

1 YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL  
2 SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 VOLUME II  
7 February 23, 2006

8  
9 Emmonak, Alaska

10  
11

12 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

13

14 Harry Wilde, Sr., Chair

15 Philip Moses

16 Lester Wilde, Sr.

17 Mary Gregory

18 William Brown

19 Joseph Mike

20 Edgar Hoelscher

21 Bob Aloysius

22

23 Alex Nick, Coordinator

24

25 Sophie Evan, Yup'ik Translator

26 Joseph "Trim" Nick, Yup'ik Translator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Emonnak, AK - 2/23/2006)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning. This morning we'll start with WP06-30, remove the closure of Federal public lands for the fall moose season in portions of Unit 18. Pete DeMatteo.

MR. KRON: Pete, Harry just introduced it and he's asking you to lead us through the analysis.

MR. DEMATTEO: Okay. Very good. Mr. Chair and Members of the Council, the analysis for Proposal 30 begins in your Council book on Page 51. Proposal 30 was submitted by Henry S. Powers III of Bethel and he requests that the Board eliminate the Federal regulatory closure restriction for the September 1 through 30 moose season in the remainder of Unit 18.

The proponent feels that the Federal closure regulations for this area should be changed to allow sport/recreational hunters from outside Unit 18 the opportunity to utilize Federal lands to hunt moose.

The proposed regulations can be seen on Page 51, halfway down the page, under the heading of proposed Federal regulations. Essentially it would open the remainder so that non-Federally qualified users could hunt in the September season.

The non-resident closure was originally established by the Board in 1991 to ensure that subsistence needs and rights received first priority. This was important at the time because of the low moose numbers that existed in the area.

We mentioned in the previous analysis that the moose population in Unit 18 remainder is essentially abounding and can sustain additional harvest and what is presently being taken. This is the result of a five-year moratorium on hunting that was a huge success in expanding the moose population to what it is today. Harvest records reflect that harvest of moose by local users has increased in the Yukon River portion of Unit 18. The harvest since 2002 appears to be stable at just over 200 bulls taken each year.

1 Mr. Chair, if this proposal were  
2 adopted by the Board, the proposed action is expected  
3 to have little biological effect on the lower Yukon  
4 moose population and minimal effect on subsistence  
5 opportunities. Any increased harvest is expected to be  
6 initially minor, but the sociological and political  
7 effects of immediately removing this restriction could  
8 be detrimental to the success of future management  
9 actions and cooperative efforts with the Yukon River  
10 communities.

11  
12 Mr. Chair, as I think we all know, this  
13 is not an easy issue, it's a complex issue, and it  
14 involves much more than just looking at the biology,  
15 the status of the moose population and also looking at  
16 the harvest.

17  
18 So, looking at that, deferral of this  
19 proposal is recommended for continuing the ongoing  
20 cooperative management necessary to effectively manage  
21 the resources of Unit 18. A history of public  
22 cooperation that established three moose hunting  
23 moratoria and also the success of the Yukon-Kuskokwim  
24 Delta Moose Management Plan in Unit 18, these were  
25 achieved through broad public involvement of local  
26 residents, not to mention the sacrifices that were made  
27 by local residents during the moratorium on moose  
28 hunting.

29  
30 A deferral of the  
31 proposed action would allow for additional public  
32 involvement and discussions between diverse user  
33 groups, such as subsistence hunters and transporters.  
34 It is unlikely that the lower river moose population  
35 would even exist if it were not for the voluntary  
36 actions taken by Lower Yukon River residents.

37  
38 Mr. Chair, again, I just want to stress  
39 that if we look at the status of the moose population  
40 and the current level of harvest, it is hard to justify  
41 the continuation of the closure and that's what a  
42 biological analysis does. It just looks at the  
43 population and looks at the harvest. We all know  
44 there's a larger picture here made of social issues,  
45 political issues that cannot be analyzed in a  
46 biological analysis. So, therefore, the preliminary  
47 conclusion is to defer action on this proposal.

48  
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Following  
2 the procedures this morning, Alaska Department of Fish  
3 and Game comment. Tom.

4  
5 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. I don't have  
6 the page in front of me, but the Alaska Department of  
7 Fish and Game is recommending deferral for a year as  
8 well, consistent with what the Staff recommendation is.

9  
10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Federal, State and  
13 Tribal agency comments.

14  
15 MR. ANDREW: Good morning, Mr.  
16 Chairman, Members of the Council. For the record, my  
17 name is Timothy Andrew. I'm director wildlife  
18 resources for the Association of Village Council  
19 Presidents.

20  
21 When this proposal came up, when we  
22 first became aware of it, we were pretty concerned  
23 about the possible implications of this proposal upon  
24 the seven million acres that belong to village  
25 corporations within the AVCP region, and additionally  
26 the half million acres of Federal trust properties that  
27 the Native people own within the area, and the  
28 potential trespass situations that could possibly occur  
29 when we have multiple user groups utilizing the land to  
30 conduct recreational or sport hunting activities within  
31 the Lower Yukon corridor.

32  
33 Additional areas we would be concerned  
34 about would be the traditional harvest areas for  
35 subsistence foods, for medicine, the protection of  
36 archaeological sites, fish camp, fall camps, spring  
37 camps, amongst other things that we would be concerned  
38 about.

39  
40 The other thing that we were really  
41 concerned about was that after all these years the  
42 Lower Yukon people have sacrificed to build this moose  
43 population to immediately open it up to sport and  
44 recreational hunters. It just doesn't seem fair to  
45 take advantage of the sacrifices people have made. I  
46 mean people have made considerable sacrifice in  
47 building this moose population down in this area and on  
48 the Lower Yukon corridor as well.

49  
50 We were concerned also about the

1 implications on the Lower Kuskokwim moose moratorium  
2 that's in its second or third year. I can't remember  
3 what it is now. If the sport and recreational  
4 opportunities were to open up in the Lower Yukon  
5 portion, it would shed a bad light on what the Lower  
6 Kuskokwim people are trying to do with their moose  
7 population in that area. It definitely would put a  
8 black eye on the entire process.

9  
10 The other issue that we're concerned  
11 about is resource user conflicts that arises out of  
12 multiple users. For example, in the Kotzebue area in  
13 the harvest of caribou within its migratory paths, many  
14 of the local people have utilized caribou for thousands  
15 and thousands of years in that area and the caribou  
16 migratory patterns they've grown to respect and know  
17 how these caribou migrate through the area. When a  
18 caribou first comes through the area, they allow a huge  
19 portion of the migrating herd to pass by, developing a  
20 scent trail for others to follow.

21  
22 Since the regulatory system has allowed  
23 for recreation or sport hunting to occur in the area,  
24 many of these recreational or sport hunters coming in  
25 either through guides or transporters have blocked the  
26 migratory pattern. They've set up camps along the  
27 migratory route, thus deflecting the caribou herd to  
28 perhaps other migratory routes or defecting them back  
29 up north. People have addressed this to the State  
30 Board of Game, their local Fish and Game Advisory  
31 Committees, through their Regional Advisory Council as  
32 well, so it's on the record that there is considerable  
33 user conflicts that occur in the area.

34  
35 The other area that has an example of  
36 user conflicts is Unit 19. Over the past five, six  
37 years or so their moose populations have been  
38 considerably depressed. I'm not sure why, but it could  
39 be attributed to user conflicts within the area.

40  
41 Unit 21 in the Koyukuk River drainage  
42 is also an area that's utilized by multiple user  
43 groups, subsistence, sport hunters, people that utilize  
44 the transporting system to hunt game in the area,  
45 primarily moose. There's been considerable conflicts  
46 there. They've allowed for a winter hunt where they've  
47 developed a pretty restrictive regulation to where  
48 people have to saw the palm of the moose antlers in  
49 order to decrease the trophy value so that people do  
50 not come in and utilize the winter hunt for sport hunt.

1 All these different areas that we have  
2 user conflicts in the subsistence or the traditional  
3 users and the sport hunters, guiding operations is the  
4 waste of meat. Bob is from an area that have quite a  
5 few people come in and there's people from up in that  
6 area that have seen people come in with meat that is no  
7 longer useable by anybody. They wouldn't even take the  
8 meat to feed the dogs because it's so rancid. Those  
9 are issues that we are extremely concerned about.

10  
11 The other issue that we're concerned  
12 about with this proposal is the amounts needed for  
13 subsistence for moose in the area. The current amount  
14 needed is extremely low. It doesn't reflect the true  
15 subsistence need. I can't remember what the amounts  
16 needed for subsistence is, but I think it's between 100  
17 and perhaps 120 or so. It could be a little more or  
18 less. You and I know, and through the presentation  
19 that Pete gave earlier, that the current take is about  
20 200 bulls in the area. So the amounts needed for  
21 subsistence doesn't even reflect the true need that  
22 subsistence hunters need within the villages.

23  
24 We would currently support the deferral  
25 for an additional year and with the caveat that we  
26 develop a Unit 18 moose management plan that consists  
27 of subsistence hunters, perhaps a representative from  
28 the transporting industry and the guiding industry,  
29 representatives from Department of Fish and Game and  
30 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

31  
32 Thank you.

33  
34 MR. HAMILTON: Good morning, Mr. Chair  
35 and Members of the Board. I have a resolution right  
36 here from the Emmonak Tribal Council. I'm wondering if  
37 I have to read it into the minutes.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

40  
41 MR. HAMILTON: Thank you. My name is  
42 Ted Hamilton. I represent the Emmonak Tribal Council  
43 through the Natural Resource Department. This is a  
44 resolution from the Emmonak Tribal Council that we  
45 passed in December. It's Resolution 05-37. A  
46 resolution requesting the Federal Subsistence Board to  
47 not adopt Wildlife Proposal 06-30. Whereas the Emmonak  
48 Tribal Council is a Federally recognized tribal  
49 government and the subsistence hunters of the Lower  
50 Yukon Delta requested that we wanted a moose moratorium

1 imposed in our area. We must not forget that.

2

3                   The subsistence managers, ADF&G  
4 managers, they did not come over here and say you guys  
5 ought to have a moose moratorium so you could build  
6 your populations. No. It went the other way around.  
7 We asked them. What happened was there was no moose in  
8 our area, zero. We hunted them all. We caught them  
9 all. Through dog teams and the use of snow machines.  
10 Dog teams first. So we learned to hunt this area  
11 first. So there was absolutely no moose. That could  
12 be reflected by Fish and Game stats in the population  
13 estimates they did before. So let me continue.

14

15                   In the second whereas, the subsistence  
16 hunters of the Lower Yukon Delta requested that we  
17 wanted a moose moratorium imposed in our area to build  
18 the moose population with the intention of the moose  
19 population to provide food on the table for people in  
20 our area. For many years the subsistence hunters of  
21 the former Lower Yukon moratorium area have sacrificed  
22 hunting to build the moose populations with the  
23 intentions of building the moose populations for our  
24 residents.

25

26                   The subsistence hunters of the Yukon-  
27 Kuskokwim Delta did not support the moratoriums with  
28 the intentions of allowing non-resident hunting to  
29 occur in their traditional hunting lands. All of our  
30 villages have ANCSA corporations and Alaska Native  
31 allotment lands within close proximity to our  
32 communities. All Federal land and corporate land and  
33 Native allotment lands within the Yukon Delta National  
34 Wildlife Refuge are traditional hunting grounds for our  
35 people. We have claim to all this area, but yet we're  
36 shoed into this little corporation land that we have  
37 to share amongst our people. There's over 800 people  
38 in Emmonak. It means over 200 households. You can  
39 kind of see that onto the next villages there.

40

41                   Whereas moose hunting plays an  
42 important role in the subsistence way of life for our  
43 people in the village of Emmonak and moose meat and  
44 other game resources provides basic sustenance for our  
45 tribal members and additional hunting pressure placed  
46 on our moose populations would likely lead to a  
47 decline, especially if there's not a plan in place to  
48 monitor the moose populations and their habitat. I  
49 know that for a fact. There has not been any moose  
50 browse surveys done in our area. How do these managers

1 know what a sustainable population level is.

2

3 I've been after both the Department and  
4 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to try and find out  
5 where is that money to do a moose browse survey so that  
6 Emmonak Tribal Council can help out, but there hasn't  
7 been a project started yet.

8

9 Therefore let it be resolved that the  
10 Native Village of Emmonak requests that the Federal  
11 Subsistence Board not adopt Wildlife Proposal 06-30 to  
12 protect our subsistence way of life, adopted this 28th  
13 day of December, 2005, at a regular meeting in the  
14 Native Village of Emmonak at which a duly constituted  
15 quorum was present. Signed by our president and our  
16 secretary on the same day. Then I prepared comments so  
17 that I could bring them to my tribal council, not  
18 convince them, but support them in this decision to not  
19 support 06-30.

20

21 In regards to this proposal, I'll  
22 compare the proposal to a potluck type dinner. As the  
23 residents of Game Management Unit 18, we have just  
24 gotten in line for dinner and someone knocks heavily at  
25 the door, demanding that they be served. The new guys  
26 will not go to the end of the line but demand to go to  
27 the front of the line and demand to be served before  
28 others that have been there longer. Is there enough to  
29 go around? Why did they demand to be invited without  
30 invitation?

31

32 The success rate of our subsistence  
33 hunters is very low. More than half the hunters go all  
34 season long without a harvest even if they go every  
35 day. Soaring fuel prices also hurt the subsistence  
36 hunters. We cannot hunt as much as we would like. Our  
37 hunters found out that if they put their money together  
38 more fuel could be bought but more hunters are in the  
39 boat and this turns counterproductive. I know some of  
40 you moose hunters up there know that when you have too  
41 many people in the boat you make lots of noise. It  
42 kind of frightens the game away. More noise generated  
43 equals less harvestability.

44

45 In Game Management Unit 18 hunting  
46 opportunities are not equal. If you have money, you  
47 can fly, spot a moose and hunt the same day, which is  
48 why we kind of moved this over into a controlled use  
49 area because we know that and we want to change it.  
50 This is not a level hunting field. We need a few more

1 years to get ready for people outside Game Management  
2 Unit 18 who want to hunt and possibly harvest a moose  
3 in Game Unit 18.

4  
5                   Why did the guide outfitter not contact  
6 tribes or corporations in our area to see if we would  
7 object to extra hunting pressure. My corporation might  
8 be interested, but does not want to be strong-armed.  
9 The proposal mentioned that there will be no extra  
10 hunting pressure. How can that be when our hunters in  
11 GMU 18 will be going out in strong numbers.

12  
13                   We have a large population of people in  
14 GMU 18. A large population means a large subsistence  
15 hunting population. Right now there is not enough  
16 moose in GMU 18 to even fill half the freezers in the  
17 villages in GMU 18 and still be under the guidelines of  
18 the State of Alaska sustainable harvest regulations.  
19 Meaning if we went hog wild and we started killing  
20 every single moose in the area just so we could kill  
21 our moose and not paying attention to the laws, that  
22 the moose population would go down.

23  
24                   If there should happen to be a big  
25 flood in the Lower Yukon Delta, we stand the chance to  
26 lose up to half our moose population because we are in  
27 the flood plane. Another thing to mention is that  
28 upriver the moose population is going down. That means  
29 upriver subsistence hunters may come down river to GMU  
30 18 and hunt in an already crowded area. Then I signed  
31 it and passed it on to the Tribal Council.

32  
33                   When I talk about the large hunting  
34 population where half of us can't even fill our  
35 freezers even though we hunt all 30 days, it doesn't  
36 mean we're bad hunters. It just means we're in the  
37 wrong place at the wrong time. We know our moose  
38 population, the age is very slowly increasing at a very  
39 slow rate because when we go out hunting we catch lots  
40 of spikes, especially when we first started. So when  
41 you're catching all the spikes, it's pretty hard to  
42 build an age-old population.

43  
44                   Now we do have a few bulls out here,  
45 less than a handful, that may or may not be trophy  
46 size, but these guys we want to keep so we can build a  
47 herd. These stronger moose, bigger moose, it kind of  
48 means better survivability because we gets lots of snow  
49 down here in some years and the moose always have  
50 problem in deep snow. Which is probably why we caught

1 them pretty easily in the '50s and '60s and '70s when  
2 they first came down and tried to populate our area.  
3 We were pretty effective in keeping the moose  
4 population down to zero because of our needs.  
5

6                   That's why we always had to go upriver  
7 and go hunting other areas until we decided we were  
8 tired of seeing our young men go to jail just for  
9 trying to feed their families. That's why we wanted  
10 the moratorium. That must not be forgotten. People of  
11 the Lower Yukon Delta asked for the moose moratorium.  
12 The managers did not come to us and impose it on us.  
13 We asked for it. We wanted it.  
14

15                   Thank you.

16  
17                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Before you  
18 go we would like to have a copy of what you have there.  
19 We would appreciate it next time that all of us here  
20 carry same kind of letter you have.  
21

22                   MR. HAMILTON: I did submit these to  
23 Fish and Wildlife Service via fax on the last day. I'm  
24 not too sure if it was received.  
25

26                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. We've got  
27 them over there. Again, State, Federal and Tribal  
28 agencies. Make sure you state your name and who you  
29 represent.  
30

31                   MR. SUNDOWN: Mr. Chairman and the  
32 Board, Robert Sundown with the Yukon Delta National  
33 Wildlife Refuge and Hollis Twitchell. A couple  
34 comments that we have on Proposal 30. The first  
35 comment is that we truly respect the sacrifices that  
36 the people have made down in the Lower Yukon and  
37 support a one year deferral for the proposal.  
38

39                   Aside from that, the other comments  
40 that we have, there are small concerns for other user  
41 groups. The closure that you have on Federal lands  
42 includes not only people from Anchorage, from Seattle  
43 or other sport hunters who come here and hunt, it also  
44 includes people from Stebbins, St. Michaels, it  
45 includes people from upriver beyond Unit 18. So my  
46 concern and the Refuge's concerns are how do you  
47 incorporate people who have a legitimate need, who are  
48 Native, who have grown up in the area, who have ties to  
49 families and friends in the Lower Yukon and for many  
50 years have been sharing cultural resources. I know

1 very well that my family goes to hunt caribou in the  
2 Stebbins, St. Michael area. I fully realize they're  
3 open and sharing about their resources. And how does  
4 the Lower Yukon extend that same invitation for your  
5 moose resources to these folks outside of Unit 18 who  
6 have a legitimate need for the moose and who grew up in  
7 the area as well. So that was one of the concerns we  
8 had. That's probably the most prominent one we had.

9  
10 The other concern we had is more  
11 biological. The growing moose population. At some  
12 point biologically they're going to eat themselves out  
13 of their food resources. While the success rate of  
14 hunters down in the Lower Yukon might not be where  
15 every household who wants a moose gets a moose. At  
16 some point you're going to need to more aggressively  
17 thin the population, which is why we've requested other  
18 management actions be taken, including the lengthening  
19 of the winter season and including calf moose in the  
20 harvest.

21  
22 So, one of the other ways to help  
23 decrease the moose population or control its growth so  
24 they don't eat themselves out of their habitat would be  
25 to incorporate hunters outside of Unit 18. We don't  
26 project this to be a very high number for the simple  
27 reason that the Federal lands that will be affected by  
28 this proposal are few.

29  
30 If you look at the river corridor where  
31 the majority of hunters hunt, it's right within the  
32 river corridor and everything within the river corridor  
33 is Native corporation land, it's Native allotment land  
34 and all of these lands are under the State  
35 jurisdiction. When you have State jurisdiction over  
36 these lands where just about everybody hunts, the only  
37 people who would be affected by this regulation are  
38 those people who hunt outside of the river corridor and  
39 there's not many people hunting outside of the river  
40 corridor where the Federal lands are and this proposal  
41 would take effect. For that reason we don't project a  
42 high number of people coming from the outside.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

45  
46 MR. ALOYSIUS: I've got a question for  
47 Robert. Can you clarify what this proposed regulation  
48 is because it says moose, remainder, one antlered bull.  
49 A 10-day hunt will occur between December 1 and  
50 February 28 (1 bull, evidence of sex required) will be

1 opened by announcement. Then in bold letters and  
2 italics it says Federal public lands in Unit 18 are  
3 closed to the hunting of moose by non-Federally  
4 qualified users, except in the remainder of Unit 18  
5 during the fall season.

6  
7                   What does that mean by the remainder of  
8 Unit 18? Does this proposal go to that area that is  
9 the lowest Yukon area? This is really ambiguous. It  
10 doesn't explain what area this proposal is talking  
11 about. I have this thing about what do you mean by  
12 remainder. It's not clear to me what this proposal is  
13 proposing.

14  
15                   MR. SUNDOWN: Mr. Chairman, Mr.  
16 Aloysius. The proposal would eliminate the Unit 18  
17 requirement, so anybody from the state of Alaska or  
18 non-residents would be able to hunt on Federal lands in  
19 Unit 18. Currently, if you are from anywhere outside  
20 of Unit 18 during the fall or winter hunt, you are not  
21 allowed to participate on Federal lands. So if you're  
22 from Stebbins or St. Michael's, you cannot hunt the  
23 Refuge section during a moose opening. You can hunt  
24 the river corridor in the fall and you can hunt the  
25 river corridor for the State sanctioned hunt, but you  
26 cannot hunt Federal lands during an open season in Unit  
27 18 if you are from Stebbins or St. Michael's.

28  
29                   So, what this proposal would do is  
30 remove the requirement that you be a resident of Unit  
31 18 to hunt Federal lands on Unit 18. So it would allow  
32 if you were from Stebbins or St. Michael's or from  
33 Anchorage or other places to hunt Federal lands. And  
34 most likely the outside segment, non-resident segment  
35 would be restricted to the fall hunt, as it is now on  
36 the river corridor with the state regulations.

37  
38                   MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

41  
42                   MS. GREGORY: Mr. Sundown, if you open  
43 it to the (in Yup'ik), who's going to do the hunting  
44 for them and are you going to drop them off with a  
45 plane on a lake somewhere if they can't use that -- you  
46 were telling us that most of the Yup'iks hunt along the  
47 river and the rest of Unit 18, which is the maraq and  
48 not hunted. How do you plan to reach that maraq that's  
49 not hunted?

50

1 MR. SUNDOWN: I don't know. All I know  
2 is this proposal would open hunting to other people  
3 outside of Unit 18. The person that proposed this is a  
4 transporter out of Bethel and I imagine the few places  
5 he could hunt would be right there between Kalskag and  
6 Russian Mission along the maraq and those lakes in the  
7 Portage area. So there's not too much land that would  
8 become open because all the river corridor right now is  
9 open to non-resident hunting by State regulations. So  
10 you're not going to see an expansion to the degree you  
11 think you are because it's already open by State  
12 regulations where everybody hunts anyway. Do you guys  
13 see what I'm saying?  
14

15 The Native corporation lands and the  
16 Native allotment lands, which comprise the entire river  
17 corridor are already State managed and State managed  
18 lands are already open to non-resident hunting. So  
19 what you see right now is going to be exactly what you  
20 see when this proposal opens.  
21

22 If you look at your charts on your maps  
23 on the proposal booklets, the Federal lands that are  
24 open are the ones in pink and we've got other charts if  
25 you guys would like to look at them. Hollis, do you  
26 want to grab that one map. Give us about two minutes  
27 to get this map set up for you guys.  
28

29 Hollis Twitchell is holding up a large  
30 map of the small corner of Unit 18. If you look at the  
31 area Kotlik and the river corridor, we wish we had a  
32 larger map, but the point of this map is to show you  
33 what areas would be affected by opening this  
34 regulation. If you look at the dark brown segments  
35 around the river corridor downriver of Kotlik, you'll  
36 see that the majority of the river corridor is Native  
37 allotment and village corporation lands. Those are  
38 already managed by the State of Alaska. We have no  
39 jurisdiction on those lands.  
40

41 The normal-colored area of the map is  
42 the area that would be affected by this regulation,  
43 which is Refuge lands. Those lands, which is not very  
44 high moose habitat and not very high browse because  
45 it's away from the river corridor, are the only areas  
46 that would become open to non-residents. So that is  
47 the extent of the proposal and the reason why we  
48 believe that you're not going to see a large influx of  
49 non-resident hunters because where they would want to  
50 hunt is a place they can hunt already. They can

1 already hunt on the river corridor. So the only place  
2 that would become open is the tundra, the maraq that is  
3 away from the river corridor.

4  
5 Does that explain it better, Members of  
6 the Board?

7  
8 MS. GREGORY: Yes. Mr. Chairman. It  
9 doesn't affect this side of the Yukon Delta? It  
10 affects the (Yup'ik) side, that's what you're saying?

11  
12 MR. SUNDOWN: No, it definitely affects  
13 all areas outside of the river corridor. We wish we  
14 had a bigger map. The only point of that map is to  
15 show you the differences between the Native corporation  
16 land and the Refuge lands and how much area that the  
17 Native corporation lands and the allotments take up on  
18 the river. So where people can hunt already, even non-  
19 residents, is already open to non-residents. There's  
20 very few lands on the Refuge that would become open as  
21 a result of this that is good moose habitat.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think I'm still in a  
24 blind with this proposal. I even look at that map.  
25 Because Unit 18 starts off up in the Paimiut corridor  
26 from Paimiut land, where they separate Unit 18 and  
27 21(A). Which part of the area are people going to need  
28 to know looking at the Unit 18 part and the government  
29 land, what we look at National Wildlife Refuge that  
30 goes from there all the way down to the mouth of the  
31 Yukon. I think people don't quite understand things  
32 like me. I cannot tell my children this area is on  
33 this proposal here. I think we need more explanation  
34 of what part of the area would be removed and closed  
35 for Federal land for fall moose season portion of Unit  
36 18.

37  
38 MR. SUNDOWN: Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tim.

41  
42 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
43 Tim Andrew with AVCP. I'd just like to make a point  
44 that kind of disagrees with what Mr. Sundown was  
45 stating earlier that there would not be very much of a  
46 change in the amount of people coming in. The reason  
47 why there is not a huge amount of other people coming  
48 in to hunt within the State sanctioned opening is  
49 because the village corporations have not allowed it on  
50 their village corporation lands. But if we take a

1 Federally open jurisdiction area to occur, this is  
2 publicly owned by each and every one of us as well as  
3 people from across the state and Lower 48, I think we'd  
4 probably see an increase eventually. It would increase  
5 over time, just as it did in other areas of the state.

6

7 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8

9 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Joseph.

12

13 MR. MIKE: I want to read this:  
14 However, the current restriction poses a hardship on  
15 adjacent villages such as St. Michael's, Stebbins and  
16 to some extent Holy Cross, as they are not qualified  
17 users either. What do you mean by qualified users  
18 either?

19

20 MR. SUNDOWN: That means under the  
21 current regulations if you're from Stebbins, St.  
22 Michael's, Holy Cross or other villages outside of Unit  
23 18, you cannot hunt moose on Federal lands in Unit 18.  
24 Right now if you are from those places or any place  
25 outside of Unit 18, you can't hunt Federal lands in  
26 Unit 18.

27

28 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman. In the past  
29 we have been hearing that any Native can hunt on  
30 Federal lands.

31

32 MR. SUNDOWN: I apologize for the  
33 misunderstanding. The current regulations are if  
34 you're from outside of Unit 18 you can't hunt in Unit  
35 18 on Federal land.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Except if you're from  
38 Kalskag.

39

40 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman. To me, any  
41 Native is a qualified user.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr.  
44 Twitchell.

45

46 MR. TWITCHELL: Mr. Chair and Council  
47 Members. That determination of who can hunt in Unit 18  
48 comes out of a customary and traditional use  
49 determination that the Federal Subsistence Board makes.  
50 It is possible if there are other communities that have

1 C&T use, such as St. Michael's and Stebbins or other  
2 villages just up drainage, that a petition can be made  
3 or a proposal can be submitted to the Federal  
4 Subsistence Board asking that those communities be  
5 added to the customary and traditional use  
6 determination. So it is possible to advance a proposal  
7 that could incorporate those communities in the C&T  
8 determination. So that's always an option out there  
9 even at this time. But currently, as Robert says, the  
10 determination that's in the regulation books now only  
11 identifies residents within Unit 18.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. SUNDOWN: One of the concerns that  
16 the Chairman brought up, there may be an answer that  
17 the Refuge has proposed, that we go to all the Lower  
18 Yukon villages during this deferral period, discuss  
19 with all the villages what exactly this proposal would  
20 do and have bigger maps showing the entire Lower Yukon,  
21 what would be affected, what would not be affected. So  
22 maybe this period, if you guys choose to defer this,  
23 that would be a time for the Refuge to come to your  
24 villages and speak to exactly what this proposal would  
25 do with maps and discussions with your village tribes.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

28

29 MR. MOORE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. My name  
30 is Robert Moore. The current status in reference to  
31 the corporate lands, we do have an agreement, an  
32 understanding between the local area corporations that  
33 any corporate member from Kotlik, Alakanuk, I think as  
34 far up as Mountain, that they can come and hunt on our  
35 lands. It's the same way with Stebbins. I can go  
36 there and hunt for caribou. That's the current status  
37 to my understanding.

38

39 It would probably be a good idea to  
40 defer this because we're still in the discussing stages  
41 on the State advisory site. We'll probably be coming  
42 to that issue there sometime in the future when the  
43 numbers of moose justify opening to guided hunts and so  
44 forth.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Nick Tucker. Your  
49 name and who you represent for the record.

