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1 YUKON/KUSKOKWIM FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 Nunapitchuk Community Hall
5 Nunapitchuk, Alaska
6 March 21, 2000
7 8:00 a.m.
8

9 MEMBERS PRESENT:

10
11 Robert Nick, Co-Chairman
12 Willard Church, Acting Secretary
13 Mary Gregory
14 James Charles
15 John Hanson, Sr.
16 Billy McCann
17 Phillip Moses
18 Alvin Oweltuck, Sr.
19
20 John Andrew, Coordinator
21
22 Andrew Kelly, Interpreter
23 Alex Nick, Interpreter

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

2
3 (On record)

4
5 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

6
7 INTERPRETER: The meeting is now opened.
8 The time is 8:19 a.m., March 21, 2000.

9
10 CHAIRMAN NICK: Alex and Andrew will be
11 translators during the course of the meeting and many of
12 the comments and discussions will probably in Yup'ik, so it
13 will probably be a lot of translations into English during
14 this meeting.

15
16 The meeting is now in session, our Council
17 secretary, Fritz George, is not hear today, I believe he's
18 coming by snowmachine this morning, so I'd like to appoint
19 as temporary secretary Willard Church to take roll call and
20 then also to read the minutes. So we'll follow the agenda
21 during this meeting.

22
23 I'd like to read one thing on top, first, before we
24 continue. The one in the brackets, the rectangle brackets.
25 It's regarding public comment and it reads that public
26 comments are welcome for each agenda item. Please fill out
27 comment form or be recognized by the Chair. Scheduled
28 public comments periods are 10:30 a.m. today and at 2:30
29 p.m. And we will have evening session at the discretion of

030 the Council and the call of the Chair.

31

32 So with that I'd like to call on John Berlin to do
33 the invocation.

34

35 (Invocation in Yup'ik)

36

37 CHAIRMAN NICK: Quyana, John. Secretary
38 Willard, call the roll.

39

40 MR. CHURCH: Johnny B. Thompson, Senior.

41

42 MR. OWELTUCK: Here, alternate for.

43

44 MR. CHURCH: Willard Church. Here. John
45 Hanson, Senior, Alakanak.

46

47 MR. HANSON: Here.

48

49 MR. CHURCH: Thadius Tikiun, Bethel.

50

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1 (No response)

2

3 MR. CHURCH: Lester Wilde, Hooper Bay.

4

5 (No response)

6

7 MR. CHURCH: Fritz George, Akiachak.

8

9 (No response)

10

11 MR. CHURCH: James Charles, Tuntutuliak.

12

13 MR. CHARLES: Here.

14

15 MR. CHURCH: Mr. Alvin Oweltuck, Senior.

16

17 MR. OWELTUCK: Here.

18

19 MR. CHURCH: Mr. Phillip Moses, Toksook

20 Bay.

21 MR. MOSES: Here.

22

23 MR. CHURCH: Mr. Billy McCann, Bethel.

24

25 MR. McCANN: Right here.

26

27 MR. CHURCH: Mrs. Mary Gregory, Bethel.

28

29 MS. GREGORY: Here.

30

31 MR. CHURCH: Mr. Harry Wilde, Senior.

32

33 (No response)

34

35 MR. CHURCH: Mr. Robert Nick, Nunapitchuk.

36

37 MR. NICK: Here.

38

39 MR. CHURCH: Mr. Vice-Chair, we have nine
40 [sic] Council members present, including alternates. We
41 have established a quorum.

42

43 CHAIRMAN NICK: We have a quorum present at
44 the meeting. I believe Mr. George is on the way, he's
45 coming up by snowmachine and Lester and Harry will be
46 coming in later today and I understand that Johnny Thompson
47 is in the hospital. And Thadius Tikiun is also excused.
48 So for Mr. Thompson and Mr. Tikiun I would like to have the
49 Council move to excuse them.

50

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1 Mary.

2

3 MS. GREGORY: I moved to excuse
4 Mr. Thompson and Mr. Tikiun for this meeting.

5

6 CHAIRMAN NICK: We have a motion to excuse
7 Johnny Thompson and Thadius Tikiun.

8

9 MR. HANSON: Second the motion.

10

11 CHAIRMAN NICK: Second by John Hanson. All
12 those in favor say aye.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 CHAIRMAN NICK: Those opposed?

17

18 (No opposing responses)

19

20 CHAIRMAN NICK: Motion carries. The others
21 will probably be joining us later this morning.

22

23 The next item on our agenda is to introduce the
24 Advisory Council members (In Yup'ik)

25

26 INTERPRETER: These members are on the
27 Federal Subsistence and the Council or those who are with
28 us is John Hanson, Mary Gregory, Phillip Moses, Willard
29 Church of Quinhagak, Billy McCann from Bethel, James
30 Charles from Tuntutuliak and our alternate Alvin Oweltuck.
31 And our paperworker, our coordinator John Andrew. And our
32 recorder Susan Reilly.

33

34 Taylor, maybe you can introduce your (In Yup'ik)

35

36 INTERPRETER: Taylor Brelsford,
37 Subsistence, he works in Anchorage and he'll introduce the
38 people who are attending this meeting.

39

40 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. Thank you very much,
41 Mr. Chairman. We're certainly glad to be able to join you
42 in Nunapitchuk. I think we've tried two times before and
43 had bad weather and had to reschedule, so third time is a
44 charm. We have great weather, everybody is able to come
45 this time.

46

47 The staff for the Yukon Delta Regional Council
48 include Pete DeMatteo, the biologist and George Sherrod,
49 the anthropologist. And then Tom [sic] Jennings is a
50 mapping specialist in our office, he's here to help today.

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1 Chuck Krueger is a fisheries biologist and he has worked on
2 the resource monitor projects we'll talk about in a little
3 while. And then our colleague, our co-worker, Bob Gerhard,
4 is with the National Park Service. And we have one special
5 guest, maybe I should go ahead and mention Gerald Nicholai
6 is joining from the Western Interior Regional Council.

7

8 MR. NICHOLAI: Eastern.

9

10 MR. BRELSFORD: Oops, I got the wrong line.
11 Eastern Interior -- sorry. Gerald is from the village of
12 Tanana.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

17

18 INTERPRETER: All of you people would like
19 to introduce yourselves.

20

21 MR. WASKA: Daniel Waska, Atmautlak
22 Traditional Council.

23

24 MR. MARTIN: Michael Martin, Senior from
25 Kasigluk Traditional Council

26

27 (Note: Other audience members introduce themselves
28 away from microphone. Others present from the sign-in
29 sheet include:)

30

31 Jimmy Stevens, Tuntutuliak IRA Council.

32

33 Michael Chase, Nunapitchuk IRA Council.

34

35 John A. Berlin, Nunapitchuk IRA Council.

36

37 James Berlin, Bethel

38

39 Norbert Beans, Algaaliq Tribe, St. Marys, Alaska.

40

41 Teddy Brink, Tribal Elder, Kasigluk.

42

43 Moses White, Sr., Kasigluk.

44

45 Jennifer Chris Hooper, Bethel.

46

47 Nicholai Berlin.

48

49 John Nick

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1 Fran Wassillie, City Council, Corporation Board,
2 Nunapitchuk.

3
4 Andrew C. Kelly, Sr., Emmonak.

5
6 Terry Knutson.

7
8 Lloyd Andrew, Sr., Nunapitchuk Limited, Vice
9 Chairman.

10
11 Myron Naneng, AVCP, Inc, President.

12
13 John Jenkins, Nunapitchuk.

14
15 Gert Andrew, Nunapitchuk.

16
17 Bertha Andrew, Nunapitchuk.

18
19 Sarah Wise, Nunapitchuk.

20
21 Dave Cannon, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge,
22 Bethel.

23
24 Evan Alexie.

25
26 Elizabeth Segie.

27
28 Joshua Cleveland, Quinhagak.

29
30 Elena W. Nick, Nunapitchuk.

31
32 Martha Tobeluk, Nunapitchuk.

33
34 Margaret Alexie, Nunapitchuk.

35
36 Henry Parks.

37
38 Alexie Berlin, Sr., Nunapitchuk.

39
40 Natalia Berlin, Nunapitchuk.

41
42 Esai Twitchell, Sr.

43
44 Vincent Golemski, ADF&G, Anchorage.

45
46 Steven Kovach, Bethel

47
48 Paul Salomone, ADF&G, Bethel.

49
50 Charles Burkey, Jr., ADF&G, Bethel

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1 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: And there are about three
4 more people coming up from Fish and Wildlife Service and
5 also from Fish and Game.

6

7 And then we will go on with the agenda. IRA
8 Council President comments at this time.

9

10 MR. STEVENS: (In Yup'ik)

11

12 INTERPRETER: I'd like to extend to the
13 Council for you guys coming over to Nunapitchuk. This
14 morning I woke up cold, that's why my throat is
15 (indiscernible) I'd like to thank the Council for coming
16 to Nunapitchuk. The subject is very important to our
17 region and it needs our full attention, an issue that
18 concerns the land and water. It's up to us and we are
19 advising the Regional.....

20

21 I hope that you will do all the work and accomplish
22 a lot to help our people. And I would like to say to the
23 people that come from other villages, that come attend,
24 it's real important. Since you have elected to visit
25 Nunapitchuk (In Yup'ik). And I see here you guys from the
26 subsistence (indiscernible) work this area, right now you
27 must speak up. Right now we get (indiscernible) and to
28 Peter Dam to check our (indiscernible) and our spawning
29 areas and we go up to our traps and sometimes we come to a
30 dams and streams don't look good. Some animals
31 (indiscernible) where there is a beaver dam.

32

33 (Indiscernible - interpreter is distorted because
34 he's too close to the microphone)

35

36 And I want to thank you for coming and to
37 (indiscernible) our area. And we need to get our heads
38 together and work together and also we need to do something
39 to (indiscernible) in the area.

40

41 (Indiscernible) we go up and we get married and
42 live a subsistence way of life.

43

44 Again, I want to thank you for coming to
45 Nunapitchuk to discuss these important things.

46

47 MR. J. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

48

49 INTERPRETER: We now go to the agenda that
50 I think we're going to be following, we want to look over

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1 our agenda.

2

3 (Pause in interpreting)

4

5 INTERPRETER: Item number 7, then we come
6 to number 8. Anyone who wants to testify must do so after
7 filling out the papers, item number 9.

8

9 (Indiscernible) Lester Wilde from Hooper Bay and
10 then he will be here later on.

11

12 Then we come to item number 10, old business, the
13 update on Federal subsistence fisheries management, update
14 on migratory birds, reporting on training session and
15 follow-up.

16

17 Item 11, new business. Proposals to change the
18 Federal subsistence regulations on taking of wildlife on
19 Federal public lands. Presentation of proposals. First
20 the introduction of proposals. George Sherrod will be
21 taking care of that. Then the Alaska Department of Fish
22 and Game comments. Then the agency comments will take
23 place. And then the next item will be summary of written
24 comments, the coordinator, John Andrew or anybody else want
25 to make a comment at this time may do so. I will have a
26 written report on this item. The next item anybody can
27 make a testimony at this time. And the last item is the
28 Council will get to decide the item, either act on it or
29 delay it.

30

31 Overlapping proposals, Proposal 34, C&T use
32 determination for caribou in Unit 17 for residents of Akiak
33 and Akiachak.

34

35 Proposal 35, request to revise C&T use
36 determination for caribou in Unit 17 for residents of Unit
37 18.

38

39 Proposal 38, revise C&t use determination for moose
40 in Unit 17(B) for residents of Akiak and Akiachak.

41

42 Proposal 40, to revise trapping seasons for beaver
43 in Units 17(A) and 18.

44

45 The next item will be Yukon/Kuskokwim region
46 proposal to allow taking caribou from a boat under power in
47 Unit 18.

48

49 And will be discussion item B, Regional Council
50 application process. And he will let us know who came up

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1 with proposals. An then at this time we will review our
2 charter and after that the agencies will be making reports.
3 And Michael Rearden will be coming here and Mr. Kovach will
4 be here and Steven Kovach will be here too. And they will
5 be talking about the moose and the caribou hunters and make
6 a presentation how the moose and caribou are doing.

7
8 (Indiscernible) And Andy Aderman will make a
9 report on the refuge, (indiscernible) technician program.
10 The National Wildlife will not be here, James Berlin will
11 be (indiscernible)

12
13 After this proposal will be made toward fishing
14 regulations -- fisheries regulations. If anybody has
15 anything to say about subsistence fisheries. All these
16 people who are sitting here do not handle the commercial
17 and sport fisheries. And after this any other new business
18 can be discussed at this time.

19
20 And then time and place of next scheduled meeting
21 will be discussed. And then we'll have a benediction and
22 the adjournment. We're wishing to look at an early -- we
23 look -- leave about 3:00 o'clock tomorrow.

24
25 And our translators Leo Moses couldn't make but
26 Alex Nick and Andrew Kelly are here to interpret.

27
28 Quyana.

29
30 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah, Quyana, John. Any
31 comments on the agenda?

32
33 MR. CHURCH: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to add
34 an addition.

35
36 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yes.

37
38 MR. CHURCH: I'd like to have an
39 opportunity to present the fisheries subsistence project
40 proposal to the Council for their support along with
41 Mr. Joshua Cleveland, he would like to present some
42 resolutions in support of the project.

43
44 CHAIRMAN NICK: Any others? Under
45 fisheries?

46
47 MR. CHURCH: Yes.

48
49 CHAIRMAN NICK: These proposals will
50 probably be right after 41, after E. It'll be item F under

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1 proposals, Quinhagak.

2

3 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yes.

6

7 MR. BRELSFORD: I believe it might be
8 helpful for the Council to look at all of the fisheries
9 monitoring projects together, so when we talk about the
10 Federal fisheries program earlier in the agenda, we will be
11 talking about several proposals, weir projects, traditional
12 knowledge projects and it might be helpful for the Council
13 to look at all of those together, so.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN NICK: Your recommendation is to
16 have it under item 8?

17

18 MR. BRELSFORD: It would be under item
19 10(A). I believe that would be helpful to the Council to
20 see all of these at the same time.

21

22 CHAIRMAN NICK: Okay.

23

24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Under 10(A)?

25

26 CHAIRMAN NICK: 10(A). Quinhagak C&T
27 proposal. Thank you, Taylor.

28

29 Any other comments regarding the agenda? Billy.

30

31 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

32

33 INTERPRETER: (No interpretation)

34

35 CHAIRMAN NICK: Mr. Andrew, the discussion
36 of the hovercraft?

37

38 MR. J. ANDREW: Under -- hovercraft.

39

40 CHAIRMAN NICK: John.

41

42 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 (In Yup'ik)

44

45 INTERPRETER: I have something to bring up.
46 We have to bring up the special issues towards subsistence
47 fisheries. And he also heard that the up the river in the
48 Yukon -- meeting in October, they're going to close the
49 Kuskokwim and the Yukon. We're told this -- we need to
50 counter-propose this upcoming use of importance to come up

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1 with a resolution to provide -- we cannot afford to close
2 these two rivers (In Yup'ik)

3
4 And Fish and Game, anything that they do will have
5 to go through -- also let us know or directly with us
6 [sic].

7
8 CHAIRMAN NICK: Under item 10 resolution --
9 when we do hovercraft. (In Yup'ik)

10
11 INTERPRETER: We will discuss hovercraft
12 and the resolution.

13
14 CHAIRMAN NICK: Any other additions,
15 questions?

16
17 John.

18
19 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 (In Yup'ik)

21
22 INTERPRETER: I never see where we were
23 going to discuss to -- I also heard about this last winter
24 -- Harry Wilde and we were talking about we were proposing
25 to kill one moose for potlatch purposes, traditional
26 potlatch. And Harry Wilde was the one that was -- it was
27 okay to kill a moose for traditional potlatch purposes.
28 But they didn't want to do it without consulting the rest
29 of the Council members. During the time that we was with
30 Fish and Game it was a practice up river people to kill one
31 moose for potlatch purposes, traditional potlatch purposes,
32 and last winter we wanted to ask and kill one bull moose to
33 be shared by the people who are gathering together. But
34 then unfortunately (indiscernible) Unit 18 is not the only
35 one, but it's true that up river, 21 on up, used to go out
36 and get -- and kill one bull moose to be shared by the
37 whole community and (indiscernible) And while we are here
38 we need to do that because it's (indiscernible) to let
39 people know it's okay to do that.

40
41 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

42
43 INTERPRETER: And now Chairman Nick reports
44 that he also wants to discuss this item in detail.

45
46 Any more items?

47
48 MR. OWELTUCK: Mr. Chairman.

49
50 CHAIRMAN NICK: Mr. Oweltuck.

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1 MR. OWELTUCK: (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: We came up with a resolution
4 in the Yukon of high seas by-catch. In the Yukon we think
5 that high seas fisheries has a great deal of affect on the
6 Yukon fisheries. When we go joint meeting we discussed in
7 detail. Can we discuss the -- can we talk about this?

8

9 CHAIRMAN NICK: That can be taken
10 under.....

11

12 INTERPRETER: That was the question.
13 That's one of our agenda items. When we come to that item
14 we can discuss (indiscernible)

15

16 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman (In Yup'ik)

17

18 INTERPRETER: Mr. Charles makes a motion to
19 accept the agenda.

20

21 MS. GREGORY: Second.

22

23 INTERPRETER: Second by Mary.

24

25 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

26

27 INTERPRETER: All those in favor.

28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30

31 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik) nay.

32

33 (No opposing responses)

34

35 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

36

37 INTERPRETER: Motion is approved.

38

39 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

40

41 INTERPRETER: We need to follow the agenda
42 closely. I'd like to introduce Jennifer Hooper and James
43 Berlin representing AVCP.

44

45 (More audience introductions away from microphone)

46

47 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

48

49 INTERPRETER: The agenda is approved.

50 We're now continuing on to item 7, approval of October 12,

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1 13 and 14. 1999 meeting minutes approval. This is in Tab Q
2 of the packet.

3
4 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

5
6 INTERPRETER: The Chairperson asks if the
7 Council wants to go ahead and read the minutes of the
8 meeting or just review them and then approve them? Is
9 there are any corrections, you should identify the
10 corrections.

11
12 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

13
14 INTERPRETER: The Chairperson.....

15
16 MS. GREGORY: Can you just highlight what
17 transpired?

18
19 INTERPRETER: What Mary Gregory suggested
20 is the discussion should be highlighted -- rather read in
21 highlights in the minutes.

22
23 CHAIRMAN NICK: You have the floor,
24 Willard.

25
26 MR. CHURCH: The reading of the minutes for
27 October 12 through 14, 1999 of the Yukon/Kuskokwim
28 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. The meeting was
29 held in Quinhagak, Alaska.

30
31 On October 12, '99 the members that were present
32 included Mr. Harry Wilde, Senior from Mt. Village; Fritz
33 George, the Secretary from Akiachuak; Mary Gregory from
34 Bethel; Billy McCann from Bethel; James Charles from
35 Tuntutuliak; Lester Wilde from Hooper Bay; John Hanson from
36 Alakanuk; Thadius Tikiun, alternate from Bethel; Robert
37 Nick from Nunapitchuk; Willard Church from Quinhagak;
38 Phillip Moses from Toksook Bay; Johnny B. Thompson, Senior
39 from St. Mary's; and Alvin Oweltuck, Senior from Marshall,
40 alternate.

41
42 The Federal and State agencies that were
43 represented at this meeting included the U.S. Fish and
44 Wildlife, Office of Subsistence Management: Mr. Taylor
45 Brelsford, Helen Armstrong, Dave Fisher, John Andrew. The
46 Yukon Delta and the Togiak Refuge representative include
47 Steve Kovach, Paul Liedberg, Alex Nick, Leo Moses, Andy
48 Aderman, Allen Miller, John Dyasuk, Ferdinand Sharp, Pete
49 Abraham. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
50 representatives included Mike Coffing, Ida Alexie, Phil

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1 Perry, Charlie Burkey, Tom Kron, Dan Dunaway. Guest
2 visitor from the Lower Kuskokwim Economic Development
3 Council, Carl Berger, and Association of Village Council
4 Presidents, James Berlin, Junior and Michelle Sparcks.

5
6 There were numerous guests from villages around the
7 Y-K area, including Akiak, Goodnews Bay, Kasigluk,
8 Chefnak, Newtok, Kipnuk, Tuntutuliak and Quinhagak.

9
10 The translators for the meeting were Alex Nick, Leo
11 Moses and Ferdinand Sharp.

12
13 The meeting was called to order by Mr. While at
14 7:00 o'clock p.m. at the Quinhagak gymnasium in the Native
15 Village of Quinhagak.

16
17 A quorum was established with 11 members and two
18 alternates. The invocation was delivered by Yukon
19 alternate Alvin Oweltuck, Senior. Introductions were made
20 by the Chair, opening comments by Mr. Wassillie Bavilla,
21 the IRA Council President.

22
23 The election of officers. Mr. Harry Wilde, Senior
24 was reelected as Chair by unanimous consent. Mr. Robert
25 Nick was elected as co-Chair, John Hanson and Thadius
26 Tikiun were nominated, Robert Nick won over John Hanson and
27 Thadius Tikiun with a vote of 11-2 and 1. Secretary George
28 won unanimous consent. Mr. John Hanson was voted as
29 Sergeant at Arms.

30
31 The agenda was approved with discussion to include
32 wolves, caribou as concerns to be addressed. A motion was
33 made to approve the agenda by Mr. Robert Nick, seconded by
34 Mr. James Charles. Motion passed with unanimous vote.

35
36 The minutes of March 2 and 3, 1999 read in Yup'ik
37 by Secretary George. Lester Wilde corrected page three
38 contents and added that John Hanson and himself did not
39 make that many motions on proposals. Lester Wilde moved to
40 approved the minutes with corrections and was seconded by
41 Mary Gregory. Question called for, motion carried.

42
43 Mr. Taylor Brelsford, who represented the Federal
44 fisheries management, opened the discussion on subsistence
45 fisheries and assured the Council that the Federal
46 Subsistence, along with the Advisory Councils will be
47 working with our people in managing the fisheries.
48 Management would not take place from Washington, D.C.
49 Preparations have been made since 1995. The Federal
50 Register had been published three times, there had been

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1 over 40 statewide meetings. Mr. Brelsford informed the
2 Council that he will cover six of the most important points
3 out of the possible 14. The six points that were covered
4 included staffing, co-management with tribes, State and
5 Federal cooperation, three Regional Councils on the Yukon
6 River, extra territorial jurisdiction and customary trade.
7 There was lengthy discussion in each area. The Council's
8 main concerns were the inability to police or manage,
9 intercept trawl and ocean fisheries, which are all
10 intercepting our own stocks. There were concerns in the
11 areas of extraterritorial jurisdiction, co-management
12 projects and customary trade.

13
14 At 9:00 a.m. the meeting was called back to order
15 and the discussion included with three Regional Councils
16 working together on the Yukon River, and two Councils
17 working together on the Kuskokwim River. There were
18 discussions on extra territorial jurisdiction. There is
19 definite need to better monitor the salmon on all migratory
20 routes during their life cycle. There was another major
21 problem on the abuses of customary trade, roe sales.

22
23 Mr. John Thompson, Senior, moved ahead to the next
24 item to listen to listen to public testimony and was
25 seconded by Mr. Robert Nick.

26
27 Mr. Luke Amik, Senior of Kipnuk provided public
28 testimony to the Council. He talked about his education
29 and his ability to read and write in his on language,
30 Yup'ik. He reaffirmed his understanding of the purpose of
31 the Advisory Council and that the Council is to work for
32 the people to protect the subsistence lifestyle. He
33 presented a document that he had written in Yup'ik about
34 the subsistence way of life that he knows. Part of his
35 document included the supposed sale of Alaska from Russia
36 to the U.S. government. In one section of the documents he
37 stated that there was a promise in there that they would
38 not tamper with the lifestyle, meaning subsistence way of
39 life of our people. It is noticeable that all resources
40 are dwindling today. The small birds, shorebirds and gulls
41 are declining even though our people do not hunt them.

42
43 The next individual to provide public testimony was
44 Teddy Kugstun of Kipnuk. He talked about his childhood,
45 that he was brought up by a frail father and his main diet
46 in early years was mostly needle fish and stickle backs.
47 His main concern that he voiced was for the protection of
48 the resources and not to tamper with the natural life
49 cycles of fish, birds and other wildlife. He stated that
50 handling of wild birds is an acceptable practice of our

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1 people. Birds that were handled by human beings will
2 probably not do well when they are released. He also
3 brought up his concerns about bears that were captured and
4 drugged with darts. He feels that they are physically
5 contaminated forever. He was concerned about the use of
6 aircraft and helicopters and that it is not a healthy
7 practice and it is unethical. He was also concerned about
8 tagged fish, he felt that they probably would not survive.
9 He used an example of Exxon Valdez oil spill, the numerous
10 shellfish, fish, birds, and wildlife were done irreversible
11 damages and the fishermen are still paying the price for
12 that disaster.

13
14 Theresa Abraham of Chefornak introduced herself as
15 the President of Chefornak Tribal Council. She talked
16 about the early days when resources were treated with
17 respect and extra care was given to the processing of their
18 subsistence caught resources. In those days their hunters
19 sometimes came back with very little subsistence caught
20 birds, seals and other animals. Nowadays, she feels it is
21 easier to go out to do subsistence gathering activities
22 with modern methods and means. She thanked the people
23 sitting on this Council and is grateful for their
24 participation of the elders in this group. She expressed
25 her concern for the interception of salmon by trawl, purse
26 and high sea fisheries. She recommended that the Council
27 look into this area of interception.

28
29 John Jimmy, Senior of Chefornak opened by saying he
30 very grateful for all Native Regional Advisory Council
31 members. He stated that he is a commercial fisherman, a
32 subsistence hunter, a subsistence fisherman and trapper.
33 He was raised in the traditional subsistence way of life.
34 He teaches what he learned from his father and forefathers
35 to the children and to his grandchildren. In his early
36 days all birds, fish and game were abundant and today they
37 are not as many as there used to be, but still plenty
38 enough to sustain the people. He fellow villagers have
39 witnessed airplane and helicopters driving away caribou in
40 his village area.

41
42 John "Uppaq" Nicholas of Kasigluk stated that he's
43 not pointing at anyone on the uses of aircraft to harass
44 moose and other animals, but it has been brought up to
45 their attention that it does occur now and then. We need
46 our own Native people in the management teams, they know
47 the local customs and their way of life. He stated that
48 commercial fishing is not what it used to be, we used to
49 catch boatloads of fish in the early days and today it is
50 not like that anymore.

00017

1 Moses White, Senior of Kasigluk stated that he
2 still believes in the teachings of our forefathers
3 regarding the Native subsistence way of life. He stated
4 that when Russia sold Alaska in 1867 to the United States
5 there was a provision in there to protect the subsistence
6 lifestyle of the indigenous people of Alaska. He also
7 stated that there are cycles for all species of fish and
8 wildlife in the area. There are years of plenty and there
9 are years of scarce game. He stated that species go
10 through their own natural cycle of highs and lows and their
11 levels of population. And he also stated that subsistence
12 harvesters do not try to overharvest on their fish and
13 wildlife resources.

14
15 Owen Ivan of Akiak introduced himself as Tribal
16 Chair of the Native Village of Akiak. This was his first
17 time before the Federal Council due to the Federal
18 subsistence takeover. He stated that his concern is
19 overpopulation of beaver which is leading to the
20 destruction of spawning areas of fish, such as salmon,
21 pike, whitefish, burbot and blackfish. He was also
22 concerned about the recurring problems of aircraft
23 harassing caribou and other animals. He felt that they are
24 doing more harm than any good.

25
26 Wassillie Bavilla of Quinhagak informed the Council
27 that the Federal subsistence management will work for us
28 through cooperative agreements and have our local people
29 work on them. Taking his village, for example, when we
30 have local hire there is less friction among the managers
31 involved. He also stated that he was opposed to State
32 Proposal Number 13.

33
34 Mr. Willard Church of Quinhagak stated that it is
35 very important for Native and tribal organizations to be
36 involved in taking care of our own resources. Too often we
37 demand on what we want now and not think about our future.
38 We need to think about the future of our children and their
39 children and we use a different tool today to work with --
40 paper. We use cooperative agreements. We work with the
41 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Alaska Department of
42 Fish and Game to work for our people.

43
44 John Sharp of Quinhagak gave a strong statement.
45 All our resources do not belong to the Federal government
46 or to the State of Alaska. It belongs to our forefathers,
47 grandparents, ourselves, our children and our future
48 generations. He was opposed to Proposal Number 13.

49
50 There was a lunch break and the meeting reconvened

00018

1 at 1:30 and was called back to order by Mr. Harry Wilde.
2 Helen Armstrong made a presentation on customary trade.
3 Pete Abraham wanted to have customary trade defined to the
4 dollar value limit. Mr. Lester Wilde did not want to have
5 subsistence used in the same sentence with cash. Mr.
6 Johnny Thompson wanted a clear definition on parts of fish
7 and narrow down the specific terminology used to define
8 parts of fish. John Jimmy wanted to keep customary trade
9 and barter just the way it is. John Hanson's fear was that
10 we might open the door of opportunity for others to turn
11 subsistence food into cash if we are not careful. A
12 concern of Mr. John Sharp was that people who have alcohol
13 and drug problems might abuse this avenue if it is not
14 regulated. There was much discussion and there was a
15 motion made by Robert Nick no to take any action on the
16 definition of customary trade, but to table for a later
17 date, it was seconded by Mary Gregory.

18
19 Regional Council concerns and comments: On behalf
20 of Hooper Bay Traditional Council, Mr. Lester Wilde thanked
21 the Council for helping them obtain C&T use determination
22 in 22(A) for caribou.

23
24 Mr. Robert Nick reported that he was the invited
25 keynote speaker for the AVCP Convention in Bethel. His
26 topic was the Federal subsistence fisheries takeover. And
27 he stated that AVCP delegates embraced the idea of takeover
28 from the State management.

29
30 Mr. Billy McCann stated that we should not fight
31 over our subsistence resources and the land. That we
32 should work together with the land managers and the
33 entities that work with us in protecting and preserving our
34 subsistence lifestyle. He was also concerned about wolves
35 creating serious problems to the caribou herds. He stated
36 that our forefathers' words are true.

37
38 Mary Gregory likes our subsistence priority and has
39 concerns for Natives living in urban settings, like
40 Anchorage and other big cities. They're restricted from
41 exercising their aboriginal subsistence rights. Like using
42 Anchorage, for example, they has some kind of goose control
43 problem where they placed pigs on the island to eat the
44 goose eggs. Why don't they use the urbanite Natives to do
45 that?

46
47 Willard Church reported on an incident that
48 occurred on their river this summer. There were young
49 people fishing for salmon for subsistence purposes that
50 were given citations by protection officers. He stated

00019

1 that we have evolved as a people and now use the rod and
2 reel for subsistence purposes. Our people recognize that
3 and I think it's time that the State Department of Fish and
4 Game should recognize that the rod and reel is a
5 subsistence tool for our Native people in the villages.

6
7 Division of Board support: Ida Alexie gave a brief
8 report that she has a meeting that she needs to get ready
9 for. She stated that there will be a Board of Fisheries
10 meeting on the 15th in Fairbanks and that the regulatory
11 cycles starting from '97 to 2003 for any one to see if
12 interested. There were nine State regulatory proposals
13 affecting our region. She also stated that fishery
14 proposals could be submitted to her or faxed to Juneau.

15
16 Now, Mr. Taylor Breslford brought out the need to
17 work on a training agenda and have a subcommittee of two or
18 three from this Council be part of that group.

19
20 Issue Number 5, there needs to be a decision on how
21 the three Councils on the Yukon River will work together.
22 This will be brought up during the training in November.
23 There is a need for a joint recommendation from the
24 Councils involved. This Council felt that they should get
25 the feel of the other Councils before they make their
26 decision.

