

1 WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME I

7
8 Galena, Alaska
9 March 1, 2010
10 8:58 a.m.

11
12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 14
15 Jack Reakoff, Chairman
16 Ray Collins
17 Timothy Gervais
18 Donald Honea
19 Carl Morgan
20 Jenny Pelkola
21 Pollock Simon
22 Robert Walker
23 Eleanor Yatlin
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27 Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Galena, Alaska - 3/1/2011)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm going to start the meeting of the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council. I'm going to have everybody be seated. The time on my watch is 8:58. The agenda, we were supposed to start at 8:30. This is the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council of the Federal Subsistence Board. We're on the record. We'll call roll.

Donald, do you want to read the Council roll call.

MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is the roll call for the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council. Mr. Robert Walker.

MR. WALKER: Yes.

MR. MIKE: Mr. Donald Honea, Jr.

MR. HONEA: Here.

MR. MIKE: Mr. Pollock Simon, Sr.

MR. SIMON: Here.

MR. MIKE: Mr. Tim Gervais. Mr. Chair. Mr. Gervais stated that he'd be here by snowmachine, so it will be seen if he'll be here today or not.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

MR. MIKE: Mr. Ray Collins.

MR. COLLINS: Here.

MR. MIKE: Mr. Jack Reakoff.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Here.

MR. MIKE: Mr. James Walker. Mr. Chair. Mr. Walker, James Walker, stated that he couldn't be at this meeting. He has family medical issues to attend to.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's an
2 excused absence. Thank you.
3
4 MR. MIKE: Ms. Jenny Pelkola.
5
6 MS. PELKOLA: Here.
7
8 MR. MIKE: Mr. Carl Morgan.
9
10 MR. MORGAN: Here.
11
12 MR. MIKE: Ms. Eleanor Yatlin.
13
14 MS. YATLIN: Here.
15
16 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, you have eight
17 members present. You have a quorum.
18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Donald. I
20 want to welcome Pollock Simon, Sr. to the Council.
21 He's a new member, but actually an old member. He was
22 actually on the first -- on the WIRAC back at the
23 beginning for three years. So welcome to the Council,
24 Pollock.
25
26 So we'll welcome our guests and Staff,
27 but Jenny felt that we should have an invocation at the
28 beginning of the meeting, so at this time we'll have an
29 invocation. Did you find somebody to do that, Jenny?
30
31 MS. PELKOLA: Well, I asked Fred to
32 introduce. He might as well do the invocation too.
33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would be good.
35
36 MR. F. HUNTINGTON: I guess I get to
37 stomp. At this time I'd just like to say welcome to
38 Galena on behalf of folks in Galena. If you guys have
39 any questions or need something, just let somebody know
40 and we'll probably be able to help you. At this moment
41 I'd just like to say a short prayer to welcome
42 everybody here today.
43
44 (Invocation)
45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Fred.
47 Another preliminary item before we introduce everybody
48 is that Salena has a lunch special here, so we can
49 order in. If you want to have lunch here, we can have
50 the lunch delivered to the tribal hall here so we don't

1 have to go wander around Galena and get spread all over
2 the place. On Tuesday they have -- is this a special?
3 And they have other things also?

4
5 REPORTER: Yeah, they have sandwiches
6 too.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They have sandwiches
9 and other things. Their special today is a taco soup
10 or pizza.

11
12 MR. COLLINS: No, no. We talked to her
13 yesterday and she's going to do a soup and sandwich for
14 us, clam chowder and some kind of a sandwich.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Council is
17 aware of this thing. If you want to make an order,
18 just put your name over here with Salena. Donald.

19
20 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. I think we'll
21 need all the orders by 10:00 o'clock so we can call in
22 the orders and that way they will be prepared to be
23 delivered.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, 10:00, 10:30
26 on the order, so on the next break or whatever you can
27 put an order in. So then we'll go through the
28 introduction and welcome of the guests here and Staff.
29 So start over here with Chuck Ardizzone. Go ahead,
30 Chuck.

31
32 MR. ARDIZZONE: Good morning. Chuck
33 Ardizzone with the Office of Subsistence Management.
34 I'm the wildlife biologist supervisor at the office.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Chuck.

37
38 MS. HUNTINGTON: Hi, I'm Joy
39 Huntington. I'm the niece-in-law of Fred and I married
40 about half the community a couple years ago.
41 Originally from Manley Hot Springs. My grandmother is
42 Judy Woods. My grandfather is the late Walter Woods
43 from Rampart. I'm currently running for TCC president,
44 so I'm here just to kind of be supportive and learn
45 more about you guys and what you do. When I graduated
46 five years ago from Dartmouth, I wrote a thesis on
47 tribal natural resource management and so it's very
48 much about exactly what you're here to do and what
49 you're supporting as a body. So just here to listen
50 and learn more about you guys and hopefully just be