50

1 MR. TUCKER: Good morning, Mr.  
2 Chairman. I have missed over a day to be with you, so  
3 I would like to be excused in the way that I'm going to  
4 make a presentation. First, a recommendation to the  
5 Board on this proposal. Second, with the way you  
6 conduct your meeting, I would like to take part in  
7 addressing one issue for your thought but not for  
8 public comments. If I may do that regarding a short  
9 comment on fisheries because I'm not going to be able  
10 to be with you the rest of the day. Would that be  
11 okay, Mr. Chairman?

12  
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.  
14

15 MR. TUCKER: My name is Nick Tucker.  
16 I'm a resident of Emmonak and I have a family of 12 as  
17 most of you know and grandchildren and I think you know  
18 what that means. That affects the way that I do things  
19 and go out and make sure they are not hungry. I will  
20 try to avoid repetition of other people that came up  
21 here before you.

22  
23 My recommendation is for the Council to  
24 vote down Proposal WP06-30. Most of you should have a  
25 copy of the main outline of what I want to say to the  
26 Board.

27  
28 I think the non-resident closure  
29 established in 1991/92 by the Federal Subsistence Board  
30 is something that first ensures and protects in a  
31 priority our subsistence needs and rights. It protects  
32 moose and its survival. Taking this regulation away  
33 and allowing sport/recreational hunters, we have so  
34 many serious impacts which we have not even begun to  
35 see to this region that is continually impoverished,  
36 compounded by recent fisheries disaster declarations.  
37 Current biological information or any other study is  
38 never going to be sufficient to warrant elimination of  
39 the regulation because of our traditional and customary  
40 reliance on the moose for subsistence survival.

41  
42 The winter count of 28 moose in 1992  
43 tells us how sensitive the moose population is from the  
44 impacts of climate, environment, habitat resources, and  
45 predators. We cared so much for our future generations  
46 that we voluntarily self-imposed the moratorium of 1998  
47 to save the moose that is very important for our diet  
48 and nutrition.

49  
50 Rapid rise in population is indicative

1 only because of the past conditions favorable to  
2 survival of the moose population which may take a 180-  
3 degree turn because of current unpredictable changing  
4 climate and weather. We cannot afford to deviate from  
5 current preventive measures that protect this protein-  
6 rich subsistence resource that make up a large part of  
7 our weekly diet. This current rapid rise in population  
8 may also be misleading for the moment. We do not have  
9 enough past information, surveys and studies to back up  
10 our hopes that may be taken from under our feet at any  
11 moment.

12  
13 Mortality rates for calves presently  
14 appear to be very low. We do not have a long  
15 established information to back up a more reliable  
16 mortality rate conclusion, which, for all we know, can  
17 be dangerously altered in any given year. As with any  
18 species, we are not guaranteed a harvestable surplus in  
19 any given year due to many variables not studied,  
20 discovered or known.

21  
22 Bull survival rate impact by recent  
23 climatic and temperature changes is not known yet.  
24 More importantly, we cannot see their impact on habitat  
25 conditions which both protect and feed this fragile  
26 population. There is no biological guarantee that we  
27 will have a safe bull to cow ratios year to year or a  
28 sufficient number of males born from each mating  
29 season.

30  
31 There will never be a need to  
32 liberalize harvest on our moose to accommodate  
33 sports/recreational hunters from outside Unit 18. It  
34 is a resource to which we sacrificed so much to save.  
35 For the Federal Subsistence Board or any other board to  
36 allow sports/recreational hunters to play with our  
37 moose subsistence needs is to destroy every fiber of  
38 our subsistence rights, needs and priority.

39  
40 Our village populations are growing.  
41 We have a need for this resource. Nothing in the  
42 proposal addresses human aspects and potential  
43 devastation of our socio-economic infrastructure as a  
44 result if the moose population collapses again. We  
45 have no room for future regulatory changes. Our  
46 current conservation measures are barely sufficient to  
47 keep the present population safe.

48  
49 We talked about rapid rise in the  
50 population of the moose, but we have not even

1 considered how much of that moose migrated from upriver  
2 and other parts of Unit 18. That is why it's so  
3 dangerous even to consider now or ever to lift the 1992  
4 regulation that protects each one of us here. I, in my  
5 lifetime, have never seen anyone nor have I heard of  
6 any large moose population on the Lower Yukon. All  
7 that time the moose hunters go upriver until recent  
8 years.

9  
10 Now I hear about user conflict. I have  
11 never heard our elders or maybe perhaps any one of you  
12 or anyone else talk about any user conflict between  
13 Native and Native. We've always understood that we  
14 share no matter where we're from, but with an  
15 understanding that we will respect each other's  
16 resource. That goes back perhaps 10,000 years. I  
17 don't think anyone telling you that we have user  
18 conflict would be anything for discussion. The user  
19 conflict is for the greedy that come from the outside  
20 to destroy the food, the resource, that we worked so  
21 hard to keep for our generation.

22  
23 I think that terminology should never  
24 even be brought up again. It's not a Native word. Nor  
25 should it be presented to us by anyone. It's like a  
26 belief that I do not believe a certain thing, but  
27 someone comes along, you have to believe it because  
28 they believe it. That's not our way of life.

29  
30 At the same time, with all due respect,  
31 I'm a little offended that when someone proposes to  
32 represent us and they don't come here to talk with us  
33 because they don't know how empty our stomachs might  
34 be. Let me tell you something. And, Mr. Chairman, you  
35 and I understand that because there were times when I  
36 was little I had to have only one piece of dry fish to  
37 survive a day in the 1970s because we had no food in  
38 the house. We had to eat moose morning, noon and night  
39 for one week and rice for three days for morning, noon  
40 and night.

41  
42 So be very careful when you listen to  
43 anyone. Not everything they say is correct. Not  
44 everything they say is right. Be very careful and ask  
45 them did you go to each village and get their opinion  
46 and are you representing the opinion and the concerns  
47 and the needs of that village.

48  
49 The 200 bulls a year that they're  
50 talking about that looks nice and shining star for the

1 Federal government and the State, but the 200 bulls a  
2 year with almost 1,000 people in Emmonak is barely  
3 enough to feed the entire village. We're not even  
4 talking about Nunam Iqua that caught only five moose  
5 last year, last fall. We're not talking about Kotlik  
6 with close to 600 people.

7  
8 I heard earlier that somebody comes  
9 into a house without permission and determines what we  
10 need or don't need. It's the same thing with our  
11 Federal government. You need to work with us to know  
12 what we need in the village. They didn't know enough,  
13 nor did the State, to make a quick move to save the  
14 moose population, but the people of the Lower Yukon  
15 were wise to do that at a great sacrifice to our  
16 stomachs, to our children, to our grandchildren, for  
17 their sake so they will never be hungry as Mr. Chairman  
18 said. I don't want them to grow up like I did.

19  
20 We haven't even talked about if we have  
21 aircraft or other equipment coming in and the people  
22 that make noise and drive away the moose that's finally  
23 coming into our backyard and to disrupt where the  
24 geese, the rabbits, the ptarmigans and other animals  
25 and birds eat around our region. And we haven't even  
26 talked about there is so much in our backyard that we  
27 don't even go near.

28  
29 When something is not precious to you,  
30 we take advantage of it and use everything we can to  
31 get it. If no one respects our backyard, they have  
32 only trophy to show to somebody in the Lower 48, I got  
33 this from here, with disrespect for our background, the  
34 sacred places and areas that we don't even go to.  
35 There are a lot of unspoken, unvisited grave sites  
36 around our region. The people are not going to respect  
37 that from the Lower 48. They'll see a dollar sign over  
38 those sacred grounds. That's what's going to happen.

39  
40 The conditions around you can see  
41 change from year to year from one extreme to the other.  
42 Two years ago for the people from upriver you saw your  
43 fellow Natives having to come down here to hunt moose  
44 because even as far as going up to 30 Mile from here,  
45 we couldn't even go into the sloughs. Last year was  
46 just the opposite. The whole month of September was  
47 devastated. Windy and cold with storms up to 60 miles  
48 an hour back to back that devastated the western region  
49 here and many people are hurt.

50

1                   And I don't think anyone should use St.  
2 Michael, which is a disrespect to me or to the elders.  
3 I don't think anyone should even mention St. Marys, St.  
4 Michael, our fellow Natives, as a way to open up for  
5 our region or even rest of Unit 18. That's not asking  
6 their permission first. With our understanding we  
7 share the resource with them. They shouldn't even  
8 mention those villages and say they're outside  
9 qualified subsistence users. I don't want that  
10 mentioned even in the deliberations on the Federal  
11 level because that's a way for misunderstanding by  
12 people that don't even come here to use it, to open up  
13 18 for sports hunters, recreation hunters.  
14

15                   Earlier I said we don't have room to  
16 defer this. We don't even have room to even take it up  
17 again in the future. We just don't have any other  
18 protection for the moose that it's very, very easy to  
19 destroy by anything.  
20

21                   Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you have  
22 any questions. I also have just one short one other  
23 than this one here, so I will be returning to work  
24 after my testimony. I welcome your questions,  
25 concerns.  
26

27                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council, do you have  
28 any questions for Nathan.  
29

30                   MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.  
31

32                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.  
33

34                   MR. ALOYSIUS: Quyana. From here.  
35

36                   MR. TUCKER: Now, before I leave, Mr.  
37 Chairman, Members of the Board, in the same way that we  
38 sacrificed so much and hurt to bring our moose  
39 population up, take a look around. It's the same way,  
40 Mr. Chairman, Mr. Lester Wilde. We have been all over  
41 the state and in Canada. You recognized we did the  
42 exact same thing with our salmon. We sacrificed, we  
43 suffered and everything to build it back up. In the  
44 same way we didn't cry out so much. At the same time  
45 we didn't say we're going to build this resource back  
46 up for the Canadians or for other regions that misused  
47 salmon in the name of subsistence.  
48

49                   So, in the future deliberations of our  
50 fisheries salmon, I want you to know, you already know

1 but I'll repeat it for you, commercial fisheries is so  
2 much inside our subsistence way of life that we cannot  
3 go without it down here, especially today with the  
4 price to get our other fish, birds, sea mammals and so  
5 forth. Please think about that relationship in future  
6 deliberations of fisheries to protect those two and do  
7 everything you can to convince the managers that every  
8 minute of commercial opening is a way for us to get  
9 other food for the rest of the year. Quyana.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: William, Mary and  
12 Lester.

13

14 MR. BROWN: Quyana. I want to thank  
15 you.

16

17 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

18

19 INTERPRETER: I appreciate your words.  
20 They are good and I appreciate you coming in person.  
21 When people bring proposals in person it makes a bigger  
22 impact rather than just the paperwork you process. It  
23 leaves more of an impact to come in person if you are  
24 submitting a proposal for consideration. I'm thinking  
25 of voting not to adopt this proposal, but I will take  
26 your written comments and convey them to the managers  
27 and the powers that be.

28

29 MR. L. WILDE: I want to thank you for  
30 your presentation. I'm in total agreement with your  
31 points. There is one matter of correction that I  
32 wanted to put because it's been overlooked before. One  
33 thing we forget is we are not a board, we're a council,  
34 advisors to the Board. I just wanted that understood.

35

36 MR. TUCKER: Mr. Chairman, Lester. I  
37 speak to you as if I'm speaking to the Federal Board  
38 because that is how much trust I have in you, okay? So  
39 don't be offended. I expect you to forward and  
40 deliberate my concerns so that my little grandchild  
41 will be protected. Okay. I appreciate that.

42

43 MR. L. WILDE: Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Nick.

46

47 MR. TUCKER: Yeah, I love to be asked  
48 questions like Fisheries Board and State Fisheries. I  
49 get to say a lot more. Thank you very much.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. We will  
2 continue going through this procedure. Next is  
3 InterAgency Staff Committee comments.

4  
5 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman, may we  
6 please have a break.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, we'll have a 10-  
9 minute break.

10  
11 (Off record)

12  
13 (On record)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll continue our  
16 procedures for Proposal 30. At this time, InterAgency  
17 Staff Committee comments.

18  
19 MR. KESSLER: There is none, Mr. Chair.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comments. Then we  
22 go to local Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Summary of written  
27 public comments.

28  
29 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair. For the  
30 record, my name is Alex Nick. I'm Council coordinator.  
31 We received 18 individual and organization comments in  
32 opposition to the Proposal WP06-30 and these people  
33 located in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region oppose the  
34 proposal for several reasons. The main one to protect  
35 the subsistence way of life. I'll just go down the  
36 list of the organizations and individuals.

37  
38 These are Edward Mark of Quinhagak,  
39 Alaska; Yupiit of Andreafsky; Mike Moses,  
40 Asa'carsarmiut Tribes of Alaska; Asa'carsarmiut Tribal  
41 Council; Algaaciq Tribal Government; Native Village of  
42 Eek Traditional Council; Village of Bill Moore's  
43 Slough; Emmonak Tribal Council; Glenn Fredericks,  
44 President, Georgetown Tribal Council; Georgetown Tribal  
45 Council; Ted Hamilton, Natural Resource Department,  
46 Emmonak Tribal Council; Hamilton Tribal Council; Newtok  
47 Traditional Council; Newtok Traditional Council; Bavill  
48 Merritt, Sr., President, Native Village of Goodnews Bay  
49 Traditional Council; Native Village of Kongiganak  
50 Traditional Council; Native Village of Quinhagak

1 Council; Ohogamiut Tribal Council; and Village of Lower  
2 Kalskag.

3

4 We have copies of the resolutions and  
5 letters on file, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana. Mary.

8

9 MS. GREGORY: Under Tribal Agencies, if  
10 we expect the public to adhere to our ways of doing, we  
11 need to practice our speech or walk our talk.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana. Public  
14 testimony. (In Yup'ik)

15

16 INTERPRETER: We are open to public  
17 comment in either language. First is Andrew Kelly,  
18 Sr., Emmonak.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: State your name, where  
21 you're from and who you represent.

22

23 MR. KELLY: (In Yup'ik)

24

25 INTERPRETER: My name is Andrew Kelly  
26 from Emmonak. I have worked as an RIT for the Fish and  
27 Wildlife Service since 1998. Since I commenced my job,  
28 I have worked in the area with the elders from Kotlik.  
29 I speak with Joe Mike, Margaret Andrews, Anna Kamkoff.  
30 These are elders from Kotlik and Emmonak and Alakanuk.  
31 I spoke with these elders and in Mountain Village. I  
32 have spoke with these elders collecting data. They  
33 collectively say that our subsistence lifestyle has  
34 been a practice since the early days. They have told  
35 me if I happen to travel somewhere in meetings or  
36 conferences, if they speak of resources that affect us,  
37 to listen carefully, and if they deliberate regarding  
38 these issues you need to convey our message that our  
39 resources are gifts and need to be respected. If we  
40 collectively and cooperatively work together, I think  
41 things will be better and that's what has been conveyed  
42 to me by the elders in these villages.

43

44 Since yesterday when you started your  
45 meeting here I have received phone calls in the evening  
46 from some people who are unable to come, particularly  
47 the elders, but they are aware that this proposal  
48 regarding opening it to users in our area is being  
49 addressed. During the summer I take fish and  
50 distribute them to the elders and they are many times

1 grateful because they are unable to get it themselves.  
2 This is our practice. Our children, our young people,  
3 when they have a first catch, a seal or some sea  
4 mammal, it is cut up and distributed traditionally to  
5 our elders in the community. They say if this practice  
6 is done, it may be exposing him to more opportunities.

7  
8  
9

10 When our eldest son caught his first  
11 moose, we cut up the whole moose and put them in bags  
12 and put names on them and distributed them throughout  
13 the community. Our son would deliver this moose to  
14 this home and come out smiling, laughing and we'd ask  
15 him what happened and he would say the elders were  
16 screaming and they would tell him that he would be  
17 successful with later hunts and that is our traditional  
18 practice.

19

20 We hear they say we are not respected  
21 here because what we rely on here our resources are  
22 regulated from elsewhere, although we have no  
23 contentions or conflicts regarding resources in our  
24 area. In the fall we wait for moose openings although  
25 we are maybe short of meat.

26

27 I used to be in charge of the Hamilton  
28 area when it first opened and I attended meetings in  
29 Anchorage. When there was a multi-agency meeting, as I  
30 was sitting at a break somebody came up to me and asked  
31 me who I was and I told him I was from Emmonak and he  
32 said I am from Fairbanks. He said that his village got  
33 together and designated 300 acres for ownership, I  
34 believe that would be corporate land, but that is used  
35 by their elders and members of their community for  
36 camping or for fishing and other resources, for  
37 camping, and they travel in the area and they come  
38 across moose carcasses with just the head removed or  
39 just the antlers removed. They return home and call  
40 Fairbanks law enforcement to report a moose carcass.  
41 They waited two weeks and went back to that site. It  
42 was still there. The report had not been addressed.

43

44 These guys in Fairbanks told the people  
45 in the community to report all other activity like this  
46 to make an issue of the wanton waste of resources in  
47 that area and this was brought up time and time again  
48 at Fish and Game wildlife meetings and they said they  
49 had followed moose regulations and guidelines for  
50 hunting. He stated that if we aren't to be encroached  
by people outside of our area to come to our region and

1 to hunt, we need to make a stand because we have a  
2 traditional claim to hunt and fish and subsist for  
3 these resources. That's all I have.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana. (In Yup'ik)

6  
7 INTERPRETER: This Proposal 30 many  
8 have asked me who submitted this proposal. We  
9 introduce a proposal in the beginning and it's better  
10 if it's fully understood. This Proposal WP06-30  
11 addresses Federal lands in Unit 18 currently Yup'ik or  
12 traditional users from that area are able to hunt on  
13 Federal lands and it is closed to people outside of  
14 that area. This proposal was established by somebody  
15 who wants to open sports and recreational hunting in  
16 Federal lands and this person is from Bethel. We want  
17 you to understand the intent of this proposal and we  
18 want to hear from you since it's in regard to Unit 18,  
19 which is in your area. We are still open at this point  
20 for public comment towards this proposal.

21  
22 MR. JIMMY: My name is Stan Jimmy. I'm  
23 an Emmonak member. This proposal here in opening the  
24 Federal lands to other users. I just thought about  
25 way, way back before the white man came we were doing  
26 okay. Oh, what's his name that thought he discovered  
27 United States. You know, we were already there. When  
28 he came, him and his group started lying and stealing  
29 from the Natives. That's way over in eastern United  
30 States. This is as far as they can go. We are the  
31 last. This proposal to me is just a key and then  
32 there's a padlock and there's this whole wide area  
33 where subsistence users use.

34  
35 These people here use words, little  
36 tiny words that we need to watch out for and we need to  
37 understand. They mistreat the Natives so much that up  
38 to today they're still doing it. A lot of us people  
39 that live here we need to understand that. They take  
40 advantage of too much and we don't need this.

41  
42 Using St. Michael and Stebbins, it's  
43 just an excuse. It's just a word there and it  
44 shouldn't be there. I've got relatives up there. They  
45 can invite me to go up there and hunt if I needed to.  
46 I've got relatives up there if they're hungry I can  
47 invite them to come over here and hunt over here. We  
48 take care of each other here no matter where we're  
49 from. I've got parents up in Mountain Village. I've  
50 got relatives in Pilot Station, you know.

1                   Before this area was open I still have  
2 to go way upriver to Paimiut. I know Lester Wilde used  
3 to go way, way up, even further than where I used to  
4 go. We used a lot of gas and money to go up there just  
5 to catch our subsistence food for the winter.

6                   Now that the moose has migrated down  
7 here, now there's an abundance of them because we,  
8 ourselves, set ourselves with a moratorium so that the  
9 moose population would come back up. Now that it's up,  
10 other people are looking at us. Man, you've got enough  
11 moose, why can't we go over and hunt.

12  
13                   So that's my concern. I'm opposing  
14 this to open the Federal lands for other people to come  
15 down here. We don't need to use St. Michael and  
16 Stebbins, you know, for that, to open it up. They're  
17 already welcome. We can take care of ourselves.

18  
19                   Thank you.

20  
21                   MR. ANDREW, SR.: (In Yup'ik)

22  
23                   INTERPRETER: This is Michael Andrew,  
24 Sr. from Emmonak. He would like to ask a question of  
25 the Council. During open moose hunting season or when  
26 it is closed, are there officers that fly during the  
27 closed season and do they land when they see a hunter  
28 on the ground. That is his question.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Maybe Robert, one of  
31 you, can answer him.

32  
33                   MR. SUNDOWN: Quyana, Mr. Andrew.  
34 Quyana, Mr. Chair. (In Yup'ik)

35  
36                   INTERPRETER: This is Robert Sundown.  
37 He's a Fish and Wildlife person. Yes, we do fly during  
38 the closed season and land and ask them questions.

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

41  
42                   INTERPRETER: So now it's been a few  
43 years that during the month of January when he was  
44 checking his fish traps he saw a plane circling and  
45 then heading out towards the coast and he wasn't sure  
46 why that plane was circling on New Year's Day and then  
47 it looked like he landed at the Bering Sea fishery.  
48 When he went home, as he came out to see where the  
49 plane landed, it was by a little slough near the store  
50 and there's only one way to go into that little slough

1 and there is no other way to come out from that trail,  
2 and as he was coming out of the trees into the open  
3 there's a plane there in that little slough. He  
4 stopped and the pilot asked him if he was hunting  
5 moose. He said, moose? I was checking my fish traps.  
6 He walked around his snowmachine and his sled and all  
7 his sled was filled with black fish. That is his  
8 question, why during closed season officers fly and  
9 that is why he asked.

10

11 So, again, it's been a while now that  
12 they would go way upriver to hunt and then one of the  
13 hunters was out trying to catch a moose. I guess  
14 someone saw something as a moose and killed it.  
15 Someone got killed. So, in light of that, we need to  
16 make sure where we're shooting and if it is really a  
17 moose. These accidents do happen. Hunting is  
18 dangerous, even out into the ocean and inland. We  
19 always need to be vigilant and try to avoid fatal  
20 accidents. There are many animals to harvest.

21

22 When we try to go out and hunt for a  
23 specific animal, we cannot always catch that specific  
24 animal and there are many animals to catch. So we need  
25 to be very extra cautious when we're out there hunting.

26

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll continue public  
29 testimony. Say your name.

30

31 MR. MOORE: (In Yup'ik)

32

33 INTERPRETER: This is Peter Moore. He  
34 sits on the Tribal Council. In listening to the  
35 discussions this morning and what Nick brought up, his  
36 Council completely opposes any kind of sport hunting  
37 and fishing. This Henry S. Powers wrote to this  
38 Council and they wrote to him saying that it isn't  
39 time.

40

41 He used to travel all the way up  
42 towards the Iditarod to catch a moose and then walk  
43 around on the Innoko and see your chairman here.  
44 Sometimes we see a moose that is only beheaded. He's  
45 saying he's observed a lot of sport hunters up in  
46 Shageluk and he was thinking we need to avoid inviting  
47 sport hunters into our region, our area, even though  
48 they could just fly here and go with one of our local  
49 guides. So I guess they are considering becoming sport  
50 hunting guides.

1                   When the caribou come down from up  
2 north to Stebbins and St. Michael they could call and  
3 say the caribou are there, so he sets up camp on the  
4 other side of the river and harvests caribou when he is  
5 called and invited. When he went to Unit wherever the  
6 local people helped him in going out to harvest  
7 caribou. As we were growing up we were told to always  
8 welcome subsistence hunters from other villages. So  
9 during the moratorium here -- and the sport hunters  
10 will not help us pay for gas to travel way up to the  
11 Iditarod area to hunt.

12  
13                   So having survived going through the  
14 moratorium, we're not ready to open up hunting to sport  
15 hunters. We did help each other from village to  
16 village gather food and without all these regulations.  
17 That is how we live, helping each other from different  
18 villages, going to another village or even welcome  
19 other villages. So we need to consider this further.

20  
21                   Thank you.

22  
23                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana, Peter. Your  
24 name and where you're from.

25  
26                   MR. HAMILTON: Ted Hamilton, Emmonak.  
27 One thing I'd like to mention is our growing  
28 population. A few years ago, 1995-96, I was involved  
29 with a census done here in the city. We had  
30 approximately between 187-191 households. As of today,  
31 our households are just a little over 200, just  
32 households alone. So our population is growing fast.  
33 We still need our subsistence to help us along the way.  
34 There's kind of no other way right now that's -- we  
35 don't have any other resources except salmon.

36  
37                   The other point I'd like to bring up, I  
38 guess you guys can tell, we need a lot of convincing.  
39 Where is the originator? Why isn't he here to try and  
40 convince us? The only people I see here trying to  
41 convince us right now is U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
42 and they're taking our comments into consideration  
43 also. So while they gave their presentation and said  
44 there's X number of moose out there, there's room for  
45 more other people to come into our area, but then our  
46 population is growing, I think our population is  
47 probably growing faster than the moose population when  
48 we compare the two. So where is Mr. Powers to try to  
49 convince us?

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Anyone  
4 else.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We are now at Regional  
9 Advisory Council deliberation, recommendation and  
10 justification.

11

12 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

13

14 INTERPRETER: Well, as I feel like I'm  
15 just sort of involved with this Council and not really  
16 fully understanding stuff, only through the translator,  
17 back then he was like the people before him and even  
18 though he is an elder today, he is not like the elders  
19 he watched and observed. They were real Yup'ik people.  
20 We never saw anyone with boots or jackets. We all had  
21 parkas and mukluks and that's when I became aware. The  
22 village was clean, quiet, peaceful, oblivious to  
23 anything and just going out to harvest food, animals,  
24 fish, waterfowl.

25

26 As Yup'ik people, we have different  
27 resources from each of our regions, our areas, and then  
28 people from the Yukon and Kuskokwim they had moose, and  
29 out there in Nelson Island we do not have moose but we  
30 would catch fish through fish traps. And it's not only  
31 on Nelson Island but on both of the rivers as well, but  
32 we have the same fish and same ways to harvest the  
33 fish.

34

35 So, when he became aware, people lived  
36 simply, just trying to eat every day. My parents were  
37 not trying to live by regulations and that is who he  
38 keeps in mind when he's sitting here and being involved  
39 within this Council. They were oblivious to anyone or  
40 to answer to anyone when they would go out to gather  
41 and harvest animals and fish. Then during the winter  
42 and going into spring they would know what kind of fish  
43 or how many or in what stream would arrive.

44

45 When the fish came up to the Yukon and  
46 Kuskokwim Rivers and maybe it was hit or miss, just as  
47 animals to come during a certain season. As I see,  
48 we're always fishing for salmon even fishing for the  
49 dogs. That's normal, especially back then when  
50 everybody had dog teams. But those of us on Nelson

1 Island and on the northern Kuskokwim coast we feed our  
2 dogs needle fish. And then on the Yukon and Kuskokwim  
3 maybe they did not eat all salmon here on these rivers.  
4 Maybe they did feed them black fish as well.  
5

6                   Since yesterday we've been discussing  
7 moose all day, all morning. Keep it closed. There is  
8 no real agreement or consensus right now on the moose  
9 even though he hears that the moose populations are  
10 healthy. The non-Yup'ik people today restrict us and  
11 leaves us with limitations. Back then we didn't have  
12 any. We would harvest sea animals for those that do  
13 not live on the ocean and that way we shared our bounty  
14 with other villages and that's normal. We've been  
15 discussing moose and he's been thinking about it. We  
16 take care of each other quietly and then the non-Yup'ik  
17 impose these regulations limiting, telling us when and  
18 where and how much to catch.  
19

20                   So if we make this such a big issue,  
21 our creator who gives us all these animals to eat, we  
22 need to be more respectful to these animals. Now we  
23 have caribou in our region. And then people from the  
24 Manokinak River would like to come down to our area.  
25 The reindeer, we would corral them in Tununak and look  
26 at their ear markings. Once they had the reindeer  
27 corralled they would mark their ears and take them back  
28 to their villages.  
29

30                   Even though they were being watched  
31 those reindeer herds would always come down to Nelson  
32 Island. One summer when they arrived they calved  
33 during the spring. All the animals have their young in  
34 the spring. As they came to Nelson Island, they were  
35 upriver of us. The calves were killed, skinned and  
36 brought home and then the Nelson Island people didn't  
37 mind.  
38

39                   During one of the springs those  
40 reindeer started to die and they would just die.  
41 Groups and groups, herds and herds, whole herds started  
42 to die and I observed that. He would get food for his  
43 dogs. There were so many dead reindeer all they would  
44 take was the hind quarters for dog food. We do not see  
45 reindeer anymore. So all the animals are gifts to us.  
46 Just as he observed the decimation of the reindeer  
47 herds, he feels that any animal or species can reach  
48 that point.  
49

50                   Our rules for society which were taught

1 in the men's house, they would talk to us about how to  
2 become a husband and then I know my female peers, their  
3 mothers would talk to them about being a responsible  
4 mother. So we respected everybody, especially the  
5 women and girls. So now during this time we see young  
6 kids having girlfriends or young girls having  
7 boyfriends and it's not all that I have to say. But  
8 talking about moose all day. And our ancestors back in  
9 the men's house when young people ask questions,  
10 because all the men would sit in the men's house and  
11 sleep at the men's house, they would mull over the  
12 young person's question and then one of them would  
13 eventually say to try this or to avoid this, but to try  
14 something.