27
28 Reports: Chairman Wilde reported on the joint
29 Council Chair meeting of May 2, 1999, the joint
30 Councils/Federal Subsistence Board meeting of May 3, 1999
31 and the May 3 through 5, 1999 Federal Subsistence Board
32 meeting that took place in Anchorage.

33
34 The Council's comments: Fritz George was concerned
35 about caribou, wolves and aircraft harassment. Mr. James
36 Charles was concerned about wolves and caribou. John
37 Thompson, he was also concerned about caribou harassment,
38 that they should leave caribou alone.

39
40 We move down to agency reports. There was a report
41 by the Fish and Wildlife Service, an update on the
42 Migratory Bird Treaty amendments and the new regulatory
43 process. Mr. Robert Nick moved to support model three and
44 was seconded by Lester Wilde with a vote of 13 to 0.

45
46 Association of Village Council Presidents gave a
47 report. Mr. James Berlin and Michelle Sparcks reported on
48 AVCP Natural Resource Department activities. The reports
49 were on the Waterfowl Conservation Committee, the Western
50 Alaska Brown Bear Management Area, the Kilbuck Caribou

00020

1 Working Group, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, anti-wolf
2 snaring initiative, marine mammals, the Board of Fish, the
3 Board of Game and their involvement with other boards,
4 committees and councils. There was also resolutions that
5 were brought forward for the record.

6
7 One, control of big game hunts, two, support of
8 floating weirs, three, closing sport fishing when salmon
9 runs are low, four, research on food contamination, five,
10 tribal co-management on endangered species and, six, full
11 implementation of tribal co-management projects.

12
13 The Council thanked AVCP for the good report.

14
15 The Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge gave their
16 agency report. Mr. Paul Liedberg reported that it is
17 illegal for airplanes to chase or harass caribou or other
18 animals. They have dealt with air taxi, air carriers with
19 some success along the coastal villages. They have been
20 doing some follow-up work on aircraft harassment reports
21 with no success. He stated that they do work on caribou
22 and bear projects. Another concern that was brought up by
23 the Yukon Delta Refuge was the poaching of cow moose. He
24 stated that they had built the moose population back up and
25 that they need to work together to achieve that goal.

26
27 Mr. Steve Kovach work together closely with ADF&G,
28 Roger Seavoy, on moose, bear, caribou and furbearers.
29 During the caribou monitoring project last year they
30 counted 10 to 27,000 on the south fork of the Kuskokwim
31 River. They stated that the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
32 had been coming down near the mouth of the Yukon River for
33 the third straight year. They also stated that they were
34 unable to do surveys during calving time last spring due to
35 the weather. They also stated that there was a need for
36 new caribou collars, that the batteries are dying out and
37 the collars are worn out. In 1994 they counted 31 moose on
38 the Lower Yukon area. This year we counted 165 and
39 estimated their population to be about 524 animals. They
40 also said that they are planning on buy wolf and wolverine
41 carcasses for study purposes, if they can get funding for
42 that project.

43
44 Andy Aderman with the Togiak National Wildlife
45 Refuge reported on four projects that they were involved in
46 over at their National Wildlife Refuge. The first project
47 was the Public Use Management Plan. They have river ranger
48 projects on the Kanetok, the Goodnews and Togiak Rivers.
49 They have an education and outreach program with science
50 camps at Cape Pierce and Cape Constantine. They have

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1 floating weir projects on the Kanetok River under their
2 fisheries projects and Dolly Varden projects on the Togiak
3 River. Wildlife projects, they had only nine moose on the
4 Togiak drainage in 1992 and today they have counted over
5 500 moose. They have 36 collars on cow moose.

6
7 The regional team report. Helen Armstrong reported
8 that they had completed a cooperative agreement with AVCP
9 Natural Resource Department. The other agreement is with
10 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Mike Coffing, to do
11 a C&T use determination study for the village of Akiachak.

12
13
14 And Dave Fisher covered the evidence of sex
15 requirement on moose. There was heavy discussion on the
16 subject and even throwing the antlerless moose issue [sic].
17 After a lengthy discussion, Council member Nick moved to
18 maintain the current regulation on the requirement, it was
19 seconded by Lester Wilde. There was a vote of 11 ayes, one
20 nay and one abstain.

21
22 John Andrew reported on C&T Use Outreach Program.
23 They had gathered data on uses of moose, caribou and bear
24 in the following villages: Tuluksak, Akiak, Akiachak, this
25 was done with ADF&G, Dan Coffing, Bethel Oscarville,
26 Napakiak, Eek, Quinhagak and Tuntutuliak. There were still
27 some villages that need to be covered and the were:
28 Kongignak, Kwillingwok, Kipnuk, Mekoryuk, Chefornak,
29 Nightmute, Tununak and Newtok.

30
31 Mike Coffing with the Alaska Department of Fish and
32 Game Subsistence Division gave a brief update on his
33 projects. He has been working with seals and sea lion data
34 projects in the villages of Emmonak, Hooper Bay and
35 Quinhagak. There was a comprehensive C&T project going on
36 in the Village of Akiachak where three individuals were
37 hired to do the project. He has also been contacted by
38 other villages to do projects in their area. He had been
39 involved with the cooperative project with the Bethel
40 Tribal Council, with funds with fisheries disaster monies.
41 He stated that there will be an agenda change request on
42 uses of rod and reel for subsistence purposes during the
43 Board of Fisheries meeting in Fairbanks.

44
45 Mr. Phil Perry, with the Alaska Department of Fish
46 and Game, Wildlife Conservation Division, reported in place
47 of Roger Seavoy that their division cooperatively with the
48 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on moose, caribou and bear
49 surveys. He liked to touch up on the possible Lower
50 Kuskokwim Moose Management Plan. He compared the Togiak

00022

1 river drainage to the Kanektok and the Goodnews Rivers.

2

3

4 Mr. Tom Kron of the Alaska Department of Fish and
5 Game Commercial Fisheries Division is looking forward to
6 working with this Council on subsistence fisheries. He
7 stated that they were involved in cooperative salmon stock
8 assessment projects in Quinhagak with AVCP, Incorporated on
9 the Kwethluk, Aniak, Pilot Station, Mountain Village and
10 Emmonak, as well as TCC and KVNA, the Yukon River Drainage
11 Association and other groups. They fund annual subsistence
12 surveys for Norton Sound, Crosby, Yukon and the Kuskokwim
13 Rivers. A Yukon summer season manager is Dan Bergstrom who
14 provides Yukon chinook and summer chum information. The
15 summer commercial chinook harvest is the third lowest on
16 record. The chum catch was the second lowest on record
17 since 1979. The Kuskokwim River chinook run estimated at
18 51 percent below average, sockeye was 50 percent below
19 average. The coho salmon run was only 50 percent of the
20 average of 600,729. The 1999 season was among the poorest
21 on record. This was stated by Mr. Tom Kron.

21

22

23 There was a recess and after when the meeting
24 reconvened, Mr. Ambrose Aguchuk was recognized for public
25 comment. He stated that we never had subsistence
26 management problems until the State of Alaska took over
27 statehood. They had no problems in the past under Federal
28 management. He stated that after white men came we started
29 having problems. We started seeing the populations decline
30 in birds, fish and game and even in marine mammals. He
31 takes Owen Ivan of Akiak for bring out his concerns about
32 the problems of the overpopulation of beaver which are
33 leading to the declines of fresh water species of fish.

33

34

35 Mr. Dan Dunaway with the Alaska Department of Fish
36 and Game Sport Fish Division reported that the sport fish
37 concerns are considered from Aniak River to the Quinhagak
38 area and down close to Port Heiden. He stated that his
39 department stays in close contact with the Commercial
40 Fisheries Division. He also stated that there was a
41 floating weir project for monitoring salmon stock on the
42 Kanektok River. He also stated that proposals to change
43 sport fish regulations were due by April 10th of 2000.
44 There were sport fish regulations that were proposed which
45 would cover Dolly Varden bag limit to bring it down to
46 three from 10 a day. A proposal to change the pike fishery
47 regulation to bring it down to five from 10 a day with only
48 one over 30 inches. Single hooks are required with no
49 bait. Willard Church brought out the idea to have no sport
50 fishery zones or boundary lines for sport and subsistence
51 fishery areas. There was also discussion from the Council

00023

1 members on weirs, sport fisheries, subsistence and
2 conservation concerns.

3

4 Mr. Taylor Brelsford covered the 1998 Annual Report
5 which included the Lower Kuskokwim Moose Management Plan,
6 wanton waste issues and customary and traditional use
7 information gaps. The '99 Annual Report agenda items,
8 Coordinator Andrew requested from the Council for 1999
9 Annual Report and agenda items for the next meeting to use
10 some of them as agenda items. The Council responded with
11 sport fisheries, wolf predation control, need of local
12 people for local hire, beaver population control, cross
13 boundary proposals on C&T use determinations, fish
14 contamination studies and also to keep the agenda open.
15 There was also a need for better public awareness programs
16 with the local Fish and Wildlife projects. But there was
17 also a need for more involvement with AVCP and WCC.

18

19 Mr. Wilde requested Mike Coffing with the Alaska
20 Department of Fish and Game Subsistence Division to explain
21 State Proposals 2 and 3. Three referred to the Western
22 Alaska Brown Bear Management Area, 12 referred to Kilbuck
23 Caribou Working Group, 13 referred to Kilbuck Caribou
24 Working Group and so forth.

25

26 The Chair recognized Joshua Cleveland who testified
27 and made two proposal requests. One was to be able to
28 shoot caribou from a boat under power and the other was to
29 change brown bear DLP regulations, which is defense of life
30 and property.

31

32 Chairman Wilde reported on an incident that
33 occurred on May 3 through 5, 1999, the Federal Subsistence
34 Board meeting in Anchorage. In that meeting he supported
35 another region on record. He was asked by individual
36 workers not to do that. This was an ultimate insult and an
37 active of cultural genocide towards him. Others brought
38 forth what was discussed earlier, wolf predator control
39 problem, bears and aircraft harassment of wild game.

40

41 Time and place of next meeting. Coordinator Andrew
42 explained the winter meeting schedule, the window that was
43 opened and which Regional Advisory Council meetings to
44 avoid. Lester Wilde moved to have the next meeting in the
45 Village of Nunapitchuk and Mary Gregory seconded the
46 motion. Lester Wilde moved to amend his motion to include
47 the dates of March 21 and 22 and Mary Gregory moved to
48 second to motion. The motion passed unanimously.

49

50 There was a benediction by elder Andy Sharp. John

00024

1 Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:44 p.m., second
2 by John Hanson. Motion passed with unanimous vote.

3
4 CHAIRMAN NICK: Thank you, Willard. Is
5 there any comments? Mary.

6
7 MS. GREGORY: Under State proposals number
8 3, 12 and 15, are they talking about the same thing or two
9 different things? It says referred to Kilbuck Caribou
10 Working Group and it's.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN NICK: Mary, what page is that?

13
14 MS. GREGORY: On page 11. One says 38, the
15 other one doesn't refer to any number.

16
17 CHAIRMAN NICK: Can you restate your
18 question, Mary?

19
20 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik) on 12 and 13 (In
21 Yup'ik)

22
23 INTERPRETER: Kilbuck Working Group.

24
25 MR. J. ANDREW: They referred to the same
26 group, they're two different proposals.

27
28 MS. GREGORY: Okay. Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN NICK: Okay. Any other questions
31 or -- to the minutes? Mary.

32
33 MS. GREGORY: When Ida Alexie comes back
34 and does her report, we'd like to ask her about the rod and
35 reel use for subsistence purposes.

36
37 CHAIRMAN NICK: Right.

38
39 MS. GREGORY: Okay?

40
41 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah, I made a note.

42
43 MS. GREGORY: Thank you. (In Yup'ik)

44
45 CHAIRMAN NICK: If there's no questions,
46 the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the minutes.

47
48 MS. GREGORY: I move that we adopt the
49 minutes with the corrections.

50

00025

1 CHAIRMAN NICK: We have a motion by Mary to
2 adopt the October 12, 13, 14 Regional Advisory Council
3 minutes with corrections.

4
5 MR. HANSON: Second.

6
7 CHAIRMAN NICK: Second by Mr. Hanson.
8 Discussion?

9
10 (No audible responses)

11
12 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Question.

13
14 CHAIRMAN NICK: Question's been called.
15 All those in favor say aye.

16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18
19 CHAIRMAN NICK: Those opposed?

20
21 (No opposing responses)

22
23 CHAIRMAN NICK: Motion carries.

24
25 Before we take a break, I'd like to just make one
26 comment. As Vice-Chair, you know and then Chair at this
27 meeting, I think even though the minutes seemed long, I
28 think it is proper to read them, because reading of the
29 minutes reminds us of why we are here. And reminds of
30 actions that we did at the last meeting that we need to
31 follow-up or review. So I think even though it takes a
32 little time we need to read the minutes in their entirety
33 and approve them. And in reading these minutes there are a
34 number of items that we need to probably revisit with the
35 State people and the Federal people during the course of
36 the meeting.

37
38 (In Yup'ik)

39
40 INTERPRETER: He's just repeating what he
41 in the book. The Chairman is interpreting his own comment.

42
43 If anybody wants to make public testimony we will
44 do so after the break. Even though we are a little ahead
45 of our schedule we have a lot of work to do. If you have
46 anything to say concerning the proposal or subsistence or
47 if you have anything you can talk to anyone of us. You can
48 use these forms to make the testimony, even if you don't
49 fill any of these papers out you can do so. When you're
50 called, will you please come up to this microphone to make

00026

1 your testimony.

2

3 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I notice new
4 guests from the area.

5

6 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

7

8 INTERPRETER: I know that Nicolai Berlin
9 from Nunapitchuk, our elder. John Nicholas from Kasigluk
10 and also we have this man from Kasigluk. Simon Wassilie
11 from Nunapitchuk. (Indiscernible) and he was also helping
12 out at Quinhagak meeting. And from AVCP, Jennifer Hooper.

13

14 Let's take a 10-minute break and we reconvene we'll
15 go into.....

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (On record)

20

21 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

22

23 INTERPRETER: The meeting is called to
24 order.

25

26 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

27

28 INTERPRETER: Bill is requesting that the
29 meeting -- this is the Native -- this is a Native meeting,
30 not a non-Native meeting, so what we're going to is we're
31 going to conduct the meeting in Yup'ik and then be
32 translated into English. For the benefit that are present
33 here I am requesting that the meeting be conducted in
34 Yup'ik only.

35

36 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

37

38 INTERPRETER: But if non-Native presenters
39 are presenting then it will be in English. And I -- it's
40 easier to translate Yup'ik into English because of the
41 terminologies that are hard to translate from English to
42 Yup'ik. And because I'm one of the interpreters I know
43 that this is easier way to translate. And the interpreters
44 will be translating Yup'ik into English.

45

46 Now following the agenda we are going to be dealing
47 with public testimony. If you have any comments or
48 testimony -- if you want to testify you may come to the
49 podium or whatever they call that down there, to give your
50 testimony and please speak louder so that, you know,

00027

1 everyone can hear you.

2

3 MR. J. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

4

5 INTERPRETER: John Andrew, Coordinator for
6 Regional Council. You must remember when you give
7 testimony that the responsibilities of the Regional Council
8 is to deal with subsistence issues. The Regional Council's
9 responsibility is not to deal with sport and commercial
10 issues, only subsistence issues. Any problems that are
11 occurring that relates to subsistence way of life you must
12 present them to the Council.

13

14 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

15

16 INTERPRETER: And now the Chair is opening
17 the testimony for anyone to give testimony. And when they
18 speak do not speak too far from the microphone because it
19 will be easier for the recorder to record your testimony
20 and it'll be easier to hear as well.

21

22 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

23

24 INTERPRETER: Phillip Moses said that I am
25 very glad that this meeting is going to be conducted in
26 Yup'ik because I'm one of the elders who only speaks Yup'ik
27 and I'm very glad this is going to happen.

28

29 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

30

31 INTERPRETER: Thank you, Phillip.
32 Beginning with the testimonies, Teddy Brink will give
33 testimony.

34

35 MR. BRINK: (In Yup'ik)

36

37 INTERPRETER: Good morning. I introduce
38 myself, my name is Teddy Brink, I'm from the village of
39 Kasigluk. It's close enough even to walk to, but because I
40 can't walk I came over by snowmachine. I did not sleep too
41 well last night because I was thinking about contributing
42 something toward the subsistence issues.

43

44 I'm not going to speak anything different, but
45 about the middle of February or maybe a little later than
46 that one of the calls I answered it was from AVCP in
47 Bethel. The person who called me encouraged me to go ahead
48 and attend the Regional Council meeting in Nunapitchuk. I
49 take it back, I misinterpret that. He said that the call
50 was from AVCP and what the person who called him was to let

00028

1 him go with the group that are going down to Washington,
2 D.C. and the person told him to be ready to travel. And
3 his response was that he's ready to go anytime.

4
5 The winter that we just experienced this winter is
6 a different winter than any other winters that we've had.
7 It's true that winter seasons are never same, but this year
8 it's different. And you all know what we experienced in
9 the old days and also this winter.

10
11 I'm excited about what we're going to be doing or
12 traveling to. What they told me is we will be overnighing
13 in Anchorage and then taking non-stop flight down to
14 Washington, D.C. I was a little afraid of traveling that
15 length of time without stopping anywhere and they told me
16 that we're going to be holding a meeting the following
17 morning without very much sleep on arrival in Washington,
18 D.C. Even I was a little worried about that, I want to
19 travel with the group.

20
21 We traveled to D.C. and upon arrival they checked
22 us into a hotel. They told us to go ahead and eat
23 something and then rest for a while. After we rest for a
24 while we will go on with the meeting with the people that
25 we traveled to meet with in Washington, D.C. When people
26 began to wake up, I got up myself. Those people told me
27 that we're going to be talking about subsistence issues.
28 And the people that brought me down to D.C. told me to go
29 ahead and try to do the best I can to talk about the
30 subsistence way of life.

31
32 When I speak, I don't speak very softly. If I get
33 too loud you tell me, remind me, because when I speak I get
34 louder and louder, that's the way I speak. We traveled
35 upon arrival and when we wake up I got out of bed. One of
36 the group members made a call, he looked at me and he said
37 we're not going to be speakers. I was very disappointed
38 because I prepared for that meetings, I was very, very
39 disappointed. And the group members told me that the only
40 representative that will be allowed to testify will be a
41 representative from Toksook Bay for 10 minutes only.

42
43 After we drink our coffee we went to museum and
44 then we had a meeting in the museum. It was a very big
45 building. The meeting place was more or less like a
46 theatrical setting and it was set up like a theater. They
47 told us we're not going to speak, not even a word, even if
48 we want to say something we will remain silent, no matter
49 what things we might want to bring up at that time. And
50 because when I prepared for our trip, the person called me

00029

1 told me I must be prepared to speak on the issues that I
2 wanted to say. And during that meeting or during that
3 gathering they told me that we are not to speak a word or
4 else we might be kicked out.

5
6 The place was full of people. When it was his
7 time, Senator Ted Stevens and then he talked about
8 subsistence, he went to podium and then when he was
9 speaking he talked about subsistence. He took and played
10 with the microphone and maybe third time or maybe fourth
11 time he talked about subsistence. And then he said (In
12 Yup'ik)

13
14 MR. BRINK:subsistence is only
15 keeping people alive. That's all the presentation from
16 Stevens. Subsistence presentation is over. (In Yup'ik)
17 Because I know subsistence goes far beyond keeping people
18 alive. (In Yup'ik)

19
20 INTERPRETER: He never speak anything other
21 than that. He talked about issues that we don't care to
22 listen to. I didn't gain anything from Senator Stevens,
23 anything that will give me strength. That's the extent of
24 that meeting.

25
26 But the other presenters were expressing their
27 concerns about subsistence. And one of the representors
28 from Akiak gave his strong concerns about the subsistence
29 issue. While I was sitting and listening there was another
30 presenter, President Clinton was one of the speakers. Then
31 everyone was there and give their presentation and I was
32 thinking maybe President Clinton is going to be speaking.
33 And then the announcer said that President Clinton could
34 not be present personally. Then on the screen there was a
35 picture of President Clinton. I was thinking, now what's
36 going to happen?

37
38 He talked about many different things and then he
39 talked about us and he pointed at us. He pointed at the
40 subsistence users. He says it's time for you to do
41 something. Those of you who are subsistence users grasp
42 the issues and deal with it on their own. They must make
43 their own regulations, working together. He told us that.
44 Us and all of you who are sitting there, including myself,
45 and any indigenous people who are here present. He wasn't
46 pointing at the non-Native people, he was pointing at the
47 Native people. Those of you who are subsistence users must
48 grasp the issues and deal with them on your own.

49
50 Then I felt I gained something to bring back.

00030

1 Something to hold onto when I get back, something that I
2 will not let go of. And I already presented to my
3 community of the Village of Kasigluk, repeatedly mentioned
4 that to the people in the Village of Kasigluk when they had
5 the meeting.

6
7 I'm looking for ways -- a better way to deal with
8 especially Western Alaska, the area where we grew up, where
9 we became aware and grew up. Not only this area, but the
10 Yukon and Kuskokwim people, and some of those are here with
11 us today. When I became aware, we eat the same resources
12 as we are sharing our plate. I'm going to mention what I
13 realize and what I hear. When I became aware, I became
14 aware out in the campsite, they call it a goolukpuk (ph).
15 There's ridges and there's alder wood and also different
16 areas where the campsite is located at and it's still there
17 when we used to camp there. There were two families, my
18 family and my mother sister's children. They have passed
19 on already because they lived a long life.

20
21 My mother's mother, I see her a few times when I
22 play outdoors, it seemed like there was a little piece of
23 bedding on the floor when I come in from playing. One of
24 the times when I came in there was someone sitting up in
25 that place. There was -- there's a little old lady sitting
26 down, her knees were higher than her head because she was
27 so old. She was looking at me and her head was in between
28 her legs because as she was so old she was sitting down.
29 The following summer she passed away, I didn't know what
30 happened. And when I became aware again they had already
31 buried her. That old lady when were staying at the
32 nunatcho (ph), after I was born, that old lady dealt with
33 my father and says to his son-in-law that my father's
34 mother-in-law told my father, look, you will have to teach
35 your children, your sons and your daughters how to harvest
36 the blackfish. And when I became aware we were moving from
37 our camp to another camp.

38
39 You know, we had a sail boat as we were moving,
40 sometimes I could notice that part of the sail would be
41 dragging in the water while we were traveling. I noticed
42 that we already set up a camp and we set up a tent and then
43 my father told us that this is going to be our camp. This
44 is a creek called Oogulukpuk (ph). And then I grew up in
45 that place, in that camp. I became a person who does
46 chores, packing water, taking care of human refuse, just
47 dumping them in the appropriate places.

48
49 When I became aware about this time of the year
50 there would be a lot of strangers, they would bring all

00031

1 kinds of meat, seal oil, even some seals. My father and my
2 mother when they unload, what they would do is they would
3 receive their gifts from those strangers and then in-turn
4 they would barter with those people, maybe more than what
5 they'd bring with fish, all kinds of fish to bring back to
6 their village.

7
8 I said earlier that when I became aware, we all
9 were eating, we were like eating from one plate as a Native
10 people and the land was like a big plate to us. Sometimes
11 we'd trade food, barter food with other people and give
12 them maybe more than they bring. And today it's still
13 seems -- like yesterday, just before I went to bed I heard
14 someone is hear, someone was making announcement, somebody
15 wanted to barter or trade dried fish to fresh fish. It's
16 still continuing today. Those things that we do from time
17 immemorial is our identification. The non-Native people
18 don't know how to share and when we first started to tell
19 visitors, people who are non-Natives, we used to weep
20 because that's not their way of life.

21
22 I don't want to say too much, but I wanted to bring
23 that. Something that's not true is what I mentioned
24 earlier that -- what President Clinton mentioned on the
25 screen or what was mentioned to us, that the subsistence
26 way of life is the only thing that keeps the indigenous
27 people alive. That's not true. We are sharing fish and
28 wildlife resources as our ancestors has done before. I
29 don't hunt anymore, and I never hunt anything. I never
30 harvest anything. My freezer is still full because people
31 share with me and sometime my freezer is so full it cannot
32 close, no matter what day it is, sometime even a whole
33 caribou would be brought in or other resources would be
34 brought in. This is the way we live. We continue to share
35 what we harvest.

36
37 Considering all of that, we must manage our own
38 resources. We have people who are supporting us in this
39 area. If we are making some mistakes, in one way or
40 another, there are people who are ready to assist us.
41 Utilizing all of their assistance or the assistance of
42 these people we must manage our own fish and wildlife
43 resources. I don't want to say too many things because I
44 said so much already.

45
46 I think you for giving me time. And if you do what
47 you're supposed to be doing as you sit down on this
48 Council, listen to us people, we could be continuing our
49 Native way of life and managing our fish and wildlife
50 resources.

00032

1 But Senator Stevens, even through, you know, he's
2 doing lot of things, one of the things that he brought to
3 this area is the hovercraft operation. He's not helping us
4 in this area. Even though we express our feelings of
5 opposition regarding the hovercraft operations, what I hear
6 is that they are doing more and more planning on the
7 hovercraft operation, even to run that as a charter
8 service. And what they're planning to do, from what I
9 hear, is they're going to bring more services and increase
10 their airfares for transportation for freight and for other
11 things. And because it's hurting a lot of resources, like
12 fish and wildlife -- when I think it's only harming a lot
13 of fish and wildlife resources. Take example of my boat,
14 when it rips apart or when it cracks I would hire someone
15 to weld it, but then if it's beyond repair it would sink,
16 my boat would sink.

17
18 Take example of the changes that we have, we have
19 aluminum boats lined up, maybe not only in Kasigluk. One
20 long stretch is full of aluminum boats. We probably will
21 not build anymore plywood boats or wooden boats anymore.
22 Sometime we notice in the rough waters is these aluminum
23 boats would be swamped because of the hovercraft operation.

24
25 I thank you very much for this time. I don't want
26 to take up your time all day. I thank you very much. This
27 is all I have to say. Thank you for giving me the
28 opportunity to speak.

29
30 (Applause)

31
32 CHAIRMAN NICK: Quyana. (In Yup'ik)

33
34 INTERPRETER: Thank you, Teddy. And Billy
35 McCann.

36
37 MR. McCANN: I went out with Mr. Brink to
38 Washington, D.C. and I was watching everything and we were
39 given a chance to talk, but not enough. And we still got a
40 lot of work to do on the issue of subsistence and we need
41 to work on it. At this time we only know that a lot of
42 young people are going and I wish other people could go to
43 our elders to work with them to come up with some things
44 that we could follow. I was going to come up with a
45 recommendation that could handled by our people. We should
46 not look at way our ancestors handled the situation, we
47 need to keep our unity together by sharing what's provided.

48
49 We have -- if something goes wrong with our
50 subsistence items, we can't blame anybody but ourselves.

00033

1 We have to be strong and be consistent in handling our
2 subsistence way of life and put everything on the paper.
3 We need to come up with a guideline that can be followed by
4 our young people.

5
6 CHAIRMAN NICK: Quyana, Billy. Teddy,
7 quyana, too. (In Yup'ik)

8
9 INTERPRETER: And I would like to thank
10 you, Teddy, for bringing up those very important issues.
11 Since I started working with this group here some of these
12 important things I saw pop up on surface. So some of those
13 pacifists have made it (indiscernible). And when anyone
14 makes a proposal, make sure you ask for approval for
15 customary trade.

16
17 When we bring back the past, we want to, you know,
18 what the purpose -- but you didn't go off the track, you
19 were right on the button there, stayed on the subject and
20 we have no choice but to agree with your statements. This
21 customary trade is an important part of a the proposal when
22 it's being presented.

23
24 We want to thank you for all those items and the
25 subject of hovercraft has been brought up and you are not
26 kidding in stating that they (indiscernible) on the post
27 that are parked on the bank. We also put it on the agenda
28 and we will discuss that further in detail.

29
30 Any other questions, comments? John.

31
32 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
33 Yeah, Teddy, (In Yup'ik)

34
35 INTERPRETER: I want to thank Teddy because
36 you were hitting the nail on the head, you know. If I was
37 thinking about those things. When I was on the State Board
38 of Game for two years, the Game Board situations -- on the
39 State Board of Fisheries and when we come up with these
40 issues we were always opposed by Fish and Game experts.
41 Every time we would come up with something we would come to
42 an obstacle, just like a wall. But this Board here has the
43 potential to carry on with our traditional practices.

44
45 And sometimes I communicate with our Chairman,
46 Mr. Harry Wilde, and so one day he asked me to join this
47 group, so I thought I could more and so here I am. After
48 filling out the papers I joined this group and I'm offering
49 this group a lot more potential to help the Natives and we
50 are working to that area. And we are not here to change

00034

1 and do our rules what our elders did. And sometimes I ask
2 when we come up with a proposal are those same experts
3 going to stand up against us, and they say, no.

4
5 And I asked them if the State Board would interfere
6 with the traditions of this group and the answer I usually
7 get is no. We are working as a group, recognized by the
8 Federal government and we have to put emphasis on the
9 practices of our ancestors. And we have to be very careful
10 in what we do and we have to value our traditional
11 practices and utilize them.

12
13 I thank you very much for bringing this up.

14
15 CHAIRMAN NICK: Quyana, John. Moses White,
16 Senior.

17
18 INTERPRETER: And next in line Moses White,
19 Senior. Before Moses White, Myron Naneng. President of
20 AVCP has joined us. Thank you for coming.

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

23
24 INTERPRETER: I'm from Kasigluk and I'm
25 Moses White. Kasigluk shareholders have sent me over here
26 as a representative. The subject of subsistence is not
27 new. When everything started this subsistence issue is
28 always surfaces, it seems like a never ending. When I went
29 to Nelson Island to get some subsistence animals. And he
30 said, addressing Mr. Hanson, when you were in the Fish
31 Board sometimes you used to have a hard time, a lot of
32 opposition that you ran into. And I observed your regs and
33 when you were trying to come up with an issue on
34 subsistence, you would support them but you wouldn't have
35 support from the Board of Fisheries.

36
37 But right now you have an opportunity to utilize
38 your ideas to make them work and that's the way we can do
39 more to help the subsistence users. And it's been stated
40 before that the ocean is our home. It contains food and
41 the land is just like our table. And when this subsistence
42 comes up it's not easy to convince some people that don't
43 understand us that we use subsistence. And it sometimes it
44 takes work and a lot of explaining. And when a person has
45 nothing in his stomach he can't function too well. A
46 person is -- with an empty stomach for three days, the
47 person will start -- his stomach will start hurting. More
48 than once I have experienced that, more than three days
49 without food. There's no comparison of the heart, of the
50 suffering, the pain that a person experiences without food.

00035

1 Sometimes when I go out and I'm out of food and I will be
2 out without food for three days.

3
4 Right now your job right now is a very important
5 piece of work, which is subsistence. You must rely on the
6 elders' advice before you come up with an (indiscernible)
7 you need to listen to your elders and to work with them
8 closely. Right now I have heard up the Yukon and Kuskokwim
9 wolves are increasing. I went, along with other people, up
10 river. When we were traveling we found some dead moose
11 that were ganged upon by wolves and we know and we've seen
12 it with our own eyes that the wolves are killing off some
13 moose. And we are worried that some of these wolves might
14 be rabies carriers and maybe sometimes if they wound the
15 moose maybe they will pass that germ onto the fish and
16 wildlife. But when we catch something, we don't leave it
17 outside, we take everything back home. And when catch fish
18 we bring it back.

19
20 Now, when I'm told to go and tell about those
21 advisory meetings, I would go and represent my people. And
22 we know that Fish and Game takes some fish with
23 (indiscernible - translator too soft) and when we come up
24 with a proposal to Fish and Game, we would come up with a
25 proposal, but those proposals are thrown out, they end up
26 in trash. But with you we have high hopes with you people
27 that you will be stronger and you are doing the right thing
28 moving from village to village to hold your meetings. And
29 make sure that others proposals carry through and pull
30 through instead of being ending up in trash.