1 able to support you and your work. Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Joy.
4
5 MS. PETRIVELLI: I'm Pat Petrivelli, an
6 anthropologist with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in
7 their subsistence branch.
8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pat.
10
11 MR. BUE: Fred Bue, Fish and Wildlife
12 Service, fisheries biologist for the Yukon River.
13
14 MR. HUNTINGTON: I'm Fred Huntington,
15 second chief of Louden and Galena resident.
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mike.
18
19 MR. SPINDLER: Mike Spindler, Kanuti
20 Refuge manager.
21
22 MR. STAMM: John Stamm, secretary of
23 Ruby Advisory Committee.
24
25 MR. JENKINS: My name is David Jenkins.
26 I'm an anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
27 Management.
28
29 MR. SLOAN: Bo Sloan, Innoko National
30 Wildlife Refuge manager out of McGrath.
31
32 MR. HILL: Jerry Hill, wildlife
33 biologist at the Innoko Refuge in McGrath.
34
35 MR. HARRIS: Mike Harris, fisheries
36 biologist at Koyukuk/Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge.
37
38 MR. SCOTTON: Brad Scotton, the
39 wildlife biologist/pilot here at Galena.
40
41 MS. BRYANT: Jenny Bryant, wildlife
42 biologist at Koyukuk/Nowitna.
43
44 MS. BODONY: I'm Karin Bodony. I'm
45 also at Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge.
46
47 MR. BODONY: Tim Bodony, Galena
48 subsistence user.
49
50 MR. MCLAIN: Chris McLain. I serve as

1 the local magistrate here and also Jack's son-in-law.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Welcome to the
4 Western Interior Council. I'm glad to have your
5 participation in the meeting. We always like to have
6 local participation and comments during the meeting.
7 First off here on this agenda is election of the
8 officers. So I've been chairing this meeting since
9 basically 2007, so the first officer for election would
10 be Chair.

11

12 The Chair will open the floor to
13 nominations.

14

15 Donald.

16

17 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. Since you're the
18 presiding Chair of the Council, I think it would be
19 proper if I open the nominations for Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Donald.

22

23 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
24 nominations are open now for Chair for the Western
25 Interior Regional Advisory Council.

26

27 MR. HONEA: I nominate Jack Reakoff for
28 Chairman.

29

30 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

31

32 MR. MIKE: Any other nominations?

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MR. COLLINS: I move that nominations
37 be closed and a unanimous ballot cast.

38

39 MR. WALKER: Second.

40

41 MR. MIKE: The nominations for Chair
42 has been closed and requested a unanimous ballot cast.
43 All those in favor say aye.

44

45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47 MR. MIKE: All those opposed same sign.

48

49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair -- Mr. Reakoff,
2 you're nominated. I return the gavel to you. Thank
3 you.
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. And I
6 appreciate your confidence in my chairmanship and I'll
7 try and continue to do a good job for the Council. The
8 next seat is the vice-Chair and so I'll open the floor
9 to nomination.
10
11 MR. WALKER: Nominate Ray Collins.
12
13 MR. HONEA: Second.
14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further
16 nomination.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Nomination is
21 closed. Those in unanimous consent signify by saying
22 aye.
23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.
25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Welcome back to the
27 vice-Chair, Ray.
28
29 The secretary seat, open the floor to
30 nomination.
31
32 MR. HONEA: I nominate Jenny Pelkola.
33
34 MR. SIMON: Second.
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further
37 nomination.
38
39 MR. WALKER: Move nomination be closed.
40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Nomination closes.
42 All in favor of Jenny as secretary for the Western
43 Interior Regional Council signify by saying aye.
44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.
46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.
48
49 (No opposing votes)
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we have the
2 election of officers. Review and adoption of agenda.
3 That agenda is in our packet here, Donald?

4
5 MR. MIKE: It is in your packet
6 starting on Page 1, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chairman, it's in
7 your Council book.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The agenda needs
10 some insertions. I've gotten a call from Randy Rogers.
11 They wanted to do a wood bison restoration meeting and
12 they wanted some designees from the Western Interior,
13 so that needs to be put on our agenda under Alaska
14 Department of Fish and Game under F. I have some
15 issues within the Dalton Highway Corridor, the Bureau
16 of Land Management guide selection process and guides
17 entering into dall sheep hunting, so under Bureau of
18 Land Management I want to insert Dalton Highway
19 Corridor management guide area permitting process.

20
21 The permitting process in general, the
22 Refuges and the Park Service and Park Preserves has a
23 guide selection process. The BLM does not have a guide
24 selection process. The Commercial Services Board has
25 been working on a guide selection process and that
26 process is failing. They're supposed to be implemented
27 by 2011. That is not in place, so we need to be
28 talking to the BLM about this guide use in the Dalton
29 Highway Corridor. I want that under E under Agency and
30 Organization reports.

31
32 Under National Park Service, G, the
33 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission has
34 a hunting plan recommendation entitled 10-01 and it has
35 to do with managing wildlife on Park Preserve lands and
36 the Councils review Subsistence Resource Commission
37 hunting plan recommendations, so I would like to insert
38 hunting plan recommendation 10-01 under National Park
39 Service G(2) in the agenda.

40
41 Under call for proposals, it's Federal
42 proposals, but there is a State call for game and fish
43 proposals at this time and I'd like to insert under 16
44 in the agenda B, State call for proposals, fish and
45 wildlife. So the Board of Fish and I think both of
46 them are due in April, the call for State proposals, so
47 we need to -- if the Council has any State game or fish
48 proposals, those should be submitted by the Council
49 under State call. So that will be -- when we're
50 promulgating proposals, it will work back to back with

1 the Federal proposal call.