15  
16                   And we would help building kayaks. Six  
17 seals would be enough to cover a kayak and then if  
18 someone was short on something they would lend somebody  
19 maybe a skin in order to cover a kayak frame. So I'm  
20 not elaborating further because you don't know the ways  
21 of our ancestors or observe them. They eat herring.  
22 Herring is their main diet, those of us who live on  
23 Nelson Island. And we gather enough for the whole  
24 winter. This is what I will share.

25  
26                   Some of you may have actually observed  
27 what I observed when we did not have fish and game or  
28 fish and wildlife anywhere in our midst. Back then  
29 since we had primitive tools and the ice was too thick,  
30 it would be a hardship. So I won't elaborate further.  
31 There might be more who would like to say something.  
32 Quyana.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

35  
36                   INTERPRETER: We are now in the  
37 proposal procedures with the final comments by the  
38 Advisory Council. Bob.

39  
40                   MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. It's always  
41 refreshing to be reminded by our elders about  
42 respecting all of creation, especially respecting our  
43 fellow man, woman, child, elder, and the process of  
44 life, especially the ability to care and share with  
45 each other in times of plenty and especially in times  
46 of need.

47  
48                   I have a lot of notes I've been  
49 scribbling this morning because I'm one of those that  
50 has to see it to really understand it. Even though our

1 two elders are very eloquent in speaking from the  
2 heart, it reminds me of our education system as Native  
3 people in this area. The first rule is always be on  
4 time, sit down, be quiet and listen. I find it very  
5 distracting when we don't do that. We have a lot of  
6 interference going on during these deliberations that  
7 are very important. We have people walking in and out,  
8 doors slamming, even members of the Council getting up,  
9 going around, doing things, fidgeting. It's very  
10 distracting. So I have a hard time being very quiet  
11 and patient, but I'm still an elder in training. So I  
12 appreciate very much the elders on our Council here and  
13 the elders in our audience to help us settle down, be  
14 quiet, listen.

15  
16 Several things that really struck me  
17 was, you know, I was up in Grayling a couple years ago  
18 and we were talking about the same issues here, the  
19 moose population declining and the harvest ability of  
20 people going out and catching moose was very, very low.  
21 One of the older guys got up and said, you know, in the  
22 old days we had a canoe and paddle, we went hunting  
23 very quietly, slowly and quietly we look around and we  
24 knew where the moose liked to go, so we went there. We  
25 got out of our canoe and we sat down and waited until  
26 the moose came out and we got him. Later on it was  
27 using oars and I was quiet in a canoe, but still got  
28 there very quietly because we know if we go quietly  
29 we're not going to disturb anything.

30  
31 Pretty soon came 2 horse, noisy, but  
32 slow. You still had the ability to look around.  
33 Pretty soon it was 5 horse, then 10 horse, 25, 40  
34 horse, started going faster and faster, making more  
35 noise, and you're not able to see so much. Today young  
36 people don't even know how to look because all they're  
37 concerned is about 100 feet ahead of them when they're  
38 going 60 miles an hour with their 150's and they wonder  
39 why they never see moose.

40  
41 It just reminds me of that when I'm  
42 listening to these guys talking. It's not only here,  
43 it's happening all over. We're trying to move so damn  
44 fast that we leave things behind and we never listen to  
45 our elders before we go. When you're traveling, you  
46 have to be quiet. When you get to your hunting place,  
47 sit down, be quiet and listen, and nature will talk to  
48 you through whatever is around you.

49  
50 I have to disagree with this, that

1 there's no probability of increase of people coming  
2 here. I know damn well as soon as you open up  
3 something they're going to be here. It has happened  
4 time and time again upriver. Unit 21(E) and 19(A) are  
5 hurting because of the simple fact that they open it up  
6 to anybody. I just don't like it. You open it up to  
7 abuse.

8  
9 They're out there and we are resource  
10 rich but population poor and we have no way to protect  
11 what is ours. They are resource poor and population  
12 rich and they have everything in the palm of their hand  
13 to go out and take and take and take without any  
14 regards for anybody who lives in this area or anywhere  
15 they go to take. They take because, hey, you better  
16 take it right now because tomorrow we might not be able  
17 to do it. That's the history of the western  
18 population.

19  
20 Like the guy who said whoever it was  
21 that came over here from Europe. He was lost. He  
22 didn't know where the hell he was going. He just  
23 happened to land some place. Whatever. But we were  
24 already here. Like he said, we are the last of the  
25 people in the United States. We're the last of the  
26 Native people.

27  
28 We have resources that they want and  
29 they have no use for them. They just want to play with  
30 them. They want to hoard. They want to have these big  
31 moose antlers sitting in their living room. Oh, I got  
32 this in the Lower Yukon, just right outside of this  
33 place. That's the way they are. They want to brag.  
34 They don't give a damn about 900 pounds of edible meat  
35 as long as they have their antlers sitting on the wall.

36  
37  
38 I get really upset. I'm not supposed  
39 to. I'm supposed to be impartial. I cannot be  
40 impartial. I am a Native man, born and raised in this  
41 country. I was born up here in the Yukon River in  
42 Enowuk (ph), right across from Old Paimiut. I was  
43 raised on the Kuskokwim River and I was educated by two  
44 grandmothers because I didn't grow up with mom or dad  
45 or brothers and sisters. I was educated in the Yup'ik  
46 university and my campus was all the outdoors, what  
47 unknowing people call wilderness. It's spring camp,  
48 fish camp, fall camp, winter camp and all my professors  
49 were elders.

50

1 I'm always reminded when I see elders  
2 speak from the heart, hey, you are one of us. Remember  
3 that. Never let it go. I'm glad I'm here today to be  
4 reminded of who I really am because we, this Council,  
5 are a sounding board for the Board and whatever you  
6 tell us is very important to remind us that you, the  
7 population of this area comes first and the protection  
8 of the resources that you depend on comes first. It's  
9 very enlightening for me.

10  
11 Population growth is something that  
12 this document doesn't talk about. It talks about  
13 population growth of the moose and it's going to be  
14 more and more available for somebody else. Hold on.  
15 Let's talk about the population of the people in this  
16 area. More people demand more resource to help them  
17 nourish their bodies. So those are the people we have  
18 to think about first before we open it up to the  
19 outsiders who are only here to get what they want, not  
20 what they need. They just come here to take what they  
21 want and play with it. They don't care about the  
22 consequences of what they're doing.

23  
24 We, as Native people, always put our  
25 children and grandchildren first because what we do  
26 right now, today, is going to have a lasting effect on  
27 our descendants and we are always reminded of that  
28 every day. I have a five-year-old grandson, who has  
29 been my teacher for five years, to remind me. Upa, you  
30 are my first teacher. He reminds me of that every day.  
31 I rely on the teachings of these two grandmas I have  
32 every day to teach him how to be a good human being.

33  
34 One of the most important things that  
35 we tend to forget is to respect all of creation. When  
36 we talk about respecting all of creation, we're talking  
37 about from the tiniest molecule to the biggest moose or  
38 the tallest tree or the biggest mountain or the deepest  
39 ocean and everything that is between them. We're only  
40 a small speck in this universe but we're important.  
41 Our creator didn't make us for no reason and we have to  
42 instill that knowledge into our young people,  
43 especially today.

44  
45 Many of our young people are what our  
46 elders say, mindless, because they're not grounded.  
47 They have no knowledge of who they are, who they came  
48 from, because all they learn is what's in a book that  
49 someone else wrote. We, as parents and grandparents,  
50 are supposed to be the first teachers, teach them about

1 how to live, love, learn, understand their role in life  
2 with respect to all of creation and be responsible for  
3 how we treat our relations. Our relations are our  
4 fellow human beings, the animals that fly, roost,  
5 climb, walk, crawl, slither, burrow and swim on our  
6 Mother Earth. We're all related. Whatever happens to  
7 one is going to affect all of us.

8

9 We have to remind ourselves every day  
10 that we are the teachers of our young people and we  
11 need to take that responsibility full hand. Not to be  
12 afraid to share your knowledge and your wisdom that you  
13 have gained from your ancestors. We need to teach the  
14 other people. They always call them ipaipin (ph),  
15 those other people, our other relatives. We have to  
16 teach them, other relatives, how to be human beings,  
17 and how to love, honor and respect all of creation. I  
18 always put on every page in my papers be kind and  
19 gentle because I have a tendency to not be too kind  
20 sometimes. I'm learning and I have to really control  
21 my emotions and sometimes I get carried away.

22

23 Remember the teachings of our elders.  
24 Like our honorable elder Phillip Moses reminds us, our  
25 elders are always telling us what is the best for us.  
26 Not to you maybe right now but later on in life and how  
27 to apply that knowledge. Like my first two teachers,  
28 my two grandmas. I don't know if any of you know what  
29 a gasoline box is, but a gasoline box was my first  
30 test. They would sit down, put my feet under the  
31 opening and they're playing cards on top of this. They  
32 didn't speak English, but they played solitaire. While  
33 they're talking, they're teaching. Every now and then  
34 they'd stop. I'd glance at this grandma. She was  
35 looking at me. I'd glance at this grandma. She looked  
36 at me. I looked again because I'd see sunshine shining  
37 through the hole in her nose, but I had to be real  
38 quiet because, you know, we cannot be goofy around old  
39 people.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 Anyway, they would sit there for about  
44 30 seconds very quietly and the oldest one would tell  
45 me (in Yup'ik).

46

47 INTERPRETER: Right now you don't  
48 understand but perhaps some day when you become aware  
49 you will understand and you may use this later on and  
50 you need to pass it to your cousin. If you keep what

1 you've learned, it is nothing to you.

2

3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Right now you don't  
4 understand what we're saying, but someday, hopefully  
5 when you come to your senses, you'll understand and use  
6 what we're teaching you, not only for yourself but for  
7 other people because knowledge is worthless if you keep  
8 it to yourself.

9

10 So, after all that prelude, I am going  
11 to vote against this proposal. Thank you very much.

12

13 (Applause)

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Bob. Are  
16 we ready for action, Council.

17

18 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.

21

22 MR. HOELSCHER: As you know, like these  
23 people here in Emmonak and Kotlik, I have relatives up  
24 in Stebbins and possibly up in St. Michael's area. To  
25 consider them as alien nations, outsiders, you know,  
26 hurts me inside. Like Mr. Twitchell said, we can  
27 propose them as traditional and customary users. I  
28 agree with Mr. Aloysius. I will not vote for this.

29

30 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

33

34 MR. L. WILDE: I think this is just the  
35 beginning. This is just the beginning of other people  
36 trying to come into this area. We all know this. It's  
37 going to come back again next year and the year after  
38 that. The suggestion right now coming from the powers  
39 that be is that we defer this. Instead of deferring  
40 it, I would like to move that we oppose this Proposal  
41 WP06-30.

42

43 MS. GREGORY: Second the motion, Mr.  
44 Chairman.

45

46 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. May I  
47 remind you to please make a positive motion.

48

49 MR. L. WILDE: Well, positively I will  
50 oppose it.

1 (Laughter)  
2  
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: What I meant was when  
4 you make a positive motion, you move.....  
5  
6 MR. L. WILDE: I understand that,  
7 Robert.  
8  
9 MR. ALOYSIUS: .....to accept this  
10 proposal, then you vote no. It gets too confusing when  
11 you make a negative motion. So please remind  
12 yourselves again when you make a motion, you make a  
13 positive motion, and if you don't agree with that  
14 motion, you vote against it.  
15  
16 MR. L. WILDE: I'll withdraw my motion  
17 and have Robert make it.  
18  
19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.  
22  
23 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that we approve  
24 Proposal WP06-30.  
25  
26 MS. GREGORY: I second the motion.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion and a  
29 second. Discussion.  
30  
31 MR. L. WILDE: Question.  
32  
33 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. I have a  
34 comment. (In Yup'ik)  
35  
36 INTERPRETER: Although we made a motion  
37 to approve this proposal, Lester made a motion to  
38 oppose the adoption of this proposal and I made the  
39 second, and then Bob suggested that they make a vote  
40 the opposite way although I did second the first  
41 motion. Because in our area we share our food  
42 regardless of where our relatives or neighbors are  
43 from. I just wanted to mention this concept of sharing  
44 prior to making this vote.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: William.  
47  
48 MR. BROWN: Yeah, I've got one question  
49 for you guys. (In Yup'ik)  
50

1 INTERPRETER: We've heard what you  
2 wanted to say regarding this proposal. We will convey  
3 this. There was a motion to vote and there was a  
4 second and a question.  
5  
6 MS. GREGORY: I'm writing the names  
7 down. You have to wait.  
8  
9 MR. L. WILDE: I request a roll call.  
10  
11 MS. GREGORY: Joseph Mike.  
12  
13 MR. MIKE: No.  
14  
15 MS. GREGORY: Edgar Hoelscher.  
16  
17 MR. HOELSCHER: No.  
18  
19 MS. GREGORY: Robert Aloysius.  
20  
21 MR. ALOYSIUS: No.  
22  
23 MS. GREGORY: William Brown.  
24  
25 MR. BROWN: No.  
26  
27 MS. GREGORY: Lester Wilde.  
28  
29 MR. L. WILDE: No.  
30  
31 MS. GREGORY: Phillip Moses.  
32  
33 MR. MOSES: No.  
34  
35 MS. GREGORY: Harry Wilde.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No.  
38  
39 MS. GREGORY: Myself, no. Eight yeas,  
40 zero nays, zero abstentions.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)  
43  
44 INTERPRETER: This proposal was  
45 submitted by a recreational user. We voted not to  
46 accept this proposal and that will be the message we  
47 convey to the Subsistence Board. Lunch break.  
48  
49 (Applause)  
50

1 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.  
4  
5 MR. L. WILDE: We had a request from  
6 National Wildlife Refuge, because they have some work  
7 they need to get done right away, they were wondering  
8 if we would be able to suspend the rules. They  
9 promised me that their presentation won't be more than  
10 five minutes. They've procrastinated long enough to  
11 pick the next Council member, so they're going to have  
12 to rush home and try and get that taken care of in the  
13 short time they have. If it's all right with the  
14 Council, I would like to suspend the rules to hear the  
15 National Wildlife Refuge before lunch.  
16  
17 MR. HOELSCHER: Second.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Discussion.  
20  
21 MR. MIKE: Question.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question has been  
24 called for. All in favor say aye.  
25  
26 IN UNISON: Aye.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed say no.  
29  
30 (No opposing votes)  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Go  
33 ahead.  
34  
35 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
36 Members of the Board. We'll make it quick. There's  
37 three main updates that we wanted to talk about with  
38 regard to the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge for  
39 the benefit of the Board.  
40  
41 The first update is with regards to the  
42 caribou population. There's been a drastic increase  
43 (correction below) in the Mulchatna Caribou Herd  
44 population. There's no current studies going on to  
45 determine why, but there may be future studies to  
46 determine why there's been a drastic increase  
47 (correction below) of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd  
48 population.  
49  
50 The second discussion is just updates

1 on the Kuskokwim moose moratorium that has been in  
2 effect for a couple years now. Some preliminary  
3 information suggests that we've got a drastic increase  
4 in moose population numbers for the areas that we're  
5 doing censuses. The Kwethluk River in particular where  
6 we've got over 22 moose collared, the last survey that  
7 we were involved in we physically counted, saw, over 45  
8 moose in a small area between Three Step Mountain and  
9 Elbow Mountain on the Kwethluk River. So there's been  
10 a pretty big number of moose that we're starting to see  
11 physically and that doesn't count the moose we didn't  
12 see while we were flying the airplane.

13  
14 So the preliminary success of the moose  
15 moratorium seems to suggest there's a growing moose  
16 population in the Kuskokwim. Certainly that will be  
17 verified by the official censuses that go on.

18  
19 The third subject that we wanted to  
20 discuss and give you an update on is the avian  
21 influenza discussion that seems to be dominating the  
22 news. Just to let the Board know, the Yukon Delta  
23 Refuge is going to be participating in a large study  
24 this morning collecting samples from the coast between  
25 Hooper Bay and the lower portion of the area around  
26 Kipnuk collecting samples from bird poop and other bird  
27 samples to see what level of avian influenza might be  
28 in the bird population or not. We just don't know and  
29 this is going to be an initial study.

30  
31 So those are the three big updates we  
32 wanted to provide you with.

33  
34 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

37  
38 MR. ALOYSIUS: I've got a question for  
39 Robert. When you say the Mulchatna Herd, is that part  
40 of the herd that is on the Kilbuck Range in Unit 18?

41  
42 MR. SUNDOWN: Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr.  
43 Aloysius, the same caribou herd that populates the  
44 Kilbuck area.

45  
46 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.

49  
50 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr.

1 Chairman. In regards to your samples of avian  
2 influenza, will that be starting this spring?

3

4 MR. SUNDOWN: That will be starting  
5 this spring and we have initial consultations with the  
6 heads of villages, mainly with the larger health  
7 corporation, YKHC, I believe we're planning on  
8 conducting these, because it's a human health concern.  
9 The initial plan is to work with the Yukon Kuskokwim  
10 Health Corporation to help collect these samples and  
11 get them out for processing.

12

13 And I want to apologize. Hollis just  
14 reminded me I said increase and I meant decrease of the  
15 Mulchatna Caribou Herd. I believe it's just over  
16 80,000 caribou herd we believe exist in that herd where  
17 historically it's been well above 100,000.

18

19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Boy, my spirits were  
20 really lifted because there's more caribou and all of a  
21 sudden, no, that's not the case. That's something we  
22 really have to watch when we're making a presentation,  
23 that we use our words correctly. Man, I was going to  
24 go home and say, hey, William, go out and catch more  
25 caribou, but now it's not that case.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

28

29 MR. ALOYSIUS: Now that you guys are  
30 done I move that we recess for lunch.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

33

34 MS. GREGORY: I want to thank you for  
35 bringing those up, especially the bird flu study,  
36 because people have been concerned about it. In the  
37 spring we eat a lot of birds. I'm glad they're trying  
38 to look after my welfare. Tell your boss when you go  
39 home that we appreciate this. And the moose moratorium  
40 is working and the caribou is decreasing because we're  
41 concentrating on caribou right now in that area.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. We still  
46 have a long agenda, but very important proposals to  
47 discuss and you should know that. Again, tonight, there  
48 is no evening session. They're going to use this hall  
49 again. So I would appreciate if you come over and help  
50 us to make up our minds. Still we have proposals.

1    Quyana.  Let's go and eat.

2

3                                   (Off record)

4

5                                   (On record)

6

7                           CHAIRMAN WILDE:  Next on our agenda is  
8 crossover proposals.  Proposal WP06-34, extend the  
9 moose seasons in Units 21(A), 21(B), 21(D), 21(E) and  
10 24.  Pete DeMatteo.

11

12                           MR. KRON:  Pete, are you there?

13

14                                   (No response)

15

16                           CHAIRMAN WILDE:  Council, you can find  
17 it on Page 57.

18

19                           MR. KRON:  Go ahead on Proposal 34.

20

21                           MR. DEMATTEO:  Stand by one second.

22 Mr. Chair, Members of the Council.  The analysis for  
23 Proposal 34 can be found in your book on Page 58.  This  
24 proposal was submitted by the Western Interior Alaska  
25 Regional Council.  This proposal is being presented to  
26 the Council today because it affects the residents of  
27 Russian Mission.  Residents of Russian Mission have a  
28 customary and traditional use determination for moose  
29 in Unit 21(E).  This proposal would change the closing  
30 dates for the fall moose seasons in Units 21(A), 21(B),  
31 21(D), and 21(E) and 24 from the closing date of  
32 September 25 to October 1st.

33

34                                   This proposal also changes the closing  
35 dates for the fall moose seasons in the Koyukuk  
36 Controlled Use Area in Units 21(D) and Unit 24 from  
37 September 20 to the closing date of October 1.

38

39                                   Again, Mr. Chair, the part of this  
40 proposal that affects the residents you represent is  
41 the regulatory changes requested for 21(E) that affects  
42 the residents of Russian Mission.

43

44                                   This proposal was submitted because the  
45 proponent feels that warmer than normal fall  
46 temperatures are delaying the movements of bull moose  
47 during the fall hunting season.  The proponent has made  
48 the claim that the delay in fall movements of bull  
49 moose has prevented subsistence hunters from harvesting  
50 moose.

1                   The proposed regulatory changes are  
2 found in your books on Page 59 under the heading of  
3 Proposed Federal Regulations. Agency resource managers  
4 agree that additional climatological data is needed  
5 before a determination can be made that the  
6 recent warmer than normal fall temperatures are part of  
7 a long term climatic pattern.

8  
9                   Analysis results from population  
10 surveys conducted in the northern portion of Unit 24  
11 revealed that the moose populations in these areas  
12 could support an additional but limited harvest during  
13 the proposed 6-day season extension. Additional  
14 analysis results from population surveys conducted in  
15 Unit 21(B) also revealed that this population could  
16 support an additional but limited harvest during the  
17 season extension.

18  
19                   Mr. Chair, since the advent of the dual  
20 management system between the Federal and State  
21 agencies, a primary goal has been, when possible, to  
22 limit hunter confusion over regulations. An important  
23 means of obtaining this is by having Federal and State  
24 alignment of the regulations. Extensive efforts have  
25 been made to ensure alignment in hunting and fishing  
26 regulations throughout the affected area when and where  
27 possible.

28  
29                   If Proposal 34 were adopted by the  
30 Board, it would bring the Federal regulations out of  
31 alignment with the State regulations. State and  
32 Federal regulations not in alignment would produce  
33 mixed blocks of Federal and non-Federal lands with  
34 different season dates around villages. Some local  
35 residents would have  
36 difficulty in determining the difference between  
37 Federal and State jurisdictions.

38  
39                   The non-alignment of regulation creates  
40 potential law enforcement issues also. Having a mixed  
41 network of lands where hunters may be unaware of the  
42 differing land boundaries makes them vulnerable to  
43 enforcement actions by both Federal and State agencies.

44  
45                   Adoption of the proposed regulatory  
46 changes may result in the need to establish a Federal  
47 permit system for the Federal-only fall seasons.  
48 Because management objectives prescribe a close watch  
49 to keep harvest totals within management guidelines, a  
50 Federal-only permit system would most likely be

1 necessary.

2

3

4 If this proposal is adopted, it would  
5 also be necessary to do extensive outreach with hunters  
6 regarding differing land status in order to avoid  
7 potential law enforcement and also to collect harvest  
8 information.

8

9

10 Mr. Chair, Unit 21(E) moose population,  
11 as I mentioned previously, cannot sustain the  
12 additional harvest that would be allowed under the  
13 proposed six-day extension from September 26 to October  
14 1st. Therefore, the preliminary conclusion is to  
15 support the proposal with the modification to provide  
16 the proposed season extensions for Unit 21(B), which is  
17 that portion of the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge  
18 and in certain portions of Unit 24.

18

19

Thank you.

20

21

CHAIRMAN WILDE: This Proposal 34,

22 Alaska Department of Fish and Game comment. Tom.

23

24

MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. The ADF&G

25 comments are included in your books on Page 93. Thank

26 you, Mr. Chairman.

27

28

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Federal,

29 State and Tribal Agency comments.

30

31

(No comments)

32

33

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If none, InterAgency

34 Staff Committee comments.

35

36

MR. KESSLER: No comments.

37

38

CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comment. Fish and

39 Game Local Advisory Committee comment.

40

41

(No comments)

42

43

CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comment. Summary

44 of written public comment.

45

46

MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair. My name is

47 Alex Nick. I'm Council coordinator. Unless I

48 overlooked comments that were sent to me, we have not

49 received written public comments on this proposal. Mr.

50 Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any public  
2 testimony for Proposal 34.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's none,  
7 Regional Advisory Council deliberation, recommendation  
8 and justification.

9  
10 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

13  
14 MR. L. WILDE: Since we haven't had any  
15 discussions with anybody from Russian Mission and  
16 there's no comments whatsoever, I don't know if Russian  
17 Mission was even included in the original discussion on  
18 this proposal. One thing that we all know is that we  
19 don't like to be told by other areas on how to control  
20 our lives within our region concerning the subsistence  
21 area. I think it might be a good idea just to defer  
22 this back to the originator of this proposal. That's  
23 just my suggestion. This is not in the form of a  
24 motion. I just want to hear what the rest of the  
25 Council feels on this.

26  
27 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

30  
31 MR. ALOYSIUS: The Yukon/Innoko Moose  
32 Management Working Group discussed this proposal in  
33 November in Holy Cross and they agreed by consensus to  
34 oppose it. They're concerned about hunting when bulls  
35 are going to rut at the end of September and possibly  
36 moose meat being wasted because it doesn't smell or  
37 taste good at the time. That's the only comment I have  
38 regarding this proposal.

39  
40 The other comment I have is that I  
41 don't know why the powers that be still cannot  
42 understand the simple fact that residents of Lower  
43 Kalskag, Kalskag, Aniak and Chuathbaluk are very  
44 involved in hunting customarily and traditionally in  
45 21(E) and in one of the notes I saw they have Aniak as  
46 part of the people that customarily and traditionally  
47 use 21(A), which is not the case. So based on what the  
48 working group in Holy Cross talked about and wanted to  
49 oppose this proposal, I have to go along with them.

50

1 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Joseph.  
4  
5 MR. MIKE: At the bottom of Page 69,  
6 the Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, and Holy Cross Fish and  
7 Game Advisory Committee also did not support WP06-34 at  
8 its most recent meeting.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any Council comment.  
11  
12 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.  
15  
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that we adopt  
17 WP06-34.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there a second to  
20 the motion.  
21  
22 MR. L. WILDE: I'll second it, Mr.  
23 Chairman.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There was a motion and  
26 a second. Discussion.  
27  
28 MR. MIKE: Question.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question has been  
31 called for. All in favor say aye.  
32  
33 (No aye votes)  
34  
35 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. For  
36 clarification, would you please have roll call.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Request for roll call.  
39  
40 MS. GREGORY: Lester Wilde.  
41  
42 MR. L. WILDE: No.  
43  
44 MS. GREGORY: Joseph Mike.  
45  
46 MR. MIKE: No.  
47  
48 MS. GREGORY: William Brown.  
49  
50 MR. BROWN: No.

1 MS. GREGORY: Robert Aloysius.  
2  
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: No.  
4  
5 MS. GREGORY: Harry Wilde.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No.  
8  
9 MS. GREGORY: Edgar Hoelscher.  
10  
11 MR. HOELSCHER: No.  
12  
13 MS. GREGORY: Phillip Moses.  
14  
15 (Mr. Moses not present)  
16  
17 MS. GREGORY: Myself, no. We have  
18 seven nos, zero yeas.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on our agenda is  
21 Proposal WP06-37, change the season dates for caribou  
22 in Unit 22(B) and 22(D). Council, you'll find it in  
23 your booklet on Page 94.  
24  
25 MR. DEMATTEO: Mr. Chair. Proposal  
26 WP06-37 is being presented to the Council today because  
27 it affects the communities of Kotlik, Emmonak, Hooper  
28 Bay, Scammon Bay, Chevak, Marshall, Mountain Village,  
29 Nunam Iqua, Pilot Station, Pitka's Point, Russian  
30 Mission, St. Marys and Alakanuk.  
31  
32 Proposal 37 was submitted by the Seward  
33 Peninsula Regional Council. The proposal requests that  
34 in Unit 22(B), west of Golovin Bay and west of the west  
35 bank of the Fish, Niukluk, and Libby Rivers, and in  
36 Unit 22(D) in the Pilgrim River drainage, the caribou  
37 season dates be changed from July 1 through June 30 and  
38 change to October 1 to April 30. The proposal also  
39 recommends that from May 1 to September 30 the season  
40 may be opened by announcement by the Field Office  
41 Manager of the Bureau of Land Management, and this  
42 would be done in consultation with  
43 ADF&G.  
44  
45 The proponent of this proposal believes  
46 the public, which is composed of both local residents  
47 and visitors, shoot or poach privately owned reindeer  
48 and that this is done both intentionally and when  
49 mistakenly harvested as caribou.  
50

1                   Mr. Chair, this proposal would close  
2 caribou seasons in Units 22(B) and 22(D) during the  
3 summer months in areas where reindeer typically are  
4 found, but caribou are scarce or absent. The proponent  
5 believes the number of reindeer that are mistakenly  
6 taken for caribou is very high. The Alaska Board of  
7 Game recently took action on a similar proposal. The  
8 Alaska Board of  
9 Game adopted the State proposal with the modification  
10 excluding the Libby River drainage from Unit 22(B).

11  
12                   The new State regulation for the 2006-  
13 2007 regulatory year will read as follows: Unit 22(B)  
14 west of Golovin Bay, and west of a line along the west  
15 bank of the Fish and Niukluk Rivers  
16 and excluding the Libby River drainage. It also would  
17 read Unit 22(D), that portion in the Pilgrim River  
18 drainage. The season would be October 1 through April  
19 30.

20  
21                   The new State regulation will also  
22 include the language that will read from May 1 through  
23 September 30, the season may be opened by announcement  
24 by the Field Office Manager of BLM and this would be  
25 done in consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish  
26 and Game.