31
32 And whenever people are coming to talk to you or
33 testify, please be sure to study and hear and study these
34 proposals. If it's not going to hurt the game and the
35 people, then go ahead and support and pass these proposals.

36
37 I don't want to take up your time, that's all I
38 have.

39
40 CHAIRMAN NICK: Quyana, Moses. (In Yup'ik)

41
42 INTERPRETER: You were right, and when we
43 are in a group like this -- and sometimes when we have
44 (indiscernible - translator too soft) to get what's
45 important, but thank you for reminding us that some of
46 these things are important and to study and look carefully
47 what's being presented. And when we get together and they
48 come up with a proposal those testimonies are very
49 important in helping us come up with a good proposals. And
50 these kinds of talks are good reminders of us to refresh

00036

1 our minds on what we're supposed to be doing. And we have
2 to be very careful in how we handle and deal with different
3 issues.

4
5 And we have the AFN Convention and AVCP Convention,
6 this is your subsistence (indiscernible - translator too
7 soft) to stand out. And we understand the importance of
8 this issue, specifically we had the workshop in January.
9 At that time it was really given to us and laid before us
10 how this -- how important this issue is. And we are the
11 users and some people are against, you know, this Katie
12 John was opposed by the State, but we discussed this in
13 detail and then they were united, but we are going to go
14 forward and the State issue don't stop this subsistence
15 issue. President Clinton and Secretary Babbitt are behind
16 us and, therefore, we shouldn't have any problem in
17 handling these testimonies and proposals so that wouldn't
18 be (indiscernible - translator too soft) our job is, and I
19 want to thank you for that.

20
21 Next person is John.

22
23 MR. NICHOLAS: (In Yup'ik)

24
25 INTERPRETER: My name is John Nicholas from
26 the Village of Kasigluk, and also I was recently elected to
27 the position of Chief in the village. And I came forward
28 and I notice in the agenda there's an agenda item that's
29 similar to the concern that I have.

30
31 What I think now is if the village representatives
32 give their support to the Regional Advisory Council that
33 would be very good. Many of the village representatives
34 are not here to give their testimony or to help toward the
35 efforts of the Regional Council, but if the village people
36 give their support to the Regional Advisory Council members
37 we will be strong in efforts.

38
39 And something that I wanted to say happens to be
40 one of the agenda items and I will say something when it
41 comes to that. But what I wanted to say is that we must
42 work with one mind and we must support out -- we must show
43 our support to the Regional Council members so they will be
44 strong in their efforts to deal with the issues that come
45 to the table.

46
47 And among other issues are dealing with the issue
48 on beaver. And I've been listening as to what's going to
49 happen with respect to the beaver issue. And I haven't
50 heard to date, and a lot of us don't have a very good

00037

1 understanding as to what the -- how the issue of beaver is
2 being dealt with. And the beaver issue is, you know, a big
3 problem because it's affecting a lot of fish and wildlife,
4 especially fish, and we should do something about it
5 because beaver is much like the Native people who are going
6 forward to do whatever they want to, but we must deal with
7 it -- we should do something about a prize or how to deal
8 with it. And especially this winter around our surrounding
9 villages and the surrounding the tundra villages there are
10 a lot more beaver. And because of that we need to do
11 something about it.

12
13 Another thing that I wanted to bring is that the
14 hovercraft problem, I wanted to bring that up. I will say
15 something when it comes to that agenda item. I will seek
16 your help on that issue.

17
18 And other things that I hear is that the problem
19 with moose being killed by the wolves and that's because
20 that's my subsistence resource I have concerns about that.
21 And there are many other things that I wanted to hear. And
22 also how we're going to be dealing with the beaver issue.

23
24 And I thank you for your time.

25
26 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah, quyana, John. (In
27 Yup'ik)

28
29 INTERPRETER: Robert was explaining to
30 Council members that John Nicholas' concern is also
31 relating to hovercraft and in the agenda as an agenda
32 topic. And some of the questions or concerns that were
33 brought up I will let our coordinator respond to that. And
34 last time when we had the IRA meeting here in Bethel,
35 something caught our attention and there was village police
36 holding something. And when we noticed that police officer
37 was clubbing something and it so happened it was a beaver
38 walking into a village. That's one of the concerns.

39
40 MR. J. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

41
42 INTERPRETER: John Andrew explained that in
43 Quinhagak last year when the Regional Council mentioned
44 that they were dealing with the beaver issue. And also the
45 beaver issue proposal will be dealt with and it came from
46 Togiak. And it's on the agenda item as a proposal, so we
47 will be dealing with that when they're considering the
48 proposals they will deal with the beaver issue.

49
50 CHAIRMAN NICK: Quyana, John. (In Yup'ik)

00038

1 INTERPRETER: Thank you, John.

2
3 Do you have a comment, John?

4
5 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (In
6 Yup'ik)

7
8 INTERPRETER: We don't have any
9 responsibility for dealing with the price of a beaver pelt.
10 We don't have any authority to deal with the price of any
11 fur pelts. It's only those people who are the fur buyers
12 that can set the price of any pelts. That beaver issue was
13 brought to the attention of the Regional Council last year,
14 but then we're stuck with working with the Game Board.

15
16 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah, quyana, John. (In
17 Yup'ik)

18
19 INTERPRETER: Thank you, John. Charlie
20 Burkey from ADF&G and also Ida Alexie from ADF&G probably
21 will be giving their report on the issue that was brought
22 to us.

23
24 Ivan Wassillie is going to give a testimony.

25
26 MR. WASSILLIE: (In Yup'ik)

27
28 INTERPRETER: I thank you for coming here
29 to meet in the Village of Nunapitchuk to deal with the
30 subsistence resources. My name is Ivan Wassillie, I'm a
31 resident of Nunapitchuk and also member of the City Council
32 and a village corporation board member and local advisory
33 school board chairperson. I thank you for dealing with the
34 fish and wildlife subsistence resources because you will
35 fight for us. And using your authority you deal with these
36 issues.

37
38 Those of us who are from communities we continue
39 harvesting fish and wildlife resources to feed our
40 families, and especially the issue on beaver. About 1950,
41 after I graduated from school, I helped my father what he
42 trap. I never used to see any beaver at all in this area.
43 There was only three beaver lodges around near Nelson
44 Island, somewhere in the area of Chufortalika (ph) and then
45 in one of the drainage there were only three beaver lodges
46 that I know of, all that time when I used to go out and
47 trap.

48
49 But nowadays, when we look from here to there,
50 there's a beaver lodge and there's one across airport and I

00039

1 could notice one of the other beaver lodges from my house.
2 Nowadays, there are too many beavers, they're damaging the
3 fish habitat because they're damaging fish habitat [sic].
4 A long time ago there used to be a lot of whitefish in this
5 area and because the whitefish used to go up to the lakes
6 and spawn there, but nowadays there are too many beaver
7 dams and that's damaging a lot of our fish resources in the
8 tundra villages. And because I used to travel or do a lot
9 of subsistence activity, I used to go subsistence hunting
10 and fishing, you know, even among, you know, ice, because
11 we have metal boots nowadays.

12
13 I used to notice in springtime there used to be a
14 lot of whitefish migrating into spawning areas, but
15 nowadays I see a dam, beaver dam, and I could see a high
16 water level on the other side of the -- but I noticed that
17 below those beaver dams there are a lot of whitefish that
18 are trying to migrate back up to the spawning areas and you
19 could notice that, you know, those fish are having problems
20 getting to the spawning area and some of them are even
21 dead. You know, what we should do is we should try to
22 continue with our subsistence way of life. And what you
23 should do as Council members is to work toward that.

24
25 And the issue about wolves. Nowadays there are
26 increasing numbers of wolves in the area and they even
27 harvest -- some around the tundra villages, since last
28 year, we never used to hear about any wolves in the area,
29 but a long time ago when there used to be a lot of reindeer
30 there used to a lot of wolves. But now the caucasian
31 people are fighting against the predator control of wolves.
32 But we must remember the wolves are killing off the
33 resources, such as moose, caribou and other resources.
34 What we must consider nowadays is that, you know, we should
35 take control of that issue because what's happening
36 nowadays is those wolves are stealing the fish and wildlife
37 resources from our children who will have an harvest those
38 fish and wildlife resources in the future.

39
40 Those of us who are a little older than these
41 children nowadays, our parents never used to say that we're
42 going to hunt this or we're going to hunt that, they just
43 went out to the country and harvest what they can. And
44 what the rule of the success of the hunter and fishermen is
45 that know, by any chance they would harvest whatever they
46 could, you know, from out in the field. And the elders
47 used to give advice to younger generation that they should
48 learn to harvest whatever they can from the land and from
49 the waters. And what, nowadays, non-Native groups are
50 beginning to fight against the subsistence ways of life and

00040

1 to deal with the subsistence issues. Because of that the
2 Regional Council must fight for us.

3
4 And there was a Legislature proposal, it was called
5 Ballot Measure Number 4, beginning from that on, there was
6 a fight against subsistence ways of life for the rural
7 people. And we, you know, we fought back because of that.
8 And at one point or another we hear, also, the caucasian
9 people wanted use to speak only the English language
10 because, you know, that's how they wanted to see everyone
11 speak in the state of Alaska. And what's going to happen
12 is if everything be controlled as such, like if children
13 cannot speak their own dialect or Native dialect, elders
14 won't be able to counsel any more their grandchildren or
15 children in village regarding the ways of Native way of
16 life.

17
18 What caucasian people has done in the past is that
19 they're against our ways of life. But we continue
20 fighting. We continue fighting against that and they also
21 continue fighting against us also. Let's take an example
22 of the legislative action that took place not too long ago.
23 They set aside a lot of money to fight against the
24 subsistence way of life. The Katie John case appeal and
25 we're going to be fighting amongst others and those. And
26 that's not the way we live as indigenous people, we don't
27 fight, you know, that's not the way Native people grew up.
28 And because, you know, some of us are enrolled as
29 shareholders of the Native corporations and -- but then
30 what about our children, are they caucasian people? No,
31 they will never become caucasian people.

32
33 And look at our children, they go to school and get
34 their education. You know, the advice that are given to
35 our children is this, you must make all efforts to finish
36 your education and get your diploma. And then the promise
37 is given to our children that each person or each and every
38 student that graduate from high school will be able to get
39 a job. That's not so. And it actually is not so, many
40 times, because a lot of people cannot get jobs. And if
41 they graduate from high school and get their diploma or
42 complete their education what good is the education if they
43 don't know how to harvest the subsistence resources that's
44 important for them to survive?

45
46 And look at the hovercraft issue. Those of us who
47 are here, we fight against the hovercraft. They damage and
48 harm a lot of area and also cause some harm to fish fries
49 that might -- that supposedly will come back to this area.
50 And it also damages the boots of the ducks and geese or any

00041

1 other waterfowl. These are many, many examples that we can
2 take. The caucasian people looked at us and put us down
3 and tell us that, you know, we don't know anything about
4 the way to manage our own things, and tell us, you know,
5 that we don't know anything, we don't know how to manage
6 things.

7
8 But, you know, the tool they use -- you know, they
9 have technologist to work with, you know, they know how to
10 deal with these issues, but that does not help toward our
11 way of life, you know, we need to deal with these issues
12 and also we need to show what we need to -- you know, how
13 we should work.

14
15 Taking example of many things, you know, like the
16 routes of hovercraft operations -- because there are no
17 more whitefish in this area, people from the tundra
18 villages are beginning to harvest whitefish from elsewhere
19 because wherever the routes of the whitefish species that
20 are important to tundra villages are not there anymore, we
21 go elsewhere to harvest our whitefish. And take a look at
22 the Kuskokwim fishery, when subsistence fishing is closed
23 in Kuskokwim River we cannot harvest anything for
24 subsistence in the Kuskokwim River.

25
26 Some other things I didn't catch, but I don't want
27 to take too much of your time, I don't want to make my
28 presentation too long. Now, I thank all of you to be
29 giving us this time and hearing us out on these things.

30
31 (Applause)

32
33 CHAIRMAN NICK: Quyana, Ivan. (In Yup'ik)

34
35 INTERPRETER: Thank you, Ivan. We started
36 hearing these testimonies. We have heard that this area
37 has been neglected. We know that hovercraft are affecting
38 the run of the fish and other wild animals, but those
39 things that you mentioned are our agenda, so please to
40 stick with what's being done. And when we talk about
41 certain items on the agenda and if you have anything to say
42 on the particular subject that's being talked about you're
43 more than welcome to talk about what's being said about the
44 certain item on the agenda.

45
46 Next speaker is Joshua Cleveland.

47
48 MR. CLEVELAND: (In Yup'ik)

49
50 INTERPRETER: I am from Quinhagak, my name

00042

1 is Joshua Cleveland and I am here. I didn't expect to be
2 here, but -- and my village has given me something to say
3 to this group here. I will take it first. This is in our
4 form that's done by my community. And it comes from
5 Natural Resource Department. This was done by one of our
6 (indiscernible - translator too soft) but this is backed
7 and supported by the Council.

8
9 What I have to say has been said by the people
10 before me, but I'm going to go ahead and present it to you
11 because it comes from my community. This organization
12 called by the our Council has got a very important role in
13 our community and since it's got power and recognized.
14 Ever since it started being an IRA Council, and it's being
15 used by the community to deal and communicate with the
16 Federal government. And through this organization, you
17 know, we are told to be ourselves and we have to take care
18 of things as ourselves as recognized by the Federal
19 government.

20
21 And I'm using this power I would have to use it as
22 a tool to help our people of our village. And we were
23 having problems with the regular -- because of too many
24 outsiders utilizing and meeting on this side of the river
25 and it's not secret that it's been talked about and it's
26 been in newspapers, but then using the power of the IRA we
27 wanted to bring this to your attention to prevent other
28 possibilities of outside activities.

29
30 There are another group, city council, but it's not
31 like the IRA Council, but even though they are not the IRA
32 Council they are working very closely together to help each
33 other out. We have understood and trying to lift something
34 up out of bad effects of outside interference in our area.
35 And sometimes these kinds of activities are not good for
36 both sides -- fix and builders. We do not understand
37 people coming from outside and helping themselves with the
38 river. And outsiders don't understand why we have to
39 prevent them from using the river, our river, whatever they
40 want.

41
42 But since it's connected with subsistence, this
43 needs to be brought to your attention. And it seems like
44 those uninvited outsiders are helping themselves with our
45 river and it affecting us and those outsiders are crowding
46 us. I know you feel the same way as we do because you are
47 Native people who use subsistence. This has been bothered
48 by someone or some organizations from outside, I know you
49 wouldn't like it and that's how we feel in Quinhagak. We
50 need to have the abundance of our resource to be utilized

00043

1 by our community, but those people that are playing with
2 our subsistence -- the resource, it's not good for our
3 community.

4
5 We have to do something about this activity because
6 this fish is utilized by the community and our elders and
7 it would be used by our young people, everybody is being
8 affected by this activity, even those who tend to go out
9 and help themselves. Those people come during the
10 summertime and they disappear during the winter. And so,
11 therefore, even during the summer and even during the
12 winter, these kinds of activities should be prevented,
13 because this subsistence fisheries belong to the Native
14 people. This is what the IRA Council came up with and
15 these unwanted activities must be stopped by local people.
16 If we leave it to somebody else our problems will go on,
17 they will not be resolved. If something that will go
18 right, it is up to us to correct our situation to help our
19 people.

20
21 And sometimes some of our -- even our people are
22 being affected by western practices. They will not do
23 anything, any kind of work, they will not volunteer, they
24 will only work for money. We have hired one person to work
25 for us and we know how much he makes and we use him to help
26 the community to prevent some of these unwanted activities.

27
28 In village where the (indiscernible - translator
29 too soft) is quite large I didn't bring all of it, but I
30 just pointed out to you the outstanding parts of their
31 resolution in hopes that something will be done and you
32 people might be able to help us because this pertains to
33 our subsistence, even though the Fish and Wildlife its
34 responsibility is our area, but we shouldn't depend on
35 them, we should -- our subsistence resources are being
36 interfered with by outsiders, we should do something to
37 correct that. Any kind of subsistence resources, it's up to
38 us to look after what's (indiscernible - translator too
39 soft)

40
41 And some of the game is being hurt and some
42 unwanted activities are being taken place, even when we
43 take these problems to the, so-called, right people, they
44 don't do anything to prevent it. And this will go on, and
45 this -- we get together, put our minds together and work
46 together to prevent these kinds of activities. I using
47 this river in my home town because it's been a big problem,
48 you have to know resources in our area. And from time
49 immemorial we've been using this river for survival, but
50 the outside interference has been affecting our way of

00044

1 subsistence life. And if we don't do anything to prevent
2 this activity, it's going to get worse and it's not going
3 to be good for our community. And we don't want any more
4 outside interference on those subsistence resources.

5
6 And this book pertaining to subsistence regulations
7 has been finished and this report or something, subsistence
8 regulation, they are all not done by us and we don't know
9 what's in this booklet, but it is going to be used against
10 us if we don't watch what we're doing. We have to know
11 what's in these booklets, things that we have to follow and
12 everybody should be aware of what's in this booklet. Some
13 people do not follow this book or, you know (indiscernible
14 - translator too soft) activities, but then later on it
15 will be explained to us and we will get into trouble and
16 so, therefore, we have to be very careful when we come up
17 proposals and get our heads together and to work for the
18 good of the people in subsistence uses. Because of this --
19 some of these proposals which will not be utilized by some
20 of us, some of these subjects are not to our standards and,
21 therefore, my village has come up with this resolution.

22
23 Any of those things that are coming to our area, to
24 our children, we have come up with this resolution. I
25 think this resolution could be utilize as an instrument in
26 correcting some of these things that have happened in the
27 past. And so we look to get more funding to hire someone
28 to work in that direction. And when you are discussing
29 this resolution if there's anything that we missed you are
30 more than welcomed to fix it and come up with better ideas,
31 you may do so. And this resolution is going to give to you
32 and if you think this resolution is in the right direction,
33 we would like your support in getting funding towards this
34 issue, if you think this resolution is in the right
35 direction we would like your support in obtaining funds to
36 hire someone to work and take care of this problem. We
37 hope to receive your support.

38
39 MR. CLEVELAND: Quyana.

40
41 CHAIRMAN NICK: Quyana, Joshua. (In
42 Yup'ik)

43
44 INTERPRETER: I'd like to ask this group if
45 they have any -- when we come to proposals, so we'd like to
46 bring this resolution back up for further discussion. If
47 you think it's okay then we will discuss this in further
48 detail when we come to resolutions. This will be brought
49 up again during our proposals, this resolution will be
50 discussed further. We will discuss this later.

00045

1 CHAIRMAN NICK: Myron.

2

3 INTERPRETER: Myron Nageng from AVCP is
4 going to be giving testimony to the Regional Council.

5

6 Robert explained to the audience that the Regional
7 Advisory Council are advisory to the Federal Subsistence
8 Board. He said that their actions are based on the
9 directions from the subsistence users and because of the
10 Federal takeover of fisheries, the Secretary of the
11 Interior -- after the takeover by Federal subsistence
12 management of fisheries, Secretary Babbitt made available
13 approximately \$6,000,000 to do the studies on the fishery
14 resources. And part of that study is to do a study on
15 rainbow trout in the Kanektok River and AVCP is also doing
16 some research on some of these issues that were brought up
17 and it maybe included in Myron's report.

18

19 MR. NANENG: Quyana, Mr. Chairman. (In
20 Yup'ik)

21

22 INTERPRETER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
23 thank you for those of you who are members of the
24 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council for inviting me to
25 this meeting. My name is Chesak (ph) in Yup'ik and my
26 caucasian name is Myron Naneng, AVCP President. There are
27 two resolutions that are brought to the attention to the
28 Regional Advisory Council. Considering the resolutions
29 that were brought up during the subsistence convention in
30 Anchorage in January, especially which has an impact on the
31 fishery issues in Kuskokwim and Yukon area. Those of us
32 who work at the AVCP has to work with the fishery boards
33 and because there's some concerns about declining of
34 fishery in Yukon/Kuskokwim within 10 years those issues
35 were brought up now so under State management on
36 subsistence the there's opportunity to harvest fishery
37 resources on the Tier II program.

38

39 And in the other areas, you know, there's
40 subsistence fisheries also allowed in some of those other
41 areas. And even though they -- you know, because of the
42 declining of fish species, there's been a problem with the
43 subsistence fishery.

44

45 He says the resolution that was brought up in 00-01
46 and 00-02 and that is the reasons why there are declining
47 fish in the Yukon and Kuskokwim delta. The projected
48 return of the fish that returned was supposed to be
49 returning, but there's been more than predicted numbers of
50 fish that returned to the delta. The resolution that was

00046

1 handed out to you, resolution of the Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta
2 Regional Advisory Council on the third whereas the Regional
3 Advisory Council also support building tribal management
4 capacity through using Federal contracting for resource
5 management and research positions with tribes and tribal
6 organization rather than concentrating all these positions
7 under Federal agencies. And this is relating to the
8 decrease of the fishery resources in the Y-K delta. And
9 because of that we have a proposal.

10
11 Before we begin working on the new proposal,
12 instead of filling out the proposal form we went directly
13 to the Fishery Board and talked to those people and that
14 staff, talked those people how and why there's so much
15 decreasing numbers of fish in Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

16
17 In the past we've presented issues on fish and
18 wildlife resources, but those people continually tells us
19 that we are not biologists, we don't know what we're
20 talking about when we bring the problems with fish and
21 wildlife resources to Game Board and Fishery Board, they
22 tell us that. But what we hope that you will do, with the
23 assistance of your staff, we would like for you to do a
24 study on this issue, so that, you know, we will know where
25 we stand. Need to do some research with respect to the
26 decrease of fish population levels in the Yukon/Kuskokwim
27 area and the reasons why they're declining. And that will
28 be brought up again.

29
30 The second report, there was a Memorandum of
31 Agreement between the Subsistence Board and the State
32 dealing with the management of the fish and wildlife
33 resources. Under the Federal government they hired
34 approximately 46 personnel to deal with the subsistence
35 issues. We are asking Regional Advisory Council to give us
36 support on -- you know, support of this resolution. Some
37 of them will be probably shifting from Federal agency to
38 State agency. Our hope is that some of the staff will be
39 contracted to regional associations or Regional Council.
40 Those people, when we bring these issues up, they say we
41 don't have any data relating to these fish and wildlife
42 resource and they tell us that we don't have any knowledge
43 of anything that we talk about. And also we don't have a
44 biologist that knows what they're doing.

45
46 What I feel is that no matter what they do they
47 won't begin to understand the true impacts of all of these
48 problems because, you know, until such times that they
49 begin to work with our own Native people who knows about
50 all of these problems.

00047

1 Under the be it resolved portion of that resolution
2 associations, such as AVCP is included in that and also
3 Federal Advisory Council and Subsistence Board should
4 request that this be contracted to these associations and
5 the fishery study.

6
7 And also under Memorandum of Agreement, therefore
8 be it resolved portion of that agreement there was a draft
9 between those agencies, but any tribal agencies wanted to
10 be included in that. And because of that we would like the
11 Regional Advisory Council to give us support on this, you
12 know, dealing with the Memorandum of Agreement, so that
13 perhaps AVCP and other regional associations may be
14 included in the Memorandum of Agreement.

15
16 Under the -- upon review of the Memorandum of
17 Agreement it says Federal and the State will be managing
18 subsistence resources. And also under Preamble, the second
19 paragraph, whereas State of Alaska, by laws and
20 regulations, its responsibility to manage the resources.
21 Under the third sentence it says, State will manage
22 sustained yield principles -- under sustained -- instead
23 of, more or less.....

24
25 I'm a little confused on that, but he said that
26 considering the Federal takeover of fisheries -- rather
27 subsistence fishery and also the plan for State of Alaska
28 to sue Federal government on that issue. Considering all
29 of these things, I would like your support on these
30 concerns that we have. And we would like to be included
31 under the Memorandum of Agreement between Federal
32 government and also State of Alaska. And if you want to
33 know more about this we will be happy to discuss these
34 issues with you.

35
36 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

37
38 INTERPRETER: Billy McCann from Bethel says
39 that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, sometimes they
40 want to work with us, they want to deal with the resources
41 at times, but sometimes they work against us. Considering
42 that, you know, we cannot proceed -- we can't make things
43 where -- but our responsibility is to conserve fish and
44 wildlife resources so that they won't be decreasing. Some
45 time when we try to work with the State of Alaska agency we
46 begin to fight amongst each other, but the subsistence
47 issues belong to the indigenous people of Alaska. Maybe if
48 I bring one of the biologist up he may not be able to
49 understand what I mean, because I live the way of life,
50 biologists only depend on the piece of paper that taught

00048

1 them the dos and don'ts on the biology field. But Native
2 people who live and depend on the subsistence way of life
3 do know what they're talking about.

4
5 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

6
7 INTERPRETER: And I'd like to support what
8 Billy says. Even though we're not educated with respect to
9 biology, those of us who are ladies, even men, we handle
10 all of the resources and we know all about the biology of
11 these resources. Even though we may not be educated in the
12 field of the biology, we do know what we're talking about,
13 we know what we handle.

14
15 MR. NANENG: (In Yup'ik)

16
17 INTERPRETER: Myron says that considering
18 that they needed support -- that tribal governments, Native
19 organizations should be included under the Memorandum of
20 Agreement -- or to be included on the Memorandum of
21 Agreement.

22
23 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

24
25 INTERPRETER: And Mary says that she
26 concurs with Myron.

27
28 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

29
30 INTERPRETER: Before I recommend -- John,
31 in Quinhagak in October we had talked about staffing plans
32 of Federal takeover and we talked exactly the same thing
33 we're talking about and now we have -- one of my nieces is
34 one of the biologists from AVCP and in Quinhagak we
35 mentioned that it would be proper to have our own Native
36 people to work in the field of biology to -- you know, to
37 know and study all of the fishery -- rather the subsistence
38 resources.

39
40 Perhaps, maybe Taylor Brelsford when he give an
41 update on the subsistence management will be bringing some
42 of this up. And also a Memorandum of Understanding was
43 opposed during that time. We were reviewing that during
44 our training and what we wanted, at least, that was a
45 Memorandum of Agreement. We weren't not in favor of
46 Memorandum of Understanding, we wanted to see a Memorandum
47 of Agreement instead. Perhaps Taylor will be giving us an
48 update on some these, if Harry's not here by then.

49
50 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah, John.

00049

1 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Yeah, Myron (In Yup'ik)

3
4 INTERPRETER: John Hanson from Alakanuk
5 says that, Myron, the Memorandum of Understanding, it's
6 pretty lengthy, it's a pretty thick document. When I was
7 reviewing that it says -- the contents of it wasn't very
8 acceptable. The State of Alaska is against subsistence
9 issues, they don't want anything to do with it. Why?
10 After you gave up on subsistence..... It seems like
11 they're trying to turn it over to the Federal management,
12 why are they doing that? They Natives, the indigenous
13 people, can management subsistence resources.

14
15 The Memorandum of Agreement that was brought up by
16 the Federal, I was not in favor of that. The Federal
17 government says that they're going to begin managing the
18 fish and wildlife resources on the land. When I first
19 became aware, a long, long time ago, the Federal government
20 was managing all the fish and wildlife resources, it's not
21 a new thing. The State's efforts to give support to -- the
22 State wanted to give technical assistance to the Federal
23 government by doing a survey on the fishery resources and
24 that's how I understand that, what State of Alaska wants
25 Federal Government to do is to operate the -- or manage the
26 fishery resources exactly they way they did before.

27
28 He said that at the end of the meeting they're
29 going to be proposing or considering a resolution that will
30 say everything that they do with respect to subsistence way
31 of life will be brought to the attention of the indigenous
32 people first before anyone presents that for consideration
33 to either adopt it or oppose it.

34
35 CHAIRMAN NICK: Quyana, John. Myron.

36
37 MR. NANENG: (In Yup'ik)

38
39 CHAIRMAN NICK:

40
41 INTERPRETER: The next presenter is written
42 as the next presenter, but I think that person has gone
43 home for lunch. And those of you who are guests here the
44 principal told everyone that you're welcomed to go eat at
45 the school about quarter after 12:00 o'clock.

46
47 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

48
49 INTERPRETER: Mary wanted to say something
50 before the recess for lunch. The elders are giving

00050

1 testimony. Sometime the caucasian people don't believe
2 Native people because they think they speak nonsense, but
3 we want to thank the elders. The elders are giving us some
4 wisdom so that we could continue dealing with the issues
5 and also the Council and any of you who are members of the
6 Council if you have any problems the village council can
7 deal with any problems that affect the community.

8
9 And the way to handle some of these are to -- like
10 considering this Council, you may vote on some issues that
11 are brought to the table considering Quinhagak testimony,
12 some of these things that were brought by the
13 representative of Quinhagak community, we need to deal with
14 these things because some of these are problem issues.

15
16 And she does not want this portion to be translated
17 to English.

18
19 CHAIRMAN NICK: Quyana, Mary. (In Yup'ik)

20
21 INTERPRETER: She said off the record. We
22 will consider what Mary said then after lunch. We will
23 reconvene at 1:30, so we'll have enough time for lunch. We
24 are going to have lunch break and then we will reconvene at
25 1:30. Thank you very much for attending this morning and
26 come back in. We will be dealing with the proposals after
27 lunch.

28
29 (Off record)

30
31 (On record)

32
33 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

34
35 INTERPRETER: Call the meeting back to
36 order. This morning before lunch we had public testimony
37 and comments from different people. At 2:30 we will come
38 back to public comments and whoever did not have a chance
39 to address the Board during this time may fill out this
40 form here. At 2:30 we will open, that's for discussion and
41 to address the Board on proposals.

42
43 And now our Chairman has left for Bethel, but he's
44 still down at Bethel, he'll be joining us whenever the
45 transportation could -- while we are waiting for our
46 Chairman on the agenda, item number 9, Chair's report, we
47 will save that section for our Chairman.

48
49 But before anything else, he wants to ask Phillip
50 if he has anything to say about what happened this morning.

00051

1 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

2
3 INTERPRETER: This morning we heard from
4 our elders and I would like to take this opportunity to
5 thank them and you have given this group very great
6 information and help and whatever you said was from the
7 heart, you did not hold a piece of paper in front of you to
8 express your feelings on what you needed to do. The things
9 that happened to us as Yup'iks have been handed down to us
10 from our elders for many years. It's never changed. It
11 has gone on and on for many years. Even our ancestors have
12 used these teachings and it didn't come from them, but
13 these kinds of things have come from way, way back and our
14 ancestors have used it, while using it they have passed on,
15 before they died, they have taught it to the young people.

16
17 Subsistence education was used before it was passed
18 down from generation to generation. It was taught to the
19 young people and it was always emphasized to put a great
20 deal of respect on subsistence items. And the young people
21 were taught right from the start. And listening to the
22 elders talking this morning, those things that were passed
23 on them were repeated and he wants to thank those people
24 that expressed their feelings about subsistence.

25
26 And as I was growing up my father, my brother and
27 my dad they were getting old and they were living a
28 different lifestyle and then my sister and I had to take
29 over in teaching our Native people what was being
30 (indiscernible - translator too soft). And while I was
31 young, as I was growing old enough to get married my father
32 had passed away. Even as young people we were taught how
33 to live a life and even after we get married and raise a
34 family we were told how we could take care of our children.
35 Up to this date, I haven't seen any elders holding piece of
36 paper when they are addressing people. (Indiscernible -
37 translator too soft) elders have said that our world has
38 changed and things happen different and this time we
39 noticed that the weather has changed tremendously.

40
41 And then this morning my father's things were
42 repeated and I believe strongly what was being said this
43 morning because these things were repeated, even though
44 they don't know each other, the sayings are the same. The
45 sayings are not different, even though my dad passed away a
46 long time ago, what he said to me was repeated this
47 morning, especially towards the subsistence. Those
48 subsistence (indiscernible - translator too soft) outsiders
49 are trying to use it. They don't have a use but for us and
50 how we handle our -- and sometimes we are so shown maps and

00052

1 those experts tell us about how the behaviors of different
2 animals. These ones are not from us, these are -- these
3 didn't come from us and these didn't come from our
4 ancestors.

