's all right, there are no objections
9 from the Council, we'll take Item 12 next before we
10 take Item 11 so we can get that teleconference going
11 with public hearing on special actions.
12
13 Is there any objections.
14
15 MS. GREGORY: No objections.
16
17 MR. ROCZICKA: No objections.
18
19 (Council nods affirmatively)
20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Fine, go ahead.
22
23 (Pause - arranging for teleconference)
24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.
26
27 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. We are now
28 connected.
29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. For special
31 action.....
32
33 REPORTER: Lester.
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The special action
36 procedures are as follows:
37
38 No. 1. We'll have the Staff analysis
39
40 After that we'll have the public
41 comments
42
43 After public comments we'll have the
44 State comments
45
46 After State comments we'll have the
47 Council discussion and recommendation
48
49 Mr. Buklis.
50

1 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 For the Staff analysis Pippa Kenner will give the main
3 analysis and I have a few supplemental comments.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Pippa.

8
9 (Pause)

10
11 MS. KENNER: What I was looking for is
12 right in front of me. Thank you for your patience.

13
14 Again, for the record my name is Pippa
15 Kenner with OSM in Anchorage.

16
17 The analysis for this request begins on
18 Page 30 of your Council books and there are copies on
19 the table in the back of the room.

20
21 Today I am here to make you aware of
22 this request and answer your questions and listen to
23 your comments and the comments of other people in this
24 room and teleconferencing from the region. The request
25 is before you because Kalskag and Lower Kalskag are in
26 the area covered by this Council and we're interested
27 in your thoughts on this request.

28
29 For the benefit of people in the
30 audience from outside the region I'll be referring to
31 the community of Kalskag as Upper Kalskag and Kalskag
32 interchangeably.

33
34 To being let me explain that our office
35 will start accepting proposals in January 2009, this
36 coming January, to change wildlife regulations and the
37 Federal Subsistence Board will be considering them in
38 December 2009, that's over a year from now. The
39 Kuskokwim Native Association or KNA wants their
40 villages to be eligible for the moose hunt in Unit 21E
41 in 2009 and so asked the Federal Subsistence Board to
42 make a special action.

43
44 KNA requests that the customary and
45 traditional use determination for moose in Unit 21E be
46 expanded to include the communities of Lower Kalskag,
47 Kalskag, Aniak, Chuathbaluk and Napaimute. As you know
48 a community must have a customary and traditional use
49 determination or C&T to be eligible to hunt under
50 Federal subsistence regulations, this is why KNA is

1 requesting that the five villages be included in
2 existing C&T for Unit 21E. The current C&T for
3 includes the communities of Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk,
4 and Holy Cross, collectively known as GASH and Russian
5 Mission. The request is unusual in that it only
6 requests the revised C&T for the winter 2009 hunt.
7 Because it's a special action it would only last until
8 June 30th, the end of the regulatory year, and by that
9 time a proposal to change the determination in the
10 regulations could be submitted by KNA for consideration
11 during the regular wildlife cycle.

12
13 In its request KNA stated that
14 residents of these villages traditionally used areas in
15 Unit 21E to harvest moose, particularly the last half
16 of winter until break up. This is also the time when
17 travel to other areas is limited due to weather and
18 when moose harvesting opportunities do not exist closer
19 to the villages. Of the five communities in the
20 request, Aniak and Chuathbaluk already have a C&T for
21 caribou in Unit 21E, however, no community in Unit 18
22 or 19 except Russian Mission is included in the C&T for
23 moose in 21E.

24
25 To refresh your memory the Board makes
26 customary and traditional use determinations based on a
27 holistic application of eight factors. The eight
28 factors can be found at the top of Page 34 in your
29 Council books, and on Page 4 in your handouts. Based
30 on a review of the eight factors, residents of Lower
31 Kalskag, Upper Kalskag, Aniak, Chuathbaluk have
32 demonstrated customary and traditional uses of moose in
33 a wide area accessible to them by boat and snowmachine
34 including parts of 21E. This is based on the data
35 collected during three annual household surveys and
36 reported on harvest tickets to ADF&G since 1983 and the
37 findings of ethnographic studies describing areas used
38 by the communities to harvest moose.

39
40 Adopting this special action will allow
41 residents of Lower Kalskag, Upper Kalskag, Aniak,
42 Chuathbaluk and Napaimute to participate in the
43 February moose hunt in 2009 in Unit 21E. This will be
44 in addition to communities with previously recognized
45 C&T of moose in Unit 21E, that is, the GASH communities
46 and Russian Mission.

47
48 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
49 support the request with modification to omit
50 Napaimute. At this time there are no year-round

1 residents at Napaimute, and this is unlikely to change
2 before or during the period this special action would
3 be in effect.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair, this is the end
6 of my presentation. And I'm ready to answer questions
7 or comments or hear your comments, and I'm not asking
8 for any action of the Council at this time.

9

10 Quyana. (In Yup'ik)

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions from the
13 Council. Mr. Aloysius.

14

15 MR. ALOYSIUS: I have one question,
16 that is.....

17

18 REPORTER: Bob. Bob.

19

20 MS. GREGORY: Microphone.

21

22 MR. ALOYSIUS: I have one question that
23 is always bugging the people Lower Kalskag, Kalskag,
24 Aniak, how in the world did Russian Mission ever become
25 eligible to hunt in 21E and they're 45 miles away from
26 the 21E border where we are right next door, within
27 five miles of the 21E border?

28

29 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. Mr. Aloysius.
30 I do -- I have with me the original C&T determination
31 that was written for Fish and Game back in the '80s.
32 There's a number of reasons. The main one, though, is
33 that residents of other people up river on the Yukon
34 had moved to Russian Mission, particularly, Piamuit.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

37

38 MR. ALOYSIUS: (Laughter)

39

40 People from Piamuit migrated to not
41 only Russian Mission, they migrated to Kalskag, Lower
42 Kalskag, Aniak, Holy Cross, because Piamuit is, in my
43 way of understanding, the roots of many of the people
44 in those villages.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And any other
47 comments.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there are no
6 Council comments, is there any public comments.

7

8 Mr. Buklis.

9

10 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 I was going to supplement Pippa Kenner's Staff analysis
12 with some further Staff comments, if I may.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, you may.

15

16 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you. As she
17 described in the analysis, the request is for a
18 revision of the existing C&T determination for the
19 Federal winter moose hunt in Unit 21E to include
20 residents of five communities in Unit 19A. And since
21 it is a special action request this is unusual so I
22 want to take a moment to explain why we're approaching
23 it the way we are.

24

25 The request was submitted by KNA in
26 February of 2008, but because it was requesting a
27 change to the C&T determination only for the winter
28 2009 hunt it wasn't a time sensitive matter. In that
29 respect this differs from other special action requests
30 such as season extensions and in those situations the
31 requests are addressed as quickly as possible because
32 of the urgency of the situation in terms of timing, and
33 that kind of process does not allow for a public review
34 step. At first we were unsure of how to deal with this
35 request since, typically, C&T determinations are dealt
36 with through the normal annual, or now once every two
37 year regulatory cycle.

38

39 However, in reviewing our regulations
40 we found that the regulations do allow for C&T
41 determinations to be addressed through the special
42 action process. The Board made this assessment and
43 opted to proceed with this request as a temporary
44 special action.

45

46 Temporary special actions require a
47 properly noticed public hearing and we knew that this
48 issue was one that would involve the Yukon-Kuskokwim
49 and the Western Interior Councils, and since those
50 Councils have an interest in those region and those

1 Council meetings serve as the public hearings for this
2 process.

3
4 The State of Alaska sent a letter to
5 the Chairman of the Federal Board, Mike Fleagle,
6 expressing opposition to the treatment of the treatment
7 of the request as a special action, and I think we've
8 handed out copies of that letter for you. Specifically
9 the concern was that this process would not provide
10 sufficient opportunity for public comment. We are
11 treating the letter as part of the comment on this
12 special action request.

13
14 So in summary this is an unusual
15 approach for a C&T, the Board found that the
16 regulations found allow for this treatment of a C&T
17 request and the State letter is before you and is a
18 form of comment and we wanted you to be aware of that.

19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Buklis.
23 Any other comments, public comments, Mr. Tim Andrew had
24 a comment for 08 and 01 and 03.

25
26 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
27 For the record my name is Timothy Andrew, I'm the
28 director of Natural Resources for AVCP and we do have
29 villages within the area that's in question seeking a
30 positive C&T for the hunt in Unit 21E.

31
32 For a number of years we have been
33 attempting to make, not only people in Unit 19A which
34 include those communities there, but also people in
35 Unit 18 to obtain positive customary and traditional
36 use determination in hunts in Unit 21E. As indicated
37 in the report and the people in that area are in a real
38 dire situation where they formerly used to hunt in Unit
39 19A, which is currently closed to moose hunting at this
40 time and also indicate that what Mr. Aloysius said that
41 Aniak is just, you know, within several miles away from
42 the Unit 21E border, right on the other side of the
43 hills, Kalskag here, just right on the border, and they
44 do not have a positive C&T in 21E.

45
46 In most Yup'ik villages in the area
47 people have to traversed long ways, even prior to the
48 United States becoming the United States of America,
49 prior to the arrival of Columbus, since time immemorial
50 people have been traveling across broad areas to obtain

1 the food that they need to feed their families. And
2 we'd just like to encourage the Board to support this
3 proposal and carry it forward through the Federal
4 Subsistence Process.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Tim. Any
9 questions for Tim.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do we have any further
14 public comments.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any -- go
19 ahead -- oh, okay, person on the teleconference, do you
20 have any comments, public comments.

21
22 Larry, could you.....

23
24 MR. MORGAN: Hello.

25
26 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, go ahead.

27
28 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, this is Carl Morgan,
29 can you hear me?

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, we can hear him
32 -- can everybody hear him?

33
34 MR. ROCZICKA: Can you turn it up a
35 little?

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tina, can you get it a
38 little louder.

39
40 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Can you get it a
43 little bit closer, Larry.

44
45 MR. BUKLIS: Go ahead.

46
47 MR. MORGAN: Hi. This is Carl Morgan,
48 I'm calling from Aniak. I'd like to support the
49 comments that Bobby Aloysius made about our roots. My
50 mom and her brothers and sisters all were born in

1 Piamuit and we're only a couple miles from it and we do
2 use the White Lake area for fishing and we did go over
3 -- we used to go over there for the winter moose hunts
4 but we don't, we don't anymore because they use it for
5 moose hunting because we're not -- we're not -- we
6 don't got a positive C&T. I think I did read it
7 someplace on either the State reg or something that we
8 did have a part of the C&T but we're not allowed to
9 hunt in that winter hunt in 21E.

10
11 That's just my comments, thank you,
12 very much.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Morgan.
15 Okay, do.....

16
17 REPORTER: Lester. Lester.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm sorry. Any other
20 comments, any other public comments on the
21 teleconference.

22
23 MR. BUKLIS: Does anyone else on
24 teleconference have a public comment.

25
26 MR. REAKOFF: Are you going to comment
27 Robert.

28
29 MR. WALKER: Yes, can you hear me?

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, we can hear you.

32
33 MR. WALKER: This is Robert Walker from
34 Anvik. You know there is a little history to this
35 February hunt, too, that we had with the State and also
36 it was voted out because it at a GASH meeting that we
37 had a few years back and then was brought up as a part
38 of a (phone cuts out) C&T and we had, the Lower Yukon
39 Board put for a C&T to the lower portion of Unit 21E
40 and that got voted out by the Western Interior Board,
41 of the (phone cuts out) I mean how many people are we
42 talking that's going to be hunting in 21E in the
43 February hunt, are we talking 50, 100, 200 people, this
44 was the issue when it was the (phone cuts out) Yukon,
45 it was -- involved (phone cuts out) is almost 1,400 to
46 1,500 people, now we're talking one, two, three, four,
47 five villages, how many people are we talking in 21E in
48 the February hunt. That has been my comment.

49
50 It's not going to happen '09 which is a

1 year away and ends June 30th of (phone cuts out) for
2 C&T is all five villages qualified for C&T and is it --
3 the tribal council they (phone cuts out) moose in the
4 fall and go over to 21E and get a moose in February,
5 there's some things I'd like to see before (phone cuts
6 out), you know, there's a question here that has to be
7 answered and they don't really have any special
8 guidelines but this is one of the things I'd like to
9 see before I say yes.

10

11 That's all I had.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And could we get your
14 name again, sir.

15

16 MR. WALKER: Robert Walker from Anvik.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you,
19 Robert. Are there any other comments, teleconference.

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. This is
22 Jack Reakoff, the Chair of the Western Interior
23 Council.

24

25 MR. ROCZICKA: Jack Reakoff, Western
26 Interior Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Jack.

29

30 MR. REAKOFF: My concern would be that
31 the one moose limit in this February hunt and I would
32 be concerned about the number of cows taken if
33 additional villages were allowed to hunt.

34

35 I was wondering if OSM had considered
36 any kind of a quota for that hunt if the C&T were to go
37 forward.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I didn't quite get any
40 of that.

41

42 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Larry
43 Buklis, OSM. This is an opportunity for public comment
44 and Jack Reakoff was asking a question in his comment
45 so we should probably let him finish his comments, but
46 his question was has OSM considered a quota for the
47 hunt if the C&T is a positive finding in terms of
48 implications for the conservation and the hunt
49 management. That's his question. I don't know if you
50 want us to respond to that or let him keep on with his

1 comments, I'm not sure.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Would you respond to
4 that then.

5

6 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'll
7 begin, and Pippa Kenner's with me. The -- as you know
8 the C&T determination is an assessment of customary and
9 traditional use patterns for a community or an area and
10 is not meant to be part of a conservation assessment or
11 harvest regulation, it should be taken up by itself for
12 its own sake. And I'm hearing the concern about what
13 the consequences would be but if the C&T pool or the
14 pool of eligible users is such that the hunt would be a
15 problem for the resource then we would look at the
16 regulations for harvest, but that should not affect the
17 Federal Board or the Council's view of whether the
18 people are eligible based on their patterns of use.

19

20 So in summary my point is this is, do
21 they warrant a positive finding, yes or no, and then
22 the hunt management shouldn't affect that decision.

23

24 But in terms of his specific question
25 we have not looked ahead to harvest regulations that
26 may or may not change because of C&T finding on this
27 request at this time.

28

29 We're looking right now at the request
30 for C&T.

31

32 Pippa Kenner, do you have anything to
33 supplement?

34

35 MS. KENNER: (Shakes head negatively)

36

37 MR. BUKLIS: No, that covers our
38 response. Did you want to go back to the commenter?

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

41

42 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you.

43

44 MR. REAKOFF: My comment would be I
45 feel uncomfortable without our Council thoroughly
46 discussing this and we will be discussing this at our
47 meeting but I feel that the question could be -- have
48 far ranging implication for the management of this
49 moose population when we recognize the 21E moose
50 population is declining or stable to declining and so I

1 feel that I'm on the fence on this one, and that would
2 be my comment.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What was his comment,
7 I couldn't quite it, did everybody understand it, we
8 didn't understand what he said. Could you.....

9

10 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I'll
11 paraphrase, and, Mr. Reakoff, correct me if I'm wrong.
12 He was saying that he can't fully speak for his Council
13 and the Western Interior Regional Council will be
14 meeting later this month on this and other issues and
15 they will take it up, but given the status of the moose
16 in that unit, or subunit being stable to declining he
17 has concerns and he's on the fence on this one.

18

19 Jack, does that capture that?

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: Yes, thanks, Larry.

22

23 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you. He verified
24 that's the summary of his point.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any other
27 further comments.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MR. BUKLIS: Were there any more
32 comments on line.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MR. WALKER: Yes, I had one more.
37 Robert Walker, Anvik.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Who's that?

