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YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Bethel, Alaska
October 3, 2008
9:00 o'clock a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Bethel, Alaska - 10/3/2008)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Alex Nick, did you have any announcements to make before we get started here.

MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Alex Nick, Council coordinator. For those of you, the Council members who are traveling today, I've -- I went out and talked to the front desk, your rooms are prepared through today so if you are going to be checking out of the hotel, you need to check out by noon today. But if you don't make it out make sure you let me know and let the front desk know if you think you won't make it out so we will still guarantee your room at the hotel. But do your part and please let us know whether or not if you think you're going to make it out today so we could work things out with the hotel here.

Mr. Chair, that's all I got.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Alex. Yesterday when we left, we left with Item C.....

MR. ALOYSIUS: D.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm sorry, D. D, uh?

MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Which was Trooper Paul Randall was going to give us a report, is Trooper Randall here.

SERGEANT RANDALL: I'm Paul Randall. I'm a sergeant with the Alaska Wildlife Troopers based here in Bethel. I'm the western region supervisor for the Alaska Wildlife Troopers. I supervise wildlife Troopers in McGrath, Aniak, Bethel, St. Mary's, Nome and Kotzebue. I live here in Bethel.

Before we left yesterday I provided the Council essentially with a fact sheet. Essentially a response to a concern I had from Council member Mr. Roczicka about a moose decoy enforcement program we did

1 on the Upper Kuskokwim a couple weeks ago. I've
2 furnished members of the Council a fact sheet. If
3 you'd like, Mr. Chairman, I can essentially --
4 everything I was going to say is on that. If you'd
5 like I can kind of brief through that. If not, if any
6 time anybody has any questions or certainly at the
7 conclusion, any questions in general about enforcement
8 or enforcement issues, I'll be here all day.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Could you make a brief
11 report and go through that paper you gave us the other
12 day, I'm sorry, I apologize, I didn't even have an
13 opportunity to get around to it.

14
15 SERGEANT RANDALL: Okay. As the Alaska
16 Wildlife Troopers were the State agency that conducts
17 wildlife enforcement, we're not a regulatory agency,
18 we're the enforcement agency, Alaska State Troopers is
19 broken into two branches, the Division of State
20 Troopers and the Division of Wildlife Troopers and I'm
21 in the Division of Wildlife Troopers. We primarily,
22 although we are State Troopers and we have all the same
23 responsibilities as any State Trooper we primarily do
24 wildlife investigations.

25
26 So more specifically looking at the
27 Unit 18 moose closure area along the Kuskokwim River,
28 we are the ones who, within the state, will conduct
29 investigations and enforce that closure.

30
31 In the past, most of our -- almost all
32 of our investigations into illegal take of moose in
33 this closure area have been reactive in nature. For
34 example, we'll either find an illegal kill site or
35 someone will report that kill site, we'll investigate
36 that and we have all the tools of investigation that
37 any police officer has, forensic investigation, bullet
38 fragments, grass, footprints, DNA evidence, we can do
39 all of that. But we can't come to a conclusion on that
40 case until we develop a suspect. In most of the cases
41 those go unsolved. Very few cases we can actually find
42 a suspect and charge them.

43
44 This year we've used an artificial
45 wildlife decoy, which is a little more aggressive
46 enforcement and realizing that might, in some cases,
47 raise some concerns. We did use that decoy in the
48 moratorium are so far this year from 19 to 21
49 September, this past month, and we did ultimately
50 charge two people that were from the village of

1 Tuluksak with attempting to take a moose by shooting at
2 that decoy. Now, included in that handout that I gave
3 you is the excerpt of the press release which is
4 available to any press, the same release that may
5 appear in the newspaper or on the radio. But remember,
6 though, those people are charged and they have not yet
7 been convicted.

8

9 Wildlife enforcement officers
10 throughout the US and including Alaska use artificial
11 wildlife decoys for a variety of reasons. Deer decoys
12 are very popular in parts of the country, especially
13 where hunters will illegally shoot deer at night with
14 the use of spotlights. When we've used the deer decoy
15 in Southeast Alaska where deer are popular, I've used
16 one on Prince of Wales Island before, for that purpose,
17 it's a long hunting season for deer, but people still
18 will hunt them at night and deer are very susceptible
19 to being shined with a spotlight at night. We'll use
20 that along the road system and along beaches where
21 spotlighting is common.

22

23 Other decoys, sometimes small game
24 decoys. In the areas around Soldotna and Fairbanks,
25 especially, some hunters will shoot grouse and
26 ptarmigan off the roadway, which is, of course,
27 dangerous shooting on to a traveled roadway and that's
28 illegal and people are susceptible to shooting at a
29 grouse that's sitting out on the roadway. We've used
30 this moose decoy in the past in the Fairbanks area. At
31 times when moose hunting is closed, especially at
32 night, we'll put a moose replica alongside the road and
33 see if anybody's going to shoot at it. We've taken
34 this same replica and used it here in this past month
35 on the Upper Kuskokwim.

36

37 The Alaska Wildlife Troopers have a
38 written policy in place for the use of artificial
39 wildlife that covers primarily safety, there's a lot of
40 considerations to using this. Controlling the set up
41 site so that no one comes in behind there, maybe camps
42 out without us knowing. Concealment of the decoy, it
43 doesn't do any good if everybody knows about it, no one
44 would possibly succumb to that. Safe location,
45 choosing a location site where if someone shoots at the
46 decoy the shot won't go up and down the river to other
47 boaters, and, of course, a bullet can travel three
48 miles or more, a likely shot at the decoy will not go
49 in the direction of any village. The policy addresses
50 what a decoy must be made of, it must either let a

1 bullet pass through it or absorb the bullet, it can't
2 be something that will deflect a bullet and have it
3 ricochet. The policy addresses adequate enforcement
4 personnel, we do not put these out unmanned. They have
5 to be watched, they have -- we can't put them out and
6 just leave them. Every time a decoy is out,
7 enforcement personnel, other Troopers must be there.
8 Also some decoys, this particular one we have used, is
9 not radio controlled, but decoys are made for law
10 enforcement with radio controlled head and movement,
11 ears, tails, it'll move, for their realism.

12
13 Before we employed this decoy here, we
14 also wrote a written plan specifically addressing the
15 use of this 2008 deployment in the moratorium area.
16 The logistics for employing a moose are different doing
17 it by boat than doing it by truck. It was easy in
18 Fairbanks, it's not so easy here. But we need to find
19 a location where it can be safely set up, where no
20 bullets will pass in an unintended direction. No
21 officers are in any sort of danger of being shot at,
22 but they must be nearby where they can observe it and
23 contact individuals if we can if anybody actually
24 shoots at it.

25
26 We identified an area between --
27 actually identified three potential areas that met that
28 criteria between Tuluksak and Kalskag. Now, we chose
29 that for a couple of reasons. Not to target those
30 villages. Actually in 2007, in that area between those
31 villages we knew of two illegal kill sites, and in 2008
32 one additional illegal kill site in that area. So that
33 area is suspectable for passing boaters who want to
34 essentially illegally take a moose. We knew that there
35 was a history of that. And there were a couple
36 locations that were safe for that.

37
38 Also the reason we put that out during
39 that time, the 19th, 20th, 21st of September, the Unit
40 19A closure is on September 20th. We knew there'd be a
41 lot of boat traffic coming down from up river, in the
42 Aniak area from those hunters who'd been in 19A and
43 would be passing down river, a lot of those people live
44 in Bethel or even further down the river, so there'd be
45 a lot of boat traffic that would the opportunity to see
46 that decoy.

47
48 Those are essentially the targets. A
49 lot of people went up river and spent a lot of money on
50 gasoline and did not get a moose. We thought there may

1 be some, not just a desire to shoot a decoy, but a
2 desire to shoot a moose in the moratorium area on the
3 way home if they had not shot a moose legally in 19A.

4
5 On 19 September seven boats passed that
6 decoy but on the 20th 37 boats went by and on the 21st
7 39 boats went by so a high level of traffic. Of those
8 only 10 boats were going up river, all those others
9 were coming back and, indeed, most of those boats
10 appeared to have been coming from camps in the Aniak
11 area where they were legally hunting. Out of all those
12 boats that passed down river, 20 stopped to look at the
13 moose decoy and out of all those boats, virtually all
14 of them, with a very few exception, they stopped, made
15 some comments, showed their person, oh, look at the
16 moose, maybe took a couple pictures and went on their
17 way, showed no signs of any interest in shooting a
18 moose in the moratorium area. Four of those boats
19 stopped and people raised rifles at that moose and
20 looked like they may wanted to shoot the decoy, they
21 looked it through binoculars, rifle scopes and either
22 decided, no, this is not legal, we can't do this, or
23 decided that looks like a fake moose, let's not shoot
24 it, we're going to get caught, and it is not that
25 realistic looking of a decoy. Out of all those boats,
26 one boat passed by up river with two individuals in it,
27 they did not even stop, fired at that decoy with a .22
28 rim fire and continued moving. Those individuals are
29 the ones ultimately who were charged, they were not
30 contacted at the scene, but from the fact that they
31 were coming up river, thought there was a chance they
32 had -- had come from a nearby village, in this case,
33 Tuluksak, an investigation further proved that it was
34 them.

35
36 What that shows me, actually, although
37 that decoy program is far more aggressive than other
38 enforcement techniques we've used in the past, it shows
39 me, though, out of all those boats that passed by it
40 the vast, the standard of conduct of hunters in this
41 moratorium area is do not shoot a moose. The standard
42 of conduct is that people obey that moratorium and that
43 a very small percentage of people will shoot at a moose
44 under any circumstance. And that was almost the same
45 percentage of people who will commit any other crime as
46 opposed to the percentage of people who are law abiding
47 in general.

48
49 Charging people, I think is another
50 question, okay what can we charge them with if they

1 shoot at a fake moose. Alaska Statute 16.05.940, which
2 is the section of Alaska Statute 16, which addresses
3 definitions, defines taking of game, those two
4 individuals were charged with taking game closed
5 season. Taking is taking, pursuing hunting, fishing,
6 trapping or in any manner disturbing, capturing or
7 killing or attempting to take pursue, hunt, fish, trap
8 or in any manner capture or kill fish and game, so
9 taking game is very broadly defined. And, in fact,
10 that goes to how I could charge someone with hunting
11 without a license if they haven't shot anything yet.
12 If I find someone in the woods with a gun actively
13 looking for game and they haven't bothered to buy a
14 hunting license, I can charge them with that, I don't
15 have to wait until they actually shot something. So
16 that's why that definition is there, and that's how we
17 can charge a person with taking game closed season.
18 They thought they were shooting at a moose. It doesn't
19 matter if it wasn't a real moose, it matters under the
20 law only that it was a decoy, they're attempting to
21 take that game, and that's how they're charged.

22
23 Now, ultimately -- now, these people
24 have just been charged and if I use the decoy again
25 it'll be the same charge, they're not yet convicted.
26 In a conviction with attempting to take game against
27 the decoy is likely to carry less of a penalty than
28 actually taking a moose in the closed season.

29
30 I'm very open to public input on this
31 sort of enforcement technique, but there are people who
32 are taking game in the closed area. In the last five
33 days, just on Church Slough two days ago we butchered
34 out and investigated not five miles from here, where
35 someone, two people, from their footprints, had
36 separated a yearling calf from the cow moose, shot it,
37 killed it with a shotgun and left it in the slough to
38 rot. So there are a small amount of people who will do
39 that. And if all we ever do is play catch up, now I
40 don't have suspects, I have some forensic evidence from
41 that kill, I don't have any suspects yet, if I never
42 develop the suspects, I'll never catch them. This is a
43 more aggressive enforcement technique and there's been
44 a lot of misunderstanding about it and some people say,
45 wow, that's entrapment, I disagree with that but I hope
46 to be able to use this decoy more in the future. If it
47 causes a lot of public uproar I won't. But I think
48 it's a good enforcement technique.

49
50 Mr. Roczicka, does that answer some of

1 the questions that you had about the decoy?

2

3 MR. ROCZICKA: Very well, thank you.
4 As far as those guys in whatever -- whoever did that
5 one in Church Slough up there and just leave it there,
6 I'd say that's worth some public information to go out,
7 the story to go out and actually ask for requests for
8 information from people because there's no excuse for
9 that.

10

11 And as far as -- I did have a couple
12 questions on your decoy situation there. Do you use a
13 cow?

14

15 SERGEANT RANDALL: Say again?

16

17 MR. ROCZICKA: Do you use a cow?

18

19 SERGEANT RANDALL: It is a cow.

20

21 MR. ROCZICKA: It is a cow. And folks
22 also -- the guy that was talking to me about this was
23 wondering if it was -- he said that there was a camera
24 in there too, or he heard that there was a camera?

25

26 SERGEANT RANDALL: No, we had -- we try
27 to get them on a video camera. We had two Troopers and
28 one non-commissioned aide, we have some civilian
29 employees also so we had one to help. So we tried to
30 get this on videotape. I have yet to see the videotape
31 of this, it happened while I was away but there's no
32 automatic camera with it, it'd be nice, but we don't.
33 It kind of comes back to photo radar, it really doesn't
34 do much good to have an unintended camera, we need an
35 officer there.

36

37 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, well, I find it
38 highly encouraging with the numbers that you have there
39 and that is, again, something that would be worth for
40 people to know that these 83 boats went by and the only
41 one that shot at it would actually be subject to even
42 more, I would think some kind of a legal action in that
43 they -- it was a wanton waste, they didn't even stop,
44 and just kept on going, they just shot at it and they
45 shot at it with a .22.

46

47 SERGEANT RANDALL: Right.

48

49 MR. ROCZICKA: If it would have been a
50 real moose it could have walked away and perhaps died,

1 perhaps not, but there was no intention of even
2 salvaging it, it seems like.

3

4 SERGEANT RANDALL: Right.

5

6 MR. ROCZICKA: And that's wasting meat
7 is a cardinal sin for the great vast majority of people
8 in Bush, Alaska.

9

10 SERGEANT RANDALL: And I will.....

11

12 MR. ROCZICKA: So I mean these are the
13 kind of things that people need to know.

14

15 SERGEANT RANDALL: I provide this to
16 the.....

17

18 MR. ROCZICKA: I mean the guy was
19 pretty indignant that brought it to me, what are they
20 trying to do, entrap us here and so forth and people
21 are just out trying to get their meat and so forth.

22

23 SERGEANT RANDALL: I've provided this,
24 so far, to the radio and I'll write a newspaper article
25 for the two Bethel newspapers if they wish to print it.

26

27 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you for that
28 report.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions
31 for Trooper Randall. Harry.

32

33 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. I would like to
34 ask question, maybe use myself for example. If we go
35 -- moose season open and I could have ticket and
36 license and everything and I have one of the man with
37 me, he didn't have no license and he don't have no
38 rifle, this would be in summer camp, and then I -- if I
39 get a moose, I'll ask him to help me to carry it down
40 to the camp, and if the Fish and Game find out what
41 will happen because that man didn't have any -- no kind
42 of license with him, no rifle and -- but helping me
43 carrying meat down to boat.

44

45 SERGEANT RANDALL: That's completely
46 legal, there is no problem with that at all.
47 Especially -- I'm not old yet, but I'm getting older,
48 it's good to bring a teenage boy along to carry the
49 moose, that's the best deal. No, that is completely
50 legal, a person doesn't need a license to help carry a

1 moose.

2

3 MR. H. WILDE: What I am -- if that
4 could be law, it's against the law to help a person
5 that's hunting with other guy without no license and no
6 rifle, that should be written in whatever, because I
7 know a man who got fined that's helping a person,
8 because even he got no rifle, he got no license and
9 carried the meat to the boat, those things people have
10 to know. It's very important if law enforcement's
11 going to fine a person like that, people have to know,
12 make sure that everyone have to have a license because
13 right now these days -- this summer, people aren't very
14 rich, money, they don't have very much money. And I
15 was really kind of disappointed because a person --
16 ever since I came in Yukon River I been hunting all
17 over and up river and around my area down there, I make
18 sure the law is there and I try to follow because it's
19 -- I'm training my boys and my grandchildren how to
20 hunt and make sure that they got something to show for
21 it.

22

23 My brother-in-law last month, he got
24 fined because he didn't have any rifle, he didn't have
25 any license down in the fish camp and my grandson, he
26 had the rifle and license and permit but he got fined,
27 my son-in-law. I was really surprised -- these
28 regulation -- in the regulations, there's nothing
29 written down to helping a person without no license and
30 without no permit, in the regulations book, it didn't
31 say you'll get fined. If it's going to be like that it
32 should be written down in the regulations book because
33 in Mountain Village there in the stores, State and
34 Federal regulations, they're already, and I think it
35 would be good if you're going to have that kind of
36 problem, it need to be -- it's going to be enforced it
37 should be written in the regulation book.

38

39 SERGEANT RANDALL: Well, I agree. I
40 don't understand how someone could have been ticketed
41 or fined for helping carry a moose, that is not against
42 the law, and especially without a rifle, certainly
43 participating in the hunt purely to pack out game meat
44 does not require a hunting license, and I wouldn't
45 attempt to write a citation for that at all. I'm sorry
46 to hear that and I don't really know the circumstances
47 of that.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You done Harry.
4
5 MR. H. WILDE: Yes.
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anybody else, Council.
8 Okay, Paul.
9
10 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman, thank you.
11 And Trooper some years back before the moose moratorium
12 was lifted down in the Lower Yukon River, an incident
13 up in the Devil's Elbow area happened, there was a
14 fellow getting on in age, older than I was, and he
15 brought his four-wheeler along to pack moose out from
16 his kill site, but then the other hunters around him
17 made a big deal out of it and forced him to bring his
18 fourwheeler back home and pack the meat out by hand.
19
20 Now, why, if you watch the Outdoor
21 Channel, you see people going out hunting and packing
22 their meat home with trucks and fourwheelers, is it in
23 their hunting packets that these are covered, now, in
24 the state of Alaska it's different. Alaska you have to
25 do everything by hand practically out in the lower
26 villages, everything that you do out there is tough,
27 and people are not getting any younger but they still
28 love to hunt, like Mr. Wilde there, his friends, his
29 age group, they love to hunt, they won't stop, now why
30 can't these people like Mr. Wilde here bring their
31 fourwheelers out and bring their meat out by
32 fourwheeler from the kill site to the boat, why can't
33 they do that?
34
35 SERGEANT RANDALL: Well, I don't know
36 of any -- there certainly is not a State law, it's very
37 common to use fourwheelers, boats and other motorized
38 conveyances. The only prohibitions generally against
39 using off road vehicles are in some areas of either
40 National Parks or some areas of the Federal Wildlife
41 Refuges which restrict the summer use of off road
42 vehicles to prevent Tundra damage. But under State law
43 there is nothing that says you can't use a fourwheeler
44 or a boat or any other motorized conveyance. It's very
45 common in some areas. A lot of places it's difficult.
46 You get off the Yukon River most places it's hard to
47 use a fourwheeler so it's not that common there, but in
48 other areas it's the only way to carry meat. Out of
49 McGrath there's a big hunt out of Farewell, it's
50 generally a fly in hunt and it's generally either

1 residents from Anchorage area, but they all use
2 fourwheelers because they don't want to carry a moose
3 five miles on their back. There's no State law, other
4 than some areas in State Parks and then some of the
5 Federal lands, which restrict off road vehicle use to
6 prevent damage, and that's usually a summer
7 restriction, once there's snow on the ground it won't
8 hurt the tundra.

9
10 But there's no restriction in State law
11 against using a fourwheeler and it's pretty commonly
12 used. It's possible that area was in some sort of
13 protected area, whether it's part of the Refuge in
14 which case there is nothing illegal about using a
15 fourwheeler. We all use common sense, if it's going to
16 damage an area we don't use it, you know, those do
17 leave tracks for years and years like you've seen in
18 the tundra but just use common sense and use it in an
19 area where it could be used safely and not damage the
20 terrain. There's nothing against using a fourwheeler.

21
22 So, once, again, I don't know the
23 complete circumstances of that but it sounds
24 unfortunate.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions.
27 Robert.

28
29 MR. ALOYSIUS: I just have a general
30 question. Are you open to answering any questions to
31 enforcement?

32
33 SERGEANT RANDALL: Could you say that
34 again, everybody else can hear you but I can't.

35
36 MR. ALOYSIUS: Are you open to any
37 questions related to enforcement other than this decoy?

38
39 SERGEANT RANDALL: Absolutely. At any
40 point during this procedure, if there's questions about
41 State wildlife enforcement.

42
43 MR. ALOYSIUS: Okay. One of the things
44 that our people up river complain about is during the
45 winter hunting times the hunters are harassed by the
46 Troopers. And their question is, why do they do that,
47 and, you know, it's money -- to them it's money just
48 wasted when you should be out there spending time
49 checking on these illegal hunters instead of harassing
50 the legal hunters who are out there trying to get meat

1 in the wintertime for their families, and there's a lot
2 of them that -- better use of time and money for, you
3 know, using aircraft and enforcement law, especially
4 against the head hunters. That's the thing that, you
5 know, they bring out time and time again, don't these
6 guys have anything better to do than to come out and
7 harass during the winter hunting season. And it's -- a
8 lot of times, you know, they say that they're hunting a
9 moose and a plane will scare the moose away and that's
10 not right, you know, and they're really fed up with
11 that.

12
13 SERGEANT RANDALL: Is that a follow up
14 question to his or, answer -- okay. I understand I
15 think what you're saying. Well, part of the answer is
16 we don't have something better to do, that's what we do
17 as wildlife enforcement. Our job is not to harass
18 hunters, though, our job is to make contact with
19 hunters and be out in the field where people are
20 hunting because that's how we can detect violations.

21
22 It's unfortunate if we fly and scare
23 game. All of us out here are pilots and fly Cubs. We
24 have a waiver from the FAA to fly below 500 feet but by
25 policy we don't because I know if people are in the
26 field taking game we don't want to fly that low because
27 it's going to disturb the game and you don't --
28 actually if you get too low you can't see, you can't
29 see the lay of the land, you can't see animals out
30 there. Occasionally we'll see something, go down low
31 to look and not realize that hunters are there also,
32 and that is unintentional. Most -- almost all hunters
33 are law abiding, they've got all their permits, got all
34 their licenses, they know what they're doing, they're
35 skilled, they know the land, almost all of them. Those
36 people, just like regular citizens, who are law
37 abiding, don't necessarily always think that there are
38 those out there who are not law abiding, who will take
39 too many caribou, who will chase them with snowmachines
40 until their death, will leave parts of the caribou lay
41 out there and not salvage them and then become angered
42 when we contact them because they would never think of
43 doing such a thing. They would never think of breaking
44 the law.

45
46 We try to make our contacts in the
47 field positive. I like hunting. I like talking about
48 hunting. I like talking to people who are out hunting,
49 because we're sharing in a common love of the land.
50 But -- and try to leave those contacts with something

1 positive. Not everybody takes it that way. And -- or
2 after we've left they'll express that they didn't like
3 the way we handled that.

4
5 All I can say is it's our job as
6 wildlife Troopers to be in the field where hunters are.
7 We try hard not to scare game, harass hunters, I'm not
8 going to see someone who -- if I see snowmachines that
9 are parked and no one's around them, that, to me, means
10 they're stalking an animal and I'm not going to go
11 there, I'm not going to fly over there and look, I'm
12 not going to low, I'm not going to go try to contact
13 them because I know they're off the machine and they're
14 probably stalking an animal. I'll wait until they come
15 back and by then maybe they've taken their game and I
16 can look, I can see their caribou, I can see their
17 moose, and that's the guidance I give to the Troopers I
18 supervise. It doesn't always work that way. Just like
19 other hunters who are in the field, if you're hunting
20 and someone else comes along and they may not see you,
21 they might stalk the same animal as you are, and that's
22 just unfortunate. If it's us doing that and we have
23 that unfortunate circumstance people perceive that as
24 harassment.

25
26 Our job is to not harass hunters in the
27 field but our job is to make contact with hunters in
28 the field and every once in awhile we will have
29 conflict with that. Some of that also boils down to
30 people don't like to be pestered by government, nor do
31 I. They don't like government of any sort, agency,
32 looking over their shoulder, and when you combine that
33 with us being in the field sometimes it's -- sometimes
34 it doesn't work out as a positive contact. All I can
35 do is apologize for that, but it's our job to be in the
36 field as much as possible and we'll never detect a
37 waste of moose, waste of caribou, illegal take of game
38 if we sit in the office.

39
40 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

41
42 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

45
46 MS. GREGORY: Mary Gregory. I did not
47 find what you did very -- you are imposing on my
48 privacy and by playing on my ignorance. Whenever you
49 do something to my people, you do it to me. I don't
50 like your decoy. I don't like the way you did that

1 thing. It was in respect to the people you are
2 serving. Not only are we betrayed of getting the meat,
3 but you are being used as an amusement to people who
4 have plenty, who have jobs, who have the means of
5 surviving, and before you do anything like that after
6 this, contact us so we can advise you on how to do it,
7 but I am not going to let you do it, you are very --
8 you are hurting me because whenever these people come
9 here they are me, they're representing me. And before
10 you do anything like that -- I know you're in law
11 enforcement, but when you do it, if you do it to amuse
12 yourself that's not very good, that's the way I look at
13 it. And I can speak because that's the way I feel. I
14 feel really strong about my people being left alone
15 when they're not allowed to hunt and we have adhered to
16 this moratorium, we are living by it, and don't play
17 with us.

18
19 SERGEANT RANDALL: Ma'am, I'm not
20 immune to that sentiment, and I recognize that strongly
21 and I recognize a large amount of people do have that
22 sentiment and I realize when we began the decoy program
23 it would upset people. However, being charged with
24 enforcement of the moratorium program, I don't see how
25 I can do that without taking enforcement steps. I feel
26 strongly that there are people in, especially up river
27 villages, who are taking moose despite the moratorium
28 program. However, you don't see me or any of the
29 Troopers walking through the villages looking for a
30 moose hanging and asking where they got it, that would
31 be extremely intrusive. As we go further up the river,
32 those villages have fewer commercial fishing permits,
33 less monetary income and more reliance on game and
34 fish. Those people who may be taking some moose in the
35 moratorium area are taking that entire moose and using
36 it. Is it illegal, absolutely. And if someone brings
37 it to my attention I think I am bound by law to
38 investigate that but at the same time I'm not taking
39 those intrusive steps to walk through and inquire of
40 people where they might have gotten a moose.

41
42 If for almost all of the population,
43 just as we saw in this three day decoy program, people
44 respect the moratorium. It wasn't the State, it
45 certainly wasn't the State Troopers who asked for a
46 moratorium, it was the residents here who asked for a
47 moratorium and those are the people who respect that,
48 but as we've also seen there is a small population who
49 will shoot and kill a moose and let it lie, shoot at a
50 moose with a .22 rifle and drive off in their boat

1 without even wondering what happened to it. If I can't
2 do enforcement of that those people will continue to
3 violate that moratorium area.

4

5 Like I said before, though, I am not
6 immune to Mrs. Gregory's feelings. I know that there's
7 those feelings against law enforcement and against
8 these law enforcement steps out there, and we do walk a
9 very fine line of what we can do and what we should do.
10 However, I assure you, ma'am, it is not for our
11 amusement. We don't make a videotape of that to laugh
12 at people who shot at a fake moose. That's not the
13 point at all, nor would I show that videotape to anyone
14 outside a trial if it ever came to that. It's evidence,
15 it's not something to be shown amongst Troopers,
16 something to be shown to the public. Most people are
17 not happy with themselves once they've been charged
18 with a wildlife crime, and out of the privacy and for
19 the legal rights of the defendants, that's not
20 something I'd show around. It's sealed as evidence and
21 locked away as evidence, it's given to the district
22 attorney at the time of trial if the case ever comes to
23 trial.

24

25 I'm not sure what we, as State
26 Troopers, could ever do to overcome some of the
27 sentiment that's been expressed, we might not be able
28 to.

29

30 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

33

34 MS. GREGORY: If you need help, elders
35 are always willing to help you and to do your job in a
36 most humane way. You just -- I don't like this, it's
37 very -- because when you're hungry and you want to do
38 something and you're being played by -- just like
39 playing with a person and don't ever do that again. If
40 you're going to do something, ask an elder from that
41 area, they would tell you on how to work with our
42 people without hurting them and without hurting the
43 other people as well.

44

45 I mean you can have your regulations
46 but unless you know those people and how to work with
47 them they're not going to adhere to anything.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are you done.
50 Trooper, are you done?

1 SERGEANT RANDALL: I am, sir.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions
4 for the Trooper. Mr. Brown go ahead.
5
6 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex, do you want to
9 translate that.
10
11 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am
12 going to highlight what Mr. Brown stated.
13
14 He stated that when caribou first
15 became abundant in the area, the local elders were
16 advising even before the regulations came about the
17 local elders advised local hunters not to overharvest
18 any of the resources that are available to them, not
19 only the resources but the habitat, you know, to leave
20 habitat from, you know, much disturbance.
21
22 What he stated was that elders did
23 conservation -- part of their conservation by advising
24 people, by leaving resources alone and now that we are
25 abiding by regulations that we need to abide by, and he
26 said that he is -- he appreciated that the young
27 hunters now respect the regulations and most of them
28 are abiding by the harvest regulations that are brought
29 to their attention in harvesting game and fish in the
30 area.
31
32 Those are the highlights of what Mr.
33 -- Mr.....
34
35 MS. GREGORY: Brown.
36
37 MR. NICK:Mr. Brown said and he
38 could correct me if I'm wrong, he's also bilingual.
39
40 Thank you.
41
42 SERGEANT RANDALL: Thank you.
43
44 MR. BROWN: Quyana.
45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's somebody back
47 there that wanted to -- everybody's pointing at people
48 I don't know who exactly, oh, let's go with Bob, I know
49 who he is, so let's go with -- he's the one that had
50 his hand raised, and then who was the next person --

1 okay, I got you.

2

3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes, what Mr. Brown
4 really stated was that we, as the Native people,
5 already had our instructions given to us by our elders
6 through the teachings of our grandparents from our
7 ancestors and it is the elder's responsibility to make
8 sure that our young people understand the natural
9 regulations not paper regulations, because our natural
10 regulations are more powerful than paper because they
11 have an origin of thousands of years, and this is
12 something that we have forgotten as Native people, and
13 we don't abide by our own natural regulations on how to
14 conduct ourselves as human beings on this earth. And
15 I'm glad he brought it up because that is something
16 that, we, as a Native people, have to start teaching
17 our young people on how we are related to all of our
18 relations, not only human relations, but our relations
19 that fly, roost, climb, walk, hop, crawl, slither,
20 borough, swim and grow on Mother Earth. That is
21 something that we have forgotten or put aside and
22 expect somebody else to teach our young people those
23 things, and they don't, they only go by paper. We, as
24 Native people, go by our mind, heart and spirits. And
25 I'm glad that Charlie brought that up, that's something
26 that we, as Native people, have to pass on to our young
27 people, that we must respect all life and the habitat,
28 whether it's the water, the land of the air.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Robert.
33 And Mr. Jacob, you had a comment.

34

35 MR. JACOB: (In Yup'ik)

36

37 INTERPRETER: I thought that our
38 subsistence way of life, we are -- you know, think
39 about it, our elders, our ancestors, I become aware --
40 our ancestors, our elders and they gather the people
41 together and he sits in the center without anger,
42 without -- without intimidating, but in a way that the
43 people will accept their word.

44

45 You know it was -- it was back then up
46 in the Yukon, up in the Kuskokwim and now in technology
47 has changed quite a bit of our lives and now I'm able
48 to pick up a phone to call anywhere. We know who and
49 where is doing what most of the time. And then back
50 then our elders, the ancestors, they follow the change

1 of the seasons and able to go hunting and fishing and
2 trapping but yet they do not -- like the elders are
3 told that, you know, the season changed and then the
4 elders say, no more of this, and go to another season
5 to do this, to subsist on. So they know -- most of
6 those older people know, they're knowledgeable of that.
7 But yet we're also told that we cannot waste any fish
8 or wildlife and so it is, you know, we've been told
9 many times over and they know, you know, when the
10 season change -- if the season changes we're told, you
11 know, to gather what is harvestable during that season.

12
13 You recognize that, the elders, the
14 older people, they do recognize that and we understand
15 when we go out.

16
17 If I was scolded or if I had spoken
18 angrily no one would listen to me.

19
20 Yes, we know, we've been told to
21 respect others, to work with others -- work with
22 others. I am the chief of this village here in Bethel,
23 peace among the people, so because of my responsibility
24 as so I talk to the people, and as chief I'm respectful
25 to all people, not only among the Yup'iks, but for
26 everyone to work together. It's just like, you know,
27 keeping the door open to everyone.