5
6 At times when I am shown these maps, because I
7 don't understand what they are, sometimes it bothers me
8 because our ancestors, even though from different places,
9 their minds were united, subsistence resources were not
10 fought over, they were shared.

11
12 Nowadays, because it seems like outsiders are
13 starting to make noise about our subsistence resources and
14 because of that we are getting uneasy about it because
15 these things didn't come from us, it comes from our
16 ancestors, in those days these things were living in
17 harmony with us. Sometimes it's (indiscernible -
18 translator too soft) different people and sometimes we tell
19 outsiders what we know about the resources, but they don't
20 listen to us. If they could work with us and be on our
21 side the resources might be handled better. That we should
22 not fight over what's out there, we should work together,
23 get our life together and work together and take care of
24 the natural resources. They think we don't know our
25 environment. To him, he thinks that the outsiders don't
26 understand our environment.

27
28 We know what's out there, different types of
29 animals that we have been living with the animals and some
30 are saying that things are changing. Some of the food that
31 used to be available to us is gone, there is some blackfish
32 in some areas that is getting scarce. Over the past years
33 these things are happening and some of the food is getting
34 scarce. Because we are not following what our ancestors
35 teaches, because of those incidents, maybe that's the
36 effect of a -- because we fight over the resources, some of
37 these resources are fading. We should think very
38 seriously, are they wrong or are they right? We should get
39 our minds together and try to take care of the resources.
40 But it hard, he believes that -- he strongly believes that
41 whatever our ancestors did was right and it's right up to
42 this date.

43
44 You young people look tradition, your hearts and
45 ears, and learn these teachings and learn to take care of
46 the resources. That whenever outsiders come up with
47 proposals or they're going to do something they should
48 inform us and let us know what they are doing. If we work
49 together, get our minds together, keep the open
50 communication, things go right because what was taught from

00053

1 our ancestors have been repeated this morning. The spirits
2 thank you.

3
4 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

5
6 INTERPRETER: Thank you, Phillip.

7
8 We're coming back to the agenda. I want to go back
9 to item number 9, Harry Wilde will be taking care of this
10 item. Harry left Mountain to Bethel, whenever he gets to
11 Bethel he will come up to.....

12
13 These resolutions pertain to the fisheries. The
14 Advisory Councils, this Yukon Delta and up river Kuskokwim
15 and up river Yukon, these three resolutions were passed
16 when they were having a workshop in Anchorage. And when
17 were getting to get together in Anchorage we had a caucus
18 trying to get these things straighten out. At that meeting
19 as a result those people who did not understand what was
20 going on have a better idea of what the they need to do.
21 Therefore these resolutions were composed. The people from
22 upper Yukon and these were adopted during January 26th.
23 They decided at that meeting that during this winter at our
24 Council meeting these resolutions would be made available
25 for discussion and during that time it was decided they
26 would accept these resolutions and approve them.

27
28 And then those other groups, Eastern region and
29 Western region got together up river Yukon on the Canadian
30 border line. (Indiscernible - translator too soft) the
31 villages in Upper Kuskokwim up to Anchorage got together
32 and discussed these resolutions and accepted them.

33
34 At this time we are going to look these resolutions
35 over and further discuss them. These resolutions pertain
36 to Yukon/Kuskokwim fisheries, chinook and herring and
37 sockeye and chums. And this section is under Section S.
38 We are going to look these over as we go along or we'll
39 accept them as a motion.

40
41 Eastern people when they looked this over they
42 accepted them as they are, they did not make any changes.

43
44 CHAIRMAN NICK: Gerald, maybe you can
45 comment as a representative of the joint meeting and inform
46 the Council that these three resolutions were approved as
47 they were written.

48
49 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I'd like to thank you
50 guys for putting me up and stuff. This if the first time

00054

1 I've ever been in Nunapitchuk and I sure miss trees a
2 little bit.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, why we didn't change
7 the resolutions, why we didn't amend this or nothing is
8 because we still wanted the two Councils, Western and
9 Eastern, still wanted to keep the working relationship
10 good. Have a good working relationship with three Councils
11 for the whole Yukon/Kuskokwim drainage. And on the last
12 resolution, number 003, down there, we wanted to amend it
13 between where the last be it further resolved that all
14 three RACs, jointly and unanimously accept the status of
15 the Yukon/Kuskokwim as the highest -- between highest and
16 fisheries we wanted to add subsistence, but we made it a
17 note in our meeting minute, both Western and Eastern, that
18 it was our intention to have subsistence in there, but we
19 never did amend it. So we did that because we wanted to
20 keep the relationship good working and let other people
21 know that we all work together continuously.

22

23 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah, thank you, Gerald.

24 (In Yup'ik)

25

26 INTERPRETER: Robert explained the Gerry is
27 a representative from Regional Advisory Council from up
28 Yukon area. And Robert explained that they didn't want any
29 changes made when met because of the discussions that they
30 had in Anchorage during the subsistence training in
31 January. And because the priority work that the RACs has,
32 it's to do with subsistence issues. And also recognized
33 that the fishery is another priority.

34

35 MR. HANSON: Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah, John.

38

39 INTERPRETER: John Hanson.

40

41 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
42 I talked -- when we went through these resolutions on this
43 03, I thought we (indiscernible) subsistence fishery
44 priority, but on this one here -- I don't have the copy of
45 the one we did in Anchorage. (In Yup'ik)

46

47 INTERPRETER: John explained to the
48 audience that because Gerry do not understand Yup'ik, he
49 directed his question to him in English. And he also
50 further explained to the audience that we met jointly with

00055

1 the other two RACs and worked on the resolutions. And he
2 said that the first drafts weren't agreeable to other
3 groups of RACs, but that they worked together and tried to
4 resolve or to come to the agreeable language on the
5 resolutions that they -- or the proposals that they
6 presented.

7
8 He said that the third resolution that Gerry
9 mentioned somewhere in the whereas there's language that
10 says the subsistence is priority, but in resolution 03 it
11 only addresses the fisheries. What John Hanson explained
12 to the audience is that he wanted to add fisheries and --
13 rather not add fisheries, but add subsistence to that
14 resolution. He said we need to consider the third
15 resolution or he said the subsistence under the therefore
16 be it resolved portion of that resolution.

17
18 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

19
20 INTERPRETER: Robert continued to explain
21 that all of the RACs jointly tried to come to agreeable
22 language that would agreeable to our affected resource
23 users in those -- rather RACs membership. And he wanted to
24 remind the Council members that before they worked on the
25 proposed resolutions the Yukon and Kuskokwim fishery --
26 rather discussing the declining fishery resources of salmon
27 Area M issue emerged at that time because some of the
28 intercepted fish or salmon are issue and there's another
29 area.

30
31 He also mentioned the issue about trawl fishing.
32 At the time it was discussed during the meeting. Those two
33 were the issues for fishery and also in Area M intercept
34 fishery. So at that meeting it was decided that there
35 should be studies by the agencies that all of the authentic
36 interception of salmon should be identified and see how
37 many are harvesting those perspective areas. Under the
38 resolve section it should be added.

39
40 And also the trawl fishing or intercept fishery
41 should be stopped for a few days, maybe even about three
42 days to see what would transpire from that, you know, in
43 terms of salmon return to Yukon and Kuskokwim delta.

44
45 The floor is opened for discussion of the first
46 resolution.

47
48 CHAIRMAN NICK: James.

49
50 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman (In Yup'ik)

00056

1 INTERPRETER: James Charles of Tuntutuliak
2 made a motion to adopt 00-01.

3
4 MS. GREGORY: Second.

5
6 INTERPRETER: Seconded by Mary Gregory.

7
8 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

9
10 INTERPRETER: Are there any discussion
11 or.....

12
13 (No audible responses)

14
15 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

16
17 INTERPRETER: All those in favor of the
18 adoption of this resolution say aye.

19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21
22 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

23
24 INTERPRETER: All those opposed say nay.

25
26 (No opposing responses)

27
28 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

29
30 INTERPRETER: Motion passes. Resolution
31 number 00-02, resolution requesting studies on the impact
32 of hatchery salmon on the wild salmon on the Yukon and
33 Kuskokwim Rivers in Alaska. During the development of this
34 resolution it was reported especially by Chairperson Harry
35 Wilde that the hatchery fishery, at times, are like -- are
36 not like wild stocks, because, you know, some chemical --
37 they're affected by chemicals or other contaminants. For
38 that reason some hatch fishery may be containing harmful
39 contaminants that may cause some health problems to
40 subsistence users and for that reason, considering that
41 this resolution was developed. Now the resolution is on
42 the floor, 00-02,

43
44 MR. HANSON: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion
45 for 02, to accept the resolution and be a voice vote.

46
47 CHAIRMAN NICK: John Hanson motioned (In
48 Yup'ik)

49
50 MR. CHARLES: Second.

00057

1 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: Seconded by James Charles of
4 Tuntutuliak. All those in favor of the adoption of the
5 resolution say aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

10

11 INTERPRETER: All opposing say nay.

12

13 (No opposing responses)

14

15 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

16

17 INTERPRETER: Resolution passes.

18 Resolution number 00-03, the resolution in opposition of
19 hatcheries on the Yukon and Kuskokwim River, it's similar
20 to the resolution that was just passed. In the
21 Yukon/Kuskokwim and also the drainage of the two rivers.
22 It's relating to opposition of fish hatcheries in the
23 Yukon/Kuskokwim area.

24

25 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yes, John.

26

27 MR. HANSON: Mr. Chairman, on the last --
28 where it says -- for 03, be it resolved that all three RACs
29 jointly and unanimously set the status of Yukon and
30 Kuskokwim salmon stocks at their highest subsistence
31 fishery. We have to insert subsistence between highest
32 fisheries in there, so we could get to it, salmon stocks at
33 their highest subsistence fisheries.

34

35 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

36

37 MS. GREGORY: Second.

38

39 CHAIRMAN NICK: Second by Mary Gregory. (In
40 Yup'ik)

41

42 Gerald, a motion in this resolution 03 is, in a
43 sense, in agreement with the joint meeting, they wanted
44 to.....

45

46 MR. NICHOLIA: (Indiscernible - away from
47 microphone)

48

49 CHAIRMAN NICK: Pardon?

50

00058

1 MR. NICHOLIA: (Indiscernible - away from
2 microphone)

3
4 CHAIRMAN NICK: Right. You agree?

5
6 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah.

7
8 CHAIRMAN NICK: Right.

9
10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Roll call.

11
12 CHAIRMAN NICK: We have a (In Yup'ik)

13
14 INTERPRETER: There's a request by one of
15 the Regional Council members for a roll call vote.

16
17 CHAIRMAN NICK: Willard, roll call vote.

18
19 MR. CHURCH: Mary Gregory.

20
21 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

22
23 MR. CHURCH: Billy McCann.

24
25 MR. McCANN: Yes.

26
27 MR. CHURCH: Phillip Moses.

28
29 MR. MOSES: Yeah.

30
31 MR. CHURCH: Alvin Oweltuck, Senior.

32
33 MR. OWELTUCK: Yes.

34
35 MR. CHURCH: James Charles.

36
37 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

38
39 MR. CHURCH: Robert Nick.

40
41 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yes.

42
43 MR. CHURCH: John Hanson.

44
45 MR. HANSON: Yes.

46
47 MR. CHURCH: Willard Church, yes. Excused
48 John Thompson, Thadius Tikiun, Fritz George, Harry Wilde.
49 Eight eyes.

50

00059

1 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: Motion is unanimously passed.

4

5 CHAIRMAN NICK: I'm trying to express my
6 remembrance of the meeting. My sense at the meeting was
7 that in this third resolution that at the joint meeting in
8 Fairbanks that they understood to be for subsistence
9 priority.

10

11 MR. NICHOLIA: Yes.

12

13 CHAIRMAN NICK: So this would put the word
14 in there so that it'll be understood by anybody who read
15 the resolution.

16

17 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, we have it in our
18 meeting minutes, but we just didn't amend it because we
19 wanted to keep the relationship going.

20

21 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah. So maybe when you
22 have your next meeting you can inform your Council members
23 that we did insert the word subsistence.

24

25 MR. NICHOLIA: Okay, yeah.

26

27 MR. HANSON: (In Yup'ik)

28

29 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

30

31 INTERPRETER: John corrected the
32 Chairperson and he agrees that this resolution, it's a
33 public record. John made a motion to amend to insert
34 subsistence, in the language of the therefore be it
35 resolved section to say salmon stocks as their highest
36 subsistence fisheries priority.

37

38 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

39

40 INTERPRETER: First they're going to vote
41 on the amendment of the resolution.

42

43 MS. GREGORY: Come again.

44

45 (Multiple voices in Yup'ik)

46

47 INTERPRETER: They're trying to understand
48 what's the situation.

49

50 CHAIRMAN NICK: I thought we already voted.

00060

1 (In Yup'ik)

2

3 MR. HANSON: (In Yup'ik)

4

5 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

6

7 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

8

9 CHAIRMAN NICK: Okay.

10

11 INTERPRETER: There was a confusion on the
12 vote. They didn't know they voted on the amendment first.
13 Now they're going to be voting on the main motion to adopt
14 the resolution.

15

16 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

17

18 INTERPRETER: They're going to be voting on
19 the main motion.

20

21 CHAIRMAN NICK: Another roll call vote on
22 the amended resolution.

23

24 MR. CHURCH: Mary Gregory.

25

26 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

27

28 MR. CHURCH: Billy McCann.

29

30 MR. McCANN: Yes.

31

32 MR. CHURCH: Phillip Moses.

33

34 MR. MOSES: Yeah.

35

36 MR. CHURCH: Alvin Oweltuck, Senior.

37

38 MR. OWELTUCK: Yes.

39

40 MR. CHURCH: James Charles.

41

42 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

43

44 MR. CHURCH: Robert Nick.

45

46 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yes.

47

48 MR. CHURCH: John Hanson.

49

50 MR. HANSON: Yes.

00061

1 MR. CHURCH: Willard Church, yes. Eight
2 yeses and the rest of the members excused.

3
4 CHAIRMAN NICK: Thank you. (In Yup'ik)

5
6 INTERPRETER: Those resolution has been
7 Board, they all have been passed by the Board.

8
9 CHAIRMAN NICK: Next item, item 10 (In
10 Yup'ik)

11
12 INTERPRETER: Item 10 is old business,
13 going to our agenda. We're going to be updated Federal
14 Subsistence Resource Management Program progress report.

15
16 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you very much,
17 Mr. Chairman. We'll spend the next little while talking
18 about some of these important questions about the Federal
19 Subsistence Fisheries Program this first summer. This is a
20 new program, so we want to be sure we answer your questions
21 about what might happen in this summer coming up.

22
23 I think it's good to begin by saying thank you to
24 the elders, I listened with great interest to the comments
25 from Mr. Philip Moses and Mr. Teddy Brink and I think they
26 remind us about some things that are forever, some values
27 that are timeless that are very important forever. I
28 remember these lessons about respect for animals and about
29 sharing and about people working together, and those never
30 go away. Those are critical in our resource work forever
31 and ever.

32
33 And then at the same time we know that there are
34 some changes. Fifty years ago no commercial fishing,
35 different things have changed. Ten years ago a divided
36 State and Federal management program, so some things stay
37 the same, they teach about values, but then again some
38 things change and we have to work together to figure it
39 out. So we're going to talk about this Federal Fisheries
40 Program, it's brand new this year, it's a big change and we
41 want to try and do a good job with that.

42
43 I wanted to talk about -- well, I guess also a
44 question from one member was about this new regulation
45 booklet and whether there's any big changes in there. And
46 I just wanted to reassure the Council members and the
47 people who have joined us from the villages that the
48 regulations on subsistence fisheries here for this coming
49 year are almost the very same that you are used to from
50 previous years.

00062

1 You might remember that Secretary Babbitt kept
2 saying, when we start a new Federal Fisheries Program we
3 would try to minimize disruptions, not make big changes at
4 the beginning. And one year after the next the Regional
5 Council and people from the villages could bring proposals
6 to change those regulations, but at the beginning it's very
7 similar, you're used to these subsistence seasons, you know
8 about no subsistence fishing for this certain number of
9 hours before commercial fishing, you're used to those
10 subsistence regulations, those are the same ones that are
11 in here, with one changes. And it's one that I think
12 Willard and I think some people in Quinhagak feel strongly
13 about.

14
15 The Federal Subsistence Board recognized rod and
16 reel as a subsistence gear type several years ago, so in
17 the Federal waters rod and reel fishing is a subsistence
18 gear type, a subsistence use. And if you like to stay up
19 late and read all the fine print you would find it says
20 that in the regulations book, but I just want to make
21 people feel comfortable about the new Federal regulations
22 in this first year, they're very, very similar to what
23 you've seen in other years.

24
25 And we have some more copies of this booklet in the
26 back and we would invite people to bring them home, share
27 them around, help us get the word out about the new Federal
28 fisheries regulations for this first year.

29
30 So then another question that the Council has asked
31 us had to do with what's going to happen with openings in
32 the fishing season. You all are very familiar with the
33 radio broadcasts from ADF&G biologists about emergency
34 openings for commercial fishing, and those have a very big
35 -- they're very important in managing the fishery each
36 summer when you start to see the runs coming in early or
37 late or strong or weak, you have to be able to make
38 decisions right away. We call that inseason management.
39 And so you have one little flyer in your materials that
40 says "Inseason Management During the 2000 Fishing Season",
41 so I would like to take just a few minutes and point out
42 the main issues here and then maybe stop for questions
43 before we would go on after that.

44
45 So the first and most important thing is, again, we
46 don't want to have disruptions or confusion in the
47 fisheries this first year, so the Federal Subsistence Board
48 wants to have a smooth transition and we want to make sure
49 that subsistence users would be involved in those inseason
50 management decision. I think you're already familiar with

00063

1 subsistence user having a voice in the inseason management
2 because the Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group meets
3 on teleconference with the area biologist, it's the same
4 thing. On the Yukon River YRFDA meets by teleconference
5 with the area managers to talk together about what the fish
6 run looks like and what kind of openings would be
7 appropriate. So we want to continue those very same
8 things.

9
10 In the year 2000 we're going to have to use an
11 interim process, we don't have all of the staff and all of
12 the research put together yet, so we're going to have to
13 make an interim arrangement for this first year.

14
15 I'm kind of am a little shy to read this, but what
16 it says is we're not ready for full Federal involvement in
17 the first year, we have to be careful because we don't have
18 all of the building blocks put in place. The Federal
19 agencies don't have the management system completely
20 finished yet at this time. And we don't have the
21 guidelines for protocols for working with the State -- the
22 State and Federal agencies working together.

23
24 So in order to be careful in our first year we've
25 tried to figure out which fisheries were the most risky,
26 which ones could have problem in inseason management, and
27 where local users might be calling on the Federal
28 Subsistence Board to make inseason decisions. And you'll
29 see here that the Yukon River is a high risk area because
30 of the run predictions for this year. The Kuskokwim River,
31 the Gulf of Alaska, Southeast, we thought that was probably
32 a medium risk this year and in the Arctic, Kotzebue, Norton
33 Sound, Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula, Cook Inlet regions,
34 this was a lower risk of inseason management, actions being
35 brought up to the Federal Subsistence Board.

36
37 In the regulations that Secretary Babbitt adopted
38 there is a provision for delegation of the Federal
39 Subsistence Board authority to a field manager. You're
40 already familiar with the area manager in ADF&G having the
41 authority to make decisions quickly. We didn't want to
42 have the Federal Board all tied up waiting for a Board
43 meeting, waiting for hearings and failing to make a timely
44 decision, so just like in ADF&G the Federal regulations
45 allow a delegation or a handing down of decision-making
46 authority to an area biologist, a Federal biologist.

47
48 The need for delegation, for making a decision at
49 the local level would occur when local concerns are raised
50 to the Board and local subsistence users are asking the

00064

1 Federal Subsistence Board to change a State emergency
2 order, they are disagreeing with the State emergency order
3 and asking the Federal Board to look again at it.

4
5 We went through two different approaches on this,
6 in some areas there's only one conservation unit and that
7 would be true on the Kuskokwim River, the Yukon Delta
8 National Wildlife Refuge, but on the Yukon River there are
9 parks and refuges all the way up the river, so you would
10 have several different land managers who would have to
11 figure it out. And, again, we want efficient and timely
12 decision-making. So what we've agreed is that on the Yukon
13 River there will be two fisheries managers, two Federal
14 managers to follow the runs. One manager will focus on
15 chinook and summer chum salmon and a second Federal manager
16 will focus on coho and the fall chum salmon. This, again,
17 is similar to the structure on the ADF&G side.

18
19 The guidelines developed by the Federal Subsistence
20 Board will be issued to these on-site managers to assure
21 that they fill their responsibilities to protect
22 subsistence users and to work with ADF&G as the State
23 fishery manager. Those guidelines will include the
24 circumstances for challenging or reviewing a State
25 emergency order. They will identify what kind of data or
26 information is required to support a decision. They will
27 set a standard for consultation with subsistence users,
28 timely decision, full communication with the public and
29 perhaps some other things.

30
31 Now, the other main point the Federal Board said is
32 they want to only do this when it's absolutely necessary,
33 so to plan ahead and try to find ways to reduce the risks
34 or the problems of inseason management, and the main thing
35 is to try and work in the pre-season period with ADF&G to
36 ensure that the subsistence allocation in river is being
37 protected right from the very beginning. By being
38 proactive it can reduce the direct involvement or the
39 disagreements between State and Federal managers during the
40 season and that's very important for the Federal side to
41 take as their first approach.

42
43 If the Federal managers are forced to work with an
44 emergency order then we would try to take into account the
45 costs and the risks, the disruption to users, interagency
46 relationships, lawsuits and public controversy. This
47 approach of prevention requires that the Federal managers
48 participate in the ADF&G decision-making process. It
49 involved these steps that are outlined, participating in
50 the pre-season planning and the post-evaluation, so that

00065

1 subsistence concerns are considered all the way through.
2 Participation with the State manager in the emergency order
3 decision-making process prior to the final decision and the
4 public announcement. Participation in long-term fisheries
5 and species river plans to establish escapement goals that
6 trigger inseason decisions and to make sure that
7 subsistence fishery needs on the Federal lands are
8 considered openly and fully in developing those plans.

9
10 Fourthly, we want to work with the public, with the
11 subsistence users to obtain knowledge about current
12 concerns of subsistence users. We want to limit Special
13 Action Requests to the Federal Board to the ones that are
14 addressing a conservation or a subsistence harvest issue.
15 Requests that are mostly related to user conflicts or other
16 issues should go through the normal annual cycle, go before
17 the Board in December not in the middle of the fishing
18 season.

19
20 And, finally, Special Action Requests will have --
21 they will have to prove that there's some special
22 circumstances requiring immediate action by the Board and
23 we would require that Special Action Requests have to be
24 filed very soon after an ADF&G emergency order, again, to
25 make sure there's no delays in the management during the
26 fishing season.

27
28 So to finish on this, the Federal Program is still
29 working on how to implement inseason decision-making on the
30 ground with the refuge managers or the park
31 superintendents. The Board will identify a lead manager
32 for each of the fisheries. We're working on staffing the
33 management biologists that would work with the Federal
34 managers to make those decisions inseason.

35
36 Secondly, for most cases we will defer Special
37 Action Requests until next year. Without the technical
38 staff the Board would have a difficult time making a
39 constructive decision following an emergency order, so the
40 focus needs to be on these preventative methods, such as
41 involving subsistence users in the pre-season meetings.

42
43 And then, finally, I want to touch on the role of
44 the Regional Councils. Several Regional Council members
45 have already joined in the pre-season management meetings
46 with ADF&G and the Federal managers and we want to continue
47 direct involvement of Regional Council representatives in
48 those meetings. When an emergency order is being
49 considered we want to make sure that there is consultation
50 with local people, with local subsistence users using the

00066

1 working groups or YRFDA and including Regional Council
2 representatives on those teleconference.

3

4 And, finally, we're working out the details of
5 inseason management in cooperation with ADF&G and our Board
6 has asked that there be some Regional Council members
7 involved in working out the protocol or the guidelines for
8 inseason management with ADF&G, so there will be some
9 representation from the Councils in setting all of this up.

10

11 Let me stop there and see if there were questions
12 that I might be able to clarify. Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN NICK: John.

15

16 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 On this inseason management for 2000, where you have your
18 potential for implementation of emergency order, you have
19 high risk Yukon River regions and the next one is medium
20 risk Kuskokwim, Gulf of Alaska and Southeast region and the
21 lowest Arctic, Kotzebue, Norton Sound, Bristol Bay, Alaska
22 Peninsula, Cook Inlet. What does highest risk mean?

23

24 MR. BRELSFORD: We were looking at the pre-
25 season forecasts and thinking about where emergency actions
26 were going to be most important, but Chuck has worked quite
27 a bit on this and maybe could answer a little more fully
28 for you.

29

30 MR. KRUEGER: Hi, I'm Chuck Krueger. When
31 were looking -- this was in the wintertime, we were trying
32 to consider which areas would be the most likely that
33 subsistence needs might not be met or the users would be
34 concerned enough that they would be asking or requesting
35 the Federal Subsistence Board to intervene with the State.
36 So when the State announced that they -- say a commercial
37 opening, within one of the Federal waters, then the people
38 may want to request that that opening would not occur, that
39 would be an example.

40

41 So what we attempted to do was try to determine
42 which regions would be most likely for that to occur.
43 Where there would be a request to the Board to intervene
44 against the State in a State opening would be the example.

45

46 MR. HANSON: So what you're saying in 2000
47 June comes along and then you're taking ADF&G figures and
48 when we start giving all the subsistence catches to ADF&G
49 they put the numbers down and they got their test nets.....

50

00067

1 MR. KRUEGER: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. HANSON:that's in the same place
4 for the last 20 years, never move, it's always there,
5 whether the fish are swimming or not swimming, that setnet
6 is there and then they tell us, well, we're not catching
7 fish. But the subsistence fishermen knows exactly where to
8 have his net so he catches fish. And so you guys, the
9 biologists for Federal are using ADF&G figures and then you
10 find out what you're going to inseason and all of that,
11 which means you're going to use ADF&G's emergency order to
12 close some part of the Yukon or.....

13

14 MR. KRUEGER: Let me try to explain. The
15 State management of commercial fisheries, the State
16 continues to manage commercial fisheries. The situation --
17 so as the State is managing the fisheries it is possible
18 for subsistence users to request that within the Federal
19 waters that commercial management be changed. And so when
20 we say risk it was the risk of being requested to make a
21 change in the commercial management. So it's a risk of
22 having the users requesting the Federal Board to take
23 action on, for example, commercial management within those
24 Federal waters. And it was our viewpoint, it's just an
25 opinion, that the both the Yukon and the Kuskokwim, that
26 those were likely areas for that to occur and, therefore,
27 the Board needed to pay special attention to the Yukon and
28 the Kuskokwim. The Yukon being, we thought, probably the
29 highest risk and the Kuskokwim being a medium area for
30 where something like that could occur, so the Board -- it
31 was important for the Board to figure out a way that, if
32 requested, to act that way this summer how they would do
33 that, what sort of process should they use if requested to
34 intervene with the State.

35

36 Is that.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN NICK: Can I clarify?

39

40 MR. KRUEGER: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

41

42 CHAIRMAN NICK: Based on what you just said
43 it has been the opposite situation on the Kuskokwim up to
44 this far. The people -- the villagers on the Kuskokwim
45 have told ADF&G that there's plenty of fish, but ADF&G has
46 not opened for commercial fisheries because of, you know,
47 lack of escapement or low numbers in the spawning areas.
48 So your scenario is the opposite.

49

50 MR. KRUEGER: Opposite, yes.

00068

1 CHAIRMAN NICK: Your scenario is the
2 opposite. If the Alaska Department of Fish and Game opens
3 the Yukon and Kuskokwim for commercial fishing and then
4 subsistence fishermen have not gotten their subsistence
5 catches yet, what is being -- your case is that the
6 subsistence users can go to the Federal Fish Board and then
7 try to close the commercial fishery? That's what I
8 understood you to say.

9
10 MR. KRUEGER: Yes, it could be that way.

11
12 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah.

13
14 MR. KRUEGER: Or, presumably, it could go
15 the other direction, you could open it.

16
17 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah, John.

18
19 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The
20 way (indiscernible - away from microphone) I think it's
21 just the opposite of what the Federal is going to be doing
22 or ADF&G, they've been always the opposite, either on the
23 Kuskokwim or on the Yukon, both. I think the high -- to
24 me, the high risk is not the Yukon, or the medium risk is
25 not the Kuskokwim. And then here you have the lowest risk,
26 such as the Alaska Peninsula, that's where Area M fish is,
27 they should be the highest risk. Shumagins, Unimak Island,
28 that's where they take a lot fish that go to Kuskokwim and
29 the Yukon, but there's other places that take the salmon
30 that are bound for the Kuskokwim, Yukon, Norton Sound,
31 north of Norton Sound.

32
33 MR. KRUEGER: Uh-huh.

34
35 MR. HANSON: Like for Shelikof Strait
36 behind Kodiak, that's where they take a lot of fish, and I
37 think those have to be the highest risk instead of the
38 Yukon or medium risk for the Kuskokwim.

39
40 MR. KRUEGER: Uh-huh.

41
42 MR. HANSON: And I look at it as just the
43 opposite, the (indiscernible) you turn is just the
44 opposite, and that's how I'm looking at it.

45
46 MR. KRUEGER: Yes, that's an excellent
47 point. The Board is well aware of the high interest in
48 Area M and the concern over interception of salmon as
49 they're coming north. This particular analysis was not
50 looking at those waters because they're outside of those

00069

1 Federal boundaries, this was only an analysis of, for
2 example, within refuge waters or within a park's waters.
3 So that's certainly a very important case and the Board's
4 aware of that. Anyway, this risk business was outside --
5 did not include that.

6
7 CHAIRMAN NICK: I indicated that we will
8 try to stick with the public comment so, Taylor, you can
9 come back for the other parts.

10
11 MR. BRELSFORD: Right now?

12
13 CHAIRMAN NICK: I was going to ask, there's
14 two more people that indicated that they would like address
15 the Board and in the plans here it says call for a 10:30
16 and 2:30 public comment, so I'd like to allow the two
17 people to address the Board and then when they're done
18 we'll come back to your report. We still have, I think,
19 plenty of questions on the Federal management end of it.

20
21 (In Yup'ik)

22
23 INTERPRETER: Lloyd is going to testify or
24 make a comment.

25
26 MR. L. ANDREW, SR: Quyana.

27
28 INTERPRETER: Thank you. Lloyd Andrew. I
29 am not going to be mentioning anything that I'm involved
30 in, but everyone knows me. I wanted to talk about a couple
31 of things that I'm aware of and also because I read in the
32 newspaper regarding the wolf issue. And the second thing
33 is regarding the fisheries issues.

34
35 First of all, I'd like to say I don't know who was
36 involved in that, but maybe there are a couple of people in
37 Nunapitchuk, and I've seen one of the people who lived
38 here. How did reindeer population levels decrease a long
39 time ago? Approximately 10,000 reindeer was estimated to
40 be in this area, but those 10,000 reindeer were wiped out
41 in two years time. And because I know, you know,
42 considering that, you know, I'm involved in different
43 things, I'm beginning to be involved in many things, but
44 about that time I was about the age of 16 when the reindeer
45 was wiped out. During the springtime wolves killed off the
46 reindeer and they were targeting -- those wolves were
47 targeting calves of those reindeer at the time.

48
49 What I wanted to share with you is that one ridge,
50 they're very young calves, mainly many calves were killed

00070

1 by wolves and a similar thing happened last fall. There
2 were wolves roaming all over around the village, even
3 around Nunapitchuk, they were spotted all over. And at the
4 time they were killing calves and also moose and they leave
5 the kill on site without eating it.