2

3 So those were the insertions that I
4 have offhand. Any Council member additions to the
5 agenda?

6

7 MR. HONEA: Move to adopt amended
8 changes.

9

10 MR. COLLINS: Second.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded
13 to adopt with those changes. Any further discussion on
14 the agenda?

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
19 adopting the agenda signify by saying aye.

20

21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So in the packet is
24 our minutes from our last McGrath meeting in October.
25 Are they here, Donald?

26

27 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. They're in your
28 handout folder and it's a gray-colored document.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This titled February
31 23rd?

32

33 MR. MIKE: That's correct. There's two
34 summaries of the minutes, February 23rd, 2010. That's
35 the minutes with the joint meeting with the Eastern
36 Interior Regional Advisory Council.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I see that.

39

40 MR. MIKE: And then Page 5 or two or
41 three pages later is the minutes of the October 5-6,
42 2010 McGrath meeting.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: These minutes, the
45 Western Interior's minutes are supposed to go to the
46 Chairman for approval and I did not receive these
47 minutes until yesterday morning when I was leaving
48 home. I want the record to reflect that, that the
49 minutes were not produced on time, so we need to have
50 these -- the business of the Western Interior Council

1 is to execute the wishes of Congress to assure that
2 wildlife resources within the Western Interior are
3 protected for subsistence uses. Also that we're
4 supposed to advocate for the subsistence users.

5
6 This is serious business, this Council
7 work. These Councils have advocated to the Department
8 of Interior that we are to have a deference in wildlife
9 and fish management, so the Secretary of Interior has
10 pushed for -- the Federal Subsistence Board is looking
11 to these Councils for recommendations and those
12 recommendations have huge weight at the Federal
13 Subsistence Board.

14
15 So the administration of this Council
16 needs to be tightened up. I can't get minutes the day
17 before I leave for a meeting and review them properly.
18 I just received those minutes and looking at the
19 minutes for October I had some insertions under the
20 Chair's report.

21
22 I would like to clean up the language.
23 It would be -- I flew down here on the airplane and
24 looked at these minutes. So under the Chair's Report,
25 you're looking at Page 2. Chair Reakoff reported he
26 attended two Federal Subsistence Board public meetings
27 as Chair of the WIRAC. Well, I want the minutes to
28 reflect what those meetings were.

29
30 The first, the Federal Subsistence
31 Board meeting, was the fisheries deferred proposals on
32 net mesh size restrictions in the Yukon River drainage
33 and that was the 7.5 and the 35 mesh and I attended
34 that meeting last year in April to the Federal
35 Subsistence Board and advocated for this Council's
36 positions, which that's not to be lightly skimmed over.
37 There's a lot of issues going on at the Federal
38 Subsistence Board.

39
40 The other thing that needs to be
41 reflected here, the other Federal Subsistence Board,
42 was the wildlife meeting proposals and that was in mid
43 May of 2010. So that should be inserted into the
44 minutes.

45
46 And instead of Chair Reakoff stated the
47 Federal Subsistence Board deferred Wildlife Proposal
48 10-69, the C&T use determination, that would be for
49 basically Unit 19A-1 and go hunt in lower Unit 21.
50 There was lots of comments that there needed to be more

1 discussion with the local communities and instead of a
2 working group they're called a subcommittee, was to be
3 formed by the Western Interior Council on that 21E C&T
4 for 19A, so that clarifies it's not working group. It
5 should be changed to subcommittee.

6
7 And then another insertion is down on
8 -- Mr. Walker moved to transmit a letter to the Federal
9 Subsistence Board and the Solicitor to attend the State
10 Board of Game meeting to convey the State of Alaska's
11 bi-lining it's procedural act. An insertion is a
12 letter from the WIRAC was prepared to be sent to the
13 Board of Game on the bear trapping issue that we
14 discussed. The minutes need to reflect that that
15 letter was prepared and submitted to the Board of Game
16 on bear trapping, which the bear trapping issue was
17 pushed back. They pushed it to the March of 2012
18 meeting and that was because some of the advocating of
19 this Council. Very important issue, this bear trapping
20 issue, for this region. Those would be my insertions
21 there.

22
23 Under our annual report topics Issue 13
24 is Tier II -- well, to clarify, it's a permit hunt
25 criteria of Section .804 restrictions are needed to
26 limit subsistence. That needs to be inserted into that
27 issue. When we get to the annual report, we need to --
28 there are several issues that need to be in this annual
29 report.

30
31 The annual report is mandated by .805
32 of ANILCA for the Councils to produce an annual report.
33 So the annual report is a very important aspect of the
34 Council's work. The minutes need to reflect that Tier
35 II is not -- the entire issue is that we need a Tier II
36 permit system. Right now the permitting system is a
37 drawing permit if there's a limitation -- if there
38 needs to be a limitation among subsistence users, the
39 Federal government, the Federal subsistence program is
40 using a drawing permit.