27  
28                   So the proposed regulatory changes  
29 requested in this proposal are almost the same as the  
30 new State regulation except for the Libby River  
31 drainage in Unit 22(B).

32  
33                   Mr. Chair, if this proposal is adopted  
34 by the Board, there should be little impact on the  
35 caribou population and caribou hunters, however, it  
36 should help prevent the harvest of reindeer. There  
37 should be little effect on subsistence users because  
38 caribou are not present in large numbers in the area  
39 between June and September. This proposal was  
40 supported by the Northern Norton Sound Fish and Game  
41 Advisory Committee and the Kawerak Reindeer Herders  
42 Association at the October 2005 Advisory Committee  
43 meeting.

44  
45                   With that, Mr. Chair, the preliminary  
46 conclusion is to support with modification to change  
47 the boundary language to align with language adopted by  
48 the Alaska Board of Game at its November 2005 meeting.

49  
50                   The modified proposal regulation

1 language can be seen on Page 100 of your Council book.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Pete.

6 Department of Fish and Game comment. Tom.

7

8 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. The ADF&G

9 comments can be found in your books on Page 101. ADF&G

10 supports the proposal. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Tom.

13 Federal, State and Tribal Agency comments.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: InterAgency Staff

18 Committee comments.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Fish and Game Local

23 Advisory Committee comments.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If none, summary of

28 written public comments.

29

30 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair. To date I

31 have no knowledge of any written public comments on the

32 proposal. Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Public

35 testimony.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If none, Regional

40 Advisory Council deliberation, recommendation and

41 justification. Yeah.

42

43 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

44

45 INTERPRETER: I just wanted to make a

46 comment because I've heard from people from that area.

47 From my home area we hunt I believe it would be

48 reindeer from behind Quinhagak or is it caribou? This

49 is just a question out of curiosity on the caribou,

50 that they're monitoring the caribou on the south side

1 of the Kuskokwim and trying to keep the herd on that  
2 side of the river, which would be the south side of the  
3 Kuskokwim. Is that true? Otherwise, if that is an  
4 issue regarding the caribou, that would be their  
5 migration or they're crossing the river from the south  
6 of the Kuskokwim to the north side. I bring this up  
7 because people from our area, which would be Nelson  
8 Island, travel that far and we harvest this caribou.  
9 I'm just curious about this thing that I've heard that  
10 they're monitoring the caribou and not wanting them to  
11 travel north of the Kuskokwim River.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Who can answer that  
14 question. William.

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

17  
18 INTERPRETER: I want to respond to  
19 Phillip Moses's question. The caribou have been  
20 traveling behind the Eek River area and they migrate  
21 towards areas in the south where it's warmer and snow  
22 is not covering their habitat towards Togiak. When the  
23 snow covers their habitat, they do travel south and  
24 when it melts with the spring melt they migrate back  
25 towards the mountains and inland. We, from our area,  
26 which would be Eek, know that is a migratory route  
27 during the winter.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: More from Council.  
30 Lester.

31  
32 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. I hunt up  
33 in that area on occasion and every time I go up there  
34 we've always had people up from that area give their  
35 concerns on the accidental catch of reindeer. They have  
36 a reindeer herd in Stebbins. Although they don't mind  
37 us going up there, one thing they've always cautioned  
38 us on is to make sure that we shoot the caribou instead  
39 of the reindeer. As far as the change in the season,  
40 we don't go up there until after October anyway from  
41 the villages that do hunt that caribou, including here  
42 and the people that go up there with me every once in a  
43 while that I run into up there never seem to be up  
44 there until later in the season when we can get up  
45 there by snowmachine. I have no reason not to go along  
46 with the people that are putting this proposal forward  
47 because those same people that put that proposal in are  
48 some of the same people that discuss this with me  
49 whenever we showed up up there, so I just want to let  
50 you know that the people I've talked with I think we

1 should go ahead and support them on this request for  
2 the change in the season for caribou hunting.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that your motion to  
5 support?  
6  
7 MR. L. WILDE: No, Mr. Chairman, that  
8 wasn't my motion. That was just some information I  
9 wanted to give you.  
10  
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.  
14  
15 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that we adopt  
16 Proposal WP06-37.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on  
19 the floor to adopt Proposal 37. Is there any second.  
20  
21 MR. HOELSCHER: Second the motion.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Edgar.  
24 Discussion.  
25  
26 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.  
29  
30 MR. ALOYSIUS: The reason I made a  
31 motion is because based on the comments I've read  
32 regarding this proposal it's been supported by all the  
33 people who are involved in that area. It's also  
34 supported by the ADF&G.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any more  
37 discussion from Council.  
38  
39 MR. HOELSCHER: Question.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question has been  
42 called for. Request for roll call.  
43  
44 MS. GREGORY: Edgar Hoelscher.  
45  
46 MR. HOELSCHER: Yes.  
47  
48 MS. GREGORY: Lester Wilde.  
49  
50 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.

1 MS. GREGORY: Bob Aloysius.  
2  
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.  
4  
5 MS. GREGORY: William Brown.  
6  
7 MR. BROWN: Yes.  
8  
9 MS. GREGORY: Myself, yes. Phillip  
10 Moses.  
11  
12 MR. MOSES: Yes.  
13  
14 MS. GREGORY: Harry Wilde.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.  
17  
18 MS. GREGORY: Joseph Mike.  
19  
20 MR. MIKE: Yes.  
21  
22 MS. GREGORY: Eight yeses and zero nays  
23 or abstentions.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Next  
26 on our agenda is Proposal WP06-42 through 52, customary  
27 and traditional use determinations for beaver, Arctic  
28 fox, red fox, hare, lynx, marten, wolverine, spruce  
29 grouse, ptarmigan (rock and willow), ground squirrel  
30 and porcupine. Council, you'll find it on Page 102.  
31 Tom.  
32  
33 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, we've lost our  
34 connection with our wildlife biologist, so please  
35 excuse me while I try to substitute here.  
36  
37 This proposal was submitted to us by  
38 Kawerak, Inc. in Nome and, as the Chairman mentioned,  
39 requests customary and traditional use determinations  
40 for beaver, Arctic fox, red fox, hare, both snowshoe  
41 and Arctic, lynx, marten, wolverine, spruce grouse,  
42 ptarmigan, ground squirrel, and porcupine.  
43  
44 The proponent feels that all these  
45 species have been utilized for generations by the  
46 people of that region and they have requested  
47 consideration of that utilization in the Federal  
48 customary and traditional use determination process.  
49 These species are not addressed in that process  
50 currently and they would like to have them addressed

1 for the villages within that area who utilize these  
2 species.

3  
4 The preliminary Staff conclusion is to  
5 defer the proposals with the justification being that  
6 the proposals should be deferred to give the adjacent  
7 Regional Advisory Councils and the public the  
8 opportunity to provide information regarding the use of  
9 these species. Deferring these proposals would also  
10 allow Staff more time to gather information about the  
11 uses  
12 by people living outside of Unit 22.

13  
14 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Department of Fish and  
17 Game comments.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Federal, State and  
22 Tribal Agency comments.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: InterAgency Staff  
27 Committee comments. Tom.

28  
29 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. The ADF&G  
30 comments on this proposal are found on Page 111. ADF&G  
31 supports the proposal with modifications. Thank you,  
32 Mr. Chairman.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

35  
36 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman and Council.  
37 Steve Kessler with InterAgency Staff Committee. I just  
38 wanted to bring your attention again to the  
39 justification that's on Page 110 and let me just read  
40 it again because this really is the important part  
41 about why this proposal is being brought to you.

42  
43 These proposals should be deferred to  
44 give the adjacent Regional Advisory Councils, such as  
45 yourself, and the public the opportunity to provide  
46 information regarding the uses of all of these animals  
47 by residents from the surrounding units in  
48 Unit 22. So this is a proposal that came forward in  
49 Unit 22 and we just want to be very sure that we hear  
50 from people who are adjacent to 22 to see what your

1 thoughts are. I just wanted to highlight what was in  
2 the justification there for you.

3  
4 Thank you.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Summary of  
7 written public comments.

8  
9 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair. We didn't  
10 receive any written public comments to my knowledge  
11 unless we overlooked comments we received after we  
12 traveled to Emmonak. Thank you.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Public  
15 testimony.

16  
17 (No comments)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If none, Regional  
20 Advisory Council deliberation, recommendations and  
21 justifications.

22  
23 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

26  
27 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Kron, do you know if  
28 the Seward Peninsula Advisory Council knows about this  
29 proposal?

30  
31 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair, Mary. I'm sure  
32 that they do know about it. Alex, have they met yet?  
33 If so, have they made a decision on this? They're  
34 meeting today. The answer to your question is yes,  
35 they do know about it. There are members of the  
36 Council that are in Kawerak.

37  
38 MS. GREGORY: I'd like to know what  
39 their thoughts are before I make my determination.

40  
41 MR. KRON: Madame Chair, Mary. They're  
42 meeting today, so at this point in time I don't know  
43 what they've done with this one.

44  
45 Thank you.

46  
47 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. I don't  
48 oppose this, but they're not in our jurisdiction so to  
49 speak, they're from another Advisory Council, and I'd  
50 like to know what their thinking is before I vote, but

1 I'm for it otherwise.

2

3

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

4

5

MR. ALOYSIUS: I would like somebody to explain to me what the Staff recommendation is. It says defer the proposal. What do they mean by defer?

6

7

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tom.

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. I would go along with the preliminary conclusion of the Staff and defer the proposal until such time as each of the affected units have an opportunity to go through the process. There are some beaver, Arctic fox, red fox. About 95 percent of this also applies to us in this area, so we might want to at one time get a customary and traditional use determination. So I think it would be in our best interest if we did defer this motion, Mr. Chairman, and because of that I would move that this proposal be deferred until such time as information from other areas can be collected.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion and a second to defer. Discussion.

MS. GREGORY: I guess I'll call for the question.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question has been  
2 called for. Roll call.  
3  
4 MS. GREGORY: William Brown.  
5  
6 MR. BROWN: Yes.  
7  
8 MS. GREGORY: Lester Wilde.  
9  
10 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.  
11  
12 MS. GREGORY: Edgar Hoelscher.  
13  
14 MR. HOELSCHER: Yes.  
15  
16 MS. GREGORY: Phillip Moses.  
17  
18 MR. MOSES: Yes.  
19  
20 MS. GREGORY: Robert Aloysius.  
21  
22 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.  
23  
24 MS. GREGORY: Harry Wilde.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.  
27  
28 MS. GREGORY: Myself, yes. Joseph  
29 Mike.  
30  
31 MR. MIKE: Yes.  
32  
33 MS. GREGORY: We have eight yeas, zero  
34 nos and zero abstains.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried to  
37 defer Proposals 42 to 52. We are now on the next items  
38 on the agenda, subsistence fish and wildlife issues.  
39  
40 MS. HYER: The first thing I have is a  
41 handout for the Monitoring Program and it's the first  
42 thing I'll distribute to you. I'm Karen Hyer from the  
43 Office of Subsistence Management, Fisheries Information  
44 Service Division. The first thing he's passing out is  
45 the annual project report for our Fisheries Resource  
46 Monitoring Program for the Kuskokwim. I have one here  
47 that also needs to be passed out for the Yukon.  
48  
49 What I'm here to talk to you about  
50 today is an analysis that I did with my colleague,

1 Cliff Schleusner. You received a printout of my  
2 slides. Also, you were sent a copy of my report. Both  
3 Cliff Schleusner and I work for the Office of  
4 Subsistence Management, Division of Fisheries  
5 Information Services and this spring we completed an  
6 analysis on chinook salmon age, sex and length from  
7 selected escapement projects on the Yukon River and  
8 that's what I'm here to talk about today.

9  
10 This report came from fishermen who  
11 reported that the length of chinook salmon harvested  
12 and the proportion of females in the escapement had  
13 been decreasing over time. So they had raised these  
14 concerns at several of our meetings, which also raised  
15 the concerns of our National Park Service subsistence  
16 biologist and our Fish and Wildlife Service Yukon  
17 Subsistence Fisheries Management biologist. Jointly  
18 they approached the Fisheries Information Service about  
19 doing an analysis to explore these trends.

20  
21 So if you'd turn to the second page,  
22 the slide that says objectives, we chose to explore  
23 seven escapement data sets using the following  
24 objectives. We wanted to see if the proportion of  
25 female salmon had changed over time, we wanted to see  
26 if the proportion of large, greater than 36-inch,  
27 chinook salmon had changed in the escapement, if the  
28 proportion of 6 and 7-year-old chinook salmon had  
29 changed, and if the length-at-age of 6 and 7-year-old  
30 salmon had changed over time. We made a data request  
31 to both Fish and Game and the Canadian Department of  
32 Fisheries and Oceans. We requested a long time series  
33 from both the agencies.

34  
35 The analysis we were going to pursue  
36 was based on some work that had been done in 1998.  
37 There was an age/length analysis done by Larry Buklis  
38 of the Joint Technical Committee, so that was the first  
39 work done in this area, and we built upon that work.

40  
41 You can turn to the slide that says  
42 methods. We used statistical methods to explore the  
43 trends over time. The data we received from Fish and  
44 Game that was useable for the analysis came from six  
45 river tributaries, two lower, the Andrafsky and the  
46 Anvik; three upper, the Gisasa, the Chena and the  
47 Salcha; and one Canada stock, the Big Salmon River.

48  
49 If you turn to the slide that says  
50 chinook salmon escapement data sets, the blue one, that

1 shows the data sets and you can see the data sets we  
2 analyzed. There were two weirs and they're shown by  
3 the white bars, and there were five carcass surveys and  
4 they're shown by the dark bars. Our data sets composed  
5 sets from nine to 28 years worth of data. The Big  
6 Salmon only had nine years worth of data and that was  
7 our shortest data set, but we chose to include that  
8 because it was the farthest upriver stock we could  
9 analyze and it was the only Canadian stock we had.

10  
11 One thing to notice in this data is  
12 there are many gaps and some of the data sets don't  
13 overlap. In this analysis we only used chinook salmon  
14 that spent one year in fresh water and there were no  
15 salmon that were older than seven years old, although  
16 the data set did contain some fish that spent two years  
17 in fresh water and also some older fish there weren't  
18 enough to do anything with in a statistical arena.

19  
20 If you turn to the slide that says  
21 results. Page 4 at the top. Using our four  
22 objectives, we looked at the results. All our  
23 objectives were analyzed from a basin-wide perspective  
24 because we felt if something dramatic was happening it  
25 would be evident in more than one tributary. So as I  
26 go through the results, that's the perspective that we  
27 analyze them in.

28  
29 At the bottom of Page 4, our first  
30 objective, the results of that in the trends we looked  
31 at in four of seven escapement sets, the proportion of  
32 female chinook salmon significantly changed over time.  
33 You can see that we saw a decrease in the Anvik and in  
34 the Chena and in the Big Salmon River. We saw an  
35 increase in the proportion of female chinook salmon in  
36 the Salcha. One thing to notice here that's  
37 interesting is you would expect because of their close  
38 proximity the Chena and the Salcha to behave similarly,  
39 but they didn't. We saw a decrease in one and an  
40 increase in the other.

41  
42 Objective two, in four of seven  
43 escapement data sets the proportion of large chinook  
44 salmon, greater than 36 inches, significantly decreased  
45 over time. This 36 inches represents the largest  
46 salmon in the escapements. In the different  
47 escapements it represents between 10 and 12 percent of  
48 the fish. It was an arbitrary number that we chose  
49 because we wanted to capture the upper limits of the  
50 size in the escapements. We saw a decrease of these

1 fish in the Anvik, Chena, Salcha and Big Salmon Rivers.

2

3

4 Page 5 shows the trends that we saw in  
5 the rivers and there was a four percent decrease per  
6 year in the proportion of female chinook salmon in the  
7 Anvik. In the Chena, we saw a two percent decrease per  
8 year. If you go on to Page 6, in the Salcha we saw a  
9 two percent decrease in the proportion of females per  
10 year. In the Big Salmon, we saw seven percent  
11 decrease.

12

13

14 Objective 3 at the bottom of Page 6.  
15 In three of the seven escapement data sets the  
16 proportion of 6-year-old chinook salmon significantly  
17 changed over time and we saw a decrease in this age  
18 group in the Anvik and in the Big Salmon and we saw an  
19 increase in the Salcha River and we saw no change in  
20 the Andreafsky and in the Chena River.

21

22

23 The top of Page 7 is the second part of  
24 objective 3. In two of seven escapement data sets the  
25 proportion of 7-year-old chinook salmon significantly  
26 changed over time. In this group we saw a decrease in  
27 the Chena and we saw an increase in the Big Salmon  
28 River and we saw no change in the Andreafsky, the  
29 Anvik, the Gisasa and the Salcha.

30

31

32 Our final objective, objective 4, in 10  
33 of the 27 escapement data sets we saw significant  
34 change for length-at-age for 6 and 7-year-old male and  
35 female chinook salmon. This table is broken down by  
36 sex and by age. You can see where we saw the decreases  
37 and you can see we saw one increase in the Chena River.  
38 Seven-year-old males from the Andreafsky River weir  
39 were dropped from this analysis because the sample size  
40 was so small we couldn't do anything statistical with  
41 it. It's this particular objective that most closely  
42 represents the work that JTC started in 1998.

43

44

45 If you turn to Page 8, conclusions.  
46 From objective 1 we asked the question has the  
47 proportion of female chinook salmon declined over time  
48 in the Yukon River drainage and we concluded no.  
49 Results showed no discernible river wide trend in the  
50 proportion of females in the spawning escapements.  
Again, in this analysis, we saw changes in four of the  
rivers, but three of them were decreasing and one was  
increasing.

51

52

Objective 2, has the proportion of

1 large, greater than 36 inches, spawning chinook salmon  
2 declined over time in the Yukon River drainage. For  
3 this objective we concluded yes. Results showed a  
4 decrease in the proportion of large chinook salmon in  
5 the Anvik, Chena, Salcha, and Big Salmon Rivers.  
6 Again, we saw this decrease in over half the escapement  
7 populations we looked at.

8

9                                   Page 9, our objective 3. Has the  
10 proportions of 6 and 7-year-old spawning chinook salmon  
11 declined over time in the Yukon River drainage. We  
12 concluded no. Results showed no discernible river wide  
13 trend in the proportion of 6 and 7-year-old chinook  
14 salmon in the spawning escapements. Again, in that  
15 particular data set, we saw three of seven and in the  
16 older fish we saw two of seven significant regressions.

17

18                                   For our final objective, has the  
19 length-at-age of 6 and 7-year-old male and female  
20 chinook salmon declined over time in the Yukon River  
21 drainage, and we concluded that it's actually hard to  
22 conclude that the length-at-age of older spawning  
23 chinook salmon has consistently declined river wide  
24 because fewer than half the results show a significant  
25 decline.

26

27                                   It's important to keep in mind that  
28 while this analysis did include some of the longer data  
29 sets in the river, it's a small proportion of the total  
30 run in the Yukon. We have no pre-fishery data to judge  
31 the effects of the commercial fishery on the size of  
32 the Yukon chinooks because all of our data was  
33 collected through time while a gillnet fishery did  
34 exist. It's also hard because of the fishery  
35 compounding the data to determine whether it's  
36 environmental conditions that have caused this change  
37 or if it's fishery induced conditions.

38

39                                   If you turn to Page 10. These are our  
40 three top recommendations from the report. Our first  
41 one is to reinstate collection of spawning escapement  
42 data from the main Yukon River spawning tributaries  
43 located in Canada because that's where we saw our  
44 biggest changes. That data collection in that part of  
45 the river hasn't happened for about 20 years now. They  
46 do have two escapement projects, a weir on the Big  
47 Salmon, but to date they have not collected any ASL  
48 data.

49

50                                   Our second top recommendation is

1 continue long-term monitoring of age, sex and length  
2 composition for chinook salmon because if something is  
3 happening, it's happening slowly over time, so there  
4 will need to be a long time series collected to detect  
5 changes because they're small.

6  
7 Our third top recommendation is  
8 document the age, sex and length of chinook salmon  
9 caught in the subsistence harvests and the gear type  
10 used. Although we have good documentation for the  
11 commercial fishery, we're lacking documentation for the  
12 subsistence fishery.

13  
14 That concludes my slides. Are there  
15 any questions?

16  
17 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

20  
21 MS. GREGORY: I have a question on Page  
22 8. The decline over time in the Yukon River drainage,  
23 there was no significant shown in that river, the first  
24 one, females in the spawning escapement, but you did  
25 have for other females that are older or larger. Why  
26 do you think that is?

27  
28 MS. HYER: The proportion of females in  
29 the analysis, we have the 4-year-olds, the 5-year-olds  
30 and the 6-year-olds. We actually saw a change in three  
31 of the rivers. Actually we saw a change in four of the  
32 rivers, but we saw a decrease in three and an increase  
33 in one. Because our objectives were written in a  
34 basin-wide context, we concluded because less than half  
35 of them showed a decrease but we did see significant  
36 decreases in three of the rivers. Does that make  
37 sense? Are you following me?

38  
39 Turn back to Page 4, the results. We  
40 actually saw a significant decrease in the Anvik, Chena  
41 and Big Salmon, but we saw an increase in the Salcha  
42 River, so we couldn't conclude that over half of them  
43 were moving in the same direction, but within a river  
44 we did see significant decreases. That's what we found  
45 very perplexing, is we expected the Chena and the  
46 Salcha to react the same way and they didn't and I  
47 don't have a good answer for why that is. It could be  
48 an artifact of sampling, it could be an artifact of  
49 environment, I don't know, but it's perplexing.

50

1 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. Under Page  
2 4, objective 1, you had them decreasing, but then you  
3 increased them on the Chena River in the carcass  
4 survey.

5  
6 MS. HYER: We saw a decrease in the  
7 Chena, but we saw an increase in the Salcha. That's  
8 what our data showed. So what it showed is actually  
9 there were more females returning more recently on the  
10 Salcha but less females returning more recently in the  
11 Chena.

12  
13 MS. GREGORY: Something didn't work.  
14 Maybe the Anvik weir or the weir somewhere didn't work  
15 very well.

16  
17 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

20  
21 MR. L. WILDE: You mentioned in four of  
22 the seven data sets. What is a data set?

23  
24 MS. HYER: A data set consists of the  
25 ASL data collected either at the weirs, Andreafsky or  
26 Gisasa weir, or during carcass sampling. So when I  
27 speak of the data set, it's just the measurements that  
28 were collected by Fish and Game of age, sex and length.

29  
30 MR. L. WILDE: You didn't have an  
31 actual number of fish that were in each data set?

32  
33 MS. HYER: I don't have that handy.  
34 That is in the appendix of the report. You can see  
35 each year the number of fish in the data sets and the  
36 years we have those data collected for because not  
37 every river had data collected every year.

38  
39 MR. L. WILDE: Could you, from the top  
40 of your head, remember or come to an estimate as to how  
41 many fish were in each data set just to give me an  
42 idea? We've been bothered by one portion of your  
43 presentation where some people feel because of the gear  
44 that we've used is the reason for the decline of the  
45 large females. So we need to get a number on the  
46 amount of carcasses just to give us a rough idea.

47  
48 MS. HYER: There are two things that  
49 are important to remember. One is how long the data  
50 sets are. So if there's a change over time, you're

1 going to see it better in 28 years than nine years.  
2 The Big Salmon River only has nine years worth of data.  
3 The Chena and the Salcha both have like 23 to 28. In  
4 the Chena and the Salcha, the earlier data sets are by  
5 far sparser than the later data sets and there will be  
6 hundreds of fish like in the Chena and the Salcha,  
7 maybe two or three hundred taken later, but in some of  
8 the earlier data sets there will be maybe 60 fish. So  
9 there's a change over time just in collection.

10

11 MR. L. WILDE: Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: On your objective 1,  
14 Andreafsky River carcass survey, my understanding that  
15 there were only just about three king salmons earlier  
16 when we were looking at this here, the one that you  
17 used, and I couldn't understand. We've been having  
18 high waters. I don't know how you guys could be able  
19 to survey just only three king salmons in Andreafsky.

20

21 MS. HYER: You're saying there were  
22 only three king salmon in the Andreafsky in the weir or  
23 in the carcass surveys? I'm not entirely understanding  
24 your question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You guys have been  
27 monitoring and counting the carcasses in the rivers?

28

29 MS. HYER: Alaska Department of Fish  
30 and Game has done both carcass surveys on the  
31 Andreafsky and more recently they have a weir on the  
32 Andreafsky. That's not done by our office. The  
33 Andreafsky data, if you go to the report on Page 52,  
34 the data for the carcass surveys starts in 1980. In  
35 1980, where the sample sizes are, you can see the  
36 number of fish that were collected.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm having a hard time  
39 hearing you.

40

41 MS. HYER: I was just pointing out some  
42 of the sample sizes that are in the back of the report.  
43 If you want to know how many fish were caught on the  
44 Andreafsky or sampled on the Andreafsky during the  
45 carcass surveys, it's actually in the report starting  
46 on Page 52. And there were high water years, I'm sure,  
47 because this data has been collected since 1980, so  
48 there's going to be some years that are better for  
49 collecting data than other years. That's part of the  
50 variation in this data.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions from the  
2 Council.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Are you  
7 through?

8  
9 MS. HYER: The next thing on the agenda  
10 is Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Partners  
13 for Fisheries Monitoring Program. David Waltemyer,  
14 AVCP.

15 MR. MASCHMANN: Mr. Chair. I was  
16 wondering if I could request to go before. I'm Gerald  
17 Maschmann with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and I  
18 have the 2006 Yukon River salmon season outlook.  
19 Unfortunately, I have to catch a plane here pretty  
20 soon, so I was wondering if I could jump in here.

21  
22 MS. GREGORY: We have to suspend the  
23 rules before we do that, sir.

24  
25 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chair. I so move  
26 to suspend the rules to hear this gentleman.

27  
28 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion to  
31 suspend the rules and a second. All in favor say aye.

32  
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed say no.

36  
37 MS. GREGORY: No.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

40  
41 MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you, Council. I  
42 have a handout here I'd like to pass out.

43  
44 MS. GREGORY: If you're going to make a  
45 presentation -- Mr. Chairman, I don't like the way  
46 we're doing our meeting here, which is all over the  
47 place. That's not what we're supposed to do. If  
48 you're going to present, make sure you get here a day  
49 ahead of time so that you can be sure to be there. We  
50 don't like to suspend the rules once the agenda is

1 approved. Next time be ready. If you're going to talk  
2 about it, send us a copy of what you're talking about  
3 so we'll know what you're up to.

4

5 MR. MASCHMANN: Yes, thank you. I'll  
6 do that next time. Thanks. Good afternoon, Council  
7 Members and attendees. My name is Gerald Maschmann and  
8 I'm here today representing the Federal In-season  
9 Subsistence Fisheries Management Program. The handout  
10 which has been passed out provides additional salmon  
11 outlook information for your reference beyond the  
12 summarized comments I'm providing.

13

14 Similar to the last five years a joint  
15 information sheet reviewing the 2005 fishery and  
16 discussing the 2006 outlook will be published and  
17 distributed this coming May. The 2006 salmon outlook  
18 has been summarized from information authored by the  
19 Alaska Department of Fish and Game managers. The  
20 Department is anticipating a below average to average  
21 return of chinook salmon, an average to above average  
22 return of summer chum and fall chum salmon, and an  
23 average to above average return of coho salmon to the  
24 Yukon River in 2006.

25

26 Both Federal and State Yukon fishery  
27 managers are planning to start the fishing season using  
28 the Board of Fisheries windowed subsistence salmon  
29 fishing schedule beginning in late May or early June.  
30 The returns for all four salmon runs should provide for  
31 escapements, normal subsistence harvest and some  
32 commercial fishing opportunities. ADF&G commercial  
33 management decisions will be based on in-season  
34 assessment information and harvest amounts will be  
35 dependant on markets.

36

37 Anticipated commercial harvest ranges  
38 for each salmon run are 30-60,000 chinook salmon, 500-  
39 900,000 summer chum salmon, 100-400,000 fall chum  
40 salmon, and between 50-70,000 coho salmon.

41

42 Thank you for this opportunity to  
43 provide you a brief outlook for this coming fishing  
44 season and I'll try to answer any questions you may  
45 have.

46

47 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

50

1 MR. L. WILDE: It seems like the  
2 forecast is never changed. Last year it was the same,  
3 average to below average, and that seems to be the same  
4 predicted run size every year. Maybe I'm trying to be  
5 funny here, but it seems like maybe every once in a  
6 while, since you're always wrong with these predictions  
7 anyway, you should try predicting middle to high runs  
8 every once in a while just to change the monotony of  
9 your predictions.

10  
11 Thank you.

12  
13 (Laughter)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I, too, have a  
16 question for 2005, if it's true or not that summer chum  
17 up in the Tanana River, they're splitting eggs out of  
18 fish and sold in a bucket. I don't know if that's true  
19 or not, but that's what I hear. Have you heard of  
20 that? Alaska Department of Fish and Game authorized  
21 them. That's what I hear. I don't know what's really  
22 going on. I've been wondering if that's really  
23 happening why they're hiding from our people, even from  
24 downriver. We've been blamed for everything down here.  
25 We would like to know if that is true or not, selling  
26 eggs. We don't know, never understand.