40

41 MR. BUKLIS: Robert Walker, Anvik.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, go ahead,
44 Robert.

45

46 MR. WALKER: Okay, one other thing I
47 forgot to add, I talked with the BLM guy -- from the
48 BLM, Geoff Beyersdorf, and we asked him here that we do
49 a moose count in 21E, and that's going to happen
50 sometime in March, early April, we're having five or

1 four different agencies get money together to do a
2 moose survey. So, you know, I'm just going to throw
3 that in there so you guys can keep that in your hat,
4 too. Okay, I'm done.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Could you repeat what
7 he said, please.

8
9 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. He was
10 saying that Bureau of Land Management, I think Geoff
11 Beyersdorf has spoken to him and they are interested in
12 a population survey and collecting information on the
13 population of moose.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

16
17 MR. WALKER: In 21E.

18
19 MR. BUKLIS: In 21E, yes.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you. And
22 was that the end of the public comments?

23
24 MR. BUKLIS: Any more public comments
25 on line.

26
27 MR. REAKOFF: No.

28
29 MR. WALKER: That's all from Anvik.

30
31 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman, I'm not
32 hearing any more.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you. Are
35 there any State comments.

36
37 MR. PAPPAS: Good afternoon, my name is
38 George Pappas, Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence
39 Liaison Team.

40
41 MR. PERRY: Yeah, I'm Phillip Perry,
42 I'm the area biologist here in Bethel.

43
44 MR. PAPPAS; You have in front of you
45 the letter from the Commissioner to Mike Fleagle, Chair
46 of the Council [sic]. I can quickly summarize that for
47 you in basically three points.

48
49 The first point is the Department does
50 not support the special action request

1 on procedural grounds. The Department
2 questions whether Federal regulations
3 authorizes the change of C&T use
4 determinations to a temporary special
5 action process since the program has
6 been in place for 18 years.
7

8 The second point. Special action if
9 approved, the Federal Board would
10 essentially be saying that the affected
11 rural communities have a customary and
12 traditional use of moose in 21E but
13 only for one winter season. This is
14 not how the C&T process works to date
15 and C&T determinations are not actions
16 that can easily be undone. Special
17 actions typically involve shortening or
18 lengthening the season or adjusting for
19 harvests and limits and response to
20 significant changes in resources.
21

22 Third. The Federal Board has, on
23 several occasions, considered but not
24 adopted proposals to establish C&T
25 eligibility for moose in Unit 21E to
26 communities in Unit 18.
27

28 And that's about what we have, thank
29 you, Mr. Chair.
30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
32 questions from the Council for the State.
33

34 (No comments)
35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.
37

38 MR. PAPPAS: One other point, sir, when
39 we did jump up on our -- in the program here, you know,
40 under 11A, it is a call for wildlife proposals 2009-
41 2011 and the Department feels it's more appropriate to
42 have this come forward as a fully reviewed proposal to
43 the Federal Subsistence Board.
44

45 Thank you.
46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Council
48 discussion and recommendations. Any comments from the
49 Council, Mr. Greg Roczicka, I know you've got something
50 on your mind, I can read it.

1 MR. ROCZICKA: Their math is wrong.
2 Two and three equals six in 2004 and 2005 and five in
3 2005 and 2006 in your Staff analysis.

4
5 What I'm having a difficult time here
6 and I guess the State kind of alluded to it a little
7 bit in their comments, but as I read through the Staff
8 analysis provided here, it could be almost verbatim as
9 far as the patterns of use and the addressing the eight
10 criteria and patterns of use and long-term consistency
11 of use, numbers of animals taken and so forth that are
12 all there in making customary and traditional uses.
13 How -- and at that time the recommendation is to turn
14 it down and that -- it refers to the GMU 18 harvest
15 that occurred in 21E for many, many years, not only by
16 Lower Yukon villages but coming over from the Kuskokwim
17 as well. We had people going over to -- talk about
18 going over there by dog team before the airplanes and
19 so forth came. It's not that far across, straight
20 across the tundra come wintertime. But that -- it was
21 actually deferred, but as I remember the Staff analysis
22 at the time that came out was to reject. I may be
23 wrong in that, but that was the -- the final result of
24 it.

25
26 I mean as a practical matter, I mean
27 these villages that are asking for this here, it does
28 seem appropriate, I mean they are right over the --
29 right over the hill to 21E.

30
31 But as far as the criteria go, some of
32 the GMU 18 residents and the communities as well fully
33 fit that. I mean shoot my boss of six years at ONC
34 comes from the village of Shageluk, you know, Bethel
35 being the mixing from the villages throughout the whole
36 Delta and the region.

37
38 And I don't know, I'm kind of like
39 Jack, kind of at a loss as to where to go, I mean the
40 right thing to do, I think would be for all of the
41 villages, not just these four that are being identified
42 to be included in here. So I wonder do we recommend
43 holding off this proposal until that whole matter could
44 be addressed as a group or provide these villages and
45 continue working on adding more villages later. I
46 don't know where I'm at yet on that, I need to hear a
47 little more thought from others, I guess.

48
49 I'm kind of leaning towards actually
50 opposing it at that this time or asking for further

1 deferral to address the matter in the larger context.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Greg. Any
4 other Council members.

5

6 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anaan, you got
9 something.

10

11 MS. GREGORY: Can you tell me what the
12 customary and traditional use determination is?

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Explain. Go ahead.

15

16 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. Ms. Gregory.
17 A customary and traditional use determination is the
18 foundation of Federal fish and game subsistence
19 regulations. Federal fish and game subsistence
20 regulations only apply to people who are deemed to have
21 customary and traditional use of the resource in the
22 area that's in question. And the way we define, it's a
23 legal term, and the way we've come to define it is
24 using eight criteria, eight factors, and they're all
25 listed at the top of Page 34.

26

27 Would you like me to read those?

28

29 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

30

31 MS. KENNER: A community or area's
32 customary and traditional use is generally exemplified
33 through the following eight factors.

34

35 1. A long-term consistent pattern of
36 use excluding interruptions beyond the
37 control of the community or area.

38

39 2. Pattern of use recurring in
40 specific seasons for many years.

41

42 3. A pattern of use consisting of
43 method and means of harvest that are
44 characterized by efficiency and economy
45 of effort and cost conditioned by local
46 characteristics.

47

48 4. The consistent harvest and use of
49 fish and wildlife as related to past
50 methods and means of taking near or

1 reasonably accessible from the
2 community or area.

3
4 5. A means of handling, preparing,
5 preserving and storing fish or wildlife
6 which has been traditionally used by
7 past generations including
8 consideration of alteration of past
9 practices due to recent technological
10 advances where appropriate.

11
12 6. A pattern of use which includes the
13 handing down of knowledge of fishing
14 and hunting skills, values and lore
15 from generation to generation.

16
17 7. A pattern of use in which the
18 harvest is shared or distributed within
19 a definable community of persons.

20
21 8. A pattern of use which relates to
22 reliance upon a wide diversity of fish
23 and wildlife resources of the community
24 and which provides substantial
25 cultural, economic, social and
26 nutritional elements to the community
27 or area.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anaan, does that
32 answer your question?

33
34 MS. GREGORY: It answers my question.
35 And is this where you can use it for a funerary
36 purposes and when a person dies for your potlatch and
37 that kind of a function?

38
39 MS. KENNER: It's the basis of
40 regulations, those types of regulations as well as
41 others, in Federal regulations.

42
43 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I always go
44 against what everybody is doing. I am sitting here and
45 I'm joining my elders, I'm getting down to my 70s and
46 I'd like to see my elders live a life as full as they
47 can in their old age and be allowed to do some of the
48 things that they need to do, the whole village of them
49 have to do it. If those villages need to be included
50 in there let them be included. And when we hunt, we

1 just don't hunt for our own self, and we don't waste
2 any of the stuff that we get.

3
4 The other day my daughter was invited
5 to a person's house where her husband had gone to the
6 Yukon to harvest moose, but what she did with the
7 bukukuks, she put them in the trash and we don't do that,
8 and that's a fact, you know, it happened to me.

9
10 And I'd like to see them included. I
11 will vote for this proposal even if it doesn't make it
12 then my people will know that I am for them and I feel
13 like them because I eat off the land.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mary. Any
16 other comments. Robert -- Mr. Aloysius.

17
18 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Aniak, Lower
19 Kalskag, Kalskag, Chuathbaluk meet all of those eight
20 conditions, period.

21
22 I know for a fact because I lived there
23 most of my life. And in the late, early and middle
24 '60s and the early '70s I know it was customary and
25 traditional for people to fly to Aniak from Bethel and
26 the surrounding villages or to go up by boat, and my
27 uncle had a guiding service and we used to fly them
28 over to 21E. In those days it was land and shoot,
29 there was no such thing of, you know, wait 24 hours or
30 this and that and the other, we'd average two moose a
31 day. And most of the clients we had were from down
32 here, in the fall, in them days we'd have four seasons
33 at home and three of those seasons were cow seasons,
34 and now days we don't have that.

35
36 And the only thing that is very
37 upsetting to the people up river is that why can't they
38 continue to do hunting in 21E in the winter because
39 that is the only time we can actually go over there.
40 We don't hunt -- I mean we, the people from Kalskag,
41 Lower Kalskag, Aniak and Chuathbaluk don't hunt in 21E
42 in the summer or in the fall, we go there in the
43 winter, and why should that be stopped. A lot of times
44 we know and you know that we don't get our moose in
45 19A, especially now with all the restrictions that are
46 on us in 19A. And why in the world is Russian Mission
47 included in here, it's not right. They're 45 miles
48 below the line, we are just miles, within, just right
49 over the hill in Aniak, Chuathbaluk and Kalskags so,
50 you know, it's something that has been, you know,

1 brought out time and time again by our people up there,
2 even though Kalskag and Lower Kalskag are in Unit 18,
3 with this organization we're still in 19A up river in
4 the State boundary system.

5
6 So, you know, I'm glad that this is out
7 here in front of us and I am going to wholeheartedly
8 vote for it.

9
10 Thank you, very much.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments
13 from the Council.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Pippa. Any
18 other comments.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being no other
23 comments, what is the recommendation of the Council.

24
25 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

28
29 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that we approve
30 the special action request for -- what is it WSA08-01.
31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: A motion's been made
33 to recommend for approval the C&T for WSA-08-01 by
34 Robert Aloysius. Do I hear a second.

35
36 MR. ROCZICKA: Second.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr. Greg
39 Roczicka.

40
41 Any further discussion.

42
43 Mr. Roczicka.

44
45 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
46 I'm just mulling this a little bit more regarding this,
47 it is the right thing to do and deciding about whether
48 or not addressing the matter that GMU 18 communities,
49 again, have just as much meeting of the criteria right
50 here, even though the fact that maybe they have a few

1 more miles in between, I look at the justifications in
2 the write up, you could change GMU 18 communities for
3 these and change almost none of the narrative that is
4 in here. But I don't think it's right to vote against
5 it just to say that they can't have it because we can't
6 have it too, and it's a step in the right direction.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Where was I at. Any
9 further discussion.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Was there a second to
14 that motion?

15

16 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

19

20 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any further
23 discussion.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MR. ANDREW: Question.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question is called
30 for, roll call vote please.

31

32 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

33

34 I'll call the roll.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, ma'am.

37

38 MS. GREGORY: John Andrew.

39

40 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

41

42 MS. GREGORY: William Brown.

43

44 MR. BROWN: Yes.

45

46 MS. GREGORY: Harry Wilde, Sr.

47

48 MR. H. WILDE: Yes.

49

50 MS. GREGORY: Myself, yes. Lester

1 Wilde, Sr.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
4
5 MS. GREGORY: Paul Manumik.
6
7 MR. MANUMIK: Yes.
8
9 MS. GREGORY: Joseph Mike.
10
11 MR. MIKE: Yes.
12
13 MS. GREGORY: Greg Roczicka.
14
15 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.
16
17 MS. GREGORY: Robert Aloysius.
18
19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.
20
21 MS. GREGORY: Two, four, six, seven
22 yea's, zero -- I mean seven yes' and zero no's, the
23 motion passed.
24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, the
26 motion's been passed.
27
28 MR. ALOYSIUS: It's nine.
29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Nine.
31
32 MS. GREGORY: Yes, I'm sorry, nine (In
33 Yup'ik) zero no's.
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you. Now,
36 we'll have a break before we go to Item B, 15 minutes.
37
38 (Off record)
39
40 (On record)
41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The next item on the
43 agenda is WSA.....
44
45 REPORTER: Lester. Lester.
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm sorry, I'm always
48 apologizing.
49
50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, the next
2 item on the agenda -- we are ready for you.

3
4 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 Again, for the record I am Pippa Kenner and I work for
6 the Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage. I
7 am going to be presenting the analysis for this special
8 action request. The special action request is from the
9 YK-Delta National Wildlife Refuge and the analysis
10 itself was written by Pete DeMatteo but unfortunately
11 he couldn't be here with us today.

12
13 He wrote something up for me and it's a
14 little bit long but I think it's quite good. I'll try
15 to abbreviate it but I'll start now.

16
17 The analysis for this special action
18 request can be found in your Council books on Page 47
19 and in a handout that can be found on the back table.
20 This special action was submitted by the Yukon-Delta
21 National Wildlife Refuge and it requests the Federal
22 Subsistence Board to prohibit the possession or use of
23 shot shells containing size T lead shot or smaller
24 that's lead shot less than 20 caliber for the taking of
25 wildlife in Unit 18.

26
27 The proponent claims that the proposed
28 action would accomplish three objectives.

29
30 The first would be to address waterfowl
31 conservation by aiding in the decrease
32 of lead toxicity in waterfowl species.

33
34 The need for reductions in lead shot in
35 the environment has been well documented. Waterfowl
36 and other birds can be exposed to toxic amounts of lead
37 from spent lead shots mistakenly ingested as food or
38 grit. Because of high mortality related to this
39 ingestion lead shot was banned in Alaska for waterfowl
40 for waterfowl hunting in 1991. In the years since the
41 ban, recent studies in Alaska document significant lead
42 exposure in waterfowl.

43
44 Two potential reasons for this are:

45
46 1. Ice underlies much of Alaska
47 waterfowl's nesting habitat, which may
48 keep lead shot near the surface and
49 available to waterfowl for many years;

50

1 2. Breeding habitat used by waterfowl
2 in the summer is also used by upland
3 species throughout the year, therefore,
4 lead shot used legally to harvest
5 upland birds and other animals may end
6 up in waterfowl breeding habitat.
7

8 Upland bird species include the
9 following for Unit 18, sandhill cranes, grouse and
10 ptarmigan.
11

12 If the proposed regulatory language
13 were adopted it would extend the mandatory non-lead
14 shot use zone beyond the wetlands and into the upland
15 areas of Unit 18 benefitting waterfowl by helping to
16 decrease the amount of lead shot in the environment.
17

18 The second objective of the special
19 action is to align Federal regulations with the current
20 State regulations.
21

22 And the third objective is to join the
23 Federal Subsistence Board, the Refuge, the State, local
24 hunters in a joint leadership role in conservation of
25 waterfowl in wetlands in Unit 18.
26

27 This special action proposal combined
28 with support from local subsistence users and the
29 action taken by the Alaska Board of Game and Fish and
30 Game in November 2007 can be used as a positive step in
31 reducing further deposit of lead in the waterfowl
32 breeding habitat and will contribute to cooperative
33 efforts to recover two threatened eider species. There
34 are two species of eidered ducks that inhabit Unit 18,
35 the spectacled eider and stellers eider and both are
36 listed as threatened under Endangered Species Act and
37 are directly affected by lead shot in their habitat.
38

39 Mr. Chair. Currently there is no
40 Federal regulation addressing the possession or use of
41 lead shot for the purpose of taking upland birds or
42 other animals in Unit 18 under hunting or trapping
43 regulations.
44

45 The proposed Federal regulation can be
46 found in your books and it would say:
47

48 In Unit 18 the possession or use of
49 shot shells containing lead shot size T
50 or smaller is prohibited while hunting

1 or trapping.