41
42 Well, I've got a problem with that.
43 The problem is that school teachers can move to a
44 village never having hunted a moose in their entire
45 life and put in for a drawing permit and draw a Federal
46 subsistence permit. The Tier II permit that the State
47 of Alaska developed when they were managing was using
48 eight criteria and the eight criteria are drawn up from
49 .804 of ANILCA; proximity to the resource, dependance
50 on the resource and certain criterias that allocate to

1 people who really have used and need the meat from
2 these resources. A drawing permit I feel is a failed
3 thing.

4

5 One of our annual report topics is
6 going away from the drawing permit and moving towards
7 an .804-based and ANILCA-based permitting system.
8 That's why this is an important language that I want
9 inserted into these minutes.

10

11 So that would be my insertions into
12 these minutes of last year's meeting, October 5 and 6,
13 2010 in McGrath. Any additions to the October meeting
14 from the Council.

15

16 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. In reading
17 through these, I noticed that there was a working group
18 to be set up to deal with the issues of customary trade
19 issue on the Yukon. To my knowledge that was never
20 formed.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray, I was going to
23 bring that up under the Chair's report. The reality is
24 that that was not formed, but the Council wrote a
25 letter of recommendation to the Federal Subsistence
26 Board. When the Federal Subsistence Board reviewed the
27 customary trade issues, they've mandated a subcommittee
28 to be formed by all three RACs on the Yukon River and
29 we're going to come together and hash out this
30 customary trade issue.

31

32 MR. COLLINS: So it is going to happen.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It is going to
35 happen. That was going to be under my Chair's report,
36 but might as well enlighten you now. Any other
37 comments on the minutes from our McGrath meeting.

38

39 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair. I have no
40 question on it, but I move to adopt.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Move to adopt
43 as amended? Don, clarification. As I amended? You
44 moved to adopt the minutes and I clarified some issues.
45 I was inserting various things. Do you move to adopt
46 with my insertions?

47

48 MR. HONEA: Yeah, move to adopt with
49 clarifications.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
2
3 MS. PELKOLA: Second.
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.
6 Any further discussion on the minutes of October 5 and
7 6 in McGrath?
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 MR. WALKER: Question.
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
14 called on the minutes, 5 and 6 for McGrath meeting.
15 Those in favor of the minutes signify by saying aye.
16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.
18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.
20
21 (No opposing votes)
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Then we have what
24 was failed to be in our packet in McGrath, was the
25 minutes of our joint meeting with Eastern and Western
26 Interior Regional Advisory Councils. It's the first
27 page. So we need to go back. We had a joint meeting
28 with Eastern/Western Interior on Proposals 12 and 13.
29 That was the net mesh size restrictions. Those minutes
30 look good to the best of my recollection. Any further
31 comments on the minutes of February 23rd, 2010 meeting
32 in Fairbanks?
33
34 (No comments)
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's just a
37 formality. We have to adopt the minutes and those were
38 not in our meeting packet in McGrath last fall in
39 October when we were down there.
40
41 MR. COLLINS: Move to adopt.
42
43 MR. WALKER: Second.
44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded
46 to adopt the minutes of February 23rd, 2010 joint
47 Western and Eastern Interior Council meetings in
48 Fairbanks. Further discussion on those minutes.
49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none. Those
2 in favor of adoption of the minutes as presented of
3 February 23rd, 2010 Eastern Interior and Western
4 Interior Regional Council meeting in Fairbanks signify
5 by saying aye.

6
7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

10
11 (No opposing votes)

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So those minutes are
14 adopted. Tim Gervais just arrived by snow-go. Welcome
15 to the meeting, Tim, and we'll let you take your winter
16 gear off.

17
18 MR. GERVAIS: Sorry, I had a clutch
19 problem.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, better late
22 than never. Glad to have you here, Tim. We've
23 reviewed the minutes and we've approved the minutes of
24 our joint meeting in Fairbanks last February with
25 Eastern and then we've reviewed our minutes of our
26 October meeting and those are approved. We had
27 elections. I was re-elected as Chair.

28
29 MR. GERVAIS: Congratulations.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray is vice-Chair
32 and Jenny is the secretary. That's basically where
33 we're at on the agenda.

34
35 I was going to go through the Chair's
36 report and I sort of touched on the issue of the
37 subcommittee for the customary trade. The customary
38 trade issue, as you've been reading in the news, when
39 we had our meeting in October there were proposals
40 about customary trade and precluding customary trade
41 for chinook salmon on the Yukon River. With that, it
42 became even more -- the Federal Subsistence Board in
43 their November meeting was apprised that there was
44 enforcement actions taking place on the Yukon River and
45 it's becoming a bigger deal.

46
47 When I attended the Federal Subsistence
48 Board meeting in January on fisheries proposals, there
49 were those proposals to preclude customary trade. Many
50 proposals to preclude use of salmon for dog feed and

1 various proposals. Elimination of fishwheels and a lot
2 of those were proposed by Mountain Village Working
3 Group. Mountain Village at that meeting withdrew their
4 proposals, which basically withdrew many of the
5 contentious proposals off the table. That was a
6 positive move in their direction, moving towards
7 wanting to work together on the Yukon and not bringing
8 animosity.