27  
28 MR. MASCHMANN: Mr. Chairman.  
29 Unfortunately, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
30 manages the commercial fishery and the Federal manager  
31 just manages the escapement for subsistence, so any  
32 commercial fishing questions unfortunately I won't be  
33 able to answer. Most of the Tanana drainage is not  
34 Federal waters, so unfortunately I can't answer that  
35 question, but I do know they have a very limited  
36 commercial catch in the Tanana drainage.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

39  
40 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

43  
44 MR. L. WILDE: In your predictions of  
45 the coming run, what do you use as an overall number as  
46 high, average and low? You must have a number to make  
47 your assumptions on as to what is average and what is  
48 below average and what do you use as a main number.

49  
50 MR. MASCHMANN: Again, unfortunately,

1 it's another question I can't directly answer. The  
2 Alaska Department of Fish and Game is the primary  
3 management agency and they do all of the run  
4 forecasting and predictions for the coming season, so  
5 that would have to be a question directly to the ADF&G  
6 and, unfortunately, they could not make it to this  
7 meeting. I can take your questions back though and  
8 make sure that either the Federal manager will get back  
9 to you with an answer or direct it to Steve Hayes with  
10 the Department of Fish and Game and he'll try and get  
11 back to you with an answer.

12

13 MR. L. WILDE: Thank you. I think that  
14 would be interesting. We've always seen the  
15 predictions as below average or average and I'd just  
16 like to get the number as to what the Department feels  
17 as being the average of whatever is predicted.

18

19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

22

23 MR. ALOYSIUS: I'm a little bit  
24 frustrated because we have never gotten to see face to  
25 face with the people who are supposed to be presenting  
26 to us here and it gets more and more frustrating when  
27 they send people who have no answers for us. So I  
28 would suggest that if any agency wants to be heard by  
29 presenting what they want us to hear that they do it in  
30 person and be on time like the rest of us because it's  
31 frustrating when you can't help the people and you  
32 can't get a decent phone connection and all you have is  
33 bunches of paper that don't make any sense and you have  
34 no one to give you the correct answer that you need.  
35 So I think it behooves us to crack down on the people  
36 who are supposed to be here to make presentations to be  
37 here on time and stay here until we're done, too.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

44

45 MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you, Council.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

48

49 MR. MOSES: The chairman asked a  
50 question that he had heard of people selling roe and

1 maybe up there somewhere on the headwaters of the  
2 Yukon, where is it exactly that they are selling salmon  
3 roe, and I just asked Lester if he had heard of  
4 commercial roe sales. Since it's been a while and then  
5 when Fish and Game or even Fish and Wildlife come in  
6 front of us and give reports in front of us on top of  
7 our meeting, they leave and go home. You're not  
8 supposed to do that, give a report and just as you're  
9 done go straight home. We do have homes and families  
10 and responsibilities as well, but we do wait out the  
11 days allotted for our meeting. So I'm not pleased when  
12 people come, give a report and leave. We would rather  
13 be home taking care of our responsibilities. And then  
14 when we are given handouts for the rest of this Council  
15 to read, I don't like that since we, as Council  
16 Members, do think of our homes and our work.

17  
18 So the Fish and Game officials and Fish  
19 and Wildlife personnel that may be at our next meeting,  
20 we'll probably see someone rushing in and rushing home.  
21 I know that some of you will go home today and once  
22 their reports are done, they do leave. That's all I  
23 have to say.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana. Let's have a  
26 10-minute break.

27  
28 (Off record)

29  
30 (On record)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on our agenda,  
33 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program. Dave.

34  
35 MR. WALTEMYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman  
36 Wilde and fellow Council Members. Hi, and good  
37 afternoon. My name is David Waltemyer and I'm one of  
38 the partner biologists working for the Association of  
39 Village Council Presidents out in Bethel. My primary  
40 role is working on the Yukon River. In that role, what  
41 I'd like to do is describe a little bit about the  
42 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

43  
44 It's actually a program that provides  
45 funding for projects that address issues that are  
46 identified by the Regional Advisory Councils, such as  
47 yourselves. In part, that's a major role that we play  
48 in that, to help understand those issues that are  
49 brought before you. It's one of those things where the  
50 Partners Program itself is more of like an extension of

1 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and that's  
2 our role as being biologists hired by the different  
3 Native associations. It's been that we have fisheries  
4 scientists and social scientists hired, but for AVCP's  
5 part we've actually had two fisheries biologists, Eva  
6 and myself.

7  
8 In the Partners Program, what I'd like  
9 to do is just describe a little bit about the four main  
10 areas that we have as goals or objectives. The first  
11 one is that we are working toward developing  
12 partnerships with the State and Federal organizations  
13 and also schools and colleges in our area and in the  
14 state. That's number one.

15  
16 Number two is that we are also here to  
17 help gather information to help understand some of the  
18 important issues the Council is dealing with in the  
19 local area.

20  
21 Three, we are here to help and provide  
22 technical support for the fisheries projects that are  
23 developing or occurring right now, for my part, on the  
24 Yukon River. One would be like the Andraefsky River  
25 weir, to be able to help in that capacity.

26  
27 Number four is that we provide outreach  
28 and education and also training for interns. So that's  
29 one area that's a little more to my heart, being able  
30 to involve the students of the area and involve them in  
31 what my role is as a fishery biologist or what kind of  
32 work I do to help spark an interest in that area of  
33 whether they would like to go into the natural  
34 resources area or in the fisheries as a career.

35  
36 So those are four kind of main roles or  
37 goal areas that we work with. As the partnerships, one  
38 of those areas for me is just being able to get to know  
39 the State and Federal agency people that are actually  
40 dealing with management of the subsistence fisheries on  
41 the Yukon River. That's been an important and positive  
42 area from my standpoint, being able to work with the  
43 different agencies.

44  
45 Under number two, being able to help  
46 identify and understand some of the main issues, this  
47 is where, by coming to these meetings, it helps me to  
48 better understand what are the real issues for me on  
49 the Yukon River.

50

1                   Number three, providing technical  
2 assistance, this is an area we're just starting to  
3 develop in the Partner Program with my position, is how  
4 to proceed moving into either developing projects.  
5 Like last year we had the Marshall test fishery  
6 operated and I was involved in that to a degree and  
7 I'll be working on writing the report for that right  
8 now. Also we're working with developing memorandums of  
9 understanding or MOA's to be able to develop the  
10 Andraefsky River weir in the sense of being able to  
11 have that project possibly go to one of the local  
12 tribes to be able to operate it. So that gets the  
13 local rural people involved to a higher degree and  
14 that's part of the program and why we're here.

15  
16                   Fourthly, I'd like to say to provide  
17 the outreach and education, that part is kind of tender  
18 to my heart. Being able to come to, say, here in  
19 Emmonak, just yesterday Andrew Kelly, who is with the  
20 Fish and Wildlife Service RIT program, I was able to go  
21 with him to the school and we were able to talk to  
22 about 60 students there in the high school about what I  
23 do as a fisheries biologist and how I'm involved in  
24 trying to develop bridges between Native organizations  
25 and the State and Federal organizations. That's the  
26 part I've really been concentrating on lately, is to  
27 develop that by being able to visit a lot more of the  
28 schools and a lot more of the villages. So far I've  
29 been able to reach out to Nunam Iqua, the school there,  
30 St. Marys, Mountain Village last year and then just  
31 this trip to Emmonak.

32  
33                   So that's my part as a Partner on the  
34 Yukon River and working with AVCP. So now I'll turn it  
35 over to Eva.

36  
37                   MS. PATTON: Hello, Mr. Chairman and  
38 Council Members. Thank you for having us and for the  
39 time to share with you what our program is about and  
40 thank you for being here. It's an honor to hear your  
41 stories and recommendations and input for these  
42 regions.

43  
44                   Again, the Partners Program is a  
45 program within the communities to assist the local  
46 communities in participating more fully in subsistence  
47 fisheries management. With that, I would call our work  
48 a work in progress because we're trying to mold the  
49 work we do to the desires and wishes of the community.  
50 So we seek your input as the Advisory Council as well

1 for how best to direct the work that we do.

2

3                   Thus far input from AVCP and the  
4 communities that I've spoken with, the important issues  
5 for people on the Kuskokwim and coastal areas are  
6 education and outreach for the young students to begin  
7 further interest in the sciences and become themselves  
8 biologist, people who are informed inherently by local  
9 knowledge who would work in these positions in the  
10 future.

11

12                   The other issue of most importance  
13 that's been expressed by AVCP and members of the  
14 villages that I've talked with also is an opportunity  
15 for elders to share their information and what they  
16 know of fisheries and subsistence fishing issues.

17

18                   So my focus so far has been both on  
19 education and outreach to the students and then also on  
20 developing harvest monitoring traditional ecological  
21 knowledge proposals for the FIS process. So to submit  
22 proposals for funds to do further traditional knowledge  
23 studies.

24

25                   So, for the spring, so far plans are --  
26 I wanted to update you, one of the issues the Advisory  
27 Council had brought up in the fall was concern about  
28 mining proposals in the region and I wanted to let you  
29 know that there is the AVCP special convention coming  
30 up on March 7th and 9th where there will be other  
31 presenters who will give information on potential  
32 impacts of mining on the Kuskokwim River. That's open  
33 to everybody to attend. So there will be information  
34 on critical spawning areas, impacts of contaminants and  
35 other issues that will be addressed to provide  
36 information.

37

38                   Upcoming projects are Cultural Center  
39 salmon life cycle exhibit in a subsistence art contest  
40 for local students that was going to be displayed at  
41 the Cultural Center during the weekend of Camai when  
42 people would have an opportunity to be there. I  
43 understand Camai won't happen because the high school  
44 gym is under construction, but we'll still have that  
45 for people that are able to come.

46

47                   We'll be doing fisheries education and  
48 outreach to the school and further meetings with  
49 village councils to present local fisheries research  
50 and receive feedback and questions and concerns that I

1 might in turn might be able to bring back to both Fish  
2 and Wildlife Service and ADF&G since we partner with  
3 both those agencies.

4  
5                   That's an area in particular if you  
6 have suggestions on best ways for David and I to help  
7 get information out to people in the villages so they  
8 can be more informed on the research and monitoring  
9 that's occurring in their region and then conversely  
10 how to get information, questions people have back to  
11 the agencies.

12  
13                   As well this spring we'll be beginning  
14 the FIS Harvest Monitoring and Traditional Ecological  
15 Knowledge Research Project that was titled Lower  
16 Kuskokwim non-salmon harvest survey and local knowledge  
17 project, which the Council had approved in the fall and  
18 that will begin this spring. So those are interviews  
19 and traditional knowledge of all non-salmon species in  
20 the villages of Tuntutuliak and Nunapitsinchak and Eek.

21  
22                   I'm working on developing further  
23 internships beyond the ones that we'll have this  
24 summer. Working pretty closely with the college in  
25 their rural development program and their Alaska Native  
26 science and engineering program to help students from  
27 the villages both get internships and then scholarships  
28 and opportunities for moving into the sciences in  
29 college. One of the things I'm working on right now is  
30 a GIS internship, which will be a technical internship,  
31 but working on the mapping projects for the traditional  
32 knowledge programs through FIS.

33  
34                   I've also submitted a pre-proposal with  
35 Lou Ann Rank. Some of you may know her. She was a  
36 long-time Bethel resident. She went on to get her  
37 Ph.D. in anthropology and has been working with the  
38 communities of Akiak, Akiachak and Tuluksak on their  
39 oral history, which is part of the ANCSA 14(h)(1)  
40 archives and we've proposed a similar project to the  
41 Lower Kuskokwim non-salmon project, to look both at  
42 oral history and contemporary knowledge, traditional  
43 knowledge in those villages as well.

44  
45                   For summer plans, we'll have two local  
46 area fisheries interns for three-month field-based  
47 research internships which will occur both on the  
48 Kwethluk River with Fish and Wildlife Service and up  
49 near Kalskag with a fishwheel mark recapture project.  
50 I'll continue assistance on other FRMP projects in

1 cooperation with ADF&G at the Kalskag wheel and the  
2 chinook telemetry in George River weir projects and  
3 others.

4

5                   Again, part of that work is both to  
6 support that work and partnerships through AVCP, but to  
7 help bring that information of the monitoring projects  
8 that are in your communities, regions, back to the  
9 communities so they know what's going on in those  
10 regions.

11

12                   Last summer we had a Kwethluk River  
13 high school science camp in conjunction with Fish and  
14 Wildlife Service and we got a grant to do that again  
15 this year with the Refuge. So we'll be doing another  
16 high school camp up on the Kwethluk this summer on July  
17 30 through August 9th. I have some fliers and handouts  
18 and that's open region wide. Even though it's  
19 occurring on the Kwethluk River, it's open to students  
20 throughout the Delta, too.

21

22                   We have two proposed high school  
23 science camp internships also in Goodnews and Tuluksak  
24 on the weirs themselves and then continued work on the  
25 FIS project, the Lower Kuskokwim non-salmon harvest  
26 survey and local knowledge, will be continuing for the  
27 next two years, including work through the summer.

28

29                   So that's an update of the projects  
30 that I'll be working on. Again, it's a work in  
31 progress, so any insights the Council has on the  
32 direction of the positions that Dave and I have and  
33 ways we would be able to best serve the community to  
34 assist in both getting information out about the  
35 projects that are going on for fisheries research and  
36 monitoring and getting information back to the  
37 agencies, concerns or questions that people in the  
38 communities might have.

39

40                   MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

41

42                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

43

44                   MR. ALOYSIUS: I have a couple  
45 questions. What is FIS?

46

47                   MS. PATTON: FIS is Fisheries  
48 Information Service and that's the branch of Fish and  
49 Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management,  
50 that we work through and most of the fisheries research

1 and monitoring projects on the Kuskokwim River are  
2 funded through that program.

3

4 MR. ALOYSIUS: What about the HM/TEK?

5

6 MS. PATTON: That was in the proposal  
7 process for funding each year. There's two categories  
8 and one is the stock status and trends, so it's looking  
9 at numbers of fish. And then the HM/TEK was the  
10 acronym for the harvest monitoring and traditional  
11 ecological knowledge and that's the other part of the  
12 grants that are available. So there's two blocks of  
13 funds and one is primarily for numbers research in  
14 terms of weirs or the mark recapture project. The  
15 HM/TEK was to look at local knowledge and the  
16 documentation of knowledge of people in the  
17 communities.

18

19 MR. ALOYSIUS: What's the TEK for?

20

21 MS. PATTON: It stands for traditional  
22 ecological knowledge. As I recall at the last Council  
23 meeting, you had preferred in the discussion of the  
24 Lower Kuskokwim non-salmon project for it to be called  
25 local knowledge.

26

27 MR. ALOYSIUS: I always have a problem  
28 when they talk about traditional ecological knowledge  
29 because it doesn't describe exactly what you want to  
30 find out. You should use the word indigenous  
31 ecological knowledge because it's more specific.  
32 Traditional means these are things we do on a cyclic  
33 basis. If you're really concerned about finding out  
34 what kind of ecological knowledge, you use indigenous.  
35 You should be very specific in asking for indigenous  
36 ecological knowledge because it pertains to an area, of  
37 that area and for that area.

38

39 The other question I have regarding  
40 your July 30-August 9 Yukon Delta National Wildlife  
41 Refuge and SRON.

42

43 MS. PATTON: That's a research project  
44 that's going on on the Kwethluk River in conjunction  
45 with the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and it  
46 stands for Salmon Rivers Observatory Network. The  
47 primary researcher for that is based out of Flathead  
48 Lake Biological Station, but it's a cooperative  
49 agreement and a cooperative research project with the  
50 refuge fisheries biologist Dan Gillikin, and it's a

1 project looking at baseline ecological processes. So  
2 it's looking at the relationship of salmon to the  
3 entire river. So instead of just counting the number  
4 of salmon that are returning, it's looking at the role  
5 salmon play in the whole ecosystem, the return of the  
6 nutrients, and the river itself and the vegetation  
7 along the river's edge and the role between salmon and  
8 animals in that region. So it's a very broad research  
9 project that will provide some baseline information on  
10 how the systems work in this area even though it's only  
11 this one river.

12

13 MR. ALOYSIUS: What kind of staff do  
14 you have for that camp, western educators or local  
15 elders as part of the teaching staff?

16

17 MS. PATTON: It was both. Much of the  
18 camp is to expose kids to western sciences and to those  
19 processes, but also to learn as well from local  
20 knowledge. On the last trip, Joe Azooluk (ph), who is  
21 the RIT with the Refuge, he's from Toksook Bay. He  
22 came with us. We actually did a rafting trip, so it  
23 was a little grueling and Joe was very brave and he was  
24 in my raft and lived to tell about it. But this year  
25 we hope to have local elders from Kwethluk come up to  
26 the base camp for a couple days.

27

28 MR. ALOYSIUS: This an area wide  
29 program for students, right?

30

31 MS. PATTON: Right.

32

33 MR. ALOYSIUS: Is it possible to  
34 recruit other elders like from Kalskag, Russian  
35 Mission, Marshall, and the coast? Not only from one  
36 village but it would be nice to have the children  
37 exposed to more than one outlook or insight of what  
38 this camp should be.

39

40 MS. PATTON: I agree. That's a great  
41 idea. We were hoping to have somebody locally, since  
42 the camp is held on the Kwethluk River, but you're  
43 right. If there's students coming from different  
44 places, then there's different perspectives. The  
45 suggestion from Kalskag, if you were volunteering, I  
46 would love to have you, or any other suggestions, I  
47 would welcome that.

48

49 MR. ALOYSIUS: July 30 to August 9.  
50 All you have to do is pay for my gas and I'll be there.

1 MS. PATTON: You got it. Thanks, Bob.  
2  
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.  
6  
7 MS. GREGORY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
8 I have a couple questions for David Waltemyer. How  
9 many science camps are you working with Eva? Is that  
10 your report or do you have different projects?  
11  
12 MR. WALTEMYER: I have different  
13 projects in the sense that I am working on the Yukon  
14 River and Eva works the Kuskokwim.  
15  
16 MS. GREGORY: Do you have science camps  
17 in this area?  
18  
19 MR. WALTEMYER: I don't have any  
20 science camps per se other than the Andraefsky River  
21 weir there will be a science camp this summer. It's  
22 tentatively planned for the first week of August. We  
23 also have other things, like YRDFA has the fisheries  
24 technician training. That will occur again. So it's  
25 kind of like I try to cooperate with those type of  
26 things for now. My emphasis seems to be going more  
27 towards the projects, like helping with the Andraefsky  
28 River weir and the Marshall test fishery.  
29  
30 MS. GREGORY: My other question is  
31 under the Fisheries Management Program, do you have  
32 young people in there? When you are managing, do you  
33 have people from the local areas, children?  
34  
35 MR. WALTEMYER: In the projects?  
36  
37 MS. GREGORY: Yes.  
38  
39 MR. WALTEMYER: Yes. We hired two  
40 interns out of Marshall for the test fishery program  
41 and then also at the Andraefsky River weir we've hired  
42 two to three interns for that project.  
43  
44 MS. GREGORY: What's the difference  
45 between the Y-K Delta and partnering with people like  
46 in school presentations. You were talking to me  
47 yesterday about going to the local school and talking  
48 for I don't know how long and you mentioned the  
49 children in this area are at least two years behind. I  
50 was concerned about that.

1 MR. WALTEMYER: Well, I would be, too.  
2 I guess maybe to add to that, we had a meeting in  
3 Bethel. It was Martin Leonard with the Kuskokwim  
4 Community College and there were also some  
5 representatives from the school district that were  
6 there and amongst this group we were discussing things  
7 and that sort of came up, if I remember right. I've  
8 heard it in other places like when I'm talking with  
9 people that for kids in this area it tends to be that  
10 when they go to college they tend to be like one to two  
11 years behind say in the math or the science, more the  
12 science areas, and that's something I'm concerned with  
13 also. Because that makes a difficult situation in the  
14 potential for students in this area getting a good jump  
15 start on their college.

16  
17 MS. GREGORY: Under Eva's program, FIS  
18 HM/TEK, you have Lower Kuskokwim non-salmon harvest  
19 survey. Can you elaborate on that?

20  
21 MS. PATTON: That was the proposal  
22 through Office of Subsistence Management that was  
23 reviewed by the Council in the fall meeting. That  
24 project.....

25  
26 MS. GREGORY: What's the proposal and  
27 what's the project?

28  
29 MS. PATTON: It was a proposal and it  
30 was accepted by the Council in the fall and the basis  
31 of the proposal was to work within the communities of  
32 Tuntutuliak, Nunampitsinchak and Eek.  
33 And mostly working through ethnographic surveys and  
34 going out during the harvest of non-salmon,  
35 particularly whitefish, but all other non-salmon  
36 species also that are harvested within the communities  
37 to understand their understanding of those species,  
38 their migratory movements, spawning times, the role  
39 they play in the community for subsistence and harvest  
40 practices.

41  
42 MS. GREGORY: My other question is who  
43 is this doing the oral Yup'ik history, what's her name  
44 again?

45  
46 MS. PATTON: Lou Ann Rank.

47  
48 MS. GREGORY: How long is she going to  
49 be around this area?

50

1 MS. PATTON: She actually lived in  
2 Bethel for 10 years, but then she went up to the  
3 University of Alaska Fairbanks to pursue a Ph.D. in  
4 anthropology. She's already been working on a project  
5 similar to this proposed project within the communities  
6 for several years now. This proposal would be to  
7 continue the work the communities are doing already and  
8 expand on it to do oral history and ethnography on  
9 traditional knowledge of non-salmon species in those  
10 communities as well.

11  
12 MS. GREGORY: Okay. What is your  
13 timeline? Spring is March through June, so are you  
14 compiling information or what?

15  
16 MS. PATTON: This is actually in the  
17 proposal phase. The call for proposals came out in  
18 November of 2005 from OSM, so the pre-proposal was  
19 submitted January 17th. It's being reviewed. There's  
20 a technical review committee and OSM reviews those  
21 pre-proposals and we'll hear back from them this spring  
22 whether it will be moved on to the investigative plan  
23 phase. If you're interested in a copy of that pre-  
24 proposal, I'd be very happy to get you copies of that.  
25 I'd be interested in your feedback on the proposal.

26  
27 MS. GREGORY: My next question is for  
28 your summer plans where you said you're participating  
29 in the ADF&G and Kalskag fishwheel mark chinook. When  
30 are you doing that and how long?

31  
32 MS. PATTON: These projects are managed  
33 by ADF&G and are ongoing through the summer. Most of  
34 them begin mid or end of May and last through  
35 September. So the interns will be working in part on  
36 the projects up on the Kwethluk River and these  
37 projects with ADF&G. So I'll be there both mentoring  
38 the interns and then assisting on those projects, so  
39 I'll be coming and going between those projects and the  
40 high school internship programs. So it's intermittent  
41 through the summer that I'll be working on those.

42  
43 MS. GREGORY: The science camp is being  
44 held where?

45  
46 MS. PATTON: The main science camp is  
47 on the Kwethluk River and that is based as a rafting  
48 camp so that the kids are actually flown into Boundary  
49 Lake and then raft down the river. That's a project  
50 with the Refuge, so I'll be working with Dan Gillikin,

1 who is the fisheries biologist there.

2

3                   So we'll fly into Boundary Lake and  
4 raft down and camp each day and we're doing river  
5 ecology, landscape ecology, watershed ecology, wildlife  
6 ecology as we go down the river, and then we base for a  
7 couple days at the Salmon River Observatory Network  
8 Research Station, which I was talking with Bob about,  
9 and the kids get an opportunity to look at juvenile  
10 fish, minnow trapping and look at aquatic insects and  
11 understand the whole relationship between the rivers  
12 and the uplands there, and then we return back to  
13 Bethel.

14

15                   The other two proposed high school  
16 internships and those are smaller that will occur at  
17 the weir sites and on the rivers around the weirs in  
18 those communities of Goodnews and possibly Tuluksak.  
19 I'm still working on that one.

20

21                   MS. GREGORY: My last comment is when  
22 the first science camp was being held in the Old Niak  
23 complex up there, my husband and I went there along  
24 with my Uncle Phillip and I taught them about the  
25 natural foods and my husband taught them about survival  
26 and he taught them about everything else over there.  
27 That was good because the kids were from all over the  
28 place and they learned to eat off of their back yards.  
29 Some of them didn't know that and it was a good  
30 headstart. Like Mr. Aloysius can come down and talk  
31 about how he was raised up. Those things are very  
32 important for our children.

33

34                   I know about my language and I learn a  
35 lot from other languages. When you know about  
36 yourself, then you're interested in other people.  
37 Maybe not rafting. Rafting is not what we do. It's  
38 the gusak way of playing. When we go hunting, we are  
39 stationary, we have a camp, and if you have a camp just  
40 for that it's good. But right now you guys are kind of  
41 playing, you're measuring things and you're on the go.  
42 I don't know how that could produce results. That's my  
43 comment.

44

45                   If you could include some of the RAC  
46 Members for a one-day visit or the two days before you  
47 end. If you would include us in your projects, we  
48 would support you more. Like if somebody feeds me in  
49 Emmonak, I'll support them more. That's just human  
50 nature. Okay?

1 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mary. And I'll  
2 take you up on it, too, because we do have a couple  
3 days at the end of this trip. And both the Goodnews  
4 and the Tuluksak are stationary. So we would welcome  
5 your help or anybody's help.

6  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

12  
13 MR. ALOYSIUS: I just want to say a  
14 couple things about this partnership program. They're  
15 working and the people are involved, local people are  
16 involved. That's what really makes it successful, I  
17 think. It's not just the bureaucrats and all the other  
18 people. They all have a purpose, an intention to  
19 monitor, to safeguard, preserve and maintain and  
20 hopefully enhance the population of the different  
21 species they're involved with. In the Kuskokwim  
22 InterAgency Fisheries meetings you see that profoundly.

23  
24  
25 In the old days it was this agency and  
26 that agency. They were all doing their own thing and  
27 don't step on my turf. But I give credit to Doug  
28 Mollineau for bringing these people together, saying,  
29 hey, we all have a common interest, let's work  
30 together, and it works. This is what we need. Not  
31 only, you know, the agency people, Federal, State, but  
32 local. When I say local, I mean people of the villages  
33 being involved in the process. That's what makes it  
34 work.

35  
36 I cannot brag enough about this  
37 Partnership and Fisheries Monitoring Program because  
38 it's working because people are involved in it. The  
39 children come home and they can tell how they're doing  
40 and how they're involved and hopefully they'll pursue  
41 an education to be involved later on as a professional.  
42 So I have nothing but praise for this monitoring  
43 program.

44  
45 Thank you.

46  
47 MR. WALTEMYER: Quyana.

48  
49 MS. PATTON: Quyana.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions  
2 from Council. Yeah.

3  
4 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

5  
6 INTERPRETER: I am going to say  
7 something of old again. As we address the issue of  
8 subsistence, traditionally children were included by  
9 hunters and gatherers who traveled by kayak. Our  
10 elders collected most of their food resources during  
11 the summer and this practice the young people were  
12 included. As we caught our fish or harvested our fish,  
13 we taught when they would peak, when they would migrate  
14 because that was our job during the summer as  
15 subsistence food.

16  
17 I would advise you to monitor the  
18 burbot because they are diminishing in our area. They  
19 are changing in proportion. As we traditionally say,  
20 they are going to swim away, this burbot. They will be  
21 spawning I believe soon, at the end of this month.  
22 Their eggs are maturing at this point. Traditionally  
23 we knew when the fish would be close to spawning and  
24 would be migrating to spawn, and we always had our fish  
25 traps as we traveled and we knew when they would peak  
26 and when that peak would wane.

27  
28 Hunters/gatherers have taught this to  
29 our children. When the hunter/gatherer reaches a point  
30 where they can't do it themselves, the children would  
31 eventually take over, so that was our practice  
32 traditionally. In my home, that is still alive among  
33 the young people hunting and gathering.

34  
35 When the herring arrive in the spring,  
36 we harvest them when they are not as fat because  
37 traditionally we don't take them when they are fat or  
38 have a lot of fat content because they don't dry as  
39 well. We harvest them when they are at the right  
40 consistency as far as oil content so that they will be  
41 able to dry in the spring. They all don't dry and we  
42 take those that do not dry and split them. The ones  
43 that are split are more able to dry as a subsistence  
44 resource. Although we may not think we are educating  
45 them on this resource and how to harvest and take care  
46 of it, we are doing the same because this is what we  
47 have done traditionally.

48  
49 When you talk about our fish and say  
50 they are decreasing in numbers, and the trends, when

1 you talk about fish and fish monitoring, you talk as if  
2 we don't know what's going on. Traditionally, when the  
3 fisherman takes the fish home, it is the woman that  
4 takes care of the fish. So the harvest is not only  
5 done at that point, but by the ones that prepare the  
6 food, who would basically be the woman, that is how the  
7 fish is processed.

8

9                   We eat our fish even if they are a  
10 little bit fermented because that is what we  
11 traditionally eat. We eat fish that are aged and a lot  
12 of fish in a form that you probably would not eat. We  
13 did not squander or play with the fish and that was  
14 part of our value system and it has to be passed on to  
15 our children. When our young ones are learning to  
16 fish, we tell them not to harvest too much and to take  
17 as much as the women can handle and that was what we  
18 were told.