6
7 A long time ago when they were killing off the
8 reindeer we would be watching -- we were watching the
9 reindeer calves a long time ago when I was young. But even
10 though we were watching them the wolves were killing off
11 calves without us even knowing it. Considering that I'm
12 beginning to hear that caribou and also moose are being
13 killed by wolves. And people who go out are beginning to
14 notice that there are some carcasses all over, including
15 moose. They kill them and leave them on site without even
16 eating the carcasses or meat.

17
18 A long time ago the reindeer was wiped out by
19 wolves exactly the same way that the wolves are beginning
20 to kill off both caribou and moose calves, you know, we
21 used to see or run across a lot of carcasses all over and
22 we didn't know what to do with them because there were so
23 many. The reindeer was wiped out exactly the same way
24 they're beginning to kill off the moose and the caribou
25 nowadays. And I wanted to share this with you because I
26 wanted to contribute some tool in working toward resolving
27 the problem with the wolf problem in this area.

28
29 Another issue I wanted to bring up is the fishery
30 issues, especially related to tundra village fishery issue.
31 A long, long time ago we were proposing to deal with the
32 beaver issue and we also proposed to damage the beaver dams
33 so that fishery problems would be resolved at that time.
34 When I was a very young man I never used to see very many
35 beaver, I only saw one or two beaver. He was sharing that
36 he didn't even know what the beaver was in, you know, when
37 it came up on him, but when his parents or somebody
38 hollered beaver they were chasing that beaver like they
39 were chasing seal because they were so excited to catch it.
40 And after that he never see beaver for a number of years,
41 even though when he was a young man he used to go out on
42 hunting trips he never used to spot any beavers elsewhere.
43 And now even though some people traps people, you know,
44 most of they don't go, but once in a while people will go
45 up into the hills, but nowadays there's beaver all over and
46 it comes to the point that the fishery -- rather the fish
47 that are destined to spawning areas are not even able to
48 reach their spawning areas because of the dam problem with
49 beaver dams.

50

00071

1 I would like for something -- and my community
2 would like to see that something be done with the beaver
3 problem. We proposed at one time that, you know, we were
4 going to blow up the beaver dams, but that was not
5 approved. This is one of the reasons why they did not
6 accept the proposal because they were concerned about the
7 fish that were migrating around the beaver dam or maybe two
8 beaver dams. It's true that it may kill off the fish that
9 are probably in that respective area where the beaver dam
10 is located, but there's other things, you know, there's
11 other things, other resources, like blackfish, for example.
12 It would be appropriate if they want to go ahead and damage
13 the beaver dam, it would appropriate to do that in
14 wintertime when there's no whitefish or any other fish that
15 are migrating there around the beaver dams. Maybe during
16 that time, maybe they can get rid of the problem there. I
17 would not have problems with dealing with that in
18 wintertime. And if beaver happens to emerge in the water
19 it would be okay to go ahead and harvest those beaver.
20

21 I tried to deal with that myself, sometime I try to
22 damage the beaver dam but, you know, those beaver would
23 repair their beaver dams overnight, it's very hard to deal
24 with those. But, you know, in the wintertime it might not
25 be too easy for beaver to repair any damage that are done
26 to their beaver dams.
27

28 Nowadays, the whitefish are spawning maybe out here
29 in the tributaries of the Kuskokwim area and because the
30 whitefish might (indiscernible) out even before we think to
31 harvest them, we don't even have an opportunity to harvest
32 any of the white.
33

34 I want to bring those two because I want, you know,
35 you to do something about those two issues that -- because
36 you have that opportunity to deal with these issues
37 relating to subsistence resources and because you may be
38 able to fight for us. You know by fighting for the
39 subsistence way of life you open the avenue for us to work
40 towards resolving these problems because some of us, you
41 know, we don't even have any data to work from.
42

43 Last of all I would like to say when I come to the
44 meetings these Native elders say they don't have data, you
45 know, they don't have any written document, but if you read
46 the Bible, you know, like Book of Proverbs, it mentions
47 somewhere in there that, you know, you follow the wisdom of
48 the elders. And that's exactly what our elders has taken,
49 you know, in order to advise the young people what to carry
50 on or pass on to the younger generation with respect to the

00072

1 unwritten law the Native people have.

2

3 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

4

5 INTERPRETER: Billy McCann asked a
6 question. In the old days they used to have fences that
7 the built to harvest whitefish and Billy wondered if that's
8 done nowadays.

9

10 MR. N. BERLIN: (In Yup'ik)

11

12 INTERPRETER: His response is that in the
13 old days they used to begin building their fences, you
14 know, to harvest whitefish beginning from August, nowadays
15 they don't do that anymore. Only in wintertime, you know,
16 they only use that as information and education now for the
17 younger generation.

18

19 And he say that, you know, sometimes in falltime
20 they harvest fish that are premature, they call them big
21 eyes sometimes. Nowadays the fish are spawning further out
22 in the tributaries instead of way back where their usual
23 spawning areas are. Nowadays the problem with beaver dams
24 is that, you know, some fish are trapped and they spawn but
25 the fry cannot make it out to the tributary.

26

27 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

28

29 INTERPRETER: Billy said that increased
30 beaver harvest was recommended by the Council but then if
31 there's beaver dams problems will be continued. He said
32 that he recommended they should use dynamite to blow up the
33 beaver dams and he agrees that maybe perhaps it's better to
34 do that in wintertime, but beaver -- in the old days they
35 used to protect the beaver, but then even beavers were
36 protected we also fought for subsistence way of life by,
37 you know, addressing the need for harvesting fish species.
38 I feel that no matter what we do those beaver dams will be
39 a problems because, you know, they'll be there, we'll have
40 to figure out a way to do away with the beaver dams as
41 well. We need to teach people how to use dynamite to blow
42 them all up.

43

44 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

45

46 INTERPRETER: Chairperson recognizes
47 Nicolai Berlin.

48

49 MR. N. BERLIN: Quyana (In Yup'ik)

50

1 INTERPRETER: I want to thank you people
2 for giving me this opportunity to talk. I'm very glad to
3 be sitting here in front of you people. Part of me, my old
4 ways -- and your work is very important. I heard a lot
5 about you people and the first time I see you sitting up
6 there working on this very important subsistence way of
7 life. Those words that were passed on to you, you must
8 handle them and take care of them. And it's a very good
9 feeling to know that you are working for a good cause.

10
11 Now, I got to tell who I am. I'm not here to tell
12 lies, but I don't like to make up stories, I only pass on
13 what I have heard in the past as I was growing up as a
14 young man. And it's been taught traditionally that if you
15 have anything to say you must repeat what you have learned,
16 do make up any kind of stories coming from yourself. I do
17 not -- I am not going to tell any lies up here or I'm going
18 to make up stories for you.

19
20 This village here called me to -- you see this
21 village, all you visitors, even the young people, I am
22 85-years-old right now, but there's a little -- I'm not
23 exactly that old, but my records say that I'm younger than
24 what I am. Just before I got married I found out that my
25 age (Yup'ik) more youth than I am. I was told I was 21-
26 year-old and I doing that paper as a 21-year-old man when I
27 got married. I wanted to let everybody know that I am
28 85-years-old.

29
30 Those people that testified this morning -- he
31 wants to back up. Some of those things that were said he
32 can't agree with a lot of things that was said. Beavers
33 helped and talked about same with the wolves, it's very
34 true that those animals eating reindeer, our area and those
35 days the wolves were wiping out our reindeer and they were
36 in this area, he has seen them with his own eyes.

37
38 The reindeer herd used to be so plentiful around
39 here, then one year when the reindeer were plentiful, one
40 year it was raining too much and the ground was frozen all
41 over. The tundra was frozen. And he found out that
42 reindeer can starve, too, when they're hungry, they die of
43 starvation. He has witnessed that, even it wasn't all the
44 wolves that killed off the reindeer. Because of frozen
45 grounds and tundra some of the reindeer were dead. And
46 those people that I worked with have passed on. And our
47 dogs were -- they were living on reindeer and sometimes
48 were getting tired of eating the meat. During that year a
49 lot of reindeer died because of starvation.

00074

1 And this fish that we eat -- oh, he want's to go
2 back. He wants to talk about Nunapitchuk. There were five
3 igloos in Nunapitchuk, one -- the fifth house was a log
4 cabin and it was a store and the sixth house was community
5 hall, they call it the gustic (ph). The old folks that
6 raised me up were on the other side, they had a good place
7 and everything they had -- they had (indiscernible -
8 translator too soft) trap and a cache to put their food
9 away. That spot is a real special spot because it provided
10 a lot of blackfish. And sometimes during the winter the
11 radio came to this place here. There were only five
12 houses. My parents would move here during the winter.
13 That's how many houses there was at that time.

14
15 When you get old it's very easy to be distracted
16 and he wants to say, but then he keeps forgetting. And our
17 elders used to survive on fisheries, different species of
18 fish. And when you get to be my age you will understand
19 what I'm saying right now. We are the residents of Alaska
20 and when I came to my senses and the only Natives that were
21 living in our area, there were hardly any outsiders, there
22 was not too many outside interferences, once in a great
23 while you would see a white man here and there. And this
24 Alaska that we call home (indiscernible - translator too
25 soft) Natives and we don't know when our ancestors got to
26 this land, but we knew that our ancestors lived many, many,
27 many, years ago because we know by our traditional tales
28 and stories that were passed on over many years.

29
30 And there was one elder from Emmonak was coming
31 here and he was coming up with a story but this man from
32 Emmonak took over the story because it was the same story
33 that he used to hear as a young man. We have been living
34 over many years on this land. This morning somebody --
35 many years ago this land was built on (Yup'ik) and when
36 Alaska was bought this man that knew too much, I think
37 (indiscernible - translator too soft) was not allowed. The
38 way he understands it, that's the way it was supposed to be
39 done.

40
41 When he came to his senses then that where that --
42 where he's sitting that's when the fish were here. He used
43 to catch Tom cods, and he used to go to summer camps.
44 Those people, anybody -- everybody using ours and he would
45 go Kuskokwim too set up fish camp and they would catch
46 fish. And those outsiders used to put up a lot of fish and
47 the would put them to steamboats to be sold up river. And
48 he would put up as much as he could, so that he could so
49 that he could sell and (indiscernible - translator too
50 soft) the guys name was Looney (ph) and he was a rich man

00075

1 and had a cat eye, but there was no machinery in those days
2 and he was only (indiscernible - translator too soft). And
3 he would ship his catch to be sold and there were not that
4 many people that were doing that.

5
6 My dad had a kayak and those people were put in
7 that kayak to look after their nets and I was growing up
8 with those young men. This net that was used for Tom cod
9 and to hold that net and it was a very short net, we would
10 call it a small net. Every time he the net would be set
11 according to the experience and what they witnessed, there
12 would be lots of us and we looked to use dipnets to catch
13 whitefish. There was no nets -- dipnets were used to catch
14 whitefish. The only thing that was used is a dipnet. But
15 they would catch lots of fish, there were many, many fish.
16 And sometimes there would be so many they couldn't even get
17 the dipnet into the boat or to the -- it wouldn't take long
18 to fill up the boat dipping whitefish.

19
20 And one of the things that he -- there were
21 different species of fish, a special type of fish,
22 whitefish, but they're different. He would go out during
23 the wintertime, they would pass through the river. They
24 only used to spawn in this area. But those types of fish
25 are not in this area anymore.

26
27 Those five gallon containers are used for fuel were
28 used -- I used them to hold the eggs to be used by dog sled
29 dogs. They used to spawn in the Kuskokwim, but nowadays he
30 does not understand why that type of fish don't come here
31 anymore. Sometimes he's got nothing to do but think about
32 why that species disappeared. He can't understand why
33 those fish don't come around anymore. He doesn't not
34 understand why this is happening, but sometimes he thinks
35 that nylon might have something to do with it. Ever since
36 they started using nylon material it seems like those types
37 of fish are fading away.

38
39 These people nowadays, if you tell them they won't
40 listen. Sometimes we come up with something -- make
41 something that show how to -- but they can't seem to listen
42 to our subsistence. Because we don't listen to our elders
43 some of these changes are happening in our area. In those
44 days he never thought that type of fish would disappear.
45 Because our young people don't listen to us anymore, they
46 don't ever listen to us anymore.

47
48 And the one spot that he forgot to mention is that
49 lake. He used to see many, many fish, they would be in
50 that lake or so many all different types of fish, sometimes

00076

1 there were sometimes the fish came out. When he was a
2 young man (indiscernible - translator too soft) through
3 there. Then the fish disappeared because one person didn't
4 take care of the stocks and one of his dogs that some dead
5 man's bones. And ever since that time -- ever since the
6 dog dig out the dead man's bones, because of that the fish
7 disappeared. Then because of that incident he thinks that
8 -- because of that incident there's no more fish in this
9 area.

10
11 At that time a lot of whitefish that came out of
12 that lake in this village had plenty of fish and we would
13 take turns getting them, when they get tired the other
14 villagers would take over. And when he was at his fall
15 camp he came back and got himself whitefish. And that
16 special lake is still by this river and then sometime after
17 that he moved here.

18
19 Another incident smaller whitefish came out of that
20 lake and it was during the late fall or early fall before
21 freeze up. And my late son-in-law filled up his boat two
22 times. They used fence to trap that fish and the would use
23 the dipnets to fill their boats. I guess nowadays we call
24 them weirs. There were built by hand. And then sometime
25 later (indiscernible - translator too soft)

26
27 When he went up to Kasigluk one man told them that
28 there's a lot of fish coming out of that -- still fish
29 coming out of that lake and so he got careless and he told
30 his son to go check on the setnet. In the afternoon he set
31 that net and then they went -- it didn't take long and
32 there were two handfuls of -- as soon as he set that net
33 there were fish right away, they were catching fish right
34 away. Next day he went out to check his boat and filled up
35 his boat and he told him not to take too much
36 (indiscernible - translator too soft) he told him to go get
37 the net.

38
39 When he went over to go get the net he filled up
40 his boat again. That special lake contained a lot of
41 different types of fish. And we told the Kasigluk people
42 to please be careful with that lake and sometimes we would
43 tell them not to setnet on the ice and sometimes were too
44 lazy to check their nets and just leave them under water.
45 And when they catch lot of fish they would go out and maybe
46 because of that some of the fish does not come around
47 anymore.

48
49 Sometime the would tell the Alaska Department of
50 Fish and Game about this but they didn't do anything. I

00077

1 think maybe someday the fish will come back if you do
2 things right. I want to make you start respecting the
3 fish, even the Kuskokwim used to provide lot of fish, but
4 the reason that high seas fish has got a lot to do with the
5 kind of the fish. Our fish is caught and our fish -- we
6 would use a dipnet a long time ago by the bank because of
7 Tuntutuliak and when they use that fish, dipnet, before you
8 know it you would catch a lot of fish, and you would catch
9 more than the young people would, sometimes more than you
10 can handle.

11
12 Nowadays even if we use the dipnet, stay with it
13 all day, we would not catch not even one fish. And when
14 you setnet you had to watch it, go back and forth and when
15 you have enough you were forced to take your net out and
16 put it away.

17
18 He thinks he talks too much now, he wants to say
19 one last thing. And he has lots of things to say. This
20 special instructions comes from his dad and he's said this
21 more than once after they moved here from another village.
22 Mother came from Agulik, a place called Agulik. I don't
23 know my dad's past history that's why I can't talk too much
24 about my dad. And my dad would tell us -- and maybe his
25 dad (indiscernible - translator too soft) life would go on
26 just the way this life would. (Indiscernible - translator
27 too soft) dad passed away.

28
29 It seems like been a short time that people started
30 changing life and we before too long we didn't use housing
31 like we are today. This place here because it's got too
32 many -- this place is here since it is -- no place don't
33 say with it. If there's no more fish in this place don't
34 stay with it, go back to the place where we used to stay,
35 the place where we were raised got plenty of fish.

36
37 Right now at this time if there was not food stamps
38 he doesn't how all the young people would survive. They
39 don't know how to get -- the only thing that keeps the
40 going are the stores. Without stores they would not
41 survive. And sometimes I use the CB to try to get -- say
42 to our young people. And even the weather has changed and
43 we don't know what holds in the future for our weather.

44 And subsistence that has been given to us, we don't
45 know what our future holds for us, but you need to tell our
46 young people who doesn't think that anybody will understand
47 to grasp the idea. And right now they think it's going to
48 spring -- spring is coming, but we should believe that,
49 we're not in even April yet. And we look at this moon
50 here, it's not a goose month. After this moon, next moon

00078

1 will bring geese. Just because it's warm we shouldn't
2 believe that it's going to be spring. May is the time when
3 the geese lay eggs.

4
5 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

6
7 INTERPRETER: Billy McCann

8
9 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

10
11 INTERPRETER: That special lake that you
12 mentioned, that where you coming from that lake, coming
13 from that special lake there, do you know if there's any
14 beaver?

15
16 MR. N. BERLIN: (In Yup'ik)

17
18 INTERPRETER: No, the beaver can't build a
19 dam in that slough coming from that special lake, but we
20 have a place that beaver houses, you could see them in that
21 area. They can't put a dam through that. Do you have a
22 question.

23
24 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

25
26 INTERPRETER: You mentioned the reindeer
27 was affected by the weather and we can't put the blame on
28 the wolves. And sometime when we fight over -- about the
29 -- related to subsistence and sometime ago he heard that
30 people were fighting over reindeer, is that the truth?

31
32 MR. N. BERLIN: (In Yup'ik)

33
34 INTERPRETER: To him, he hasn't heard.
35 People did not fight over these animals, but then somebody
36 had the idea that they would make lots of money selling the
37 heart reindeer, that's what happened, they wanted to make
38 lot of money on the reindeer meat and he thinks that's why
39 somebody (indiscernible - translator too soft) turned the
40 weather bad and let the reindeer die. (Yup'ik) he was
41 causing a lot of trouble and he even sold his reindeer to
42 this person (Yup'ik). At that time there was lot of unrest
43 going around because they were trying to save their
44 reindeer. And he thinks because of the incident and think
45 they were (indiscernible - translator too soft) were
46 fighting who can get the most reindeer. And they were
47 fighting over paper that owned the reindeer.

48
49 There were two companies, Kaiyuksuk (ph) company,
50 another guy, but then after that I think people were sorry

00079

1 because they couldn't save their herd because of
2 starvation. They were worthless, but Kaiyuksuk (ph) put
3 reindeer in (indiscernible - translator too soft). He
4 showed the reindeer meat, people couldn't eat them.
5 Because of that incident the start of the weather turn
6 changed then, let them starve. And after that they
7 couldn't find any buyers anymore and they were stuck with a
8 lot of meat. Those two buyers were fighting, they were
9 really fighting over the reindeer. And after this things
10 quite down, they started working with each other and people
11 started working together, they didn't fight over their
12 animals.

13

14 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

15

16 INTERPRETER: What do you think, is it
17 because people fight over (indiscernible - translator too
18 soft)

19

20 MR. N. BERLIN: (In Yup'ik)

21

22 INTERPRETER: And he said people didn't
23 fight, that these two buyers were fighting each other and
24 because they were causing all this trouble he thinks that
25 because of the incidences (indiscernible - translator too
26 soft) caused that weather change, that's why a lot of
27 reindeer died.

28

29 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

30

31 INTERPRETER: Phillip Moses said that he
32 used to see -- and sometimes the reindeer was used as dog
33 team. (Indiscernible - translator too soft) sometimes they
34 would come and pick him up and they would ask him why their
35 herd would come and mix with Nelson Island herd. Then they
36 would get them together and bring them back to where they
37 came from. And one summer (indiscernible - translator too
38 soft) welcome those people that came to pick up the
39 reindeer herd. He told them that a place called Muktulook
40 (ph), they didn't even tell anybody, they went out and got,
41 the just killed off the reindeer and took the hide and left
42 the meat there and they didn't take the meat and they just
43 wasted the meat.

44

45 And springtime one time -- sometimes the people
46 would relocate closer to the coast where they would mammals
47 and one time they checked that river and there were lot of
48 reindeer. Reindeer would predict, killed off by wolves.
49 (Indiscernible - translator too soft) And the reindeer was
50 very sensitive, if they don't have anything to eat it

00080

1 doesn't take them long to die of starvation. And sometimes
2 people would fight over those -- and Nelson Island people
3 would fight over the reindeer because of those incidents.
4 We can't fight over what's provided by nature and also
5 learned these lessons.

6
7 MR. N. BERLIN: (In Yup'ik)

8
9 INTERPRETER: You know I told you about the
10 incident one year we had a long winter and because of the
11 cold weather, because of that there was no more reindeer.

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

14
15 INTERPRETER: I'd like to ask you about
16 this certain question. Mary Gregory asked Nicolai Berlin
17 regarding the cause of fish decline.

18
19 MR. N. BERLIN: (In Yup'ik)

20
21 INTERPRETER: And he further explained what
22 he explained earlier, that human bones or skeleton are, you
23 know, not good for fish because it causes the decline of
24 fish resources anytime when the human bones are mixed in
25 their habitat. Earlier he was explaining that human
26 skeleton was dug out by something and then it was grinding
27 into the river and then after that the fish resources were
28 declining because of that.

29
30 He also further explained what he explained
31 earlier, that in falltime there used to be -- fish was full
32 of fish eggs that migrate back out into the deeper waters
33 and he believed that they don't spawn in this area, where
34 people suspect they spawn up in the shallow waters, he
35 thinks that they go back out into the rivers where it's
36 deeper or where it's better spawning area. And he knows
37 that those fish that migrate out late in falltime are not
38 the ones that spawn in the shallow waters, but he believe
39 -- he truly believe that the wanton waste are the cause of
40 fish decline because a lot of nets are left and frozen into
41 the ice.

42
43 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

44
45 INTERPRETER: Mary also wanted to comment.
46 Mary shared the information that was given to her by one of
47 the elders before that person passed away, that, you know,
48 when a lot of wanton waste, you know, fish left in the nets
49 are the cause of -- usually the cause of the decline for
50 fish species.

00081

1 MR. N. BERLIN: (In Yup'ik)

2

3

4 INTERPRETER: Elder Nicolai said that we
5 have unusual weather nowadays that, you know, he suspects
6 that, you know, sometime, not too far in the future,
7 something might happen. He think that he was -- take
8 example of the wind directions, you know, it's from one
9 direction to another and there would be a breeze and then
10 when the gusts are a little stronger it would shift to a
11 different direction. In the -- if you let, you know -- if
12 the winds are shifted to a direction -- he said that in the
13 past he have personal experience that say there may be an
14 early spring, but then he said that the elders advised even
15 though it might be an early spring it usually don't happen
16 that way because of the fact that -- take example of the
17 month of June where people usually harvest salmon when they
18 first arrive.

18

19 There's a story about what happened a long, long
20 time ago. And after -- you know, after he became aware
21 those people -- I'm trying to interpret the way he says it.
22 Said that those elders moved to camping area and because,
23 you know, they think that, you know, there might be a
24 decline of fishery or subsistence resources they moved to
25 somewhere else.

26

27 He said at one time there was an earthquake that
28 shook up everyone because, you know, they were scared. One
29 elder said, don't be afraid, before you experience a famine
30 you will pass on. Those were the experiences that the
31 elder -- that elderly lady was experiencing, you know, they
32 closely observed the weather and the seasons because, you
33 know, they know exactly what's going to happen by the
34 signs. And then he look at this one little child and says,
35 you might be one of the people might live to be the eldest,
36 but you will not experience famine. He said, you know,
37 that would be a talk about famine but, you know, it's not
38 time yet because those elderly people are more observant
39 than these people nowadays.

40

41 And he wanted to share what he know and what he
42 heard and what he never forget. He speaks about those
43 things. There was a grandma -- my grandma, when she was a
44 very young lady and the one -- the grandmother of that
45 person, the one that I mentioned earlier about what appears
46 to be maybe a piece of blanket laying on the ground, those
47 two were the only ones that were experiencing famine. My
48 grandmother.

49

50 Here's how they estimate the famine seasons. My

00082

1 grandma and my father, me, my children and their children,
2 it will be approximately five generations. Within the
3 fifth generation their children may have a potential
4 opportunity to experience famine. Those are the elderly
5 people advice, and because I believe what elderly people
6 used to say, I know and I remember, those would be
7 guidelines for estimating the drastic decline of the fish
8 and wildlife resources that are important for subsistence.

9

10

11 CHAIRMAN NICK: Quyana.

12

13 MR. N. BERLIN: Quyana.

14

15 INTERPRETER: Thank you very much.

16

17 MR. HANSON: Break time.

18

19 CHAIRMAN NICK: Before we continue with
20 your report, we'll take a short break, 10 minutes.

21

22 (Off record)

23

24 (On record)

25

26 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

27

28 INTERPRETER: Calling to order. We're back
29 to agenda item 10 and Taylor will be finishing up on his
30 report.

31

32 CHAIRMAN NICK: Taylor.

33

34 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
35 was going to suggest that we keep moving through the topics
36 now, but if some of the members had questions, perhaps they
37 could meet with Dave Cannon from the refuge here or Chuck
38 or me over breaks and that way we can keep going now, but
39 if you had other questions we could have conversation on
40 the side.

41

42 Right now I want to talk very quickly and not too
43 much about the question of tribal involvement in the
44 Federal Subsistence Management Program. And this would
45 build a little bit on some of the comments that Myron
46 Naneng made this morning. Many of you know now from the
47 January training meeting that there were some letters of
48 very strong concern from AVCP and AITC, that's the Alaska
49 Intertribal Council, and AFN, the Alaska Federation of
50 Natives, and RuralCap asking for reassurance that the

00083

1 Federal Subsistence Board would work with the Native
2 community. And there were several specific request, I
3 think you might already remember those.

4
5 The main thing I want to mention to you is that the
6 Board invited the representatives of those organizations to
7 come and talk directly. And so on February 3rd the Federal
8 Board met with Mike Williams from AITC and Heather Kendall
9 from Native American Rights Fund and other representative
10 to try and talk this out, try and get to know each other a
11 little bit and maybe overcome some suspicions. And,
12 basically, the Federal Board, Mitch Demientieff and Niles
13 Cesar have a lot of familiarity with the Native
14 organizations around the state and they're working behind
15 the scenes, if you will, talking with the other Federal
16 agencies and with some of the Native organizations to come
17 up with some solutions for things like liaison positions
18 for better communication between the tribal organizations
19 and the Regional Councils. So we would like to think there
20 was a little room to grow all the way around.

21
22 Some kind of tough things were said, one way and
23 another, and now it's time to put those behind us and to
24 move forward and work together. There are some specific
25 suggestions, including the ones that Myron has proposed
26 today in your resolution. And I can say that the Federal
27 Board has not made any final decisions on these questions
28 yet, there's several things that are still opened, on the
29 table for discussion. I would think that the resolutions
30 that you might consider during this meeting and some
31 decisions that were very recently made by Assistant
32 Secretary John Barry, we're going to move forward on some
33 of these solutions on working with the Native community, I
34 think fairly soon, I believe within the next month the
35 letter and the answer would be all settled and we would be
36 responding back to the Regional Councils to let you know
37 what happened.

38
39 And with that I'll quit and see if there are any
40 other questions on this important topic.

41
42 CHAIRMAN NICK: You have the letter?

43
44 MR. BRELSFORD: The three letters that were
45 submitted by the Native organization were in.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN NICK: I know, but you haven't got
48 the letter from.....

49
50 MR. BRELSFORD: Ah, the letter from

00084

1 Assistant Secretary John Barry, actually I don't have
2 copies of that yet, we got it Thursday night in the office.
3 This was a further decision about the staffing plan. You
4 might recall that in December the Federal Board submitted a
5 staffing plan to Secretary Babbitt asking for 46 positions
6 in Fish and Wildlife, Park Service, BLM, BIA to staff the
7 Federal Subsistence Program. The Secretary was -- he
8 wanted to hold our feet to the fire and make sure that we
9 were really working with the communities on these resource
10 monitoring projects, so the initial approval was for about
11 half of that. And then he asked for additional information
12 about working with the Native community, about the tribal
13 organizations that were working on the projects and we
14 provided additional reassurance about two weeks ago and
15 then on Thursday, Assistant Secretary John Barry made his
16 final decision regarding the staffing plan, and at this
17 point 40 position throughout the Federal agencies are
18 approved for this first year.

19
20 The Assistant Secretary did specify, he directed
21 that the Subsistence Board hire a senior Native liaison
22 specialist whose responsibility would be to improve
23 communications and involvement with the tribal
24 organizations statewide, regional and village, so some of
25 the concerns raised by the tribes were listened to and
26 taken into account in this final decision by Assistant
27 Secretary John Barry.

28
29 He did not approve six positions, if you do math,
30 we asked for 46, got 40. For the remaining six he
31 suggested that we look again at contracting with Native
32 organizations in order to provide additional assistance on
33 the resource monitoring projects. So I don't think we have
34 a final specific tool to do that, but this was the
35 direction from the Secretary.

36
37 CHAIRMAN NICK: Can I follow up on the six?

38
39 MR. BRELSFORD: Yes.

40
41 CHAIRMAN NICK: If I remember correctly
42 AVCP probably had the most number of monitoring and then
43 the contracts, like on weirs. On the six that could be
44 helping the implementation of those services, those
45 programs, if I understand the resolution from AV -- that
46 the proposed resolution, one of the resolutions, you know,
47 aims to have a position like AVCP to kind of monitor or
48 oversee the operations. And, to me, you know, that would
49 be probably a good move because, you know, we also have
50 umbrella regulations, you know, that are within the Federal

00085

1 purview, you know, that are approved by the Federal Board
2 and that person could also be making certain that, you
3 know, that certain processes and procedures are met, so it
4 could be a dual benefits. Am I seeking on the right track
5 there?

6
7 MR. BRELSFORD: Your recollection is
8 correct that when we looked at the Federal lands and the
9 subsistence fisheries in those Federal waters the Yukon and
10 the Kuskokwim River were the most concentrated area where
11 the Federal Board will have management responsibilities.
12 In fact, looking statewide, it looks like about 50 percent
13 of all of the Federal subsistence management in fisheries
14 will be directed at the Yukon and the Kuskokwim Rivers.
15 And all the other systems, in the north, in Bristol Bay, in
16 Kodiak/Aleutians, Southcentral, together would only make up
17 another 50 percent, so you're remembering that there was a
18 high priority or a concentration on the Yukon and Kuskokwim
19 is correct. And I believe you've accurately remember the
20 resolution that was brought to you from AVCP, it included a
21 position that would be focused on the Lower Yukon and the
22 Lower Kuskokwim to orchestrate the development of projects
23 and of regulation changes and so on.

24
25 CHAIRMAN NICK: It would also seem more
26 prudent to oversee from 30 miles away rather than 430 miles
27 from Anchorage.

28
29 MR. BRELSFORD: I think there's a great
30 deal of promise in the suggestions that have been brought
31 to you. One concern that has been raised to the Federal
32 program has to do with the fact that on the Yukon and
33 Kuskokwim there are many tribal organizations that have
34 responsibilities, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, for
35 example, would have responsibilities above Holy Cross and
36 the Council of Athabaskan Governments would have a
37 significant role in the Yukon Flats area, so we probably
38 need to think kind of carefully to make sure that all of
39 the right players have a place in this discussion. But, as
40 I say, I believe the proposals before you are a positive
41 suggestion and one that really merits consideration, close
42 attention, by the Federal Board.

43
44 CHAIRMAN NICK: Thank you. (In Yup'ik)

45
46 INTERPRETER: Are there any questions
47 towards Taylor's presentation?

48
49 (No audible responses)

50

00086

1 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: If there are no further.....

4

5 MR. BRELSFORD: And if we're ready to
6 proceed, then you get a change of face at this point. My
7 co-worker, Bob Gerhard, from the National Park Service has
8 been working on the State and Federal Memorandum of
9 Agreement and he can provide a few overview comments for
10 you.