9

10 This customary trade issue was boiling
11 with the Federal Subsistence Board and the Federal
12 Subsistence Board requested that the Councils appoint a
13 subcommittee. The Councils and the Federal Subsistence
14 Board is being -- wanting tribal council involvement.
15 So one of the issues as Chair of this Council I feel
16 that before this subcommittee on this customary trade
17 is actually formed we need to send out a request -- I
18 had a questionnaire that I formulated to the tribal
19 councils, but I was told that there's legalities. Do
20 you have those legalities there, Donald? Go ahead.

21

22 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman. The
23 questionnaire on customary trade that you submitted to
24 our office, there's Federal procedures as far as
25 collecting information from the public. We have to go
26 through the Office of Management and Budget in
27 Washington, DC to get those questionnaires approved.
28 If the Federal Staff would be able to assist on that
29 particular question, you're welcome to come forward and
30 give further explanation. There's regulations as far
31 as collecting information from the public, sending out
32 questionnaires. That has to be approved from the OMB
33 office in Washington, DC. This doesn't stop the
34 Council bringing it up for discussion.

35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for the
39 clarification on that, Donald. I appreciate that. The
40 reality is we have conflicts. We have the Federal
41 Subsistence Board wanting a subcommittee to be formed.
42 We have a mandate from the Department of Interior to
43 involve the tribes and questions and now we have the
44 regulations that preclude the expeditious use of these
45 tribal councils. So I'm getting very frustrated with
46 that and I feel that the Federal Subsistence Board
47 better cut through some red tape because the Secretary
48 of Interior wants tribal council involvement.

49

50 For this subcommittee to work with

1 customary trade I have produced a document that Donald
2 has that we can review that asks the pertinent
3 questions about customary trade. It clarifies the
4 issue. A lot of people are confused about customary
5 trade. A lot of people think that customary trade is
6 trading a bag of sugar for some salmon strips. No.
7 Customary trade is sale. That's getting cash money
8 for.

9
10 So we have to clarify to the
11 communities what customary trade is. We have to ask
12 them what the parameters -- if their community sells
13 fish, they have people that sell fish, if their
14 community buys fish and what is an appropriate level.
15 So what the problem with customary trade is large
16 volumes of salmon being sold. That's the rub. It's a
17 very important issue.

18
19 This Council needs to designate
20 participants and we did designate some participants,
21 but Mickey Stickman was not reappointed to the Western
22 Interior Council, so we need to redesignate some
23 Council members to attend that subcommittee.

24
25 So that's what happened at the Federal
26 Subsistence Board meeting. The proposal to protect the
27 first pulse of salmon, which was Proposal FP11-02, the
28 proposal failed. The proposal I submitted basically
29 for the Council was using the resolution that all three
30 Regional Councils submitted in requesting a resolution
31 of protection for the first pulse. When the proposal
32 was moved through the Councils, the proposal failed in
33 the Eastern Interior and it also failed in the YK-Delta
34 and we modified the proposal to close or predominantly
35 close, protection on the first pulse, the proposal
36 failed.

37
38 I tried to talk the Federal Subsistence
39 Board into having the in-season manager, Fred Bue,
40 here, giving him direction on protection of the first
41 pulse or at least getting the stocks back on track.
42 The Federal Subsistence Board did not discuss that.
43 They sort of evaded that question.

44
45 So I do feel that this Council needs to
46 submit a letter of recommendation to the Federal
47 Subsistence Board, to the Yukon Panel and YRDFA on
48 Yukon River stocks and so I've written a document of
49 suggested language of that protection. I've been
50 writing documents for a week. I'm checking wolf traps

1 in deep snow to my chest and trying to write documents
2 too, so I'm a little bit tired right now. I've come to
3 this meeting to physically rest and talk for awhile.

4

5 I also received comments on a moose
6 hunt in Huslia from an individual from Huslia and so
7 I've written a document requesting a statement from the
8 tribal council of Huslia on how the moose hunt is
9 going. So I'll produce that document for the Council's
10 review. When we get into our business here, I'm going
11 to be asking Eleanor some questions about that.

12

13 At this point, that would be my -- oh,
14 I also had a phone conversation from Greg Roczicka. I
15 think he's vice-Chair of the YK Delta and he's got a
16 predator management request and he sent that to our
17 Council also for our review and is advocating for
18 predator management. He told me he wanted it inserted
19 into the MOU, but I read the document and I can't find
20 where it's discussing the MOU at all in the document,
21 so I'm a little bit confused about his MOU thing. It's
22 not clear in the document that he transmitted to this
23 Council that it's actually clear that it's going to go
24 into the MOU. It's sort of a long statement and the
25 MOU is not going to be that long.

26

27 I have language that I'm going to
28 present to the Western Interior Council on the MOU
29 about maintaining health of populations and using
30 scientific information in the MOU and it's a one
31 paragraph thing. You'll see that when I give it to
32 you. I want the Council to be aware that I had a phone
33 conversation with Greg on that issue, so we can discuss
34 that and endorse his concept, but I don't see how it's
35 incorporated. They don't give a clear recommendation
36 of how to put it into the MOU. Maybe they're relying
37 on the Federal Board to do that somehow.

38

39 That would be my Chair's report at this
40 time. Any questions from the Council. Don.

41

42 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
43 have no question other than the fact that when we --
44 you know, the working groups, I see that the Federal
45 Subsistence Board has approved of a working group
46 between the three RACs anyway, and I was just wondering
47 what is the next step on there because it seems that
48 everything moves so slow. So where exactly are we in
49 that process?