19

20                   When we discuss fish or fisheries  
21 issues, I always think of these things that I have  
22 witnessed and seen and learned. We did not play or  
23 negotiate the fish we caught and that is the way the  
24 fish are in the rivers including the Yukon. When the  
25 fish was not taken commercially or was regulated on the  
26 rivers, we took as much as we needed to last through  
27 the winter. This I wanted to share with you because we  
28 do know how fish travel, how they migrate and  
29 escapement on the rivers and we knew them year by year  
30 and we harvested this resource to last the winter  
31 before the commercial fishery or the regulation of the  
32 salmon.

33

34                   At times we would run out when we had  
35 no other foods that was our resource. We ate  
36 everything we had and ate everything with our bows at  
37 meals and nothing was wasted. Some days we may go  
38 hungry. When we told our mothers we were hungry, they  
39 would say meal time is coming soon, just wait. We did  
40 not consume anything in between, but we ate  
41 collectively. And when resources were limited,  
42 particularly in the spring when food was running out,  
43 food was rationed and not plentiful and we had little  
44 to consume. Our people would eat real food from the  
45 land.

46

47                   I'm passing this down. As far as  
48 fisheries, when I hear about monitoring and research on  
49 the fisheries, this is a source of income for the other  
50 side and I just wanted to share this with you. Fish

1 was closely taken care of, their bones that was not  
2 edible was not thrown aside, they were buried and that  
3 is how I witnessed my parents and that was a part of my  
4 subsistence lifestyle. Today, with the arrival and the  
5 assimilation of the white society to our traditional  
6 system, we seem to have more food, more to eat. But we  
7 elders that are still around cannot eat anything --  
8 those of us that grew up with our traditional foods  
9 from the land and the water, we cannot eat white man's  
10 food. Our grandchildren are shifting towards eating  
11 other foods that we did not traditionally consume.

12  
13 It was a traditional rule not to play  
14 with fish and to respect it. That is what I want to  
15 share with you.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana. Any more  
18 questions for Dave or Eva.

19  
20 (No comments)

21  
22 MS. PATTON: I have a couple flyers  
23 that have information and contact numbers about the  
24 camps and internships also, so I can leave those at the  
25 table for you.

26  
27 Thank you. Quyana.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on our agenda,  
30 the results of the Federal Subsistence Board Actions  
31 (805(c) letter) on 2005 Fisheries Proposals.

32  
33 MR. A. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 For your information, some of the documents that we're  
35 reporting to you, like the Board actions on fisheries  
36 proposals, we completed some of these documents too  
37 late to include into your booklet and also some of  
38 these we completed them with barely enough time to  
39 bring them to your attention. So, Mr. Chair and the  
40 Members of the Council, a copy of this is being sent to  
41 you from our office through the mail. It's up to you  
42 whether or not you want me to go ahead and read it into  
43 the record. It's about four or five pages.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

46  
47 MR. A. NICK: The cover letter is  
48 addressed to Harry Wilde, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta  
49 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, Post Office Box  
50 32226, Mountain Village, Alaska.

1 Dear Mr. Wilde: Enclosed with this  
2 letter is a report of the Federal Subsistence Board's  
3 actions at the January 10 through 13, 2006 meeting  
4 regarding proposed changes to the subsistence fisheries  
5 regulations. The Board used a consent agenda on those  
6 proposals where the Council, the InterAgency Staff  
7 Committee, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
8 were in agreement. The Board adopted the consent  
9 agenda at the conclusion of the meeting. Details of  
10 these actions and the Board's deliberations are  
11 contained in the meeting transcripts. Transcripts are  
12 online at the Office of Subsistence Management website,  
13 alaska.fws.gov and copies may be obtained by calling  
14 our toll free number, 1-800-478-1456.

15  
16 The Federal Subsistence Board  
17 appreciates the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence  
18 Regional Advisory Council's active involvement in and  
19 diligence with the regulatory process. The ten  
20 Regional Advisory Councils continue to be the  
21 foundation of the Federal Subsistence Program, and the  
22 stewardship shown by the Regional Advisory Council  
23 chairs and their representatives at the Board meeting  
24 was noteworthy.

25  
26 If you have any questions regarding the  
27 summary of the Board's actions, please contact your  
28 Regional Council Coordinator, Alex Nick, at 800-621-  
29 5804 or 907-543-1037. Sincerely, Mitch Demientieff,  
30 Chair, Federal Subsistence Board. And copies were sent  
31 to Y-K Council, YK Team, Division Chief and FACA  
32 coordinator. This letter is dated February 14, 2006.

33  
34 I'll just go through very briefly with  
35 your permission the actions. These are the actions of  
36 the Federal Subsistence Board during their meeting.  
37 Statewide Proposal FP06-01 was asked to permit the sale  
38 of handicrafts made by rural Alaskans from the  
39 nonedible byproducts of subsistence-harvested fish or  
40 shellfish, which was submitted by the U.S. Fish and  
41 Wildlife Service.

42  
43 Council recommendation/justification is  
44 the following: Southeast Alaska Council supported the  
45 proposal. The Council found that the proposal would  
46 benefit subsistence users by recognizing existing  
47 practices which use fish parts in regalia and in  
48 handicrafts; both of which are traditionally sold in  
49 Southeast Alaska. No changes in fish harvest are  
50 anticipated, there is no conservation concern

1 associated with this proposal, and no effects on non-  
2 subsistence users are likely to take place.

3  
4 Southcentral Alaska supported the  
5 proposal. The Council supported the proposal to allow  
6 the sale of handicrafts made from nonedible byproducts  
7 of subsistence harvested fish or shellfish. The  
8 Council recognized that the proposal will provide for  
9 existing practices and will allow the same  
10 opportunities to subsistence users under Federal  
11 regulations which the State is proposing under State  
12 regulations.

13  
14 Kodiak/Aleutians supported the  
15 proposal. The Council stated that this is a  
16 traditional practice. This will allow full utilization  
17 of a subsistence resource.

18  
19 Bristol Bay Council supported the  
20 proposal. The Council stated that there were no  
21 conservation concerns for freshwater fish or salmon.  
22 The proposal would allow current customary and  
23 traditional practices to continue and these values  
24 would be passed onto generations after. And, lastly,  
25 the Council didn't feel there would be wanton waste of  
26 freshwater fish and salmon, because residents wouldn't  
27 be exploiting the resources solely for commercial  
28 enterprise.

29  
30 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council supported  
31 the proposal. The Council felt this proposal will  
32 accommodate current practices and help subsistence  
33 users. Local Yup'ik people utilize fish and shellfish  
34 nonedible byproducts for their handicrafts, such as  
35 wallets made of fish skins.

36  
37 Western Interior Alaska Council  
38 supported the proposal. The Council supports the  
39 proposal because traditionally people within the region  
40 made various items out of fish skins, in particular  
41 fish skin boots. Also, with the high price of fuel and  
42 supplies needed for subsistence harvest activities, the  
43 sale of fish handicrafts would help cover those costs.  
44 A recent cultural camp near Nulato taught youth how to  
45 make boots from fish skins.

46  
47 Seward Peninsula Council supported the  
48 proposal with modification to eliminate the words "the  
49 nonedible" and "(including, but not limited to, skin,  
50 shell, fins, and bones)." There are differences

1 statewide about what is considered nonedible. The  
2 Council was not concerned that over-harvest would occur  
3 because handicrafts could only be made from the  
4 byproducts of subsistence-harvested fish.

5  
6 Northwest Arctic supported the  
7 proposal. The Council voted unanimously to support  
8 this proposal.

9  
10 Eastern Interior Alaska Council  
11 supported the proposal. The Council reviewed and  
12 agreed with the Staff analysis.

13  
14 North Slope Advisory Council supported  
15 the proposal. The Council noted that there is some use  
16 of fish byproducts for handicrafts in the North Slope  
17 Region and that this is another way to help some of the  
18 people in the villages to make a living.

19  
20 Board action. Adopt as recommended by  
21 nine of ten Regional Advisory Councils. The  
22 justification for Board action is adoption of the  
23 proposal acknowledges a practice described in ANILCA,  
24 provides the same opportunities to subsistence users  
25 under Federal regulations as the State is proposing  
26 under State regulations, and simplifies regulations.  
27 This Board action will not provide any additional  
28 opportunity for subsistence users (because current  
29 salvage regulations require that the harvest be  
30 primarily for consumption), and is not expected to  
31 result in an increase in fish harvests. This Board  
32 action is not expected to create conservation concerns.

33  
34 For the Yukon-Northern Area, Proposal  
35 FP06-03, the description of the proposal is begin the  
36 Federal windowed subsistence fishing schedule in the  
37 Yukon River for the harvest of chinook salmon, using  
38 gear greater than six inch stretched-measure, on May  
39 15th. Submitted by the Western Interior Alaska  
40 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

41  
42 The following are Council  
43 recommendations and justifications. Yukon-Kuskokwim  
44 Delta opposed the proposal. The Council felt that this  
45 proposal would impose further restrictions on a  
46 subsistence fishery that is already overregulated. The  
47 windowed fishing schedule has altered traditional  
48 fishing patterns; the use of fish camps has declined  
49 because people cannot afford the gas it takes to go  
50 back and forth, as the present system requires, and

1 processing fish, which requires dry weather, is  
2 difficult and sometimes impossible when the weather is  
3 bad during a windowed opening.

4  
5                   Western Interior Alaska Council acted  
6 to table the proposal. The justification is this.  
7 With the current salmon fish returns for 2005, this  
8 proposal is moot. However, in future years, when the  
9 river is clear of ice early in the season, this would  
10 result in an inequitable situation for subsistence  
11 fishers across the drainage by having the windowed  
12 fishing schedule implemented later than May 15. The  
13 Council felt a table motion would keep the issue of  
14 equitable opportunity and conservation burden alive.

15  
16                   Eastern Interior Alaska took no action  
17 on the proposal. The Council reviewed the Staff  
18 analysis and heard comments from ADF&G. The Council  
19 was aware that the proponent (Western Interior Alaska  
20 Regional Advisory Council) had tabled this proposal.  
21 The Council commented that fishers all along the Yukon  
22 River need to work together on these issues.

23  
24                   The Board action is as follows:  
25 Reject, as recommended by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta  
26 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. The Board's  
27 justification is the Board rejected this proposal  
28 because the current fishing schedule is a result of a  
29 coordinated effort by users and government bodies to  
30 rebuild depressed salmon stocks and is for the long-  
31 term benefit of all users. Additionally, in-season  
32 managers already have the authority to modify the  
33 schedule when run strength is adequate to allow  
34 additional harvest or restrict it when run strength is  
35 weak enough to warrant a restriction.

36  
37                   Proposal FP06-04. Description of the  
38 proposal is for the Yukon River drainage, all gillnets  
39 with greater than six-inch stretch mesh may not be more  
40 than 35 meshes in depth. This applies to both  
41 subsistence and commercial fishing gillnets. Submitted  
42 by the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional  
43 Advisory Council.

44  
45                   Council recommendations and  
46 justifications. Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council opposed  
47 the proposal. The Council felt that if this proposal  
48 were adopted it would further interfere with the  
49 subsistence salmon fishing in the lower Yukon River and  
50 unnecessarily restrict lower Yukon River subsistence

1 users. The Council pointed out that it has not been  
2 proven that deeper nets catch a significantly higher  
3 number of females than males. The Council also stated  
4 that the depth of the channels in the lower Yukon River  
5 usually exceeds 60-70 feet. Adoption of this proposal  
6 would force some subsistence salmon fishers to relocate  
7 to shallower areas.

8  
9 Western Interior Alaska Council opposed  
10 the proposal. The Council is very concerned about the  
11 decline in the size and age of the returning salmon.  
12 Council members reported good returns of salmon this  
13 year as far as number of fish, but they are not seeing  
14 the large fish in the quantities they did in the past.  
15 The Council felt the decline of age and size of fish is  
16 due to the commercial fishing. The Council directed a  
17 letter be sent to the State and Federal agencies  
18 managing the fisheries sharing the Council's  
19 frustration with the lack of action to resolve the  
20 decline in the age and size of the returning salmon  
21 that are important to Yukon River subsistence fishers.

22  
23 Eastern Interior Alaska Council  
24 supported the proposal. The Council, the proponent of  
25 this proposal, believes that 1) the larger chinook  
26 salmon are being targeted in the Yukon River gillnet  
27 fishery, 2) there are fewer large fish in the Yukon  
28 River chinook salmon runs than in the past, and 3)  
29 there are continuing, long-term, detrimental genetic  
30 impacts on the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks as a  
31 result of the size-selective, large mesh gillnet  
32 fishing practices. The Council pointed out that there  
33 are a number of research studies on size-selective  
34 fishing that document these impacts. The Council  
35 believes that a restriction in the mesh depth of  
36 gillnets is a first step in the conservation of large  
37 Yukon River chinook salmon for present and future  
38 generations of Alaskans. Traditional ecological  
39 knowledge interview of upper river fishes have  
40 consistently reported a definite decline in the size of  
41 chinook salmon.

42  
43 Board action. Reject, as recommended  
44 by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Western Interior  
45 Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, but  
46 contrary to the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence  
47 Regional Advisory Council's recommendation. The  
48 Board's justification is this proposal would be an  
49 unnecessary restriction on subsistence users.  
50

1 Kuskokwim area, Proposal FP06-05.  
2 Description is change the current Kuskokwim District  
3 Federal subsistence fishing regulations to align  
4 Federal and State regulations for subsistence closure  
5 periods before, during, and after State commercial  
6 fishing periods. Submitted by the U.S. Fish and  
7 Wildlife Service Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

8  
9 Council recommendations and  
10 justifications. Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council  
11 supported the proposal. The Council felt that this  
12 proposal would afford more opportunity for subsistence  
13 fishing, make in-season management easier by aligning  
14 Federal and State regulations, and lessen in-season  
15 fisheries issues.

16  
17 Western Interior Alaska Council  
18 supported the proposal. The Council supports providing  
19 increased flexibility of in-season management that  
20 results in a timely response to subsistence needs.

21  
22 Board action is adopt, as recommended  
23 by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Western Interior  
24 Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council's  
25 recommendations. The Board's justification is the  
26 Board adopted the proposal through the consent agenda.  
27 Mr. Chair.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Mary.

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

32  
33 INTERPRETER: The definition of  
34 Kuskokwim, what is the timeline for the closure before,  
35 during and after a commercial opening? Somebody from  
36 Fish and Game.

37  
38 MR. ALOYSIUS: Basically what it is is  
39 that there's a closure before commercial fishing,  
40 during commercial fishing and a time after commercial  
41 fishing periods ends. They wanted to align with what  
42 the State is practicing because the Feds have a  
43 different time period, so they want to make sure they  
44 align with each other.

45  
46 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair. Tom can  
47 assist in this. Remember they were explaining to you  
48 last October when the analysis was presented. That was  
49 explained to you last October 14 and 15 in Bethel.

50

1 MS. GREGORY: We need to be reminded.  
2 I need to be reminded.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tom.

5  
6 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Mary. I think  
7 Mr. Aloysius hit the nail on the head. This particular  
8 regulation was originally in place in State regulations  
9 and the intent was to keep subsistence fish from being  
10 sold in the commercial market, therefore the  
11 restrictions before, during and after the commercial  
12 fishery. Again, the Department made a change, the  
13 State made a change and the intent of the proposal was  
14 to align with the State. So it was an alignment  
15 proposal.

16  
17 Thank you. Mr. Chair.

18  
19 MS. GREGORY: I'm talking about the  
20 times or the duration, like 16 hours before, and how  
21 long that commercial fishing period is, and six hours  
22 after. I need numbers.

23  
24 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair, Mary. I should  
25 remember, but I do not. My memory is not that good.  
26 I'll have to get those numbers for you.

27  
28 Thank you. Mr. Chair.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

31  
32 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

35  
36 MR. ALOYSIUS: Page 1 of the report  
37 here I find it very unusual that the Yukon-Kuskokwim  
38 Delta supported this Council based on the fact that  
39 local Yup'ik people utilize fish and shellfish  
40 nonedible byproducts for their handicrafts, such as  
41 wallets made of fish skins. That's the first time I've  
42 ever heard of Yup'ik people around here using fish  
43 skins to make wallets. I know they do in Southeast  
44 Alaska. And I never heard it in our deliberations of  
45 this proposal.

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

48  
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

50

1 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, Robert.  
2 That may have come from a time when Scammon Bay had a  
3 little business down there where they made wallets and  
4 trinket bags and stuff like that out of fish skin.  
5 That was a small business in Scammon Bay that existed  
6 some years back. I don't know if it still exists  
7 today.

8  
9 While I'm at this, I want to mention  
10 the fact that Quipak (ph), the organization from here  
11 in Emmonak, sent over their board members during the  
12 deliberations of the Subsistence Board and they helped  
13 a lot in watching these proposals and making sure they  
14 supported the proposals. I wanted to make sure they're  
15 recognized because they were there in force to make  
16 sure that the proposals that affected our region were  
17 put into the category that they are now, either  
18 accepted or opposed.

19  
20 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair. Alex Nick for  
21 the record. This is the report which replaced 805(c)  
22 letter which used to be sent to the Council. This is a  
23 new format that we're using this year. Tom can correct  
24 me if I'm incorrect. They are using a new format to  
25 report back to you on the Board actions on the  
26 proposals you deliberated last meeting.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

29  
30 INTERPRETER: Regulations that are  
31 going to be enforced this summer, this was a report of  
32 the actions at the Federal Subsistence Board meeting,  
33 which was fisheries, in January. We were opposed to  
34 some Interior proposals and when we do that, they in  
35 turn may not be in favor of our proposals, even though  
36 we do not go against. We are grateful for the actions  
37 of the Federal Subsistence Board for working on  
38 proposals for our subsistence use or for commercial or  
39 issues that will be of commercial gain and I just  
40 wanted to make those comments.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tom.

43  
44 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Alex had a copy  
45 of the proposal book for Proposal 05 to answer Mary's  
46 question, but she isn't here now.

47  
48 MS. GREGORY: I'm here.

49  
50 MR. KRON: You're here. Very good. I

1 was worried. The proposal, the change that was made  
2 was to allow the scheduling of the openings and  
3 closures under special action by the in-season manager,  
4 who is Mike Rearden. The language for Kuskokwim  
5 districts 1 and 2, the 16 hours before, during and six  
6 hours after was struck from the regulations. So now,  
7 basically, it will be the in-season manager that makes  
8 the call in cooperation with the State. So we do not  
9 have the specific words for Districts 1 and 2.

10

11 MS. GREGORY: So we do not know at this  
12 point is what you're saying.

13

14 MR. KRON: It will be up to the in-  
15 season manager. Mike will coordinate with the State  
16 and they will make the announcement.

17

18 Thank you. Mr. Chair. Mary.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. If there's  
21 no more questions from Council, we'll continue our  
22 agenda, call for fisheries proposals. Alex Nick.

23

24

25 MR. A. NICK: Call for fisheries  
26 proposals opened on January 4 and it will be open from  
27 January 4 through Friday, March 24, 2006 to change  
28 Federal regulations for the subsistence harvest of fish  
29 and shellfish on Federal public lands. The proposed  
30 changes are for the 2007-2008 regulatory year, which  
31 will be in effect from April 1, 2007 through March 31,  
32 2008. I made just a few copies of the proposal form if  
33 anybody wants to grab one. Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So for making  
36 proposals for fisheries those forms are available.

37

38 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair. Yes. I think  
39 these were sent to all the villages from our office in  
40 Anchorage, so each village should have a copy of this.

41

42 MR. L. WILDE: For the public's  
43 information, if you can't find them, get a hold of one  
44 of your Council Members. We've all got a copy of that,  
45 too.

46

47 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

50

1 MS. GREGORY: I move that we recess for  
2 dinner.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: How long will it take  
5 your annual report? Make it a few minutes because  
6 we're going to have an evening session tonight. We  
7 want to make sure Council has something to eat so  
8 they're not hungry tonight. It's going to be a long  
9 meeting tonight.

10  
11 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair. Alex Nick for  
12 the record. Based on the topics that you gave me in  
13 October meeting, I've struggled with this document,  
14 working with a couple Council Members from Bethel, but  
15 I really didn't get any edits from Greg Roczicka and  
16 Beverly Hoffman, who was available to assist. This is  
17 your annual report, so it will be written the way you  
18 want it. So how long it takes will depend on you. Mr.  
19 Chair.

20  
21 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

24  
25 MS. GREGORY: Alex, can you send us a  
26 draft of that so we can look at it.

27  
28 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair, Mary. I'm  
29 sorry. I failed to let you know that in your folder  
30 there is a draft copy that I gave you yesterday of the  
31 annual report.

32  
33 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. Based on  
34 that information, I move that we recess.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're going to have a  
37 recess now. Tonight, for evening session, we will  
38 start at 7:00 o'clock until 10:00. We should just  
39 about finish this meeting almost.

40  
41 MS. GREGORY: We might.

42  
43 (Off record)

44  
45 (On record)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tonight we go to the  
48 last page, number 12, agency/organization reports.

49  
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: It's the 2005 annual

1 report.

2

3 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair. What I  
4 pointed out to you was it's up to the Council where you  
5 want to begin. This is probably going to take a while,  
6 2005 annual report. It will take at least a half hour  
7 or more.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead and start  
10 then.

11

12 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.

15

16 MR. HOELSCHER: Since this is a draft,  
17 do we need to review it before it's sent to the Federal  
18 Subsistence Board?

19

20 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair. To respond to  
21 Mr. Hoelscher's question, the draft needs to be  
22 reviewed by the Council. It's drafted based on the  
23 topics the Council gave the Staff to work from in  
24 October meeting. This is a rough draft.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are you going to do it  
27 word for word?

28

29 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair. In order for  
30 the Council to make sure it's what you want, it needs  
31 to be reviewed by the Council and make necessary  
32 changes. I noticed there's a few things that I  
33 switched around that I need to put in order. Mr.  
34 Chair.

35

36 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

39

40 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

41

42 INTERPRETER: Is there a deadline to  
43 turning in this annual report to the Federal  
44 Subsistence Board?

45

46 MR. A. NICK: It needs to be submitted  
47 to the Board this winter, if possible, after this  
48 meeting.

49

50 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

1 INTERPRETER: I would like to take this  
2 home to read it. We can always call Alex if we have  
3 any concerns. And to include the Board actions that  
4 they had recommended. Having not read this draft  
5 report, I would like to take time to read this.  
6  
7 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.  
10  
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: Point of order. This is  
12 for the 2005 annual report. We're in 2006.  
13  
14 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.  
17  
18 MR. A. NICK: There are options the  
19 Council could take. This needs to go in after this  
20 meeting. Other Councils will be submitting their  
21 annual report. You have options to read and make  
22 comments on this document. My suggestion would be  
23 sleep on it and come back in the morning and then give  
24 us suggestions if you want to make changes on it.  
25  
26 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.  
29  
30 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)  
31  
32 INTERPRETER: I like the idea of taking  
33 this home and reading it and bringing it back tomorrow.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What is the desire of  
36 the Council? We're going to meet tomorrow morning  
37 anyway.  
38  
39 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.  
42  
43 MR. HOELSCHER: The reason why I ask, I  
44 know it's the Council's work from the previous year and  
45 since this is a draft, I'm wondering if it's an action  
46 item or not for approval by the Council before it's  
47 submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board.  
48  
49 (Pause)  
50

1 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.  
4  
5 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr.  
6 Chairman. I'll make a motion to table 2005 annual  
7 report to tomorrow morning.  
8  
9 MS. GREGORY: I second the motion.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion to  
12 table until tomorrow morning.  
13  
14 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.  
17  
18 MR. L. WILDE: Could you give me a good  
19 reason why we should defer it to tomorrow morning when  
20 we have all the time in the world for it tonight?  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It's up to you guys.  
23 If you want to do it tonight, go ahead.  
24  
25 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.  
28  
29 MR. HOELSCHER: If the consensus of the  
30 Council wants to go ahead and do it now, I'll withdraw  
31 my motion. It's up to you guys.  
32  
33 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.  
36  
37 MR. ALOYSIUS: I think it would be  
38 appropriate if Alex would read the report and give us  
39 time overnight to review it ourselves and then we can  
40 act on it tomorrow.  
41  
42 MR. L. WILDE: That sounds like a  
43 reasonable idea.  
44  
45 MR. HOELSCHER: I'll withdraw my  
46 motion.  
47  
48 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, I'll relent.  
49  
50 MR. BROWN: I agree with Bob.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Alex.

2

3 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chairman. For the  
4 record, my name is Alex Nick. I'm Council coordinator  
5 for Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory  
6 Council. For your information, Mr. Chair, like I  
7 mentioned earlier, the draft annual report, the topics  
8 were taken from the suggested topics given to the Staff  
9 at your October 13-14, 2005 meeting in Bethel.

10

11 Like I mentioned earlier, this is a  
12 very rough draft because the topics we tried to work  
13 from, it was very difficult to put into a very good  
14 document. What I did was I attempted to work with  
15 Council Members like Bev Hoffman and Greg Roczicka and  
16 also my supervisor, Don Rivard. I also contacted  
17 Lester Wilde if he wanted to kind of assist us to  
18 compile a draft annual report, but correct me if I'm  
19 wrong, Lester, because of his busy schedules he could  
20 not find time to do that.

21

22 So what myself and other Staff tried to  
23 put together at least part of the topics that were  
24 given to us as issues. Those are suggested issues that  
25 were taken from suggested topics. Like I mentioned  
26 earlier, I noticed in the document that there are some  
27 corrections that I need to make on the document. With  
28 your permission, what I will do, like Bob suggested,  
29 read this document into the record. Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead and  
32 start reading.

33

34 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair. The document  
35 is addressed to Mitch Demientieff, Chair, Federal  
36 Subsistence Board, c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
37 Office of Subsistence Management, 3601 C Street, Suite  
38 1030, Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199.

39

40 It reads Dear Mr. Demientieff: The  
41 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory  
42 Council hereby submits its FY 2005 Annual Report, as  
43 required under Section .805(a)(3)(D) of the Alaska  
44 National Interests Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of  
45 December 2, 1980. The Council understands and supports  
46 the importance of addressing fish and wildlife resource  
47 topics annually, expessing its concerns, and addressing  
48 long-term planning needs that are not addressed through  
49 the regulatory cycles throughout the year. The Council  
50 looks forward to your continued guidance and support on

1 the topics listed below.

2

3

4 The harvest of fish and wildlife  
5 resources continues to be the single most important  
6 need for all rural residents of the Yukon-Kuskokwim  
7 Delta for survival and economic dependence. With the  
8 continuing drastic governmental budget cuts that rural  
9 Alaska areas are facing these days, resulting in  
10 financial drawbacks of rural economic support and  
11 adverse effects on local economies, dependence on fish  
12 and wildlife resources for food is even more important  
13 and vital to the residents of Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.  
14 There is a growing need for hunting and fishing to  
15 supplement harvesting food for personal and family  
16 needs. The seemingly ever-changing regulations play a  
17 big part in restricting harvests of fish and wildlife  
18 within the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, when it is most  
19 needed for food and clothing.

20

21 The Council has participated in the  
22 deliberations on topics and has recommended regulatory  
23 changes for managing the fish and wildlife resources.  
24 The Council is very much aware of how these regulatory  
25 changes impact the Delta residents' subsistence  
26 activities. Because of its duties and  
27 responsibilities, as set forth by its updated Regional  
28 Council Operating Manual, the Council carefully weighs  
29 all concerns that are expressed by subsistence  
30 stakeholders and other user groups when making its  
31 recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board.

32

33 The Council appreciates this  
34 opportunity to submit its Fiscal Year 2005 Annual  
35 Report. The following are the regional resource  
36 concerns of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence  
37 Regional Advisory Council.

38

39 Issue No. 1. Potential Impacts of  
40 Donlin Creek Mining Operation near Crooked Creek.

41

42 The Council heard verbal reports on  
43 plans to begin Donlin Creek Mine explorations and  
44 mining operations from representatives of the Calista  
45 Corporation, an ANCSA Regional Corporation for the  
46 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, and Placer Dome, one of the  
47 world's well known gold mining companies working  
48 currently in partnership with Calista Corporation on  
49 mineral explorations. The Council heard and learned  
50 from the representatives of Calista Corporation and  
Placer Dome that potential threats to the environment

1 and its fish and wildlife subsistence resources on land  
2 and watersheds down river from Donlin Creek are  
3 unlikely to occur.

4  
5                   According to reports and updates heard  
6 both at its meeting on October 14 and 15, 2004 and at  
7 its meeting on October 13 and 14, 2005, there could be  
8 some potential impacts that could occur affecting the  
9 environment and fishery resources, wildlife and  
10 wildlife habitats in the future. The Council became  
11 concerned about future potential impacts on subsistence  
12 resources that could result from the current and future  
13 mineral explorations, and mineral mining operations  
14 that could bring unwanted adverse impacts on the  
15 subsistence resources. After lengthy discussions about  
16 potential impacts and their questions answered  
17 regarding possible impacts of mineral mining  
18 operations, Council arrived at the following  
19 recommendation.