28
29 Be mindful. Our way of life, our
30 subsistence way of life because we have to work
31 together with each other to achieve and to maintain our
32 subsistence way of life.

33
34 And then the elders, our ancestors,
35 they understand, they see us, they observe us, and --
36 and yet they saw far ahead as they -- that, you know,
37 our people, our grand -- they're going to go further in
38 that other world than we have and -- and we know our
39 children now are into higher education, yes, so they
40 will become more understandable of the way of the other
41 world, the other culture but now, yes, it's difficult
42 to talk to them even though, you know, yes, our young
43 people must learn and continue to learn the respect of
44 other people. You know we have to -- our culture and
45 the other cultures, and all cultures but yet we
46 maintain our way, our language, our way of life, you
47 know, teach them. And, yes, sometimes it is with great
48 difficulty, our people, some of them do not understand
49 our culture, our way of life so, you know, that's sad.
50 But most importantly is we respect, we respect.

1 Most importantly work together. You
2 know it's our wildlife, the same we respect wildlife,
3 yes, but yes sometimes, you know, wildlife itself is --
4 is more like the wolf example, they -- I mean the
5 wolves go kill all the moose or became animals or, you
6 know, like the beaver, you know, they dam up everything
7 and sometimes because of that they destroy the habitat
8 of the fish and -- but, however, though, life is ours,
9 and yet we have to respect each other.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Peter.
12 James.

13

14 MR. NICORI: I just have a question.
15 Something that happened 100 miles apart and observing
16 the -- the hunters observed when the caribou opened up
17 there in our village, there was a helicopter that was
18 driving the caribous away from the hunters and I keep
19 telling those boys if you go out hunting take a pencil
20 and paper along so you can write the number of that
21 aircraft that is being used. And another incident that
22 I was told a couple weeks ago, 100 miles apart from
23 that area, on the west side of Long Lake, Unit 18 is
24 open for moose and people who were hunting over there
25 are stalking a moose and here comes a helicopter and
26 drives those moose away from those people. What is the
27 reason behind that and why are they doing that is what
28 I want to know. People that are trying to hunt for
29 their family and the season is open and they have a
30 permit to use to go hunting and here comes a helicopter
31 and drives those moose and caribou away from the
32 people.

33

34 Is there a legitimate reason behind
35 that, I'd like to know?

36

37 Thank you, very much.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you have a response
40 to that Sergeant.

41

42 SERGEANT RANDALL: Like was just
43 expressed, we can best investigate those cases with
44 detailed information. And advise people to bring a
45 piece of paper and a pencil so your recollections are
46 good. Sometimes there's inadvertent conflicts. And as
47 a pilot sometimes it's hard to see hunters on the
48 ground until it's too late but those sorts of conflicts
49 we can best investigate those with details.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I have one question.
2 Has the enforcement people ever used helicopters in
3 their work?

4
5 SERGEANT RANDALL: Not to my knowledge
6 out here in Bethel. We have in Fairbanks, one of the
7 small R-44 helicopters that we use for wildlife
8 enforcement, but we don't have one out here on the
9 Delta. It's convenient on some cases in some
10 circumstances, of course you can land right next to a
11 kill site if you want to investigate that, but other
12 circumstances, it's intrusive and it causes more
13 trouble than it's worth.

14
15 So the answer is, yeah, we have one in
16 Fairbanks that we use but we don't have one out here on
17 the Delta.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any more
20 questions for the Trooper. Go ahead, Mr. Brown.

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

23
24 INTERPRETER: Yes, it's not only about
25 big game but it also has to do with waterfowl hunting.
26 We have the same problem. And, you know, we have the
27 same problem whereas, you know, whereas we had a
28 helicopter or an airplane come by and chase away our
29 birds away from us so it isn't very good and it doesn't
30 help us any at all, a helicopter up there doing that.
31 It's taking away the game that we need.

32
33 So, yes, we have the opportunity in our
34 villages with our tribal councils, with our people, you
35 know, to get together to do something if any -- if that
36 happens again. But just, you know, during seasons, our
37 subsistence changes from season to season, fish, birds,
38 animals, so forth, but yet when somebody comes and
39 chases the game away from us that is not good, you
40 can't say any more than that if you're out there. It
41 is our way of life. Our way -- also our way of life
42 changes from season to season on subsistence.

43
44 So, however, though, you know, we have
45 to understand, we work with the people

46
47 Okay, thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions on
50 enforcement for Trooper Randall.

1 MR. ROCZICKA: Not a question, more
2 perhaps a recommendation, I didn't want to lose track
3 of what Harry had mentioned as far as if it's not
4 already in policy, which I'm sure the Troopers Wildlife
5 Enforcement have a handbook or policy for encountering
6 people in the field and what's -- just their general
7 rules of operation and if it's not there already, to
8 have something included in there that would
9 specifically flag to people that assisting to process
10 and pack out a moose and so forth is not -- for
11 somebody that doesn't have a license, would not be a
12 citable offense.

13
14 SERGEANT RANDALL: As it is now it's
15 not illegal to help carry a moose.

16
17 MR. ROCZICKA: Understood. But he was
18 trying to more to bring it to the point, make people
19 aware of that and put it into policy.

20
21 And more, I guess, on a general comment
22 of things, in light of what's been said here already,
23 as far as the folks that got caught up there with that
24 decoy, those are exactly the kind of people that need
25 to be caught of those -- I think with 83 boats going by
26 and the only ones that even shoot at it, they weren't
27 trying to catch meat, they just shoot at it, they'd
28 kill it just to kill it, that's totally against
29 everything, all the respect and teachings of what I've
30 heard go around, it's absolutely disrespectful. These
31 guys were never taught or they never learned and they
32 didn't even stop, they just shoot at it and keep on
33 going, they weren't trying to catch no meat. There's
34 certainly a strong defense for people if they're
35 getting there to get the meat because they weren't able
36 to catch, at least they got that excuse, to me, they're
37 as bad or worse than any sporthunters, at least they
38 try to take a horn and maybe even a few pieces of meat,
39 but just to shoot an animal just to kill it, not right.
40 They were the ones that should have been caught.

41
42 I mean I can still remember the first
43 time I came across pontoon tracks coming into the mud,
44 cowboy boots going up the bank, bull moose, no head,
45 cow moose, front quarter, hind quarter gone, dead calf
46 beside it, that's all.

47
48 Boy, that -- and if I would have seen
49 something like that I would have put a couple 180
50 grains through the engine at least or maybe through the

1 pontoons but to kill animals just to -- that -- these
2 are the kind of guys that need to be taught --
3 everybody else respects that, that moratorium is there
4 so that we can be and try to follow the example of what
5 has been shown by Lower Yukon. They're looking at
6 almost four and 5,000 moose in 60 miles of river
7 between Mountain Village and Emmo. That could be like
8 us having four or 5,000 moose between here and
9 Tuluksak, we don't have to settle for no measly 40 or
10 50 animals to harvest, we could be harvesting four or
11 500 animals every year, no problem. That's it --
12 trying to meld.

13

14 I grew up here with this change of
15 generation when Western society really hit, it's only
16 been in only the last generation, and the influx of
17 Western Lower 48 society and the technology they bring
18 with it, so many things make life better, so many
19 things can make life worse. Alcohol will wipe out a
20 culture, wipe out a people. Snowmachine can do the
21 same thing if it's used to -- every moose that pokes
22 its nose out of the brush is gone, that's what happened
23 on Kuskokwim, that's what put us where we're at. If
24 you use that stuff that comes with that other society
25 people will kill off their own culture as a result.

26

27 Observations of guys what happened down
28 in the Lower 48 to the Native peoples, they brought
29 them alcohol, they gave them rifles and then they gave
30 them religion, it killed them.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are you done.

33

34 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, sorry.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Thank you,
37 Trooper. And we will be going on -- thank you very
38 much for your patience and your understanding.

39

40 One more question, okay, go ahead.

41

42 MR. NICORI: (In Yup'ik)

43

44 Quyana.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. We're down
47 to Item 13, agency and organization reports, unless I'm
48 missing something else -- am I missing something --
49 agency -- okay Lower Yukon request for extension for
50 the winter hunt -- Greg.

1 MR. ROCZICKA: Quyana, Mr. Chairman.
2 This morning I passed out a letter from Emmonak Tribal
3 Council. This came about in conversations with the
4 tribal administrator over there, most of you probably
5 know Ted Hamilton. As we were putting together a proxy
6 hunt for folks over there, they hunt for our senior
7 center, the help people from all around the whole Delta
8 over there, the apartments and senior center here in
9 Bethel, and we set up a proxy hunt for a couple of the
10 old ladies here, we got them their permits and
11 everything and Emmonak, the guys went out and caught
12 moose and Grant Aviation flew them over for free.

13
14 But anyway in the conversations that we
15 had he was wondering if there was something that could
16 be done to extend the winter moose season in the Lower
17 Yukon River. He said it's been the subject of some
18 discussion over there since the last time there's been
19 regulatory action and so I told him about the process
20 for a special action request that he could put forward
21 and if he could get something to us that the Regional
22 Council could consider and we could act on it as well,
23 and so he did get this to me that came in at 2:30 this
24 morning, he's talked to folks around the village, he's
25 talked to a majority of his council members, they're in
26 support of it as well.

27
28 And it's asking for an extension of the
29 season for Mountain Village and below to add an
30 additional month on that time and some of the things I
31 went in this morning, when I went to pick this up here,
32 around 6:00, 7:00 this morning, I went ahead and wrote
33 down some of the bullet points that he had given to me
34 in the discussions to try to make it a little clear as
35 far as a Council action on this, and that's the second
36 little handout that came along with that and just for
37 the record here, those points of justification is:

38
39 The travel and hunt conditions have
40 been bad during the last couple years in the December
41 to January season. And since the Board has made a
42 notice of this -- or OSM has actually, here's another
43 possible you can blame on the change of climate effects
44 we've seen with the winters coming later and snow not
45 sticking on the ground.

46
47 But the first real snow cover we had,
48 even last year, I think was the day before the season
49 closed, it was like January 19 was the first time we
50 got anywhere like three or four inches of snow.

1 Also the short daylight hours that
2 occurred during this time.

3
4 And we certainly don't have any kind of
5 a biological concern for this population and if there
6 is a biological concern, it's perhaps that we need to
7 start harvesting more, that they're pushing the
8 envelope and maybe at the point of exceeding
9 sustainable levels, or carrying capacity, I guess is
10 the word, so not only can it easily provide the
11 additional harvest but it may actually need it.

12
13 Given the numbers that we had in the
14 report yesterday of the February 2008 population being
15 around -- I had 3,328, that was running off of memory,
16 it's actually 3,320, but anyway still with that 27
17 percent growth that that subpopulation is seeing you
18 are looking at 4,000 to 4,500 animals there for this
19 fall population, it that's holding consistent.

20
21 And the other is with an approval of
22 the action here and a recommendation of support and
23 adoption by this Council addresses the criteria that
24 the Federal Subsistence Board needs to take under
25 consideration or address in these actions in that it
26 has to be in compliance with sound biological
27 management principles, it has to have substantial
28 information that supports it and that it is not
29 detrimental to subsistence uses and all of those
30 criteria are fully met.

31
32 And the Staff can correct me if I'm
33 wrong, but I do believe that with a recommendation from
34 a Regional Council that the Board is supposed to
35 actually adopt those recommendations or comply with
36 those recommendations if those criteria are met.
37 Although I recognize that's open to interpretation by
38 different Board members and agencies at different
39 times.

40
41 So anyway, but fairly for them to
42 actually allow for this would just be subsistence
43 harvests opportunity that's lost, and harvest that is
44 lost, and I went ahead and copied out of the reg book
45 as to what the new regulation would read, it's verbatim
46 with the exception of changing that closing date of the
47 open season from:

48
49 It's currently December 20 to January
50 20, it'd now be December 20 to February

1 28.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Larry, could you
4 respond to that please.

5

6 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 Larry Buklis, Office of Subsistence Management.

8

9 The Council certainly has the
10 prerogative to review and make a recommendation or
11 comment on this material that's been presented. I
12 would say that there are -- remind you there are two
13 ways in which a proposal can come to the attention of
14 the Program and the Board. One is the normal call for
15 regulatory change for permanent regulation changes.
16 And the next call for wildlife begins in January and
17 goes further into the spring, until April. So during
18 that window of time, during which you'll be meeting
19 next year a proposal like this could be submitted and
20 we would begin our analysis and come back to you with
21 an analysis of the request and you'd make a
22 recommendation on it and then it would go to the Board.

23

24 That's the normal next cycle and that
25 series of steps would start in January with the call
26 and end the next January with the Board meeting making
27 a decision. That's the next regulatory cycle, but that
28 is a ways off.

29

30 There is a special action process. But
31 the special action process is for proposals that in a
32 way can't wait. And the term is extenuating
33 circumstances. And so the proponent needs to
34 demonstrate that there are extenuating circumstances
35 that justify the Board taking the action out of cycle
36 in a sort of emergency situation to act, and the matter
37 can't wait until the next call.

38

39 So my counsel is that this may not make
40 it over that criteria. I'm not saying it won't, but
41 I'm just letting you know that however you act today on
42 this, it certainly looks, on its surface, to me, like a
43 valid proposal for the normal call, the only question I
44 have is whether it meets the standards for taking it up
45 out of cycle because a number of the aspects being
46 raised here like daylight and snowfall, if they've been
47 a typical pattern in recent years, you know, it could
48 have been a prior year call or the next year call, it
49 isn't something that suddenly developed.

50

1 Often times there are special action requests
2 for a hunt that's in progress to extend because
3 something's happened unusual this year and there's an
4 emergency need to extend it a month or a week because
5 of something happening but here we are in October
6 talking about a December hunt that is yet to begin and
7 the request is to shift it or extend it, and so my
8 counsel is that it may not make the criteria of an
9 extenuating circumstance, but that doesn't mean you
10 shouldn't discuss it. But I'm sure it has merit as a
11 permanent proposal in the normal call.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Larry. Mr.
16 Roczicka.

17

18 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 Well, opportunity, there's different criteria for the
20 Board, but Mr. Hamilton did say he definitely intends
21 to submit these as a special action and also follow
22 with petition to the State Board of Game, one of their
23 main criteria, which I'm a little more familiar with
24 having spent six years dealing with it, is through
25 their petition, is that, it would be opportunity that
26 would otherwise be lost and harvest would not occur as
27 a result and so given the -- and also they have
28 biological standards and so forth as well. Maybe not
29 so high a bar now, and rather than the -- the Federal
30 Board is putting more restrictive measures in place
31 than the State regarding this and as far as providing
32 for subsistence harvest goes or under the State it
33 would be just harvest, and the winter hunt, of course,
34 is a meat hunt only and it would be for any moose, you
35 know, we don't have the browse surveys to know whether
36 that population is starting to reach its tipping point
37 but the concerns have certainly been expressed over the
38 past year but it's something that we got to start
39 really bird dogging and watching pretty close and we
40 don't -- and once you go over that edge, you don't want
41 to go over it because then you're -- all of a sudden
42 you're looking at 10 to 20 years to rebuild rather than
43 -- you're not just looking at a couple years, you can
44 catch up by managing the harvest much quicker than you
45 can by trying to get habitat to recover.

46

47 So I mean just all in all, he makes a
48 very good case and it will be going forward and he
49 requested that I bring it forward and requests the
50 support of this Council, and he will be pursuing it

1 both through the State and Federal side.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
4 further action on this.

5

6 Is there any action that you would like
7 to wish on this, Greg.

8

9 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I guess I
10 would move that this Council support the request of the
11 Emmonak Tribal Council for the extension of their
12 winter season to occur this coming winter, the season
13 being:

14

15 December 20 to February 28

16

17 And I guess we could add these as
18 justification, and craft a letter around this to the
19 Board.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You're making that a
22 motion?

23

24 MR. ROCZICKA: I did make that as a
25 motion, yes.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do I hear a second to
28 the motion.

29

30 MS. GREGORY: Second.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mary. Any
33 discussion. Robert.

34

35 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, I got a question
36 for Greg. What is the existing opening dates.

37

38 MR. ROCZICKA: Could you speak up?

39

40 MR. ALOYSIUS: What are the existing
41 opening dates?

42

43 MR. ROCZICKA: The existing season is
44 December 20 to January 20.

45

46 MR. ALOYSIUS: Is that the Fed or State
47 regs?

48

49 MR. ROCZICKA: It's under both. Right
50 now under the Federal program you can take any moose,

1 under the State it's bulls only, there's a restriction
2 there -- or a difference, I should say.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The existing
5 regulations, I think -- if I'm wrong, correct me, is
6 from -- is a 10 day hunt from December 10th to.....

7

8 MR. ROCZICKA: 30 day hunt.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 30 day hunt, okay.
11 Yeah, there's a guy that can answer this, go ahead.

12

13 MR. PERRY: The existing regulations
14 for below Mountain Village under the State hunting
15 right now, it is a December 20 to January 20 an
16 antlered bull or a calf and under Federal regulations
17 the season is the same but it is an any moose bag
18 limit.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Go ahead,
21 Robert.

22

23 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, another thing.
24 The way I read that request is to either change the 30
25 days from December 20 to January 20 or January 20 to
26 February 20, or the whole -- you're proposing to extend
27 the whole thing and not just move it 30 days?

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr.
30 Roczicka.

31

32 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, he has that down
33 as the two options, the change of dates from starting
34 on December 20, 2008 and move it to January 20th, 2009
35 to February 20th, 2009, and then he says or give us
36 more time by starting on December 20, 2008 and end on
37 February 28th, 2009, so the two options that he's put
38 out is just extend it by one month and instead of
39 ending on January 20th, it'd end on February 20th or
40 just go to the end of the month and make it February
41 28th.

42

43 MR. ALOYSIUS: So you're proposing to
44 extend the whole -- moving the block only -- move one
45 whole block?

46

47 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, I put that one in
48 there, I mean I'm not married to it one way or the
49 other, just choose it for the month of February, I
50 guess the 20th and any kind of additional harvest

1 that's going to occur in the last -- in eight more days
2 isn't going to be a make or break in effecting -- if it
3 goes forward at all. It's only to change -- to end the
4 other season and extend it out by either 30 days or 38
5 days.

6

7 MR. ALOYSIUS: You're proposing to
8 extend it for 38 days, right?

9

10 MR. ROCZICKA: He has asked for our
11 support and I told him I'd bring it to the Council.

12

13 MR. ALOYSIUS: Your motion was to
14 extend -- I mean to change the season from December 20
15 through February 28th, that's an additional 38 days.

16

17 MR. ROCZICKA: That's correct.

18

19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further discussion
22 Council members.

23

24 MR. MANUMIK: Question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's called for.
27 Roll call vote, please.

28

29 MS. GREGORY: John Andrew.

30

31 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

32

33 MS. GREGORY: William Brown.

34

35 MR. BROWN: Yes.

36

37 MS. GREGORY: Harry Wilde.

38

39 MR. H. WILDE: Yes.

40

41 MS. GREGORY: Mary Gregory, yes.

42 Lester Wilde.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

45

46 MS. GREGORY: Paul Manumik.

47

48 MR. MANUMIK: Yes.

49

50 MS. GREGORY: Joseph P. Mike.

1 MR. MIKE: Yes.
2
3 MS. GREGORY: Greg Roczicka.
4
5 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.
6
7 MS. GREGORY: Robert Aloysius.
8
9 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.
10
11 MS. GREGORY: Two, four, six, eight,
12 nine yes', zero no.
13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's carried.
15 We'll have a 10 minute -- 15 minute break until the
16 next item, we'll start out next with the agency
17 reports.
18
19 (Off record)
20
21 (On record)
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We are down to Item A
24 -- or 13 agency and organization reports, the first on
25 our list is the Office of Subsistence Management,
26 status of rural/non-rural requests for reconsideration
27 information. Who's giving that -- Mr. Buklis.
28
29 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Larry
30 Buklis. Office of Subsistence Management. That's an
31 informational item, we didn't intend to brief you on
32 that unless you want more to be said. It's just in
33 your book for reference.
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, what is the
36 feeling of the Council, are you satisfied with what's
37 going on or would you like to hear that report -- just
38 for the record's sake, Larry, why don't you go ahead
39 with a short report, status of rural/non-rural request
40 for reconsideration.
41
42 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 It's on Page 55 in the book and I think to be brief the
44 main point is the Board reviewed the rural and non-
45 rural determinations and made its final decisions back
46 in December 2006 and following that, the Board received
47 six requests for reconsideration of various parts of
48 their decisions. And.....
49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Larry. Excuse me a

1 minute. Could you -- Louie.

2

3 MS. GREGORY: Louie.

4

5 MR. ANDREW: Yes, sir.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We are trying to
8 discuss something here and are you done with your
9 business, okay, go ahead, Mr. Buklis.

10

11 MR. BUKLIS: And, further, the main
12 point is that they had six requests for reconsideration
13 on different aspects of their decisions and the Board
14 has since worked through those and those have all been
15 rejected at the threshold stage as not meeting the
16 criteria for further consideration so that concludes
17 the review of rural determinations. And the next
18 regular review would be after the 2010 US census.

19

20 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for Mr.
23 Buklis.

24

25 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I should
26 just say that review did not lead to any changes in
27 your region.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

30

31 MR. BUKLIS: All the communities in the
32 region remained defined as rural.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions. Thank
35 you, Larry. Oh, okay.

36

37 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. We had
38 two other items under this agenda. At the beginning we
39 requested a report from the OSM, one was a brief
40 summation of the court ruling on the State challenge to
41 the Federal customary and traditional use
42 determinations. The other was a report on the Federal
43 Subsistence Board's stated intent from their May
44 meeting that they would be holding meetings over the
45 course of the summer regarding their predator
46 management policy review and revision potentials.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Buklis.

49

50 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. On the

1 first of those two items -- again, Larry Buklis, Office
2 of Subsistence Management. We are handing out to you a
3 news release that was issued just a day or two ago,
4 October 1st from the Federal Subsistence Board which
5 highlights the main points about the customary and
6 traditional use determination court appeal.

7
8 The initial case was brought by the
9 State and was found in favor of the Federal Subsistence
10 Board. The State appealed that decision and the
11 Appeals Court has ruled and upheld the initial
12 decision. So I won't take you through all this but the
13 main point is the Appeals Court affirmed the Federal
14 Subsistence Board's approach to C&T determinations. So
15 we have been upheld on that. And I'll read just the
16 last part of the news release that speaks to a main
17 feature of what the challenge was about.

18
19 The last half of that last paragraph
20 says:

21
22 The Court noted that if the Board had
23 to restrict every customary and
24 traditional use determination to the
25 precise area in which a rural community
26 had demonstrated use of a wildlife
27 population, "the C&T determinations
28 would quickly become unmanageable."

29
30 The Court also said:

31
32 That a customary and traditional use
33 determination by the Board does not
34 limit non-subsistence uses but simply
35 recognizes the subsistence uses by
36 qualified rural Alaska residents.

37
38 And so, again, in summary, the current
39 approach by the Board has been upheld.

40
41 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. What was
48 the next item on the agenda, I didn't have those two
49 written, you've got those notes?

50

1 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The
2 final point was the status of the predator management
3 issue coming off of the spring Federal Subsistence
4 Board meeting. And Mr. Roczicka is correct there was a
5 discussion at the Federal Board meeting, late April,
6 first of May, about predator management and the policy,
7 and the commitment at the time was not to review or
8 reopen the policy but to have the land manager in
9 question, I believe it was the Fish and Wildlife
10 Service primarily, to take up discussions with the
11 State of Alaska as to what could be done on the Federal
12 Refuge lands in terms of predator management. Because
13 the Board policy does identify a role for the agencies
14 in their individual capacities as land managers to
15 address predator management issues to the extent that
16 their agency regulations and mission provide. And so
17 the Fish and Wildlife Service does recognize that
18 predator management is a tool that can be used on
19 Refuge lands. There are certain standards to be met
20 and processes to be followed, but Mr. Roczicka is right
21 the Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Alaska
22 Fish and Game have begun discussions on those points.
23 But there isn't any significant progress that I can
24 report to you today but the discussions have begun.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions.

27

28 MR. ROCZICKA: Not a question, I guess
29 I got a different recollection and we got transcripts
30 that we can go back and look over but it was my
31 understanding that it was said to the Federal Board
32 that they'd be looking at possible change -- I think it
33 was the BIA representative, actually, that brought it
34 forward and mentioned it how we may need to review and
35 revise this policy and that meetings would be occurring
36 over the course of the summer, but we can go back and
37 look at it.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Comments.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Buklis.
48 Now, we're going down to Item B, National Wildlife
49 Refuge updates. Yukon-Delta Refuge update, Gene
50 Peltola, Jr.

1 MR. TWITCHELL: Chair. Council
2 members. I'm Hollis Twitchell, assistant manager for
3 Yukon-Delta Fish and Wildlife Refuge. I wanted to be
4 here for Gene initially to let you know that he has an
5 illness in the family and has not been able to come in
6 for the last two days. He expressed his regrets, so
7 that's the reason why he's not here now.

8
9 Gene Peltola, Jr., is the new Refuge
10 manager who arrived in Bethel about a month ago
11 replacing Mike Rearden. He's very happy to be here,
12 coming home, as he has grown up on the Delta, worked
13 for quite a number of years here at Yukon-Delta before
14 transferring to the Selawik Wildlife Refuge as the
15 Refuge manager and then into Fairbanks for about eight
16 years as a Refuge zone officer. So he's coming home,
17 very happy to be here and disappointed that he wasn't
18 able to join you for this meeting today.

19
20 We also have another manager coming in
21 next month, his name is Shawn Sanchez. He's going to
22 be the Deputy Refuge Manager. He's currently the
23 manager in a Refuge down in Texas, which along the
24 coast experienced quite an event with Ike coming in and
25 so his arrival on the Delta has been delayed since all
26 of their structures were pretty much flattened by the
27 arrival of Hurricane Ike. So you'll be able to meet
28 Shawn at the next Regional Advisory Council meeting as
29 well.

30
31 The Refuge has undergone a number of
32 vacancies. We've had a total of six positions that
33 have gone vacant over the last year. We're in the
34 process of staffing back up with, of course, Gene and
35 Shawn coming and four other positions at the Refuge.

36
37 We also have the retirement of two
38 individuals, one of our RITs which you all know well,
39 Andrew Kelley, who was in your Kalskag meeting, has
40 retired this summer. And our other retirement was
41 Henry Ivanof, our maintenance, temporary person at
42 Mekoryuk. So those two retirements are positions that
43 we'll also have to fill this winter.

44
45 What I'd like to do is have our
46 supervisory chief wildlife biologist, Tom, go over
47 biological review of what projects have been going on
48 on the Delta this summer. I would like to follow him
49 up with two our fisheries biologists, one of them is a
50 biologist, Steve Miller, from the Kenai Fish and

1 Wildlife Field Office, who works on the Delta, a year-
2 round resident. And then our Refuge fisheries
3 biologist Dan Gilligan. They'll come up after Tom
4 finishes his presentation. And then I'd like to finish
5 up the Refuge's presentation with discussion of moose
6 hunting in 19A and other Refuge activities in terms of
7 our Refuge officers, and I'll also address the question
8 you had from one of your Council members regarding a
9 Hart Lake issue, regarding access to Hart Lake, I'll be
10 prepared to give you an update on that.

11

12 So at this point I'd like to go ahead
13 and turn the microphone over to Tom for a biological
14 update.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tom.

17

18 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much,
19 Hollis. Well, we have a lot of programs. We have a
20 waterfowl program, a mammal program, fisheries program
21 and a non-game program as part of the Refuge. We also
22 have numerous cooperators, both, from academic
23 institutions and also State officials and also from
24 other cooperating Federal agencies, such as United
25 States Geological Survey. And with that in mind, of
26 course, one of the big pushes and one of our big areas
27 of funding has been for Avian Influenza sampling, a
28 continuation on the third year of AI sampling. And so
29 this is coupled in with some of our traditional
30 waterfowl monitoring programs.

31

32 We monitor our cackling geese out on
33 the coastal areas along with also working with tundra
34 swans and banding tundra swans and also manning the
35 puddledocks (ph), primarily northern pintails and
36 mallards. Again, all these birds are being sampled,
37 were sampled this summer.

38

39 We also have an investigation and plan
40 on black brant and monitoring the fox removal and from
41 an experimental basis of predator control out on the
42 coastal area. This right now is purely an experiment
43 and not a formal control program.

44

45 The investigation plan also that we're
46 looking at also looks at common eiders as well as
47 looking at spectacled eiders and we also have a
48 research project looking at the habitat in the coastal
49 areas that are relative to changes in freshwater
50 systems becoming saline (ph), primarily from storm

1 surges that are coming in and we notice that some of
2 the food sources for some of the waterfowl change and
3 sometimes the waterfowl are not adapting to eating
4 those new food sources. Also we're taking a look at
5 just that overall eco-system relative to the change in
6 climate and especially in those coastal areas which are
7 primary waterfowl production areas.

8
9 We also -- obviously we talked about
10 moose, we have a fairly intensive moose program so I
11 won't go over that but, of course, after I'm done with
12 the brief overview, I know there were further
13 discussions last night and I would be willing to,
14 obviously answer, any of those questions and also about
15 aspects with caribou also.

16
17 And this goes on to some of our mammal
18 work, again, with continuing as we promised the Lower
19 Kuskokwim moose monitoring, also to continue the Lower
20 Yukon moose monitoring also this coming year.

21
22 The Mulchatna Caribou Working Group and
23 working in cooperation with the Mulchatna Caribou Plan,
24 we participate in monitoring caribou along with Togiak
25 National Wildlife Refuge and the State of Alaska.
26 Obviously they just don't stay in Unit 18, they're a
27 mobile large herd.

28
29 We also have a new non-game biologist,
30 her name is Lisa Renan (ph), and you may have seen her
31 around town in Bethel if you live in Bethel, and she
32 has taken over Fred Dorman's (ph) position at the
33 Refuge. One of her big targets that she'll be working
34 on, would be looking at bristle-thighed curlews, one of
35 our rarest shorebirds on the Refuge starting next year.
36 She'll also be doing our breeding bird counts as our
37 non-game bird biologist. This year I did it in lieu of
38 her, I did seabird counts out on Nunavak Island. Also
39 she's been doing black scoter and limberal (ph),
40 greater scaup and black bellied surveys, these are an
41 aerial survey that's done in Western Alaska in
42 cooperation with Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory
43 Birds. We also did -- the Refuge also has the world's
44 highest breeding density of (indiscernible) falcons and
45 also they're highly sensitive species to disease
46 factors such as Avian Influenza so we also did breeding
47 oncology or continued the breeding oncology study on
48 falcons within the Refuge.

49
50 And that's the overview of the

1 projects. There's about another 15 other scientific
2 projects on waterfowl and on birds on the Refuge with
3 cooperators and so that's a very quick overview of the
4 biological program for the Refuge.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions. Mr.
7 Roczicka.

8

9 MR. ROCZICKA: The peregrine falcons,
10 is that peregrines?

11

12 MR. DOOLITTLE: No, they're bigger than
13 a peregrine and they're a resident large falcon and
14 they're the largest of the falcons in the world. Their
15 primary prey species in at least in the Volcano's is
16 ptarmigan. In the coastal area you'll see them feed on
17 waterfowl and up in the Kilbuks you see them feeding on
18 ground squirrels, on Arctic ground squirrels and on
19 ptarmigan, both.

20

21 MR. ROCZICKA: So they're not primary
22 up to the upland -- I was thinking of the Kilbuks?

23

24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, they're up in the
25 high ground, primarily, you know, cliff nesters.
26 Sometimes you'll see them in old raven nests, old eagle
27 nests, too, yeah.

28

29 MR. ROCZICKA: It brings to mind about
30 possible effects of future development activities
31 having an effect.

32

33 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, I mean, and
34 that's one of the reasons that we have a broad scale
35 raptor monitoring program. I mean these guys were
36 targeted out because they're kind of the glamour bird
37 of all the raptors on the Refuge. But we also, at the
38 same time, inventoried, you know, populations of golden
39 eagles, roughly hawks, peregrine falcons, as -- as part
40 of a concerted effort to look at populations of these
41 birds since they're very good bio-indicators as being
42 top order predators.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you.

49

50 MR. DOOLITTLE: I'd like to introduce

1 now Dan Gilligan and Steve Miller, who will be briefing
2 you on the fisheries part of our program.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

5

6 MR. GILLIGAN: Mr. Chair. Council. I
7 appreciate the opportunity to highlight my program here
8 with you folks. For the record, my name is Dan
9 Gilligan and I'm the fisheries biologist with the
10 Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge. I'm hoping that
11 everybody was able to grab one of the handouts that I
12 provided back here yesterday, if not let me know and I
13 can burn off some more copies for you.