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for that
2 question, Don. Geoff Haskett, the Regional Director of
3 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, wanted to expedite the
4 subcommittee on that working group on the Yukon River
5 because he would have liked to have seen this customary
6 trade language worked out with the RACs before the
7 season started and so OSM is completely swamped.
8 They've had Staff quitting right and left, so OSM
9 seemed to be wanting to put the brakes on this whole
10 thing, but I feel that this is a very important issue,
11 this customary trade subcommittee. I feel that when we
12 met that we could put a fire -- that this Council could
13 start to build a fire under that subcommittee to be
14 formed this spring before the season.

15
16 MR. WALKER: It's not going to work.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's not going to
19 work. Go ahead, Robert.

20
21 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. Members of
22 the Board, Staff. I don't think we're going to have
23 enough time here to put it in this year I think because
24 of the language. Mickey Stickman is not on here
25 anymore. We'll have to appoint somebody else to this.
26 I'd like to have Polly Wheeler -- we need an
27 anthropologist, somebody here to work with us. Also
28 looking at other strenuous deals here. We need
29 somebody like Carl Morgan that's a former
30 representative if we have to go to the State to do the
31 State law. There's a lot more issues than I thought
32 that would be here. Because if we're going to do it at
33 one time to combine with the State and Federal
34 enforcement, we have to sit down with both and sit down
35 and talk with them. Plus we have to talk with the
36 tribes yet. We have to see what they want. It's not
37 what we want. We're here for them. Am I correct here?

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's exactly the
40 kind of comments I would like to hear. This is part of
41 the discussion on that issue. You know, that was the
42 wishes of one of the Federal Board members. You're
43 bringing out some very pertinent points, regulatory
44 changes and so forth. I don't know that the working
45 group can advocate -- the Federal Board can advocate to
46 the State, but I don't know if that actually can
47 happen, whether the legislature would approve. That
48 may take years and may never even happen.

49
50 MR. WALKER: Actually what I meant was,

1 we'll find somebody like Carl with expertise saying
2 that we don't have to go this route, we don't have to
3 go to the legislation, but we could do this and do this
4 and do this.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But we do need to
7 move this. The Federal Subsistence Board wants this
8 Council to move some ideas forward. I have some ideas
9 and we can work on -- I have a document, a
10 questionnaire. You can insert various things. Maybe
11 the working group -- not the working group, the
12 subcommittee -- and there's an issue with you calling
13 it a working group. There's a legal issue that the
14 solicitor brought up. It's a subcommittee of the
15 Federal Subsistence Board and so we need to review and
16 work on that issue. That's why this meeting needs two
17 days is because that's kind of an important issue.

18
19 I talked to David Jenkins here, our
20 anthropologist. We need an anthropologist in charge.
21 In discussion with him, he's reviewed various aspects
22 of this customary trade issue and I would like to have
23 David Jenkins as our anthropologist in charge. Polly
24 is so distracted. I don't have high confidence in her
25 being able to put a lot of effort into this issue.
26 That's my position. We're not going to go into that
27 right now. I just wanted the Council to be aware that
28 we are under a mandate for a subcommittee and we have
29 to come up with ideas at this meeting about that
30 subcommittee. Whether that happens before the season,
31 you're right, Robert, that may not happen.

32
33 Any further discussion on the Chair's
34 report.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Then Council members
39 reports. We'll start with Jenny down here. She's been
40 here all morning drinking coffee, so she's up to speed.
41 Go ahead, Jenny.

42
43 MS. PELKOLA: Gee, I just had a blank
44 here, Mr. Chair. What is the report we're supposed to
45 give now?

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Just your -- you
48 know how we go down the table and bring up concerns and
49 your feelings about maybe what the Federal Subsistence
50 Board did or did not do. You know, just whatever you

1 feel.

2

3 MS. PELKOLA: Oh, yeah, I remember now.
4 I agree with Robert when he was talking about that
5 customary group. I think it needs to be pushed because
6 it's getting bigger and bigger and bigger and there's
7 more publicity in the papers and it's just getting out
8 of hand. I remember when we first talked about it, it
9 was just for a few people that do make not really a
10 living, but use it for helping them, they're just
11 getting so carried away with these laws and
12 restrictions that it just -- you know, it's pretty sad
13 because it's been going on for years in our community
14 and on the Yukon. There's not that many jobs for these
15 subsistence users and that's one way that they make
16 their living to help them.

17

18 Also I think the moose hunting in this
19 area went very well. I think a lot of people got their
20 moose. And if they didn't, people were sharing with
21 each other. The fishing was regulated pretty well, but
22 a lot of people got their fish.

23

24 I think that's all I have right now,
25 Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny. Good
28 comments. Tim.

29

30 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As
31 far as things that's happened these past few months,
32 the Marine Stewardship Council did go ahead and approve
33 the certification of the Bering Sea pollock fishery as
34 sustainable. In the press release that I read on it,
35 they sounded like they're really impressed with how
36 well the fishery is managed and the low rate of
37 bycatch. So I was disappointed that they didn't really
38 address our concerns, WIRAC or YRDFA's concerns on
39 that, but it's kind of out of our control. It's an
40 organization based out of London and they make their
41 money from their clients and so they have a lot of
42 incentive to tell a good story about how well
43 particularly fisheries are run and their bycatch are
44 managed. So that was unfortunate, but that is what
45 happened.