20  
21                   Recommended Action on Issue No. 1. The  
22 Council recommends that the Federal Subsistence Board  
23 seriously consider the potential impacts on the  
24 subsistence fish and wildlife resources before the  
25 impacts occur. The FSB must require its Staff to  
26 conduct a study of potential impacts on subsistence  
27 resources from the contaminants and pollutants that are  
28 currently used by mineral mining operations. Any  
29 potential pollution and contamination resulting from  
30 the chemical and contaminant products used by mining  
31 operations are known to be hazardous to wildlife and  
32 fishery resources' health and their habitats.

33  
34                   When research on the potential impacts  
35 begins, the FSB must include any other potential  
36 effects on the subsistence resources, including the  
37 edible plants and berries important for human  
38 consumption. Water quality and quantity must not be  
39 left out of the study, because water quality and  
40 quantity is one of the important purposes of the Yukon  
41 Delta National Wildlife Refuge, a Federal conservation  
42 unit located within the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta  
43 subsistence region. The Council recommends that the  
44 FSB exercise its authority under Section .812 of ANILCA  
45 to undertake this recommendation and conduct research  
46 on fish and wildlife resources.

47  
48                   In order to protect subsistence  
49 resources from potential effects by any other future  
50 contaminations and pollutions on the land and in the

1 Kuskokwim River, a study on the watershed downriver  
2 from any other mineral mining operations is a must. The  
3 Council further requests that research results be made  
4 available to all tribal governments, ANCSA village  
5 corporations, agencies, organizations and other  
6 interested user groups when research on the impacts of  
7 the mineral mining operations is completed in a draft  
8 stage.

9  
10 Issue No. 2: Potential Impacts of  
11 Increased Barge Traffic on the Kuskokwim River. The  
12 Council also heard reports from the representatives of  
13 the Calista Corporation and Placer Dome that gold  
14 exploration in Donlin Creek near Crooked Creek is  
15 promising, in terms of gold mine operations in the near  
16 future. According to Placer Dome representatives, when  
17 the gold mine is operational, it will require increased  
18 supplies and equipment. An increased barge services to  
19 transport supplies and equipment is estimated to be at  
20 least two barges traveling in the Kuskokwim River per  
21 day. The wake of each fully-loaded barge is  
22 tremendous, and has previously caused some erosion  
23 problems in parts of the Kuskokwim River. River  
24 erosions could create new sandbars and new channels in  
25 the Kuskokwim River in just one summer season.  
26 Subsistence salmon gillnet fishing sites could be  
27 totally eliminated in some areas by these changing  
28 sandbars and channels. Subsistence set gillnet salmon  
29 fishing will be adversely impacted by this change.  
30 This could have an adverse impact on the subsistence  
31 salmon fishery, which is especially important to low  
32 income families.

33  
34 Recommended action on Issue No. 2. The  
35 Council recommends that the Federal Subsistence Board  
36 work very closely with appropriate agencies and  
37 organization staff to work toward prevention of the  
38 river bank erosion, and make an attempt to protect  
39 possible future impacts on the fish spawning streams,  
40 creeks, lakes throughout the Kuskokwim River drainage.

41  
42 Issue No. 3, Life Cycles of Salmon  
43 Species. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and  
44 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fisheries managers  
45 currently lack accurate data on the life cycles of  
46 salmon and freshwater species within spawning streams  
47 and creeks in Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. It is important  
48 to have sufficient data on fish life cycles for the  
49 purpose of management and decision making processes.  
50 The Federal Subsistence Board must become fully aware

1 of the life cycles and population levels of salmon and  
2 non-salmon, including rainbow trout, lake trout, other  
3 important subsistence fish species within the Yukon-  
4 Kuskokwim Delta Region.

5  
6 In the past, the Council was directed  
7 to obtain this much needed information from the  
8 conservation unit (the National Wildlife Refuge?),  
9 which apparently did not have sufficient data to  
10 satisfy the Council's request for information on  
11 important subsistence freshwater fishery resources in  
12 the region. The Alaska National Interest Lands  
13 Conservation Act of 1980, Title VIII Policy in Section  
14 802 states it is hereby declared to be the policy of  
15 Congress that:

16  
17 (1) Consistent with sound management  
18 principles, and the conservation of healthy population  
19 of fish and wildlife, the utilization of the public  
20 lands in Alaska is to cause least adverse impact  
21 possible on rural residents who depend upon subsistence  
22 uses of the resources of such lands; consistent with  
23 management of fish and wildlife in accordance with  
24 recognized scientific principles and the purposes for  
25 each unit established, designated, or expanded by or  
26 pursuant to the titles II or VII of this Act, the  
27 purpose of this title is to provide the opportunity for  
28 rural residents engaged in a subsistence way of life to  
29 do so;

30  
31 The Council is concerned about the  
32 unmet conservation unit obligations as mentioned above;  
33 that is, to manage for healthy populations of fish and  
34 wildlife resources, and to provide rural residents the  
35 opportunity to be engaged in fisheries management for  
36 salmon, rainbow, trout, lake trout and other freshwater  
37 species, without adverse impacts on subsistence uses.

38  
39 Currently there is insufficient data on  
40 fisheries to support some of the Federal Subsistence  
41 Board's actions that have been inconsistent with some  
42 important Council recommendations to the Board. In the  
43 future, the absence of appropriate data could lead to  
44 adverse impacts on subsistence uses and potentially  
45 lead toward compliance with ANILCA Section 804.

46  
47 Recommended Action on Issue No. 3. The  
48 Council recommends that the Board use its authority  
49 granted by the Secretary of the Interior and ANILCA  
50 Title VIII to support the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region

1 and make funds available for much needed fisheries life  
2 cycle studies and data collection, most likely by the  
3 Yukon Delta National Wildlife. This request could  
4 possibly be done in cooperation between the Yukon Delta  
5 National Wildlife Refuge and FIS, with funds made  
6 available through the Office of Subsistence Management.

7  
8                   Issue No. 4, Restoration of Non-Salmon  
9 Streams. The Council became concerned about problems  
10 with abandoned beaver dams, some of which are dated to  
11 approximately 50 years ago, in salmon spawning streams  
12 and lakes within the Delta. Beaver dams trap some  
13 small fish species after the water recedes. When food  
14 for small fish trapped behind abandoned beaver dams are  
15 depleted, those fish species die off. Beaver dams also  
16 cause damages to very important subsistence harvest  
17 sites, such as fyke (taluyaq) fishing sites in the  
18 early fall, winter, and early spring, including  
19 furbearer trapping sites for mink, muskrat, beaver, and  
20 land otter. The affected streams, lakes and watersheds  
21 are also important for non-salmon spawning and  
22 survival; fishery resources upon which indigenous  
23 people depend for their diet and nourishment.

24  
25                   Recommended action on Issue No. 4. The  
26 Council recommends that the Board fund salmon and non-  
27 salmon stream restoration projects to remove unwanted  
28 abandoned beaver dams.

29  
30                   Issue No. 5, Stipends versus Per Diem.  
31 Council members are volunteers and not salaried  
32 employees of the government agencies. The Council makes  
33 recommendations to the Board for its actions on  
34 regulatory policies and other important changes to some  
35 government rules. Each Council member receives a great  
36 number of government documents to review. And, in some  
37 cases, it becomes necessary for Council members to  
38 complete the paperwork that is usually a large task,  
39 and return the completed documents with their  
40 signatures. Council receives meeting booklets and  
41 other information to review before their scheduled  
42 meetings. Reviewing paperwork takes away a lot of  
43 Council member's personal time without any compensation  
44 from the government.

45  
46                   When Council members are appointed,  
47 they immediately begin to provide their voluntary  
48 services to the Federal and State governments, a year-  
49 round task. It is understood by the Council that no  
50 matter what the Council requests there will not be any

1 changes in the government policies on per diem versus  
2 payments of stipends for Council meeting attendance.  
3 The majority of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional  
4 Advisory Council participates in other voluntary  
5 services as well, such as serving on the Board of  
6 Directors for other agencies and organizations.

7  
8 Alaska is a very unique area. Living  
9 in rural villages and communities is even more unique  
10 than living in Alaska's urbanized areas. The cost of  
11 living in rural areas is quite high. The Council  
12 participates in Council meetings, Federal Subsistence  
13 Board meetings, and other meetings and they willingly  
14 sacrifice much needed earnings for the benefit of the  
15 government agencies. In recognition of the rural  
16 area's uniqueness and high cost of living, some of the  
17 agencies and organizations Council members participates  
18 in pay stipends instead of per diem while they attend  
19 meetings. Some organizations do better by paying both  
20 per diem and stipends for attending meetings.

21  
22 Recommended Action on Issue No. 5. The  
23 Council recommends to the Federal Subsistence Board  
24 that the government policies relating to per diem  
25 versus stipends be reviewed and that Council members be  
26 paid stipends to offset extra expenses that Council  
27 members incur while attending Council meetings. We ask  
28 that this request be very seriously considered.

29  
30 Summary of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta  
31 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Actions and  
32 Involvement in 2005. The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta  
33 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council met twice in FY  
34 2005; on October 14-15, 2004 in Bethel; on February 23-  
35 24, 2005 in Toksook Bay. A brief summary of Council's  
36 actions for FY2005 are as follows:

37  
38 October 14-15, 2004 in Bethel. Among  
39 the actions taken during this meeting, the Council made  
40 its recommendation on the Federal statewide, regional  
41 and crossover fisheries regulatory change proposals.

42  
43 February 23-24, 2005 in Toksook Bay.  
44 The Council reviewed and made its recommendations on  
45 FY2005 wildlife regulatory change proposals, policies  
46 and heard agency reports and updates from the agency  
47 staff. Council also heard updates on the Statewide  
48 Rural Determinations.

49  
50 Council members were involved in other

1 fish and wildlife management meetings and workshops  
2 throughout the fiscal year. The Regional Council,  
3 along with representatives from other Regional  
4 Councils, also heard, reviewed, and made  
5 recommendations on the in-season management fisheries  
6 updates for the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers.

7  
8 Thank you for the continued opportunity  
9 to assist the Federal Subsistence Management Program in  
10 meeting its obligations to protect subsistence uses of  
11 fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands.  
12 The Regional Council looks forward to continued  
13 discussions about the issues and concerns of  
14 subsistence stakeholders of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta  
15 region. If you have any questions about this annual  
16 report, please contact Alex Nick, Regional Council  
17 Coordinator at 907-543-1037. Sincerely, Harry O.  
18 Wilde, Sr. Chair, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence  
19 Regional Advisory Council. And copies of this letter  
20 will go to Tom Boyd, Don Rivard and Yukon-Kuskokwim  
21 Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

22  
23 Mr. Chair, that's the extent of the  
24 draft. I tried very hard to put in black and white the  
25 wishes of the Council and because I did not have enough  
26 data from your transcript on a couple other issues  
27 that's supposed to have been included, I think one of  
28 them is what Mary Gregory recommended. I could not  
29 write it as an issue. Also a recommendation on the  
30 Federal Board's action because when I reviewed the  
31 transcripts, the transcripts did not tell me enough to  
32 work on an issue for those two. Mr. Chair.

33  
34 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

35  
36 INTERPRETER: Mary is thanking him  
37 anyway.

38  
39 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair. For Council's  
40 information, I tried to work on what you wanted as a  
41 topic. Maybe Bob Aloysius might have kind of  
42 recognized an issue that was brought up and also Bev  
43 Hoffman and others were also bringing up topics that  
44 could be included in the annual report. This is  
45 roughly drafted. It could be edited or revised as you  
46 wish. Mr. Chair.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Now we can take it  
49 home until tomorrow morning.

50

1 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.  
4  
5 MR. L. WILDE: if there are any other  
6 issues that he forgot that we might think of overnight,  
7 it would be a good idea to sleep on it tonight.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Then tomorrow we  
10 could look at it more and then approve it.  
11  
12 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.  
15  
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: I suggest that we review  
17 this document tonight and act on it tomorrow.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, review tonight  
20 and pass it tomorrow.  
21  
22 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair. For those of  
23 you who are very good writers, I'm sure most of you  
24 could write very good, I would suggest that you write  
25 down your suggested changes and additions and I'll make  
26 sure they're incorporated into the annual report.  
27 Quyana, Mr. Chair.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana. Okay. Then  
30 we'll go to number 12, Agency/Organization Reports. A)  
31 Office of Subsistence Management.  
32  
33 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tom. Go ahead.  
36  
37 MR. KRON: There are a number of items  
38 under A. A number of these are informational items. I  
39 can go through them very, very quickly and then kind of  
40 focus on the ones that are action items if you wish.  
41  
42 The first item on the list is review of  
43 rural determinations briefing. This issue has been  
44 before you at a number of prior meetings. There's work  
45 being done to develop information for a number of the  
46 groupings listed there on Page 112 and 113 currently.  
47 It's expected that this analysis will be completed this  
48 summer. The Councils will be asked for a  
49 recommendation on a proposed rule regarding rural  
50 determinations during the fall 2006 meeting. So this

1 coming fall this issue will be back before you, but we  
2 wanted to let you know where we are on it right now.  
3 The Board met on it in December and that generated the  
4 list you have here and they asked for additional work  
5 to be done. So that work is occurring right now.

6

7 If there are no questions I can move on  
8 to the next one.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

11

12 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

15

16 MR. ALOYSIUS: I didn't understand what  
17 he was saying. What do you want to do with this rural  
18 determination? Do you want to skip through it, let us  
19 look at it or what? I didn't understand what you were  
20 getting at.

21

22 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Aloysius.  
23 The rural determinations briefing is informational for  
24 you. There's no action required at this time, but we  
25 wanted to provide you with an update of what the status  
26 is currently. There's an analysis being done on the  
27 various groupings you see there in the bold underlined  
28 categories on those two pages.

29

30 MS. GREGORY: 112.

31

32 MR. KRON: 112 and 113. Again, there  
33 will be information provided to you at your fall  
34 meeting and at that point it will be an action item  
35 because the Board will be meeting to make a decision in  
36 this coming December.

37

38 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

39

40 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Would you like  
41 me to move on to the closure review policy, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

44

45 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. The closure  
46 review policy begins on Page 114. There's a draft  
47 overview there and then the draft policy on Page 115.  
48 Council comments on the draft policy are being  
49 requested. We're asking if you have any comments that  
50 you provide them either at this meeting or provide them

1 to the Federal Subsistence Board through OSM by April  
2 1st. So sometime here in the next month and a half. I  
3 will briefly go through what the policy is about.

4  
5 I'm going to look at sections beginning  
6 on Page 115. The intent is to provide some direction  
7 and structure for the Board with how to address various  
8 closures throughout the state. This policy provides  
9 guidance for future Board decisions regarding closures  
10 on Federal public lands and waters so that closures to  
11 hunting, trapping and fishing opportunities are  
12 consistent with  
13 ANILCA and other Federal laws. The policy establishes  
14 procedures for reviewing closures in consideration of  
15 input from Regional Advisory Councils, the State of  
16 Alaska, and the public prior to adoption by the Board.

17  
18 The Board s adoption of closures to  
19 hunting, trapping and fishing opportunities for both  
20 Federally qualified rural and nonrural residents will  
21 generally be limited to the following. When necessary  
22 for the conservation of healthy populations of fish and  
23 wildlife or when it's necessary for the continuation of  
24 subsistence uses of such populations. For public  
25 safety, for example, or for administration during  
26 military activity, for example.

27  
28 Some processes that this policy would  
29 establish would be a review process. All closures to  
30 non-Federally qualified users and closures to Federally  
31 qualified users implemented for conservation reasons or  
32 to continue subsistence uses shall be reviewed every  
33 three years. Because populations change, conditions  
34 change, the intent would be to revisit the various  
35 closures that are in place across the state on a  
36 regular basis.

37  
38 The closures would be reviewed with the  
39 Councils. You would be notified of the situation and  
40 have an opportunity to comment and make  
41 recommendations, as would other interest groups.  
42 Again, that's the draft policy. This is the first time  
43 you've seen it, but we're asking for input. The intent  
44 was to try to provide some structure for the Federal  
45 Subsistence Board to address the closures. Again, I  
46 think a big part of this is to systematically look at  
47 each of these closures to remind ourselves that we need  
48 to look at them because conditions do change.

49  
50 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 I'd be happy to receive any comments.  
2 You could make them verbally. Everything is going on  
3 the record here. We could take them that way or if  
4 you'd like to do a letter or if you'd like to write and  
5 provide comments after this meeting but before April  
6 1st you could do that as well.

7  
8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Does Council have  
11 questions or comments for Tom.

12  
13 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chair.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.

16  
17 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr.  
18 Chairman. Those comments will be forwarded to you or  
19 Alex will take care of those?

20  
21 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Basically we  
22 would need to get the comments to the Federal Board.  
23 This policy is going to ultimately be adopted by the  
24 Board as part of their procedures, but you could  
25 provide them to Alex or me or you could just say them  
26 right now because they'll be on the record or you could  
27 write them down in a letter and send them later.

28  
29 Thank you.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Say your name and who  
32 you represent.

33  
34 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
35 Timothy Andrew, director of wildlife resources for  
36 AVCP. I just have a couple questions regarding the  
37 process. What type of criteria would you be using to  
38 close for non-Federally qualified users?

39  
40 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. The criteria  
41 are quite specific in both ANILCA and the regulations.  
42 The primary driving forces are whether or not there's a  
43 concern about the resource or a concern that  
44 subsistence needs aren't being met, for example.  
45 Again, I think essentially any consideration of that  
46 issue would be based on what's in the law and ANILCA is  
47 the foundation of that.

48  
49 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. If I may  
50 continue a question.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tim.  
2  
3 MR. ANDREW: Thank you. I was  
4 wondering what the instrument of proposing closures or  
5 coming out of closures would be. Would it be through a  
6 special action request or would it be done through the  
7 regular proposal cycle?  
8  
9 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. It's been  
10 done via both of those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
11  
12 MR. ANDREW: One final question if I  
13 may. What are the gauges to determine significant  
14 levels of displacement?  
15  
16 MR. KRON: Any time I hear the word  
17 significant I can see the lawyers getting interested in  
18 this, so I guess probably what you have to do is look  
19 at prior situations and then gauge the significance of  
20 the current proposed action compared with what  
21 generated action in prior events, but I don't have a  
22 good answer for that question.  
23  
24 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
25  
26 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
27  
28 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary Gregory.  
31  
32 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)  
33  
34 INTERPRETER: Like the previous,  
35 through Alex, I could add comments after reviewing this  
36 closure policy.  
37  
38 MR. KRON: Yes.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: How about other  
41 Council.  
42  
43 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.  
46  
47 MR. ALOYSIUS: It's frustrating for me.  
48 I got the document end of last week and I never had a  
49 chance to review what this policy is. It doesn't make  
50 a bit of sense to me. It talks about right here on

1 Page 120 area of closure Unit 18, Moose 1991, rural  
2 residents of Unit 18 and Upper Kalskag. Closed except  
3 by rural Alaska residents. What does that mean? Some  
4 of the wording is confusing.

5  
6 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tom.

9  
10 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, I apologize  
11 for the confusing wording. I didn't write it. I think  
12 what Mr. Aloysius was looking at there on Page 120,  
13 Unit 18, the Y-K Delta area, we're talking about the  
14 moose closure that was addressed earlier in the  
15 meeting. Essentially it's closed, Federal public lands  
16 are closed to folks unless they are rural residents of  
17 Unit 18. The people that are in the customary and  
18 traditional use determination. This is one closure,  
19 for example, within this region but there are closures  
20 across the state. Some of these were adopted  
21 originally from State regulations. Some have been  
22 implemented by the Federal program. It was felt that  
23 it was important to lay all the information out about  
24 this in the document. All 10 Councils are looking at  
25 it. We thought for people to review and comment on the  
26 policy it made sense for them to understand where these  
27 closures are. Again, I apologize for the wording.

28  
29 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I don't really  
32 understand this.

33  
34 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, the draft  
35 policy that's on Page 115 through 118, that's what  
36 we're asking for your input on. The Federal Board is  
37 very careful about asking for input from the Councils  
38 and direction from the Councils before it does  
39 anything, I think as you well know. Basically they  
40 feel like they need to develop a policy and a schedule  
41 for reviewing closures and re-examining them every so  
42 often in a process that is open and people understand.  
43 It's an administrative-related thing, but we wanted to  
44 get input from the Councils before a decision was made  
45 by the Board.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

48  
49 MS. GREGORY: What's the timeline?

50

1 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Mary. The  
2 timeline for comments, you can make them between now  
3 and April 1st. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: April 1st.  
6  
7 MR. KRON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Nick.  
10  
11 MR. TUCKER: Just a question, a policy  
12 as opposed to regulations, does it require say public  
13 testimony or can we just email you comments.  
14  
15 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Anyone can  
16 submit comments on the process. Basically the Board is  
17 feeling like it needs to provide some structure for  
18 review of the closures. So you can send your comments  
19 in.  
20  
21 Thank you.  
22  
23 MR. TUCKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
24 The only reason I ask is I need to have a little  
25 stronger language to protect the subsistence users in  
26 some areas. I'll do it over the internet or something.  
27  
28 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Number  
31 three, Subsistence Use Amounts Protocol Briefing,  
32 Warren Eastland.  
33  
34 MR. EASTLAND: Yes, Mr. Chairman.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.  
37  
38 MR. EASTLAND: My name is Warren  
39 Eastland. I'm the wildlife biologist for the Alaska  
40 Region of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I'm also the  
41 InterAgency Staff Committee member for wildlife for the  
42 BIA to the Federal Substance Board. I'd like to give  
43 you a briefing on the protocol that's being reached  
44 between the Office of Subsistence Management and the  
45 State Department of Fish and Game. It deals with  
46 subsistence use amounts. The State Department of Fish  
47 and Game uses the term amounts necessary for  
48 subsistence or ANS and the Federal system uses the term  
49 subsistence use amounts, so the two at this stage of  
50 the game are interchangeable. These two things, ANS

1 and SUA, refer to the amounts of fish stock or wildlife  
2 populations that subsistence users harvest for  
3 subsistence purposes. They are the amount of  
4 harvestable surplus to which the State feels that  
5 subsistence users have first and priority call.

6  
7 This protocol is a document that  
8 provides guidance to State and Federal managers for  
9 coordinating subsistence management. It's done in the  
10 spirit of cooperation with the Department of Fish and  
11 Game, the Federal Subsistence Program.

12  
13 The purpose of this protocol is to  
14 develop a process for considering the amounts that are  
15 harvested for subsistence uses and have a quantifiable  
16 amount to know whether or not the Federal system is  
17 providing sufficient opportunity for subsistence uses.  
18 The important thing about this protocol that I really  
19 wish to emphasize above all, this is not a cap. It is  
20 not a limit. It is not a quota. These subsistence use  
21 amounts are to be used in developing analyses and  
22 responses to proposals, but certainly they are not ever  
23 considered as caps.

24  
25 Currently the State has developed and  
26 holds in their regulations some ANS amounts. For  
27 example, we have been talking about moose in Unit 18.  
28 The State has in their regulation the subsistence use  
29 amounts of 80 to 100 moose for Unit 18. If you  
30 disagree with these amounts, there is a process for  
31 changing the ANS/SUA. You can put in a proposal and  
32 the data will be gathered and the ANS will be analyzed  
33 and then adjusted as the Federal program sees fit.

34  
35 There are certain key points about this  
36 protocol. Using the steps that are outlined in the  
37 protocol and they're defined in the written briefing in  
38 your manual, the Federal program will recognize and use  
39 State ANS findings in the development and  
40 implementation of subsistence harvest regulations. ANS  
41 findings during the analysis of any proposal, either  
42 fisheries or wildlife, will be presented and will be  
43 evaluated in those proposals as applicable.  
44 Subsistence use amounts findings  
45 may be developed and used if the Federal program  
46 determines that an ANS finding is not an accurate  
47 representation of contemporary subsistence harvests.

48  
49 In short, the way that the Federal  
50 program would determine that the ANS amount is not an

1 accurate reflection is if proposals come in to change  
2 those amounts. That would be an indicator that the  
3 users do not believe that those amounts are proper.  
4 When developing subsistence use amounts, the Federal  
5 program will consider ANS findings, the recommendations  
6 of the Regional Advisory Councils and additional  
7 subsistence harvest information.

8

9                   With that, I think I'll stop and pass  
10 it over to the State for their part of the briefing.

11

12                   Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

13

14                   MR. HILSINGER: Mr. Chairman, my name  
15 is John Hilsinger and I'm on the State side of the  
16 Subsistence Liaison Team. I would just add to what  
17 Warren said. These ANS amounts and SUA determinations  
18 are really just a tool to help ensure that the  
19 regulations and the managers do what they need to do in  
20 order to ensure that the subsistence priority is  
21 provided. That priority, as you know, is included in  
22 both State law and Federal law. So that's really the  
23 main purpose of these amounts.

24

25                   The protocol recognizes that these ANS  
26 amounts may not be perfect. If you look at the draft  
27 protocol on Page 143, it starts on Page 142 and talks  
28 about amounts necessary for subsistence in State  
29 management. At the top of 143, that first bullet,  
30 explains that State Boards evaluate, and may change or  
31 adopt, ANS findings in State regulation in response  
32 to proposals submitted by Regional Advisory Councils,  
33 Fish and Game Advisory Committees, agencies, and the  
34 public. So that's the process by which these numbers  
35 can be reviewed and altered.

36

37                   As Warren mentioned in that third  
38 bullet just below there it talks about the Federal  
39 program, if they make an assessment that the ANS  
40 finding is not an accurate representation of  
41 subsistence harvest for a particular stock, they may  
42 develop an alternative subsistence use amount.

43

44                   The final thing I wanted to point out  
45 was the use of this protocol in developing and  
46 prioritizing research. On Page 144 at the very top  
47 under the heading developing research priorities, it  
48 says The State boards make ANS findings using the best  
49 available information on subsistence harvests of a  
50 particular fish or wildlife resource in a particular

1 geographic area. This information can vary  
2 considerably in both quality and quantity. The State  
3 boards usually establish a range to reflect the annual  
4 or cyclical variation in harvest levels.

5  
6 As you get more data and more reliable  
7 data, you'll have a better basis on which to base your  
8 ANS. Since some ANS findings are based on recent  
9 studies and based on very solid data, they may be very  
10 good representations of the subsistence use, but others  
11 may be based on older data or less complete data, so  
12 the protocol recognizes the need that some ANS amounts  
13 may need to be reviewed and there may need to be  
14 research done in order to collect good information to  
15 base that on. Concern by Regional Advisory Councils  
16 and Fish and Game Advisory Committees is one of the  
17 criteria for prioritizing research into ANS.

18  
19 Thank you. That's all I have.

20  
21 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

24  
25 MR. L. WILDE: Where did the State get  
26 these numbers that they're using for customary and  
27 traditional use of game populations?

28  
29 MR. HILSINGER: Mr. Chairman.

30  
31 MR. L. WILDE: Like for what you  
32 mentioned, Unit 18 for moose. According to this piece  
33 of paper, the amounts necessary for subsistence in Unit  
34 18 for moose is 80 to 100 and that is asinine as far as  
35 I'm concerned. Are all the figures in this necessary  
36 for subsistence amounts, are they as ancient as that  
37 number you have for moose? How have you come to  
38 determine the fact that this is a necessary amount.

39  
40 MR. HILSINGER: Mr. Chairman, Mr.  
41 Wilde. I'm a fish guy, so I'm a lot more familiar with  
42 the ANS's for fish than I am with wildlife, but I know  
43 that the Subsistence Division of the Department of Fish  
44 and Game does community surveys and collects that data  
45 and they do it as they have the money and the time to  
46 do it. So I think some of the numbers probably are  
47 recent and based on real solid data. I can't answer  
48 the question with regard in particular to Unit 18 moose  
49 and when those numbers came up or what the background  
50 on them is. I think that there's enough concern that

1 that may be one that the Regional Council wants to  
2 recommend that they be reviewed.

3

4 MR. L. WILDE: I think there's probably  
5 more than one in here as far as this document is  
6 concerned because 80 to 100 moose in Unit 18 with the  
7 amount of people we have, I think it's way off.  
8 Because of that number, it kind of makes me wonder  
9 about the accuracy of these other numbers that are in  
10 here. Are we going to have to live with these numbers?  
11 If all of these are wrong, do you know how many  
12 proposals that's going to be?

13

14 MR. HILSINGER: Mr. Chairman, Mr.  
15 Wilde. I think you could probably do that all in one  
16 proposal. Just so you're clear, I think Alex Nick  
17 passed these out. These are not all of the ANS amounts  
18 for the entire state. These are the ones that we put  
19 out for the Y-K Delta, the Western Interior and the  
20 Eastern Interior RAC's. If anybody wants to see the  
21 packet for the entire state, I have copies of that.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: As far as I know, this  
24 is garbage to me. When you guys get into subsistence,  
25 always be subsistence always under of any reports even.  
26 I'm getting fed up. All these years subsistence is  
27 used as an example for nothing. We can't even go out  
28 on our own allotment where I've been hunting all our  
29 lives. Like this paper stuff that comes in, can't even  
30 burn for starting firewood because it's nothing but  
31 garbage in it.

32

33 MR. L. WILDE: This protocol briefing,  
34 that is what is being used right now is what you're  
35 saying as far as the amounts that are necessary or  
36 what's written as amounts necessary for subsistence, is  
37 that what's being used today in determining whatever  
38 this is used to determine.