2

3 The existing State regulation can be
4 found in your books and the handout, and this would be
5 on Page 49; the Alaska regulation states:

6

7 Taking game in Unit 18 with a shotgun
8 using any shot other than non-toxic
9 material approved by the United States
10 Fish and Wildlife Service that is T-20
11 caliber or smaller, including loose
12 shot used in muzzleloading firearms and
13 while in immediate personal possession
14 of lead shot is prohibited.

15

16 And basically what that says is you
17 could not use anything smaller -- you could not use
18 anything smaller than size T -- size T or smaller lead
19 shot would be illegal to shoot -- to hunt all animals.

20

21 In November -- there's a little history
22 about this, a recent history. And that is, in November
23 2007 at the request of the community of Hooper Bay, the
24 Alaska Board of Game adopted a ban on the use of shot
25 shells containing size T lead shot, lead shot that is
26 20 inches [sic] in diameter or smaller for the taking
27 of wildlife when hunting or trapping. The Fish and
28 Wildlife Service and Fish and Game conveyed support for
29 the Hooper Bay proposal to the Alaska Board of Game.
30 The Alaska Board of Game made this change to further
31 protect waterfowl species that inhabit the same areas
32 where upland birds and other animals are hunted in Unit
33 18.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: For the record, could
36 we correct that 20 inches to 20-hundredths of an inch.

37

38 MS. KENNER: Yes.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go on.

41

42 MS. KENNER: This special action was
43 not submitted to benefit upland birds or fur animals in
44 Unit 18, however, eliminating or even reducing the
45 deposition of additional lead shot into the environment
46 would help to reduce the chance of lead exposure for
47 all species.

48

49 The proposed regulatory language was
50 submitted to specifically benefit waterfowl in the

1 unit, especially the threatened spectacled and stellers
2 eiders.

3

4 The long-term effects toxicity and
5 waterfowl species have been widely documented and
6 support the need to reduce lead pellet consumption in
7 waterfowl where needed. Results from research
8 conducted on the YK-Delta since 1991 on lead shot use
9 for waterfowl hunting has shown that ingestion of lead
10 shot by threatened spectacled and stellers eiders
11 remains a significant problem and may be constraining
12 efforts to support recovery of both species. Results
13 from these studies include the following:

14

15 Consumption of lead shot deposition by
16 waterfowl and other bird species occurs when the
17 smaller lead pellets such as lead shot size T and
18 smaller are mistaken for food, such as seeds or are
19 selected for grit. Dead or dying eiders found on the
20 YK-Delta have been diagnosed with acute lead
21 contamination. X-ray images of female spectacled
22 eiders nesting on the YK-Delta showed that 12 percent,
23 that's 12 in 100 contained lead shot pellets in their
24 gizzards. Analysis of blood samples from spectacled
25 eiders, while on the breeding grounds on the YK-Delta
26 showed that 36 percent of females and 12 percent of
27 ducklings had been exposed to leads. Exposure levels
28 increase over the summer, which is of concern, because
29 individuals most important to the population, that is
30 successful breeding females, remain in breeding habitat
31 longer and therefore increase their exposure to lead.
32 Lead exposed female spectacled eiders suffer about a 50
33 percent reduction in annual survival rates compared to
34 unexposed females. Lead poisoning accounted for 40 to
35 60 percent of observed female mortality and this
36 percentage has probably increased from historic levels.

37

38 There's more information on these
39 studies in the analysis itself and we have people here
40 who are knowledgeable about this and are available now
41 to answer any questions that you might have.

42

43 Just a few more things from Mr.
44 DeMatteo.

45

46 Adoption of the proposed restriction
47 would provide conservation benefits to threatened
48 spectacled and stellers eiders and also to other
49 waterfowl species by reducing the possibility of
50 ingesting lead shot and the resulting exposure to lead

1 shot in the environment and its effects if ingested.

2

3 Reducing the amount of lead shot
4 available in the environment will lead to reduced
5 opportunities for ingestion of lead shot unless a
6 reduction in lead toxicity in waterfowl. Because lead
7 shot remains legal for the taking of ptarmigan and
8 other small wildlife species, failure to adopt this
9 proposal could lead to further lead contamination of
10 the wetlands of the YK-Delta region. Wetland areas
11 used by breeding waterfowl overlap with upland habitats
12 used by other species during the winter where they are
13 harvested by subsistence users.

14

15 Adoption of the proposed regulatory
16 change would also benefit public health by reducing the
17 chances of human consumption of waterfowl with
18 significant lead toxicity levels.

19

20 Adoption of the proposal would help to
21 reduce confusion for hunters, those who sell
22 ammunition, resource managers and law enforcement
23 personnel.

24

25 With all that said, Mr. Chair, the
26 preliminary conclusion is to support Special Action 08-
27 03 with modification to also restrict the use of loose
28 lead shot size T or smaller when used in muzzleloading
29 firearms for the taking of upland bird and fur animal
30 species.

31

32 The modified regulation can be seen in
33 your Council books on Page 52 and 53 and it should
34 read:

35

36 In Unit 18 the possession or use of
37 shot shells containing lead shot size T
38 or smaller including loose shot used in
39 muzzleloading firearms for the purpose
40 of taking upland bird or fur animals
41 species is prohibited under hunting or
42 fishing regulations.

43

44 This concludes my presentation, Mr.
45 Chair. And Quyana (In Yup'ik).

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

48

49 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Chairman
50 Wilde. Thank you members of the Subsistence Board.

1 For the record my name is Robert Sundown, I'm a
2 subsistence resource specialist with the Yukon-Delta
3 National Wildlife Refuge.

4

5 Just a little bit of history behind the
6 proposal, as you guys are aware, the Native Village of
7 Hooper Bay working with Bernard Meran and Elmer Simon
8 back a year and a half or so ago, they introduced a
9 proposal to the Alaska Board of Game that was passed
10 last November here in Bethel during the regular Board
11 of Game meeting and we're a little bit out of synch
12 with the Alaska Board of Game as far as the Federal
13 Subsistence Board and the Federal Subsistence Board
14 regular cycle for taking up proposals here in this
15 region. So this was one of the tools that we hoped we
16 could use as a special action to bring ourselves in
17 alignment with existing regulations that were passed
18 last year by the Alaska Board of Game, which came into
19 effect in July of this year.

20

21 And what this special action seeks to
22 do is just reduce the confusion because, you know, one
23 of the things we'd like to see overall is more
24 alignment with regulations between the State and Feds
25 where it makes sense for the residents of the region.
26 And this is one of those proposals that does make sense
27 in the eyes of the Refuge, where if we could have this
28 regulation come into effect under a special action and
29 taken up again during a regular cycle where we could
30 make this permanent regulation, we would like to see
31 that done.

32

33 And probably one of the things I'd like
34 to see done is just a slight modification of the
35 language that the Refuge supports, and if I could just
36 read into the record the language that the Yukon-Delta
37 National Wildlife Refuge would like to see, it's just a
38 slight modification from what you see here before you
39 and we just couldn't get these things done before the
40 printing and the material was given to you guys.

41

42 So if I may.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You may.

45

46 MR. SUNDOWN:Mr. Chairman, I'd
47 like to see the preferred language that the Yukon-Delta
48 Refuge recommends.

49

50 And it's slightly different than what's

1 written there and it basically states -- it'll state
2 the following, I'll just read it in:

3
4 In Unit 18 the possession or use of
5 lead shot shells containing lead shot
6 size T or smaller including loose shot
7 used in muzzleloading firearms is
8 prohibited while hunting or fishing.
9

10 And that is the preferred regulation
11 language that the Refuge hopes that you will consider
12 in supporting this and we can certainly work with OSM
13 once the meeting is over to use that language and
14 forwarding it to the Federal Subsistence Board. But,
15 you know, this is overall our effort to help continue
16 the road that the Native Village of Hooper Bay started
17 with their introduction of their proposal a year and a
18 half ago.

19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you,
21 members of the Board.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: For the record, the
24 original proposal came from actually Chevak.

25
26 MR. SUNDOWN: Chevak.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there any questions
29 for Staff.

30
31 Robert.

32
33 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, I got a couple of
34 questions. If the lead shot was banned since 1991 how
35 come there's an increase in the, you know, the amount
36 that these -- the birds are -- it doesn't make sense,
37 if the ban was in effect since 1991 then the.....

38
39 MS. KENNER: Is that a question.

40
41 MR. ALOYSIUS: The documentation that
42 there's a significant lead exposure in waterfowl when
43 compared to studies conducted in the Lower 48, how is
44 that, I mean it doesn't make sense. It says one of the
45 things is because lead sits on top of ice we have thaw
46 everything spring, doesn't the lead sink down to the
47 bottom of the lake.....

48
49 MS. GREGORY: They're diving.....

50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: If you don't mind.

2

3 MS. GREGORY: Sorry.

4

5 MR. ALOYSIUS: You know, it just
6 doesn't make sense to me where is the lead coming from
7 if it's been banned, I mean it's going to be, you know,
8 18 years or 17 years.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert, you got an
11 answer to that.

12

13 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 Thank you for your question, Mr. Aloysius. Yes, you're
15 absolutely right the lead has been banned for hunting
16 waterfowl since that time period you specified, but
17 lead has been available to hunt with for upland game
18 birds, for animals and, you know, it's a common
19 practice out in the Delta to go hunting foxes,
20 ptarmigan, cranes with -- and it's legal (ph) for foxes
21 and hares and ptarmigan so for all that time you've had
22 lead shot available.

23

24 And, you know, back in the early days
25 of the '90s when lead was banned for waterfowl hunting,
26 you know, VFGrace, one of the biggest distributors for
27 Alaska for hunting goods, they got a great deal on lead
28 shot and, you know, this great deal was made available
29 to all the other stores in the villages and, you know,
30 for all of us who have been to the villages and grew up
31 there know when you go to the store locally and you see
32 box of \$12 lead shells as opposed to \$25 boxes of steel
33 shells, you know, there's a lot of pressure financially
34 to buy the \$12 box of lead shells and use it illegally
35 for hunting waterfowl. And it's been a common practice
36 since the ban of lead shot for waterfowl.

37

38 And I guess to make it a long answer,
39 that's how additional lead has been continued to be
40 used for hunting, whether it be waterfowl or game in
41 Unit 18.

42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

44

45 MR. ALOYSIUS: The other thing is why
46 the restriction to T shot size or 0.20 inches, who
47 determined that size to be the smallest

48

49 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, again, for the
50 question, Mr. Chairman. Again, it was a determination

1 on what the most common shot size was used and what the
2 most common threat to spectacled eiders was.

3

4 And, you know, we administratively
5 determined that those folks using buckshot are not out
6 there in mass numbers hunting waterfowl or other game,
7 so it just allows people who want to use buckshot to,
8 you know, either for self-defense or shooting other
9 animals that option.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Does that answer your
12 question Robert.

13

14 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, thank you. And on
15 Page 51, dead or dying elder -- elders, ha, ha,
16 eiders.....

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. ALOYSIUS: I need to get my
21 prescription changed here. Eiders found on the Yukon-
22 Kuskokwim Delta have been diagnosed with acute lead
23 contamination. How did they diagnose this acute lead
24 contamination?

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

27

28 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, again, those
29 are all great questions. We've had numerous studies
30 mainly back in the '90s that X-ray'd eiders that were
31 dead and did toxicology studies on them as well as X-
32 ray studies on them and it's not difficult to do a lead
33 blood concentration analysis. You basically draw blood
34 from an eider and much like you would determine that a
35 child has been poisoned by lead because of the
36 concentration of lead in their blood and those were the
37 studies that were done as well as the very visible X-
38 rays prints that we have of lead shot in the gizzards
39 of eiders.

40

41 MR. ALOYSIUS: These eiders had been
42 killed or you X-ray'd them while they were alive or,
43 you know.

44

45 MR. SUNDOWN: Yeah, and the studies are
46 listed in your sheet and they're very, very popular
47 studies that were done that were very well known and,
48 you know, have just received wide publication.

49

50 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.
2
3 MS. GREGORY: Can you tell me the
4 habitats of spectacled and stellers eiders and what is
5 their Yup'ik names?
6
7 MR. SUNDOWN: Yeah. And (In Yup'ik)
8 and it's the western coast of Alaska and they co-
9 habitat several of the species that were -- that were
10 mentioned in the proposed ban, mainly foxes, cranes.
11 You know for those of us who do hunt out in the coast,
12 you know we are very well aware that we have many foxes
13 out there that people use for fur and hunt them with
14 shotguns as well as Arctic hares and other animals like
15 upland birds like sandhill cranes. So very common,
16 very common animals that cohabitate the same areas that
17 spectacled eiders.
18
19 MS. GREGORY: And that's where, where
20 is the habitat, on the coast?
21
22 MR. SUNDOWN: The habitat is the
23 western coast of the YK-Delta.
24
25 MS. GREGORY: And we are already using
26 the steelshots for a number of years now and our there
27 coastal people hunting stellers and spectacled eiders,
28 I don't think they are. I haven't eaten a stellers or
29 spectacled eider since I was a little girl.
30
31 MR. SUNDOWN: Unfortunately, Mr.
32 Chairman, it still exists. And we have an anonymous
33 program, the Migratory Bird Harvest Program that we
34 have and it still shows a fair number of spectacled
35 eiders and emperor geese being harvested. And, you
36 know, it's something that law enforcement turns a blind
37 eye to and we value the biological information that the
38 coastal residents provide and it still does show a fair
39 harvest of threatened species including the emperor
40 goose and the spectacled eider.
41
42 MS. GREGORY: So does this mean that
43 they are -- in the coastal areas, then they are eating
44 those shots, duck shots off the ground, that's what
45 you're saying?
46
47 MR. SUNDOWN: Yes. That is exactly
48 what the studies have indicated.
49
50 Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: One more question, when
4 did sandhill cranes become upland birds, I thought they
5 were waterfowl?
6
7 MR. SUNDOWN: Yeah, I'm not exactly
8 sure but I know they're not classified as waterfowl and
9 waterfowl is duck, geese and swans.
10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions
12 on the Staff analysis Council.
13
14 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I just want
15 to make one comment here.
16
17 (In Yup'ik)
18
19 The sandhill cranes, the habitat of the
20 coastal villages, they nest right in with the other
21 waterfowl.
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions
24 on the Staff analysis.
25
26 (No comments)
27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you very
29 much.
30
31 MR. SUNDOWN: Quyana.
32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any public comments on
34 WSA08-03.
35
36 (No comments)
37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I don't have anything
39 up here -- oh, Mr. Tim Andrew, AVCP.
40
41 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
42 Once, again, for the record Timothy Andrew with AVCP.
43 In the 1990s the AVCP Waterfowl Conservation Committee
44 took action to support and protect the spectacled and
45 stellers population in the coastal areas by voting to
46 ban the use of lead shot in the hunting of waterfowl
47 and migratory birds.
48
49 Throughout that time period between
50 1991 and 1996, 1997, a large number or not large number

1 but a number of people traveled to our villages and did
2 some steelshot clinics, teaching people how to use
3 steelshot, how to shoot with steelshot and found, you
4 know, that there was significant differences between
5 how those two shots operated and performed in certain
6 conditions.

7
8 But when this issue came up there was
9 some villages that did support the ban of use on lead
10 shot throughout the entire area but there are some
11 villages that do not support the ban on lead shot,
12 primarily because people -- some of the villages do not
13 live in the protected species area, like for example
14 the spectacled steller eiders, those occur primarily on
15 the coastal areas. They do not occur up in Aniak or up
16 in Russian Mission or, you know, in some of those more
17 interior villages. And currently and there are some
18 stores in the villages and in Bethel that do carry lead
19 shot and, you know, if the lead shot prohibition were
20 to take effect there would be a cost to perhaps a
21 private individual on the eradication of lead shot in
22 the area. I just thought I'd make you aware of that.

23
24 And currently AVCP is taking no
25 position on this issue.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Tim. Any
30 other public comments.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other public
35 comments.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any State comments.