46

47 Perhaps at this meeting we could have a
48 discussion on whether to look to get involved with the
49 Marine Stewardship certification for the Russian
50 pollock fishery, which is in the process right now.

1 This past -- I believe it was in
2 October there was a high bycatch rate of approximately
3 55,000 kings south of Sand Point and I didn't see any
4 information on where the genetics of those fish were.
5 Probably scattered throughout Alaska. So that was
6 another deficit to the deep water king population.
7

8 A third item on the pollock fleet,
9 their allowable biologic catch and also their total
10 allowable catch, which is set by -- I think it's
11 recommended by National Marine Fisheries Service and
12 then approved by North Pacific Council to increase that
13 quota for this year 2011 by -- I have the numbers out
14 in my snow-go, but it's either 52 or 56 percent. So a
15 very substantial increase in the amount of fishing
16 pressure and tow time that's going to be occurring in
17 the Bering Sea this year. And then based on some of
18 the recruitment numbers that the research vessels that
19 do these surveys, they potentially could increase it
20 again up in the near future, like in 2013 or something
21 of that sort.
22

23 That's all I had regarding that
24 information right now. I think I'll close there at
25 this point.
26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any Council
28 questions for Tim on those issues? My question is do
29 you recall they reduced the harvest for pollock
30 significantly and now they've jumped back to a huge
31 increase?
32

33 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, it's my
34 understanding that's correct. I don't know exactly
35 when it started, but for like the last -- the previous
36 three years they had kept decreasing the TAC or total
37 allowable catch and were concerned about not enough
38 mature pollock being available in the population and
39 then for some reason their survey that was performed,
40 the last survey that was performed, showed that there
41 was more fish available so they increased those
42 numbers. I could get more information by searching
43 some stuff.
44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That was my
46 recollection that they were worried about the biomass
47 and then the size and the numbers were declining and
48 then just snap back in the other direction. The
49 incidental bycatch of chinook salmon was very high at
50 126,000 and then they started doing reductions and

1 total allowable catch and that reduced the bycatch and
2 I was in favor of protection of the pollock and then
3 the periphery is protecting the chinook, the salmon,
4 but then going in this direction, we're going to go
5 back to huge bycatch and we already have a depleted
6 chinook fishery as it is. So it's going to make it a
7 lot harder to rebuild these chinook stocks.

8

9 Go ahead, Tim.

10

11 MR. GERVAIS: I had one more comment.
12 I was talking to some of the people from Tanana and
13 Ruby about people who have been fishing all their
14 lives, even just this past weekend I talked with
15 Lorraine Honea and she remembers the fishery in 1927.
16 Ask them what they felt what the quality of the king
17 run was compared to historical, their historical
18 experience. Everybody thought it was about less than
19 half. I asked the question do you think it's around
20 half and most people as far as chinook were concerned
21 said it was less than half. So I've been trying to
22 figure what we could do to take steps.

23

24 This mesh size reduction is an unknown.
25 There are some unknown things that are going to happen
26 with it as far as drop outs and targeting smaller size
27 fish and stuff like that. It seems like as far as the
28 State is concerned they feel like having that mesh size
29 restriction in place is going to give them enough of an
30 action plan that I don't feel like they're going to try
31 to manage their closures very aggressively to protect
32 that run.

33

34 It was disappointing reading the
35 comments submitted for the Federal Board about that we
36 didn't get good support from the YK Delta or from
37 Eastern Interior even though we had gone through that
38 information in our joint meeting and I thought we had
39 everybody on board with that. So I hope there's a way
40 we can figure out to take some conservation matters
41 that involve the river users that are going to help
42 build up our population back to more appropriate
43 levels.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim. That's
46 important information. We need more comments from
47 elders and fishers that are realizing the size and
48 quality of the fish. That's an important issue. Those
49 nice fish are nice for human consumption, but they're
50 also the best breeders on the spawning ground, so

1 that's a big issue.

2

3

Do you have a comment there, Carl?

4

5

MR. MORGAN: No comment, just housekeeping. In order for our lunch to be delivered we've got to put in the order before 10:00.

8

9

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We can go for -- are you done there, Tim? We'll stop at this point and we'll continue with Council comments so that people can get a coffee cup and get your order in too. So about a 10-minute break.

14

15

(Off record)

16

17

(On record)

18

19

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm going to bring the meeting back to order. In the agenda, we're on Council members reports, so we're at Ray Collins. Go ahead, Ray.

23

24

MR. COLLINS: Yes, Jack. The only comments I have to make is on that customary trade issue. I served on the original working group that was drawing up regulations for that and we met for several times for a year, year and a half. The conclusion of that group was that we could not come up with solutions that would fit statewide. The reason I comment is that's probably why they're calling this a subcommittee. The recommendation was that we leave it to the Regional Advisory Councils to work out regulations for their area because there is so much variance.