39

40 MR. EASTLAND: Mr. Wilde, through the  
41 Chair. Currently the Federal program is not using  
42 these numbers. This is a protocol that is under  
43 development between the Federal program and the State.  
44 Once the protocol is signed by the participants, then  
45 these numbers will be considered in the analyses of  
46 proposals for fish and wildlife action.

47

48 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. How did  
49 Fish and Wildlife come up with these numbers in the  
50 first place, or Fish and Game?

1 MR. EASTLAND: I'm going to let John  
2 handle that primarily because it is a State issue.  
3 These numbers were developed by the State through the  
4 use of door-to-door surveys, household surveys,  
5 community surveys and other data and then were  
6 incorporated into State regulation. They are not in  
7 Federal regulation and they will not be in Federal  
8 regulation. The protocol specifically states that they  
9 will not be incorporated into Federal regulation, but  
10 that we will merely use them as a tool to assist us in  
11 analyzing proposals. The protocol goes further in  
12 saying that if the various entities involved in the  
13 Federal program don't like the tool, proposals will be  
14 submitted to change the tool and then we will develop  
15 subsistence use amounts which differ from the State and  
16 the Federal system will explain why they differ and why  
17 they are using the SUA's rather than the State's  
18 amounts necessary for subsistence.

19  
20 Sir, for a more detailed answer about  
21 how those numbers are developed, I'm going to leave  
22 that to John. It is a State issue.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. We have  
27 to make absolutely sure that the numbers that we use  
28 for Federal subsistence amounts are a lot more closer  
29 than what is -- I don't trust this piece of paper in  
30 front of me. I don't trust the numbers because of that  
31 one instance. We've got to make sure that the numbers  
32 are a lot closer even if we have to do another survey  
33 from door to door in each of the villages that are  
34 affected by subsistence in this area.

35  
36 Thank you.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council, you do have  
39 some more comments or questions to Tom.

40  
41 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.

44  
45 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr.  
46 Chairman. This is based on customary and traditional  
47 uses. Is that aligned with the Federal open season or  
48 is it just based on your customary and traditional uses  
49 on your State portion?

50

1 MR. HILSINGER: Mr. Chairman, Mr.  
2 Hoelscher. These numbers would be based on the  
3 historical data, so it's likely they're based on  
4 whatever the State seasons were over that historical  
5 time period. That may be one reason why numbers change  
6 over time if the seasons have been altered.

7  
8 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

11  
12 MS. GREGORY: Besides door-to-door  
13 information gathering, how do you gather, for instance,  
14 moose taken for subsistence?

15  
16 MR. HILSINGER: Mr. Chairman, Ms.  
17 Gregory. In some areas they do door-to-door surveys  
18 and some areas there's mail-out surveys and they're  
19 usually voluntary type of reporting. As I said, I'm  
20 more familiar with fish where we do house-to-house  
21 surveys, we do mail-outs, we do catch calendars. We  
22 have a whole variety of methods and I assume they do  
23 the same sorts of things with moose, but I'm not  
24 specifically familiar with how Subsistence Division  
25 gains those moose numbers and Game Division.

26  
27 MS. GREGORY: How do you collect those  
28 moose harvests? Do you ever use those? I think you  
29 shouldn't be reporting on moose then if you don't know  
30 too much about it and somebody who knows about it  
31 should come and tell us so we'll be enlightened rather  
32 than discouraged.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Nick.

35  
36 MR. TUCKER: Hello, John. We meet  
37 again. Mr. Chairman. I just have one question on the  
38 salmon species either to the Federal or State side. Do  
39 these numbers include Canadian uses or just Alaska  
40 subsistence use?

41  
42 MR. HILSINGER: Mr. Chairman, Mr.  
43 Tucker. Those numbers would be only the Alaska  
44 subsistence portion. They would not include Canadian  
45 harvests under their subsistence-type fisheries.

46  
47 MR. TUCKER: I just want to back up Mr.  
48 Lester Wilde. I'm surprised at 80 to 100 moose for  
49 Unit 18. That's way off.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Say your name and  
2 where you're from.

3  
4 MR. HAMILTON: Ted Hamilton from  
5 Emmonak. When I was looking over this one, how much of  
6 a fight do you guys want?

7  
8 MR. L. WILDE: One thing we're going to  
9 be sure of is that nobody starves.

10  
11 MR. HAMILTON: I can tell you right now  
12 as a tribal employee these numbers are not even  
13 working. If that's what we're going to base today the  
14 decisions that this Board made today, it would be  
15 irrelevant. It wouldn't matter. I look at these right  
16 now and I see, oh, do the ANS/SUA findings limit  
17 harvest? They say no right now. All somebody has to  
18 do is come up with a few dollars and the next thing you  
19 know they're going to be closed to us. These are  
20 harvest caps. Whether you guys like to admit it or  
21 not. That's why I ask how much of a fight do you guys  
22 want. These are disappointing to see something like  
23 this that we were reminded before would never happen as  
24 a way to regulate us more.

25  
26 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

29  
30 MR. ALOYSIUS: We need to clarify our  
31 relationship with the Board. We are not the Board and  
32 the information you're looking at was given to us for  
33 the first time, too. So don't get mad at us. If you  
34 want to get mad at the right people, get mad at the  
35 people who are in the top echelon of Fish and Game and  
36 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Office of  
37 Subsistence Management. Don't take it out on us.

38  
39 MR. HAMILTON: I'm not taking it out on  
40 you, sir. This just makes me angry inside, not at the  
41 Board. I want to support you guys. Who comes up with  
42 these numbers? They didn't work with my tribe. I sure  
43 wish they did. We would have provided an accurate  
44 number instead of a guess.

45  
46 Thank you.

47  
48 MR. TUCKER: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.  
49 I missed one thing. Proposal 30 was very immature and  
50 dangerous and giving the numbers 80 to 100 gives a go-

1 ahead for the Federal government to open up 18 and  
2 that's very, very dangerous. So that's why these  
3 numbers are very unreliable.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tim.

8

9 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, MR. Chairman.

10 When I found out what the accurate amounts for  
11 subsistence for Unit 18 were, it kind of scared the  
12 daylights out of me. If we were under the State  
13 management system, our moose populations in the entire  
14 Unit 18 would have to drop below 100 and they'd  
15 initiate a Tier II situation. If the amount needed for  
16 subsistence is that artificially low, how harvestable  
17 surplus is in the thousands in Unit 18. If our entire  
18 Unit 18 amounts needed for subsistence is that low, why  
19 are we having a Kuskokwim River moose moratorium?  
20 There's some pretty serious questions that come out of  
21 the current amounts needed for subsistence.

22

23 It's really scary to see it that low.

24 We don't want moose populations down to 80 to 100  
25 anywhere in the state of Alaska. That would be a  
26 considerable harm to the resource to allow people to  
27 continue hunting until they get to that level and then  
28 you initiate a Tier II. If we were in the State  
29 management system Tier II, everybody qualifies. It is  
30 extremely alarming to see these numbers up here in  
31 front of us. So I'd encourage you to perhaps pursue a  
32 more accurate SUA.

33

34 The other thing that I wanted to say

35 was these amounts needed for subsistence numbers  
36 developed by the State of Alaska were developed some  
37 time ago, in the 1980s. During the 1980s there was  
38 very low moose populations in Unit 18. In fact, they  
39 didn't really have any moose populations at all. They  
40 were extremely low. This is just my assumption, not  
41 fact or anything, but when people went out hunting and  
42 reported with the green report cards, I suspect they  
43 used those numbers to determine the amounts needed for  
44 subsistence. So the entire process needs to be  
45 reviewed.

46

47 I'm not sure if this is the correct

48 political environment to do it with the hostile Board  
49 of Game that we have right now and also with the  
50 current administration that we have. They will more

1 than likely try and keep the amounts needed for  
2 subsistence as low as possible in order that there be  
3 harvestable surplus for other hunters to participate.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

10

11 MR. L. WILDE: I would like to stress  
12 again that these numbers, if the Office of Subsistence  
13 Management is going to be a part of this, I would like  
14 them to go out and get their own figures, not rely on  
15 the figures given to us by the State.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MR. EASTLAND: Mr. Wilde, through the  
20 Chair. I hear your words. I will pass them on.

21

22 MR. ALOYSIUS: At the top of the page  
23 where it says Alaska Board of Game, amount necessary  
24 for subsistence use determinations, it has in  
25 parentheses updated February 2006. It's unbelievable  
26 based on what I've been hearing. The figures were  
27 probably derived in the 1980s and yet the Board of Game  
28 has the audacity to say these figures are updated this  
29 month. How did they do that?

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: They must have a  
32 medicine man somewhere.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

37

38 MR. HILSINGER: Mr. Chairman. I could  
39 just explain that. These ANS amounts go into  
40 regulation and each time the Board meets they may  
41 change a regulation. So when it says that it's updated  
42 through February 2006, it means that the list is of the  
43 current regulations. It doesn't mean that the  
44 individual figures were reviewed with the latest  
45 harvest data through February 2006.

46

47 MR. EASTLAND: Mr. Chairman. Before we  
48 leave here, I would like to state one thing. To the  
49 best of my knowledge, all I've been told throughout the  
50 Federal program, these numbers are not a cap. They are

1 not a quota. They are at best a low level at which  
2 when the harvestable surplus reaches that level it is  
3 an alarm signal that serious management actions need to  
4 be taken. I feel it necessary to say that because of  
5 some comments that were made earlier. I repeat, these  
6 numbers are not a cap.

7  
8 Thank you.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Let me ask you a  
11 question. Is this number we will live with?

12  
13 MR. EASTLAND: I see no reason why you  
14 need to live with these numbers if you disagree with  
15 them. When the cycle opens, submit a proposal to  
16 develop accurate SUA numbers, sir. There is no reason  
17 for you to live with these numbers if you don't agree  
18 with them because there will be a system in place to  
19 replace them with SUA numbers which will hopefully be  
20 more accurate than those ANS numbers that you disagree  
21 with, sir.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The reason I'm saying  
24 this, you know, we should try to support what the  
25 people want and we never hear nothing from people.  
26 Those people behind you should make a recommendation.  
27 They should have an opportunity to tell you instead of  
28 we. We're here as supporters of those people and what  
29 they need.

30  
31 MR. EASTLAND: Thank you, sir.

32  
33 MR. L. WILDE: Before you leave I want  
34 to thank you for bringing up the number of 80 to 100  
35 moose. If it wasn't for you, we wouldn't have noticed  
36 it. Even if a number of us got a little angry, it  
37 wasn't at you. I guess you understand what I'm trying  
38 to say.

39  
40 Thank you for this information.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you.

43  
44 MR. EASTLAND: Thank you, sir.

45  
46 MR. HILSINGER: Thank you.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

49  
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: It reminds me of when I

1 used to go to the Board of Fish meetings as a  
2 representative of the Kuskokwim Fisherman's Co-op.  
3 They were always coming up with these numbers and one  
4 time John White said, well, that's a WAG for you.  
5 Everyone said what the heck was that. To the best of  
6 their knowledge, a wild ass guess.

7  
8 (Laughter)

9  
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

11  
12 MS. GREGORY: I brought some fish down  
13 and some dry fish over there if anybody wants to get a  
14 snack.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All right, let's have  
17 a break then, 10 minutes.

18  
19 (Off record)

20  
21 (On record)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll go back to the  
24 agenda. First I wanted to thank you for the reports. I  
25 may not agree with it but thanks for giving us the  
26 information. So at this time we're on No. 4, marine  
27 jurisdiction briefing, information only, Page 145.

28  
29 Tom.

30  
31 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. This briefing  
32 and the subsequent one we were not planning to give a  
33 detailed presentation, but wanted to provide the  
34 information to you just to update you. The marine  
35 jurisdiction issue has been before you a number of  
36 times over the past couple years. They finally had the  
37 final rule published on this. It was just published in  
38 late December. Basically that issue has come to  
39 closure following the earlier comments and reviews.

40  
41 And then on Page 146 and 147. Tim had  
42 talked about the sampling program for avian influenza.  
43 ADF&G asked us to include this in our books just for  
44 information of the people and the various Regional  
45 Councils and the public. Again, it's information  
46 material and it's my understanding there's going to be  
47 a lot of sampling that's going to occur this spring and  
48 summer. Again, I think Tim might be better prepared to  
49 talk about that than I am.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council, do you have a  
2 question for Tom on marine jurisdiction.

3

4 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

7

8 MS. GREGORY: It's good that you give  
9 us this information so I can read it and if I have any  
10 questions on how they're doing the samples, I can call  
11 either Alex or Mr. Rearden's office?

12

13 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Mary, yes,  
14 feel free to call the Refuge or AVCP or you can call  
15 our office as well. We were just trying to help get  
16 the word out about this. Again, it's my understanding  
17 there's going to be a lot of sampling that's going to  
18 occur this spring.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions to  
21 Tom from Council.

22

23 MR. MANUMIK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My  
24 name is Paul Manumik from Nunam Iqua. I have a concern  
25 concerning this avian flu information. People in my  
26 village, especially the young hunters, are refusing to  
27 hunt this spring because of this flu. It's been in the  
28 news several times and we've seen birds piled up and  
29 being burned up. My concern is this should go out to  
30 the household families. There's a recommendation here  
31 to cook your food at 155 degrees, 165 degrees to kill  
32 the disease. That information should be disseminated  
33 out to the families in the communities because they are  
34 concerned about this avian flu. I wonder what AVCP is  
35 doing or Fish and Game to inform the public about this  
36 flu.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tim.

39

40 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
41 This subject was going to be part of my report to the  
42 Regional Advisory Council, but if it's your pleasure I  
43 can report on the activities that we've been doing on  
44 the avian flu issue at this time.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

47

48 MR. ANDREW: It was earlier this fall  
49 when we heard about the avian flu issue coming into  
50 Alaska or possibly coming into Alaska and spreading in

1 Southeast Asia. Since this past fall avian flu in  
2 poultry and some of the wild birds have spread all the  
3 way into Europe and it sparked quite a bit of concern  
4 on our part because we were afraid of the potential  
5 impacts on our subsistence hunters. So AVCP, at its  
6 convention in October, had drafted a resolution,  
7 adopted a resolution to forward the the Alaska  
8 Federation of Natives for the Native community to get  
9 involved in the research and also the information  
10 dissemination into our villages about the avian flu  
11 issue.

12  
13                   It has been talked about considerably  
14 on the news. CNN has considerable coverage on it. The  
15 Anchorage Daily News also had a few articles on the  
16 avian flu issue. In fear of our subsistence hunters  
17 and perhaps their families, we approached the  
18 Congressional Delegation and tried to get some funding  
19 to participate in research, but it hasn't been  
20 proceeding in the way we'd like to see it go.

21  
22                   There are currently a lot of work being  
23 done by the Migratory Bird Management, Office of the  
24 Fish and Wildlife Service. They are coordinating quite  
25 a bit of research that's supposed to occur out here.  
26 There's like 12 sites that are going to be focused on  
27 and it's primarily between the village of Hooper Bay  
28 down to Kipnuk where they're going to be taking samples  
29 from birds. They're going to be doing a swab sample.  
30 That means taking like a Q-tip and sticking it into the  
31 bird's -- I'm not sure how to say it -- in it's teg and  
32 then cool it immediately and ship it out for analysis.  
33 There's also plans to conduct research activities on  
34 subsistence harvested birds from people that have gone  
35 out to hunt the geese, swans, cranes and ducks and some  
36 of the shorebirds.

37  
38                   We've also asked a lot of questions of  
39 some of the professionals doing the research, some with  
40 Ph.D's behind their names, about the impacts on our  
41 subsistence hunters. A lot of them are coming back  
42 saying the subsistence hunters aren't really that much  
43 in danger but they should be very much aware of the  
44 avian flu. What they recommend is when you're out in  
45 the field  
46 try not to get the blood on you. The avian flu is  
47 primarily within the bodily secretions, that means up  
48 on the nose, mouth and also in the intestinal tract and  
49 where it poops. So just be extremely careful, wear  
50 rubber gloves, don't smoke, don't chew, don't eat or

1 drink anything while you're processing the birds.

2

3                   The other thing they recommend is to  
4 make sure people cook their meat thoroughly because  
5 viruses do not withstand heat very well. That was one  
6 of our concerns because some of the people in the  
7 villages don't like their birds well done. In fact,  
8 one of the practices I've learned about is when people  
9 go out herding waterfowl, when they're done they have  
10 their snack. They stick the bird in the hot water for  
11 a few minutes, take it out and then eat it with seal  
12 oil. Currently that would be an extremely dangerous  
13 practice because we don't know. We don't know if these  
14 birds are carrying the flu or if it's possible for the  
15 flu to be transmitted from the wild bird to humans.

16

17                   Right now most of the infection that's  
18 occurring with bird flu to humans is coming from  
19 domestic poultry, chicken, duck, domestic geese and  
20 primarily occurring in the areas where the domestic  
21 poultry lives with the people. That's why there's such  
22 high instances occurring down in Southeast Asia, some  
23 parts of Europe and Africa as well. So just as a word  
24 of caution that people should just be clean when you're  
25 processing birds. Participate in your regular, normal  
26 hunting activities, but just be extremely careful.

27

28                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30                   MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

31

32                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

33

34                   MR. ALOYSIUS: Tim, I'm a little  
35 confused. You were talking about this video of snow  
36 geese being affected by something and they were carted  
37 off and burned. Can you give me a little insight on  
38 that?

39

40                   MR. ANDREW: That was not very likely  
41 snow geese. I've never heard about a snow geese  
42 infection. Domestic ducks and geese and some domestic  
43 geese are white. There was a pretty good size  
44 infection into swans. On one of the islands the swans  
45 got it and died immediately. There was also a huge  
46 population of geese on western side of China that  
47 contracted the disease and sea gulls as well. They  
48 just died right there. They normally just die within  
49 24 hours or so after contracting the bird flu virus.

50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: So that video was not  
2 really snow geese.

3  
4 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, Bob. No.  
5 As far as I know, there hasn't been any snow geese  
6 infection. In fact, that's one of the species that is  
7 going to be researched this spring and fall.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Paul.

10  
11 MR. MANUMIK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
12 The reason why I'm so concerned about this, our elder  
13 community in the villages, most of them like to cook  
14 their food kind of bloody. They don't cook them  
15 thoroughly. That's why I'm concerned and I want to  
16 keep everybody updated on this issue as much as we can.  
17 Whoever is responsible to disseminate this information  
18 out to the community would be helpful. I know that the  
19 RIT program that the Fish and Wildlife has can be  
20 helpful in that process.

21  
22 I'm also concerned when we had that  
23 AVCP convention in Bethel they showed a little  
24 shorebird that was carrying this flu. Some of the  
25 coastal villages, Newtok, Chefornak, those people hunt  
26 those little shorebirds and eat them. So that's why  
27 I'm concerned and that's a carrier of that disease.

28  
29 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. The  
30 slideshow that we showed showed a potential carrier and  
31 that was the bar-tailed godwit that we showed. At that  
32 time we said this is not a bird that is carrying this  
33 disease at this time, but birds like this, because the  
34 bar-tailed godwit migrates through Asia, they spend  
35 their springs and summers here and then the winters  
36 down in New Zealand. They're also going to be  
37 conducting research in those birds as well. There's  
38 like 40 species they're going to be looking at. I  
39 don't have the list with me, but I have the list at  
40 home. As far as the outreach to villages, the current  
41 strategy right now is to work in units, administrative  
42 units of AVCP. We have 10 units across the AVCP  
43 region. We'd like to try to work within those  
44 different units across a period of time and get  
45 information out.

46  
47 The other thing is the RIT's have gone  
48 through extensive training on the avian flu issue.  
49 They've been briefed about it and they've asked a lot  
50 of questions that they need to ask and get thoroughly

1 versed on the possible issues on avian flu and what  
2 precautions people should take in the villages.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

5

6 MS. GREGORY: Tim, you said they're  
7 going to do that testing to Kipnuk?

8

9 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, from Hooper Bay to  
10 Kipnuk.

11

12 MS. GREGORY: Then why not include the  
13 other Kuskokwim bay villages? They hunt shorebirds and  
14 they hunt a lot of eider ducks and we cook them rare.

15

16 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chair. The reason why  
17 that area was chosen is because there is extremely high  
18 subsistence harvest during spring from that area. A  
19 lot more so than any other village within the AVCP  
20 region. The other reason is because Fish and Wildlife  
21 Service, USGS, University of Alaska have different  
22 camps out there established already. So they don't  
23 want to go out there and establish new camps to test  
24 avian flu.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

27

28 MS. GREGORY: Upriver around Tuluksak,  
29 that area, most of the people use that swan. It's  
30 prevalent up there and geese.

31

32 MR. ANDREW: The subsistence sampling  
33 doesn't necessarily have to be confined to those 12  
34 areas. They can be just about any village that we can  
35 possibly go to to conduct the sampling.

36

37 MS. GREGORY: I think it would be fair  
38 to ask anybody who wants to participate in it. That  
39 would open it up for everybody. Even though you guys  
40 are very busy, you're helping us to keep us healthy in  
41 this area. Ask other villages to see if they want  
42 their birds that they harvested this spring to be  
43 tested.

44

45 MR. ANDREW: Not only us, but  
46 researchers are kind of worried about how people in the  
47 village would take it, but I think if we do the proper  
48 education that we'd be able to not scare the people in  
49 the villages. The people doing the sampling have to  
50 exercise due care and diligence and we have to make

1 sure our employee will be safe. If a researcher or  
2 sampler comes by dressed in white wearing rubber gloves  
3 and hair net and mask, it's not that your birds are  
4 infected, it's that we're taking precautions and  
5 protecting our employees. I know it's very scary to  
6 see someone approaching in that manner, but it's for  
7 their protection and everybody else's as well.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Paul.

10

11 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman. I was told  
12 at the AVCP Convention if a bird acts unnatural, not  
13 scared of hunters, you can kill that bird but save it  
14 for the Fish and Game to do research on that bird  
15 because birds are normally scared of you. If they act  
16 like they're not scared of you, they come to you, you  
17 need to be careful.

18

19 MR. ANDREW: We talked about that  
20 issue. Birds and just about any other wildlife out  
21 there, out in the field, have all kinds of different  
22 diseases that can cause them to be not afraid or act  
23 sick or be sick. What we're really concerned about or  
24 like people to report is a group of dead birds. Make  
25 sure you report it to the Refuge office, Fish and Game  
26 would be interested, I'd be very much interested. Give  
27 me a call at my office.

28

29 There's also in the works to list  
30 several numbers for people to call so they can get some  
31 answers so we can send somebody out and make sure they  
32 get out there and sample those dead birds if somebody  
33 were to report them. If people do encounter a group of  
34 sick birds, it's recommended you don't touch them or  
35 get anywhere near them. Hunt somewhere else and please  
36 report it. We don't have many people out there, so the  
37 hunters are going to be the eyes and ears of anything  
38 that happens in the field, so please report.

39

40 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.

43

44 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr.  
45 Chairman. Tim, under the frequently asked questions,  
46 one of the questions states how could H5N1 arrive in  
47 North America and it states migratory birds,  
48 particularly waterfowl and shorebirds cross the Bering  
49 Sea between Alaska and Asia during their seasonal  
50 cycles of breeding, molting and wintering. You

1 identified four species or is there more species that  
2 are on the list that you would be watching out for?

3

4 MR. ANDREW: There's a total of 40  
5 species on the list, but not all of them cross into  
6 Asia. There's maybe 12 or so that do cross over. Some  
7 of the swans do that and Gaucs definitely do because  
8 they go up to Wrangell Island north of Siberia to nest.  
9 The eiders cross back and forth. They go across to  
10 northern Siberia and come back into Alaska definitely  
11 long tail duck and then of course the small shorebirds  
12 that utilize the Asia-Pacific Flyway that are species  
13 of concern.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions to  
16 Tim.

17

18 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

19

20 INTERPRETER: All winter my wife has  
21 been cooking waterfowl that we have frozen in our  
22 freezers. Sometimes we have shorebirds and I believe  
23 that these birds she shows me which ones they are. At  
24 one time she took out two geese and she said I am not  
25 going to cook this and I asked her why. She said it's  
26 too skinny. I said if it's too thin perhaps it won't  
27 be nourishing and it won't be worthwhile to cook. But  
28 she said she will cook the other because our frozen  
29 waterfowl do include shorebirds. She found two  
30 shorebirds and she said the said thing, this one is  
31 very skinny and I looked at it and it looked very thin  
32 and she said she was not going to cook that. Through  
33 the winter she didn't cook those two birds because they  
34 were very thin with no oil.

35

36 I think of those two birds as you give  
37 this account of avian flu. I'm questioning whether  
38 they should be hunted prior to the research or should  
39 we turn over those that are too thin.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tim.

42

43 MR. ANDREW: To address what Mr. Moses  
44 was concerned about, the two that were thin, it could  
45 have many other factors. Maybe it just didn't get  
46 enough nutrition to get fat, maybe it was caught too  
47 early. I don't know what it might have been. In the  
48 summer of 2005 they tested 12,000 birds and a lot of it  
49 was out here and they didn't find anything as far as  
50 H5N1 or avian flu. They've done tests in the Interior

1 and up on the North Slope area, a total of 10 different  
2 sites across the state, and they didn't find it. There  
3 is no H5N1 avian influenza anywhere in North America  
4 that anybody knows of. So anything that was caught in  
5 2005 during the spring or fall there's really not too  
6 much to worry about. People are extremely concerned it  
7 may arrive in the spring of 2006. That's why there's  
8 so much research and also the outreach into the  
9 villages to educate people.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

12

13 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman, thank you.  
14 One more and I'll back off. Mr. Andrew told us they  
15 are going to do more this coming spring. What I would  
16 like to recommend is that they ask the people that are  
17 out hunting when they bring their game home, when the  
18 women prepare the birds for dinner, if they find  
19 anything unusual inside the belly, white patches or  
20 anything that's unusual that you usually don't see in a  
21 bird when you prepare it for cooking, that bird should  
22 be closed up and frozen and we need to send it out.

23

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Members of the  
25 Council.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Thank you  
28 for the information. Bob.

29

30 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. On Page  
31 146 there's a number to report dead birds. Does AVCP,  
32 your department, have a toll free number or is it  
33 always 1-800-478-3521?

34

35 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, extension 7340.  
36 Sometimes I'm on travel, so the best number to call are  
37 the numbers on this sheet right here. They will answer  
38 questions and tell you what to do, but they're the best  
39 people to call. I may be gone for a week or several  
40 days, but these people will always have people there.

41

42 MR. ALOYSIUS: Another question. Is  
43 the health education department at YKHC involved in  
44 this process of educating people about the avian  
45 influenza?

46

47 MR. ANDREW: YKHC is starting to get  
48 involved. I'm not sure about their health education  
49 department. I know they're involved in the planning  
50 network within the community of Bethel. So is the

1 public health nurses. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2 currently is involved. Fish and Game. They're in the  
3 community to talk about some of the health-related side  
4 of this issue.

5  
6 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.

9  
10 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr.  
11 Chairman. One quick question. This is curiosity and  
12 has nothing to do with avian flu. A while back Fish  
13 and Wildlife was saying lead shot was killing our  
14 birds, et cetera, and they changed all that to steel  
15 shot, so are we having healthier birds now?

16  
17 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. The  
18 Spectacled Eider, as you know, are endangered. One of  
19 the causes of mortality that they've concluded is that  
20 lead shot ingested by any of the birds causes  
21 mortality. So the less lead we have out there, the  
22 more healthier birds we'll have.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex Nick.

25  
26 MR. A. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
27 For the record, I'm Alex Nick, Regional Council  
28 coordinator. I just wanted to update Council that Tim  
29 and I attended a RIT statewide workshop in Bethel. At  
30 the time Deborah Rock I believe was giving an update to  
31 statewide RITs. She was hired as the coordinator for  
32 the Avian Flu Project and she is going to be preparing  
33 a statewide program, I believe, to educate RITs and  
34 have that information disseminated to villages affected  
35 this winter during their RIT program.

36  
37 At the time I shared with the  
38 participants at that workshop that the Regional  
39 Advisory Councils also disseminate information to the  
40 general public on their own when they're at home and I  
41 think I personally would feel if same information is  
42 disseminated to the general public from what Deborah  
43 Rock prepared, that probably would work pretty well for  
44 everyone.

45  
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair

47  
48 MR. ANDREW: If I may, one more thing,  
49 Mr. Chairman. This issue is going to be presented at  
50 the AVCP annual convention, so the villages that are

1 attending will be able to get more information on this  
2 avian flu issue.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Tim.

5

6 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

9

10 MR. L. WILDE: I'd like to move that we  
11 recess until 9:00 or 10:00 o'clock tomorrow.

12

13 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. If we  
14 finish by noon, I'd like to go home because I'm  
15 breaking out again. If we're done in time, the manager  
16 said he can work with us. People who want to go home  
17 can go home tomorrow afternoon.

18

19 MR. HOELSCHER: 9:00 o'clock.

20

21 MR. ALOYSIUS: 9:00 o'clock.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We will now recess  
24 until 9:00 o'clock in the morning. Thank you.

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26 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 94 through 225 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the YUKON-KUSKOWIM DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOL II, taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters on the 24th day of February 2006, in Emmonak, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 9th day of March 2006.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08 \_