40
41 MR. PERRY: Good afternoon, yeah, I'm
42 Phillip Perry with Fish and Game here in Bethel. I
43 have just a real short comment from the State.

44
45 The Department of Fish and Game
46 supports the adoption of WSA08-03 as proposed by the
47 Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge with the -- we'd
48 like to see it modified and I'll read our suggested
49 modification:

50

1 In Unit 18 the possession or use of
2 shot shells containing lead shot size T
3 or smaller including loose shot used in
4 muzzleloading firearms for the purpose
5 of taking wildlife is prohibited under
6 hunting or trapping regulations.
7

8 And the intent of our slight change
9 there, some wordsmithing is to make it consistent with
10 State law and also the way, as written, says taking of
11 upland game and fur animals species is the preliminary
12 -- the modification by OSM and actually that
13 modification would exclude snowshoe hares, they're
14 upland game, not upland birds and they're not within
15 fur animals, so by using the language for the purpose
16 of taking wildlife, that's a little broader and more
17 inclusive.

18
19 So that's basically our comments.
20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So your suggestion on
22 the modification is what?

23
24 MR. PERRY: Would read the same.....
25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: While hunting or
27 trapping?

28
29 MR. PERRY: Yeah, it would read the
30 same as the original proposal by the Yukon-Delta
31 National Wildlife Refuge with just the addition of
32 under hunting or trapping regulations.
33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you. Any
35 questions for the gentleman down there.
36

37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council discussion and
40 recommendations, any comments from the Council.
41

42 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

43
44 REPORTER: Mary.

45
46 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

49
50 MS. GREGORY: I move that the Council

1 support WSA08-03 with the modifications as presented by
2 different groups.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do I hear a second to
5 the motion.

6

7 MR. ROCZICKA: Second.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr. Greg
10 Roczicka. Any further discussion.

11

12 Greg.

13

14 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I believe
15 this Council's voted on this twice already in support
16 when we had it as a -- when it was first presented as a
17 concept for a proposal and again when it came as a
18 proposal for action before the Board and I think we
19 addressed it again, even in Marshall, during the winter
20 meeting last time around, maybe it wasn't that one.

21

22 But anyway, I see no reason why we'd
23 want to go different. And just to make it a little --
24 we had several different suggestions for modifications
25 so I'm going to read one in here and one that seems to
26 catch most of it would then read:

27

28 In Unit 18 the possession or use of
29 lead shot shells containing lead shot
30 size T or smaller including loose shot
31 used in muzzleloading firearms for the
32 purpose of taking wildlife is
33 prohibited under hunting or trapping
34 regulations.

35

36 And that would be the.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: While hunting and
39 trapping. Just want to make sure that the Council
40 understood the modification is the words are, while
41 hunting and trapping, as suggested by the Delta Refuge.

42

43 Any further discussion.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any further
48 discussion.

49

50 MR. ALOYSIUS: Question.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called
2 for, a roll call vote, please, Madam Secretary,
3 temporarily appointed, please call the roll.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 MS. GREGORY: John Andrew.

8
9 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

10
11 MS. GREGORY: Harry Wilde, Sr.

12
13 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah.

14
15 MS. GREGORY: William Brown.

16
17 MR. BROWN: Yes.

18
19 MS. GREGORY: Myself, yes. Paul

20 Manumik.

21
22 MR. MANUMIK: Yes.

23
24 MS. GREGORY: Greg Roczicka.

25
26 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.

27
28 MS. GREGORY: Robert Aloysius.

29
30 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.

31
32 MR. ROCZICKA: Joseph Mike.

33
34 MR. MIKE: Yes.

35
36 MS. GREGORY: Harry Wilde, Sr.

37
38 MR. H. WILDE: Yes.

39
40 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, two, four,

41 six, eight -- nine yes' zero no's.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm sorry, I have to
44 tell you that you're wrong, you had Harry vote twice
45 and I haven't had an opportunity to vote.

46
47 MS. GREGORY: I'm sorry, Lester Wilde.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 MS. GREGORY: Lester Wilde was the last
2 one, I'm sorry about that.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MR. ALOYSIUS: How do you vote.

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

9
10 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, the proposal --
13 the motion to support WSA08-03 is passed.

14
15 At this time we'll go to subsistence
16 wildlife issues. Mr. Alex Nick. Call for 2009/2011
17 Federal wildlife proposals.

18
19 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
20 the record, Alex Nick, Office of Subsistence
21 Management. Call for Federal wildlife proposals for
22 this period shows in your agenda, doesn't begin until
23 January -- January of this coming year.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

26
27 MR. NICK: And for the record we will
28 have proposal forms and it will also be -- I mean the
29 wildlife proposal forms will also be available at the
30 OSM website. And for those who wish to submit proposal
31 they can either send them to OSM or forward them to me
32 and I'll forward them on to our office in Anchorage.
33 And I will make proposal forms available for those who
34 request them.

35
36 Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Alex. Any
39 questions. Mr. Roczicka.

40
41 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Not a
42 question, but I was asked to bring this forward when
43 this agenda item came up and recognizing that we can't
44 put in proposals yet, the call isn't open, but I did
45 have an individual ask me to bring it up that we
46 consider drafting a proposal regarding the Tier II hunt
47 in 19A because of the changes that have occurred with
48 the falls coming later and so forth that five days be
49 taken off the front of the season and go to the end of
50 the season, right now it's September 1 to 20 and he

1 wanted us to consider a September 5 to September 25 as
2 a proposal to go forward.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Robert.

5

6 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, same thing here.
7 The residents of Kalskag and Lower Kalskag and Aniak
8 asked to just bring it out that if it's possible that
9 we delay the moose season. Currently it's September 1
10 to September 20 and they would prefer it to be
11 September 10th to September 30. Because of, you know,
12 the price of gasoline has gone way up and the ability
13 for people to motivate towards the hunting grounds,
14 it's a lot easier at the end of the month because water
15 levels have gone up a little bit better and the moose
16 are starting to move.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. You heard the
19 deadlines for those proposals, they could be submitted
20 to Mr. Alex Nick.

21

22 Did you have anything else.

23

24 MR. NICK: Special action request forms
25 were requested by Lower Kalskag and those were provided
26 to them because they wanted to extend the season in
27 19A. I'm not sure of whether or not they submitted
28 that to our office in Anchorage. I never hear from
29 them after I provide them special action request forms
30 for out of cycle request.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Greg.

33

34 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I guess
35 I'd like to ask a question of Staff here at this time
36 since this is the first year that we're going to this
37 new two year cycle and everybody's kind of adjusting to
38 it and after being used to having a meeting every year
39 where you could deal with these things, what are we
40 looking at, the Federal Subsistence Board is going to
41 be meeting in January; is that correct, what would be
42 our deadline, I believe they have 60 days to -- or is
43 it 30 days, what's the rules for submitting a special
44 action that the Board can actually take some kind of
45 action that would come into effect, whether we're
46 talking about the winter season as I mentioned earlier
47 that we'll talk about later or, you know, for next
48 year, would still be out of cycle before 2010
49 regulatory year.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Buklis.

2

3 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 The Federal Subsistence Board is scheduled to meet in
5 January of 2009 for the regular fisheries cycle meeting
6 and then in January of 2010 for the regular wildlife
7 meeting. But the special action requests don't need to
8 be keyed to those meeting schedules. The Federal Board
9 can meet as necessary or conduct decisions by polling
10 and not having a meeting on special action requests.
11 So the special action request should be keyed instead
12 to the situation that exists and the Board will address
13 it as the situation requires.

14

15 MR. ROCZICKA: Follow up.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Follow up.

18

19 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes. And I presume
20 there's a response period in regulation, are they
21 required to respond within 15 days, 30 days, 60 days,
22 what -- if it was a petition to the State Board of
23 Game, they're required by law to respond within 30
24 days. Is there anything similar on the Federal?

25

26 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I believe
27 there is a feature of the special action regulations in
28 terms of number of days in advance of the desired
29 action to be effective.

30

31 MR. ROCZICKA: Okay.

32

33 MR. BUKLIS: I think it's 30 days, I
34 could look it up during the next break but I don't
35 believe there's a stipulation as to the turnaround time
36 back to the requester, no. The Board does program and
37 the Board does address the request as quickly as we can
38 and yet it's not because there's a certain number of
39 days in regulation for response.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

42

43 MR. ROCZICKA: Okay.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any further
46 discussion on wildlife proposal -- if not -- oh, Mr.
47 Brown.

48

49 MR. BROWN: Yeah, before I leave I was
50 informed by the local hunters to move the hunting

1 season from like five to 25 or I like Bob's request for
2 extension moose -- moose season.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I couldn't understand
5 you. Could you make that a little louder, please.

6

7 MR. BROWN: Yeah, what I was saying
8 that, you know, when -- for -- for hunting moose moose
9 season like in September openers for moose hunting,
10 like someone before I leave asked me to submit -- try
11 to extend the hunting season to a later time for the
12 closing, like 25, 25th -- I mean 20th from -- 20th to
13 maybe 25 open it like from 5 -- September 5 to
14 September 25th.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. If that's a
17 special action request it'd be have to written and it
18 would have to be submitted before we would be able to
19 work on it so if you want to get that together with
20 Alex he'll be helping you out on that.

21

22 Anybody else.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, let's go down
27 to Kuskokwim Moose Moratorium Update, and I hope we get
28 some good news.

29

30 MR. ALOYSIUS: It must be good there's
31 lots of people.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Either that or bad.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Terry, you have the
38 floor.

39

40 MR. PERRY: Yeah, for the record my
41 name is Phillip Perry, I'm the area wildlife biologist
42 for Game Management Unit 18.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I apologize. I
45 apologize, Mr. Perry.

46

47 MR. PERRY: I'm going to start out with
48 just a brief history of the moratorium and Tom
49 Doolittle is going to present some information about
50 where we are now, current statistics and then we'll --

1 Tom and Eric and I will be here to answer questions.

2

3 This handout has a lot of information
4 in it and we will try to explain everything to the best
5 of our ability.

6

7 I think there's quite a few people in
8 this room who are very familiar with kind of how we
9 started down this road of a moratorium. For those of
10 you who aren't in the -- the winter of 2000/2001 there
11 was discussions with the Fish and Wildlife Service and
12 with AVCP and Department of Fish Game and, we, being,
13 you know, all of these agencies and organizations that
14 have an interest in resources, what we could do to
15 increase the population of moose on the Kuskokwim
16 River. Through a series of meetings, both internal
17 meetings with different agencies and meetings with the
18 RAC, with advisory committees, with villages, the
19 agreed upon course of action was to do something that
20 would mirror what had happened in the lowest Yukon, the
21 area below Mountain Village, which was to close the
22 season entirely for five years or until we got a
23 thousand moose, whichever came first.

24

25 So that started the -- the first year
26 of the closure was fall of 2004, so five years, we are
27 now in the fifth year of that closure, the fall of
28 2008. I think, you know, anecdotally last year talking
29 to different people, everyone gave me really good
30 information and very positive feedback on what was
31 happening with moose populations on the tributaries on
32 the mainstem of the Kuskokwim, you know, we've had
33 moose in town here which used to happen 20 years ago
34 but it was once every five years instead of -- now, it
35 seems a couple a year, local people have moose in their
36 fish camps or behind their fish camps, so going into
37 this last winter we knew that when we did another
38 population estimate we would see more moose than we had
39 ever seen before.

40

41 And with that as kind of a segue Tom's
42 going to talk a little bit about what we found last
43 winter.

44

45 MR. DOOLITTLE: I'm Tom Doolittle. I'm
46 the supervisory wildlife biologist for Yukon-Delta
47 National Wildlife Refuge and thanks a lot Phillip.

48

49 One of the things that we're going to
50 look at is that we put a great effort, at least the

1 Refuge has, in the last few years into doing moose
2 surveys and trying to get the most accurate data that
3 we could, both from the Yukon but our primary
4 discussion today is on the closed area.

5
6 And I guess what I would like to do is
7 really start out on some real fundamentals and to start
8 us back a little bit and what I've given to the Council
9 members two color graphics at the very end, two
10 posters, and the very last poster that you will see,
11 and the same one for the audience, is on the upper
12 right-hand side, has just some real fundamental, some
13 basic circles and to kind of ground us into what the
14 potentials are going to be for moose in the closed area
15 in comparison to an area like the Yukon, and it's
16 fairly simple.

17
18 I mean if we look at the habitat basis
19 between the two units, between the Yukon and the closed
20 area, you can see just from our survey sample areas
21 that the habitat is quite a bit larger in the Yukon
22 than what we have in the Kuskokwim closed area. And
23 you can get a depiction of that by looking at just the
24 area that's shaded in the upper left corner graphic and
25 also there's another one that's larger in this handout,
26 but this will, for what we're doing, will work. Also
27 because there's larger habitat, obviously that's going
28 to hold more moose than what we'll have in the closed
29 area and the other factor that, is a big factor, is we
30 know with harvest and pressure is the amount of people
31 that will have closer access to that resource and
32 influence it and there's less people in the Yukon than
33 there would be because of the Bethel factor and a
34 larger population center.

35
36 So in essence, what my opinion is is
37 that we will not see moose numbers that would, of
38 course, reach total populations that you would see in
39 the Yukon.

40
41 Last year it was also discussed about
42 the creation of a moose management plan for Unit 18,
43 and one of the things that I strongly suggest as a
44 manager is thinking wholeheartedly about what sort of
45 goal that you want to reach. And I'm very much an
46 advocate of population goal. And if you looked at a
47 goal, for instance, of 1.5 moose per square mile, which
48 is a good moose population, and the reason for that
49 goal is that when you start to exceed it, that we're
50 looking at those animals reaching carrying capacity and

1 that can be just as bad as overhunting a population and
2 obviously to recover it it's going to be extremely
3 slow, in fact it would take generations simply because
4 habitat regeneration in Alaska is very, very slow.

5
6 And with that in mind, also, I think
7 that with a goal and a managed population such we have
8 in this closed area when it opens is that we have the
9 ability to have fairly accurate population estimates to
10 really provide maximum opportunity for harvest and that
11 would mean putting the most meat on the table and so
12 taking the guess work out of that is part of all of our
13 jobs, both the State and the Service's position.

14
15 You will see what Eric has kindly put
16 together, he worked until 3:00 in the morning last
17 night on this data, so I'm pretty happy we got called
18 out on an event out at Mekoryuk this week, and so he
19 went beyond the call of duty for putting this together
20 and it's nice to have a good moose biologist on our
21 staff.

22
23 There's a few presumptions that we've
24 made. Obviously we looked at from flying our survey
25 units, and you know that we've used sightability
26 correction factors as we discussed in Kalskag last year
27 so we're taking into account of moose that we wouldn't
28 necessarily see from the air and an overall population
29 estimate. But one of the things that we had to do for
30 this meeting is that we wanted to project an estimate
31 on what the total population in the closed area may be.
32 And I say may be because we will not be doing a formal
33 overall unit survey in the closed area until the winter
34 of 2009. The winter of 2008 we did the section on the
35 Kuskokwim River but this winter we'd like to also
36 survey those areas that include the Eek, the Kwethluk,
37 the Kisaralik, the Tuluksak and create another block so
38 we can get a more accurate population estimate for the
39 closed area so it's just not looking at a subset of the
40 unit.

41
42 And so what we've done prior to that is
43 to really take a guess at a population. And if you'd
44 all turn to Page 7, I'm going to go over some bullets
45 about what our presumptions that we made are.

46
47 The first thing to realize was that
48 Yukon-Delta and Alaska Department of Fish and Game
49 cooperate on moose management surveys for specific
50 units, including this one, which is Unit 18, and as we

1 looked at Unit 18 and we look at Figure 6 in the
2 following page, I think this one really does illustrate
3 kind of some -- in a basic way the difference between
4 habitat sizes, between the Yukon unit and the present
5 closed unit.