14

15 We have a growing fisheries and aquatic
16 resources program on the Refuge. We're starting to
17 expand it into new areas of interest and not focusing
18 quite so much just on salmon as a species. Instead
19 we're starting to look in more detail at other species
20 that are important to subsistence resources and salmon
21 and other species habitat. It's very important in
22 these ever changing times.

23

24 I'm going to just give you a brief run
25 down on some of the highlighted programs that we've got
26 going on. But I also want to emphasize that the people
27 and the crews that we hire throughout the summer are
28 from all different kinds of backgrounds. About half of
29 my crew generally are from universities and the other
30 half of the crew are from the local villages, either
31 ANSEP students or local hires or through contracts with
32 the villages, so we get a real mix and it's a great
33 opportunity for local folks to interact with scientists
34 while we're collecting all this important data.

35

36 As many of you probably are aware, one
37 of our big projects going on in the Kwethluk River is
38 the SaRON project. That's the Salmon River Observation
39 Network, that's an ecological study that's looking at
40 salmon habitat and how it's influenced by physical
41 drivers and marine drive nutrients, the salmon that are
42 returning to the stream, and how all of plays together
43 to increase the productivity or decrease the
44 productivity of that system overall related to juvenile
45 salmon production. And it's a study that's occurring
46 all around the Pacific Rim, everywhere from the China
47 Sea to the Kamchatka Peninsula all the way -- they're
48 now looking at sites down in South America as a matter
49 of fact. So this is the fifth year we operated that
50 project and the intent of it was to collect essentially

1 a large body of baseline information that we can then
2 use to model and extrapolate to other areas across the
3 Yukon-Delta. The emphasis of the program is now
4 slightly changing due to funding and due to development
5 of models and the tools that we needed to start
6 applying it to other locations across the Delta.
7 There's been a lot of development and the remote
8 sensing technologies using satellite imagery to
9 classify the various habitats and with the empirical
10 data that we've collected from the SaRON project we can
11 then start making our best guesses about what we would
12 expect in these other kinds of habitats without
13 actually having to invest hundreds and thousands of
14 dollars to go and find out is that good salmon habitat,
15 is that not good salmon habitat. What may be
16 influencing or degrading that habitat.

17
18 So it's an excellent tool for managers
19 to use on a very large scale. They collected data from
20 78 different sites. At each one of these sites they
21 might collect 100 different pieces of information so
22 it's a very labor intensive process and it's very
23 expensive and we're now starting to take that
24 information and extrapolate it out to other areas doing
25 what we call synoptic floats which are kind of mini
26 data collection efforts.

27
28 One of the other projects that's funded
29 through the AYKSSI that we completed the data
30 collection for this year is the chum salmon smolt out-
31 migration project on the Kwethluk River. That's a
32 joint project with USGS and the Organized Village of
33 Kwethluk. And the focus of that project is to operate
34 an incline plane trap earlier in the year when the
35 salmon smolt are coming out of the rivers and out-
36 migrating out to the ocean. They operated it
37 successfully this year for the second year and
38 collected the necessary information so that now we can
39 take that data set and determine what the egg to fry
40 survival rate would be for chum salmon on the Kwethluk
41 River. This is the first time that this kind of study,
42 which is actually pretty standard for most fisheries
43 investigation work has been done on the Kuskokwim or
44 the Yukon, Lower Yukon River. So it's going to give
45 us-- provide us with a key piece of information so that
46 we can evaluate the productivity of our habitat. We
47 would like to continue that project possibly for
48 another year or two and expand it to other species.
49 The data will be written up this winter and then
50 presented to AYKSSI for publication.

1 A cooperative study that we've been
2 conducting with Steve Miller in the Kenai River
3 Fisheries Field Office is whitefish. Whitefish are an
4 important species, as you well know, for subsistence
5 but they're also an important species of fish to us
6 because we know very little about them and their life
7 histories and their habitat requirements. We're trying
8 to collect that information any way we can. We've
9 tried on several occasions to get funding through OSM,
10 which has been less than successful, except for the one
11 project that Steve and Ken Harper have but with Refuge
12 resources and partnerships with ONC, Greg, and Eva
13 Patton, we've been trying to develop the necessary
14 interests in getting funding to further investigate
15 these unknowns that are out there about whitefish so
16 that we can protect them better.

17
18 One of the side projects that I've been
19 conducting for the last few years is looking at
20 juvenile coho salmon growth and how that relates to the
21 morphology -- the geo-morphology and hydrology of
22 particular rivers out here, tributaries of the
23 Kuskokwim. The intent there is that not all rivers are
24 created equal essentially. You probably all are aware
25 of that. What I'm looking at is ways that we can
26 derive measures from satellite imagery or quick
27 measures on the ground and get an idea of how
28 productive is this system, you know, should we see a
29 lot of fish here, should we see, you know, very few
30 fish here. Rather than trying, again, go in and spend
31 a lot of time and a lot of money to try to put in weirs
32 and out-migration traps I'm trying to use what we call
33 surrogates, you know, a different way to measure
34 something so that we can evaluate the productivity of
35 that system. Or of there's some change that occurs
36 within that system, say, due to some kind of resource
37 extraction activity, you know, whether it's logging or
38 mining or some kind of pollution, changes to climate,
39 hydrological regimes. Those factors all play into that
40 productivity.

41
42 We work in conjunction with the State
43 on several projects. One of the projects that we
44 provided personnel for this summer, logistic support
45 and some training was extension of the anadromous water
46 -- State's anadromous waters catalog, working with Joe
47 Buckwalter from the State, they investigated, I
48 believe, about 25 different rivers, headwater rivers,
49 trapping and electrofishing for juvenile salmonics
50 (ph). It's important to document the extent of

1 distribution of salmon in the state because once that
2 documentation is in place, that stream is then included
3 in the anadromous waters catalog, which then offers
4 special protection from any kind of development. It
5 doesn't necessary preclude development but it does
6 provide additional protections for that so that's an
7 important goal that we have as a Refuge is to extend
8 that anadromous distribution catalog.

9
10 I do a lot of mentoring with students
11 and folks out here on the Delta, and one of the
12 pleasures I've had, thanks in large part to Mike
13 Rearden, our old Refuge manager is to be involved with
14 the ANSEP program, the Alaska Native Science and
15 Engineering Program. This summer we hired four ANSEP
16 students from all over, Jessica Lewis, Eddie Korp (ph),
17 Aaron Moses and Derrick Evon, and they were kind of
18 distributed throughout a lot of the projects going on
19 on the Delta but it seems like they always kind of
20 gravitate towards the fisheries and aquatic sciences,
21 or maybe it's just me, I don't know, but I really enjoy
22 working with them and they are excellent, excellent
23 interns. Jessica's actually in the back of the room
24 here right now, she's working for us still part-time
25 and they got involved in every aspect of our projects
26 and we're hoping to one day have them take my job.
27 That's my hope anyway.

28
29 One of the other mentoring type
30 projects I do is I do the Kwethluk Science Camp river
31 float with about a dozen -- usually it's about a dozen
32 kids from the villages out here on the Delta, usually
33 about half of them are from Kwethluk themselves and we
34 float for 10 days from the headwaters of the Kwethluk
35 all the way down to the weir with participation from
36 ONC and Eva Patton anadromous Ryan Maroney (ph) here in
37 town with NRCS and friends of the Refuge we talk about
38 aquatic ecology, terrestrial ecology, geomorphology,
39 hydrology, all sorts of things, and one of the big
40 emphasis and I heard the Council talking about this
41 earlier is we talk about ethics, we talk a lot about
42 ethics and conservation practices and principles
43 and it's really a pleasure to work with those kids
44 and we always have a really good time and they come
45 away, I think, with a new understanding of what the
46 Fish and Wildlife does and what the Parkers do and a
47 new respect for the game and the resources that are out
48 there.

49
50 We also are involved in the working

1 group here during the summer doing the in-season
2 management. The authority for in-season management in
3 Federal waters actually exists with the Refuge manger
4 and so we participate in those meetings on a regular
5 basis.

6
7 With that I'm just going to turn it
8 over to Steve Miller here and he can talk about some of
9 the OSM monitoring projects that he has going on, or if
10 anybody has any questions for me, I'd be happy to take
11 them.

12
13 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions, Mary.

16
17 MS. GREGORY: I have a question on all
18 these ologists that you're doing.....

19
20 MR. GILLIGAN: Uh-huh.

21
22 MS. GREGORY: Can you tell me what type
23 of information are you collecting from this, the fifth
24 year that you're doing?

25
26 MR. GILLIGAN: For the SaRON project,
27 yeah, it's -- there's a lot of physical information
28 that's collected, water temperature, water amounts,
29 discharge, flow, velocity measures of the water itself.
30 We do a lot of chemical analysis of the water, looking
31 at the nutrient content of the water. We do a lot of
32 benthos sampling, we look at macro-invertebrates, the
33 bug populations that live in the stream, because those
34 are key for understanding the nutrient flux or cycling
35 within the system. The list goes on and on and on,
36 it's pretty extensive.

37
38 MS. GREGORY: But this is with the
39 habitat area or the spawning area or what?

40
41 MR. GILLIGAN: Yes, it is. Our
42 research site is a facility, if you want to call it
43 that, is located just below Elbow Mountain, and that's
44 where most of the research is going on in that large
45 complex flood plane up there because we find that those
46 are the areas that -- those are the hot spots of
47 productivity, that's where the fish go to spawn
48 and that's where the juvenile fish rear for the most
49 part. But we extend it all the way up to the
50 headwaters also with these synoptic floats and do the

1 same measures so that we can compare and contrast the
2 data sets.

3

4 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

5

6 MR. GILLIGAN: You're welcome.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

9

10 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. I just have
11 a couple questions, why was Kwethluk River selected for
12 this SaRON project and are we going to receive a
13 written documentation on what you did, how it started,
14 how it evolved and what's the final outcome going to
15 be?

16

17 MR. GILLIGAN: Yeah, it's -- I do get
18 summaries. You have to remember, this is a cooperative
19 project with the University of Montana and actually the
20 University of Moscow and several other universities
21 and so there's, you know, there's a little bit of an
22 issue, it's not a big issue, there's a little bit of an
23 issue with what they call intellectual property rights,
24 but we can -- what they're doing is we're taking that
25 information and doing publications on specific aspects
26 of the project, you know, parts of the project,
27 and then there's a general summary of the season that I
28 do every year actually and provide to Fish and Game and
29 the University of Montana does and provides to Fish and
30 Game of their collection activities up there that I
31 could provide that. I usually don't prepare that until
32 around January at some point.

33

34 But the intent is there will be
35 publications coming out of this for years and years and
36 years to come but that's not the sole purpose of it.
37 The sole -- the other purpose of it is to provide the
38 basis of information, the empirical evidence so to
39 speak for developing these management tools that are
40 then actually going to be available to the public, they
41 are now, some of the tools are, the typology (ph)
42 project which is a remote sensing project you can get
43 online actually and pick a section of the river that
44 you're interested in and then using some of the
45 information that's been collected from the SaRON
46 project, determine how productive that piece of river
47 should be, should be, that's the emphasis there, it's a
48 model, it's a mathematical model, it's not actual
49 physical information.

50

1 I'm sorry, I forgot your other
2 question.
3
4 MR. ALOYSIUS: The first part was why
5 was Kwethluk.....
6
7 MR. GILLIGAN: Oh, the Kwethluk.
8
9 MR. ALOYSIUS:River selected?
10
11 MR. GILLIGAN: That's a good question.
12 And it was selected because it was, what folks call a
13 pristine system, it's undisturbed, there hasn't been a
14 lot, I know there has been mining that's occurred up
15 there but there hasn't been a lot of development in
16 that system. It has all five species of salmon, but
17 more importantly, we also have a weir that's operated
18 on that system so that way we understand how many fish
19 are going into the system basically, you know, how much
20 energy is going into the system, what's happening to
21 that and then what is it producing. So that was a key
22 component to the project, is, understanding what that
23 nutrient input was.
24
25 There's a lot of other work going on on
26 the Kwethluk that dovetails real well, like the out-
27 migration project with this SaRON work. The Kwethluk
28 is a unique system in that it is -- it's almost like
29 this box that we've been able to study over the last
30 five years and really start to get a good understanding
31 of the ecological processes that are going on that, you
32 know, provide good habitat for rearing, for salmon.
33
34 MR. ALOYSIUS: One last -- not a
35 question, but a comment. Yeah, I really commend you
36 guys for your involving the young people because it's
37 exciting to me and it's really exciting to those young
38 people to be involved in something that is so near and
39 dear to them.
40
41 MR. GILLIGAN: Yeah.
42
43 MR. ALOYSIUS: And, you know, I've been
44 invited by Eva Patton for many years.....
45
46 MR. GILLIGAN: Uh-huh.
47
48 MR. ALOYSIUS:but every time
49 they're up there I'm somewhere else.
50

1 MR. GILLIGAN: Yeah, one of these years
2 we're going to get you up there.

3
4 MR. ALOYSIUS: But it's exciting to see
5 you excited about them being excited because this is
6 what we need. All of the agencies that work for Fish
7 and Game, this area, you know, really should look at
8 you guys and see how well you guys are doing in your
9 relationship and your public relation with the people
10 in this area, especially the young people, you know, it
11 gives them more motivation to go on and say I can do
12 that, I can take his place, I can become the Refuge
13 manager, you know, give them something that, hey, you
14 can do it, I did it, you can do it.

15
16 MR. GILLIGAN: Yeah, I catch them in my
17 chair all the time actually when I'm not there.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MR. GILLIGAN: They're trying it on for
22 size.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions for
27 Steve. Mr. Roczicka.

28
29 MR. ROCZICKA: I seen you're getting
30 red there when Bob was complimenting you, starting to
31 glow a little bit.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MR. ROCZICKA: I was wondering about
36 this out-migration component that you had mentioned
37 there, to what level do you see that being able to
38 apply on the mainstem or some of the up streams
39 regarding, you know, as far as the fry to smolt stage
40 and what kind of effects you might see from increased
41 traffic on the river from developmental as far as what
42 may be some of the refugia on the main river, does it
43 go to that extent, even.....

44
45 MR. GILLIGAN: No.

46
47 MR. ROCZICKA:even lower down
48 or.....

49
50 MR. GILLIGAN: No. It -- it's --

1 you're only measuring, you know, essentially what's
2 happening above that incline plane trap, and that's
3 essentially egg deposition to juvenile, you know, smolt
4 out-migration. What happens below that, and that's a
5 big unknown and that's something we need to start
6 understanding, is what's going on during that migration
7 period when they're heading out to, you know, brackish
8 water and out to the ocean, we all know there's a lot
9 of predation that's occurring out there. There's a lot
10 of water quality issues also possibly, temperature, may
11 be a huge factor. Hydrological changes in the
12 hydrodraft and the spring floods, you know, I think
13 we've all seen that, you know, mush outs in the last
14 few years, that's -- we've saw a lot of variability
15 just in the few years that we operated it based on, you
16 know, the flows coming from the rivers so that's one
17 reason we'd like to continue operating it.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that it?

20

21 MR. ROCZICKA: (Nods affirmatively)

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Manumik.

24

25 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman. You
26 mentioned you had these students working with you on
27 these studies.

28

29 MR. GILLIGAN: Uh-huh.

30

31 MR. MANUMIK: Are they getting any
32 credits for what they're doing out there in the field
33 or are you encouraging them to continue their work and
34 will they be able to report like you sitting there, and
35 you be the back up?

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MR. GILLIGAN: I would love to have
40 them do reports like me actually. And I believe,
41 correct me if I'm wrong, Jessica, I believe they get
42 two credits, is that right?

43

44 JESSICA: I didn't get credit.

45

46 MR. GILLIGAN: Well, Jessica didn't get
47 credit, we should talk to Mike Rearden about that. But
48 I know some of the interns do get credits and some
49 don't, they certainly deserve them and so -- and -- so
50 the problem is a little bit new right now for the

1 biological side of the ANSEP program and so it's kind
2 of finding its feet underneath it and I expect it's
3 going to really take off out here because it's a
4 natural interest of most of the young people out here
5 and it's a great opportunity for them to get involved
6 and so far I haven't found a bad one, they've all been
7 really, really good employees, so, and a big help to me
8 throughout the summer.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
11 further questions.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Steve --
16 I'm sorry.

17
18 MR. GILLIGAN: Dan.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Dan. Go ahead.

21
22 MR. MILLER: That's Dan and I'm Steve.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Steve. I've
25 been calling people Steve all morning so I finally got
26 one.

27
28 MR. GILLIGAN: That's fine. That's
29 fine.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I got the right one
32 this time.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 MR. MILLER: Actually I had a few
37 projects here to report on and I guess one of the
38 things is -- one of the differences between Dan's role
39 and my role here on the Kuskokwim River is that I
40 basically oversee and work with subsistence projects
41 specifically. And three of those projects are
42 monitoring projects, weir projects.

43
44 One's on the Andraefsky, a weir,
45 Andraefsky that's operated and overseen by the
46 Fairbanks Fish and Field -- fisheries office, whereas
47 the ones on the Kwethluk are overseen by the Kenai Fish
48 and Wildlife Field Office. So I'm from the Kenai Fish
49 and Wildlife Field Office, but I work and live here in
50 Bethel, and then I'm housed at the Refuge. So just to

1 clarify that a little bit.

2

3 But two of the projects I'd like to
4 discuss a little bit is the Kwethluk River and the
5 Tuluksak River weir, and they are monitoring projects.

6

7 The Kwethluk weir is a joint project.
8 We do a partnership contract with the Village of
9 Kwethluk. We hire local hires from that village this
10 year. I had eight people from the village of Kwethluk
11 that worked on different projects between the SaRON
12 site, the juvenile site and the weir site. And that
13 starts as early as April 15th and we go to -- we're
14 just now finishing wrapping up some of that stuff.

15

16 The Tuluksak River weir, again, that's
17 a joint partnership with the Tuluksak Native community.
18 We use local hires from the village there at Tuluksak,
19 this year there were four individuals that worked with
20 us at the weir.

21

22 Another project we had is the
23 characterization of the chinook salmon subsistence
24 harvest, the Tuluksak fishery. We went in this spring,
25 it's a two year study, this is the first year that
26 we've done it. The village of Tuluksak has been very
27 cooperative with it in letting us come into their fish
28 camps, we worked with the individuals at the fish camps
29 and we gathered data specifically, looking at the
30 subsistence harvest in the Tuluksak area and that was
31 in chinook. We want to take that data now and compare
32 it to the escapement at the Tuluksak weir and we're
33 just going to look for comparisons.

34

35 Another study that we had is the
36 heritability of wild traits in wild chinook salmon.
37 And, again, that's a partnership with the Tuluksak
38 Native community. It's a genetics project. It's AYK
39 funded, where the other projects are all funded by the
40 Office of Subsistence Management. And that project is
41 with the Conservation Genetics Lab in Anchorage, and
42 we're basically looking at a simple question would be,
43 do large female chinook contribute more to offspring in
44 the following years. That would be one of the
45 questions that we would address.

46

47 So that's just a brief overview. All
48 the information on our weir projects and any of the
49 project publications you can go to the Fish and
50 Wildlife Service, www.fws.gov, and you can go under

1 Region 7 and you can go through and all the reports,
2 all the manuscripts, all the publications, every data
3 series from our weirs, that's in that site.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Could you repeat that
8 website again, please?

9
10 MR. MILLER: www.fws.gov.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

13
14 MR. MILLER: And you just go to Region
15 7, that's the Alaska region.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
18 questions for Steve.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You must have made a
23 good report.

24
25 MR. MILLER: Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Hollis, do
28 you have your next person coming up.

29
30 MR. TWITCHELL: Chair and Council
31 members, Hollis Twitchell, Yukon-Delta Refuge.

32
33 I have several topics I'd like to talk
34 to you about, one will be the steelshot exchange
35 program on the Delta as well as the issue of toxic lead
36 in waterfowl populations and what's happening in the
37 villages, coastal villages. And then also about the
38 19A moose hunt this year. And then also about the Unit
39 18 moose hunt. And I'll talk to you about the Hart
40 Lake issue, in terms of access.

41
42 Starting off with the steelshot
43 program. This year we continued with our steelshot
44 clinics with four clinics being held in which Refuge
45 Staff travels to those villages after coordinating with
46 the tribal council in the community. Those steelshot
47 clinics were done in Kwethluk, Nightmute, Tuluksak, and
48 Kipnuk. We had planned to go to several other villages
49 this year but it just didn't work out with the dates
50 that the community was available to have us to do the

1 clinic and our Staff's availability to go do it. We
2 try to do at least four villages each year. We have
3 trainers that go with shot, work with the community,
4 hunters who attend the clinics, provide the steelshot
5 for the training and shooting to help them become
6 better clued into how to be successful in shooting
7 steelshot.

8

9 We also have our RITs communicating in
10 their representative villages as they work with,
11 expressing the importance to utilize steelshot for
12 hunting waterfowl.

13

14 We have had a mixed bag in success in
15 those, a number of communities across the Delta.

16

17 Robert, in his discussion yesterday
18 talked about that there's a number of stores in various
19 villages that continue to sell lead shot and, indeed,
20 that's one of the things we do and part of our
21 education and outreach is having our officer go around
22 to talk to the community, talk to the store owners, to
23 try to encourage them not to purchase and sell lead
24 from their stores. What we've found is there's quite a
25 number of communities across the Delta that have been
26 very compliant in terms of their stores not purchasing
27 lead and stocking it in their stores, with the
28 exception of .410 which wasn't produced and available
29 in a non-toxic shot. So we see good compliance in a
30 number of villages across the Delta and we're very
31 happy and encouraged by that, however, there are a
32 number of villages across the Delta who continue to
33 purchase and import lead into their communities. Some
34 in substantial volumes. In speaking with them, you
35 know, we can encourage them not to bring lead in to
36 sell in their stores, but there isn't any regulatory
37 oversight or ability that we have to limit that or not
38 allow them to do that.

39

40 The local hunters are very often caught
41 in the situation where lead, which cost less than steel
42 are available in some of their stores in the villages,
43 and with the limited economic opportunities in so many
44 of the villages, they, of course, are purchasing lead
45 and utilizing it across the Delta. In doing that, lead
46 continues to be introduced onto the landscape and as
47 Robert alluded to, birds, in particularly the
48 threatened endangered species continue to have impacts
49 of toxicity due to lead on the Delta.

50

1 I don't know how we can get around to
2 this issue. We would certainly be interested in any
3 recommendations that you have or any assistance from
4 any other organizations, such as AVCP, who might be
5 able to help and try to encourage stores not to
6 continue to import and sell lead.

7
8 So that's sort of an unresolved issue
9 that's out there and it continues to be something we
10 need to grapple with, but there isn't any over
11 regulatory authority that the agencies have to go in
12 and deal with that aspect. So I leave that on the
13 table and am very open to hear any suggestions and any
14 assistance that we might get through any means and
15 mechanisms to try to address that issue.

16
17 Another aspect that was very
18 controversial across the Delta this year was the
19 migratory bird regulations which require hunting
20 licenses and duck stamps. And the position of the
21 Refuge system is to continue to primarily use outreach
22 as a method to inform local hunters of what the
23 migratory bird regulations are. Our guidance this year
24 was only to issue verbal warnings and inform hunters
25 that it is in the regulations, they do need to have
26 hunting licenses and duck stamps, however, no written
27 warnings and no violation notices are to be written
28 this year. In 2009, next year, our direction is that
29 we are to write written warnings to people who don't
30 have those items and continue to inform them where
31 they're available and how to get them. In 2010 for the
32 duck stamps and the hunting licenses, then at that
33 point the officers may, at their discretion, issue the
34 violation notices for hunters who don't have those
35 items. So the intention is to phase this in over a
36 number of years, continue with the information outreach
37 into the communities and inform individuals as they're
38 contacted.

39
40 I wanted to mention that we did have a
41 presence in a couple of areas on the coast this past
42 year. We started earlier on in the year contacting
43 the tribal councils in those areas that we wished to go
44 to asking them for permission to come into their
45 community and have a presence in their community during
46 the migratory bird hunting season. That was something
47 that was a model we used from about 10 years ago when
48 the village of Kipnuk contacted the Refuge and said
49 that they would prefer that any presence of Refuge
50 Staff enforcing migratory bird regulations base out of

1 their community as opposed to flying in in airplanes,
2 contacting their hunters out in the field and flying
3 away. So that was done a number of years ago. It was
4 very successful and worked. So the effort this year
5 was to contact those communities we wanted to be in,
6 which one of those was Kipnuk. That conversation
7 happened between members of the tribal council. As
8 mid-winter progressed to spring there were numerous
9 contacts with the leaders of the Kipnuk tribal council,
10 we never did hear back from them officially, as we got
11 in through April, we wanted to have some presence in
12 their community later on in the year towards May, we
13 never did receive a formal response from the community.
14 However, we later found out when we arrived in Kipnuk
15 that, indeed, they had sent a formal letter to the
16 Refuge saying they did not want us there in their
17 village, however, the fax, email -- or fax message that
18 was sent to us was sent to the wrong fax number, and we
19 never received it in the office. So there was a miss-
20 communication there between Kipnuk and ourselves,
21 however we were in Kipnuk and also in Tuluksak, which
22 acknowledged they were willing to have Refuge Staff in
23 their community.

24
25 As a result from May 27th to June 2nd,
26 Refuge Staff were doing migratory contacts in those
27 regions. There were 21 bird hunters that were checked
28 through that course, 12 violation notices -- or 12
29 violations were observed, however, only 3 violation
30 notices were issued; one for use of lead shot, and two
31 for rallying (ph). Six hunters were given warnings,
32 two for having .410 shot lead and four for rallying.
33 Three hunters refused to identify themselves after
34 admitting they were hunting with lead shot. Of those
35 21 bird hunters, only nine hunters had a license and
36 three hunters had duck stamps. So you see there was
37 quite a range of compliance out there.

38
39 I think the officers were pretty
40 respectful and in touch with the guidelines that we
41 have on how to deal with these situations with only
42 three violation notices actually being issued through
43 that course.

44
45 The exchange program that we had for
46 .410 non-toxic shot, it was a combined order for the
47 North Slope and for the Delta to a manufacture down in
48 the States, that manufacture was unable to deliver that
49 .410 shot until late in the summer. Subsequently
50 towards the end of the summer we received 600 rounds of

1 .410 non-toxic shot here on the Delta and the remaining
2 went to the North Slope. The North Slope and the Delta
3 are the only two regions in the state that have a non-
4 toxic requirement for small game and birds.

5

6 We are now working with the State of
7 Alaska, Phillip Perry to get that exchange program
8 under way so that hunters in the various villages who
9 have .410s, we have a limited supply that we will
10 exchange with them.

11

12 I guess I'll stop there at this point
13 and try to answer any questions that you have before we
14 go to these other topics.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions. Mr.
17 Aloysius.

18

19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. This
20 question has come up time and time again up river, is,
21 what the age span -- you need a duck stamp to hunt
22 waterfowl, 16 to what -- what's the upper end of the
23 age requirement?

24

25 MR. TWITCHELL: Up to 60 years of age,
26 those individuals who have a permanent hunting license
27 issued by the State are not required to have the
28 stamps.

29

30 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

31

32 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Away from the
33 microphone)

34

35 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If you have any
38 questions can you please be recognized by the Chair
39 before speaking up because we are trying to move this
40 along in a -- because I've been instructed by the
41 Council to move this along as fast as we can, so I'd
42 like to request that if you would like to address
43 anybody, make sure that you're recognized by the Chair.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 Go ahead, Mr. Greg -- no, Paul, okay,
48 or -- okay.

49

50 PAUL: Those of us that are over 70

1 years old, many of us can't lift a shotgun anymore, but
2 there are those of us that have to buy -- even if we
3 don't catch a duck or two or goose, you still have to
4 buy a duck stamp, now I want to get into that a little
5 bit because we were issued a permanent hunting license,
6 we can hunt anything that comes along, even a little
7 mouse, you see us, we can do that, too.

8

9 But the migratory bird duck stamp is a
10 question of mine because those of us that are over 70,
11 we have a permanent hunting licenses, but I think that
12 somewhere along the line there, we should think about
13 including that in the permanent hunting licenses,
14 because those of us that are probably 70, 80 year olds,
15 maybe you have a year left, or maybe two years, we
16 don't know, but I would like to get that somewhere
17 along there where we can discuss that a little bit
18 further.

19

20 We had questions on the -- I was a
21 member -- I'm still a member of the Migratory Bird
22 people, and even out there we were discussing that,
23 too, because we need to take a look at that.

24

25 (In Yup'ik)

26

27 The other one that we brought into --
28 that was another issue that we got into the -- my buddy
29 beaver (In Yup'ik) is another one. Now, everyone asks
30 and everyone in the villages are complaining about
31 where is the fish and who is supposed to assist us in
32 controlling the beaver (In Yup'ik) around here. I
33 don't know what it is but all the tundra villages,
34 lower villages, they aren't getting any more blackfish
35 because all those -- all those dams have been built and
36 the last time we were here -- I think it's in the
37 agenda somewhere along the line, it's always in the
38 agenda, but somewhere along the line this -- it
39 skips.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Paul, can I interrupt
42 you for a minute, we have that on the agenda at a later
43 -- as a later item, could you wait on that.

44

45 PAUL: Okay, good.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Wait until later on
48 the beaver issue, please.

49

50 PAUL: Yeah, there was another one on

1 the issue about duck stamp issue and I wanted to go a
2 little bit further into it because I need a question on
3 how we're going to get about doing that.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There'll be discussion
6 on that on Item 14 in the agenda.

7
8 PAUL: I can't see very good anymore.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Mr.
11 Twitchell, would you continue on -- Mary, do you have a
12 question.

13
14 MS. GREGORY: I have a couple questions
15 of Hollis.

16
17 Can you tell me how many villages have
18 been in this steelshot exchange so far since it came
19 out?

20
21 MR. TWITCHELL: If Louie is still in
22 here, he would be a better one to answer that because
23 he's been with the Refuge for many, many years and
24 these steelshot clinics have been ongoing for quite a
25 number of years. We do at least four villages each
26 year so if you want a better list of which villages
27 have had clinics I'll defer the mic to Louie on that.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you have a response
30 to that question.

31
32 LOUIE: What question?

33
34 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, a question, how
35 many villages are you talking to on that steelshot
36 exchange program -- (In Yup'ik).

37
38 LOUIE: Yeah, right now.

39
40 REPORTER: No, get up there Louie, you
41 know that.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 LOUIE: I'm in class.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 LOUIE: Well, the steelshot exchange
50 program, we have always stepped aside from that and let

1 the State do that for us, correct?

2

3 MR. TWITCHELL: Mary's question was for
4 the steelshot clinics where you go into the villages
5 and do training with the hunters.....

6

7 LOUIE: Okay.

8

9 MR. TWITCHELL:how many villages
10 and which ones have been visited. I talked about the
11 four that you visited this year.

12

13 LOUIE: We -- the steelshot clinics
14 have been ongoing for maybe about 15, 20 years now.
15 And I have a list of those villages which have been
16 provided, those clinics, the coastal villages are a top
17 priority most of the time because that's where most --
18 the waterfowl is taken. And so we try, an average of
19 at least four villages per year, to a village that we
20 haven't visited for quite a while, in order of
21 importance -- or, not importance, or in order of
22 priority. And so we maintain that list and each year,
23 like in January, I sit down with our steelshot
24 instructors and say, these are the villages that we
25 have provided steelshot clinics in the past. And so we
26 sit down and go through that and say, okay, then we
27 need to go to those villages that we haven't visited
28 for the last 10 years, okay, and so we do that.

29

30 Next year, hopefully, but, you know,
31 depending on our funding and our budget, hopefully
32 we'll get to Kotlik and Nunam Iqua, those are two far
33 distance places and, of course, you know, carrying
34 around cases of shot shells is a no no in a plane, so
35 we have to freight, you know, most of that stuff out,
36 including our equipment that we use out there. So if
37 it at all possible we try to arrange with the Refuge to
38 fly us out and hopefully we'll come back, you know,
39 without no shot shells to carry with us, so but at
40 least we try for four villages per year. We have that
41 list in our office.

42

43 (In Yup'ik)

44

45 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, I can get that
46 information from you then, Qu yana.

47

48 LOUIE: You're welcome.

49

50 MS. GREGORY: And, Hollis, your intern

1 program is how long and is does it include the winter
2 and summertime or are these high school students or
3 college eligible students?

4

5 MR. TWITCHELL: The ANSEP interns will
6 be going through their formal training at the colleges
7 this winter and they'll come back again to some unit
8 next summer as well, it's a multi-year program with
9 field training, plus formal education so it's a
10 continuing program and we'll receive a number of
11 students back again this coming summer.