11

12 MR. GERHARD: Yes, thank you, Mr, Chairman
13 and members of the Council. I'm Bob Gerhard and I
14 represent the National Park Service on the Federal
15 Subsistence Staff Committee and, as Taylor said, I've been
16 working on the State/Federal Working Group that's looking
17 at the proposed Memorandum of Agreement. In the
18 information that was put at your places at lunchtime you'll
19 find this document which is called the "Second Review
20 Draft". And I just want to give you a little update on
21 what's been going on with this draft Memorandum of
22 Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding. And you might
23 remember that Myron Naneng also talked about this a little
24 bit this morning.

25

26 I'll give just a little bit of background. As you
27 remember, during the January training session you were
28 presented with an earlier draft of this which, at the time,
29 was called a Memorandum of Understanding, and all of the
30 Councils had a brief chance to look at it and make
31 comments. And from that we basically heard three things.
32 First, all the councils said that at the training session
33 was not sufficient time to thoroughly look at this and make
34 comments on it, and that's why we have a second draft. The
35 second thing we heard was that there was some very specific
36 comments about some language that councils wanted to have
37 added into the document. And then, third, the councils
38 generally said go ahead and proceed further with this
39 effort, and that's what we have done.

40

41 And this document, the second review draft, which I
42 believe all of you had a copy mailed to you in the middle
43 of February, this document incorporated all the comments
44 that we heard at the January session, and we hope we got
45 those all correct. First of all, as you'll see throughout
46 the document, several councils suggested that it should be
47 a Memorandum of Agreement instead of a Memorandum of
48 Understanding, and we have made that change.

49

50 In this document, we have shown all the places

00087

1 where changes are made, the bold type that's in brackets is
2 new language. Everything underlined would be deleted.

3
4 And throughout the document again, based on the
5 suggestions of all the councils, we've tried to make the
6 role of the regional advisory councils more visible
7 throughout the document. If you'll look in a number of
8 different places where we list the role of advisory groups,
9 we have specifically added regional advisory councils, and
10 in some cases advisory committees.

11
12 And, secondly, we've amended the document to show
13 that the regional advisory councils will be very directly
14 involved in the implementation of this MOA. A large part
15 of this MOA is to set a framework for the development of
16 more specific protocols. These protocols would be the
17 documents that specifically State how the State and Federal
18 programs will cooperate on such things as in-season
19 management, the gathering of information, and other
20 regulatory alignments. And we, again based on your
21 recommendations, added specific language, it's on page
22 five, that says as we work further on these protocols that
23 the protocols will be developed by interagency committees.
24 That means committees between the State and the Federal
25 governments, but they would also include regional council
26 representatives. So that's a specific place where councils
27 will have direct involvement in the development of the
28 protocols, which will be produced as a result of this MOA.

29
30 We've also made the role of the tribes more
31 visible. In a number of places where the first draft just
32 mentioned Native organizations, we've specifically added
33 tribes to make that more specific.

34
35 And, finally, the document highlights more clearly
36 the role that cultural practices and traditional knowledge,
37 that those will be an integral part of information
38 gathering and decisionmaking.

39
40 So all these changes that you can see were based on
41 recommendations from the regional advisory councils at the
42 January training session.

43
44 And what's happened since then is that the State
45 and Federal work group has met again and agreed in
46 principle with all of these changes, although the agreement
47 is just in principle now, and there still may be some
48 details that there will not be total agreement between the
49 State and Federal signers.

50

00088

1 But also because the councils said there was not
2 enough time, we are not making any further decisions until
3 after all of the councils have had a chance to review this
4 again. So this is your opportunity at this meeting to look
5 at this in more detail and give us any comments of
6 suggestions that you have.

7
8 At the present time, the State and Federal parties
9 that will eventually sign this have tentatively agreed that
10 once this is reviewed by councils and we come up with a
11 final draft, that the signers will initial the document
12 which will indicate sort of interim acceptance of the
13 document, but not sign it until after the protocols have
14 been developed. But much of this work has to be done.
15 Taylor has already talked about in-season management, and
16 both the State and the Federal signers agree that in-season
17 management was one of the most critical issues to deal with
18 right away, so there has been some work begun on that.

19
20 I should mention one thing, that the Federal
21 Subsistence Board has met and discussed this MOA and at the
22 present time the Board does not think that there should be
23 more signers added to the document, that it should just
24 remain the signers from the Federal Subsistence Board and
25 the Federal agencies, Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
26 and the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game. But, as I
27 said earlier, there's no final action yet. We want to make
28 sure -- there's still this and I think two more regional
29 advisory council meetings, so we want to get your input and
30 comments, suggestions, before going any further. And the
31 Board will -- very much wants to hear your comments and
32 suggestions so this is your opportunity.

33
34 And that's all I have. If you have any questions
35 about specifics in the document, I'll be glad to answer
36 them.

37
38 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik) Any questions?
39 Willard?

40
41 MR. CHURCH: Yes. I would like to ask
42 Myron Naneng to come up to the speaker and talk to us about
43 how we as a board can support more tribal involvement in
44 this MOU/MOA agreement. I know that he has suggested on
45 his resolution here that some tribal organizations be
46 included as signing parties, but also giving tribes an
47 opportunity to be more involved in this process.

48
49 MR. NANENG: Should I do it in Yup'ik or
50 English? Both. Okay. (In Yup'ik)

00089

1 INTERPRETER: Myron said that we know we
2 keep stressing or pushing for what we could do to deal with
3 the management of the fish and wildlife resources, and how
4 we can participate in dealing with these issues, and when
5 we -- and when Federal government and the State agencies
6 bring up an issue, the State does not really push for the
7 Native groups to manage them. Relating to our fishery
8 resources, even in the high seas. The resolution was being
9 presented and we're hoping for Fish and Wildlife -- rather
10 for the agencies to support our efforts.

11
12 Regardless of what the resources will be, fishery
13 issues or migratory bird issues, and other issues, that we
14 can deal with the majority of those fish and wildlife
15 issues are the issues that we deal with, and take the
16 example of the fishery issues. A lot of the fish destined
17 for the area are harvested commercially in the intercept
18 areas. If we can deal with these issues using the support
19 of the resolution, that there could be -- it could be --
20 very well be handled similar to the waterfowl conservation
21 issues, and you can give your full support to these issues.
22 And Willard -- and Quinhagak arctic char, Dolly Vardens --
23 in the Katy John issue -- rather, Katy John case, the
24 Quinhagak case, and Katy John case are practically the same
25 -- or rather included into the issue.

26
27 The Fish and Wildlife Service manages the Dolly
28 Vardens and -- but, you know, because of the lawsuit case,
29 the Dolly Vardens are recognized as a subsistence resource,
30 and could be harvested for subsistence purposes. For that
31 reason, the -- this issue should be brought to the
32 attention of the Federal Subsistence Board, because of the
33 fact the Yup'ik people or the indigenous people know the --
34 I'm a little confused, because he's speaking too fast for
35 me. Well, anyway, the general idea of his comment is that
36 the, you know, -- that the Dolly Varden should be taken as
37 an example. And.....

38
39 MR. CHURCH: Yeah. Just a correction,
40 rainbow trout.

41
42 MR. NANENG: Yeah, okay. Well, I couldn't
43 think of the right name.

44
45 INTERPRETER: Willard said that a
46 correction is rainbow trout instead of Dolly Varden.

47
48 MR. NANENG: The one -- that's the reason
49 why we want tribal involvement.

50

00090

1 CHAIRMAN NICK: Uh-huh. Mary?

2
3 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

4
5 INTERPRETER: Mary Gregory asked if -- Mary
6 asked if Myron reviewed the new draft, and he wanted to ask
7 those of regional council advisory committee members wanted
8 to know if it's possible for them to deal with the issue,
9 because they're -- you know, they just learned that, you
10 know, there were proposed 46 staff funding requested. And
11 he said that, you know, those people wouldn't -- they
12 wouldn't -- those staff members wouldn't be harvesting
13 those resources for subsistence. Native groups will most
14 likely be the ones that will need to harvest these
15 resource.

16
17 MR. NANENG: (In Yup'ik)

18
19 INTERPRETER: Myron's explaining that, you
20 know, for that -- for those reasons and other reasons, they
21 are hoping for the support of their proposed resolution.
22 On page four and five the traditional knowledge should be
23 inserted somewhere in there. They think that if we don't
24 work together, the agency managers might do whatever they
25 want to do if they don't work together. And for that
26 reason they want to -- they want their support.

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

29
30 INTERPRETER: Robert says that when he was
31 thinking, that the joint meeting that addressed that issue
32 they expressed their feelings about issues -- rather the
33 concerns that are relating to what's being brought up
34 regarding the signatories, and it will be guaranteed if the
35 guaran -- you know, the groups are identified as the
36 signatory to the Memorandum of Agreement. That's how he
37 understand.

38
39 And on the page three, there's a certain word that
40 say, that word's permissive. It could be done or not could
41 be done. I'm not sure which area he's talking about.
42 Those people will be working on some of that. And there's
43 \$6 million worth of project that's documented there.

44
45 MR. NICK: This is probably \$6 million
46 worth of projects right there. \$6 million. Or, I don't
47 know, maybe close to. Technical committees do all the
48 work. This document, this agreement is provided by
49 technical committee. (In Yup'ik)

50

00091

1 INTERPRETER: That the regional advisory --
2 and the regional advisory committee, they're not party to
3 that, and a lot of the issues that they deal with, the
4 regional council advisory -- regional advisory committee
5 members are not involved in that.

6
7 MR. NICK: That we may be included, but it
8 does not say that we will be included, so I think it will
9 be better if we had -- take that word from may to shall or
10 will.

11
12 MR. CHAIR: John.

13
14 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
15 Yeah, Myron, on page three on the paragraph seven, (In
16 Yup'ik).

17
18 INTERPRETER: John says on page three,
19 paragraph seven, under para- -- I think he say item seven
20 under page four I think. Where it's bracketed, that says
21 that may, needs to be changed. I don't like the way the
22 language is placed there under this bracket. Those of us
23 who are sitting here in this seat, we are working toward a
24 better resource management. Listening to the users. We
25 are dealing with -- or, you know, we will deal with the
26 resource. If it should -- it must be changed to shall, it
27 will work better. And if we word it in such, our chair
28 person maybe becoming involved in this, you know, dealing
29 with these issues. Like Western Interior, Eastern
30 Interior, North Slope and other RAC members chair persons,
31 they will be included instead of dealing with a lot of
32 issues behind our backs. Which one is better for you,
33 shall or will.

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

36
37 INTERPRETER: And Myron insisted shall will
38 have better -- rather stronger language on it. Myron is
39 taking the example of the Y-K Delta Goose Management Plan
40 that they have AVCP Waterfowl Conservation Committee
41 members being involved. He said that, you know, when they
42 deal with migratory bird issues, they have people working
43 with them from State of Oregon, Washington, California, and
44 they work closely with those people, and including sport
45 hunters, you know, they listen to the WCC because, you
46 know, they're part of the signatory. And if they do that,
47 you know, it will be similar to that, and no matter what
48 issues may come up, without the agreement of the parties to
49 the plan, you know, they don't do things. If, you know,
50 using that as example, they should be included as signatory

00092

1 parties.

2

3 MR. CHURCH: Yeah, the other job that I do
4 for my home community, Quinhagak, is as the Natural
5 Resource Director. I work for our tribal organization.
6 That's the IRA Council. You know, I do support the tribes
7 being more fully involved in this Federal subsistence
8 fisheries program, and I think it's very important, and
9 this is the opportunity for tribes to be more active.
10 There's a lot of resources out there that we rely on, and
11 we do have a lot of local knowledge. We have people that
12 have the ability to use traditional knowledge to be a part
13 of the management program. And if AVCP, for example, is the
14 organization that works with a lot of the villages that
15 don't have their tribal capacity built up at this time,
16 there's an opportunity for tribal capacity to be built
17 through the existing organization. It's a way for us to be
18 more involved when we can't get involved on our own as
19 separate tribal governments.

20

21 I think this is an important time for us, and we
22 should not be too hasty in signing any kind of agreement,
23 but I think we need to understand it as best we can and by
24 any means that we can understand it with -- like through
25 AVCP, through our leaders, and make sure that it is the way
26 that we would like to see it. It's been presented to us.
27 I think it's time for us to look at it, maybe make some
28 revisions and present it back, and then we can negotiate on
29 the language to make sure that we are represented. That's
30 all I have.

31

32 MR. CHAIR: (In Yup'ik) Quyana.

33

34 MR. NANENG: Yeah.

35

36 CHAIRMAN NICK: Okay. Tom -- Bob.....

37

38 MR. GERHARD: Bob, yes.

39

40 CHAIRMAN NICK: Sorry. Coming back to --
41 before I recognized someone from the audience,.....

42

43 MR. GERHARD: Uh-huh.

44

45 CHAIRMAN NICK: Bob, did I -- or -- yeah, I
46 heard earlier that because it is important that we have a
47 document here that is accepted, you know, or will be
48 document that will be workable for the satisfaction of all
49 concerned, that you will probably have two more regional
50 meetings between maybe an official signed, or the end

00093

1 result is reached? Or did I misunderstand?

2

3 MR. GERHARD: Maybe. I would say in the
4 round of ten regional advisory council meetings that are
5 happening now, there are still two that have not met yet.

6
7 CHAIRMAN NICK: Okay.

8

9 MR. GERHARD: But the hope of the State and
10 Federal parties to this was that after this round of spring
11 council meetings that possibly next month, in April, could
12 come to final agreement, and then, as I said, at least
13 initial the document as partial acceptance. I didn't mean
14 two more like next fall.....

15
16 CHAIRMAN NICK: Okay.

17
18 MR. GERHARD:and beyond.

19
20 MR. CHAIR: Okay. In that case I'll just
21 make a quick comment and I'll recognize Joshua from
22 Quinhagak. I'd like to I guess kind of speak on behalf of
23 my community here. We are an IRA tribe. I'm going to make
24 a guess here. I don't know the exact dates of the Alaska
25 -- the act, the Alaska Native Service enactment, you know,
26 the start, but I'm going to guess about 1930s, you know,
27 1936, in that time area.

28
29 MR. GERHARD: Uh-huh.

30
31 CHAIRMAN NICK: If it is 1936, four years
32 later in 1940, 60 years ago today, this community was
33 recognized by the United States Government as an Indian
34 tribe under the Indian Reorganization Act. We are a
35 recognized tribe. We have a constitution, a preamble,
36 charter, bylaws. So we preempt any laws pertaining to the
37 tribal members of this community that came afterwards. And
38 all of this, the ANILCA Act, is like 40 years later, our
39 act, you know, to be recognized by the United States
40 Government as a tribe. So I see fairness, you know, in
41 having Native involvement, you know, in the final agreement
42 or sign-off or an agreement by the tribal members, and they
43 can only do it through the tribes. I know that the numbers
44 are high, you know. I hear different numbers every time I
45 go to a meeting. Sometimes I hear 226, sometimes I hear a
46 different number, but it is not impossible. We are -- this
47 document here will be a document in which State and Federal
48 game -- the fish managers will be working for our benefit.
49 So I think I would like to note for the record, I guess,
50 that I support, you know, the inclusion of the tribes as

00094

1 signatories. You know, at least those that are recognized
2 by the Interior, United States Government as tribes under
3 the IRA act.

4
5 Joshua. I'll recognize Joshua from.....

6
7 MR. CLEVELAND: Quyana, Mr. Chairman. (In
8 Yup'ik)

9
10 INTERPRETER: This particular subject here
11 I would like to bring back to my people, and I'm a little
12 confused of what this particular thing.

13
14 MR. HANSON: (In Yup'ik)

15
16 MR. CLEVELAND: (In Yup'ik)

17
18 INTERPRETER: This particular memorandum.
19 To me this is new, and I don't understand parts of it.
20 Maybe some will have misunderstanding that the State and
21 the Federal will team up on this certain issue. The State
22 didn't want to involve the subsistence issue, but then
23 right now we see that the State is involved. And the
24 language presented the way it is written, first IRA members
25 or AVCP, and that we are -- that we can't even understand
26 this. It does not quite follow the way it is written, and
27 he would have to bring this document back to his council
28 and present it to them. And it's -- this is going to stir
29 up some confusion. He's -- the State backed out on
30 subsistence issue, why should it be involved. And this
31 issue still not today clear. But at least keep us
32 informed, and he just want to inquire why IRA is not, his
33 home town is not involved when this piece of document is
34 done. And maybe AVCP knew about this document before us,
35 but I haven't heard this from my IRA council members. To
36 me this is something new, and it's kind of surprising, but
37 I want to thank you for you guys providing this piece of
38 information to us. And anything comes about just like the
39 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, we should be aware of
40 what's behind this kinds of documents. And if I could take
41 this back to my people, my village, maybe they'll have a
42 better understanding, and we'll be aware of what's behind
43 this piece of document. And we need to work together in
44 these kinds of (indiscernible) affecting our people.

45
46 MR. CHAIR: (In Yup'ik)

47
48 INTERPRETER: Refer to page two under
49 article three, preamble three. That section, article
50 three, (indiscernible), it's written there, and you should

00095

1 refer to this section like earlier Myron clarified this
2 section here, and also this popped up during our Fairbanks
3 meeting, and we (indiscernible) signatories. We have to be
4 involved, and we should have our signatures on this
5 agreement. This is a draft. And maybe needs to be
6 modified before the final, and the board can -- needs to
7 look over this piece of document, and (indiscernible), but
8 we're not going to have our signatures on it. At this time
9 us councils are going to be important link coming up and
10 dealing with these kinds of documents. We are advisory
11 council, and we have to be aware of this certain types of
12 documents. Like this morning we saw the documents that
13 were talked about in our last meeting, and those are
14 reminders, and we need to document everything. Through
15 those documents, we are involved, similar to what you
16 stated is true, the Federal Government can't move too fast
17 and not knowing what's -- you know, what steps to take.
18 They have to get the help from the State because they dealt
19 with certain issues for a long time. 2000 season.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN NICK: For next year, 2001 season,
22 (In Yup'ik).

23
24 INTERPRETER: Now we are looking ahead and
25 we will be preparing for 2001. We're going to be doing
26 2001 season. I think that involvement is included in
27 there. I hope I didn't confuse you more.

28
29 MR. CLEVELAND: (In Yup'ik)

30
31 INTERPRETER: Yes, I want to thank you. I
32 understand better. So I'd like -- I have better
33 understanding.

34
35 MS. GREGORY: Yeah.

36
37 CHAIRMAN NICK: Mary?

38
39 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

40
41 INTERPRETER: At this time we're looking
42 over this piece of document, trying to understand what the
43 contents of it. So if we don't like something, we can
44 suggest changes, and if you're still confused, you can work
45 with our -- your representative, Willard Church, but
46 anybody can make comments on any issue.

47
48 MR. CLEVELAND: (In Yup'ik)

49
50 INTERPRETER: And he also would like to

00096

1 bring up an issue or a question on this reference,
2 (indiscernible) refuge. Some area is being looked at by
3 the State, and they say that the State is acting in some
4 area and managing certain species of fish, and the
5 subsistence management, and the way he understands it, with
6 the responsibility.

7
8 MR ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

9
10 INTERPRETER: This first question, this
11 documents were provided because of our people, state, that
12 work around, they wanted everybody to work together instead
13 of appointing each other. If any project comes up,
14 everybody should be informed what they will bring,
15 including the small villages. And there would -- this
16 under Federal government when dealing with subsistence will
17 have to keep our people informed. When something comes up,
18 the Federal government, our people must be informed what's
19 going on with our subsistence. We have to protect
20 subsistence issue. The State is only looking after the
21 navigable waters and nothing else.

22
23 MR. CLEVELAND: (In Yup'ik)

24
25 INTERPRETER: Thank you for letting me
26 understand what the State's responsibility and the Federal
27 government and also our responsibility.

28
29 MR. CHAIR: (In Yup'ik)

30
31 INTERPRETER: And let me include that this
32 is just a draft. It's not final yet. It's in the talking
33 stages right now. Your concerns are well taken and we'll
34 record it, your concerns.

35
36 MR. CLEVELAND: Quyana.

37
38 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah. John.

39
40 MR. HANSON: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
41 Chairman. Yeah, Bob, on page three, section seven, at the
42 bottom there where you have the bold lettering, the black
43 one, the check -- that may include regional council
44 representatives among others. This may should be changed
45 to shall, so it would read that shall include regional
46 council representatives and others.

47
48 MR. GERHARD: Yes, I understood that, and I
49 have that written down. And it's also in the record, that
50 -- but.....

00097

1 MR. HANSON: Yeah.

2

3 MR. GERHARD:thank you for.....

4

5 MR. HANSON: (In Yup'ik)

6

7 INTERPRETER: Mr. Hanson is explaining why
8 he wants that special word may changed to shall. Shall is
9 more of a command than a negative may. So Myron's got the
10 document and he will make to change it.

11

12 CHAIRMAN NICK: Anything else you want to
13 add, Bob?

14

15 MR. GERHARD: No, I appreciate your taking
16 the time and giving us some comment on this. We will take
17 these comments back with us and present them to the Federal
18 Subsistence Board, and they will take action on those
19 comments. I appreciate your taking the time.

20

21 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah, thank you, Bob. I
22 just want to make one quick closing comment on -- regarding
23 the MOA. I think I had the most opportunity to have this
24 in front of me, and then gone over, you know, almost word
25 by word. I saw it, you know, during our workshop in
26 Anchorage, and I also saw it in Fairbanks in the tribal --
27 in the joint meeting, and I had it, you know, almost word
28 for word there. And this is my third council, my third
29 meeting. And I think remembering the comments made by
30 members at the workshop, and in the caucus, I think I would
31 like to commend, you know, the technical group, you know,
32 that did the work, the proposed changes, and I think I only
33 see the -- I only see one thing lacking at this point now
34 is in the signatories. So I think it somehow, through some
35 means that the signatories could include tribal -- tribes,
36 I think you'll have a document that is -- will be well
37 accepted by all the communities. Thank you, Bob.

38

39 MR. GERHARD: Well, thank you very much. I
40 do want to add that if you have any more comments today or
41 tomorrow, be sure to let us know, or send them in.

42

43 MR. ANDREW: James.

44

45 CHAIRMAN NICK: James.

46

47 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman, Bob, I didn't
48 see the word conservation in here, but I thought
49 harvestable services -- I mean, surpluses and escapement or
50 population, that to me the conservation's easier to

00098

1 understand than these other words, because been dealing or
2 talking about conservation in other fish and wildlife that
3 we subsistence catch, and where is conservation kicked in
4 that? It may be on -- maybe on page five, number two up on
5 top, but to me conservation is easier to understand than
6 those words, but is that what it means, surpluses or --
7 that we have to deal with? It's on page five, number two
8 up on top.

9
10 MR. GERHARD: Actually on the very first
11 page, on the very first page in the preamble, the first two
12 whereases discuss that. And the second whereas is the
13 Federal Government's role in ANILCA to provide for -- to
14 protect and provide the opportunity to engage in
15 subsistence, consistent with the conservation of healthy
16 populations of fish and wildlife.

17
18 MR. CHARLES: Okay.

19
20 MR. GERHARD: So the conservation is very
21 much an important part of all this.

22
23 MR. CHARLES: Okay. Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN NICK: Thank you, Bob.

26
27 MR. GERHARD: Quyana.

28
29 CHAIRMAN NICK: I had one -- is Myron still
30 here?

31
32 MR. NANENG: Yeah.

33
34 CHAIRMAN NICK: I had one request. I guess
35 Myron planned on traveling back to Bethel for an evening
36 commitment that he has in Bethel, and he wanted to quickly
37 go over the Migratory Bird Treaty. So if it would be okay
38 with you, we would like to have Myron go over the Migratory
39 Bird Treaty Act quickly. (In Yup'ik)

40
41 VARIOUS: Yeah.

42
43 CHAIRMAN NICK: Okay. Myron. (In Yup'ik)

44
45 MR. NANENG: Quyana, Mr. Chairman. (In
46 Yup'ik)

47
48 INTERPRETER: At this time this Migratory
49 Bird Protocol has been (indiscernible). If they team up
50 with this law in 1916, and we Alaskan people were forgotten

00099

1 when they make this law. And after that we weren't allowed
2 to hunt after March 10th. At this time amendment under
3 this law, we're not supposed to hunt any birds since 1916.
4 And if some incident happen, one person went out hunting
5 and the whole community went out and caught some birds, and
6 (indiscernible). At this time Secretary of Interior
7 recognizes the need that exists among our people, and so
8 therefore they tried to make an amendment on this protocol.
9 We're still working on this change. Instead of
10 (indiscernible), this needs to be done. The Canadian goose
11 and emperor goose is in here. And the Federal, State and
12 Native people will be working together to fix the
13 amendment. At this time Native working groups are working
14 on this one, making -- or trying to get this fixed up. And
15 the Fish and Wildlife Service were directed to present this
16 to the villages, so that this can be fixed in such a way
17 that we can -- the -- fixed in such a way that it could be
18 utilized by waterfowl users.

19
20 At this time three years have gone by ever since we
21 started working on this issue. And at this time we're
22 trying to fix it in such a way that it will be useful to
23 all the waterfowl users. AVCP, Kawerak, Bristol Bay and
24 other organizations, in the State of Alaska are working
25 together to -- and goose people in Fairbanks and Copper
26 River and Southeastern people, those are Southeastern and
27 Anchorage area. Those people from Southeastern, Anchorage,
28 and Fairbanks, are not allowed to hunt our waterfowl, but
29 they can come home if they are Natives to their villages to
30 hunt. We are trying to work with those Native working
31 groups along with the State, and sometimes some of these
32 folks come from the Lower 48, and sometimes some of these
33 folks that come to Barrow area or they come from different
34 area. And these migratory birds do not belong to specific
35 areas, they belong international.

36
37 We are trying to get this -- next month, towards
38 the end of April, we will get together and plan on how we
39 could come up with this protocol amendment. We need to
40 come up with something how we could handle this subsistence
41 uses of the waterfowl in this area.

42
43 We know that when the population of the Canadian
44 goose is going down, we had to go out and inform the
45 villages of what's happening. And those states,
46 Washington, California, in light of conservation and goose
47 management work together in trying to build up the
48 population of this type of bird. And when we are trying to
49 work on the amendments. We need to involve a lot of
50 people, including those states down Lower 48. And fish and

00100

1 wildlife management must also be involved in -- we can
2 handle this issue, trying to make the amendments. But
3 everyone needs to work together. At this time we are still
4 trying to work with the groups, regional advisory groups
5 and some people don't understand our purpose, why we're
6 trying to make amendments.

7
8 This issue is not something new. It's been going
9 on for many years, and the users need to be informed of
10 this even so that they will have an input how these laws
11 will be done. And the people, organizations have
12 representatives in this, and when the statewide amendment
13 is coming to (indiscernible) or to regionals, we'll have
14 voices in dealing with this protocol.

15
16 Those -- we're still on proposal stages, and
17 towards the end of April we will meet, we should be better
18 informed of what's becoming of this issue. This waterfowl
19 conservation has a voice in that effect. This is my update
20 to you.

21
22 MR. McCANN: Mr. Chairman.

23
24 CHAIRMAN NICK: Billy.

25
26 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

27
28 INTERPRETER: Are you going to pick so any
29 people around the state or one from this area? We should
30 be represented better from this area, because we know,
31 we're from (indiscernible) times area. If we are a
32 few.....

33
34 MR. NANENG: (In Yup'ik)

35
36 INTERPRETER: Well, we got together as a
37 state advisory, state and come up with three people, and
38 the regions can be kind of the three people.

39
40 MR. McCANN: So we'll have same power for
41 each side?

42
43 INTERPRETER: We will have the same power.

44
45 MR. NANENG: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

46
47 INTERPRETER: Fish and Wildlife Service
48 will be monitoring the productivity, population, waste.

49
50 CHAIRMAN NICK: Mary.

00101

1 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: To me the waterfowl
4 conservation, this should be handled by -- this issue
5 should be directed to waterfowl conservation since they
6 know the activities.

7

8 MR. NANENG: (In Yup'ik)

9

10 INTERPRETER: It will be up to you guys how
11 you want to handle this.

12

13 CHAIRMAN NICK: Alvin.

14

15 MR. OWELTUCK: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

16

17 INTERPRETER: The way I see this, this
18 waterfowl conservation is to get -- have it from the IRA
19 councils. When the bird come, the villages are involved,
20 and therefore they should have a voice in deciding how this
21 should be handled.

22

23 CHAIRMAN NICK: Myron. (In Yup'ik)

24

25 INTERPRETER: Federal subsistence
26 regulations. Maybe in the -- this waterfowl conservation
27 might be included in the regulations which will be
28 approved. These questions will be presented to the
29 committee. Those are documents that are written into
30 regulations. Everything that we use as subsistence might
31 be written in the book. Am I right or wrong? (In Yup'ik)

32

33 CHAIRMAN NICK: So there will be two groups
34 developing regulations to be in the same book. (In Yup'ik)

35

36 INTERPRETER: (In Yup'ik) This Waterfowl
37 conservation committee is not new. They've been active for
38 quite some time, and those members are pretty stable, and
39 they've been working for quite some time, and they
40 understand the different issues. He think that that
41 committee will do the job. And we need that group, and
42 they should be involved into this meeting and how this
43 issue should be done. I hope I am -- my understanding is
44 in the right direction?

45

46 MR. NANENG: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

47

48 INTERPRETER: This protocol is not -- it is
49 an international treaty. It's not local. I think that if
50 you were trying to figure how best you could handle this

00102

1 change protocol. But if change are coming, then it have to
2 start where hunter start and learn -- we sort of hope, as
3 of learning what's behind it and so on. This conservation
4 committee understands the issue and how they should keep
5 working on it.

6
7 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

8
9 INTERPRETER: I wasn't aware that it was an
10 international agreement, but right now I understand it
11 better. Any other questions towards the.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN NICK: John.

14
15 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 Myron, (In Yup'ik).

17
18 INTERPRETER: This committee, to me it's a
19 good organization, because since they been working on this
20 issue for quite some time. But just one -- these three
21 representatives from the State, I'm a little confused over
22 this. I did -- who.....

23
24 MR. NANENG: (In Yup'ik)

25
26 INTERPRETER: The way he understands, there
27 will be three people from the State, and they'll be working
28 closely with Native working group. There will be one from
29 waterfowl conservation committee, Native working group, and
30 one from the State and one from Federal.

31
32 MR. HANSON: (In Yup'ik)

33
34 MR. NANENG: (In Yup'ik)

35
36 INTERPRETER: We should be informed better
37 after the meeting in April, towards the end of April. We
38 will be talking about this issue again when we meet in
39 April.

40
41 MR. HANSON: (In Yup'ik)

42
43 INTERPRETER: I know that this committee
44 has been -- has started long time ago, and so on,
45 (indiscernible) that he was also involved with this
46 started, and he knew how that committee is working. He
47 know even that protocol will change, it's not new to the
48 Waterfowl Conservation Committee. He's supporting that
49 group, and to keep going to keep working on this issue.

50

00103

1 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: They're informing this group
4 that you will be meeting in -- last month. And he's asking
5 if he wants a resolution, a back up resolution.

6

7 MR. NANENG: (In Yup'ik)

8

9 INTERPRETER: And Myron's saying that it
10 should give him the right tool to work with in coming up
11 with a resolution.

12

13 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

14

15 INTERPRETER: Before we adjourn, we'll see
16 if we can come up with a resolution to support.

17

18 MS. GREGORY: I make a motion, Mr.
19 Chairman, to (In Yup'ik).

20

21 INTERPRETER: And there's a motion by Mary
22 that they would come up with a resolution.

23

24 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah, we have a motion to
25 place the migratory bird on the agenda, you know, in the
26 discuss the resolutions to be presented to the council.

27

28 MR. OWELTUCK: Second.

29

30 CHAIRMAN NICK: Second by Alvin. (In
31 Yup'ik)

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

36

37 (No opposing responses.)

38

39 CHAIRMAN NICK: Passes.

40

41 MR. NANENG: Do you want me to draft a
42 resolution?

43

44 MS. GREGORY: Again.

45

46 CHAIRMAN NICK: If you could.

47

48 MR. NANENG: (In Yup'ik)

49

50 INTERPRETER: I will work on this, keep

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1 working on this, and I will be back tomorrow.