6
7 The moose hunting moratorium started,
8 as Phillip said, in 2004, and corresponds with an
9 increase moose population that we see today. The no
10 hunting regulation has helped to increase this
11 population and the villages are to be greatly commended
12 for this. It will be the decision by the people to
13 open the season the fall of 2009 as originally
14 prescribed or to keep the season closed for one or two
15 more years if that's the interest by the people.

16
17 The purpose of this discussion is to
18 present information on the moose populations, harvest
19 levels and as an information base for each start hunt
20 year that people wanted to wait.

21
22 The assumptions and values used for
23 predictions and our predictions. The initial
24 population value is from 2008 survey including the
25 sightability correction factor plus the additional 1.5
26 times considered -- this considers from the Kuskokwim
27 tributaries area, and so what we did is we said there's
28 probably not twice as many moose as in our survey area
29 block on the main trib, but these other areas probably
30 at least have -- we can just say conservatively at
31 least have half that many. We looked at a rate that
32 was about 30 percent assumed annual rate of the
33 population increase, the Yukon increases, for instance,
34 at about 27 percent which is extremely healthy increase
35 of population, that 24 percent of the population is
36 calves and that because we have an un hunted population
37 it's a one to one sex ratio.

38
39 The harvest rate that we're looking at
40 is 15 percent of only the bull population.

41
42 The Kuskokwim tributary survey area is
43 a no -- you know, it has been -- no survey has been
44 completed in the Kuskokwim tributary surveys and we
45 wouldn't do those surveys again -- we're planning,
46 weather permitting in January and March of 2009.
47 Without survey data it is very difficult to make
48 predictions, however, we feel comfortable in saying
49 that the non-surveyed area, Kuskokwim tributaries, will
50 contribute about 1.5 times additional moose to the

1 Kuskokwim survey area. So the example here for 2008
2 with the sightability correction factor was 668 moose
3 in the Kuskokwim area times 1.5 to account for moose in
4 the tributary area for a total of 1,002 moose. And so
5 if you start adding that by 2011 you potentially could
6 almost double that population.

7

8 What I'm going to do is to turn over
9 some of the population information and explanation to
10 Eric Wald, who is another wildlife biologist for the
11 Refuge and specializes in moose.

12

13 Eric.

14

15 MR. WALD: Thank you, Tom. For the
16 record I'm Eric Wald, a wildlife biologist for Yukon-
17 Delta National Wildlife Refuge. Tom Doolittle is my
18 supervisor. He did a really good job on explaining or
19 giving an overview of the broad picture.

20

21 I guess what I wanted to kind of do is
22 just go over some of the basics of the survey
23 information that we gather to help make management
24 decisions regarding moose populations.

25

26 Basically just starting on Page 1, all
27 this information in this handout, as mentioned before,
28 is presented on those two large posters in the back of
29 the room and also the two color-copies in the back of
30 your handout for you guys to take home and look up
31 later if you feel like you want to.

32

33 We try to do a population density
34 estimate every year in a certain area within the Refuge
35 or Game Management Unit 18. This past year we worked
36 with Phillip's office here and we did conduct two
37 density estimate surveys. The first one was in January
38 of 2008 and that, again, was on the mainstem of the
39 Kuskokwim River. That extent was from Kalskag down to
40 Bethel and that corresponds to the big graph on Page 2.
41 And what we do with those density surveys, as this may
42 have been explained previously, we have the basic moose
43 habitat which is along the mainstem of the river,
44 grided, we have grid cells over this habitat and these
45 particular grid cells are six square miles in size, so
46 what we do is randomly select a certain amount of these
47 grid cells and fly transects through them during the
48 wintertime with adequate snow cover so we can see as
49 many moose as we can. We fly these transects within
50 these grid cells and count the number of moose that we

1 see. We also, this year, incorporated a sightability
2 correction factor, which is a method to try to estimate
3 the number of moose that were missing from the air,
4 because we never see the entire -- we never see all the
5 moose when we're flying, so we got to try to estimate
6 how many we're missing.

7
8 In this handout, actually I don't have
9 a large graph in this handout, but it's on the first
10 poster. The first poster shows a good example of what
11 we do within each grid cell that the -- the red square
12 with all the line transects look like squiggly lines,
13 that's our flight tract line, so we're flying these
14 tracts back and forth counting all the moose and that's
15 as intensive as we can get looking for them. When we
16 incorporate the sightability correction factor we take
17 a smaller unit within that grid cell and fly even more
18 intensely to see if we missed any moose and that will
19 give us an idea of how many moose we're missing across
20 our whole survey area.

21
22 Once all those numbers are calculated,
23 you know, we'll have an estimated population for that
24 entire area with a confidence interval, you know, plus
25 or minus how many moose and that result is on Page 3.

26
27 Page 3's graph gives, you know, the
28 historic data from 1993 and our current data of 2008.
29 Historically the sightability correction factor has not
30 been incorporated so I depicted both values with and
31 without that correction factor so past data can be
32 compared. As you can see the correction factor does
33 add a significant amount of moose.

34
35 So in January of 2008 we finished the
36 Kuskokwim mainstem survey. We also were able to survey
37 the Lower Yukon portion from Mountain Village down to
38 Kotlik, Emmonak and Kotlik and, again, we used the same
39 methodologies. Page 4 will depict that survey area.
40 And then on Page is our survey results. And these
41 results show a steady increase of 27 percent annual
42 growth rate on the Lower Yukon.

43
44 Some other types of surveys that we do
45 to obtain population characteristics is sex ratios, we
46 want to know how many bulls per how many cows are in
47 that population. We need enough bulls in the
48 population to sustain a breeding population of cows.

49
50 In November of 2007 we got adequate

1 snow conditions for this type of survey. It's actually
2 fairly rare that we do get the snow conditions in
3 November for this survey. We have to do it in November
4 with snow cover so we can see the animals, for one, but
5 in November before they lose their antlers. We were
6 able to do this in November 2007, we did a composition
7 count, which is determining the sex ratio on the
8 Kuskokwim mainstem and the Kwethluk River tributary.
9 These results indicated 98 bulls per 100 cows,
10 basically a one to one sex ratio. This is really
11 indicative of an un hunted population.

12
13 We also obtained calf to cow ratios,
14 which is indication of production and recruitment. In
15 that same survey we classified 73 calves per 100 cows.

16
17 And continuing on in the text there on
18 Page 1 I also incorporated our calf to cow ratio from
19 our winter density estimate in January of 2008 which
20 was only on the mainstem Kuskokwim, which shows a
21 little bit less at 64 calves per 100 cows so you can
22 see that the Kwethluk River or other tributaries can
23 add a significant portion of recruitment.

24
25 And the last piece of information that
26 we gather is on calving rates in the springs. And this
27 is done mainly on the Kwethluk and now on some of the
28 mainstem Kuskokwim River. We have marked animals out
29 there that we monitor and this data is for those marked
30 animals. And I just have 2007 data in the text here
31 but I have the 2008 text data added on to the posters,
32 and I'll read from the posters. I'd be your first
33 poster on the bottom right-hand corner under calving
34 information. Calving data were obtained from marked
35 animals along the Kwethluk and Kuskokwim Rivers and of
36 course we do this during May and June and we did it
37 2007 and 2008. The number of cows giving birth or the
38 percent of cows giving birth of breeding age in 2007
39 was 87 percent of the cows that gave birth and in 2008
40 85 percent gave birth. These are of two year old or
41 older animals. We are in a situation in this
42 particular area where younger animals are giving birth,
43 which is a sign of a healthy and growing population.
44 Typically in stable environments animals three years or
45 older give birth, but here we're experiencing two year
46 olds giving birth as well. And just on the calving
47 chronology most moose gave birth by May 22nd of both
48 years and ended by June 5th, and that corresponds to
49 the typical breeding period. It's about an eight month
50 gestation or 240 day average for gestation which puts

1 you back the last week of September and first week of
2 October when these do the breeding.

3
4 One of the vital rates that we monitor
5 and is a good rate to monitor considering habitat
6 issues later down the road is twining rates. The
7 higher twining rates correspond to healthier
8 environments.

9
10 In 2007 we had 47 percent of our cows
11 gave twins. And this year we had 67 percent give
12 twins. In a stable population, you can get about 20
13 percent twins is really good, so we're well above that.

14
15 And the last parameter is calf
16 survival, how many animals are making it into the
17 actual population to continue this breeding population,
18 six month calving survival was 62 percent, and then all
19 the way out to one year was 55 percent. Again, well
20 above the normal for a stable population which is
21 usually less than 20 percent.

22
23 And just to top that off, I don't have
24 it listed down but it's a fairly constant parameter,
25 which is adult female survival and we're experiencing
26 95 to 96 percent adult female survival right now.

27
28 So that's the basic statistics, survey
29 information that we collect and want to collect to
30 monitor and manage the population.

31
32 I know Phillip wants to speak a little
33 more towards the hunting opportunities coming up for
34 the moratorium area so I'll turn it back over to
35 Phillip.

36
37 MR. PERRY: Thanks, Eric. I guess at
38 this point what I want to talk about is basically where
39 do we go from here. We've seen a marked increase in
40 populations on the Kuskokwim. We're at the end of a
41 year five year moratorium, and the question more to the
42 Council here than to anyone else is what are their
43 wishes as far as the future here, do we want to look at
44 a hunting season in 2009 or do we want to delay or
45 exactly what the wishes are.

46
47 So I'm willing to answer any questions
48 and we do have some more information in here if people
49 want to talk about what we can expect as a harvestable
50 surplus, how many animals could we harvest next year or

1 the year following or those sorts of things, I can --
2 we've done some preliminary modeling on that and have
3 some of those answers.

4

5 But I'd field any questions at this
6 point or comments.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for Mr.
9 Perry from the Council.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MR. WALD: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

16

17 MR. WALD: I wanted to add a few more
18 comments if I may.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

21

22 MR. WALD: Back to our density survey
23 estimates, I wanted to point out at least along the
24 Kuskokwim River mainstem, our density estimate average
25 is 0.6 moose per square mile right now. That's the
26 average across from Kalskag to Bethel. However, that's
27 not a constant rate, say, for Bethel versus Kalskag.

28

29 An example would be the area from
30 Tuluksak up to Kalskag has a density estimate of .7
31 moose per square mile and from Tuluksak down to Bethel
32 is .4 moose per square mile.

33

34 So I wanted to point out that there are
35 areas that have higher pockets of moose than other
36 areas and with the hunting season approaching, you
37 know, it's inevitable it'll be opening, there are going
38 to be areas, especially around communities where the
39 access is greater, the moose densities will get cropped
40 off faster.

41

42 I wanted to just point that out.

43

44 And also to help with some of your
45 decisions coming up, I've made two graphs, on Page 9
46 and 10 of your handout, I just wanted to explain these
47 before I turn it back over to Phillip. These are our
48 projected moose population for the closed area, and Tom
49 Doolittle explained that first value in 2008, that
50 1,002 moose, that's our starting value, what we have

1 right now, or what we feel we have right now in the
2 closed area. With an annual rate of increase of 30
3 percent, 2009 would yield 1,300 moose, this is without
4 harvest, 2010 would yield almost 1,700 moose and 2011
5 would yield over 2,200 moose. That's our projection
6 based on a 30 percent annual increase and no harvest.
7 So you can see basically from 2008 to 2011 we'd more
8 than double the population.

9
10 And the next graph, on Page 10, just
11 depicts or translates those values into kind of what
12 we're all wondering, is, how many animals can we
13 harvest or how many animals can we take home and, this,
14 again, is a projection bull moose harvest only in the
15 entire closed area based on those previous population
16 estimates. 2009 would be the -- the fall of 2009 would
17 be the earliest it would open, and that translates to
18 75 bulls in the entire area. 2010 translates to 97
19 bulls and 2011 translates into 126 bulls. And that's a
20 harvest rate of 15 percent of the bull population which
21 is -- it sounds high, but it's only 5.7 percent of the
22 entire population which is within the published
23 literature of safe, quote, safe limits, in order to
24 grow a population. The safe limits are between three
25 and 10 percent of a total population harvest.

26
27 I want to translate that into
28 densities. Basically we're in a .6 moose per square
29 mile density and we can, in 2009 it'd go up to .7, 2010
30 it'd go up to .9 and 2011 it would go up to 1.2 moose
31 per square mile which is a very adequate population for
32 sustainability.

33
34 I'll turn it over to Phillip for any
35 questions.

36
37 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

40
41 MS. GREGORY: Can you tell me in layman
42 terms what your percentages are, like .06 per -- what's
43 that?

44
45 MR. WALD: Yes, 0.6 moose per square
46 mile, that basically means just a little over a half a
47 moose per square mile.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. WALD: If you think in proportions
2 as that.
3
4 MS. GREGORY: There's no such thing as
5 a half a moose.
6
7 MR. WALD: Yes.
8
9 (Laughter)
10
11 MS. GREGORY: Can you tell me how many
12 miles can you find one moose?
13
14 MR. WALD: Basically two miles, two
15 square miles will give you a moose and a little bit.
16
17 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.
18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Roczicka. You
20 done, Anaan.
21
22 MS. GREGORY: Yes.
23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think she's done --
25 are you done?
26
27 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, I'm done, thank
28 you.
29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, go ahead.
31
32 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Well,
33 I'll start by the first one that I ask every time
34 regarding the Lower Yukon below Mountain Village where,
35 you know, we have the highest density in the population
36 with the 27 percent growth to starting to possibly
37 raise some flags on habitat degradation, but have there
38 been any studies, any kind of habitat surveys done to
39 show any indication of stress at this point?
40
41 MR. PERRY: The last time we've done
42 habitat in the -- actually on the Kuskokwim or the
43 Yukon, I think, is 2003, and at that point the
44 population was much lower and actually below Mountain
45 Village it was still fairly hard to detect where moose
46 had been browsing. We do have a plan this year, I have
47 some funding to do some habitat work and that's
48 probably the highest priority -- place in the unit is
49 that area below Mountain Village because it is growing
50 so rapidly and is, right now, a pretty dense moose

1 population and I think if you -- and, frankly, right
2 now it has the most liberal regulations in the unit and
3 will probably be continued to be liberalized.

4

5 MR. ROCZICKA: What is that density,
6 that was the other thing I was wondering about, have
7 you broke that down as well for Mountain Village below
8 that lowest Yukon, what's your density?

9

10 MR. PERRY: It's about 2.5 per square
11 mile.

12

13 MR. ROCZICKA: 2.5. Moving on then to
14 possible hunt opening right now we're looking at
15 amounts necessary for subsistence at 80 to 100 and
16 we're talking under the State this time, not
17 necessarily the Federal system, although I believe the
18 Feds have essentially adopted the State's numbers for
19 management purposes, what kind of hunt do you see
20 occurring if there would be a hunt in 2009, given the
21 amounts necessary versus the amounts available versus
22 the number of people who would like to hunt them?

23

24 MR. PERRY: Well, Greg, I've thought
25 about this, I've talked with people about this, you
26 know, the State basically has four different ways you
27 can hunt, a drawing hunt that doesn't really fit this,
28 a Tier II hunt, a registration hunt and a general
29 season hunt. Most people in this -- on the Yukon are
30 very familiar with what a general season hunt means
31 because that's what's been done. People from the
32 Kuskokwim now are much more familiar with what Tier II
33 hunts are and registration hunts are because that is
34 what has happened in Unit 19A in the last five or six
35 years.

36

37 For me, sitting at the table as a State
38 manager, the type of hunt that gives me the most
39 flexibility for basically putting limits on hunting and
40 for putting a, you know, quota or something like that,
41 would be a registration hunt. There's a whole
42 different -- whole -- many directions that can go, you
43 know, I've talked with people about doing a
44 registration hunt that was similar to what was done in
45 19A that was a permits only available within the unit,
46 permits only available before the season started, and
47 at that time they did not have a quota, they just had a
48 -- basically a -- I don't think the season, if I
49 remember correctly, was shortened either. I think a
50 similar hunt with a short season, a week or 10 days

1 might be the easiest on hunters in the unit. I look at
2 it and it's not an easy hunt on me because it's a lot
3 of administrative task to do to issue permits and to
4 get all the hunt reports and all that, but it does give
5 us very good information on who's hunting and where
6 they're hunting and how many moose are harvested, and
7 especially early on, that information's going to be
8 very, very important.