12

13 MS. GREGORY: Thank you. And I just
14 want to make a comment, commend you for warning people
15 first, in their first offenses of breaking the rules,
16 and not just targeting them right there. That makes me
17 feel good about what you guys are trying to do, people
18 trying to work with people in a more humane manner.

19

20 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you, Mary. And,
21 again, it's the RITs out in the communities discussing
22 issues of what's happening in the bird populations, why
23 the continuing use of lead and so it's an effort that's
24 structured through our field contacts with the elders
25 and in the communities and there's still much more that
26 needs to be done.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Before
31 lunch there's a person from BLM that needs to get on a
32 plane, and, Hollis, are you done with your report, if
33 so then we'll get on to him, if not then.....

34

35 MR. TWITCHELL: I can defer to him. If
36 need be I can come back this afternoon and talk about
37 moose in 19A and 18.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that all right.

40

41 (Council nods affirmatively)

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you.
44 There's a guy from BLM that needs to get on that plane,
45 Hollis, thank you, and we'll call on you this afternoon
46 after lunch. In the meantime if it's all right with
47 the Council members then -- yes.

48

49 MR. BROWN: Yeah, I have a question for
50 him.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Could you please wait
2 until after lunch, he'll be coming back after lunch but
3 we got to get that guy's report so he can catch the
4 plane.

5
6 All right, go ahead.

7
8 MR. OVIATT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
9 Members of the Council. For the record my name is
10 George Oviatt. I'm with the Bureau of Land Management,
11 I'm special assistant to the State director. And I'll
12 be giving a very short report from BLM.

13
14 This report comes from the Anchorage
15 field office who has management of our public lands
16 administrated by BLM within your Unit 18.

17
18 We've had some administrative changes
19 within our Anchorage field office and our state office
20 in the subsistence program. I'd like to report on
21 those.

22
23 Charles Ardizzone, who was our
24 coordinator -- subsistence coordinator from the State
25 office has taken a job with OSM, he has been replaced
26 by Dan Sharp, who comes to BLM having 27 plus years of
27 experience working, most of it with State fish and has
28 a lot of experience with subsistence and so we are
29 happy that he has joined us in that capacity.

30
31 In the Anchorage field office we have
32 filled our subsistence coordinator position. His name
33 is Geoff Beyersdorf, maybe some of you are familiar
34 with him from his experience working in our
35 communities. He replaces Jeff Denton who took a
36 position with Minerals Management.

37
38 And we have a new Anchorage field
39 office manager, his name is James Fincher, and he is on
40 duty now.

41
42 I wanted to give a quick report on the
43 moose hunt down in Goodnews River drainage. It was a
44 very successful hunt. There was permits issued to --
45 most of the permits that were issued were issued to
46 Goodnews, Platinum, Quinhagak. The harvest quota of 10
47 was taken, in fact, I think they took 11. But we felt
48 it was a very successful hunt and we were very proud of
49 the cooperation that we got. This hunt came about as a
50 result of the community working with the State, working

1 with the Federal agencies to make sure that we could
2 have a limited hunt in that area and that the moose
3 taken were taken by the communities of those areas, so
4 we felt that was a very successful hunt. And I'm sure
5 you'll hear from Fish and Wildlife Service more about
6 that hunt, too.

7

8 And the other thing is, in your book,
9 on Page 62, we have a draft policy for timber and
10 special Forest products for subsistence hunt, that
11 draft policy is out for comments. We would like to get
12 your comments, if you could please submit those to Dan
13 Sharp it would be appreciated. It's a draft and
14 treated as a draft and the BLM is very interested in
15 hearing from the communities as to how this program can
16 be better implemented.

17

18 That's all I have, are there any
19 questions.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions from the
22 Council. Greg.

23

24 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. George.
25 Will miss Geoff here, butting heads and working
26 together both, depending on the issue at the time.

27

28 You mentioned about the Goodnews hunt
29 that most of the permits went to Goodnews, Platinum and
30 Quinhagak and that was part of the whole discussion of
31 putting that together, people were concerned about the
32 influx, how many went to people -- how many permits
33 were issued and how many to folks that traveled all the
34 way down there to get a permit to go hunt on the
35 Goodnews River.

36

37 MR. OVIATT: Through the Chair. Mr.
38 Roczicka. There were 40 permits issued, most went to
39 Goodnews and some to Platinum and one to Quinhagak.

40

41 MR. ROCZICKA: There was nobody else --
42 when you said most of them went to those three
43 villages, it made it sound like there was, you know,
44 somebody from Anchorage or St. Mary's or Bethel or
45 whatever happened to fly down that way to go get a
46 permit on Goodnews, so, no, you answered it.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions.

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.
4
5 MR. OVIATT; Mr. Chairman, thank you
6 for hearing this and letting me get on the plane in
7 time. Thank you, very much.
8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I hope you make it on
10 the plane after that.
11
12 (Laughter)
13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Does the Council feel
15 like they want to work -- you guys were the ones that
16 asked me to get this meeting speeded up a little bit
17 and if you guys want to work through lunch, we could,
18 if not, and you want to take a break, we'll take a
19 break, what is the wishes.
20
21 MR. ALOYSIUS: Lunch break.
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Want a lunch break.
24
25 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.
26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, no?
28
29 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, then we'll have a
32 lunch break.
33
34 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that we recess
35 for lunch.
36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Recess for lunch until
38 1:15, about an hour and 15 minutes was about pretty
39 good timing yesterday, so about 1:15 be back and we'll
40 take Unit 19A moose, continue on with Hollis' report.
41 And, thank you, Hollis, for your patience.
42
43 (Off record)
44
45 (On record)
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Hollis. Mr. Hollis
48 Twitchell, you're still up.
49
50 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you, Chair.

1 Council members. Hollis Twitchell, Yukon-Delta.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's going to be
4 any discussion by people out there, could you take it
5 outdoors so we can have some quiet in here. Thanks.

6

7 Mr. Hollis, you have the floor.

8

9 MR. TWITCHELL: Okay, thank you, Chair.
10 I'll try to be brief and go through the last two topics
11 I have here and we'll start with Unit 19A hunt.

12

13 Unit 19A is under limited hunts, that
14 being a State Tier II hunt and also on Federal lands,
15 the Federal drawing permit hunt.

16

17 This has been in place for the last two
18 years. This year, again, we had an allocation of 100
19 Federal drawing permits available. We issued 99
20 permits all together. Two hunters from the villages of
21 Tuluksak, Lower Kalskag, Kalskag, Aniak, Chuathbaluk
22 and Crooked Creek. So we were pretty successful in
23 getting all those out and what we had this year, what
24 was unusual, is the number of individuals in Aniak who
25 had Tier II permits were 79 households this year. And
26 as such, in Aniak, which we had a total allocation of
27 Federal permits of 32 that was possible, we only issued
28 11 permits to Aniak people because so many people had
29 Tier II permits already. So we took those extra
30 permits that were available from Aniak and issued those
31 to hunters out of Tuluksak, there was a total of 14
32 additional permits issued to Tuluksak beyond their 24
33 original allocation. And Crooked Creek also seven
34 additional permits were issued into those communities
35 as well. Otherwise all the other communities were
36 issued up to their allocation or within one permit
37 below it. I believe Lower was issued 15 permits and
38 they had a total of 16 available in that community, but
39 we ran out of applications at 15 so we didn't have
40 anyone else in Lower Kalskag to issue a permit to. The
41 same was true in Kalskag, they were allocated 13 but
42 only 11 permits were available, that people had turned
43 in applications for. That's why we reallocated the
44 permits to Tuluksak and Crooked Creek.

45

46 We haven't had enough time to get all
47 the harvest reports in so I don't have a tally on the
48 success rate for hunters, for either the Tier II or for
49 the Federal drawing permits, but I can speak to what I
50 observed through daily hunting patrols from the 15th

1 through the 20th on Refuge lands in Unit 19A.

2

3 This is going to be Refuge lands or
4 between Aniak and down to the unit boundary, just below
5 Lower Kalskag.

6

7 During that week I came across 20 camps
8 on Refuge lands. Contacted 30 hunters associated with
9 those camps. All of the hunters were qualified with
10 the exception of two hunters which were from Akiak who
11 were up at Whitefish Lake, and since they had just
12 arrived that day I issued them warnings, did not issue
13 a violation notice, told them they were not an eligible
14 hunter in this particular area for this hunt, and they
15 left and went back down river. The course of the rest
16 of the hunters that I contacted, they were all
17 qualified, they were all people with drawing or Tier II
18 permits so everything was in good order there. Through
19 the course of that week there was only two moose taken.
20 While I was there, hunters that I contacted and
21 discussion I had with Bobby earlier, he indicated that
22 he was aware of three moose taken from members of the
23 Kalskags, so the harvest is very low, success rate was
24 very low, so I know of only five moose that was taken
25 at this time, and, of course, that's preliminary
26 information, and we'll have to wait for the compilation
27 of the actual harvest permits.

28

29 One of the things that was noted, I
30 know there was some discussion to extend the season in
31 Unit 19A. I would concur with that. I did not see
32 moose on the cows until that week of the 15th, prior to
33 that the bulls were not on the cows, so, indeed,
34 temperature and timing certainly affected the amount of
35 movement of bulls through that area so certainly an
36 extension a little bit later into the fall would be
37 beneficial to hunters in that area.

38

39 Also noted there was an extensive
40 amount of boat traffic up and down the old channel of
41 the Kuskokwim and sloughs. There were a lot of boat
42 hunters out daily and one of the hunters that I spoke
43 with had observed a bull and was getting in position to
44 try to take it and boat traffic then spooked it back
45 away from the river, and he was unable to successfully
46 make a harvest. So there are quite a few people who
47 are qualified hunters who are traveling in that area in
48 hopes of getting moose.

49

50 That's all I have on Unit 19A.

1 We can either take questions now or I
2 can move on to 18.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for
5 Hollis. Greg.

6

7 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Hollis,
8 can you just refresh how many permits overall including
9 the State Tier II permits that were out there along
10 with the Federal permits that were issued and that
11 enforcement report we got too, there's a -- on 19, 20
12 and 21, where they observed all those boats going by
13 their decoy, they mentioned that 35 -- they observed 35
14 moose in a boat, so -- that's showing a little better,
15 but how many of them might have come from above Stoney
16 or not -- or in that area, 21D -- or 19D it would be.

17

18 MR. TWITCHELL: There were 230 Tier II
19 permits issued for that 19A hunt. And I didn't bring
20 the list of communities that were represented but
21 clearly Aniak was very successful in that group of
22 applicants. There was also -- there was only one
23 individual from Tuluksak that had a Tier II permit. For
24 some reason they didn't get any notification or they
25 weren't aware of when to apply for that.....

26

27 MR. ROCZICKA: Excuse me, you're
28 referring to the State Tier II permits now because we
29 got Federal Tier II and State Tier II and it's -- just
30 clarify.

31

32 MR. TWITCHELL: Correct, thank you.
33 I'm talking about the State Tier II program. There's
34 230 permits that they issue to hunters in 19A, Aniak
35 was very successful in applying for those this year.
36 In stark contrast of that Tuluksak only had one
37 individual who had received a Tier II permit. That's
38 another reason we tried to get back down to Tuluksak
39 and help them out with some additional Federal drawing
40 permits.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions to
43 19A moose.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you, go
48 on.

49

50 MR. TWITCHELL: In Unit 18, the big

1 issue that was out there was in terms of non-local
2 residents, that being residents not from Unit 18,
3 Delta, hunting in the area and the access that they
4 have to the Yukon River hunts by air taxi operators for
5 the Delta.

6
7 Last year I gave you the report of what
8 that activity was. This year we only had two aircraft
9 transporters who were authorized to provide
10 transportation over on to that area this summer. They,
11 in part of their authorization had to come in to the
12 Refuge, identify what areas they wanted to have access
13 to, landing areas, and then the Refuge manager reviewed
14 those and identified which ones were approved and which
15 ones were not approved, similar to what we did last
16 year.

17
18 In this situation, again, the Refuge
19 manager had made a determination there would be no
20 access to the commercial air taxi transporters to any
21 waters that were accessible by boat on the Yukon River.
22 So using that same directive, the Refuge manger went
23 through and reviewed points that were accessed this
24 year. We also tried to improve the accuracy of where
25 recently conveyed Native allotments and village
26 corporation lands were so those locations were plotted
27 onto maps that had been updated and accurate as of
28 spring this year and thereby tried to avoid the
29 situation that occurred last year where an air taxi
30 operator had dropped off a hunter in proximity to a
31 Native allotment. So we really tried to make an effort
32 to eliminate that sort of conflict from happening this
33 year.

34
35 A total of 53 non-resident hunters were
36 transported out into the remainder 18 area. Of those
37 16 moose were taken by those individuals. There were
38 additionally six residents from Unit 18 who utilized
39 their services and were flown out for that hunt and of
40 those six Unit 18 residents two of them were successful
41 the taking moose. So all total out of the total 59
42 hunters that were transported on the carriers 18 of
43 those were successful taking moose.

44
45 In terms of patrolling in that area,
46 Refuge officers contacted a good number of hunting
47 camps in that area. There were two violation notices
48 written, one for not validating a moose harvest ticket
49 and the other one for failure to salvage the meat at
50 the neck, the rest of the meat were salvaged

1 appropriately, the antlers were transported out last
2 but the individual did not salvage the meat and
3 subsequently was issued a violation notice for that.

4

5 So I'll stop at this point and try to
6 answer any questions you may have and then I'll go to a
7 Hart Lake issue I heard about.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

10

11 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, when you say non-
12 resident hunters are you talking about of state or out
13 of Unit 18 hunters?

14

15 MR. TWITCHELL: 53 were non-residents
16 of the state so they were not Alaska residents, they
17 were from out of state. And then six residents --
18 well, let me take that back, my note here says 53
19 residents of the state and residents of the unit, so
20 that would be in-state hunters who were flown out and
21 were transported out to Unit 18, as well as non-state
22 resident hunters from the Lower 48, so that number
23 represents both of those groups. Both the in-state
24 hunters, who are not residents of Unit 18 and the non-
25 resident hunters from the Lower 48.

26

27 MR. ALOYSIUS: Do you have a break down
28 on the numbers?

29

30 MR. TWITCHELL: I don't have that right
31 here in front of me at this time.

32

33 MR. ALOYSIUS: The reason I ask that
34 is, you know, when we were meeting in Emmonak, you
35 know, all the people who testified there were not in
36 favor of allowing non-Alaska residents to be hunting in
37 that area, especially with the air transport system so,
38 you know -- well, I don't want to get into that.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions
41 for Mr. Twitchell.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, continue.

46

47 MR. TWITCHELL: Okay. I wasn't sure
48 which Council member raised the concern about Hart
49 Lake, and some individuals who wanted to go to that
50 place to hunt squirrels, if I heard that correct, was

1 that a concern raised?

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That was Mr. Andrew.

4

5 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

8

9 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. My name is
10 John Andrew from Kwethluk. All villages have a concern
11 over that area. For years traditionally our people go
12 up hunting in Hart Lake, Milky (ph) Lake, Kisaralik and
13 North Fork Lakes. But recently starting around 199 --
14 in the 1990s those charter outfits didn't want to take
15 us up there anymore because they say there's a guiding
16 operation going on. On top of that not too long ago he
17 said we can't go up to Kisaralik or North Fork Lakes
18 because there's a gold exploration going on in that
19 area. And the questions we had were who issues the
20 permits for the guiding outfits, like what they allow
21 people like Pappa Bear Adventures and Wilderness --
22 Kuskokwim Wilderness and private planes to go up there,
23 but they won't allow our people to go up to their
24 traditional hunting and trapping area.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you for
29 clarifying the question for me. Kisaralik Lake is
30 outside of Refuge lands, that would be on State lands,
31 and so the Refuge system has no influence or control or
32 say in terms of access to that location. I'd like to
33 speak to Hart Lake though.

34

35 Hart Lake is within Togiak National
36 Wildlife Refuge. And I called up the Refuge manager
37 yesterday to try to get some clarification whether
38 there is any constraints that the Refuge would have to
39 someone who has a permit to fly in there as a
40 commercial operator and he says no there is no
41 virtually no restriction on the air taxi operator of
42 not flying in if there's another hunting camp on that
43 lake. So it's not a restriction by the Refuge system
44 on the air taxi's that can access onto those waters
45 that are US Fish and Wildlife Refuge. However, for
46 fly-in lodges, their special use permit for fly-in
47 lodges, this is for the Togiak Refuge now, they have a
48 restriction of not dropping off clients on the lake if
49 there's another commercially dropped off fishing camp.
50 So they control those commercial fishermen lodges and

1 only allow one commercial fishermen lodge to be dropped
2 off on a lake so they're trying to avoid a whole bunch
3 of fishermens being put on one water body.

4

5 So they control those fishing lodges
6 through their permit systems that way but it's not so
7 in terms of hunting drop offs as an air taxi. So none
8 of the air taxi's are told by the Refuge system you
9 can't drop off people there. So there certainly would
10 be no restriction from Togiak's standpoint for
11 Ptarmigan or Renfrow or any of the other air taxi
12 operators who are authorized to land on those waters
13 from taking squirrel hunters or people up onto Hart
14 Lake.

15

16 So I hope that's starting to get to the
17 heart of your question.

18

19 MR. ANDREW: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

22

23 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I'm
24 wondering if there's something we can do to put into --
25 for them to put in their policy, their public use
26 management plan or whatever it might be there, if the
27 air taxi's are starting to use this as an excuse to say
28 that we've got commercial clients there and there's
29 some kind of agreement going on between the commercial
30 operators regardless of whether it's hunting or fishing
31 or who it might be but just an informal agreement
32 between the owners and operators, that they're not
33 going to bring somebody up where they've already got a
34 commercial operation going, i.e., somebody that's going
35 up there for subsistence, and this is on Refuge lands,
36 where subsistence is supposed to be the priority, how
37 about let's get something in place that says if they're
38 going to enact a policy like that then their permit
39 should be no good to even operate there at all for
40 commercial activities if they're going to use it as an
41 excuse to preclude subsistence users from accessing the
42 area that they were there a long time before the air
43 taxi's were.

44

45 MR. TWITCHELL: I talked about this
46 with our Refuge manager, Gene Peltola and he says
47 that's not the case with any of our air taxi operators.
48 There's no restrictions that way other than our Yukon
49 River, in order to conflicts with the traditional users
50 on the Yukon River, that's why we administratively

1 employ that restriction of no access to boat accessible
2 waters. That's the only location where that sort of
3 restriction is put on and, again, we only have
4 authority to influence their operations if they occur
5 on Refuge lands or waters. So when you're dealing with
6 privately owned Native corporation lands, or when
7 you're dealing with State lands outside of the Refuge
8 boundary, we have no oversight on their operations on
9 how they operate, you know, that would fall, I guess to
10 the operators.

11
12 And if I could say one thing further in
13 terms of Hart Lake, after speaking with our Refuge
14 manager, I talked to both Ptarmigan Air and Renfrow and
15 inquired whether they had denied access or would not
16 take anyone to Hart Lake and the response from them is
17 they had one inquiry from an individual from Akiachak
18 and one inquiry from another person, they weren't sure
19 which village he was in, but those two calls came in
20 and asked him for prices for transportation out to --
21 one was Hart Lake and the other was Grave Lake, and
22 they were quoted prices, they were told they would love
23 to fly them out there, the individuals never called
24 back to book to go there. So there were two inquiries
25 from subsistence users to go out, one to Hart Lake and
26 one to Grave Lake, but subsequently there was no follow
27 up from the individual to actually book the flight but
28 in terms of their aspect, they would love to have the
29 business and there certainly would be no inclination on
30 their part to not take someone.

31
32 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you. Because I
33 did have an individual come to me, too, and I put it
34 out. I had an individual, a trapper, that said that he
35 tried to get out there and was denied by whoever it was
36 he tried to get there with.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MR. TWITCHELL: That was all I have.
41 I'll try to answer any other questions if you have
42 them.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for Mr.
45 Twitchell.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there isn't any,
50 thank you, Hollis.

1 At this time there's an individual here
2 who needs to get to the hospital at 2:00 o'clock but
3 his report is down on Item F and if it's all right with
4 the Council we'll ask for a suspension of the rules to
5 hear Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association's
6 update, if that's all right with you, if there's any
7 objections.

8

9 MS. GREGORY: So moved, Mr. Chairman.

10

11 MR. ROCZICKA: No objection.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, no objections.

14 Go ahead, Mr. Alstrom, you're up next.

15

16 MR. ALSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
17 Members of the Board. I didn't have to get to the
18 hospital, I just got another appointment elsewhere,
19 clarify that.

20

21 But anyway my name, for the record, my
22 name is Bill Alstrom and I'm from the community of St.
23 Mary's on the Lower Yukon River and I also serve on the
24 Board of the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
25 as the Low River Co-Chair, and I noticed we were on the
26 agenda for this RAC meeting and for updates and I'll
27 give a brief summary of the things that went on this
28 summer in the Yukon River drainage.

29

30 As you know we always had -- starting a
31 few years back we started these teleconferences, Yukon
32 River in-season management teleconferences were held
33 successfully again this summer with the first
34 teleconference starting on June 3rd and the last one
35 held on September 2nd. What these teleconferences are,
36 we keep track of the chinook, mainly the chinook salmon
37 entering the river at the mouth of the Yukon and try to
38 follow the fish all the way up to past the Canadian
39 border into the spawning grounds in Canada to the
40 headwaters of the Yukon River. This is a very
41 interesting tool to -- for management by the Department
42 of Fish and Game to see where these pulses of -- mainly
43 the pulses of chinook salmon that travel up the Yukon
44 River.

45

46 This year we had a pretty difficult
47 king season that led to a record number of callers on
48 our teleconferences, they were mainly, mostly callers
49 from the up river villages, and into the Canadian side
50 of the border.

1 Summaries of all these calls are
2 recorded by our office in Anchorage and we do have a
3 website for those of you who would like to listen to
4 these summaries of our weekly calls, the website is
5 www.yukonsalmon.org.

6
7 And also we did have local hires this
8 summer with one of our programs which we implement
9 during the summer on the Yukon. YRDFA, that's Yukon
10 River Drainage Fisheries Association provided local
11 hire for several projects including the Office of
12 Subsistence Management, OSM, and we funded the Tozitna
13 weir and in-season harvest interviews also to OSM,
14 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and technicians in
15 Galena, Nulato and Ruby and for post-season subsistence
16 harvest interview assistance in more than 30
17 communities. The hiring was partly funded by Alaska
18 Department of Fish and Game and the restoration and
19 then the enhancement fund on the Yukon River Panel.

20
21 On to another item, we did have our
22 US/Canadian education exchange. This program started
23 in the year 2001, where we get participants from the
24 Canadian side that come down to the lower river, around
25 the Yukon River to see when the fish start running,
26 coming up the river, see how they, you know,
27 operations, and in return we get people from the lower
28 river to go up to the other side, up to Canada to see
29 where the fish originate, their spawning grounds up
30 there at the headwaters of the Yukon, mainly at the
31 Whitehorse waterway up there and all the way up to
32 Teslin. This year we did have a group of five people
33 that came down from the Yukon Territories on the
34 Canadian side to the lower and middle river to learn
35 this year about fisheries, management and cultures.
36 These individuals were from the communities of Old
37 Crow, Whitehorse, Pelly Crossing and Teslin, and they
38 did visit communities on the lower river and on the
39 Yukon at Emmonak, Tanana, Pilot Station Sonar, the
40 Rapids and Fairbanks.

41
42 We also managed a Marshall test
43 fishery. This local hire project provided needed
44 estimates of chinook salmon abundance and run timing.
45 This project promoted a collaborative effort between
46 YRDFA, Orutsaramiut Traditional Council, Department of
47 Fish and Game and was funded by the Yukon River Panel.
48 The project has been successful at building community
49 capacity and support in the local area. The crew
50 consisted of three people from the village of Marshall,

1 this project provided stewardship experience for rural
2 local residents and students. Important aspects of the
3 work included sharing local knowledge, providing
4 training in fish sampling and monitoring of use of
5 fishing techniques and establishing a project for
6 resource management and cost effective management.

7
8 Beyond that for your information we're
9 having our fall board meeting this month in Anchorage,
10 it'll be held on the 20th, 21st and 22nd of this month
11 and we're planning on having our annual meeting at the
12 village of Hooper Bay. For your information we got two
13 members on your panel here that also sits on our Board,
14 Lester Wilde being one, and his brother Harry Wilde
15 being the other.

16
17 Thank you very much for listening to me
18 and that concludes my report.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for
23 Bill.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. If not, go
28 ahead.

29
30 MR. DUBEY: I'll go ahead and continue
31 with the YRDFA report to keep some continuity.

32
33 Mr. Chairman. Council Members. I am
34 Bob DuBey. I'm the science director/ fisheries
35 biologist for the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
36 Association. And there are a few other projects that
37 were listed in the original laundry list of projects of
38 projects and I'm going to go over those first.

39
40 One thing that was lacking in
41 yesterday's meeting was some kind of substantive report
42 on the salmon bycatch, and it's one of the issues that
43 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association is very
44 proactive in and I'll give you an update on the bycatch
45 issue. And this should only take a few minutes so I
46 thank you in advance for your time in listening to
47 these comments.

48
49 We had a very effective outreach
50 program this year and initiated a lot of new projects.

1 We had two occasions where we had a fish health clinic
2 that was delivered in two communities on the river, at
3 Mountain Village and at Marshall and we were invited
4 into these communities and in collaboration with Alaska
5 Department of Fish and Game in the Mountain Village
6 presentations, and I gave a similar presentation in
7 Marshall in these villages. Very well received, went
8 over a lot of fish health issues at those meetings.

9
10 We provided on ground support for a
11 technician, student fisheries technician training
12 program that's been conducted yearly for about the last
13 eight years at the Rapids -- at the Rapids research
14 center, and provided technical assistance on fish,
15 metrics, how you sample and measure the fish and also
16 tissue sampling for genetic and disease testing and
17 provided about a week's worth of training there at the
18 Rapids research center and working with the student
19 technicians at that center. We also had a
20 collaboration with the Department of Fish and Game, the
21 genetics laboratory and were sampling chinook salmon
22 genetic samples for a genetic stock identification
23 program so that we can institute a further -- further
24 the effort for a in-season stock identification so from
25 those -- when they sample fish in that early test
26 fisheries at the mouth of the river in Emmonak, they
27 could pull genetic samples from those fish and be able
28 to tell where those fish are going, where they had
29 originated from and where they're going to spawn and so
30 we're going to be able to -- when this tool is fully
31 developed, to have a vast way of telling what stocks
32 are coming through at different times in the river in
33 different parts of the run and so we -- had the
34 pleasure of helping to collect some of those genetic
35 samples from chinook salmon, and those samplings
36 happened up on the Kateel River in the Koyukuk --
37 tributary to the Koyukuk.

38
39 We also were involved with the Yukon
40 River water -- Intertribal Watershed Council,
41 hydrokinetic electric project this summer. We were ask
42 -- they don't have a fisheries biologist as such and
43 approached Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
44 for technical assistance to develop a fish monitoring
45 program in connection with their hydrokinetic turbine
46 that they had placed in the river at Ruby, and we
47 developed a work plan to monitor impacts to fish in
48 conjunction with that project and several protocols to
49 sample and to look and see whether there were impacts
50 to those fish. I believe they've already pulled that

1 hydrokinetic turbine for this year and we intend to
2 help them again next year, this was a pilot program and
3 so we had the pleasure of working with the community to
4 develop alternate energy sources on the river and to
5 see what the potential impacts to fisheries could be
6 with this new technology.

7
8 We also had the pleasure of hosting a
9 first Alaska intern in our office this year, a summer
10 intern, and we had a young lady that came in from
11 Galena and worked on several projects in the office in
12 Anchorage. She's a student at University of Alaska-
13 Anchorage, and we had the pleasure of being able to
14 provide an intern position from the river.

15
16 I'll go ahead and -- are there any
17 questions on that particular portion before I get into
18 bycatch.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: My Anaan, and then
21 Greg.

22
23 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, what's that hydro-
24 something that you're doing?

25
26 MR. DUBEY: Oh, okay, this is -- it's
27 hydrokinetic energy production and it's where you're
28 using the movement of the water in the river to drive a
29 propeller that's hooked on to a generator. It's not
30 hydroelectric where they're using the force of the
31 water to turn a turbine, it's hydrokinetic, you're
32 using the movement of the water to turn the blades, so
33 there's a distinction between hydroelectric and
34 hydrokinetic, so this is a hydrokinetic project and one
35 of the concerns is that when this blade is turning,
36 this propeller is turning, that it may impact fish that
37 are migrating up river, fish as they're going up to
38 spawn, or that it may impact smolt that are -- that
39 have hatched and are going back out to sea. And so we
40 have a protocol that we're looking at both of those
41 life stages of fish to document if there -- and what
42 the impact is.

43
44 MS. GREGORY: And this is where?

45
46 MR. DUBEY: Ruby.

47
48 MS. GREGORY: Ruby, on the Yukon.

49
50 MR. DUBEY: Ruby, yeah. Ruby.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are you done, Anaan?
2
3 MS. GREGORY: Yeah.
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Greg.
6
7 MR. ROCZICKA: Bob, you mentioned about
8 your GSI sampling at the mouth of the Yukon and tell me
9 if I heard you right or not, that -- you said they're
10 used for stock identification, is that in-season, do
11 you have a turnaround that quick.....
12
13 MR. DUBEY: Yeah, they're.....
14
15 MR. ROCZICKA:right now -- are
16 you to the point where you can -- the little ideal
17 thing, with something the size of a cell phone that you
18 can zap fish now and go out on the -- the observers in
19 the Bering Sea trawl fleet can give us that as well.
20
21 MR. DUBEY: They just instituted that
22 on the ground this year during some of the --
23 collecting the samples, getting them on the plane in
24 Emmonak, flying them into the Anchorage office, running
25 the samples the next day and by the next afternoon
26 being able to call the managers up in Emmonak and
27 telling them what the percentages that they were coming
28 up with. So, you know, 24, 36 hours, they're able to
29 come up with a stock of origin type of ID on those
30 fish. Typically those test fisheries they have several
31 setnet fisheries that they use to monitor in the middle
32 mouth and in Big Eddy, I believe, and they're taking
33 those fish and taking a fin clip from those and then
34 they just get them on the afternoon flight out of
35 Emmonak, if the plane's flying they can get them into
36 Anchorage and turn them around pretty quick.
37
38 MR. ROCZICKA: That's tremendously good
39 news. I remember when this first all got started back
40 in 1992 and the GSI was first discussed, that it could
41 end up being like a magic wand as far as tool for in-
42 season management, that's really good to hear. How
43 spendy is it or cost prohibitive, I guess, as far as
44 actually getting it done and.....
45
46 MR. DUBEY: You know the collection of
47 samples.....
48
49 MR. ROCZICKA:on a broader scale?
50

1 MR. DUBEY: Yeah. They're using a new
2 marker, genetic marker and they have a real high
3 throughput system, they use that system to look at a
4 lot of different commercial stocks and manage a lot of
5 fisheries statewide, and so it's a very high throughput
6 system and they have gotten the costs down on running
7 samples and they can do it quickly enough and cost
8 effective enough that they believe they can have a
9 pretty good handle and are looking at some of the
10 nuances of the in-season management, how are they going
11 to deal with that data and information. But it's
12 feasible. It worked out well this season. They still
13 have some kinks in it and I don't purport to report for
14 the Department of Fish and Game on their program, but
15 from what I've heard it was positive.

16
17 MR. ROCZICKA: That's the first I've
18 heard of it so it's just tremendously good news to me.

19
20 MR. DUBEY: Uh-huh.

21
22 MR. ROCZICKA: And I guess I'll have to
23 plan on going to the American Fisheries Society Meeting
24 there at the end of the month. I was.....

25
26 MR. DUBEY: Yeah, I think that the.....

27
28 MR. ROCZICKA:going back and
29 forth but I can go have a conversation with Jim Seeb
30 about that, yeah, thanks.

31
32 MR. DUBEY: Yeah, I think Nick Dacovich
33 (ph) will be presenting something on the in-season
34 management.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions
37 for Bob.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go on.

42
43 MR. DUBEY: Okay. I'm going to now --
44 we've been heavily involved in the bycatch issue and
45 this is the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island pollock fishery
46 in the chinook salmon, chum salmon bycatch with that
47 particular fishery. Every year the Bering Sea/Aleutian
48 Island pollock fishery intercepts chinook and chum
49 salmon bound for Western and Interior Alaska.