2

3 CHAIRMAN NICK: It is now 5:30. (In
4 Yup'ik)

5

6 INTERPRETER: We will come back tonight and
7 continue on this.

8

9 CHAIRMAN NICK: Report on Federal
10 Subsistence. Mary.

11

12 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, before we
13 break, I want to thank Mrs. Elina Berling, and Elina Nick
14 -- is it Elina Nick, your wife? For bringing us the Yup'ik
15 snacks. (In Yup'ik)

16

17 INTERPRETER: She wants to try and thank
18 before we break those two ladies bring us some good snacks.
19 Thank you for bringing us some good food.

20

21 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik) Break.....

22

23 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

24

25 CHAIRMAN NICK: What time.....

26

27 MS. GREGORY: Until 7:00 o'clock?

28

29 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah.

30

31 MS. GREGORY: Seven o'clock.

32

33 CHAIRMAN NICK: Seven o'clock (In Yup'ik)

34

35 INTERPRETER: Seven o'clock we'll resume
36 again.

37

38 (Off record - 5:35 p.m.)

39

40 (On record - 7:08 p.m.)

41

42 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

43

44 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

45

46 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah. Seven o'clock (In
47 Yup'ik). We'll reconvene.

48

49 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible)

50

00105

1 CHAIRMAN NICK: 7:09 p.m. And continue
2 with the Federal subsistence issues. I believe the next is
3 monitoring projects for 2000.

4
5 MR. KRUEGER: Okay. Mr. Chairman, my name
6 is Chuck Krueger. What we're going to talk about, really
7 four, five and six here, is monitoring projects for 2000
8 and the selection process for 2001, and then the priority
9 setting for 2001. Those all kind of fit together, so
10 Taylor and I will kind of tag team, joint deliver that
11 report.

12
13 Direct your attention in the briefing book to tab R
14 here, and particularly this page. It says unified
15 fisheries resource monitoring program. We'll be speaking
16 from that as well as a handout that was made available
17 today, and that focuses on the second round. It says
18 Review Draft, Projects Spring, Second Round.

19
20 Resource Monitoring Program's purpose is to better
21 understand fish and fisheries, and the Board has committed
22 to getting in a sense a preliminary start on that program
23 with a complete and full consultative start for the
24 following year, in 2001. What I'm going to first speak to
25 is this beginning of projects for this summer. I won't
26 spend a lot of time on it. I know that some of these
27 materials have been out for actually a couple months or
28 more, and it was also discussed at the training session in
29 January as well.

30
31 The Board is committed to getting started on some
32 resource monitoring projects this spring and into the
33 summer. It did adopt an abbreviated selection process. A
34 key in that process was that there was a clear need
35 existing in the projects that were going to be undertaken,
36 that there would be existing consultation with rural
37 partners, with villages, and that it was ideally issues
38 that needed attention immediately. So in a sense, in most
39 parts, the projects that have been approved by the Board,
40 as well as what's in this second round are ones that build
41 on existing projects, or projects that already had been
42 planned, and occasionally there's a new start, but that was
43 usually because of an issue particularly identified by the
44 regional advisory councils.

45
46 An example of that would be the project for the
47 Yukon River on itithaphonus (ph), the disease in chinook
48 salmon. That's project number three, and that's in your --
49 a description of that is in the -- in your briefing book, a
50 couple pages back here. There wasn't an existing project,

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1 but it had been well identified by the regional advisory
2 councils as being important.

3
4 Of the projects identified in this region, there
5 were seven approved by the Board back in February. And
6 they included a project on -- not only the disease project
7 on Chinooks, but also one on white fish, and it's in
8 relationship to beaver dams, and we heard a number of
9 people talk about that issue this morning. And there's
10 another one looking at trying to understand traditional
11 knowledge again in beaver and white fish interactions.
12 That's project six. So four and six are both related to
13 the beaver/white fish issue. There are, of course, some
14 salmon projects.

15
16 One of the things that in this program as it was --
17 has been developed, has been a recognition of the
18 importance of not just doing salmon, but that other fresh
19 water as being important to subsistence. And this program
20 particularly has the opportunity to support projects on
21 non-salmon or fresh water fishes. So we -- in this first
22 round there's projects on northern pike, white fish,
23 sheefish, and char, just as examples.

24
25 For the draft projects for spring, this is a second
26 round, we're particularly keen on you taking a look at
27 those for the Yukon-Kuskokwim, and for that matter at a
28 statewide level, and to provide your comments to us on what
29 you think of those projects. Do you -- would you recommend
30 to the Board that they approve them, and we would like to
31 have that type of feedback either here today, tomorrow, or
32 sometime in the very near future. It should be by the
33 first of April.

34
35 In that round of projects, I could just identify a
36 couple that may be of interest to you. The projects do
37 have numbers at the top for your reference, starting with
38 project 21, as a northern pike project. That is in the
39 upper Yukon, but the next one is Hooper Bay test fishing
40 that some of you may be familiar with. It's a project that
41 will be performed predominantly by the rural community.
42 There's an AVCP project, a proposal from them, that's
43 project 24. That's on providing technical support to the
44 Pilot Station sonar. There are projects as well in the
45 upper Yukon with Stevens Village and the villages of Circle
46 and Eagle.

47
48 In the Kuskokwim region, a project on extending the
49 operations of the Goodnews River weir. These would be
50 examples of existing projects that this program is

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1 attempting to build on, as well as a similar one for the
2 Kanektok. Project 29 is on providing some communication
3 and opportunities to observe the operation of floating
4 weirs for counting salmon, and that's a project with AVCP.

5
6
7 MR. BRELSFORD: As you were maybe looking
8 through the paper, you'll see that on the right-hand side
9 there's a one-page description of the project, and when you
10 turn the page, you'll see it's a comment sheet. So if you
11 want to look at those later on, or even after the meeting
12 and write down comments and just tear it out, and either
13 give it to us or fax it, there's some contact numbers in
14 the introductory pages. So you could get a little bit of
15 an idea about how the project would work, and who the
16 partners are, like where AVCP is working with us, or the
17 Native Village of Quinhagak is involved in the Kanektok
18 weir, you can see that described in these little one-page
19 papers.

20
21 And then in case you were kind of curious about the
22 budget and how it's being organized, the very last part is
23 a spreadsheet laid out sideways. And on the back page of
24 the whole book, you'll see right here a little table, and
25 we'd mentioned before that Secretary Babbitt really
26 promised that most of the money for these resource projects
27 would go to the State and to the Native organizations, And
28 if you look at this table on this package, 50 percent of
29 the budget, \$800,000 in this package, is going to rural
30 organizations and local hires, and 37 percent would go to
31 ADF&G, and 12 percent would go to the Federal agencies, so
32 we feel like we've had a lot of good cooperation from the
33 tribal associations and the villages. Some good projects
34 came forward, and that means we're able to meet the
35 Secretary's goal. We actually came a little better than
36 maybe the Secretary expected. We were hoping to have about
37 50 or 60 percent of the money going to the State and to
38 local organizations, and it's actually about 80 percent in
39 this second round of projects. So it's been a quick start
40 this first year, but we feel like we've been able to build
41 on some good work that the communities were already doing,
42 especially on the Yukon and the Kuskokwim River, and so
43 we've come forward with a lot of joint projects where the
44 agencies are working together with the local communities.

45
46 MR. KRUEGER: So at this time we could
47 stop, and we'll take -- we could take any questions or ans-
48 -- questions on that before moving on to item five there.

49
50 CHAIRMAN NICK: Can I make a comment? At

00108

1 the caucus in Anchorage, we had a similar process only for
2 those projects that affected our region, and in -- if you
3 would like to have some input from our council here on
4 those that are affecting the Yukon-Kuskokwim, our tribal
5 unit boundaries, maybe we could do a similar quick process
6 like we did in Anchorage. That way we could take care of
7 -- you can describe the project, and then we can go on to
8 the back page and then answer those questions as we did in
9 Anchorage. Taylor, would you agree that we.....

10
11 MR. BRELSFORD: Sure. Let's take a few
12 minutes.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah.

15
16 MR. BRELSFORD:one project at a
17 time.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN NICK: That's correct.

20
21 MR. BRELSFORD:on the ones that are
22 in the lower Yukon and the lower.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah.

25
26 MR. BRELSFORD:Kuskokwim Delta.

27
28 CHAIRMAN NICK: Can I run it by the council
29 here? (In Yup'ik)

30
31 INTERPRETER: He wants to repeat what he
32 said in Yup'ik to this group. Mr. Nick is translating what
33 he -- what was just said, and he wants some comments from
34 this council.

35
36 MS. GREGORY: Except for Hooper Bay, that
37 they.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN NICK: When?

40
41 MS. GREGORY: I mean the representatives
42 from Hooper Bay area.

43
44 CHAIRMAN NICK: We can probably wait for
45 the Hooper Bay project until tomorrow in case Lester
46 arrives here. We'll take care of the others. Okay.
47 Proceed.

48
49 MR. KRUEGER: The first one would be 24.

50

00109

1 MR. BRELSFORD: Right. Then we would begin
2 with project number 24. We'll take just a little minute on
3 that. It's about the Pilot Station sonar.

4
5 MR. KRUEGER: So this project addresses a
6 need for staff to help with the Fish and Game, the ADF&G,
7 sonar project at Pilot Station, which counts salmon, and
8 provides important input for making in-season management
9 decisions, and provides local residents with direct
10 involvement in that, as well as the opportunity to become
11 familiar with sonar counting methods. So this project is
12 fairly straight forward. It is to recruit and hire two
13 qualified local residents to help with that project, and it
14 will provide that opportunity for getting familiar with
15 that, as well as an employment opportunity. And this will
16 be administrated and performed through AVCP.

17
18 MR. BRELSFORD: And this is actually
19 similar to work that AVCP has done in the last year or two
20 where they have hired some technicians to work at Pilot
21 Station, at Bethel sonar, at Aniak sonar. Some of the test
22 fisheries at Pilot Station where they figure out the
23 species that are going by, that's what the technicians have
24 done in previous years, and that's what these technicians
25 would help with again.

26
27 CHAIRMAN NICK: Okay. We all -- (In
28 Yup'ik)

29
30 INTERPRETER: Do we understand this
31 proposal past its tittle? Pilot Station sonar technician
32 support?

33
34 MR. BRELSFORD: Chuck, (indiscernible) will
35 that slide in?

36
37 CHAIRMAN NICK: If you could kind of.....

38
39 MR. KRUEGER: Yeah. Does -- okay. So the
40 first question on the back of the page is does this project
41 address a critical subsistence fishery management issue in
42 your region? And if not, what other issues should be
43 considered?

44
45 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

46
47 INTERPRETER: Do we have any.....

48
49 MR. OWELTUCK: Mr. Chairman, yes, I think
50 -- yeah, I could see where the project would be more

00110

1 appropriate if we had our own hired locals, because we have
2 some guys outside of the vil -- town, outside the village,
3 which are taking that amount. And we have no in say
4 because we got no local hire. And that would be very much
5 considered being.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN NICK: So that would be yes then.

8
9 MR. OWELTUCK:perfect for the use for
10 local people.

11
12 CHAIRMAN NICK: That would be yes.

13
14 MR. OWELTUCK: On that first question.

15
16 CHAIRMAN NICK: So with that comment, I
17 presume the answer would be a resounding yes for the.....

18
19 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay.

20
21 MR. OWELTUCK: Uh-huh.

22
23 MR. KRUEGER: We can deal with the next
24 question.

25
26 MR. BRELSFORD: Yeah.

27
28 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yes.

31
32 MS. GREGORY: I have a concern on number
33 one. From past history of weirs not being in the
34 appropriate places as we see it, do you have any plans on
35 using the same place for a weir this year like you did
36 several years back or even listen to your local hire people
37 or the community to put a weir in a different place?

38
39 MR. KRUEGER: Is this out in Kwethluk?

40
41 MR. BRELSFORD: You're thinking of the
42 Pilot Station.....

43
44 MS. GREGORY: Uh-huh.

45
46 MR. BRELSFORD:project? It's
47 actually a sonar.....

48
49 MS. GREGORY: Oh, sonar.

50

00111

1 MR. BRELSFORD:on this one. And we'd
2 continue to use the same location. Actually they're trying
3 to use a better technology.....

4
5 MS. GREGORY: Uh-huh.

6
7 MR. BRELSFORD:of a new, more modern
8 sonar device. The Federal Board has contributed some
9 funding to get this -- the best technology possible, and so
10 I believe that that station, Pilot Station sonar project
11 will be right where it has been in previous years, and.....

12
13 MS. GREGORY: Uh-huh.

14
15 MR. BRELSFORD:upgrade technology and
16 then here is to make sure there's some local people
17 involved in it, who can become the scientists. It's like
18 local hire and building up the expertise of local people to
19 work in the sonar projects.

20
21 MS. GREGORY: Uh-huh.

22
23 MR. OWELTUCK: Mr. Chairman, I've got a
24 comment.

25
26 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yes, Alvin.

27
28 MR. OWELTUCK: Yeah. I think we should --
29 because they put it right by Pilot Station, what -- it was
30 a gradual build where it dips.....

31
32 MS. GREGORY: Uh-huh.

33
34 MR. OWELTUCK:they did -- they tried
35 looking all over, but they didn't find no property or place
36 where -- when these were using these older models.

37
38 MS. GREGORY: Uh-huh.

39
40 MR. OWELTUCK: And then that was the only
41 place they could, you know, because it's one area and
42 there's tour boats there, that fish go into that, too. So
43 that was probably a place where they can find where it
44 would be more profitable for the whole Yukon.

45
46 CHAIRMAN NICK: John.

47
48 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49 You know, the sonar in Pilot Station, have you thought of
50 moving it down further from Pilot here on fish

00112

1 (indiscernible)?

2

3

MR. KRUEGER: I have not heard any discussion about that, about considering other locations. As was just mentioned, the -- I know that -- I know on sonar that the shape of the bottom is very important. If there are better places, they ought to be identified and communicated to those that run Pilot Station sonar.

9

10 MR. HANSON: Yeah, I'd like to -- I went to
11 work in 1993 I think. I took the sonar person, and we went
12 just below Aniak River, we started from there and we
13 checked three places, and the last one had a good profile,
14 which was just above Fish Village. But the Department of
15 Fish and Game, they didn't want to move it from Pilot
16 Station to -- it's been there. But I think if you have a
17 better sonar with better technology on it, I think it could
18 work the same, but have the local people -- we've been
19 volunteering during the time the ice goes out, we set our
20 king salmon net and whatever we catch, we give them to the
21 Department of Fish and Game in Emmonak so they have from
22 Black River, Sheldon, Toluknak (ph), Emmonak, Kotlik, and
23 I'm pretty sure from Mountain Village, too, that once we
24 start catching fish, then the Department gets the pounds,
25 how many, what kind, and -- I know I -- I think later on,
26 after this summer, maybe it might be better to just move
27 the sonar down further, because Pilot Station is over 200
28 miles from the mouth of the Yukon River. That's a long
29 ways.

30

31 MR. KRUEGER: I'll speak with the person
32 doing the sonar at Fish and Game.

33

34 MR. OWELTUCK: Yeah. The only thing we're
35 -- the thing is that there's a 30 mile along there, right?
36 And there's salmon that goes up there when there's high
37 water. And that's going to be the big problem, you know,
38 because you've got two rivers and then it's going to just
39 show the main Yukon, it won't show anything onto 30 mile.

40

41 MR. HANSON: Yeah, the sonar -- that sonar
42 person that I took up there, he asked about the 10 mile,
43 which is just below where the two riv -- the north and the
44 south fork into one. I told him don't worry about 10 mile.
45 You can just have a test net there, and that way you could
46 figure your.....

47

48 MR. BRELSFORD: I think we can pass on the
49 advice. That's good. And we'll talk maybe a little more
50 about Hooper Bay tomorrow, but obviously a large issue here

00113

1 is measuring the early part of the run, and one of the
2 ideas of having this test fishery with local fishermen in
3 Hooper Bay is to get three days ahead.....

4
5 MR. HANSON: Uh-huh.

6
7 MR. BRELSFORD:of the run entering
8 the mouth of the Yukon. So I think local people and the
9 managers are saying we have to measure that early part of
10 the run the best possible. Then we can make those
11 management decisions.

12
13 MR. HANSON: Well, it takes three days from
14 Hooper to Black River, and then three days from Black River
15 to the mouth of the Yukon River. It all depends on the
16 winds though. So you're talking about a week from Hooper
17 before they start coming in the Yukon. It's a short run
18 from the mouth of the Yukon from Flat Island to Black
19 River, but they migrate in between Chris Point and Black
20 River. They just mill around there, and then when their
21 time is just right, and they shoot for the Yukon.

22
23 CHAIRMAN NICK: Can I make a suggestion
24 here? The narrative here that we have in front of us is to
25 hire two additional technicians. Now, in the 2001
26 priorities or, you know, planning, maybe we can pursue
27 other locations. It appears from this narrative that the
28 ADF&G is planning to place a sonar in Pilot Station, and
29 this project is to hire two local people to help who's
30 already there in the data gathering. And then for future
31 -- for the 2001 plans, maybe we can talk to other local
32 people that know the river, you know, the meandering of the
33 river and the channels, because the fish, the chums and the
34 kings tend to swim in the main channel, you know, as
35 opposed to chinook who always swim to the shallow waters
36 over the sand bars. (In Yup'ik)

37
38 INTERPRETER: He's translating what he just
39 stated. He thinks it would be best to hire two workers
40 from that area, the local -- two local people who know the
41 river. On this narrative part, he'd like to put that --
42 insert two people who know the river to be working with
43 this project.

44
45 MR. KRUEGER: What do.....

46
47 MR. BRELSFORD: I think we're here.

48
49 MR. KRUEGER: Okay. So does this project
50 work with the right partners?

00114

1 CHAIRMAN NICK: I think so. Local people.

2

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Right. Yeah.

4

5 MR. KRUEGER: That or do you have any other
6 thoughts about this project? And I think we've already
7 heard some.

8

9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Disagree.

10

11 MR. OWELTUCK: Yeah, I think they're pretty
12 well conservative on, they do reports up, you know, as far
13 as Marshall, you know, they come to these commercial, like
14 they have a fish plant there, and they're always having,
15 you know, some kind of -- they're working together with
16 really this.....

17

18 MR. BRELSFORD: So it appears there's
19 support for this project, and we could tell the Board that
20 the Yukon Delta Council was supportive of this project.

21

22 CHAIRMAN NICK: Uh-huh.

23

24 MR. BRELSFORD: Then I think the next one
25 in the Y-K region.....

26

27 MR. HANSON: Before you go -- before you
28 leave the -- okay. When you're putting the sonar at Pilot
29 Station from June 5 to September 3rd. Running the sonar,
30 once you start getting the subsistence catches down below
31 the sonar, the sonar, ADF&G operated was they turn it on in
32 the -- 8:00 in the morning, and at noon they shut it off.
33 So it only runs, what, four hours? Well, the fish don't
34 run four hours. Once they start heading in, they just keep
35 going. So is that sonar going to be operated like ADF&G
36 operated it, or once you turn it on, it will just keep
37 going as long as the fish are running?

38

39 MR. KRUEGER: My understanding is that the
40 Fish and Game will operating the sonar as they have in the
41 past, but as Robert has also suggested, that there may be
42 issues like that that need to be looked at, so that's
43 another like future issue that could be considered for the
44 -- this next process as far as priorities for future study.

45

46 CHAIRMAN NICK: John.

47

48 MR. HANSON: Well, if it can be run anyway
49 better than what it has to be running, and keep it in place
50 so it doesn't drift down and you have to bring it back up,

00115

1 that will be fine.

2
3 MR. KRUEGER: Yeah.

4
5 MR. HANSON: Otherwise, I think it would be
6 better to move the sonar down if it keeps doing that,
7 because there's more current up around Pilot -- well,
8 starting from Mountain, the current is stronger than the
9 lower part.

10
11 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Okay. Uh-huh.

12
13 MR. BRELSFORD: So then the next project
14 that would be within the Y-K Delta would be project number
15 27, and this concerns the Goodnews River monitoring
16 program. It's an extension of the season.

17
18 MR. KRUEGER: So in the past the -- this
19 weir has not been run particularly when the coho salmon are
20 moving through -- up the stream, and so this project
21 extends an existing project that's been operated since
22 1997, and would have that weir operate an additional eight
23 weeks so there could be an estimate on coho salmon. That
24 project would be funded for three years. And it would be a
25 joint cooperative effort between the Fish and Wildlife
26 Service, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the Native
27 Village of Goodnews Bay.

28
29 CHAIRMAN NICK: So this project would
30 extend it by eight weeks?

31
32 MR. KRUEGER: Eight weeks.

33
34 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

35
36 INTERPRETER: Mr. Nick said that this
37 project is good. And what -- he thinks that this
38 proposal's good. This project.

39
40 MR. KRUEGER: So the question then is does
41 this identi -- address an important critical subsistence
42 fishery management issue, that being the estimation of the
43 coho run. It's very similar to the Kanektok actually
44 project.

45
46 CHAIRMAN NICK: I see -- yeah. Willard.

47
48 MR. CHURCH: I think the extension on the
49 Goodnews River salmon monitoring project does address an
50 important subsistence need. And I had a question about the

00116

1 cooperation of the Native Village of Goodnews. It's
2 indicated here in the project description that they will be
3 involved. Is that an indication that you're going to hire
4 locally a few technicians, one or two or what does it say
5 here?

6
7 MS. GREGORY: Two. Two tech.....

8
9 MR. CHURCH: Are you going to develop a
10 cooperative agreement.....

11
12 MS. GREGORY: Oh, sorry.

13
14 MR. CHURCH:for that project?

15
16 MR. KRUEGER: I was -- I just looked back
17 at the budget, and there is not a local hire identified in
18 that. And I think that -- I'm not sure if that's accurate,
19 because it does talk about how high school students have
20 been rotated into the weir crew.....

21
22 MR. CHURCH: Uh-huh.

23
24 MR. KRUEGER:and my understanding
25 that that type of thing was going to continue. So that's
26 one I'd have to go back and get more information on,
27 because I can't address that, because in the budget on the
28 spreadsheet in the back it doesn't indicate that.

29
30 MR. CHURCH: Yeah. I think it's similar to
31 what we do in Quinhagak with high school students being
32 involved through the summer youth employment training
33 program. That way they can at least get exposed to salmon
34 research, and also at the same time receive some training
35 on weir operations, which in time, you know, it could
36 develop into a technician position.

37
38 MR. KRUEGER: That's right.

39
40 MR. CHURCH: So I think it will be good.

41
42 CHAIRMAN NICK: Any further questions,
43 comments?

44
45 MR. KRUEGER: That one -- that particular
46 one.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN NICK: (Indiscernible)

49
50 MR. KRUEGER: Go ahead.

00117

1 CHAIRMAN NICK: Probably in those that are
2 continuing -- continuation proposals, probably previous
3 narratives, you know, in support should be incorporated
4 into the -- to what is being commented here.

5
6 MR. BRELSFORD: Actually it's a very
7 helpful question, Willard, because we will have to describe
8 these projects to the Federal Board in April. We're still
9 gathering public input, so you're helping us to clarify a
10 question that's not fully addressed.....

11
12 MR. CHURCH: Uh-huh.

13
14 MR. BRELSFORD:right now. I wonder
15 on.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN NICK: Mary.

18
19 MR. BRELSFORD:some of these, maybe
20 we ought to just ask for comments in general rather than
21 going.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN NICK: Right. Right.

24
25 MR. BRELSFORD:one at a time.

26
27 CHAIRMAN NICK: Uh-huh.

28
29 MR. BRELSFORD: And I wonder if we could
30 sort of have a nod of heads about the support for this
31 project and then move to the next one?

32
33 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

34
35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Uh-huh. Yeah.

36
37 CHAIRMAN NICK: And then if we have
38 questions, we can raise them.

39
40 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Uh-huh.

41
42 CHAIRMAN NICK: Like now. Mary.

43
44 MS. GREGORY: I would support it if you
45 like have local people helping out, and if possible be
46 compensated for that work they are giving you, because it's
47 a technical assistance from the other side, from the Native
48 people's side.

49
50 MR. BRELSFORD: I think that's good

00118

1 feedback.

2

3 MS. GREGORY: Uh-huh.

4

5 CHAIRMAN NICK: Okay. Moving along?

6

7 MR. BRELSFORD: So the next page, number
8 28.

9

10 MR. KRUEGER: This is a very similar
11 project on the Kanektok. This has clearly identified in
12 the budget Native Village of Quinhagak involvement. The
13 same idea, an existing project that -- to count salmon, and
14 an extension of that operation so as to estimate the coho
15 run in the river.

16

17 CHAIRMAN NICK: Would a similar question be
18 raised like on the Goodnews? Willard.

19

20 MR. CHURCH: I think this is a good
21 project. We've done a lot of work in the construction of
22 the weir. We do work through the IRA council, Natural
23 Resources Department, which I do manage. We have local
24 hire. We're hiring a biologist. And I think the council
25 (indiscernible, papers).

26

27 MR. BRELSFORD: I think it's fair to say
28 that this project is seen as really kind of a crown jewel
29 of resource monitoring in Western Alaska. This has been a
30 village that has been very active in organizing it's
31 natural resource program. If you look at the funding here,
32 it's \$75,000 to the Native Village of Quinhagak and \$10,000
33 to the Department of Fish and Game. This is one which
34 makes a lot of reliance on the abilities of the Natural
35 Resource Department at Native Village of Quinhagak. So
36 this is kind of -- we want to see more projects like this
37 as time goes on I think.

38

39 CHAIRMAN NICK: Thank you. I think this is
40 -- I have made that observation, too. Moving along.

41

42 MR. KRUEGER: Okay.

43

44 MR. BRELSFORD: I could walk us through
45 project number 29. It has to do with documentation and
46 communication about floating weirs, and if you look through
47 the first paragraph, you'll see discussion about how in the
48 past year some local residents have gone to visit the weirs
49 at George River to see how the floating weirs operate. In
50 fact, Billy McCann gave quite an explanation about floating

00119

1 weirs resistance, board weirs, when we were at the last
2 regional council meeting in Quinhagak. And everybody feels
3 like that's a very good idea, so for this project, AVCP
4 came forward and said they wanted to keep up visits by
5 local people to vis -- to go to the weirs and learn more
6 about the operations. And we were actually hoping, this
7 was an idea from Ida Hildebrand, the BIA staff committee
8 member who works with us, she thought maybe Mary Gregory
9 could go on one of these trips and then mention it on the
10 radio when you're speaking later, so that we could help to
11 explain to more and more people around the region how the
12 weirs operate and why they're -- they help strengthen
13 salmon management.

14
15 MS. GREGORY: I have a ques -- I have a
16 comment. In my role as a news person, I cannot comment on
17 other businesses because of conflict of interest, but if
18 you could get somebody from the news department to come
19 along. But that's a restriction I have.

20
21 MR. BRELSFORD: I see. Well, we would
22 respect your journalistic considerations about it. Ida
23 thought you have a lot of -- a gift at talking about issues
24 in the region, and if there's somebody else who could
25 travel and help in the same way, go on the radio and help
26 explain that there's lots of ways to meet the same goal.

27
28 MS. GREGORY: Okay.

29
30 MR. BRELSFORD: But this is again one that
31 AVCP would be managing. If you look down at the very
32 bottom, you'll see that there's some funding for the
33 fisheries biologist, for Jennifer's position, to help
34 organize and prepare the public communication on this
35 project.

36
37 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

38
39 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, (In Yup'ik).

40
41 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah.

42
43 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

44
45 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

46
47 INTERPRETER: He's explaining the work --
48 the operations of the weir, how the weirs operate. Last
49 fall Billy McCann told us about the weir, and it's okay.
50 And the AVCP was host, so to educate people how the weirs

00120

1 work. The -- more people seem to understand how they
2 operate, and everybody's in agreement.

3
4 MR. BRELSFORD: If we're comfortable with
5 that one, I will be sure and clarify to the board.....

6
7 MS. GREGORY: I would go as a news reporter
8 not as a.....

9
10 MR. BRELSFORD: Council.....

11
12 MS. GREGORY:RAC member.

13
14 CHAIRMAN NICK: Okay. KTUU, RATNET, has
15 Rhonda McBride.....

16
17 MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-huh.

18
19 CHAIRMAN NICK:on their staff, and
20 maybe -- she may be interested if she could be invited, you
21 know, to -- she does a lot of documentary on subsistence
22 fishing through the radio station in Anchorage.

23
24 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik) Okay.

25
26 CHAIRMAN NICK: James.

27
28 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman, how about take
29 some -- take one of the elders.....

30
31 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, that's good.

32
33 MR. CHARLES:to the weir, because
34 some of these elders have not seen the weir, and they only
35 go by some complaints from other people.

36
37 MS. GREGORY: Uh-huh.

38
39 MR. CHARLES: Because we had the weir -- or
40 there was a weir up at Tuluksak, and every time we have
41 meetings, John -- what's his name -- John Peter used to
42 talk about fish that's rotten up or down from the weir, and
43 that may not be true, but if you take elders to the weir to
44 see what -- how it is, like Billy saw the Goodnews weir
45 last summer, maybe those people would help out, to tell the
46 residents of Quinhagak or wherever the weir is on their
47 home river.

48
49 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay.

50

00121

1 CHAIRMAN NICK: And possibly Peter Jacob
2 who's on the radio every Thursday. Yeah, he's not afraid
3 of a conflict of interest.

4
5 MS. GREGORY: He has nothing, no conflict.
6 He's a public. Would be a good person.

7
8 MR. McCANN: Robert. Mr. Chairman.

9
10 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah, Billy?

11
12 MR. McCANN: Yeah. (Indiscernible) The
13 reason why they can't understand it in first place, when we
14 talk about it, some think it's straight up and down,.....

15
16 MS. GREGORY: Right.

17
18 MR. McCANN:and killing the fish from
19 in that weir, but when I went -- that's what I used to do,
20 too, think and -- that we were talking about. I thought it
21 was like that. When I seen it, it was different, laying
22 down about 15 feet, whatever, a plastic pipe. And see the
23 fish, now they swim by before they get there, in front of
24 it. They don't go in right away. And I understand that
25 clearly in watching it. And I told the people. I think
26 they understand better than what I told them. That's why I
27 think James' idea is good, to get the old people to look at
28 it, too, that we -- to understand how they set up. Most of
29 the people what they're thinking about is straight up and
30 down, and collecting old fish from the upriver flowing, go
31 no -- can't go no place. But it's not that way. Lay down
32 and the guys walk up and clean them out right away. It was
33 nice and clean when I looked at it. (In Yup'ik)

34
35 INTERPRETER: He's translating what he just
36 said. He's just repeating what he said earlier. He keeps
37 repeating his statement in Yup'ik, translating what he said
38 earlier. We should really encourage people to go and
39 observe people operating those weirs.

40
41 CHAIRMAN NICK: Okay. I guess that solves
42 that.

43
44 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. Well, I hope you
45 guys are also proud of Jennifer putting in a number of
46 projects, and this is just the first year, for some AVCP
47 projects on fisheries. You'll see more next year I know.

48
49 MS. GREGORY: Uh-huh.

50

00122

1 MR. KRUEGER: Okay. The next project is
2 project 30, it's the very next page of your handout. This
3 is a project between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and
4 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Essentially it's a
5 site survey to go and look at a number of different rivers.
6 They're listed there in the project description to look for
7 possible that might be viable for installing other weirs to
8 estimate and to determine what the strength of the salmon
9 runs are.

10
11 CHAIRMAN NICK: In -- if I could comment,
12 in the meeting in Fairbanks, there were some questions as
13 to routes of salmon. You know, there's questions whether
14 they're beginning to go up to the different sloughs or
15 different tributaries, because of like copper or water
16 contamination. And this would be, I think, a good idea to
17 check the other rivers to see if there's any salmon,
18 because we're beginning to catch salmon here in our river
19 also. (In Yup'ik)

20
21 INTERPRETER: He's translating what he said
22 earlier.