9
10 When we've looked at what the
11 population is doing right now, you know, the numbers
12 that Eric has presented for a, you know, possible
13 harvest of 15 percent of the bulls, that number wasn't
14 just something we kind of pulled out of the air, that
15 was a number that we looked at of, you know, how many
16 moose could we harvest and not affect the bull/cow
17 ratio in the long-term so that it would affect
18 productivity, 75 from that sort of population isn't
19 going to hurt, even if we go over by a little bit,
20 where we really start seeing some negative things
21 happening is above 120, so 75 would give us a good
22 target, so if -- say if we started next year 75 would
23 give us a good target to shoot for and it would -- you
24 know what we're still trying to do is keep the
25 productivity high so that we can continue to grow this
26 moose population and in the future have more
27 opportunities for people to harvest moose.

28
29 That's been the whole impetus for the
30 entire moratorium was grow our own moose so we have
31 more moose to harvest and eat.

32
33 You're correct with bringing ANS in,
34 how that affects what goes on is anyone's guess. The
35 Board looked at it last year, as you're familiar with,
36 twice, and asked us to come again to them in -- and I
37 don't remember if that's a February or March meeting
38 this year and to talk about so that is still an issue
39 that is up in the air and frankly doesn't have a
40 resolution that's forthcoming. The information that
41 was presented last year is the same information we have
42 now and none of that has really changed. So the Board
43 can act on that or choose not to act on it, I don't
44 know what's going to happen different than what has
45 happened in the past with the number.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

48
49 MR. ROCZICKA: That'll do for now I
50 guess I can do some more later although I just have to

1 put it out there that I don't think you'd have the
2 latitude to go with a registration in a Tier II
3 situation when you're sitting at -- maybe, but I think
4 it's highly doubtful whether you could get away with it
5 legally.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You got a response to
8 that.

9

10 MR. PERRY: Just to follow up a little
11 bit, you're correct if we were in a Tier II situation
12 with ANS currently for the whole unit and the harvest
13 right now on the Yukon being three and 400 moose, we're
14 not quite close to a Tier II situation with present
15 numbers.

16

17 MR. ROCZICKA: I'd just offer one more
18 follow up, how realistic do you think the 80 to 100
19 animals is as an amounts necessary for subsistence for
20 the entire unit?

21

22 MR. PERRY: I'm a wildlife biologist,
23 not a social scientist so I'm not going to answer that
24 question.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob. Mr. Aloysius.

29

30 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes. I'm a little bit
31 confused here, on Page 1 you say you have an estimate
32 of 515 moose, then you flew 132 and each covered six
33 square miles, that's 792 square miles and .6 per square
34 mile would be 475, where are you getting the extra 40
35 moose.

36

37 MR. PERRY: The math involved in that
38 is not quite the stuff you can do on a piece of paper.
39 We have a large statistical package when we do these
40 types of surveys, we put the information in and it goes
41 through and gives us an estimate. You're welcome to
42 come look at it and to see how it works and see the
43 formulas that go into it but frankly it's a Ph.d.
44 statistics and I can't explain them myself.

45

46 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions
49 for him -- Harry.

50

1 MR. H. WILDE: How long and how long of
2 an area the close right now at the Kuskokwim for moose
3 hunting?

4
5 MR. PERRY: The area has been closed
6 since the fall of 2004, so 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and
7 2008 it has been closed.

8
9 MR. H. WILDE: So how many years?

10
11 MR. PERRY: That's five.

12
13 MR. H. WILDE: Five. Yeah, Kuskokwim
14 is bigger area, when we're start closed area below
15 Mountain Village, we have us a meeting in Mountain
16 Village, we go to the villages and ask them, we're
17 going to try -- try to -- because we going to try to
18 grow moose like a garden they grow in the field. Six
19 years time, but we think we give all our young people
20 credit, those are the ones helping -- they like to go
21 out hunting but those days are -- village to village
22 from Marshall down all the way to Hooper Bay and all
23 the way to Kotlik, five years in time I was really
24 people are very surprised how many moose grow, come
25 there. And right now I think people are -- most of our
26 young people chance to go out hunting. And that time
27 when they start try to increase the moose they didn't
28 talk to Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife when we
29 first open, we just talk with village to village
30 council, council to council. I was really surprised
31 when they say there's enough moose to go out hunting on
32 five years after.

33
34 I never used to hunt down in Mountain
35 Village or below. Ever since I been start hunting I
36 hunt up in 21. Every year we hunt there with my family
37 and hunting there. I think right now is where we at
38 down there that our young people, we try to teach them
39 how to hunt and try to show them if you go out hunting
40 you could take all the meat you could and make sure you
41 turn in your permit and the license and if you got a
42 meat, if you got a horn, if you can carry, make sure
43 you got side of a moose, that's what we been trying to
44 teach them so they wouldn't be getting in trouble.

45
46 It's kind of hard, especially some
47 young people get some of -- they're kind of adults now,
48 when they had a problem because they couldn't recognize
49 Fish and Game or Fish and Wildlife, they couldn't
50 recognize moose because the no -- nothing to show. I

1 think what we and most of our children that we -- young
2 people we teach them, that they cannot take horn, you
3 take something else, and when I used to hunt up in --
4 with my brother and my children and others we make sure
5 that bull is a bull, no matter if it got a horn or not,
6 it's a bull. What I do, we don't skin the moose -- we
7 take the moose, we bring him to camp because there's
8 some Fish and Game around there, they come over, and
9 sometime that we think we don't leave them on the
10 ground, but we -- we let -- we always kept the (In
11 Yup'ik) of a moose, so that's very important to our
12 young people today that we get -- so they don't get in
13 trouble.

14

15 Never have a moose -- never seen a
16 moose before when I start living in Mountain Village
17 and down and below never see moose, but I was really
18 surprised you could grow moose but you got to follow
19 the law now that -- it's good that this Fish and Game
20 and Fish and Wildlife started adding them and watching
21 them make sure that you do it right way and that's the
22 way that we should teach our children, make sure that
23 they have an honest way to do things, that's what we're
24 trained for from our elders. A lot of things that we
25 do after they been using it, how to hunt and all that
26 stuff and make sure do it right way and never waste
27 nothing. It's good thing.

28

29 Like no matter where in Yukon or
30 Kuskokwim young people, I always like to see them
31 because they like to go out hunting. And down in my
32 area we try to help the young people when came from up
33 river go down hunting because we would like to go --
34 when we go up river because the area was closed down
35 there and up to 21 and we -- we are taken care of by
36 the people, they are helping us and it was a good thing
37 to do, train our elders, no matter what we should work
38 together with the -- not only your family but the
39 people of the villages also.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments.

44 Anaan.

45

46 MS. GREGORY: Phillip, and the rest of
47 you who gave us the report, it was a very good report.
48 And I remember, was it in October last year or some
49 time ago you couldn't survey because of the -- you
50 couldn't count, there was a time you couldn't do it but

1 did you make allowances for that time, and also an
2 elder from Kwethluk once told me that when the world is
3 repopulating itself, people start having twins and
4 other multiple births and when Mike Rearden was our
5 wildlife manager here for the Delta he was telling us
6 they were having twins and some of them were even
7 having triplets so it is growing and I'm glad people,
8 even though there was a few stragglers here and there,
9 you know, killing them when we first started, when
10 people like -- if they have information about something
11 they will go along with you, even our young people will
12 do that, if you let them know what's happening.

13

14 (In Yup'ik)

15

16 And I wouldn't mind opening it for a
17 few people like 75 is a lot of moose to me, if we could
18 open it for maybe next year but not this year. I would
19 like to go for a little extension but keep that C&T
20 determination allowance on and if we need to hunt for
21 other purposes then we'll be given that privilege to do
22 so.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mary. Any
25 other comments.

26

27 MR. ROCZICKA: I have one more
28 question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: One more question, Mr.
31 Roczicka.

32

33 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, just tell me if
34 I'm reading this right on the survey blocks here
35 because one of the criticisms that I've also heard, you
36 know, you mentioned getting the tributaries included,
37 Eek, Kwethluk, Kisaralik, the rest, and people were
38 wondering about the Gweek, but it appears to me from
39 this survey block that you've taken in the Gweek
40 already in this current mainstem survey, is that a
41 correct reading of that.

42

43 MR. WALD: Yes, that's correct. The
44 Gweek is also included.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Done. Paul Manumik.
47 And then after you're done we have a couple more people
48 that would like to speak on the moratorium. I think
49 we're going to go ahead and go and take care of this
50 and leave all our agency reports for tomorrow if that's

1 all right with you guys, we'll go ahead and work
2 through until we're done with all the people that want
3 to address us.

4

5 So go ahead.

6

7 MR. MANUMIK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 I'd like to ask Greg Roczicka, Bob Aloysius, Mary, John
9 Andrew, I know you touched upon Tier II and that's what
10 you want to keep away from. Because if you overharvest
11 you'll go into it immediately. It's a possibility and
12 I don't want to see the people suffer on account of
13 that. It's a very sticky situation on your first
14 opening.

15

16 75 to me is low. But without the prior
17 data to this moratorium of how many harvest tickets you
18 issue out to the hunters all the way up the Kuskokwim
19 River, there's no information on that, that's why I'm a
20 little scared to open it for 75 moose only.

21

22 I know rapid growth if you add one more
23 year like Mary is asking for. Right Mary?

24

25 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

26

27 MR. MANUMIK: Rapid growth, you'll see
28 that happen. Because in the Yukon River we experienced
29 that. And our young people as Mr. Harry Wilde said to
30 you earlier, they were all -- they were all blessing
31 for keeping the moose where they were, they didn't
32 harass them. There were a few incidents here and there
33 but they left the moose alone to grow, we thank them
34 for that.

35

36 I know that when you're under Tier II
37 situation, let's take this row of people here, we are
38 all in one household and we all have families and only
39 one of us has a Tier II permit and he can only hunt,
40 the rest of us can't, that's the way it's going to be.
41 You're in one household here going around this table,
42 that's the way I understand Tier II, only one permit
43 per household, that's what you want to stay away from
44 Greg.

45

46 That's all I wanted to express, thank
47 you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments
50 from Council.

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you very
4 much. And at this time we'll hear James Nicori and
5 Phillip Guy.
6
7 MR. BROWN: Mr. Chair. Charlie.
8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What's that.
10
11 MR. BROWN: Yeah, I just want to bring
12 out my comment to Phillip. Where I'm from Eek, they're
13 anxious to hunt in '09 and is it -- will possible in
14 '09 to hunt in my area, Unit 18, this next coming fall?
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Who are you
17 addressing?
18
19 MR. BROWN: Yeah, I'm addressing it to
20 Phillip, that's my question.
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Perry, I think
23 that question was addressed to you.
24
25 MR. PERRY: I guess the short answer is
26 without Board action the season will remain closed. So
27 to open the season for any of the area in the Kuskokwim
28 closed area takes either a Board of Game or a Federal
29 Subsistence Board action to open the season. And, at
30 least, from the State side that would take a proposal
31 submitted to the Board and request that it be an agenda
32 change request so that there would be a season. So
33 without that there won't be a season. So if that's the
34 wishes of the Council here or of the -- it's something
35 we've talked about with the Lower Kuskokwim Advisory
36 Committee, without that request for action the default
37 ends up being the season remains being closed.
38
39 MR. BROWN: Because they've been
40 sitting for five years and whatever the numbers first
41 met the population, they're anxious to hunt in the fall
42 of '09 so I just want to -- brought it out because
43 that's their concern, for this coming fall, next year.
44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Go ahead, Mr.
46 Buklis -- are you done with -- just a minute -- Mr.
47 Brown are you done with Mr. Perry?
48
49 MR. BROWN: (Nods affirmatively)
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Go ahead, Mr.
2 Buklis.

3
4 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
5 wanted to supplement that response for the Federal
6 Program, that is correct, there are no harvest
7 regulations on the record now and so if the moratorium
8 were lifted there's no regulations to allow a harvest.
9 But for our system, for the 2009 fall hunting season a
10 person or the Council would need to submit a special
11 action request because as we talked about earlier this
12 isn't a regular wildlife cycle right now. So for '09
13 you'd need to submit a special action request and for
14 the permanent change you could submit a regulation in
15 January, February, March of '09 for future years.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Next time maybe
20 when we're discussing something, when we ask for
21 questions, you could respond a little bit sooner we
22 wouldn't have to hold over people when we ask for
23 somebody else to come up.

24
25 At this time, Mr. Guy, James, you've
26 got the floor.

27
28 MR. NICORI: Quyana, Mr. Chair.
29 Members of the Board.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're the Council,
32 we're not the Board, just to correct.

33
34 MR. NICORI: Advisory RAC. This is
35 from the Kwethluk, Inc., it concerns the land --
36 Resolution 07-08-01. Resolution declaring closure of
37 all Kwethluk, Incorporated land to all users other than
38 subsistence purpose effective immediately.

39
40 Whereas it's pertaining to -- but on
41 the therefore;

42
43 Therefore, be it resolved, the Board of
44 Directors of Kwethluk Incorporated
45 declared that its selected and conveyed
46 lands shall be and are closed in
47 perpetuity to any use other than
48 subsistence fishing and hunting
49 purposes.

50

1 Be it further resolved that the design
2 that the village corporation land be
3 empower with the Yukon-Delta National
4 Wildlife Refuge lands and US Secretary
5 of Interior for the US Fish and
6 Wildlife personal in Alaska and
7 respectfully request that to provide
8 enforcement protection to trespassers
9 of sportsfishing, hunting and illegal
10 activities; and

11
12 Be it further resolved that the copies
13 will be sent by fax or through the US
14 Mail to Honorable Dirk Kempthorne,
15 Honorable Mike Johans (ph), Thomas
16 (indiscernible) Mike Fleagle, Keith
17 Goltz, Mike Rearden, Myron Naneng,
18 Heather Miller, Julie Kitka, Native
19 Community Akiak, Akiachuk, Tuluksak and
20 Honorable Ted Stevens, Honorable Sarah
21 Palin, Honorable Lyman Hoffman, Mathew
22 Nickoli, Alex Nick, Carl Jack, Tom
23 Boyd, and Chris (indiscernible).

24
25 This resolution came about last fall
26 when there was a rumor that there was to be land open
27 for sportshunting in the Lower Yukon and we didn't want
28 that to happen in our part of the village area so they
29 introduced this resolution to keep the game hunters out
30 but keep our land open for subsistence fishing. And
31 our land extends from three miles -- three miles into
32 the upper end of the Church Slough up to the foothills
33 where the mountain starts and adjacent to Akiak land
34 boundary to Napaskiak and Oscarville land boundary on
35 the south side.

36
37 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What were you
40 requesting for that resolution or was that read just
41 for our information.

42
43 MR. NICORI: That was for information
44 and it was mailed to the manager of the Yukon-Delta
45 National Wildlife Refuge for the information of the
46 people that if whenever Unit 18 moratorium is over.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Mr. Guy.

49
50 MR. GUY: Qu yana, Mr. Chairman, and

1 your fellow advisors.

2

3 (In Yup'ik)

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Phillip.
6 Could you do a short excerpt in English for our record
7 and for our non-speaking personnel in the back, please.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 MR. GUY: Okay, I'll see what I can do.

12

13 I thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through
14 James' briefing, Resolution 07-08-01 was drafted and
15 finally adopted after some discussion. When there was
16 some rumors heard that on the Yukon side there were
17 sportshunting and guiding was starting to appear, that
18 prompted our board of directors, Kwethluk joint group
19 -- Kwethluk joint group, I forgot to mention it in
20 Yup'ik, the Kwethluk joint group is composed of the IRA
21 Council, the city council and the board of directors of
22 Kwethluk Incorporated. And we always welcome our
23 fellow residents to come in and speak whenever they
24 can. But the resolution that James referred to was
25 adopting closing the ANCSA lands only for subsistence
26 purposes, that's for hunting and fishing and trapping.