50

1 In 2007 over 122,000 chinook salmon and
2 97,000 chum salmon were caught as bycatch. This
3 bycatch is either thrown back into the water, dead
4 after hours in the net or a small proportion saved for
5 donation to food banks. This threatens chinook and
6 salmon stocks -- chinook and chum salmon stocks and the
7 livelihoods of local fishers of Western and Interior
8 Alaska who depend on the returning salmon. Salmon
9 bycatch has increased dramatically in recent years.
10 Chinook salmon bycatch was at record -- a record level
11 in 2007, again, at 122,000 fish surpassing a previous
12 record of 115,000 chinook salmon that was recorded in
13 the 1980s, so it's been steadily increasing here in the
14 last five or six years.

15
16 Studies of bycatch samples, these are
17 genetic samples show that over 56 percent of chinook
18 salmon caught as bycatch are of Western Alaska origin
19 and that over 40 percent of those are of Yukon River
20 stocks. So a good percentage of those chinook salmon
21 caught in the bycatch are Western Alaska chinook, and
22 it equates to a pretty high number of chinook that are
23 being taken as bycatch.

24
25 The pollock fishery is managed and the
26 salmon bycatch are managed by the North Pacific
27 Management -- Fishery Management Council, and the
28 Council is currently analyzing salmon bycatch measures,
29 including bycatch caps to place a numerical limit on
30 salmon bycatch, also new closure areas and closure
31 triggers. What we are doing as an organization, YRDFA
32 is, and others are advocating for a hard cap, to set a
33 hard limit on bycatch, when you reach a certain number
34 you just have to quit fishing to conserve this
35 important resource. And we are suggesting that it be
36 no higher than the 10 year average, which would be a
37 hard cap of 47,591 fish. So we are advocating that
38 they use the 10 year running average of chinook bycatch
39 as a hard cap. This would allow the pollock fishery to
40 continue fishing but would set a reasonable limit on
41 the bycatch and protect chinook salmon stocks.

42
43 The Council is scheduled to take final
44 action on this issue in April of 2009. And one of the
45 things that we're suggesting is that you can let
46 Council know how important it is to set a hard cap by
47 testifying at the Council meeting or by responding to
48 this particular issue in writing. And if the Council
49 requests YRDFA can help with the drafting of a letter
50 requesting that. And I'll leave information with the

1 Chair that he can contact me and we can help with the
2 drafting of that. In writing, we can write to the
3 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, they have
4 an address in Anchorage, Alaska, and they do respond to
5 public comment. And if we are united in our -- make
6 sure that our voices are heard, I think that we can
7 have effective resolution to this issue.

8
9 These measures, if they're instituted
10 aren't going to be able to take effect until 2010, I
11 believe, but it's a long, long drawn out process to get
12 these bycatch measures in place. So we've been working
13 a long time on this and really need the pressure on the
14 Council at this time and are pushing for a hard cap.

15
16 That concludes my presentation on
17 bycatch.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for Bob.
20 Robert.

21
22 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, that number that's
23 always being thrown, you know, between 120 and 140,000
24 king salmon bycatch, those are just numbers that are
25 reported, right, or numbers observed?

26
27 MR. DUBEY: Yeah, that's -- those are
28 the numbers that have been recorded by the observers.
29 You know, we know that this is not a complete count.
30 We know that they miss fish, that they miss a lot of
31 juvenile fish that are in the end of the net and just
32 getting mushed up in the rest of the mush at the -- at
33 the end. Some of the fleet, there's not complete
34 observer coverage on the fleet, they put on the smaller
35 boats, they have 30 percent coverage, and then 60
36 percent and then full coverage, so there's not 100
37 percent coverage on the fleet, so there's not an
38 observer on every boat. They take and place some
39 observers around and then extrapolate that to that
40 whole class of boat and this is the bycatch that you
41 see in there. And so it's not a precise science, they
42 do the best they can on estimating the numbers, but
43 most probably in my opinion, that bycatch number is a
44 low number.

45
46 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Just another
47 thought that occurred to me while you were talking
48 about the -- you want support for this hard cap, you
49 know, you guys ought to contact all user groups and all
50 organizations, not only us, but all the organizations

1 in the state that are affected by this bycatch and ask
2 them for their support so that more information you
3 give to them and the more support you're going to get
4 before this deadline is coming up.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MR. DUBEY: Yes, thank you for that
9 suggestion.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions.
12 Anaan.

13

14 MS. GREGORY: How many boats and how
15 long have been the pollock fishery -- I mean how long
16 do they run, year-round, or what?

17

18 MR. DUBEY: Well, the pollock fishery
19 is they have a spring season, an A season and a B
20 season, so they have the -- they basically have a
21 winter season and then a falls season, so they have two
22 different seasons that they fish for the pollock.

23

24 And the one fishery is -- and it's not
25 based on a biological year, it's based on a calendar
26 type of year and they start the season out with the A
27 season when the pollock are spawning and so they're
28 able to utilize the fish and harvest the roe and not be
29 limited by the bycatch when they're in that most
30 lucrative part of the season. Then if they have to
31 have restrictions, they usually take their restrictions
32 in the B season and this is when the fish are just fish
33 and they're using the -- utilizing that for the flesh
34 market and that's lucrative. And so they have it kind
35 of set up on an economic year rather than a biological
36 year, which is disturbing. And that's kind of hard to
37 follow but they don't want to be restricted during the
38 most lucrative part of their fishery, during the A
39 season when they can catch pollock that they can
40 harvest the roe from, so they have set up this
41 artificial type of season with the A season and B
42 season.

43

44 MS. GREGORY: A season is during
45 summertime or what, wintertime?

46

47 MR. DUBEY: The A season is during the
48 fall spawn, and B season is after that, so, yeah.

49

50 MS. GREGORY: Like now?

1 MR. DUBEY: Uh?
2
3 MS. GREGORY: Like now right now.
4
5 MR. DUBEY: Okay, there's a meeting on
6 bycatch this Sunday at the Council meeting at
7 Anchorage, I believe, at 2:00 o'clock and that will be
8 at the Sheraton in Anchorage.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's a little bit of
11 a short notice. Go ahead, did you have a question,
12 Greg.
13
14 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, you mentioned that
15 they're considering the hard cap now, are any of them
16 other options still on the table that were mentioned
17 earlier, I can't remember the lady's name who came from
18 YRDFA last time around, but, you know, the floating hot
19 spots, the avoidance and those programs, has -- is the
20 Council kind of steering itself towards that now that
21 they are going to be essentially working into a hard
22 cap now, what's.....
23
24 MR. DUBEY: Well, they have.....
25
26 MR. ROCZICKA:your assessment of
27 that?
28
29 MR. DUBEY: They had the voluntary
30 rolling hot spot type of program that was a self-
31 imposed type of regulatory action within the fleets
32 that was supposed to address the bycatch issue and
33 clearly from the increasing bycatch levels that we
34 seen with chinook salmon over the last few years, it
35 hasn't been working. And so I think that they have had
36 enough pressure and there's been enough of an outcry
37 that, you know, that these bycatch numbers are
38 unacceptable, that they have to do something, so
39 they've come up with some other type of suggestions.
40 The only serious -- so there are some serious other
41 measures trigger stoppages of fishing and -- and
42 different -- different trigger caps and different
43 configurations of limits -- there's a lot of discussion
44 on the different levels of the hard cap, how you
45 compute a hard cap, whether you're going to use a 10
46 year average or a three year average or, you know, how
47 we're coming up with the number for the hard cap. So
48 there have been a lot of suggestions and there have
49 been a lot of different variations on it.
50

1 What we found that the 10 year average,
2 in our analysis at that particular level is probably
3 the best hard cap that we can get that will still keep
4 the pollock fishery fishing, but sufficiently protect
5 the chinook salmon stocks. I wish that we could get to
6 a way that we could have no bycatch of chinook salmon
7 but, you know, that's not being realistic. I think
8 this is probably the best that we may be able to live
9 with.

10

11 MR. ROCZICKA: And the other thing that
12 we'd want to watch too is the breakdown in the
13 application of that hard cap if and when-- when or if
14 it gets into place and which -- in the A and B season,
15 where stocks would be most suspectable, that's another
16 one.

17

18 But the other one I had, too, is I
19 understand the State and that's why I was thinking that
20 this is something that's actually moving forward, that
21 the Council is probably going to be at the -- the end
22 result, as far as placing a hard cap that the State has
23 come out with a recommendation of 68,000 as the hard
24 cap and I was wondering if you had any idea what
25 they're basing that recommendation on, is that the
26 three year average or do you have any idea?

27

28 MR. DUBEY: I am not -- I can't speak
29 to what the State is.....

30

31 MR. ROCZICKA: Okay.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that it, any other
34 questions for Bob.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you,
39 Bob, for your report.

40

41 MR. DUBEY: Thank you.

42

43 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Roczicka, yes.

46

47 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, I would recommend
48 as I would move right now that we request Staff to
49 draft a letter, again, reiterating, we've gone on
50 record every time to this point on this issue, it's

1 been brought before us but that we have another letter
2 forwarded from this Council advocating the 10 year
3 average as the hard cap for the chinook in support of
4 this effort, and that's a motion.

5

6

MR. ALOYSIUS: Second it.

7

8

CHAIRMAN WILDE: A motion's been made
9 to draft a letter in support of the program or the work
10 that YRDFA is doing, seconded by Mr. Aloysius, any
11 further discussion.

12

13

MS. GREGORY: Question.

14

15

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question is called
16 for. A roll call vote, please.

17

18

MS. GREGORY: William Brown.

19

20

MR. BROWN: Yes.

21

22

MS. GREGORY: Harry Wilde, Sr. (In
23 Yup'ik)

24

25

(No comments)

26

27

MS. GREGORY: Mary Gregory, yes. John
28 Andrew.

29

30

MR. ANDREW: Yes.

31

32

MS. GREGORY: Paul Manumik.

33

34

MR. MANUMIK: Yes.

35

36

MS. GREGORY: Lester Wilde.

37

38

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

39

40

MS. GREGORY: Greg Roczicka.

41

42

MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.

43

44

MS. GREGORY: Robert Aloysius.

45

46

MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.

47

48

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Joseph Mike.

49

50

MR. MIKE: Yes.

1 MS. GREGORY: Two, four, six, eight
2 yes', zero no's and one.....
3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Excused.
5
6 MS. GREGORY: Excused.
7
8 (In Yup'ik)
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So there's seven.
11
12 MR. ALOYSIUS: Seven.
13
14 MS. GREGORY: Seven.
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carries. Harry
17 wasn't feeling too well so he might be taking a break.
18
19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Eight.
20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Eight.
22
23 MR. ALOYSIUS: It was eight.
24
25 MS. GREGORY: Seven.
26
27 MR. ALOYSIUS: Eight.
28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Eight.
30
31 MS. GREGORY: Eight.
32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I take it Staff will
34 draft a letter and we'll go ahead and sign it and have
35 it sent in.
36
37 Okay. Let's get back to our agenda.
38 Our agenda states that the next is Togiak Refuge. Is
39 there anybody from Togiak.
40
41 (No comments)
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Nobody here from
44 Togiak.
45
46 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair.
47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.
49
50 MR. NICK: I can cover just the three

1 topics of that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, go ahead.

4

5 MR. NICK: Okay. As you know Togiak
6 Refuge submits its bullet -- rather information
7 bulletin to the Council meeting almost every time you
8 meet. And this last one was submitted to us early in
9 the summer to be included in your books and they have
10 approximately 24 projects in this bulletin, of which,
11 maybe three or four of the projects might affect your
12 region because the fact this region represents Unit 18,
13 which covers from near -- close to Stebbins all the way
14 over to Twin Hills, which is Unit 18. But it's -- it
15 has a couple boundaries. Unit 18 boundary and also the
16 Refuge boundary. And one of the reasons why I mention
17 that on record is because the fact that AVCP region
18 covers a good portion of Unit 18 and a portion of Unit
19 19. And all of the villages that affect -- issues that
20 affect your region are within the boundaries of Unit
21 18, 17A and also 19A. And a portion of that in 21E.

22

23 I mention three or four very summarized
24 projects that you might want to check into, not now but
25 on a later date. One of them is moose issue. You
26 talked about moose issues in 17A, which is around
27 Goodnews Bay area. And you also talked about moose
28 issues in the past in your previous meetings in 17A and
29 acted on -- you gave your recommendations on some of
30 proposals that became regulations under Federal. And
31 you talked about Mulchatna Caribou Herd, which is also
32 in the bulletin. And there may be some good
33 information that maybe you might want to ask later on,
34 you know, when you have concerns about Mulchatna
35 Caribou Herd. Another issue is beaver issue. It
36 really doesn't talk about what you've talked about
37 previously but it gives you an idea by what do you mean
38 cache, beaver cache, Refuge could correct me if I'm
39 wrong. I think they're talking about beaver lodges, a
40 number of beaver lodges in this. Is that incorrect,
41 John.

42

43 MR. ANDREW: The information we got,
44 when you say beaver cache, is their food (ph) pile and
45 their house is their lodge, beaver lodge.

46

47 MR. NICK: Okay, I stand corrected.

48

49 And the fourth one, which might become
50 an issue in the future and I'm not sure if it will

1 become an issue in the future is water quality.
2
3 Those are the ones that I saw in their
4 bulletin that might be -- rather might have some effect
5 -- or some affect on your region.
6
7 Doi. Qu yana.
8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Questions, Bob.
10
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: What was the last one
12 you said?
13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Water quality.
15
16 MR. NICK: The last issue is called
17 quantifying river discharge and establishing water
18 quality, baselines, that's their project they're
19 working -- worked on. And two of these issues were
20 prepared by Andy Aderman, beaver, I believe was
21 compiled by -- beaver report was compiled by Michael
22 Winfree and quantifying river discharge and
23 establishing water quantity -- quality baselines was
24 prepared by Pat Walsh.
25
26 It's all in your book.
27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It's on Page 56 in
29 your book.
30
31 Any questions.
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Alex. We
36 are down to Item D, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
37 update. First is wildlife conservation update by
38 Phillip Perry.
39
40 MR. PERRY: Hello again. I'm Phillip
41 Perry, I'm the area wildlife biologist for Game
42 Management Unit 18.
43
44 I have just a couple real short things
45 to talk about that don't involve moose on the
46 Kuskokwim.
47
48 The first thing I was going to talk
49 about is we do have a new Staff person on board now for
50 wildlife here in Bethel and that's Patrick Jones. He's

1 in the back of the room, he's my new assistant, so he's
2 half of the Staff now. So I'd like to introduce him.

3

4 And then I'll move directly on to the
5 -- most of the caribou stuff that I was going to talk
6 about is covered in the handout by the Togiak National
7 Wildlife Refuge. I was just going to provide a few
8 more details.

9

10 There was another census done this
11 summer, a photo census. The results are not final.
12 Well, they're not even preliminary yet. Hopefully in
13 the next month or two we will have a new estimate of
14 the herd size. And then we do have some ongoing
15 monitoring that is planned for next week to get our
16 fall composition bull to cow ratios and calf to cow
17 ratios.

18

19 So those are really the only two
20 additional things that I need to add beyond what Togiak
21 had in their report.

22

23 And I guess the other thing I was going
24 to report on was the -- BLM had already reported a
25 little bit about the Goodnews Bay, the moose hunt that
26 was this year. Through a cooperative effort with the
27 village of Goodnews and Platinum and the Togiak
28 National Wildlife Refuge we had met multiple times,
29 about the same time period as we met to talk about a
30 moratorium on the Kuskokwim in the Goodnews drainage,
31 and they agreed to the same sort of closure. They
32 actually went through a four year closure and since it
33 is a much smaller river system, a very narrow riparian
34 habitat, a shorter river than some of our tributaries,
35 the -- instead of five years or a 1,000 moose, we had
36 actually five years or 100 moose, so a much smaller
37 upper -- or lower level of where we have a hunt. So
38 last year they were able to -- Togiak Staff was able to
39 count about 125 moose in -- I think it was in February,
40 so kind of last minute proposals to the Board of Game
41 and the Federal Subsistence Board were passed for a
42 very limited hunt. We gave a -- we had an unlimited
43 number of permits, but they were only given out in the
44 village of Goodnews and the 1st of August to the 20th
45 of August. The 40 people to get permits, 35 from
46 Goodnews, five from Platinum and as of a couple -- as
47 of yesterday still getting in the last of the reports.
48 There was 12 moose taken. We had a quota of 10 so we
49 were pretty close to that. And there's about a dozen
50 people that I'm anticipating getting reports from in

1 the next week. If they were not successful, the
2 reports weren't due to be sent to me until actually
3 tomorrow, so we should have that finalized in the next
4 week or so.

5
6 But I think that was a very positive
7 season for the residents down there. It looks like
8 nine moose were taken by Goodnews residents and three
9 by Platinum. So I think they were very pleased how
10 that went and I think we're pretty pleased that that
11 opportunity was there and will continue to be there.

12
13 That moose population has grown from
14 very, very few in around 2000 to just a handful to 125
15 last year and we anticipate it to continue to grow. It
16 has similar sorts of twining rates and other things
17 that the Kuskokwim population has.

18
19 That's all I had and I'm open for any
20 questions or comments.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for
23 Perry.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you.

28
29 MR. PERRY: Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next item on the
32 agenda is the Kuskokwim Salmon season summary, John
33 Linderman here.

34
35 (Pause)

36
37 MR. LINDERMAN: Mr. Chairman. Council
38 members. My name is John Linderman. I'm with the
39 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of
40 Commercial Fisheries. I'm the area management
41 biologist.

42
43 Kuskokwim area extends from coastal
44 regions, Cape Newenham to Nosgona (ph) Peninsula and
45 then up the Kuskokwim River drainage. Manage the State
46 subsistence and commercial fisheries for the
47 Department.

48
49 What Mr. Nick just handed out to
50 Council members is the preliminary 2008 salmon season

1 summary. It covers both Kuskokwim River and Kuskokwim
2 Bay areas. You'll find at the back, and feel free to
3 leaf through it at your leisure, but at the back, four
4 to five pages, there's several tables in there that
5 includes subsistence, commercial harvest information,
6 escapement -- weir escapement, aerial survey escapement
7 information, so feel free to look through that.

8

9 What my intent was was just to go
10 through Kuskokwim River information. If the Council
11 wishes, I can certainly go into Kuskokwim Bay
12 information but I guess I'll leave that up to you to
13 decide how far you want me to take it.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

16

17 MR. LINDERMAN: So I'll just read
18 through some of the more pertinent topics in here.
19 From the beginning of the season here on the Kuskokwim
20 or for the whole area, there was a good showing of
21 sockeye and chum salmon, although the overall abundance
22 of those two species has certainly dropped off from the
23 record high numbers that we saw in 2005 and in 2006.

24

25 Chinook salmon abundance was
26 characterized as average to below average this year.
27 There was some interesting run timing information for
28 chinook especially but all other species as well, that
29 run timing was later than average this year with all
30 species entering the Kuskokwim with the exception of
31 cohos or silvers. But for chinook salmon, at the
32 spawning grounds, way up the Kuskokwim they were even
33 later up there. So there was a phenomenon, for lack of
34 a better word, of run timing, or the chinook salmon
35 specifically slowing down as they moved up river.

36

37 Bethel test fishery here in town, we
38 saw about three to four days later than average run
39 timing on kings. At some of our spawning projects they
40 were the latest on records arriving at those escapement
41 grounds or those spawning grounds by up to two weeks in
42 some cases. So it was an interesting phenomenon that
43 we observed this year that the fish actually slowed
44 down, not just kings but other species as well, kings
45 were more dramatic than other species. But it's
46 something that we don't typically see. If anything,
47 fish usually speed up as they move up the drainages and
48 move towards their spawning grounds.

49

50 So some interesting run timing

1 phenomenon this year.

2

3 Coho salmon abundance was characterized
4 as average to above average this year and their run
5 timing was about average or normal, maybe a little bit
6 earlier than normal, but only about by a day or so and
7 that was consistent between both escapement projects
8 between at the spawning grounds, as well as here in
9 Bethel in our test fishery.

10

11 Specifically for the Kuskokwim River,
12 the subsistence fishing schedule was not implemented
13 this year given that we anticipated adequate chinook
14 and chum salmon run abundance to be able to achieve
15 escapement goals and to provide for subsistence uses
16 throughout the entire drainage. Subsistence fishing
17 was then allowed seven days per week, 24 hours per day
18 with the exception of closed periods before, during and
19 after commercial fishing periods in only June and in
20 August when we had commercial openings. And those
21 closures have been reduced in recent years, where it
22 used to be up to 16 hours before and eight hours after
23 commercial periods and during commercial periods as
24 well, and the last four to five years that's been
25 reduced down to six hours before and three hours after
26 to provide for additional subsistence fishing
27 opportunity.

28

29 Many -- or the in-season subsistence
30 harvest monitoring program, it's operated cooperatively
31 between the Department of Fish and Game and ONC here in
32 Bethel is a piece of information or information that
33 comes out of that program is some of the first
34 information we utilize to determine success of
35 subsistence activities as well as giving some
36 indication of run abundance as well. The majority of
37 respondents in that program described chinook salmon
38 fishing -- chinook, sockeye and chum salmon fishing as
39 normal to very good with only a few fishers describing
40 just chinook or chum salmon fishing as poor. And
41 that's essentially a question -- that's an answer to a
42 question of compared to a normal year, how would
43 fishers classify their harvests of those species in the
44 current year. So there's a general sense that fishers
45 were meeting their needs, we won't be able to determine
46 that for certain until after we get subsistence harvest
47 estimates completed.

48

49 But there was a general sense that
50 fishing effort and that fishing success was fairly good

1 this year for all species.

2

3 There were several fishers that had
4 concerns with regards to some of the cool and wet
5 drying conditions, especially for king salmon in June
6 and into early portions of July or portions of July and
7 so there was a sense that fishers were having to put
8 more effort into maintaining their catches, putting
9 tarps over their racks, maintaining smoke under their
10 racks, to make sure that they reduced and/or eliminated
11 any potential spoilage of their catch. So there's some
12 more effort having to be put into ensuring that there
13 was no spoilage of that harvest.

14

15 The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management
16 Working Group met 11 times so far this season. There's
17 the intention of having another larger scale meeting
18 later on in the winter, probably bring most of the
19 members into Anchorage for larger scale inter-agency
20 meetings that the Department sponsors at that time.
21 And usually those larger scale meetings are focused on
22 specific topics that we go more in-depth on and they're
23 day long meetings as opposed to the four hour or so
24 meetings we have on an in-season basis.

25

26 Fishery management information was
27 presented at these meetings by working group members,
28 State and Federal Staff, tribal organizations, fishery
29 partners and by the general public. Information
30 discussed included subsistence, commercial fishing
31 reports from both working group members and the public,
32 the Lower Kuskokwim in-season subsistence harvest
33 report, test fish project summaries and reports from
34 weir, tagging, sonar, and aerial survey programs.

35

36 With respect to the Kuskokwim River
37 commercial fishery in 2008, a total of 374 individual
38 permitholders recorded landings in District 1 of the
39 Lower Kuskokwim River. This level of effort was about
40 13 percent below the recent 10 year average of 428
41 fishers. The District 1 commercial harvest in 2008 was
42 8,865 chinook, 15,601 sockeye, 142,862 coho, and 30,516
43 chum salmon. The chinook and sockeye salmon harvest
44 were 63 percent and 15 percent above the recent 10 year
45 averages respectively so chinook salmon was 63 percent
46 above and sockeye was 15 percent above the 10 year
47 average and the chum and coho salmon harvests were 27
48 percent and 22 percent below their recent 10 year
49 averages, respectively. The total ex vessel value of
50 the District 1 fishery was \$538,000, just a little over

1 \$538,000, which was about 10 percent above the recent
2 10 year ex vessel value.

3
4 Chinook salmon escapements, again,
5 specifically for Kuskokwim River, they were evaluated
6 through aerial surveys on 13 index streams or
7 tributaries and by enumeration at weirs on seven
8 tributary streams. And, again you can find more
9 details as well as historical escapement information in
10 some of the tables within the summary here. Results of
11 the chinook salmon aerial surveys range from below
12 escapement goals or not achieving the lower end of
13 escapement goals to exceeding escapement goals. so we
14 saw a very mixed bag with respect to results of total
15 escapements -- or total number of chinook salmon that
16 reached the spawning grounds.

17
18 Kugururok River chinook escapement was
19 within the escapement goal range. The Kugururok River
20 is at the headwaters of the Holitna, which is one of
21 our longest running escapement projects here on the
22 Kuskokwim and it did achieve the escapement goal range
23 this year, but in contrast chinook salmon escapement to
24 the Kwethluk, Tuluksak and George Rivers did not
25 achieve the lower end of their escapement goals this
26 year.

27
28 Chinook salmon escapement through
29 aerial survey evaluation, we saw a very wide range,
30 again, some systems did not achieve their escapement
31 goals or the historical average escapements that have
32 been observed through aerial surveys in the past and
33 some exceeded them by several thousand fish in some
34 cases, so there was a very wide range of results with
35 respect to chinook salmon escapement. And overall the
36 escapements and the total run was classified to average
37 to below average.

38
39 The one thing to bear in mind is that
40 those results at the spawning grounds was somewhat
41 inconsistent with our early season assessment through
42 the test fishery was well as reports that we had from
43 subsistence fishers. Indications from the in-season
44 subsistence program were showing that we were looking
45 at a fairly good abundance, fishers seemed to be very
46 happy with the harvest that they were getting,
47 especially in late June, and that continued up the
48 drainage, not just here in the lower river, but also up
49 towards Aniak and even towards some of the middle river
50 and upper river communities as well. But that didn't

1 seem to translate quite as well to the escapement
2 assessments. Again, some systems did very well but
3 others didn't achieve their goal. So there was a
4 little bit of a discrepancy there between what our in-
5 season assessment was and what the actual escapements
6 were on the spawning grounds.

7
8 And, again, as I mentioned earlier run
9 timing was extremely late at the spawning grounds for
10 king salmon, even later than 1999, which many of you
11 may recall was a very low escapement year for chinook
12 salmon, but also an extremely late year. Until 2008 it
13 was the latest run timing for chinook salmon on record.

14
15 For sockeye salmon, they were monitored
16 -- sockeye salmon were monitored at seven tributary
17 weir escapement projects although there's only two of
18 those seven locations that have large numbers of
19 sockeye, a large sockeye population, those two being
20 the Kugururok River and the Kwethluk River weirs.

21
22 The passage of both of those projects
23 in 2008 was above average but, again, well below the
24 record high escapement numbers that we saw in recent
25 years specifically 2005 and 2006.

26
27 Sockeye salmon escapement timing at
28 both of those systems was also among the latest on
29 average but only by approximately a week to 10 days, so
30 not quite as late as what we saw for king salmon.

31
32 Chum salmon escapements were evaluated
33 through enumeration at again those same seven weir
34 projects, and by a sonar project on the Aniak River.
35 Chum escapements in 2008 ranged from above average to
36 below average at all monitored systems, although those
37 systems that do have established escapement goals all
38 escapement goals were achieved for chum salmon in 2008.

39
40 The escapement timing ranged from among
41 the latest on record to about average, so we didn't see
42 quite the same dramatic late run timing as we saw on
43 chinook and sockeye, but still some systems came in
44 very, very late.

45
46 The in-river timing here near Bethel as
47 measured by the Bethel test fishery was about average
48 this year so, again, with chum salmon, sockeye salmon
49 and chinook salmon we saw the farther up river that
50 those fish were going to their spawning grounds, they

1 slowed down in the later -- they arrived at those
2 spawning grounds, we saw that pretty consistently with
3 all three of those species.

4

5 For coho salmon, they were, again,
6 evaluated through weirs on tributary streams.
7 Escapements in 2008 were above average at nearly all
8 monitored locations with the exception of the Tuluksak
9 River where escapement was slightly below average but
10 above some of the lower years that we've seen, the
11 lower escapements that we've seen in recent years.

12

13 Escapement to the Kugururok River,
14 which is the only tributary that has an established
15 escapement goal was at the upper end of that escapement
16 goal range so we got plenty of fish on the Kugururok
17 River. And run timing was approximately average, both
18 at the spawning grounds as well as here in Bethel. So
19 we didn't seem to see that same effect on coho salmon
20 with regards to run timing that we saw on the other
21 three salmon species that came in earlier in the year.

22

23 And that's about all I have for the
24 salmon season summary.

25

26 One other thing I did want to mention
27 to the Council is that -- that I alluded to earlier, is
28 that the Department is going to be initiating our post-
29 season subsistence monitoring program or harvest
30 monitoring program. We expect to start going out to
31 outlying communities within the next two weeks to
32 initiate those house to house surveys. And the
33 information that's gained from those surveys is
34 utilized to estimate what the total subsistence harvest
35 is by species for all five salmon species on an annual
36 basis. And I just wanted to get a little bit of a plug
37 in there as well, that, subsistence calendars that are
38 distributed in May of each -- pre-season each year,
39 that information is very critical to that entire
40 program, that we use that information directly towards
41 generating those estimates of subsistence salmon
42 harvest and that we're looking to get as many of those
43 calendars back as we possibly can. So we hope to have
44 a good pretty return rate on those and we're trying to
45 get some PSAs on KYUK and local radio stations in
46 general to alert fishers to try and get those calendars
47 in as quickly as possible.

48

49 So that's all I have for the Council,
50 Mr. Chair, I'd be happy to answer any questions.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions. Anaan.

2

3 MS. GREGORY: I don't have a question
4 but I want to commend you for giving us this timely
5 report as close to fishing season and also we get
6 calendars, my husband and I and our son fishes for us,
7 but often times he gives, like almost a half to an
8 elderly and widows for them to sue for the winter, so
9 even if we said a lot of that, put in my calendar, is
10 not going to be a good record because half of it goes
11 to other people in the village of Bethel.

12

13 MR. LINDERMAN: Thank you for that
14 comment, Ms. Gregory. You bring up a very good point
15 in that regard. Especially when the Department Staff
16 goes out, not just Department Staff but we also work in
17 cooperation with both ONC here in Bethel as well as the
18 Kuskokwim Native Association up in Aniak to conduct
19 these surveys. But the house to house surveys, we try
20 and differentiate between those two things. From the
21 standpoint of within your family and the harvest that's
22 specifically taken, regardless of whether it's
23 distributed to other families or other individuals,
24 fishers in general should be aware that they want to
25 mark down exactly the number of fish that they
26 harvested.

27

28 So we also try and capture that same
29 information, of whether or not those fish that are
30 harvested are distributed to other individuals through
31 those house to house surveys, but from the standpoint
32 of the calendars, even if you distributed some of those
33 salmon to other households still write down the harvest
34 that was taken. It doesn't have to be clarified on the
35 calendars that those fish were distributed at all, we
36 try and capture that information in the actual surveys.
37 But all harvest that's taken by individual fishers
38 should be marked down on those calendars, certainly.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are you done Mary?

41

42 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions.

45

46 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

49

50 MR. ANDREW: Just a comment. On the

1 Kwethluk River this year, I know, because it started at
2 least one month later and they -- they pulled it out on
3 the average somewhere on the first week of September,
4 but we do know on our river that our salmon start
5 running, kings and reds start running the latter part
6 of May going up the river, and after you guys pull up
7 the weir we had a good run of silvers going up -- all
8 the way to freeze up. Some weeks we see a good pulse
9 of them right by the Y, this year was pretty unusual,
10 they came in early but they were pretty far apart and
11 now and then -- getting to the peak it was pretty slow
12 in around up the river and so our subsistence fishers
13 and we had unusual run of kings in August but I think
14 they were heading mainly for further up river, not on
15 the Kwethluk. We were catching them on the north bank
16 of the Y.

17

18 And a friend of mine, I was fishing for
19 our family, a small setnet, like from here to you,
20 catching mostly -- with a little three inch herring net
21 for fish -- fish while they chase the whitefish, I was
22 catching incidental kings, I had to pull it out because
23 they were tearing it up and the same time, a friend of
24 mine went out with king gear and got 21 in one shot,
25 that was in August. Because normally they run -- their
26 peak run is in June.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further comment.

31

32 MR. LINDERMAN: I just did want to
33 mention that you bring up a very good point, Mr.
34 Andrew. We had reports even in mid-July of fishers
35 down near the mouth of the Kuskokwim, out of
36 Tuntutuliak and Eek that they were still catching kings
37 down there, not in large numbers, but it was notable to
38 those fishers as well that they don't recall ever
39 catching any king salmon that late in the season so
40 we've definitely seen reports of that and heard similar
41 reports of seeing kings very, very late compared to
42 normal.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

45

46 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. George Pappas,
47 Department of Fish and Game.

48

49 Earlier in the Council meeting, Council
50 members spoke about having resource agency folks talk

1 to elders first before they approach the villages for
2 any information, for enforcement, for surveys, for
3 contact information, John is running the project for
4 the post-season subsistence survey, this would be an
5 excellent chance to advise him who to contact when he
6 goes out to the -- him or his crew goes out to the
7 village to get information or you all have his contact
8 information to give the best advice possible to get the
9 best cooperation possible. But this is a good
10 opportunity but I just wanted to bring that up, Mr.
11 Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anaan.