23
24 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah, Billy.

25
26 MR. McCANN: Yeah. Also I think that's
27 true, because the fish are maybe migrating. My thought,
28 it's moving from spawning area to somewhere else. Like
29 I've been hearing down at Kipnuk River. They're getting
30 the salmon in there, too, than there used to be, more and
31 more. So maybe they're spawning in the lakes or some place
32 sometime, where else, too. So I think it's a good idea to
33 find where they're going. Maybe that's why we got less
34 fish coming up through the river here going into down
35 slough some -- way down river by Kipnuk. Maybe some of
36 them fish can go just go into that, instead of going up
37 Holitna some place. I think that's a good idea to find out
38 where they are and they might find where they're going.
39 Because that might be the part of the fish is going down,
40 too. (In Yup'ik)

41
42 INTERPRETER: Again, he's repeating what he
43 said. Billy McCann is translating what he said in Yup'ik.

44
45 CHAIRMAN NICK: This is part of the
46 response to the proposal.

47
48 MR. BRELSFORD: That's it.....

49
50 MR. KRUEGER: So we thank you.....

00123

1 MR. BRELSFORD:basically.

2

3 MR. KRUEGER:Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah.

6

7 MR. KRUEGER: We'll take those comments and
8 some particular ones that we need to check on as well, but
9 we should have that hammered out, figured out by the first
10 of April when the Board will be meeting. If there isn't
11 anything else, we could move on to the next, and it's a
12 very important part, both five and six, because it really
13 represents the very start of laying the foundation for the
14 projects for this program for all of the future, and it
15 starts with the regional advisory council meetings, and
16 this meeting in particular, and Taylor's first going to
17 start off with describing the process in general, and then
18 we'll back up to where we are here today.

19

20 CHAIRMAN NICK: Okay.

21

22 MR. BRELSFORD: So in the briefing books,
23 if you look through a more pages, this is the one with the
24 binder on it, it says Resource Monitoring Project,
25 Selection Process for spring 2001.

26

27 MS. GREGORY: Letter what?

28

29 MR. BRELSFORD: It's letter R, about half
30 way through the package there, after the little one page
31 descriptions then you get to a blank, and it has a big
32 dividing page.

33

34 MS. GREGORY: It's not coming to me.

35

36 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It's going to be.....

37

38 MS. GREGORY: Right.

39

40 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE:a couple pages
41 (indiscernible).

42

43 MR. BRELSFORD: It's like this.

44

45 MS. GREGORY: There you go. Thank you.

46

47 MR. OWELTUCK: (Indiscernible) Resource
48 Monitoring Project.....

49

50 (Whispered conversation)

00124

1 MR. BRELSFORD: So after that divider page,
2 on the next page over you'll see a little calendar, a set
3 of steps and the calendar dates.

4
5 MS. GREGORY: Uh-huh.

6
7 CHAIRMAN NICK: Uh-huh.

8
9 MR. BRELSFORD: And I mostly want to talk
10 about the first one, and then down a couple of steps. If
11 you look in the calendar dates, it says February 17 through
12 March 30th, 2000. And that's going to be prioritizing
13 management issues and information needs. It says, during
14 the winter regional council meetings, which is right now,
15 we're going to talk together, subsistence users, public,
16 tribes, ADF&G, agencies and regional councils to review
17 management issues and information needs. The regional
18 councils make recommendations about priorities for the
19 research projects next year, and then those go to a
20 technical committee, and then to the Board, so the Board is
21 going to adopt priorities that, say for example, the fall
22 chum run in the Koyukuk River is -- there's a gap. We
23 don't know enough about that system to manage carefully.
24 We want to make a priority on that for next year. Or
25 perhaps whitefish in one of the tributaries on the
26 Kuskokwim River, that might be the -- one of the main
27 priorities you really want to focus on next year.

28
29 The reason for that is so that in the next steps
30 where we work with AVCP or KNA or ONC to work up a research
31 project, we want to know what the target is, what was the
32 priority issues for the Federal Board, so that we could
33 focus the projects on those management problems, those
34 management issues.

35
36 So the first step starts now in the winter
37 meetings. Then all the way through the summer we work with
38 the partners to make the projects come together. Then in
39 the fall regional council meetings when we meet with you
40 all in September, maybe in Kotlik, we would bring back the
41 projects. It would be called a draft annual resource
42 monitoring plan, and we would have the budgets and the
43 organizations working together, all of that written up over
44 the summer, bring it back to you, and ask for your review
45 comments. So in September to November 30th, during the
46 fall regional council meetings, you would look at the whole
47 plan and give your advice for the Federal Board.

48
49 And then you see after the fall council meetings,
50 the Federal Board actually meets in December to make

00125

1 decisions about the projects, and make the budget
2 decisions, and then in the spring, starting early next
3 year, we implement those new research projects.

4
5 So this year we spent five months putting together
6 the research program, the resource monitoring projects,
7 weirs and subsistence studies, all of that we had to squish
8 it into just five months. Next year, we want to take 15
9 months, start now, and then have the projects ready by next
10 year in the spring. That means we have a lot more time to
11 work with the local communities or the tribal partners in
12 putting together the actual projects. But it starts with
13 getting a good target, kind of thinking about what's the
14 most important issues on the Kuskokwim River, on the Yukon
15 River, management issues and information needs. That's the
16 first step.

17
18 Those next pages say a little bit about who could
19 submit projects, and what's the criteria for them. I don't
20 know how much detail to go into here. Let me simply say
21 that the research pro -- the projects can come from lots of
22 different organizations, the Federal agencies, the State,
23 Native organizations. We have one university research
24 project this year on itihaphonus (ph), that disease in
25 salmon. There might be other research projects from
26 colleges next year. So it's supposed to be kind of wide
27 open. We want to have all of the best people able to work
28 on fisheries management in Alaska.

29
30 There's some -- kind of the steps and the specific
31 stuff that would go into a proposal is outlined here.
32 Criteria for how they would be ranked, and I guess what we
33 want to say is we want good quality science, so they have
34 to be technically sound projects, not, you know, some goofy
35 idea, but they have to be organized and well -- the
36 research methods have to be good. And then that very last
37 dot at the bottom, it says the projects have to work with
38 appropriate partners and contribute to the capacities of
39 the agencies, the local communities and residents to
40 participate in fisheries resource management. So we really
41 want to emphasize this idea of partnership with local
42 communities, not just doing the projects in a vacuum, but
43 working with local people all the time.

44
45 And I guess that's the main points of how we would
46 work in this upcoming year for 2001.

47
48 CHAIRMAN NICK: I have a question. If
49 council members could bear with me, it's something that
50 just -- resolution here?

00126

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

2

3 CHAIRMAN NICK: So I -- is it proper to
4 bring it to the forefront here?

5

6 MR. BRELSFORD: Sure. Yes, I think so.

7

8 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

9

10 INTERPRETER: We're in the number five -- I
11 can't see it. (In Yup'ik) Pardon me. There to number
12 five, selection of projects, 2001. Robert said that he
13 would like to bring up the resolution. I don't have a copy
14 of the resolution, but he said that he would like to bring
15 the resolution to the table. When the IRA council and the
16 city council had a joint meeting, they drafted or passed a
17 resolution regarding the research for a study of the fish
18 issues in the tundra area. And the resolution addresses
19 the survey needs for the impacts of the fishery problems or
20 fish problems in the tundra village areas. But it seems to
21 him this process is just the beginning of that intent, so
22 considering 2001 or maybe a little bit later than 2001, I
23 would like to put the record -- I would like to put the
24 resolution as a request for future project purposes.

25

26 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

27

28 INTERPRETER: Mary asked if a motion is in
29 order.

30

31 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah.

32

33 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

34

35 INTERPRETER: Is pertaining to resolution.

36

37 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

38

39 INTERPRETER: This resolution applies to
40 Federal and also is directing the Federal and State
41 agencies. If adopted, it will be like a phase one future
42 priority project.

43

44 CHAIRMAN NICK: What is the proper process
45 here. The question, if I am looking for a motion to accept
46 the resolution, or to make a resolution of the council, or
47 what would you recommend, Taylor, as you know the process
48 for presenting requests?

49

50 MR. BRELSFORD: What I might recommend is

00127

1 when we move to the last item, priorities for 2001, this is
2 a priority. It's being offered as a priority project.
3 AVCP submitted a resolution to you earlier today for a
4 priority project looking at fisheries in the Bering Sea
5 intercept, the impact of intercept fisheries. And there
6 were some comments about whitefish problems in the.....

7

8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: And beavers.

9

10 MR. BRELSFORD: And beavers in the lower
11 Kuskokwim Delta. Maybe we could make a little list of
12 priorities, and then the council could adopt the list all
13 at once. You might not have to go one by one if we just
14 take notes and put the list up on the board, and then when
15 we finish, have the council act on the whole in setting
16 priorities.

17

18 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

19

20 CHAIRMAN NICK: Right.

21

22 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

23

24 INTERPRETER: Mary said it would be proper
25 to go ahead and take care of whatever is needed to be done,
26 and then go back and deal with that later.

27

28 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

29

30 INTERPRETER: The chair person says that
31 when we get to number six, we will come up with issues that
32 we'll want to discuss and then prioritize. Are there any
33 questions toward the issue or the process of projects?

34

35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Uh-huh.

36

37 CHAIRMAN NICK: Do you have anything else
38 to add to number five?

39

40 MR. KRUEGER: No. I appreciate the
41 comments. I'd like to just mention that having a community
42 letter or a village type of support as well is very helpful
43 to us. It's part of what we submit to the Board in support
44 of projects, so that's very helpful. And, of course, have
45 -- if the regional advisory council chooses to support,
46 that's really good.

47

48 If there aren't any other comments on this process
49 in general, then we'd like to focus back then on the first
50 step, and that's where we are today, the winter regional

00128

1 council meetings, and that's the identification of priority
2 issues, the information needs you believe are needed to
3 manage the fisheries better, and with specific reference to
4 subsistence fisheries.

5
6 What's important in terms of information, some of
7 the criteria for setting priorities that we've been using
8 have been the issues need to be related to subsistence
9 fisheries that are on Federal lands. Obviously the -- any
10 type of issue that is critical to conservation, critical to
11 subsistence fishing, those are really high priorities.
12 Where there is a lack of information is also very
13 important.

14
15 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah. Yeah. Willard,
16 could the -- would the TEK proposal fall within this?

17
18 MR. CHURCH: The TEK proposal that I wanted
19 to submit, I'd like to have it included in the 2000 packet
20 for spring consideration.

21
22 CHAIRMAN NICK: Uh-huh. Oh, okay.

23
24 MR. CHURCH: But I had a question about
25 other types of fisheries research projects. Is there any
26 language here in the criteria, and in the permit calls
27 which calls for community support for projects that are
28 specific rivers that that community is adjacent to, that
29 they rely on for subsistence? For instance, when we submit
30 a proposal, we usually would like our council to attach a
31 resolution of support, and I think that's critical in the
32 success of a project. Is there language here in your
33 protocol that addresses that?

34
35 MR. KRUEGER: We haven't had a requirement
36 of that in a protocol sense, but I think a good example
37 would have been the Togiak weir project where we had a
38 number of letters of support of.....

39
40 MR. CHURCH: Uh-huh.

41
42 MR. KRUEGER:organizations that were
43 concerned about that river. And that just strengthens that
44 proposal.

45
46 MR. CHURCH: Yeah.

47
48 MR. KRUEGER: Those just go right to the
49 top, so.....

50

00129

1 MR. CHURCH: Because there may be some
2 concern out there among some of the villages that maybe
3 there's a project that's being proposed by the Fish and
4 Wildlife Service or the Department of Fish and Game that
5 may not be supported by the community. And so I think
6 having the community support a project during the
7 preproposal stages is very critical towards its success.

8
9 MR. KRUEGER: I guess in -- with respect to
10 your question, one thing I did not mention is that in the
11 preproposal form, there's a section on consultations.....

12
13 MR. CHURCH: Uh-huh.

14
15 MR. KRUEGER:that have been done with
16 village or other organizations, and that's a requirement
17 that they fill that in. And our committee up to this
18 point, if it says, well, we're thinking about it, or we'd
19 like to, that proposal is automatically -- it doesn't go
20 any further. We won't consider it unless those
21 consultations have taken place, and they've been -- you
22 know, that there's been support. So there is that
23 requirement. We haven't required a letter attachment. It
24 might be a good idea.

25
26 MR. CHURCH: Yeah.

27
28 MS. GREGORY: I have a question on number
29 7.

30
31 MR. BRELSFORD: Yes?

32
33 MS. GREGORY: The last paragraph. It says
34 that Alaska Native tribal organizations have also requested
35 representation on this committee. What does the technical
36 oversight committee do? What do they do?

37
38 MR. BRELSFORD: Good. I'm glad you want to
39 go into more details, because these are obviously -- this
40 is the guts of making good decisions.

41
42 MS. GREGORY: Uh-huh.

43
44 MR. BRELSFORD: So as Willard has kind of
45 walked us through an example, a community or the refuge or
46 area biologist could submit a proposal. They have to have
47 some local consultations on record. Then a committee
48 called this technical oversight committee looks at the
49 science of this, and we make sure that the project is not
50 overlapping or duplicating something else that's already

00130

1 out there.

2
3 MS. GREGORY: Uh-huh.

4
5 MR. BRELSFORD: If they forgot to -- if
6 some consultant comes in and he didn't do his homework, and
7 he says, I want to do a project up in the Yukon Flats, and
8 it turns out there's already a study done, then we need
9 some technical oversight to say, whoa, we don't want to go
10 bother people with the same questions twice.

11
12 MS. GREGORY: Uh-huh.

13
14 MR. BRELSFORD: We need to be sure each
15 project adds new information. This technical committee has
16 had some fisheries biologists, some statistics people who
17 are familiar with how data bases are put together and
18 statistical analyses. Their job is to make sure it's a
19 valid priority, it's scientifically sound, and that the
20 statistics methods, how the data will be put together could
21 match up with other projects so that we could get a whole
22 picture, and not have like two train tracks that are the
23 wrong size. They can't work together. So the technical
24 committee insures the scientific validity of the research
25 projects. They have participation from ADF&G's several
26 divisions, Subsistence Division, Sport Fish, Com Fish
27 Division. On the Federal side there's people from the BIA,
28 the Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and then
29 part of the discussion nowadays is whether there should be
30 a tribal representation on the technical committee. The
31 Federal board has not made a final decision about it. That
32 was one of the things in those letters.....

33
34 MS. GREGORY: Uh-huh.

35
36 MR. BRELSFORD:that we talked about
37 earlier.

38
39 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, I just want to make a
40 suggestion.

41
42 CHAIRMAN NICK: Okay.

43
44 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik), like the main
45 Native organization like AVCP or somebody that can report
46 to this committee can be an overseer of the committee so to
47 speak, a Yup'ik or a nonFederal, nonstate person or people.
48 Or we could assign people to work with us.

49
50 CHAIRMAN NICK: That's your recommendation?

00131

1 MS. GREGORY: That's my recommendation.

2
3 CHAIRMAN NICK: Any response or comment?

4
5 MR. BRELSFORD: It's feedback that we can
6 pass on to the Board.

7
8 MS. GREGORY: Uh-huh.

9
10 MR. BRELSFORD: It -- we can say that
11 again, when we went to see the regional councils this
12 winter, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council still has the
13 same views that AVCP wrote in the letter in January. You
14 support.....

15
16 MS. GREGORY: Uh-huh.

17
18 MR. BRELSFORD:wider representation
19 on this technical committee.

20
21 MS. GREGORY: Uh-huh. Because it has to
22 deal with our lifestyle, our way of life and we should have
23 a say in every aspect of the process.

24
25 CHAIRMAN NICK: If I could follow up, you
26 made the comment that there's 11 of us and two alternates,
27 and that it's kind of hard to get -- for us to find time
28 sometimes with all the meetings that occur. And then on
29 all projects we have that you'd be relying on the
30 representation of whoever is expected to be representing
31 certain councils. So I think having a nonFederal, nonstate
32 like maybe an A -- someone from AVCP that could be
33 recognized as part of the group would be another avenue for
34 input. I believe that's also in the resolution that AVCP
35 asked.

36
37 MR. BRELSFORD: I think it's related.
38 They're asking for some staffing positions to participate
39 in developing the projects, so.....

40
41 CHAIRMAN NICK: Uh-huh.

42
43 MR. BRELSFORD:they're all going at
44 the same goal of why their representation, of direct
45 involvement by the Native community in the work, the
46 technical work of this resource monitoring program. And I
47 think we can simply say that each of those letters and the
48 resolutions, if you are to support those, from AVCP, the
49 Board understands how important that decision is, and I
50 think they're trying to find a formula that will be

00132

1 acceptable to all of the parties.

2

3 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah. I have one other
4 question, Taylor. In Fairbanks, remember, we spent two,
5 three hours in the evening.....

6

7 MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

8

9 CHAIRMAN NICK:doing exactly the same
10 thing, you know. You have -- there's some times that
11 brought up that would reflect relating to the Kuskokwim and
12 Yukon, in our purview of reviews to have -- do you have a
13 list -- been able to write up a list of -- there was
14 something like 30, 20, 30, from the Canadian border down to
15 the Bering Sea on both rivers.

16

17 MR. BRELSFORD: Yeah, we don't have a
18 formal write-up. We've been scrambling with the other
19 meetings since Fairbanks. I remember several of the
20 priorities, and I could offer you a summary from memory
21 quickly.

22

23 CHAIRMAN NICK: Okay. (In Yup'ik)

24

25 INTERPRETER: (In Yup'ik) Robert is
26 repeating what I translated in Yup'ik. Or what he --
27 rather, what he commented earlier regarding the meeting in
28 Fairbanks.

29

30 It's very difficult when something is written down
31 where we cannot read, and then people are referring to what
32 they write up there, and I am not going to attempt to
33 translate what I can't understand into English, so bear
34 with me.

35

36 MR. BRELSFORD: We'll give it a try, Mr.
37 Chairman, and you might even remember something that we
38 didn't think of. And then Gerald is here as well,.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN NICK: Uh-huh.

41

42 MR. BRELSFORD:and he was with us
43 that evening.

44

45 CHAIRMAN NICK: Well, he's got the notes.

46

47 MR. BRELSFORD: Maybe he's got notes.

48

49 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Here's the answer.

50

00133

1 MR. NICHOLAI: Okay. Well, you were there.

2
3 CHAIRMAN NICK: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

4
5 MR. NICHOLAI: We made.....

6
7 MR. ANDREW: Turn toward the mike.

8
9 MR. NICHOLAI: We gained on more intercept
10 fish, joint studies with National Marine Fisheries, to how
11 intercept to allow for escapements. Impact studies on wild
12 stocks by hatchery fish. Moratorium on hatchery fish in
13 the Yukon, we already did that. Impact of sports
14 fisheries, that's -- you guys brought up, for the
15 Kuskokwim. Drift net fish and mesh size, that was brought
16 -- to try to bring that down to six inches. Delayed
17 mortality on catch and release, angles (ph), sheefish,
18 pike, that was Angela's. (Indiscernible, coughing) middle
19 Yukon lateral -- oh, that was just a proposal. They had --
20 we came with on a drift net need for traditional knowledge
21 to find out where the fish go. That one, I forgot who
22 brought that up, maybe Michael Stickman. And you mentioned
23 fish finders, that was need to use -- are used to find
24 migration routes. Alaska Department of Fish and Game radio
25 transmitter, telemetry project. Oh, that was in 2000.
26 Another one that we brought up was traditional and
27 ecological knowledge. Need to talk to existing elders
28 about fish migrations and destinations. Spawning areas
29 affected by jet boats, outboard, mining, natural arsenic
30 sediments, kysee (ph) units, big industries, build
31 influence in National Marine Fisheries so they could work
32 with the Yukon-Kuskokwim three regional advisory councils.
33 And that was it.

34
35 CHAIRMAN NICK: Thank you, Gerald.

36
37 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Good for you.

38
39 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay.

40
41 CHAIRMAN NICK: We rely.....

42
43 MR. BRELSFORD: That's a.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN NICK: Taylor? Pardon.

46
47 MR. BRELSFORD: Oh, go ahead.

48
49 CHAIRMAN NICK: Move it along.

50

00134

1 MR. BRELSFORD: But -- so I think what
2 would be helpful at this point, several of the suggestions
3 that Gerald reminded us of from Fairbanks, they're similar
4 to suggestions.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN NICK: Right.

7
8 MR. BRELSFORD:that you've discussed
9 today.

10
11 CHAIRMAN NICK: Uh-huh.

12
13 MR. BRELSFORD: The Area M concern, or
14 intercept fisheries is before you with the proposal or
15 resolution from AVCP. Whitefish/beaver interactions and
16 impacts on fish populations is one that was also a big
17 concern in the Yukon area. So I guess let's see what else
18 you might want to add to this list, and then look at it as
19 a whole. We don't have too much on the salmon species yet
20 for the Yukon and Kuskokwim. Maybe you have some -- you
21 can see some problems that we should try and address next
22 year.

23
24 MR. KRUEGER: As well as fresh water fish.
25 There are no projects, for example, in this immediate
26 coming year on other certain species like blackfish.
27 Opportunity to have that as a priority as well.

28
29 CHAIRMAN NICK: Willard.

30
31 MR. CHURCH: Want to bear with me just a
32 minute. I want to grab something here. Okay. I think --
33 I have this report that they had gotten at one time over
34 the course of the past two years, and it was -- it's called
35 Findings by the Board of Fisheries, and it lists the
36 different species and the areas, and under the section
37 where it says fin fish other than salmon, it lists the
38 Kuskokwim area, and their findings state that there was no
39 determination. This -- the category that that is under is
40 the amount necessary for subsistence uses. So there is no
41 determination for fin fish other than salmon for
42 subsistence uses. You look at the example of fresh water
43 system in the Yukon area, it states here that there was a
44 positive determination, and amount needed, they give
45 numbers of pounds needed, and it says here 133,000 to 2
46 million needed, 250,000 pounds needed for subsistence
47 purposes. But here in the Kuskokwim, you know, there has
48 not been a determination made. And I think it's something
49 that the tribes can get involved in using local hire and
50 local natural resource departments, to where they can go

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1 out and, you know, do subsistence harvest surveys for fresh
2 water fish other than salmon amongst their own communities,
3 and that way they would have an opportunity to make a
4 determination on what their community actually needs and
5 uses for subsistence purposes.

6
7 CHAIRMAN NICK: Thank you, Willard. That
8 was the idea of all resolutions exactly.

9
10 MR. CHURCH: I don't know if you have a
11 copy of this here, but I've had it for a couple of years.

12
13 MR. BRELSFORD: I think it's a very helpful
14 suggestion. Part of the discussion between the Board of
15 Fish and the Federal Subsistence Board is about identifying
16 the allocation needed for subsistence fisheries in rivers,
17 and the Federal Board has wanted to go slow until the
18 regional councils have had a chance to talk about
19 subsistence fishing levels by their villages. So to have a
20 data gathering project in the next year would be very
21 helpful for those regional council deliberations, and then
22 the Board discussions with the Alaska Board of Fisheries.
23 So I think Chuck's listed it here as subsistence harvest.
24 Should we say determinations?

25
26 MR. CHURCH: Yes.

27
28 CHAIRMAN NICK: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

29
30 MR. BRELSFORD: And the buzz word to remind
31 us what we mean.

32
33 MR. CHURCH: And the key here is having the
34 communities that are involved in the surveys, you know,
35 take the lead in doing the actual surveys with local hire.
36 You know, that's very important.

37
38 MR. BRELSFORD: Good input.

39
40 CHAIRMAN NICK: Well, this could also be in
41 keeping with the Secretary's interest in inventory of
42 stocks.

43
44 MR. BRELSFORD: That's true.

45
46 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

47
48 INTERPRETER: Any more comments or
49 questions? This 2001 priorities. (Indiscernible) in front
50 of us. This Quinhagak proposal that is -- they will get

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1 started this summer.

2

3 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yes.

6

7 MR. A. NICK: When I used to work for
8 Alaska Department of Fish and Game as a research technician
9 in late 60s, early 70s in the lower Yukon rivers and
10 drainages, we did what we call spring surveys identifying
11 each and every important salmon spawning areas. Those were
12 documented by Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Yukon.
13 I'm wondering if that was done in Kuskokwim area as well by
14 the research team in Kuskokwim about that time of year?
15 Because what we did was we went to each potential spawning
16 areas in the lower Yukon all the way up to close to Nulato,
17 and not quite that far, but, you know, somewhere around
18 Aniak River, and above Aniak River, and then what we did
19 was we mapped and we documented each and every stream that
20 has salmon spawning at the time. And I wonder if some of
21 your priorities would be the repeat of that or of -- if
22 there was a similar project that was done in Kuskokwim
23 area. It kind of make me wonder.

24

25 CHAIRMAN NICK: Taylor.

26

27 MR. BRELSFORD: Perhaps the way we could
28 take the input for tonight is to say verify the stream
29 surveys on Yukon and Kuskokwim for salmon and non-salmon
30 species.

31

32 CHAIRMAN NICK: Uh-huh.

33

34 MR. BRELSFORD: And that way we could learn
35 what's out there, and make sure we fill the gaps. I was
36 thinking maybe one way to do this is just take another
37 minute or two tonight, but this would give us something to
38 think about, and we could spend a few minutes first thing
39 tomorrow morning just giving it a.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah.

42

43 MR. BRELSFORD:second look so we
44 don't go too late tonight.

45

46 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah. John.

47

48 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What
49 about Department of Fish and Game had all of the --
50 identified all the spawning streams all the way up to

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1 Circle?

2

3 MR. BRELSFORD: For salmon?

4

5 MR. HANSON: For salmon.

6

7 MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

8

9 MR. HANSON: What about checking the -- I
10 brought this up to Department of Fish and Game numerous
11 times. Since the salmon are not reaching some of those
12 spawning streams up in the Interior, as mentioned the
13 rivers, clear water rivers on -- starting from Pillow
14 Mountain all the way to below Russian Mission, including
15 the Iditarod, and the Department always say, well, we don't
16 have the money to go and check every stream. Well, there
17 -- it's not every stream. There's five or six other
18 streams other than what the Department already has their
19 maps.

20

21 MR. BRELSFORD: Yeah, this reminds me of
22 what the elders were saying about the Yukon Flats area.
23 There's streams above Eagle that by interviewing elders
24 they could find out which streams had spawning on it. They
25 could learn from traditional knowledge, and maybe we could
26 look at a study of the clear water tributaries in the lower
27 Yukon or below Mountain to above Iditarod.

28

29 MR. HANSON: Yeah.

30

31 MR. BRELSFORD: Talk with elders first, and
32 then do some verification stream surveys.

33

34 CHAIRMAN NICK: Maybe -- Taylor, (In
35 Yup'ik).

36

37 INTERPRETER: Maybe we should stop for now
38 and think about what we've been talking about tonight and
39 maybe tomorrow we may come up with some more ideas to
40 discuss in coming up with these proposals for 2001.

41

42 CHAIRMAN NICK: We'll go with your
43 suggestion and maybe leave that item with those on the
44 list, and tomorrow morning we will visit the 2001
45 priorities and then maybe add and then prioritize.

46

47 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. We'll want to be
48 kind of quick, because we have some wildlife proposals to
49 work on tomorrow, too, but I think we got a lot of good
50 work done today on the fisheries questions. Good public

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1 testimony and thinking ahead about year 2001, so I think we
2 got a lot done.

3
4 CHAIRMAN NICK: Okay. If there's
5 (indiscernible, coughing) or do you have anything else?
6

7 MR. BRELSFORD: Nothing more. That's.....

8
9 MR. KRUEGER: Thank you.

10
11 MR. BRELSFORD:it. Thanks.

12
13 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah. Quyana. Thank you.
14 (In Yup'ik)

15
16 INTERPRETER: When we get started tomorrow
17 morning, we'll go back to these items, and then we'll go on
18 with the agenda. Right now we're going to go back to this
19 agenda, and at this time our agenda will make a report.

20
21 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

22
23 INTERPRETER: It's the year 2000 -- this
24 report -- this council members have thought of doing --
25 John Hanson and Mary started, and Philip Moses, and when
26 (indiscernible). We have (indiscernible) this year during
27 our nomination process. The council members in Tuluksak
28 here, right here have (indiscernible). Alexis will help
29 with (indiscernible). Chair Harry Wilde, Vice Chair Robert
30 Nick, Secretary is Fritz George. Members (indiscernible)
31 for -- Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Council
32 (indiscernible) report from (indiscernible). This proposal
33 (indiscernible) tribal council, Kwethluk (indiscernible).
34 Retention (indiscernible) about (indiscernible).

35
36 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, John, some of
37 those proposals are going to be back before the
38 council.....

39
40 MR. ANDREW: Uh-huh.

41
42 MR. BRELSFORD:tomorrow morning, so I
43 wonder if the heart of the report is the next page where
44 you talk about regional subsistence issues, and maybe that
45 would be the most important one to go over with the council
46 tonight.

47
48 MR. ANDREW: Okay. I'll just shorten the
49 versions of what proposals we have. (In Yup'ik)

50

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1 INTERPRETER: If you have the copy of the
2 proposal, what he's reading is the report dated February
3 16, 2000. And you can almost -- John (indiscernible).

4
5 MR. ANDREW: (Reading annual report in
6 Yup'ik.) Mr. Chairman, Quyana.

7
8 CHAIRMAN NICK: Quyana, John. (In Yup'ik)

9
10 INTERPRETER: Any questions for this
11 report? If no further questions, go back to the agenda.
12 It is traditional practice after we have a report we
13 usually come up with a motion.

14
15 MS. GREGORY: I move.

16
17 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

18
19 INTERPRETER: Motion by Mary to accept the
20 report.

21
22 MR. OWELTUCK: Second.

23
24 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

25
26 INTERPRETER: Second by Alvin.

27
28 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31
32 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

33
34 (No opposing responses.)

35
36 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

37
38 INTERPRETER: Report is accepted
39 unanimously.

40
41 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

42
43 INTERPRETER: Now we're in -- have come to
44 a conclusion of the old business. What do you think? What
45 do you want to do now. We've come to hearing new business,
46 to make proposals. How should we handle this agenda items?
47 Do you want to start on this?

48
49 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

50

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1 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah.

2
3 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

4
5 INTERPRETER: (Indiscernible) do anything
6 about these proposals right now, but we need the comments
7 from State and Federal.

8
9 MR. ANDREW: Thank you.

10
11 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

12
13 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yes, Mary.

14
15 MS. GREGORY: I move we recess until 8:00
16 o'clock in the morning.

17
18 CHAIRMAN NICK: We have a motion to recess
19 to 8:00 o'clock in the morning.

20
21 MR. CHURCH: Second.

22
23 CHAIRMAN NICK: Seconded by Willard. (In
24 Yup'ik)

25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27
28 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

29
30 (No opposing responses.)

31
32 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

33
34 INTERPRETER: Recess until 8:00 o'clock in
35 the morning. We'll use this proposal procedure when making
36 presentations about these presentations tomorrow. And
37 tomorrow we will go into these reports, proposal reports.

38
39 (Off record - 8:55 p.m.)

40
41 (PROCEEDINGS TO CONTINUE)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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6

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
8 State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
9 certify:

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 140 contain a
12 full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME I, YUKON-
13 KUSKOKWIM FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
14 MEETING, taken electronically by Susan Reilly on the 21st day
15 of March, 2000, beginning at the hour of 8:00 o'clock a.m. at
16 the Nunapitchuk Community Hall, Nunapitchuk, Alaska;

17
18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under
20 my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge
21 and ability;

22
23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested
24 in any way in this action.

25
26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 3rd day of April, 2000.

27
28
29
30
31 _____
32 Joseph P. Kolasinski
33 Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00