27

28 And regarding moose, we have been
29 getting -- receiving word from our shareholders and the
30 residents that the moose numbers are getting sufficient
31 of moose -- groups of moose have been seen in our area,
32 groups meaning up to four, and up to two and, of
33 course, sometimes one is seen in the immediate township
34 of our selected lands that's very close by. Even moose
35 have been seen on our old airport and in back of the
36 south of our village close by in the Birch Hill area.
37 Birch Hill area is three miles if you go south straight
38 but five miles if you go by the river and they want a
39 moose opening back home.

40

41 And, caribou, of course is taken into
42 consideration. Since the moratorium started the
43 abundance of caribou has seen a drastic change, they
44 are going down in numbers, we're going to be looking at
45 a moratorium on caribou if we're not careful how we
46 handle the situation.

47

48 We've heard today that there were
49 thoughts of extending the moose moratorium maybe up to
50 two years. But I want to repeat again that our

1 shareholders and residents want a moose opening in
2 2009. And the caribou and the moose should be
3 monitored, monitored together for sustainable -- for
4 these reasons, because again the concern about the
5 caribou decline is increasing. It is increasing
6 amongst our people and that is the importance of why
7 some regulations need to be followed, Fish and Game
8 regulations need to be followed, just like your fellow
9 colleague Harry Wilde, Sr., has stated, they follow --
10 their elders, those ahead of us listen to their elders
11 and follow guidelines the same way has been set to me
12 from my uncle, James, the other James.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. GUY: And there's truth in that the
17 regulations need to be followed but we get -- some of
18 us get a little bit jittery because those regulations
19 might be gone against. Of course that would lead to
20 illegal hunting.

21

22 I mentioned beaver earlier, in the
23 older days, former days, when the -- our ancestors and
24 in recent years used to hunt beavers for commercial
25 purposes as well as for subsistence purposes because
26 the skins were sold, the meat was eaten at home.
27 That's how it was. And those elders respecting
28 regulations followed -- followed regulations. Now,
29 look at what we have today, we have beaver all over the
30 country. Are we following the same pattern of
31 developing regulations, it's a question.

32

33 If we're developing the same pattern of
34 regulations we will be facing food shortages for our
35 moose and our caribou, we need to watch that. We need
36 to watch out for that.

37

38 Another mention I didn't make was in
39 200 -- in November 2002, when we were actually it was
40 -- yeah, when we were discussing what is now the moose
41 moratorium there were parts of the -- parts of the
42 discussion was that when the moose population reached
43 1,000 within five -- it would be opened or if the
44 population reached 1,000 before five years it would be
45 opened. So I think it would be quite legitimate to
46 provide for a moose season in 2009.

47

48 What I did mention in Yup'ik earlier
49 was that our village have a technical paper, 157, the
50 Technical Paper 157 was developed by Michael Coffing,

1 subsistence specialist with Alaska Department of Fish
2 and Game, Subsistence Division. And the study
3 encompassed Kwethluk ancestors and residents, current
4 residents hunting -- previous hunting areas and those
5 hunting areas far exceeds the amount of land that
6 Kwethluk Incorporated was forced to select under ANCSA.

7
8 And another one that I spoke on in
9 Yup'ik was calling upon you, the Advisory Council, the
10 Federal Subsistence Board and its Office of Subsistence
11 Management, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to
12 develop a guideline which would include our traditional
13 council, our IRA councils, the village corporations and
14 those other entities that may have stake on land. It's
15 very important we -- if -- I am afraid of fragmentation
16 in the -- in the past our ancestors used the land in
17 common, they used it in common, there were no
18 boundaries. If those boundaries become more heavily
19 observed, I don't know what -- what may develop. I
20 don't like to see it developing invisible lines.

21
22 I think that just about covers what I
23 stated in Yup'ik, Mr. Chairman.

24
25 Qu yana.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Thank you,
28 very much. Any questions or comments.

29
30 MR. NICORI: Mr. Chairman.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

33
34 MR. NICORI: Another thing that I did
35 not mention, it was just discussed earlier and one I
36 learned about this summer. The moratorium that was
37 introduced five years ago was introduced with a
38 proposal to close the moose moratorium and when the
39 five years is up, to my understanding, and I understood
40 it -- I think I understood it pretty clearly, it won't
41 open by itself automatically, it will be open only from
42 the proposal from the villages to the Advisory Council
43 over here and passed on to the upper level. So the
44 people in this area that are sitting -- or are back
45 home, to turn in a resolution, not a resolution, a
46 proposal to either open the moose moratorium or to
47 extend it, whichever, and what I'd like to see is
48 another proposal to limit the amount of moose that are
49 going to be harvested.

50

1 The Yukon River, the villages are far
2 apart compared to us over here they're close, and what
3 if the amount of game that is to be taken when the
4 moose season is open, if they're not limited, what we
5 are -- what we were trying to increase in five years
6 moratorium, if they aren't limited we'll be down to
7 where we started off from.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
12 questions from Council members.

13

14 Robert.

15

16 MR. ALOYSIUS: I just have a comment to
17 remind everybody that all entities, Federal, State,
18 local, the tribal agencies, the regional agencies, and
19 the corporations are always invited to have input into
20 this process, it's in the -- in our guidelines. If you
21 listen to what he -- he asked from input from all of
22 these entities, including the public so, you know, the
23 tribal organizations and the incorporated, anything,
24 they have input into this process.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

27

28 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Bob.

31

32 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Thanks to
33 both of you guys for coming as usual, you always give
34 us lots for deep thought regarding a lot of these tough
35 issues that you've dealt with for a lot of years. I
36 just wanted to let you know what you're probably aware
37 already but there's no decision that comes out of this
38 Council today as to whether recommending for or
39 against. There's a lot of meetings that need to take
40 place, still, because you mentioned the resolutions
41 like what came from our Council, on the other side
42 about extension and whether or it does or not, it's
43 going to be a major topic for the AVCP Convention
44 coming up. It'll be on the agenda there and we're
45 looking to try to have an evening session to speak with
46 -- go into it in more depth and also what needs to come
47 out from all this is -- will be side by side with it,
48 that the Board of Game actually sent back to this
49 region is to come up with that amounts necessary for
50 subsistence for the area right now being at the 80 to

1 100 everybody knows that's ridiculous. And what that
2 number comes out to be on the other side or what the
3 Board of Game determines is going to control whatever
4 kind of hunt we have, whether it's a Tier II hunt or
5 whether we can do a limited registration hunt and how
6 those number are. And I agree with Paul 100 percent, I
7 watched Tier II in other areas and it just leads you
8 down a path where management almost becomes stagnate
9 and you have no impetus or nothing to be -- anything to
10 be done, it's been a very bad experience in most other
11 areas of the state where it's happened.

12
13 I have talked to the State Board
14 personnel recently because this is going to be going
15 through the State process, it's not at the Federal
16 level yet, we can weigh in with our recommendations,
17 but it's going to the State Board first and we're
18 looking to have advisory committee meetings of the full
19 area because we're talking about all of 18 so we've got
20 Lower Yukon, Central Bering Sea, Lower Kuskokwim,
21 Central Kuskokwim and now the Stoney-Holitna Advisory
22 Committee. The Board also at its meeting, when it
23 deferred these proposals to -- it'll be the March 2009
24 meeting where this decision will be made, also said
25 that when we consider those amounts necessary for
26 subsistence they want to incorporate Game Management
27 Unit 19A, Game Management Unit 21E and the harvest that
28 occurs there into determining what these numbers should
29 be in GMU 18. It's going to be a very complicated
30 process.

31
32 But as far as what happens here, I see
33 this coming back -- probably for some recommendation
34 coming from this Council on the issue at our February
35 meeting, 24 and 25, is where that's going to come down
36 at, but I really appreciate you guys coming down.

37
38 And just a quick one there, you were
39 mentioning all your CC's, James, in that resolution,
40 which I appreciate also, Tom Boyd retired recently,
41 Pete Probasco is the new director for Division of
42 Subsistence.

43
44 But, anyway, Quyana.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Nicori.

47
48 MR. NICORI: Mr. Chairman. I thank
49 you, Mr. Chairman. As of this moment we're looking at
50 14 months before 2009. We have 14 months for

1 development of a strategy or development of a guideline
2 which the Advisory Council and the Boards of Fish and
3 Game, the Federal Subsistence Management have to
4 develop through that so we can have a coordinated
5 effort for opening it, but let's not use various
6 technicalities to prolong the process. We have 14
7 months. And we, again, guidance is needed -- most
8 everyone will be satisfied with the outcome of opening
9 it in 2009.

10

11 And I want to thank Greg for bringing
12 up the amounts necessary for subsistence. As a
13 personally and resident, the amounts necessary for
14 subsistence will not be enough. It's not going to be
15 enough. I think that it's one of the reasons why -- or
16 can be one of the reasons why sportshunting should not
17 be allowed.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Robert.

22

23 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes. One thing to
24 remember the deadline for proposals for 2009 and 2011
25 is April 30. You only have five months.

26

27 MR. NICORI: Okay, thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Greg.

30

31 MR. ROCZICKA: I do need to clarify
32 here just so you know where you're at, what Bob just
33 told you was the Federal proposal deadline.

34

35 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.

36

37 MR. ROCZICKA: The decision on this if
38 you want one is actually going to be at the March
39 meeting of the Board of Game meeting of 2009 so you're
40 looking more like about six months and the deadline for
41 proposals for that meeting is the first week of
42 December 2008.

43

44 MR. NICORI: Quyana. Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, we have a couple
47 more people to hear before we leave and if we could get
48 out by 6:00 o'clock, we have 20 minutes, go ahead, Mr.
49 Brown.

50

1 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Are we ready
4 for another person or -- Mary.
5
6 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
7 support what Charlie is saying, that the people who do
8 the moose counting by planes take with them people from
9 the villages because a lot of times Yup'iks can spot
10 more game when others can't 'because we're -- we grew
11 up hunting and fishing and we know how to spot these
12 things when other people who may not have grown up
13 hunting and fishing can't.
14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. I think
16 the people heard that that are -- they're not even
17 here.
18
19 Well, anyway, let's go on with Jackson
20 Williams, and then for the last item on today's
21 business we'll have Paul Randall explain to us --
22 address the concerns about the use of moose decoy for
23 enforcement as the last thing.
24
25 Jackson Williams.
26
27 MR. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon.
28
29 (In Yup'ik)
30
31 When I got here I went to Fish and
32 Wildlife building and asked for Lower Kuskokwim
33 Advisory Council meeting, no, that's not Lower
34 Kuskokwim Advisory meeting, it's regional, you know,
35 first time come before you.
36
37 My approach is more like Kwethluk,
38 we're the (In Yup'ik) including subsistence.
39
40 (In Yup'ik)
41
42 I'm very glad to be talking in front of
43 the regional board, I thought yesterday -- I was
44 approached by my council chief and corporation manager
45 to attend this meeting and they told me briefly it's --
46 they didn't even know if it was a lower or a regional.
47 I end up finding out today it's a regional, I am glad
48 to be here and I thank the Council here that I can be
49 able to address what I know as a subsistence hunter.
50

1 Unit 4 villages or Akiachuk, Akiak,
2 Kwethluk, Tuluksak, we have ongoing meetings with these
3 four villages and like Phil stated we're very close by,
4 you know, not like Yukon for these villages. and they
5 had some resolutions the Unit 4, but I didn't have time
6 to address them to you today, but hopefully they'll
7 bring it out in the AVCP like they were being
8 mentioned.

9

10 (In Yup'ik)

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, for the record,
13 just to make it a little bit faster for us, because we
14 need to have it recorded over there and our recorder
15 does not take -- I mean we don't have a translator, if
16 you could do it in English it would speed it up, mostly
17 English.

18

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Mostly English (In
20 Yup'ik).

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

23

24 MR. WILLIAMS: Like Mary stated I'm
25 going to brief my observance of the area. I talked
26 briefly with Greg on break time, and I'll start from
27 there.

28

29 140 they limit Holitna and you know
30 that 40 horse limit, we know all that I know it, I know
31 it and I abide by that but when they lifted up for one
32 summer, I went up there again, I'm going to briefly
33 state what happened in Holitna, my experience. I went
34 up there with my big motor, 140, and small boat I drag
35 it 40 jet with a flat bottom boat, I went in there
36 Holitna dragging it but I went to Fuller, I am not sure
37 if you guys are familiar with Fuller Mountain in
38 Holitna. When I got there with my two boys I was
39 welcomed by predator (In Yup'ik) wolf, we pitch a tent
40 and as soon as we were done my boys were anxious, they
41 went up to the mountain to observe, I was in the camp
42 by my only and after they went, maybe half hour later,
43 wolf welcome me and telling me you're trespassing.

44

45 You know, he didn't scare me though
46 because I had rifle right next to me.

47

48 And what he or she did, he didn't cower
49 (ph) once, he make sure he let the other wolves, three
50 or four times he did that, right across my tent telling

1 them they were trespassing right there. And let me
2 tell you observing the area after that wolf welcome me
3 that early morning I went up to the mountain, I stayed
4 there for a week, something really wrong right there.
5 I hardly ever see moose and I stayed late to observe
6 that they come out at evening, late evenings, I never
7 -- and third day my boy went up river, little ways up
8 because we had to check unit, no matter how far we
9 travel, while he was waiting on the river he heard some
10 grass moving behind, he thought it was moose, turn
11 around, oh, boy, wolf visit him.

12
13 All that week we hardly never see
14 caribou, we never hardly see moose. One afternoon,
15 maybe about I'd say maybe four miles above us, two big
16 bulls were fighting, early morning.

17
18 My mistake was my boy tell me let's
19 hunt them and I tell them quite a ways, they might come
20 this way, let's kind of wait, they didn't come.

21
22 Let me share you another one. I don't
23 know how many years later I went to Uluukaq, you know
24 where Uluukaq -- most of you, it's just above
25 Napaimute, Uluukaq on the right side, same thing but it
26 was different that year. Didn't shoot it --
27 helicopters were shooting like crazy, somebody was
28 doing -- somebody -- I don't know if they were shooting
29 just for the heck of it, but anyway after we stayed
30 there we didn't catch anything, we went back, we saw a
31 chopper, I should have take the number, I was starting
32 to wonder what the heck they were shooting at and I
33 talk with the up river people, hardly moose up there.

34
35 Now, let me get to my area, two years
36 ago, maybe about four or miles above Akiak I get wood,
37 I always get wood wintertime, you know, Gweek, a lot of
38 you know Gweek right here above Bethel, it goes quite a
39 ways up above Tuluksak (In Yup'ik).

40
41 Holy cow moose, moose track (In Yup'ik)
42 holy cow (In Yup'ik). There were so many I didn't
43 count them. Four or five miles of Akiak and there were
44 so many trees that I didn't want to follow because I
45 know they caught that moose somewhere in the trees over
46 that way. That tell me that there's a predator out
47 there besides me killing my moose out there. Is there
48 something that we can do about, we as a people, and you
49 guys? And that same year Kwethluk over the VHF
50 announce -- I heard on the VHF warning people that

1 behind them there were howling wolf to stay away or not
2 travel alone.

3

4 And last year I went -- I got a
5 blackfish -- travel over Akiak -- across from Akiak,
6 and when I did that I saw a lot of caribous came,
7 right, I didn't bring a rifle or a gun, I just went to
8 check my blackfish, holy cow, quite a bit of caribous
9 right on the lake too, no gun and I look at them, I
10 can't scare them and kill them, I just look at them,
11 nothing to do because I left my gun. And after I
12 checked my blackfish, I went back and that's when I
13 wish I brought my rifle, I saw wolf, real big black
14 wolf and a small grey wolf, two of them. And you know
15 minus two predators killing those caribous if I had a
16 rifle. I regret that to this very day.