14

15 MS. GREGORY: Maybe you could follow
16 the same format that Mr. Twitchell uses, contact the
17 people first and tell them what you're doing.

18

19 MR. LINDERMAN: Mr. Chair. Council
20 members. Thank you, George, for bringing up that
21 point, as well as your comments, Mary.

22

23 One of the processes that we're going
24 through right now at this moment is that Staff have
25 been contacting every village, council offices and
26 finding out who to talk to, one of the first questions
27 that's asked is who is the best contact within that
28 community to speak with regards to arranging -- getting
29 updated household lists, occupancy lists as well as who
30 to contact when we do plan to go into that community,
31 so we're trying to put a lot of effort into making sure
32 that one of the first things is that communities would
33 welcome us coming into their village to actually
34 conduct those surveys. We're very responsive to
35 individuals that feel like it may be an invasion of
36 their privacy, of their residence privacy to come in
37 and do these surveys so we want to make sure that the
38 community is going to be open to us coming in there to
39 gather some of that harvest information and then
40 working directly with those communities in getting
41 updated household lists, any kind of input that they
42 have and so far it's been very -- we've been received
43 very well by a lot of those communities. I think it's
44 effort well spent. And it's something that I don't
45 think I would want to move forward with these types of
46 surveys unless we did have good contact with each of
47 these individual communities to make sure that they
48 welcome us, that they're aware of when we're going to
49 be coming into their community. And then also
50 understanding the importance of that information

1 towards their subsistence rights, towards their
2 harvest, and the long-term monitoring of those
3 harvests.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
6 further questions. Robert.

7

8 MR. ALOYSIUS: Not a question but a
9 comment. Just for your own information, you know, I
10 really commend John and Doug and all these guys who are
11 in the building over here -- I mean compared to years
12 ago when our Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working
13 Group first started it was (making noise) and now days
14 it's really -- it's heartwarming to see how open Staff
15 is, you know, to work with the people, it's working
16 cooperatively, it involves all the agencies that are
17 involved in the fisheries and mostly it involves the
18 people in the village. I mean we have representatives
19 from Nicoli all the way down to the sea on the working
20 group, it makes it really important to me to share that
21 cooperation, it really works, and it's not a closed
22 attitude like the previous personnel had over there,
23 you know, it's really good to see that we're all
24 working together because we have something in common.
25 We want to make sure that the salmon that are in the
26 Kuskokwim River exist for generations to come and how
27 we share that information is very important, especially
28 to our young people. You know, there are too many
29 negative attitudes towards regulations. And, you know,
30 we, as a Native people, have to remind the young people
31 that we used to have our own natural regulations, that
32 we have kind of not brought out anymore. Like I said
33 yesterday, you know, the two elements, the Native
34 people and the technicians working together to make
35 sure that everybody understands where the salmon are,
36 when they come, when they go, and the numbers and how
37 we can work together to sustain that.

38

39 So big plus, John, share that with the
40 other guys.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

43

44 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Yeah,
45 regarding your lost position there with Patrick moving
46 on, he's been there, what, two or three years now for
47 fisheries, the first thing I was going to ask, I was
48 wondering if Phil made you scrub down with a wire brush
49 and get all the fish slime off him before he moved to
50 the wildlife division. But actually as far -- but with

1 the concern we have with the brain drain and so forth
2 and the shortage of people to actually move in and fill
3 those positions, coupled with, you know, in the past
4 several years, loss of funding for the Department and
5 attrition and so forth, positions don't get filled, do
6 you have any concern about getting somebody in there, a
7 line on perhaps some of the ANSEP students, anything to
8 fill that position and get somebody back in there.

9
10 MR. LINDERMAN: Mr. Chairman. Council
11 members. You bring up another very good point, Greg,
12 that within the State of Alaska, in general, and Fish
13 and Game is no exception as well as other agencies as
14 well, as Mr. Twitchell mentioned, that there was many
15 vacancies within even the Refuge Staff that can take
16 some time to refill, we've certainly had our share in
17 the Bethel office as well. And using Patrick as an
18 example, you know, at least he's staying within Fish
19 and Game and he's staying within the same office, which
20 I'm very pleased to see as well. But we do move as
21 quickly as possible to try and go ahead and refill
22 those positions and it can be difficult at times, it
23 can be difficult to get large numbers of applicants for
24 these positions. But there's some interesting trends
25 that we've seen.

26
27 Just to give you an example, not just
28 within the Kuskokwim, but throughout the entire AYK
29 region, which includes the Yukon as well as Norton
30 Sound, and even Arctic areas, up towards Barrow now,
31 where there's been more interest in more work being
32 done up there, recent recruitments for fisheries
33 biologist II positions, we've seen upwards of 10,
34 sometimes 15 applicants, now that's rare, granted, but
35 we seem to go through trends at times where we
36 sometimes only get one or two applicants for positions
37 and sometimes we can get a dozen or so applicants. I
38 haven't necessarily tried -- been able to nail down why
39 we see those patterns.

40
41 But one thing that the Department, in
42 general, focuses on is trying to recruit individuals at
43 entry level positions and mentoring them through the
44 ranks for lack of a better term starting out at the
45 entry level biologist level and working up through
46 higher level positions. Sometimes when we have
47 attrition with individuals moving into retirement it
48 can take awhile to refill some of those vacancies, but
49 we have to just keep plugging away at it. Programs
50 like ANSEP and it even goes beyond ANSEP, internships

1 in general, college interns as well as even
2 historically within Fish and Game, a lot of our entry
3 level technician positions have been college students
4 that many times are going to school to obtain degrees
5 in fish or wildlife research or management, so on and
6 so forth and we've been able to use somewhat of a
7 shotgun approach by having a large number of those
8 technicians here in the Kuskokwim and other areas of
9 mentoring them and grooming them into biologist level
10 positions.

11
12 I think in the last five years or so
13 we've seen that change somewhat where the number of
14 individuals leaving State service has been higher than
15 the number of individuals we've been able to recruit
16 into Department of Fish and Game, and it's been a
17 struggle. I've certainly seen a high level of turnover
18 with my assistant position. I do have a new assistant
19 again this year who's been doing a very good job but
20 it's something that we just have to continue to monitor
21 and we have to continue to make efforts, not just from
22 the standpoint of putting a recruitment out there and
23 waiting to see who applies, but actively trying to
24 recruit individuals from throughout the country now, as
25 opposed to just within the state of Alaska, but also
26 mentoring individuals and grooming them towards those
27 positions in general. So it does take quite a bit of
28 effort but we do see that pay off through time and we
29 just need to continue to manage that and monitor it.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further comments
32 or questions for John or George.

33
34 Mr. Brown.

35
36 MR. BROWN: Yeah, I just have a short
37 comment about commercial site.

38
39 Not too long ago I was mentioning that
40 commercial boundary line, north line, I was told that
41 boundary line was in the wrong place so you guys for
42 next season, I wonder if you guys could go down there
43 to the local people to put it in the right place. I
44 was told that that boundary line last summer was
45 misplaced maybe 400, 500 feet short where it's supposed
46 to be located, so I just wanted to remind you about
47 that north line in Quinhagak, District 4, north line,
48 boundary line for commercial site.

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any comment to that

1 statement.

2

3 MR. LINDERMAN: Yeah, I just wanted to
4 get clarification from Mr. Brown exactly which boundary
5 that he was referencing, or which district, and we'll
6 make sure to check on that for next year.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further comments
9 or questions.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Next on
14 the agenda is -- just a minute here -- I got it, Item
15 E, Association of Village Council Presidents update.

16

17 Tim Andrew.

18

19 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 For the record, Timothy Andrew with AVCP. We kind of
21 have a rare moment at this time, I actually have the
22 person that signs my paycheck attending the meeting and
23 would like to give him the first opportunity to address
24 the Council if he can, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's all right.

27

28 MR. ANDREW: And that would be Myron
29 Naneng, President of AVCP.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Welcome Myron.

32

33 MR. NANENG: Quyana, Mr. Chairman and
34 Honorable members of the Regional Advisory Council of
35 the Federal Subsistence Management for our region.

36

37 There's a few things that I want to
38 update the Regional Advisory Council on some of the
39 issues that we've been working with at AVCP.

40

41 I'm a member of the Alaska Migratory
42 Bird Co-Management Council. The Native members of the
43 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council oppose duck
44 stamps and State hunting license for the Native
45 subsistence hunters. Why are we opposed to it. Those
46 were never in the discussion in the protocol amendments
47 that we talked about, back in 1997. State of Alaska up
48 to this day does not recognize the protocol amendment,
49 the Migratory Bird Treaty Protocol Amendment. They
50 don't recognize the spring hunt of our people, yet,

1 they sit at the table and whenever we come up with
2 proposals that would be beneficial to our people in our
3 region or throughout the state, especially the Native
4 community, their answer, all the time when we come up
5 with the proposals, no, I cannot vote on it, I do not
6 have the authority to vote on it. And we've raised the
7 question with our Federal partners and asked them, then
8 why are they sitting at the table and just keep
9 delaying the process and they have yet been given the
10 authority to recognize the Migratory Bird Treaty
11 Protocol Amendment. It's an international treaty. Yet
12 each and every one of the Fish and Wildlife agencies
13 throughout the state are supposed to recognize it,
14 State of Alaska has yet to ratify it. You know what
15 are they going to do with the money from the duck
16 stamps and the State hunting licenses, is it ever going
17 to come to our region to benefit the migratory birds
18 that we, over the years, have carried the burden of
19 conservation when they've declined in numbers. At the
20 same time when they ask for conservation easements from
21 some of the village corporation lands for the
22 protection of these migratory birds, how much are they
23 willing to pay and I went through a negotiation -- I
24 thought I was going to go through a negotiation on
25 behalf of our village corporation of Sea Lion for (In
26 Yup'ik) Bay lands, which are considered to be number 1
27 nesting grounds in the world for migratory birds that
28 fly back and forth through the four different
29 continental flyways, 60 to \$115 per acre and they want
30 that conservation easement in perpetuity.

31
32 We're being treated differently as a
33 Native community because they say Federal government
34 has a different role and way to appraise the lands that
35 you own as a Native community. Yet, if you go to other
36 states, like Virginia, there's 37,000 acre conservation
37 easement and they paid \$2,000 per acre for 20 years.
38 You know, I think that's a travesty in itself. And we
39 need, as a Native community, to raise that and we've
40 raised that with the Federal agency and say if you guys
41 want a conservation easement, pay us a fair price, and
42 it's not going to be for perpetuity. If you're giving
43 other people opportunity give the same Native land
44 owners the same respect and opportunity as anybody
45 else.

46
47 On the Kuskokwim region moose
48 moratorium, I just want to make a comment. When and if
49 they have an opportunity to open it, let the agency who
50 is responsible to work with the communities to make

1 sure that they understand the issues before they open
2 it to anybody else. Who is bearing the burden of
3 conservation on the moose, our people in the villages.
4 Some of -- and I just heard this morning that the
5 Regional Advisory Council voted for one more year
6 additional moratorium on moose for the Kuskokwim
7 region, some of the villages that are not necessarily
8 within the boundaries of the Kuskokwim are going to ask
9 to be moved over to the Yukon side because it's open on
10 that side right now, meaning like the Johnson River,
11 it's closer to the Yukon. they're going to be asking to
12 be moved over to the Yukon site so that they can have
13 an opportunity to go moose hunting next year in 2009
14 rather than 2010 and then I think we needed to have
15 advertised that request for an extension a little bit
16 more.

17
18 On the salmon bycatch issue, which we
19 heard about this morning. I met with the CDQ group
20 executive directors yesterday, via telephone, on the
21 issue of salmon bycatch, chinook salmon bycatch, State
22 of Alaska is proposing a 68,000 plus hard cap for
23 chinook salmon bycatch and their excuse is, well, for
24 that 68,000 we'll be able to deal with the low number
25 years. And for those of you on the Yukon, you are
26 subject to the US/Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty, that
27 fisheries on the Yukon is not only managed in state but
28 also to meet the treaty obligations that the US
29 government has to meet a certain escapement goal into
30 Canada and once that number of chinook salmon cross the
31 border it's up to the Canadians to do whatever they
32 want to do, they can have a commercial opening if they
33 reach a certain number, and all during that time who
34 bears the burden of conservation, our people on the
35 Lower Yukon.

36
37 North Pacific Fisheries Management
38 Council is supposed to be dealing with this and they're
39 talking about it the next few days while they're
40 meeting in Anchorage. We know that the Yukon salmon is
41 being managed by Fish and Wildlife Service under the
42 subsistence management as well as by the State of
43 Alaska to meet that treaty obligation to Canada. If
44 they're doing that, what's the difference with North
45 Pacific Management Council which is part of the US
46 government, which also has an obligation to meet that
47 treaty obligation to Canada. North Pacific Fisheries
48 Management Council is a government agency no different
49 than Office of Subsistence Management or US Fish and
50 Wildlife Service and they have an obligation to help

1 support that treaty obligation.

2

3 And I know that many times many people
4 on the Yukon are closed, not only for commercial, but
5 this past summer, or this past spring they were closed
6 for subsistence. They would say, no, we allowed them
7 an opportunity to go subsistence fishing, but if you
8 look at the record and I know that people on the Yukon
9 know it, they were closed for subsistence, an
10 obligation that the Office of Subsistence Management
11 has legislatively under ANILCA to provide subsistence
12 opportunity, yet, they were closed. Not very many
13 people got their subsistence king salmon. And every
14 year we also have proposals that come to the different
15 Regional Advisory Council or even to the State Board of
16 Fisheries to reduce opportunity for Lower Yukon River
17 fishermen, both subsistence and commercial, to reduce
18 their catch so there can be met, the subsistence needs
19 of the people up river, as well as the obligation under
20 the US/Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty. Is it fair to our
21 people. It seems like every year we come up with
22 issues that are always saying conserve on behalf of our
23 future kids, yet, who is primarily the ones that have
24 bear -- who bear the burden of the conservation.
25 People in the Lower Yukon, people on the Kuskokwim
26 River, YK-Delta, we did it with the birds, we did it
27 with the moose, now Kuskokwim is still doing it for an
28 additional year and now we're doing it for salmon and
29 the salmon have started crashing since back in 1980s,
30 where some of you who were commercial fishermen, you
31 remember, we used to fish two 24 hour periods, now
32 days, if you have a commercial fishing opportunity,
33 it's probably only hour hours twice a week, or if any.
34 There is the obligation of Office of Subsistence
35 Management to pressure North Pacific Fisheries
36 Management Council to meet the obligation under the US
37 Treaty at the same time reduce the burden of
38 conservation by our people on the Lower Yukon.

39

40 So it seems like every time we come
41 here for meetings or what not, we're always talking
42 about who is going to bear the burden of conservation
43 and it seems like the people that bear the burden of
44 conservation are always the people in the YK-Delta.

45

46 And I just want to share those with you
47 because I think that we need to find ways where we need
48 to work as co-managers, not as cooperators. We're
49 always being asked to cooperate, cooperate, yet, when
50 we try to co-manage, they're always saying the only

1 obligation you have as a subsistence hunter is to
2 cooperate, yet, we were the people that over the years
3 have sustained these resources for centuries prior to
4 any of these management systems coming in and our
5 people have been the ones that have bore the burden of
6 conservation over the years for many years but the
7 burden seems to get heavier.

8

9 So I just want to share that with you
10 and hope that when you consider that resolution that I
11 hear you're going to be talking about, that you also
12 state that the North Pacific Fisheries Management
13 Council is under the same obligation as US Fish and
14 Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management to
15 meet the Canadian Treaty -- Pacific Salmon Treaty
16 obligation. What makes them different, maybe they have
17 more money. And so I just want to share that with you
18 and hope that you consider that as part of your
19 resolution.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you for your
24 comments. Go ahead, Greg.

25

26 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
27 And thank you, Myron. So it doesn't get lost here, for
28 the record, will Staff make a note of that, please, to
29 include that in our letter to the NPFMC, the
30 International Treaty on uses that NPFMC that should
31 also bear some level of responsibility in considering
32 these caps, if you'd include that in there, please, for
33 our letter.

34

35 Just a couple things that Myron said,
36 regarding that moratorium vote that was taken here
37 yesterday, that issue is a long ways from over, as you
38 well know. The Council here had resolutions asking for
39 a two year extension, we had other people with
40 resolutions and opinions that we want it open right
41 now, this year, fall of 2008, don't even wait for 2009.
42 It came from both sides, and it's a recommendation that
43 has come forward, that was put forward and just in the
44 form of a motion recommending for the additional year.
45 The issue is going to be certainly back before us again
46 at our winter meeting. Discussion, and as you know
47 it's on the agenda for AVCP Convention coming up next
48 week, which appreciate that you guys did that, it needs
49 to happen, but the other thing that needs to be
50 incorporated in that, driving that whole issue, is this

1 amounts necessary for subsistence that's hanging out
2 there with that totally ridiculous number of 80 to 100
3 for the whole game management unit. That's another one
4 -- I was just informed earlier that Subsistence
5 Division -- or that there are meetings under way to --
6 within the Department to try to come up with addressing
7 those numbers as they've been reluctant to come forward
8 with in the past. We're expecting, because this is a
9 by Board directive on those ANS numbers, to get the
10 advisory committees together and that a recommendation
11 is supposed to be forthcoming in the form of a draft
12 proposal. When they tabled the issue to their March --
13 spring 2009 meeting and they asked for a proposal to be
14 drafted to be published in the book by that first week
15 of December deadline and this is a Board mandate and
16 we've talked to Board's Division, they had no staff
17 over the summertime and we had hoped to have some
18 meetings late July, early August, those didn't occur
19 because no Staff, and we can't have a -- got back from
20 their seasonal layoffs in September, and everybody's
21 out moose hunting then, they don't want to schedule
22 meetings in October because everybody's busy with the
23 annual conventions and AFN so we're looking at November
24 before those meetings can even start to occur.

25
26 But, anyway, so what came from this
27 Council was a recommendation. You know I told you
28 about both sides that we got and, you know, I certainly
29 got for, myself, as a Council member a lot of feedback
30 and people aren't walking the line on this one, I'd say
31 it's about a 50/50, it really is. And people are
32 really passionate about both sides, there's no middle
33 of the road, you're either here or you're here, there
34 ain't no in between. But anyway what came out from the
35 Council was just that recommendation to go forward.

36
37 And as far as concerning the Johnson
38 River, it's actually -- and this is also something to
39 incorporate into later, depending on if the moratorium
40 remains in place or whether people eventually decide to
41 go ahead with an opening next year, but one thing
42 that's been suggested is that we move that, just to
43 make things easier for enforcement, to get more of a
44 geographical boundary there. Just to make the west
45 side of the Johnson the open area and take that out of
46 the moratorium, something that's easier for people to
47 deal with. The amount -- the effect of in-migration
48 from the Yukon is pretty minimal so it's not really
49 going to affect the growth over here, you know, the
50 growth that we've got that occurs is going to be along

1 the Gweek and the Kuskokwim and the tributaries, so
2 that's something that we could do. If the moratorium
3 stayed in place that's something that could be
4 accommodated and built into a proposal.

5
6 But, anyway, I just wanted to let you
7 know for sure, you know, it's not a resolution -- and
8 by the Council passing this action it's not saying it's
9 going to happen, it's going to be coming back up in
10 future meetings.

11
12 Again, I thank you for the NPFMC bullet
13 point to bring out, that treaty obligation is a very
14 relevant one and I'll be looking to get some -- I
15 expect you'll be sending out a bulletin from AVCP to
16 all the councils across your membership to send in
17 letters as well.

18
19 I had a question earlier for Bob DuBey
20 from YRDFA and he didn't really have an answer, and I
21 wonder if you might have heard from Jennifer or others,
22 how the State has arrived at that number for their
23 68,000 as being a hard cap, is it just the three
24 average, any idea where that comes from or what there
25 is even to base those numbers on?

26
27 MR. NANENG: Based on the information
28 that I got yesterday, it was just a number that seemed
29 to be pulled out by the State of Alaska. We know as
30 reported by a previous speaker the 10 year average of
31 catch is like about 47,500. But the information that
32 we got -- the reason that the State of Alaska wants to
33 put it to 68,000 is because they're concerned about low
34 number years. And if they're concerned about low
35 number years that doesn't make any sense. And so
36 they're going to try and get further clarification and
37 report to the AVCP Convention next week of why the
38 State got that number.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anything else, Greg.

41
42 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, I guess I'm
43 totally confused too by what you just told me. That
44 does sound like one of Jack Whitman's infamous numbers.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anaan, did you have a
47 question for.....

48
49 MS. GREGORY: I just want to thank Mr.
50 Naneng for enlightening us on some of the issues that

1 are facing our people today, like the duck stamps and
2 the -- and enlightening us on the international treaty
3 that these people are supposed to be working for us or
4 helping us out to achieve all the staff that will help
5 us out and I want to thank him for doing his homework,
6 and really informing us about these things that we need
7 to know.

8

9

(In Yup'ik)

10

11 We get so -- what's the word I'm trying
12 to find, we get so concentrated on a little corner and
13 then we forget to represent the people in all aspects
14 of our way of life.

15

16

(In Yup'ik)

17

18 If we go for one more year, I think it
19 will be -- we will be better off down the road.

20

21

Quyana.

22

23

MR. NANENG: Quyana, Mary.

24

25

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further comments,
26 questions for Myron. Go ahead.

27

28

MR. ALOYSIUS: I thank you for, you
29 know, because like she said we get so caught up in this
30 little thing here, and, you know, I never realized that
31 all of those agencies that you mentioned are, you know,
32 Federal agencies and they work for us, supposed to
33 anyway.

34

35

Thank you.

36

37

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Manumik.

38

39

MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
40 Naneng. There was a lot of confusion this spring, at
41 the spring hunt for waterfowl in the mouth of the Yukon
42 River. The confusion was concerning the duck stamp
43 that they were supposed to be -- they were supposed to
44 have in their possession along with a hunting license.
45 Now, can we ask the Waterfowl Conservation Committee to
46 bring that issue up at the Convention and inform the
47 people of what really needs to be in their possession
48 this coming spring hunt.

49

50

Thank you, Myron.

1 MR. NANENG: Quyana, Paul, for bringing
2 that up. We'll bring it up at the Convention. But one
3 of the things that we know in trying to work with Fish
4 and Wildlife Service is law enforcement. Their law
5 enforcement is always trying to find ways where they
6 can implement the rule with one objective in mind, I
7 mean instead of enforcing it differently up in the
8 North Slope, they want to apply it the same way here on
9 the YK-Delta, or down in Bristol Bay or elsewhere, and
10 they've been the ones that have consistently raised
11 issues about law enforcement and trying to find ways to
12 implement it one way and even though there's really no
13 law against certain things, but they seem to be wanting
14 to protect themselves from being able to implement
15 certain aspects of some of the existing laws that are
16 in the books.

17

18 MR. MANUMIK: One more, Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Continue.

21

22 MR. MANUMIK: The other one is when --
23 when we go out and do our spring hunt, the US Fish and
24 Wildlife that are out there protecting the natural
25 resource, they're not working against our people, that
26 needs to be stressed out to our people, they're working
27 for our people to protect them from breaking those --
28 the contents of the Waterfowl Conservation Committee's
29 working plan. They need to understand that. They're
30 working for you, you know, for our people, they're not
31 working against us. That needs to be understood by
32 our hunters, especially the younger generation because
33 they don't attend meetings.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further comment,
38 questions.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you,
43 Myron.

44

45 MR. NANENG: Quyana. I'll turn over
46 all the rest of it to Tim.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tim, you have the

1 floor.

2

3

4 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 I'd like to thank Myron for covering most of the issues
6 that I was going to bring up. Perhaps some additional
7 comments about the duck stamp issue.

8

9 Prior to the enactment of the Migratory
10 Bird Treaty Protocol Amendment in 1996, the spring and
11 summer hunt of migratory birds in this area and all
12 over the state of Alaska and Native land was primarily
13 an illegal hunt. Now when you conduct an illegal hunt,
14 you do not need duck stamps whether State or Federal,
15 you don't need a hunting license either. And each and
16 every one of us have been out there in the field, we've
17 hunted despite a prohibition of hunting birds in the
18 spring without hunting license and duck stamps and all
19 the other requirements that's trying to be placed on
20 us.

21

22 The other comment I'd like to make is I
23 basically represent over 30 villages that participate
24 in our natural resource compact. And the sentiment
25 that I'm starting to receive from the people in our
26 villages is that we are becoming strangers in our own
27 home land. This land, we've settled on for thousands
28 and thousands of years, even before the US government
29 was even brought forth, even before Columbus landed on
30 the shores of America or accidentally landed on the
31 shores of America, he thought he was in India, we have
32 basically no food security at all. We do not have food
33 security. As you have seen your actions have been
34 totally cancelled by the Federal Subsistence Board.
35 The Federal Subsistence Board has no interest in me or
36 you, their obvious goal is to make sure that each and
37 every American have access to those food sources that
38 we depend on in the area. And our people, you know,
39 without the food out here that we have, that we depend
40 on, our people in our villages would die, and I am
41 really serious about that, people would die, either
42 from Diabetes or from heart disease, cholesterol issues
43 and the like. Our bodies are made -- are derived out
44 of food that we depend on. Without access to that
45 food, we die or we have medical problems. It's been
46 proven time and time and time after again.

47

48 We do not have cultural security on top
49 of that as well. Whenever we go out hunting, our
50 ancestors, our elders teach us the aviukarteq, you
51 know, going out and making offers or sacrifices to the

1 people that have gone before us, that have walked this
2 land, that have hunted this land, that have traveled on
3 this land, that have been buried on this land, that
4 have worked on this land before us, that have taken
5 care of the land and the resources before us in order
6 to speak to the spirits, the spirit of the animals that
7 we are pursuing to provide for us so we can feed our
8 families. That practice is starting to disappear. And
9 one reason I could see that disappearing is because
10 when we aviukarteq to our ancestors that have gone
11 before us, they prepare and provide the animal for us
12 in a totally different value system than we are living
13 today.

14

15 Like for example.

16

17 This past hunting season that we had up
18 there in Marshall, my younger brother and I and several
19 others, his son and a cousin, we were out in one boat,
20 we went out for an evening ride and we had a snack
21 along side the shores of one of the lakes, we made
22 sacrifices, we aviukarteq, we took little pieces of dry
23 fish, put them on land for all the people that we can
24 remember, for those that we cannot remember, for those
25 that have lived and depended on the resources or this
26 land, that have traveled the waters, that have traveled
27 the snow, ice seasons. We gave them dry fish, we gave
28 them coffee, we gave them crackers, we gave them, you
29 know, things that we were eating and not very long
30 after that we went right around the corner and our
31 ancestors had provided a moose for us but it was a
32 wrong kind of moose, you know, in the values of our
33 ancestors the animal that they provide is there for us
34 to take, but it was the wrong kind of moose. You know
35 that regulatory conflict, those conflict of values have
36 totally -- totally having a negative impact on our
37 tradition, on our cultural tradition, you know, why
38 offend the ancestors by providing food and what not,
39 and when they give us the animals to harvest we don't
40 take it because the regulatory system is saying, no,
41 you can't take it, it's the wrong sex, or the wrong
42 animal, it's not in season.

43

44 You know some of our hunting tradition
45 is starting to disappear, some of it is basically our
46 own fault because we're not carrying those traditions
47 on. But it is also the regulatory system that we are
48 living under because we do not have food security, we
49 do not have cultural security, we do not have control
50 over the resources that we depend on, it's either the

1 Federal Subsistence Board, the Board of Game or the
2 Board of Fisheries. It is not until we get control of
3 our own resources that we are going to be able to have
4 food security and cultural security.

5
6 Those resources are in the hands of
7 somebody else and, you know, we are going down a road
8 -- and, you know, the law enforcement people that we
9 have in the back here, they treat us whether you are
10 Yup'ik, whether you are Black, whether you are White,
11 whether you're from Chicago, whether you're from
12 Kwethluk, wherever, they treat us all the same, or
13 they're supposed to be treating us all the same. And
14 in a political and a social environment of that nature
15 where everybody's equal, we will always lose out, even
16 though our bodies depend on the resources of the land.
17

18 And that is the only way that I could
19 possibly see that we would be able to maintain our
20 hunting traditions and our way of life, our true and
21 have true food security.

22
23 Some of the more problematic issues --
24 now, that I'm all riled up -- is in our forestry
25 program, it's operated by Mike Burle (ph), he is
26 developing a proposal to where we work with the Native
27 allotment owners to crop some of the willows that we
28 have on some of the islands and some of the properties
29 to utilize the willow as fuel, like to burn. And what
30 he plans to do is to take the willow, you know, like
31 Kuskokwim River, if you travel up and down this way you
32 will find not a stick on the side of the Kuskokwim
33 River, but basically take that and use it as an
34 alternative wood fuel, by bundling it up together and
35 strapping it to where you would have something
36 burnable. And the side benefit to that, what it'd
37 basically do is provide for better moose browse.
38 Because moose doesn't like the old growth willows, they
39 like the short, young shoots that are growing on the
40 island, you'll see that when you travel on the Yukon
41 River or some of the more populated moose areas, you
42 wouldn't see them in the back, in the big brushy areas,
43 you'll see them all out there in the small young shoot
44 area. So we have that in the works.

45
46 I was also contacted by the Native
47 village of Orutsaramiut, that they are going to be
48 submitting a proposal, in fact the Council has already
49 taken action on it, is to open or to propose to open a
50 cow moose hunting season in the whole Unit 18

1 remainder. It's already allowed in the lowest part of
2 the Yukon River. At the Federal Subsistence Board that
3 I've been to twice, you know, the Refuge managers, the
4 land managers to the State, wildlife conservation
5 personnel, all of them have testified that we have a
6 lot of moose up on the Yukon River, that's justifying
7 opening up the area to the non-Federally-qualified
8 hunters to hunt on Federal land. and the proposal also
9 addresses, rather than one moose per regulatory year,
10 two moose per regulatory year. During the August 10th
11 through September 30th hunt, that would be bulls only,
12 they will be able to take only one bull and during the
13 winter hunt, would basically be any moose and that way,
14 you know, our people don't get cited for harvesting
15 what they thought was -- what they thought was a bull,
16 turned out to be a cow and, you know, other issues of
17 that sort. But that's going to be submitted in the
18 future call for proposals.

19
20 On the Mulchatna Herd, we submitted or
21 we advocated for a proposal, I believe, which was
22 submitted by you, Mr. Chair, to eliminate the non-
23 resident hunter and to place the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
24 hunt into a Tier I resident hunt only in the State
25 jurisdiction land. That proposal was taken up in March
26 -- or it was taken up initially here in Bethel at the
27 Alaska Board of Game meeting but was deferred for the
28 March meeting, but at the March meeting they did not
29 have enough information to address the proposal so they
30 deferred it to the November meeting, but I have yet to
31 see it in the November proposal packet, that's supposed
32 to be occurring down in Juneau. Since I just got back
33 from my hunting trip, I haven't been able to call
34 Christy with Board Support.

35
36 The other thing is on October 7th, 8th
37 and 9th we have a Convention coming up and you're all
38 more than welcome to come and participate in that
39 Convention as well.

40
41 That basically concludes my section of
42 the report and I'll be happy to answer any questions if
43 you have any.

44
45 Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

48
49 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Thank you,
50 Tim.

1 You know, I talked to him a little bit
2 during the break about aviukarteq, and it's something
3 that's very sacred to our people, too bad it's being
4 lost. And I shared with him that little part of my
5 life when my son was about 11 years old, we went up
6 river for moose hunting, we were going to be gone for
7 10 days. And all the way up to the banks, you know,
8 the high banks of the -- just below Kalskag I kept
9 worrying about, what am I going to do with this guy,
10 the next thing you know I'm going to hear him say I'm
11 bored and after we came out of a fog bank right below
12 the bank there it hit me, I should just teach him all
13 of the history of that area, not only the physical
14 history but the spiritual, mental, emotional history.
15 And the first thing we did, we stopped right at the old
16 site of the -- the site where little people live and he
17 asked me, why are we stopping and I said, well, I want
18 to show you what we were taught a long time ago, how to
19 aviukarteq, to give whatever we have to the spirit of
20 the people who were here before, people who used the
21 land and water and breathed the air during their
22 hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering activities,
23 and he said, well, how do you do that and I said, well,
24 you take a little bit of everything you have and offer
25 it to them and he got all excited and he said, how
26 about peanut butter and jam sandwich, I mean that --
27 you know that kind of thing, it's just really
28 heartwarming.