17

18 And this winter we were getting
19 desperate like Phil said, I am desperate to have moose
20 meat, I am one of them, from Akiak. And my boy went
21 across from Akiak, I don't know how far but he went
22 quite a ways and what -- what -- I don't know how many
23 guys came along, maybe two of them besides my boy, they
24 came back and tell me, holy cow, they were scared, they
25 tell me they never see wolf tracks, so many in their
26 lifetime. Wolf tracks so many. I never this -- all
27 this day I never heard anyone mentioning that predator
28 wolf being mentioned.

29

30 And we just voted recently, in August,
31 predator control by aircraft, it didn't turn out.

32

33 We are hunters of the meat and that one
34 that I mentioned is the hunter of the meat also.

35

36 Oh, yeah, let me add another one, this
37 winter I went to Anchorage, a guy from Kwethluk right
38 was -- right next to me, he said he went to three step,
39 the one my boy saw, wolf tracks, he saw them up there,
40 he -- he never seen that many wolf tracks in his
41 lifetime.

42

43 The reason why I'm broughting [sic]
44 this up, we (In Yup'ik).

45

46 I'm glad they're doing that.

47

48 (In Yup'ik)

49

50 I know they're doing it around Unit 18.

1 They're hunting them right and left as we speak today.

2

3 Not only Kwethluk last year I heard on
4 the VHF, my village Akiak, not to go across the tundra
5 area, they were hollering like crazy (In Yup'ik).

6

7 The reason why I brought this up, (In
8 Yup'ik).

9

10 Reindeer.

11

12 (In Yup'ik)

13

14 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. I'd like
15 to go back to the.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Moratorium.

18

19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, because we're
20 talking about the moose moratorium whether it should go
21 on or delete it because we are not listening to that
22 subject right now and we haven't from the beginning and
23 so I would just like to point it out that we're losing
24 track of what we're here for. We're here for -- to
25 listen to the pro's and con's of the moose moratorium.

26

27 MR. WILLIAMS: (In Yup'ik)

28

29 But anyway I really support that moose
30 moratorium.

31

32 (In Yup'ik)

33

34 Quyana.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
37 questions.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There isn't any.
42 Sorry for moving you along but I think we'll get to
43 Paul Randall to address the.....

44

45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman, point of
46 order. We are still on the moose moratorium and his
47 presentation was in answer to a question that Greg had
48 about the moose decoy and that's not this.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: And before that there
2 was an item called the muskox question, and Item C, in
3 this particular group of presentations.
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more on the moose
6 moratorium subject.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none, is
11 there anything that you wanted to address concerning --
12 what was that item, muskox, was that.....
13
14 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.
17
18 MS. GREGORY: I'd like to make a
19 motion.
20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, ma'am, go ahead.
22
23 MS. GREGORY: I'd like to make a motion
24 that the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Council
25 recommend extending the moose moratorium for one more
26 year to 2009, and in the meantime develop guidelines to
27 use when the moratorium is lifted on how to approach
28 opening it up again.
29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You've heard the
31 motion, do I hear a second.
32
33 MR. MANUMIK: Second, Mr. Chairman.
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Paul. Any
36 discussion.
37
38 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.
41
42 MR. ALOYSIUS: The moratorium is in
43 effect through.....
44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 2009.
46
47 MR. ALOYSIUS:2009 already.
48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
50

1 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.
4
5 MR. ALOYSIUS: Okay.
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I guess it's getting a
8 little bit long day.
9
10 MR. BROWN: Mr. Chairman. Charlie.
11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Was there a second.
13
14 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr. Brown.
17
18 REPORTER: No, by Paul Manumik.
19
20 MR. BROWN: Discussion.
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Or Paul Manumik.
23
24 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)
25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Paul.
27
28 MR. MANUMIK: (Nods affirmatively)
29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further
31 discussion.
32
33 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)
34
35 That's my discussion.
36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Do you want to
38 repeat that in English.
39
40 MR. BROWN: What I was saying that we
41 were promised to wait for five years to raise the
42 population on the moose whatever the -- whichever comes
43 first, the numbers reach the goal or if it reaches
44 1,000 it doesn't really matter if we go all the way to
45 five years so I just don't want to wait another
46 additional year so that's my comment.
47
48 Thank you.
49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Paul.

1 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman. Members of
2 the Council. You just stated what the moratorium is
3 doing, it's objective to do, if the numbers are reached
4 this Council can request a special -- request to open
5 it even if it doesn't reach five years. It's already
6 worded in there so I'm happy with that because it will
7 work. I'm not afraid to wait for one more calving
8 year, calving season.

9

10 One more time.....

11

12 (In Yup'ik)

13

14maybe two times. That's why I am
15 not afraid. That way you will protect yourself from
16 Tier II, that's what I'm trying to get away from and I
17 hope you understand.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further
22 discussion. Mr. Roczicka.

23

24 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Well, we
25 can always come back and revisit again, there's still
26 time to do that before the Board takes any kind of
27 action. but I was waiting to get into this if we had
28 more discussion or if it got to that point, but like I
29 mentioned earlier in the opening comments, I get people
30 coming to me in the street and stopping me all over,
31 that come from all over and I've had people from Akiak,
32 Akiachuk, Tuluksak, Kwethluk stop me, and almost -- and
33 people that you would think are very influential and
34 almost in tears saying do whatever you can to extend
35 this, let's not lose what we've had. We've tried to
36 speak to our guys, we were not able to get that message
37 across, majority ruled and so they come to my council
38 to do it and ask and I said I can't do that, you know,
39 you guys got to deal with your own council but my
40 council brought it forward as well and I've got it from
41 the down river guys, like Tundy stated this morning,
42 the guys in Tuntutuliak and Napaiak, they're just
43 starting to see these moose coming right now and by
44 getting that extra couple years we can have double the
45 moose. Yeah, we got lots but it could be so much more.
46 And they're looking at being able to hunt moose from
47 Tunt up and, you know, they won't have to spend their
48 gas to come up above Bethel and so forth.

49

50 And I'm remembering for Lower Yukon I

1 worked at AVCP at the time, and I was a staffer for
2 their moose management committee and putting that
3 together was part of ending that moratorium, those five
4 years went by, there was two more years added on to
5 that, actually I think it ended up being three, ended
6 up with an eight year moratorium over there and so,
7 yeah, we could harvest a few moose but the risks that
8 have been brought to me, and the concerns that have
9 been brought to me, and not just by people in Bethel.

10
11 The other thing is that if we do end up
12 in a Tier II hunt, which is likely if those amounts
13 necessary get addressed to anywhere being real
14 reflective of what the need is for this region, and we
15 get a Tier II hunt, who's going to get the permits,
16 people who know how to do the paperwork, people in
17 Bethel will get those permits, the vast majority of
18 them, and they're not going to be a lot of the tribal
19 members either. Because even for those GMU 19A Tier II
20 permits, since they came into place the last couple
21 years we've had the advertising out from our Council,
22 you know, come on up I'll help you do it, it takes five
23 minutes, call me on the phone and I'll help you fill
24 out your Tier II application, I get four people a year,
25 maybe. Tribal members. Where are those permits going
26 to go, the vast majority of them not to Kwethluk
27 Tribal, not to Akiak Tribal members, their village
28 residents. Those permits are going to go to people in
29 Bethel that are more used to keeping on the paper --
30 and you have to fill out those Tier II permit
31 applications in May, who's thinking about moose hunting
32 in May, you're fixing your boat and fixing your net and
33 ready to go to fish camp.

34
35 There's a lot of negatives.

36
37 Again, I think we have to come back and
38 revisit this more and there's going to be more intense
39 discussions. Like I mentioned about AVCP, we got --
40 and the advisory committee meetings that have to take
41 place yet to accommodate the Board's request to come
42 back to them on those amounts necessary and everything
43 else. So February -- actually the Board of Game
44 meeting starts in -- it's February 27 to March 9 so
45 it'd be just a couple days before that meeting when
46 we'd have our final -- the -- the winter meeting for
47 this Council so we'd have time to look at it again and
48 have that input.

49
50 So I'm just making the statement, I

1 guess I could support the motion because it's leading
2 towards where I've heard so many people say they want
3 to go and they're scared about, like what was mentioned
4 earlier, losing what they have -- what we've gotten so
5 far and sacrificed for in these five years and we're
6 just at the edge where we can hit that level of growth
7 to where instead of only a few people being able to
8 catch a few moose, wait a couple of years and lots of
9 people could catch lots more moose.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further discussion
12 on the motion.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: Question.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's called for.
19 Roll call vote, please. Mary, please call the roll.

20
21 MS. GREGORY: Moose moratorium. Robert
22 Aloysius.

23
24 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.

25
26 MS. GREGORY: Joseph Mike.

27
28 MR. MIKE: Yes.

29
30 MS. GREGORY: Harry Wilde, Sr.

31
32 MR. H. WILDE: Yes.

33
34 MS. GREGORY: Lester Wilde, Sr.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

41
42 MS. GREGORY: William Brown.

43
44 MR. BROWN: Yes.

45
46 MS. GREGORY: Mary Gregory, yes. Paul
47 Manumik.

48
49 MR. MANUMIK: Yes.

50

1 MS. GREGORY: Greg Roczicka.
2
3 MR. ROCZICKA: Abstain due to the
4 resolution put forward by my employer.
5
6 MS. GREGORY: Abstain OB. Excuse me.
7 And John Andrew.
8
9 MR. ANDREW: No.
10
11 MS. GREGORY: One, two, three, four,
12 five, six yes', one 1 no, and 1 abstention.
13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion passed.
15 Next on the agenda is what, Mr.....
16
17 MR. ALOYSIUS: 11 C muskox.
18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 11C, there's a
20 discussion that was mentioned for muskox, Mr. Paul.
21
22 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman. Members of
23 the Council. The reason I brought this muskox issue up
24 is because we've had some muskox growing in our region
25 here but they were slaughtered a couple years, I
26 believe, now they are beginning to show up again in
27 Nunam Iqua, we've seen a couple of them all summer long
28 in our area the mouth of the Yukon River.
29
30 The reason why I bring this up is
31 because when the Fish and Game do their aerial survey,
32 to make note of all the muskox that they spot in the
33 Delta and make it known in their report how many there
34 are really existing out there, we don't know.
35
36 But people have seen some and they're
37 reporting it, they're reporting them.
38
39 I know in my home they're leaving them
40 alone, they're not even harassing them. They just go
41 out there and take pictures and leave them.
42
43 And also I think that we should put
44 these muskox under moratorium protection along with the
45 caribou so they'll grow in our region here. Back in
46 '99, I believe, before I left this Board, I mentioned
47 putting caribou in our region under moratorium but that
48 is when I left after making that suggestion, I left
49 about that after that so nothing ever happened.
50

1 Those are the two issues I would like
2 to put under moratorium protection.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any comments. Greg.

5
6 MR. ROCZICKA: I'm just curious, when
7 you say moratorium, I mean there's really no open
8 season, are you talking about including Nelson Island
9 and Mekoryuk or, I mean that's the only place there's
10 open hunting for the muskox.

11
12 MR. MANUMIK: No, I'm talking about the
13 region, not Nelson Island, they have their own
14 guidelines out there.

15
16 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah.

17
18 MR. MANUMIK: It's all protected area,
19 they had their own hunting seasons. The rest of the
20 region is where I want the moratorium on the muskox so
21 they'll grow. They were growing before but then a
22 bunch of them got slaughtered over at the Volcano
23 Mountains.

24
25 MR. ROCZICKA: But what I'm getting at
26 is there is no season right now, it's currently already
27 illegal to shoot them, like a moratorium, you know,
28 there's no hunting -- there's supposed to be no hunting
29 allowed of muskox on the main land, and, so, yeah, when
30 people went out and take out the whole bunch like guys
31 got some too there behind the tundra villages a few
32 years back, you know, they didn't do that as a legal
33 hunt, you know, there's no hunt in place.

34
35 So I guess if you go on moratorium,
36 developing a more intensive public education protection
37 forum.....

38
39 MR. MANUMIK: Yes.

40
41 MR. ROCZICKA:or some kind of a
42 management, strategic management plan for the Refuge to
43 come forward.

44
45 MR. MANUMIK: Yes, I think we need to
46 do that, we need to educate our young people out in the
47 communities to protect these animals from unwantingly
48 killed, you know, we need to protect them. Because
49 they're -- right now you can see the Kilbuk Caribou
50 decline as reported by Phillip Guy, what happens if

1 that becomes a reality along with the moose, what are
2 we going to turn to. That's what I'm aiming at. We
3 need to turn to something else to sustain our people.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MR. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

8

9 (In Yup'ik)

10

11 We've even had muskox come up to Bethel
12 in the last month or so so they're wandering.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

15

16 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, maybe just to get
17 it to some kind of action to move forward, make it a
18 recommendation from this Council that the Refuge and
19 the Department people start working towards developing
20 a same sort of building program for the muskox to build
21 a population up to one to 2,000 animals or something
22 like that to provide another source of meat for people
23 to be able to hunt in the future and build off the
24 moose moratorium where we've got this success as shown
25 and saying the same thing can happen for muskox. We
26 could have 2,000 muskox on the YK-Delta easily, easily,
27 maybe just only on Kuskokwim side alone. And they
28 don't compete with moose for the same food, they eat
29 different food so there'd be no problem there either,
30 if people let them grow.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further
33 discussion. Mr. Nick.

34

35 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. For Council and
36 audience information, in the past during the
37 discussions of the Refuge Staff here, one of the
38 wildlife biologists brought up the same idea to the
39 Refuge Staff mainly to Refuge information technicians,
40 that some kind of protection like Paul mentioned should
41 be done on the mainland muskox that's out here. And
42 what they wanted was they wanted to see the same
43 opportunity -- well, this person wanted same
44 opportunity as the up north where -- I'm not sure what
45 unit it is, but if muskox was left alone and protected
46 that it would grow in its numbers and then maybe in the
47 future, not in the near future but in the long-term
48 future, maybe, people would be able to at least harvest
49 limited muskox inland in Unit 18. But that plan and
50 that discussion kind of went down the drain with change

1 of management and also change of Staff.
2
3 So that was brought up to the attention
4 of the Refuge Staff at one point.
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Greg.
7
8 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. With that
9 why don't we just go ahead and table that until it's
10 time for the Delta Refuge update when it gets here and
11 let's bring it up with the new Refuge manager.....
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tomorrow.
14
15 MR. ROCZICKA:at that time, when
16 he comes up.
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If that's okay.
19
20 MR. MANUMIK: Yes.
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. At this time,
23 Paul Randall, I'm.....
24
25 SERGEANT RANDALL: Mr. Chairman. If
26 you'd rather adjourn for the day.....
27
28 REPORTER: Wait, wait, wait, you need
29 to.....
30
31 MR. ROCZICKA: On the record, please.
32
33 SERGEANT RANDALL: I just have a
34 short.....
35
36 MR. ROCZICKA: On the record for her.
37
38 SERGEANT RANDALL:information --
39 I'm Paul Randall with the Alaska Wildlife Troopers. If
40 you'd rather adjourn for the day everything I've got
41 here is on an information paper, I could just hand that
42 out and if you have further questions you could ask me
43 tomorrow or we could go on. I'm not on any time
44 constraint.
45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What do you guys wish,
47 do you want to wait to hear this or give us the
48 information.....
49
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: Give us the information.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Give us the
2 information and we'll digest it this evening and if
3 there's any discussion needed tomorrow then we'll do it
4 tomorrow, and thank you very much.

5
6 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

9
10 MR. ALOYSIUS: In lieu of the hour, I
11 move that we recess to until tomorrow morning at 9:00
12 o'clock.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: A motion's been made
15 to recess until 9:00 in the morning, do I hear a
16 second.

17
18 MS. GREGORY: Second.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All in favor say aye.

21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're recess until
25 morning, 9:00 o'clock, and thank you for your patience,
26 for Staff, and thank you for staying with us.

27
28 (Off record)

29
30 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