29
30 And so from that point on, all the way
31 up to where we were hunting I stopped every four or
32 five miles and showed him exactly what those sites were
33 and how the people used them and how the people revered
34 them to this day, and so it's really important, and I'm
35 glad that you brought it up.

36
37 But, you know, we need to keep this
38 tradition alive to our young people and show them
39 exactly what our people did a long time ago to honor,
40 not only our people, but the land and the animals and
41 the fish.

42
43 Quyana.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Manumik.

46
47 MR. MANUMIK: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, Tim,
48 I took part in the summer moose hunt, August and
49 September and I filled my harvest ticket, now winter
50 hunt comes along do I get another harvest ticket or I

1 can't participate in the winter hunt?

2

3 MR. ANDREW: As far as I know within
4 the State regulatory system, no, you don't get another
5 harvest ticket for the winter hunt.

6

7 For the Federal system, I think you're
8 still allowed only one moose per regulatory moose
9 unless I'm completely wrong.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, that's correct.

12

13 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, one moose per year.
14 And I know and communicating with a number of families
15 within the area, a lot of people run out of moose meat
16 right about that time of the year, so, you know, a
17 proposal that was addressed, perhaps a two moose limit,
18 one for the fall, the other for the winter would really
19 help provide for the families, and add additional
20 subsistence hunting opportunity as well.

21

22 MR. MANUMIK: Yeah, the reason why I
23 ask is because I was asked by quite a few, number of
24 people called me on the phone and asked me about this
25 issue, if you took part in the summer hunt you can't
26 take part in the winter hunt, now I can answer that.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions --
31 yeah, go ahead, Robert.

32

33 MR. ALOYSIUS: I forgot to mention that
34 even to this day, when I'm with my son, he asks me, are
35 you still doing those things, he says, you have a
36 grandson, you have -- now you have four grandsons, are
37 you teaching them those things and it, you know, it's
38 reinforcing to me that he acknowledges the power of the
39 spirit of our people and he wants me to -- and he
40 encouraged me to keep it up and pass on that tradition.

41

42 So, thank you, again.

43

44 MR. ANDREW: If I may, Mr. Chairman,
45 it's something that it seems like the Federal
46 Subsistence Board members and the State Board of Game
47 members, State Board of Fisheries and our judges
48 definitely will not understand aviukarteq, aviukarteq,
49 and what it means when our ancestors provide for us,
50 and, you know, what we're doing to offend (ph) them.

1 hoped to have Eva Patton arrange, as I explained
2 earlier, under the Partnership Program, to do a report
3 for ONC, I could just give a brief summary of our
4 activities along with the fisheries programs that we
5 operate, several cooperative, and some might say co-
6 management projects with both the State and Federal
7 systems.

8
9 We conduct in-season subsistence
10 harvest monitoring, approximately 40 interviews within
11 the 30 mile radius of Bethel on a weekly basis. We
12 report to the Kuskokwim Salmon Working Group. This
13 program has been ongoing for about eight years now and
14 has actually been incorporated to where it's one of the
15 main items of report and consideration that the
16 Department takes in in their in-season management
17 decisions.

18
19 We also run a chinook salmon bio-
20 sampling program as well, in addition to that.

21
22 We work with them in cooperation in
23 running the Bethel test fisheries and just this year,
24 as well, incorporated with the Bethel test fishery in
25 the latter part of the season was a genetic stock
26 sampling for coho salmon that was included and he
27 mentioned as well that we've also been conducting for
28 Bethel the post-season subsistence harvest survey
29 annually that's going to be taking off here in the next
30 couple weeks. We look to be on the ground here in
31 Bethel, probably the 20th of October we'll be starting
32 off and going through the month of November.

33
34 Other than that for the Natural
35 Resource Department, there is myself as the staff and
36 I've got the title of director, we also run our EPA
37 program Rose Kalsitik (ph) takes care of that and she's
38 very active throughout the board and council process of
39 EPA, she sits on the region tribal operations committee
40 for Region 10, which is Alaska, Oregon, Washington,
41 Idaho for advisory to the EPA, she's also on the
42 national tribal operations committee. The Alaska
43 Community Actions on Toxics. There's two or three or
44 more that she also -- they escape me at the moment --
45 that she also sits on. So very active and influential
46 in helping to get programs addressed throughout Bush
47 Alaska, not just only for Bethel.

48
49 The resource department, we work very
50 closely with AVCP, certainly as the regional

1 organization dealing with the regional issues. One of
2 the difficulties that we had when we first started out
3 as a tribal organization for this community is being
4 careful not to impose ourselves too broadly but yet on
5 the other side of that is that there's really no
6 community organization or tribal organization that can
7 address resource issues specific to their own community
8 because everybody uses the whole area and so to
9 effectively address these Federal and State fish and
10 game management regulations you have to deal with
11 things more on that regional level, you know, if we're
12 talking about things on the Kuskokwim, you know, you
13 can't just talk about the lower river or the middle
14 river, we're all connected, the mouth to the
15 headwaters, to the spawning streams.

16
17 And I guess another challenge that you
18 look at for Bethel, or reality that we need to deal
19 with as a tribal organization, we serve the membership
20 of all the villages we well, Bethel being the regional
21 hub and we do not limit our services only to our inter-
22 tribal members, it's all inclusive, if anyone of its
23 tribal members from throughout the YK-Delta or anywhere
24 else actually in the state or an intertribal member
25 from the Lower 48 should there be, we would do our best
26 to help them any way we can if they did come to our
27 tribal council for assistance.

28
29 You know, so we continue to just do our
30 best to address these regulations. We participate in
31 both the State and Federal side, both game issues and
32 fisheries issues in the management realm, along with
33 trying to keep on top of development issues that are
34 ongoing that are of great concern of the future
35 integrity for maintaining the subsistence way of life
36 and people's access to that and continuation of it into
37 perpetuity.

38
39 So in a nutshell I guess that's it.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. So Eva
42 Patton is not here?

43
44 MR. ROCZICKA: Eva Patton, as I
45 explained, she's a person we hired for our fisheries
46 partners biologist, it was limited funding available
47 and we were given sufficient funding for a --
48 essentially it's a four month position and it's spread
49 out so that she was here, and then through a
50 partnership with KNA where they covered part of her

1 salary as well, she was here to be for a -- to be kind
2 of a supervisory coordinator for all these fisheries
3 projects we have going and we have sufficient funds
4 left over for her to assist in the report write up and
5 the other requirements that come with those grants as
6 far as the reporting requirements that are contained in
7 those contracts.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thanks. Anaan.

10

11 MR. ROCZICKA: (In Yup'ik) has been
12 checking the water for the Brown Slough for
13 contaminants because the city lets their (In Yup'ik) go
14 out through that process and they never let -- they use
15 my fish camp to collect the water from, so I need some
16 information, how do I get that?

17

18 MR. ROCZICKA: Well, give Rose a call
19 and she'll bring you an update. I meant to mention
20 that when I was mentioning her program as well, that
21 also under her program that ONC does, we conduct weekly
22 air quality monitoring and we also do the water quality
23 monitoring that Mary just mentioned as well. It's kind
24 of a check on the city, we do it in three separate
25 areas in the Brown Slough where it drains out from the
26 sewer lagoon, they have the leech field where the
27 lagoon drains through and it filters and the city does
28 their treatment at their release points, they do
29 testing at their release point, they do another test
30 down where the Brown Slough meets the river and we have
31 done a -- we've formed a supplementary testing program
32 to that where we checked the same points they do but
33 also points in between following down the slough to
34 make sure that they're maintaining their standards.
35 And so far we've been -- our testing has been pretty
36 much in concert with them and then as Mary said it was
37 by her camp, right down there where your old house used
38 to be is where you're talking about?

39

40 MS. GREGORY: (Nods affirmatively)

41

42 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. And as control
43 for that, as well, a couple times a year we also go up
44 stream out on the main river and out to some of the
45 sloughs that have -- that are not affected by any of
46 the run off from the construction and development
47 within Bethel proper, or the community property get
48 kind of a control of what the natural situation is as
49 well and the air quality program that we run, we
50 started that about five years ago. We're the first and

1 only tribe in the state so far that has been authorized
2 by the Department of Environmental Conservation on the
3 State side and EPA at the Federal side to operate a
4 program for air quality and it's for to measure the
5 dust and particulate matter in the air. We started out
6 with what's called a PM10 machine that measured down to
7 the level of 10 microns and we've since advanced from
8 that to machine that measure it even farther to a 2.5
9 micron level and that is it's located right over by
10 Watson's Corner. That machine runs on a computerized
11 basis. We have one of our tribal members that checks
12 that twice weekly, downloads the data and sends it to
13 DEC in Juneau and to the central point in Anchorage as
14 well and if we got to the point to where our air was of
15 such a polluted value we'd -- as a result of that we
16 could have health warnings issued for people with
17 asthma and, you know, any kind of respiratory problems,
18 alerts could be issued from that.

19

20 In the three years that that's been up
21 and running, we've had only two instances where those
22 warning levels were approached and, once, I believe
23 when they were exceeded.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think the question
26 Mary asked was where can she get the results for the
27 water tests that are from -- by her camp and could you
28 give her the information if you have it.

29

30 MR. ROCZICKA: I told her to give Rose
31 a call or I can have Rose call you.

32

33 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anybody else.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thanks, Greg. Next on
40 the agenda, Kuskokwim Native Association, Dave Cannon.

41

42 MR. CANNON: I'm back. Thank you, Mr.
43 Chairman. Members of the Council. As I mentioned
44 yesterday I'm really not a formal employee of the
45 Kuskokwim Native Association but I'm rather familiar
46 with their work. Part of the reason I'm here today is
47 to redeem myself from yesterday after I gave my talk, I
48 was chastised greatly by two Federal fisheries
49 biologists who I won't name, but I believe they gave
50 testimony this morning.....

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. CANNON:and the reason they
4 chastised me was because I neglected to mention
5 whitefish yesterday as far as the projects that KNA was
6 involved with. And, yes, I'm guilty as charged, I
7 guess.

8

9 Glenn Lindsey who I mentioned yesterday
10 who is one of the college interns, he worked on the
11 sheefish project with the Fish and Game Sportfish
12 Division, they were down here this May, I believe,
13 around the Johnson River collecting sheefish and
14 implanting radio transmitters. So that was one
15 whitefish project. And then the reason that I'm
16 actually up here today is because Mike Talhauser, who
17 is their partners biologist is somewhere up near
18 McGrath with Ken Harper from the Fish and Wildlife
19 Service looking for broad whitefish, and so that's
20 actually why I'm here today.

21

22 And I may overstep my bounds here, but
23 being that I was the fish biologist there, this
24 whitefish project that actually is going on, we talked
25 yesterday, I forget who actually talked about the
26 whitefish plan, but the work that's going on right now
27 as far as the broad whitefish in the Kuskokwim was
28 driven by low numbers of whitefish out of Whitefish
29 Lake, I believe, around Aniak. And so I know a lot of
30 people are concerned with, well, why do biologists
31 collect data and very often when they do collect that
32 data, there might be regulations someday down the road
33 for whatever reason with that information. And, you
34 know, that project was driven by concern by local
35 people for the broad whitefish populations in Whitefish
36 Lake. And I can only think back as of yesterday with
37 Mr. Jacob and his eloquent speeches about working
38 together as different groups, whether it be Federal,
39 State agencies, local RACs, I personally, you know,
40 have concerns that I'm sure most everybody else does
41 with things like potential climate change changes and
42 what that might mean to some of our resources. So the
43 way I see it it's only going to -- many things might
44 become more controversial for whatever reason and it is
45 going to be vital for people to come together and
46 openly discuss the issues and hopefully resolve some of
47 the problems.

48

49 And with that, I guess, I'll close, but
50 I will say I can address a little bit of something that

1 might help us in my later discussion here as Bering Sea
2 Fishermen Association representative.

3

4 So, thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for
7 Dave. Do you have an announcement or a question?

8

9 MR. NICK: I want to clarify what
10 happened here. I was in contact with KNA in Aniak at
11 least a month before this meeting occurred and they
12 were in transition of leadership with KNA, they have a
13 new executive director, Dave Orabutt is no longer
14 fisheries director. I was informed that Mike Talhauser
15 was appointed as director of KNA fisheries and I was
16 assured that somebody from KNA might be here to give
17 their presentation on fisheries project for -- for that
18 area. And, you know, I was not contacted whether or
19 not if they were coming, I was told somebody was
20 planning to come and give the presentation. So I
21 apologized if I caused anything and if I put Dave in a
22 spot, but, you know, at least they wanted us to keep
23 the placeholder for them.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. Yes, I might
28 address that. And don't worry, Alex, no problem here
29 with me filling in, I hope I made them proud. But
30 probably a month or so ago, I'm not even sure, I did
31 not know that David Orabutt was leaving until just
32 probably two weeks ago, and, yes, they had that vacancy
33 now and because Mike has been tied up with this project
34 things have been extremely hectic. As I pointed out
35 yesterday those guys have just been working night and
36 day because of all the projects that they have going
37 on.

38

39 And also one thing that I didn't
40 mention and Alex you didn't mention, there's actually a
41 new executive director, just so you know, at KNA, I
42 don't know how many people knew that but Calvin Simeon,
43 he resigned, I believe, and it's now Cynthia, and I'm
44 not sure what her -- I would say, relatively new
45 married name is, but Cynthia John, has now taken over
46 as executive director, Samantha John's sister, Cynthia.

47

48 Okay.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

1 MR. CANNON: Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions.
4
5 (No comments)
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Dave. Are
8 there any municipal government representatives.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any ANCSA village
13 corporation representatives.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Other organizations,
18 Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, Dave Cannon.
19
20 (Laughter)
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You wear many hats, I
23 see.
24
25 (Laughter)
26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Or at least a couple.
28
29 MR. CANNON: Yes. Now, I did pass out,
30 at least to the Council members a paper here, and let
31 me get it, I brought a -- once again my name is Dave
32 Cannon and now I'm representing the Bering Sea
33 Fishermen's Association.
34
35 And what I want to talk about is a
36 program that we have that's fairly new and it goes by
37 FAIR, F-A-I-R, Fisheries Awareness Information and
38 Responsibility Program. And this, I believe, is one
39 way that hopefully people in the Bering Sea region can
40 communicate together. It's basically an internet
41 website and I guess many people in this room have
42 probably received these advocates in the mail. I know
43 a good portion of people are on the mailing list, I
44 think there's several thousand people. So hopefully
45 you're somewhat familiar with this but as it says here,
46 the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association wants to help
47 build a greater awareness and support for the
48 sustainable management of a marine and freshwater
49 fisheries, basically, that's the purpose of this
50 program. And this is on the website there and the web

1 address is on that sheet of paper. And there's some
2 basic instructions on how to work through the website
3 to get to the meat of the project and program here.

4
5 And one of the parts of the FAIR
6 program is this calendar, and if people have meetings,
7 just like this RAC meeting would have been a good
8 example to have on this calendar or it was mentioned
9 here just earlier that the North Pacific Management
10 Council is going to meet here very soon, I believe in
11 Anchorage, and I'll do my best to start and try to get
12 some of those type of meetings on this calendar here so
13 people can look this up and see what is happening.

14
15 And then just to access this site, what
16 you want to do is follow through and look for the words
17 FAIR and then the forum, and the forum is more or less
18 a blog, people can go in there and, you know, any issue
19 you have related to fisheries more or less in the
20 Bering Sea area can go on and put your opinion there
21 and other people can then come back and respond. Okay.

22
23 And once, again, the purpose of this
24 program is to build a greater awareness within the
25 Bering Sea ecosystem, engage communications and, you
26 know, Mr. Jacob talked about that yesterday, but among
27 the scientists, policy-makers, NGOs, non-governmental
28 organizations, things like watershed councils, Yukon
29 Watershed Council, the Kuskokwim Watershed Council,
30 fishermen and just people to share the information
31 across regional borders and definitely to foster better
32 relations and understanding amongst all the people and
33 that means working together, sharing information.

34
35 And I'm sure there's ways that we can
36 improve this. So as you work through the website and
37 see things that you might want to suggest, please,
38 we're more than happy to make it user friendly and help
39 out.

40
41 So the forum, that's how people can
42 discuss these different issues.

43
44 One thing, this isn't the easiest
45 program to work through, but just try to keep in mind
46 and circle the little words, fisheries discussions that
47 you can see I have down there at the lower left-hand,
48 when you see that on the screen and you want to get
49 into the different discussion, just click on that
50 fisheries discussions, and you can see here there's

1 quite a few different posts already, topics that have
2 been put, mostly by me and some other Bering Sea
3 employees. Now, the reason I'm here is if you look at
4 who submitted those, it is myself and Bering Sea, I
5 want you and I want the scientists and the biologists
6 and whoever, hopefully, contribute to this. So that's
7 my plug here today.

8
9 But you can see that there's certain
10 issues on here, the bycatch issue here has one post
11 and, again, people if you want to respond back and
12 reply and give your input to something, just go right
13 ahead and it will pop up. And anybody who's interested
14 or concerned, if you are going to contribute with a
15 post of any kind, you have to register on this site,
16 you give them your name but you can give a screen name,
17 you know, some people and it really doesn't matter if
18 your real name shows up or not. Sometimes I know when
19 people put a different name on there then they're free
20 to say things that maybe aren't appropriate, and we
21 hope that people do not respond here with
22 inappropriateness like that, but, anyway, don't worry
23 your name doesn't have to show up here.

24
25 Other things that are discussed here,
26 things like spruce needle rust, that was something that
27 people noticed here in the Kuskokwim just this summer,
28 a lot of rusty colored water, and in fact you can put a
29 picture on there just like I did here. Unfortunately
30 you can't see that very well but this is on the Holitna
31 this summer. And there were people on the call-in show
32 on Friday who had questions as to what this was and,
33 you know, the first man said I see this and I don't
34 know what it is, well, all of a sudden, you know, he
35 could have got on this site and asked that and
36 hopefully somebody else who's familiar with it can
37 respond back.

38
39 And basically that's, you know, you can
40 see there's a new topic up there on the left or post
41 reply, go right ahead, add something new. You can add
42 pictures like you just saw down at the bottom left. I
43 just wanted to show if you were to go in here, that's
44 where you go to attach files and just include your
45 picture. If you're in a fish camp and you have your --
46 you're proud of your catch or you see something
47 unusual, ichthyophonous, you know, please use this for
48 things like that.

49
50 One of the articles we did was on weirs

1 on the Kuskokwim drainage just to show and explain to
2 people who have never been to a weir what it's like to
3 install them, to take them out, the condition so that's
4 why, you know, biologists, I would encourage them,
5 scientists to, you know, go ahead and post
6 informational things on this also.

7
8 And then one other part of this program
9 is an actual data base that stores observations,
10 unusual observations. I won't get on the internet now,
11 I don't do that, and we could look up -- there's a
12 video clip of counting salmon on the Salmon River weir,
13 but one of the very unusual sites that people here in
14 the Kuskokwim are familiar with that I ended up putting
15 on here was the beluga whale sightings.

16
17 So because of the concern for climate
18 change and things like that, that's where this is very
19 appropriate. And also one place that we hope that this
20 interactive map and database will work is to hopefully
21 pinpoint other streams in the State's anadromous waters
22 catalog that aren't listed as having salmon because Dan
23 Gilligan mentioned the other day, it's very important
24 to know where salmon are and the State's catalog does
25 not list every salmon bearing stream as having them,
26 and with development and things like that it's real
27 important for managers and everybody to know, you know,
28 where these salmon are.

29
30 So I'm about to wrap up, just part of
31 the observation site, you pinpoint where that site was,
32 you can go into -- here's Hooper Bay, I believe, and
33 mark where you actually saw that unusual sighting and
34 then you go in and you add the information.

35
36 So I'll wrap up with that, I know we're
37 running late a little bit here today. If anybody has
38 any questions.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MR. CANNON: Okay, thank you very much.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Dave. We
47 are down to Item 14, Regional Council business, the
48 2007 annual report, Alex Nick.

49
50 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Members of the

1 Council. This letter is on Page 56 of your book. It's
2 only replying to your annual report that you submitted
3 last winter. Remember last fall when you met in
4 Marshall, Donald Mike, was your DFO for that meeting
5 and he asked you the annual report topics and then we
6 worked on the annual report over the winter -- before
7 the winter meeting and then it was approved by the
8 Council in March of 200 -- in March of 2008, last
9 winter in Kalskag, and that's just information.

10

11 Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Alex.

14 Greg.

15

16 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 The points that I noted within that response from the
18 Federal Board was there on the issue of maintaining
19 population for providing subsistence needs, they came
20 back with essentially boilerplate language regarding
21 the natural diversity. That issue was specifically
22 brought forward to them at the May meeting pointing out
23 the Congressional record that the natural diversity was
24 not to preclude management of these populations to
25 provide for human harvest needs. That has not been
26 addressed in here whatsoever.

27

28 Also their point about the Lower Yukon
29 as one of their big success stories saying by managing
30 for natural diversity in delay in hunting, they gave
31 all the credit to that. And then over the period when
32 that moratorium was in place on the Lower Yukon and
33 continuing on as that population has continued to grow,
34 we have heard from the folks that were intimately
35 involved that they aggressively pursued predator
36 management on the ground to the greatest extent
37 possible, pursued regulatory actions to allow for
38 greater take of those animals to say that that was done
39 specifically by natural diversity is extremely
40 misleading and inaccurate.

41

42 And essentially they avoided the issue
43 and went with boilerplate language and did not address
44 the concerns that were raised in our letter.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any other
47 comment concerning this.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, let's go on
2 down to the 2008 annual report topics.

3
4 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Now is the time
5 to submit your 2008 annual report topics to us so we
6 can draft your annual report. And just to give you an
7 idea some of the issues you talked about during this
8 meeting could be part -- I don't know, part of that
9 annual report, maybe I could just give an example of
10 moose issues or caribou issues that you mentioned
11 during the meeting, you know, how that cannot be taken
12 care of between the regulatory cycles. In other words,
13 the ones that you want to deal with out of cycle could
14 be one of them. And another example would be that you
15 might want to identify fish and wildlife resources
16 within the region and I think if I'm correct in
17 September 2007 meeting in Marshall, the Refuge Staff
18 approached the Council and give them an idea, you know,
19 what they'd like to see be on the annual report. But,
20 you know, it's entirely up to the Council how you want
21 to submit your annual report.

22
23 Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any Council comments.
26 Robert.

27
28 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. I just have a
29 question, when do you want us to submit the topics to
30 you?

31
32 MR. NICK: If I understand you
33 correctly, Bob, when do I want the annual report
34 topics, we hope that you can give us the topics now to
35 work from, you know, to begin working on your annual
36 report. That's what we want, is your topics for your
37 2008 annual report.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any suggestions from
40 the Council.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any topics of interest
45 that we should include in our annual report. Mr.
46 Manumik.

47
48 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman. Alex, this
49 would be from the two meetings you had for '08, right?
50

1 MR. NICK: The topics would be what
2 you, as Council members, recognized over the course of
3 the year for 2008 that you want to submit to the Board
4 as your topics, annual report topics.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any suggestions.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

11
12 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Members of the
13 Council. One thing that I struggle with, or we
14 struggle with, rather, is in the past there has been
15 suggestions that the annual report topics be submitted
16 to me. I would have -- you know, when that happens, I
17 would have to call several Council members several
18 times to get a topic or two, it's easier if you come up
19 with suggested topics at this point and then we would
20 draft your annual report using what you want to see in
21 your annual report, rather than the topics -- using the
22 topics that you give us now.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any suggestions. Mr.
25 Manumik.

26
27 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman. I think
28 for the record I think we need to see to it that this
29 moose moratorium for the Kuskokwim River be one of our
30 topics for the report.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

33
34 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, another topic of
35 interest would be Mr. Peter Jacob plea two times for
36 the Subsistence Board to do something about the beaver
37 problems and the wolf predation problem.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other topics.
40 Greg.

41
42 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 While it is kind of a reiteration, Bob touched on it
44 there, but that the Board needs to take on that
45 responsibility of incorporating the Congressional
46 intent of Title VIII of ANILCA of managing their
47 populations, not just monitoring them, in regards to
48 the natural diversity disclaimer that I referenced
49 earlier, which they have referenced here and they've
50 referenced to every Regional Council, eight out of the

1 10 across the state that have registered concerns in
2 this regard. That that should no longer be used as an
3 excuse to not do anything. They should not be managing
4 for feast or famine, which is the natural diversity.

5
6 The other point that came up and I
7 guess it kind of fell through the cracks here along the
8 way but maybe by putting it in the annual report and we
9 can get it on the meeting agenda is Mr. Manumik
10 mentioned earlier about follow up on possible
11 development of a muskox management strategy to build
12 that population and come up with a huntable subsistence
13 harvest population sometime in the future similar to
14 what's been done on the Seward Peninsula.

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anaan.

17
18 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, I think we need to
19 put that pollock fishery bycatch hard cap in.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

22
23 MR. NICK: Larry, could correct me if
24 I'm wrong, but this is -- the bycatch issues are taken
25 care of by a different agency than this agency, but you
26 could write letters if you want or communicate with
27 them.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Buklis.

30
31 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Even though
32 Alex is right, the bycatch issue at sea is managed by
33 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, I think
34 it's still relevant as a potential topic in your annual
35 report, not that the Federal Board regulates it but
36 you're expressing your concerns about it.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

39
40 MS. GREGORY: Thank you, Larry.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If I may, Alex, I
43 think we heard that, you know, because of the
44 regulation for one moose per season is not sustaining
45 the members of the families that go out and hunt and
46 rely on that meat, in the future there would possibly
47 be a request coming from this Council or some other
48 subsistence related organization to request that the
49 single moose, that one moose limit be probably -- would
50 be in the later future -- in the future, probably might

1 come up to a request or a proposal for two moose
2 instead of one moose per season. That was something
3 that I caught as we were discussing that the other day.

4

5 Do you have any response to that.

6

7 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Members of the
8 Council. I think that can be taken care of special
9 action request, Larry.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Buklis.

12

13 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. From the
14 way you stated it, I think you stated it more as an
15 issue to be considered for the future. If you want to
16 submit an actual proposal for action, it would have to
17 be a proposal in the normal cycle or a special action
18 request but if you want it as an issue to be considered
19 and talked about then it could be an annual report
20 topic.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That is exactly what I
23 wanted, I want it placed in the annual report that be
24 an issue to be discussed for in the future.

25

26 MR. NICK: It is my understanding that
27 what you're talking about is moose harvest limit.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Right.

30

31 MR. NICK: Okay.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anything else coming
34 from the Council.

35

36 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Andrew, could you
39 translate that into English -- we don't have a
40 translator and she needs to record that on the minutes.

41

42 MR. ANDREW: Okay, Mr. Chairman, I just
43 said in the past this .805 letter was assigned to the
44 coordinator, they have a guideline to go by to make a
45 report addressing all the subsistence issues of our
46 region and all the activities of the Council throughout
47 the year and part of a very important issue that this
48 Council acted on earlier to ask for extension on the
49 moose moratorium and one of the elders requested for we
50 need to do something about the beavers, which are

1 creating -- they're getting out of control, over
2 populated and creating excessive damming on the
3 blackfish, whitefish and other salmon fish migratory
4 rivers, the spawning grounds. Fish can't migrate into
5 the spawning areas or migrate out -- the young can't
6 migrate, they're dying at the beaver dams, especially
7 like this summer when we had a long period of low
8 water, they can't migrate out of -- I've heard reports
9 from my villagers back in my area, they said a lot of
10 the whitefish they're on the upper end of the beaver
11 dams and that -- also like one of the gentlemen earlier
12 from Akiak kept mentioning, wolf control, they're doing
13 harm to our moose and the caribou population. That's
14 another area.

15
16 And all the other main issues that my
17 fellow Council members addressed earlier should be in
18 this .805 letter.

19
20 (In Yup'ik)

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other suggestions
25 for the annual report topics.

26
27 It looks like you might have a couple
28 of pages written.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anything else that
33 you'd like to include in the annual report.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that enough to
38 start out with Alex.

39
40 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. If Council
41 thinks so that should be enough to start with.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there are any other
44 topics that you might want to think about and want to
45 include, make sure that you get in contact with Alex so
46 the next time we don't have to hear him complain about
47 having to call us over and over again because I know
48 he's done that in the past. In fact, he's called me
49 more than once to get just exactly what he wanted.
50

1 I think that's what Alex is speaking of. And the Board
2 letter to you goes over some points and then it
3 concludes by saying:

4
5 The Board recommends that you have a
6 full discussion of this issue with your
7 Council, Federal and State agencies and
8 the public about the potential impacts
9 that abandoned beaver dams may have at
10 a fall Council meeting in the near
11 future.

12
13 It's not so clear it means this
14 meeting, and I don't think we've done the groundwork to
15 make this a significant discussion. So putting it
16 simply on the agenda at the agenda isn't going to make
17 it happen, if you want this to happen we need to do
18 more in advance. We need to alert Federal and State
19 agencies that may have relevant material to bring
20 forward and involve the Council and public with some
21 notice if you want the beaver problem to be a
22 significant discussion. That's not what you're going
23 to get right now at the tail end of the meeting and we
24 haven't done the groundwork on our part, frankly.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anaan.

27
28 MS. GREGORY: I want to make a
29 correction, it's not abandoned beaver dams, it's beaver
30 dams, and a lot of beavers damming up the sloughs so
31 our whitefish and our other small fish cannot escape or
32 go anywhere. I am willing to be a contact person to do
33 something about it, and it's already 24 hours, seven
34 days a week, it's open, there's -- nobody's being
35 barred from hunting them, why aren't people hunting
36 them.

37
38 (In Yup'ik)

39
40 We act opposite. If it was closed we
41 would be going after it.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 MS. GREGORY: Now it's open, nobody
46 wants to go out and hunt them.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: On that issue maybe it

1 might be a good idea to start the groundwork, footwork
2 on getting the information on what is needed on this
3 beaver related issue.

4

5 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I
6 recommend that the Council has been clear this week,
7 both days, at different times on the beaver concerns,
8 including put it, yet again on your annual report, so I
9 think, Alex, at some point we need to make it a
10 significant agenda item and do the groundwork in
11 advance to have preparation by Staff and the public and
12 the Council so we can have a productive discussion on
13 the issue. So we're going to have to highlight it as a
14 key point of the meeting and you'll have to work with
15 the Chairman to decide which meeting can best
16 accommodate it. Some meetings have a heavier agenda
17 than others. I think your next meeting you're going to
18 be taking up the deferred Yukon River proposals on
19 chinook mesh size and net depth, and those are pretty
20 significant issues so I don't know if you want it on
21 your next meeting in February or not. But at some
22 meeting you should make this a more prominent agenda
23 item.

24

25 So I think, Mr. Chairman, at this point
26 I'd recommend that you and your coordinator decide,
27 with the Council, which meeting in the future you want
28 it at and then we need to remember to make it something
29 we do the work for you that you need in advance.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: This issue's been with
32 us ever since we started, I think it's about time that
33 we get into it and any suggestion, what time -- is
34 there any suggestion from the Council what meeting we'd
35 like to have this full discussion on.

36

37 First Robert Aloysius and then we'll go
38 to John.

39

40 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

41

42 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John, Robert, first.

45

46 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. You know,
47 we've been at it so long that, you know, they always
48 say that squeaky wheel gets the grease, well, it's
49 about time we got the grease. And from my understand
50 the February meeting deals with the wildlife issues, right?

1 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Given the
2 new two year cycle for things, the work that's coming
3 up in February would normally be the wildlife call for
4 proposals and it would be the review of the Fisheries
5 Monitoring Plan for new studies, and that would be the
6 heart of your work.

7
8 But this time you will also be dealing
9 with the deferred Yukon River salmon proposals.

10
11 So you'll have the call for wildlife,
12 so new ideas for wildlife proposals, the Fishery
13 Monitoring Program study plans proposed for the coming
14 summer, and then the deferred Yukon River chinook
15 proposals. So if you want to add the beaver management
16 issue, the beaver habitat problem to that agenda, you
17 can, or you can roll it over to the fall of next year,
18 at this time.

19
20 That's your call.

21
22 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. I don't
23 think we want to wait that long, Larry. I think we
24 want to take care of it as early as we can and then I
25 already give my time to whoever will take it to help
26 them get started, and it's good to work hard to get
27 something, you got to work hard at it.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John.

30
31 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Buklis.
32 Some years ago a certain species, I think the State
33 used to have a bounty program and it worked, somebody
34 needs to come up with a proposal and the bounty high
35 enough or enticing enough to give our young man
36 incentive to go out after them, that should work.
37 Because right now there's no money on the fur, the only
38 people that go after them is for table meat or for the
39 fur. A majority of our young people are not interested
40 in trapping these if they don't pay. A lot of the
41 older guys are dying off and they're getting too old to
42 get out. If somebody comes up with a good bounty
43 proposal it should put a dent into that population.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Buklis.

48
49 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I think
50 these are the kinds of points that would need to be

1 brought out in the larger discussion.

2

3 And what I'm hearing from the Council
4 is that sooner is better than later on this, so it
5 sounds like you want us to plan for your February
6 meeting to include this agenda item but be moved up on
7 the agenda and have us do the work in advance so we can
8 have a better discussion than we are prepared to do
9 today. So is that your direction.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What is the feeling of
12 the Council?

13

14 MS. GREGORY: That was what I was
15 saying. And I think the people who are spoke are in
16 line with what I wanted.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, you understand.

19

20 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

23

24 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I want a comment
25 on record that, you know, I didn't put this on the
26 agenda out of the blue. I have a supervisor too, you
27 know, that I talk to and have to review the agenda
28 before it's finalized. And it was brought to my
29 attention and the subject was brought to me -- I mean
30 the topic was brought to me stating that because, you
31 know, you've been talking about this beaver issue, even
32 in your annual reports, it would be appropriate to talk
33 about your annual report regarding beaver issues, but
34 Larry has a good point that, you know, we should be
35 prepared for this and that, you know, we should move it
36 up in our next -- in your next meeting, and I will make
37 sure that I work closely with my supervisor to, you
38 know, come up with some talking points on this.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

41

42 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. I would
43 suggest that you also invite people from DEC and also
44 from EPA because you know this is water quality we're
45 talking about -- it's not really water quality that
46 affects the human being, but the animals that live int
47 he water, the fish. And once again I want to clarify
48 my feeling on it. I've always -- I have nothing
49 against beaver, it's the abandoned beaver dams that are
50 killing our streams and blocking the migration pattern

1 of our fish, and that's something that the Board has
2 never replied to. They always say beaver dams are
3 great, beaver dams are great. And so, you know, it's
4 time that we put something -- I mean get something that
5 we can do some action on and get some information from
6 EPA. Because I know there's some programs that will
7 assist in the destroying of abandoned beaver dams in
8 the EPA.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

11

12 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chair. Actually
13 Bob's mention there just triggered a thought in my
14 mind. I would suggest and request that a staff
15 representative from Division of Wildlife Management
16 under the US Department of Agriculture be asked to
17 attend and address this meeting, that's who Fish and
18 Wildlife Service calls, that's who the Forest Service
19 calls, that's who the Department of Interior management
20 entities calls when they have a problem with wildlife
21 that they need dealt with.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And, you know, Mr.
24 Buklis, if there is anything that we, as a Council, can
25 do to help in this, then I'm -- I think if you gave us
26 a call and wanted help in a certain area then we'd be
27 more than happy to give you a hand on it.

28

29 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30 We'll do a better job for the next meeting in being
31 ready to have a better discussion on this and we'll try
32 to bring other resource people in.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Item E, confirm
41 next meeting date, February 24th, 25, 2009 and select
42 meeting location.

43

44 I think the last time we met we had a
45 suggested location at Quinhagak and I don't know how
46 the feeling of the Council is right now concerning that
47 location. Go ahead, Mr. Andrew.

48

49 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chair. I move (In
50 Yup'ik) February 24 and 25.

1 MS. GREGORY: Second.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)
4
5 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made to
8 have the next meeting at Quinhagak on the 24th and
9 25th, 2009, February.
10
11 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Just a minute, do I
14 hear a second to the motion.
15
16 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Discussion, go
19 ahead.
20
21 MR. NICK: Yeah, Mr. Chair. We would
22 like Council to consider hub communities because of the
23 cost factors, bringing in the Council to the meeting
24 location, such as Quinhagak, and one of the reasons is
25 because the budget has been cut for us, for our travel,
26 rather, and to add to that, Pete Probasco approached me
27 personally and asked the Council to provide a very good
28 justification if you want to meet -- hold your
29 meetings, future meetings in communities other than hub
30 communities.
31
32 Mr. Chair.
33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: My Anaan will give you
35 the justification.
36
37 MS. GREGORY: Quinhagak is a hub
38 community for the east coast villages of Platinum,
39 Goodnews, Eek, Tunt, the lower -- Lower Kuskokwim on
40 both sides.
41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any further
43 discussion on this, Robert.
44
45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Have we selected an
46 alternate site?
47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No, we have not, do
49 you have any suggestions.
50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No suggestions.
4
5 Any suggestions from anybody for an
6 alternate site.
7
8 Mr. Manumik.
9
10 MR. MANUMIK: There was a motion,
11 seconded, we're under discussion.....
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
14
15 MR. MANUMIK:of where we are
16 still going to meet?
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. I'm sorry there
19 is a motion on the floor for meeting in Quinhagak.
20 There's a second.....
21
22 MR. ALOYSIUS: Question.
23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE:to that motion,
25 the question has been called for.
26
27 Have a roll call vote, please, Madam
28 Secretary.
29
30 MS. GREGORY: Paul Manumik.
31
32 MR. MANUMIK: Yes.
33
34 REPORTER; Mary.
35
36 MS. GREGORY: I'm sorry, Paul Manumik.
37
38 MR. MANUMIK: Yes.
39
40 MS. GREGORY: John Andrew.
41
42 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
43
44 MS. GREGORY: Bob Aloysius.
45
46 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.
47
48 MS. GREGORY: Greg Roczicka.
49
50 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.

1 MS. GREGORY: Myself, yes. Lester
2 Wilde.
3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
5
6 MS. GREGORY: And that's -- I have one,
7 six yes', zero no's.
8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Did you
10 have your mic on for.....
11
12 MR. MANUMIK: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I
13 have a question. If the budget was cut, why does my
14 itinerary saying I am returning home on January 15th.
15
16 (Laughter)
17
18 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. That's out of
19 control, that's none of our -- none of our fault,
20 sorry.
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further
23 discussion.
24
25 (No comments)
26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, the motion's
28 been carried, right, you did have a motion, yes, the
29 motion carries.
30
31 Determine the next place for fall 2009
32 Council fisheries meeting. Alex.
33
34 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I believe it's
35 on the last page on the calendar, in your book,
36 currently as of today there are only three Council
37 meetings for that meeting window scheduled. One is
38 North Slope on August 25th. The next is
39 Kodiak/Aleutians from September 10 to 11. And the
40 third RAC is Seward Penn, October 1 and 2. All the
41 rest of the window is open.
42
43 Mr. Chair.
44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any suggestions.
46 Alex.
47
48 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I was given
49 information and there is one other Council meeting, I
50 believe from October 6th through 8th, Pippa, is that

1 correct, is also taken by Southeast Council.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any suggestions, Mr.
4 Roczicka.

5

6 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Also the
7 6th through the 8th is almost certainly going to be
8 AVCP Convention, it's the first week of full week of
9 October is usually when that occurs. We had tried that
10 one time before it was such a conflict with people
11 needing -- Council members needing to be in both
12 places. I could throw out September 29 and 30, it is
13 kind of nice to have the meeting ahead of that
14 Convention to address resource issues that might get a
15 public -- a public discussion on some of the issues
16 that we got in front of us for possibly bringing them
17 to the Convention so I'd throw out September 29 and 30.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 29th and 30.

20

21 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.

22

23 MR. ALOYSIUS: In the middle of the
24 week.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any problems with the
27 29th and 30th.

28

29 MR. ALOYSIUS: Why in the middle of the
30 week?

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The 29th.

33

34 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Larry and Pippa
35 could correct me if I'm wrong, Mary asked the question
36 of why in our agenda it says fisheries meeting, it's
37 actually fisheries meeting, but the calendar says
38 wildlife meeting, this is fishery -- fisheries meeting
39 window.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Buklis.

42

43 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 Given the new two year cycles, next fall will be the
45 time when you would be reviewing analysis of wildlife
46 proposals, so in your February meeting -- your February
47 meeting is a time when the window is open to submit
48 wildlife proposals, your September or October meeting
49 would be the time to get the analysis and make
50 recommendations on them leading up to the January Board

1 meeting, so that's why it's called wildlife.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

4

5 MR. NICK: I stand corrected, I'm
6 sorry.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any -- the
9 suggested -- what did you suggest?

10

11 MR. ROCZICKA: 29th and 30th.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 29th and 30th. Any
14 problem with that, Bob.

15

16 MR. ALOYSIUS: I just asked why the
17 middle of the week?

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Why the middle of the
20 week?

21

22 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. We were
23 just informed that the Seward Peninsula had already
24 taken October 1 and 2 and I guess I'd look at the 29th
25 and 30th, if we had it the 28th, we probably wouldn't
26 be able to start the meeting until the afternoon, and
27 I'm looking at two full days, I guess and the travel
28 for people coming in would be better accommodated on a
29 Monday than on a Sunday. I don't know whether that has
30 -- I don't care one way or the other, if people like 28
31 and 29 better, I just tossed it out there.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

34

35 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. There's
36 still moose hunters out on the 30th and 29th.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What was on the 1st
39 and 2nd.

40

41 MR. ROCZICKA: Seward Peninsula RAC.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: On the 1st and 2nd.
44 If you're willing to come up with some help we're sure
45 appreciate it.

46

47 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I believe
48 we can handle two Council meetings at one time so you
49 can overlap completely with some other Council, we just
50 can't have three at once. So within one week we can

1 cover two Councils and they can even overlap within the
2 week, we just can't have three Councils in one week.
3 So if you found a couple of dates that work for you and
4 one other Council is meeting, that's okay, but we can't
5 have three in a week.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Will our Staff have
8 any conflict with the 1st and 2nd of October when
9 Seward Peninsula is meeting?

10

11 MR. BUKLIS: No, I think we can cover
12 -- I think we can cover the overlap of Seward Peninsula
13 and YK.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. So how would
16 you like the 1st and 2nd of October.

17

18 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Manumik, 1st and
21 2nd of October.

22

23 MR. MANUMIK: Yes.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

26

27 MR. ALOYSIUS: Good for me.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Greg.

30

31 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, if I'd have known
32 that I would have suggested those dates to start with.

33

34 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The consensus is that
37 we hold it on the 1st and 2nd of October.

38

39 MR. ANDREW: For Emmonak.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, we need a place,
42 right.

43

44 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

47

48 MR. ALOYSIUS: It's always been a
49 policy that the fall meeting be in Bethel, I don't know
50 why, but they always say it's good for everybody to be

1 in Bethel.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

4

5 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman. In each of
6 future meetings, like I mentioned earlier, we ask the
7 Council to consider hub communities if possible.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Hub community. The
10 hub communities in our area being, could you.....

11

12 MR. NICK: The hub communities in our
13 area are -- there are only two identified by our
14 agency, one is Bethel and one is St. Mary's within our
15 region.

16

17 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

20

21 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that we have our
22 next fall meeting October 1 and 2 in St. Mary's, 2009.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 2009, a motion's been
25 made to have the next fall meeting at St. Mary's.

26

27 MS. GREGORY: Second.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by St. Mary's
30 -- I mean.....

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ah, got me. Seconded
35 by my Anaan, Mary. Do I hear a second to the motion?

36

37 MR. ALOYSIUS: She just seconded it.

38

39 MR. ROCZICKA: Mary seconded it.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It must be the end of
42 the meeting.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. ROCZICKA: Request unanimous
47 consent.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Unanimous consent's
50 been asked for, do I hear any objections.

1 MS. GREGORY: No objections.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No objections. Any
4 objections.
5
6 (No objections)
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Therefore, our next
9 meeting will be held in St. Mary's in the fall of 2009
10 on the 1st and 2nd of October.
11
12 Uh-huh, somebody's raising their hand,
13 again, go ahead, Mr. Buklis.
14
15 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. The
16 locations are completely your decision to recommend.
17 It just occurred to me, though, you just picked St.
18 Mary's for the fall and Quinhagak for the winter, but
19 that winter meeting's going to be the one where you
20 take up Yukon River salmon chinook mesh size and net
21 depth and you'll be in Quinhagak and then in the fall
22 you'll be in St. Mary's when that issue will have
23 already been decided by the Board at a special meeting
24 in April. You might want to consider switching that
25 because St. Mary's is on the Yukon and you might want
26 to allow the local Yukon public to be more present.
27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.
29
30 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you, sir.
31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.
33
34 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. As far as
35 that point goes, I mean maybe we ought to have both
36 meetings in St. Mary's then because at the fall meeting
37 when we're dealing with wildlife issues we're likely to
38 have a significant number of moose proposals in front
39 of us dealing with the Lower Yukon moose population.
40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.
42
43 MR. NICK: I contacted St. Mary's
44 sometime this summer and I was informed that there's
45 completely no taxi or transportation services from
46 airport to town, which is approximately six, seven
47 miles. And unless we make arrangement for someone to
48 transport that many people for, you know, that meeting,
49 we might run into some minor problems, so maybe major
50 problems in terms of ground transportation in St.

1 Mary's.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any comments from the
4 Council.

5

6 MR. NICK: Excuse me, another
7 information -- this is just for information, we can
8 find out between now and then what would happen. The
9 reason why I bring this up is because there used to be
10 a small taxi service in the village but that don't
11 exist anymore, no one's interested in -- in cab service
12 in St. Mary's.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

15

16 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. It seems
17 to me that you ought to be able to -- there's people in
18 St. Mary's and enough organizations in St. Mary's that
19 you ought to be able to come up with some kind of an
20 arrangement with some of them if you take Council
21 members and all the folks that -- Staff that may be
22 attending and take it times their taxi fare, it used to
23 be 10 bucks a person, times how ever many trips it
24 would have been from the airport, besides being around
25 town, to help them pay for their gas or give them
26 something like that, that seems to me kind of a minor
27 -- it's something we need to deal with but it shouldn't
28 preclude us from going there.

29

30 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anaan.

33

34 MS. GREGORY: Yeah. I don't think we
35 need to be hung up on little items like this. When we
36 look for some -- I'm always going for something and I
37 usually get what I want.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MS. GREGORY: When you put your mind to
42 something, if you try you'll get there, and people
43 won't abandon us in St. Mary's, that's for sure.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Have we decided then
46 that we're going to switch the meetings from the fall
47 and winter meetings in St. Mary's or is that still up
48 in the air, we should have a decision on whether we're
49 going to switch those meetings or not.

50

1 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I think I
2 would rather -- if we're going to switch -- if we're
3 going to go to St. Mary's in the wintertime, then I
4 would go for Bethel in the spring because that would
5 work for me, and if we are -- if we're not going to go
6 to that east coast side of the Delta, we haven't had a
7 lot of people coming to us from that area and right now
8 people who are coming to us are from St. Mary's and the
9 Bethel area.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Then we would need to
12 take into reconsideration the meeting dates and times
13 for Quinhagak if we're going to switch to St. Mary's.

14
15 Alex.

16
17 MR. NICK: Whatever Council decides
18 I'll work as hard as I can to make it happen. But the
19 one in Quinhagak, you need to come up with very strong
20 justification. You've given us justification but I
21 would say stronger justification to make it happen.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, we already had a
24 motion that passed that said our next meeting was going
25 to be in Quinhagak, we need to bring that up for
26 reconsideration at this time to move that meeting to
27 St. Mary's.

28
29 MR. ROCZICKA: So moved.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: A motion's been made
32 to reconsider the meeting date and time for Quinhagak,
33 do I hear a second.

34
35 MS. GREGORY: Second.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded. Okay, now
38 let's take it back into consideration, the meeting date
39 for St. Mary's.....

40
41 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE:February 24th and
44 25.

45
46 MR. ALOYSIUS: I withdraw my motion to
47 have the.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quinhagak meeting?

50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: No. The October 1 and 2
2 2009 meeting in St. Mary's.
3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. But.....
5
6 MS. GREGORY: I concur.
7
8 MR. ROCZICKA: Point of order. The
9 motion that's back before us for reconsideration.....
10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.
12
13 MR. ROCZICKA:is for the 24th and
14 25th of February in Quinhagak.
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, your point is
17 well taken.
18
19 We need to discuss this meeting date
20 for time and place for Quinhagak, we need to take it
21 back into reconsideration before we can go into St.
22 Mary's we need to change that.
23
24 MR. ALOYSIUS: Sorry about that.
25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So if the Council
27 feels that way, you could rescind that motion and then
28 make another motion to have that meeting in St. Mary's.
29
30 Anaan.
31
32 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik) to have the
33 fall meeting in Quinhagak, is that what we're doing?
34
35 MR. ROCZICKA: No, it would be next
36 winter's meeting in February that's currently scheduled
37 for Quinhagak.
38
39 MS. GREGORY: The next meeting in
40 February, I'm sorry.
41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any discussion
43 concerning the St. Mary's meeting on the 24th an 25th.
44
45 (No comments)
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that what the Board
48 -- Council wishes to have the next meeting at St.
49 Mary's on the 24th and -- the winter meeting, for -- as
50 suggested by OSM Staff, that because of the fisheries

1 meeting is going to be held on the winter meeting, that
2 they suggested that the February winter meeting be held
3 in St. Mary's.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And if that is the
8 feeling of the Council, we'd need a motion to that
9 effect.

10
11 MR. ROCZICKA: So moved, request.....

12
13 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

14
15 MR. ROCZICKA:unanimous consent.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: A motion's been made
18 to have the meeting February 24, 25 meeting in St.
19 Mary's, do I hear a second.

20
21 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second. Is there any
24 -- have a roll call vote, please, ma'am.

25
26 MR. ROCZICKA: I requested unanimous
27 consent.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Unanimous consent has
30 been asked for, is there any objections.

31
32 MS. GREGORY: I object.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: One objection.

35
36 MS. GREGORY: Yeah.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

39
40 MS. GREGORY: The record shows that I
41 object.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, then we will
44 have a roll call vote, please.

45
46 MS. GREGORY: Roll call on relocation
47 of meeting.

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Reconsideration.

50

1 MS. GREGORY: Okay.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: That's not the motion,
4 the motion is to have a meeting in St. Mary's, it's not
5 a reconsideration.
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, okay, all right.
8 All right. The motion was to have the next meeting
9 February 24, 25, 2009 in St. Mary's.
10
11 MS. GREGORY: Robert Aloysius.
12
13 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.
14
15 MS. GREGORY: Greg Roczicka.
16
17 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.
18
19 MS. GREGORY: Paul Manumik.
20
21 MR. MANUMIK: Yes.
22
23 MS. GREGORY: Mary Gregory, no. Lester
24 Wilde.
25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
27
28 MS. GREGORY: Doi, who else is here,
29 John Andrew, I'm sorry John.
30
31 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
32
33 MS. GREGORY: One -- five yes' and one
34 no.
35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I guess because -- we
37 don't have a quorum.
38
39 MR. ROCZICKA: It's a work session.
40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, I guess we'll
42 have to consider this a work session and we will have
43 the next meeting then at St. Mary's. So the fall
44 meeting, determine the date and place for our fall 2009
45 meeting, we will also take -- we need to take a motion
46 to reconsider those dates at St. Mary's. We move to
47 take that.....
48
49 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.
50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.
4
5 MR. ALOYSIUS: I withdraw my motion to
6 have the October 1 and 2 2009 meeting in St. Mary's.
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that with
9 concurrence of the second?
10
11 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, (In Yup'ik).
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. The October 1
14 and 2 meeting.....
15
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: I ask for unanimous
17 consent?
18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: For?
20
21 MR. ALOYSIUS: This motion.
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You lost me Robert,
24 could you clarify what you meant.
25
26 MS. GREGORY: He withdrew his motion
27 and I seconded it.
28
29 MR. ALOYSIUS: Well, you have to vote
30 on it.
31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, I know you have
33 to vote but I'm.....
34
35 MR. ALOYSIUS: Ask for unanimous
36 consent and anybody could object.
37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any
39 objections.
40
41 (No objections)
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No objections. So
44 when is -- where -- time and place of our next October
45 1 and 2 meeting is at where?
46
47 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. I move the
48 October 1 and 2, 2009 meeting be held in Bethel.
49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made by

1 Mary to.....
2
3 MR. MANUMIK: Second.
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE:hold the October
6 meeting in Bethel, do I hear a second?
7
8 MR. MANUMIK: Second.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by Paul
11 Manumik. And can we have a roll call vote, please.
12
13 MR. ALOYSIUS: Discussion.
14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Discussion then.
16
17 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. If the
18 meeting is going to be in Bethel, I strongly suggest
19 that we find another place where it's quiet and off the
20 road system. There are other locations, you know,
21 there is the Catholic Church, it has a social hall,
22 there are other churches that have a social hall which
23 are adequate enough -- big enough and they have enough
24 electronics to meet the needs of the meeting and
25 they're quiet.
26
27 Thank you.
28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Alex.
30
31 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. There are other
32 places we can meet. I mean you could meet in Bethel
33 like ONC multi-complex, which is located.....
34
35 MS. GREGORY: The bowling alley.
36
37 MR. NICK:at the old bowling
38 alley and it's big enough for meeting like this. And
39 there's also another -- another suitable location,
40 which is the cultural center, but the costs may be a
41 little higher than this, you know, for per day. I can
42 check into those.
43
44 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. Alex,
45 check into my church too.
46
47 MR. ALOYSIUS: Where is it?
48
49 MS. GREGORY: The Moravian Church, we
50 have a big fellowship hall.

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Question.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question's called
4 for, all in favor say aye.
5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed, same
9 sign.
10
11 (No opposing votes)
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's carried.
14 Closing comments. Anaan.
15
16 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, I'd like to thank
17 everybody for coming here and those people who are here
18 with us, even if it's after working hours. It shows me
19 a good dedication on your part. When people stick
20 together with you, some people will come to the meeting
21 just to pass their time on their working hours and
22 that's -- that tells me that the person really don't
23 care.
24
25 And also I'd like to thank everybody
26 for putting our best foot forward. It was a good
27 meeting, I think, in a long time, because a lot of
28 people brought out some issues that we forgot like who
29 we stand for, and who we work for and why we're here.
30
31 (In Yup'ik)
32
33 And people from other villages that
34 were here.
35
36 (In Yup'ik)
37
38 It's not a small thing, it's a big
39 thing and, you know, often times we get -- like awhile
40 ago when Mr. Naneng was making presentation, he made me
41 realize how narrow -- narrow-eyed I had gotten, near-
42 sighted, instead of looking at the big picture. And we
43 -- I want to thank you for allowing those people to
44 make presentations so they can remind us of who we're
45 serving and why we're sitting here.
46
47 Quyana.
48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Manumik, you have
50 any comments.

1 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman. Members of
2 the Council. What I also would like to hear is
3 comments from the tribal councils in each community,
4 you know, that we did not have today. There were a few
5 people that came in on their own, you know, to speak on
6 issues, which is great. I enjoyed that. I would like
7 to hear from the tribal councils in each community if
8 they have any concerns that we could address for them
9 for their support.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Andrew.

14

15 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. I'd like to
16 thank our RAC Council, our Staff and our guests and the
17 people that were participating and a few people that
18 came from the village. I, too, had a feeling we should
19 have more participation from the villages because there
20 are issues that touches their lives, their subsistence
21 life. But overall the Council worked very well as a
22 group and with our Staff, which we appreciate, and our
23 coordinator, and our recorder, who's pretty quiet,
24 though.

25

26 And I always enjoy working with this
27 Council but there are times I am the odd man out
28 because I'm not afraid to say no to the issues if I'm
29 instructed to vote in such a way but I always know how
30 my other fellow Council members will vote on an issue.
31 You've been here long enough, you learn how to read
32 their minds in a way.

33

34 (In Yup'ik)

35

36 Quyana, Mr. Chairman.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius, do you
39 have any comments.

40

41 MR. ALOYSIUS: Just one. To address
42 Paul's concern, I think we ought to put that local
43 input comments, concerns under Item 6 right after the
44 welcoming remarks, before we get into the review and
45 adoption of the agenda, that way we can include their
46 concerns into the agenda.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Instead of having it
49 at the back end, have it closer to the front.

50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, you got that,
4 Tina.
5
6 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.
9
10 MR. ALOYSIUS: And I had my own and I
11 forgot it, it'll come back to me.
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's okay, that
14 happens to all of us.
15
16 (Laughter)
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg, you have
19 comments.
20
21 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 And I'd echo the appreciation everybody's mentioned as
23 far as I really like the way the discussions are
24 starting to go more into depth on things and the
25 feedback getting, I wish Ray and James could have been
26 here for this one.
27
28 Quyana.
29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I would like to thank
31 all the Council members that are here that stuck to the
32 end. I know our elders had some problems and they
33 needed to get home and I realized that they needed to
34 be excused and so that's the reason why they left
35 before we did.
36
37 Our Staff, too, I'd like to thank every
38 one of you, especially our Refuge Staff, for making
39 sure that your people are here when we're in discussion
40 of our area and the needs that we have within our
41 subsistence community.
42
43 Thank you all for being here very much
44 and we appreciate all the help that you've given us,
45 not just the Staff, but also members from other
46 organizations that stay that are here until the end,
47 it's hard to, at times to Chair with so many things
48 going on, with a lot of people interrupting your train
49 of thought, it sometimes gets me a little confused, but
50 we seem to work out of them pretty well. So thank you

1 all for being here.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: One more.
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.
6
7 MR. ALOYSIUS: The last thing is, you
8 know, time and time again, like Mary wanted written
9 reports given to us prior to the presentations because
10 a lot of time there's presentations that we have no
11 paper backup, so, again, please remind your Staff if
12 they're going to make a presentation to have something
13 in writing, too, thank you.
14
15 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, one more.
16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.
18
19 MS. GREGORY: I want to thank our
20 watchdog from the Bureau of Land Management [sic] for
21 being here and sticking to the end, you want to stand
22 up (In Yup'ik) and give her a hand for being with us.
23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's the BIA.
25
26 MS. GREGORY: BIA.
27
28 (Applause)
29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And thanks for your
31 help in the justifications on those proposals that we
32 passed.
33
34 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.
37
38 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that we adjourn.
39
40 MR. MANUMIK: No, no, no, no.
41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion.....
43
44 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman, there's one
45 thing that I heard our elder, Mr. Jacob speak about
46 during -- when he was standing in here. He indicated
47 to us that he addresses the -- what is it?
48
49 MS. GREGORY: Talk show.
50

1 MR. MANUMIK: A talk show here in
2 Bethel. And during that time, he's fighting the people
3 that are calling from the community against our Fish
4 and Wildlife people that are working for them. They
5 think the regulations come from them, that's what he's
6 indicated to us and he wants that corrected, if we can.

7
8 Is there any way that the Chairman can
9 go down there and speak along with Mr. Jacob to correct
10 this. These regulations don't come from the Fish and
11 Wildlife Service, they come from the people that make
12 them -- ask -- we request through the Council to make
13 regulations to protect our natural resources and that
14 they didn't make them themselves, it came from the
15 Council members.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I don't have any
20 problem with that but OSM might, because somebody's
21 going to have to pay my way over here and pay my per
22 diem and my room and board, I could do that if I needed
23 to do that but, you know, we'll leave that suggestion
24 as a suggestion to see if Mr. Nick can work something
25 out.

26
27 Do you have any suggestions, Mr.
28 Roczicka.

29
30 MR. ROCZICKA: I was going to raise it
31 from a suggestion to how do you recommend it, if they
32 can work it out, I think that's an excellent idea. And
33 it occurs every Monday -- well, Alex knows, but it's a
34 two hour show entirely -- there's an English version
35 that takes place on Friday, it only gets an hour,
36 people are trying to get that one moved up to another
37 -- to two hours as well as Peter does with his, but
38 it's very well attended and listened to and a lot of
39 people call in on it.

40
41 That's a real good idea.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: On Friday's English.

44
45 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Because I would have
48 some problems with the Yup'ik translation part of it
49 for the simple reason because my Yup'ik is different
50 than most Yup'iks, my Yup'ik is picked up from the

1 Kuskokwim, from Yukon and from wherever I lived, and so
2 the words don't necessarily mean exactly the same words
3 from the area that we're discussing so I would probably
4 have a little problem with my Yup'ik, but I would be
5 more than happy to take care of the English version of
6 it, and maybe have somebody else that is speaking in
7 Yup'ik alongside of me, if we could do that then that'd
8 be great.

9

10 MR. ROCZICKA: Well, the point is with
11 Peter Jacob's show is entirely in Yup'ik, and we get
12 Yup'ik's calling in there, too, as well. People could
13 pretty well follow your conversation. The way the
14 English version, it's just a general call in, people
15 call in and talk about anything type of deal, it's area
16 squawk-talk some guys call it, other people call it
17 whine line.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. ROCZICKA: It's got a lot of
22 different names, but Peter's is more focused and it
23 gets a lot more participation from villages all around
24 the whole Delta.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

27

28 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, we already have a
29 Staff living in Bethel and he's our RAC coordinator and
30 he's bilingual and it won't cost him -- I mean it won't
31 cost us travel, per diem and all those other things so,
32 you know, it only makes sense to me that, you know, we
33 direct him to be part of that information going out to
34 the public in both English and in Yup'ik.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Would that be all
37 right with you, Mr. Manumik.

38

39 MR. MANUMIK: (Nods affirmatively)

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What about you, Alex.

42

43 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Peter Jacob did
44 very good job last Monday during the Yup'ik talk show.
45 There were callers coming in and I called in because he
46 asked me previously to let the public know that this
47 Council is going to be meeting and then I also invited
48 him to do his welcome remarks like he did yesterday,
49 this was at your request that the Council -- in Kalskag
50 meeting, the Council requested that we put on the

1 agenda, up front, welcome remarks by local officials,
2 and we put it on the agenda and ONC arranged that. And
3 I also worked with -- in the past I worked with Louie
4 Andrew, who is RIT supervisor and ask him to direct his
5 RITs, make sure that, you know, when the public comment
6 period is open for either wildlife or fishery proposal
7 on changes of harvest regulations, make sure that
8 public know during their RIT trips to the region that
9 the public comments are open to anyone who wish to
10 submit their comments.

11
12 On the 8th of October I'm going to be
13 attending RIT Meeting and talk to them a little bit
14 about what you talked about on the moose moratorium.

15
16 So, you know, there's a dialogue
17 between myself and the Refuge Information Technician
18 supervisor as well as the key team, management
19 leadership with the Refuge on some issues that you deal
20 with and we're going to be dealing with. So there has
21 been some foot work on our part, on my part here, the
22 Refuge -- working with the Refuge Staff on the issues
23 that you are going to be dealing with. So, you know,
24 we've done our part.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

29
30 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, I think, Mr.
31 Chairman, and I should have mentioned it awhile ago but
32 James Charles has pretty much taken it upon himself,
33 he's real conscious of calling in, you know, he sits on
34 the working group, as well as the Lower Kusko Advisory
35 Committee Chairman and along with this group here, and
36 he also called in last Monday, but for all of those
37 groups he regularly does that, calls into Peter's show
38 and lays it out, you know, actions that have taken
39 place through those various groups.

40
41 That's part of why I was thinking it
42 would be good for you to do it as the Chairman, and
43 it's kind of a new voice, people might, you know, let
44 them sit up and pay attention a little more, I mean
45 they're used to hearing James so much and so often, to
46 hear it come from the Chairman of the Council would be,
47 you know, an extra and worthwhile, and possibly you
48 might be able to do it as a teleconference as well, you
49 know, I did that Native American call in thing with the
50 guy down in Santa Fe here sometime back and did it from

1 my desk up at ONC.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I don't have any
4 problems with that you, being the Co-Chair, and living
5 here in Bethel, that would be just as easy for you to
6 go down and do the same thing without having to have me
7 come in, but, you know, I don't.....

8

9 MR. ROCZICKA: (In Yup'ik)

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I don't have any
14 problem with that.

15

16 MR. ROCZICKA: That's my problem, I
17 can't do your.....

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. NICK: Just clarification, Lester.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

24

25 MR. NICK: When you and Greg were
26 elected as the Chair and Vice-Chair in Kalskag, it was
27 my understanding by talking to both of you that you,
28 Mr. Wilde, is going to be focusing mainly on fishery
29 issues because you're more familiar with that and Mr.
30 Roczicka would be focusing more on wildlife issues
31 because he's familiar with that, is that still stands,
32 Mr. Chair?

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, that still
35 stands.

36

37 So we'll make sure that somebody does
38 get on there. I'll call James myself and see if he can
39 get on that program a little more regular and get some
40 of those issues taken care of, if that's okay. Is that
41 okay.

42

43 (Council nods affirmatively)

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anaan.

46

47 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair, I move we
48 adjourn.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Meeting's -- motion's

1 been made to adjourn, do I hear a second.

2

3 MR. MANUMIK: Second.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr.

6 Manumik. All in favor say aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Meeting's adjourned at

11 5:41, and that kid that wanted to set up, Tina, with

12 the band, has 20 minutes.

13

14 (Off record)

15

16 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