35

36

37

Just to further comment on that, if you think even in our area -- when I came back in the '60s, Nicolai, for example, every family was going to fish camp, putting up fish for their dogs and so on. In relation to that, they got the king salmon they needed and made their strips. That's not the case any longer. Many of those families are now having to work or something and fewer are going to fish camp, so they rely on the ones who go to fish camp to put up their strips and then pay them for it and it would vary from community to community up and down the river between the mouth and the other. So a lot of those that are in commercial trade where there's money involved it's still going to subsistence users.

50

1 So it's going to be a challenge to fit
2 something. They probably will not come up with a
3 solution that's going to fit forever. They'll probably
4 have to review it because of the changing circumstances
5 just to make sure that subsistence users get the
6 traditional food that they were using. So that's my
7 comments on that. I think that's why they formed it as
8 a subcommittee because it's only part of the group
9 working on an issue for a local area. Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Ray, for the
12 clarification. Ray did work on that working group.
13 The Federal Subsistence Board is aware that there are
14 regional differences. Bristol Bay commented on what is
15 appropriate amounts. So in each region the Federal
16 Subsistence Board wants to be sensitive to each
17 region's use of fisheries, but then we have a long
18 Yukon River with three different regions and so we need
19 to work out what appropriate levels customary trade
20 actually is and what comprises a significant commercial
21 enterprise. That's the underlying question.

22

23 At this time I want to recognize that
24 we have several people have arrived, additional Staff
25 and other people and I welcome you to the Western
26 Interior meeting. There's a sign-in sheet in the back
27 of the room there. Be sure to sign that sheet. So
28 we're working through our agenda. We're on Council
29 member comments.

30

31 Go ahead, Don.

32

33 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good
34 morning everyone. We had a pretty good moose hunt.
35 It's on the record that we do have a winter hunt, but
36 fortunately we've never had to use those measures. The
37 chum run was pretty poor. I was actually out there
38 during the king run and that was pretty poor for us,
39 but we utilized the chum run, so that's really
40 important. When we think of the pollock fishery, we
41 think of the chinook salmon, the kings that they're
42 taking and we actually never consider the chum run. So
43 that there in itself from looking at the one submitted
44 by Norton Sound or whatever, that directly affects us
45 too and we can see it in the poor runs and stuff.

46

47 So I'd just like to also welcome
48 Pollock aboard and I'd like to somehow thank Mickey for
49 his years of service. You know, he's always been
50 pretty knowledgeable and outspoken on fishing issues.

1 I'd also like to thank my cousin Jenny for the fish
2 that we're having here this morning, the smoked fish
3 and stuff. It's really good.

4
5 I'd also like before we leave here
6 clarification on Proposal 223 submitted by the Board of
7 Game and want to know the pros and cons of that. Thank
8 you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. When
11 we get to the State and Federal proposals, we're going
12 to get to those State proposals. I inserted it in the
13 State call for proposals, but we also can discuss the
14 222 and 223 trophy value nullification that the Board
15 of Game and why we have to oppose those proposals. I
16 intend to have that as part of our meeting. Thanks for
17 wondering about that. Those are very important issues.
18 There's reasons why we have to oppose those two State
19 proposals, which will be heard in March.

20
21 I do appreciate your chum reliance. As
22 the king salmon runs decline, we need to really start
23 protecting chum salmon and there's some real issues
24 with -- Area M is again catching a lot of chum salmon
25 as bycatch. The North Pacific Fisheries Management
26 Council is going to increase fishing time, so we're
27 going to have a lot of chum caught there. So we're
28 going to be talking about those issues. Thank you.

29
30 Go ahead, Robert.

31
32 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 Welcome Staff and Board members. First of all I'd like
34 to thank Mickey Stickman for being here for 13 years.
35 I think we should recognize that, Mr. Chairman, and
36 also welcome Mr. Pollock Simon here to the Board. I
37 understand he was one of the original Board members
38 back in the early days when it started. I've known
39 Pollock a long time. He's a good hand. So the boys at
40 Alaska Fire Service says he's a real good hand, so
41 whenever they say something you have to follow it.

42
43 Getting back to customary trade, I know
44 it's not going to take just one meeting. It's going to
45 take more than one because when I asked for all Staff
46 and AC Boards and tribal councils to sit on this, to
47 work on this -- Jack, I'd like to see this -- it's
48 going to take more than one meeting. I know it's not
49 going to be ready by the time the fishing season starts
50 in June. I asked for Polly, but you said David Jenkins

1 could also sit in there. Polly is kind of busy. I can
2 understand that.

3

4 I could go on and on and on, but I'm
5 not going to do that. This will be done here sometime
6 I would say by October? Correct me, but we can go from
7 there.

8

9 I had another issue here, but I'm not
10 going to bring it up. I can talk about it in the
11 meeting.

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate your
16 comments on the customary trade subcommittee. As a
17 fisher, I appreciate your perspective on how long it
18 might actually take to produce a quality document and I
19 appreciate your comments on that. I may have been
20 overly optimistic, as was Geoff Haskett, Regional
21 Director for U.S. Fish and Wildlife. So you may be
22 right, October. At our next meeting we may be
23 finalizing some customary trade issue things.

24

25 MR. WALKER: One of the other things I
26 looked at, Jack, was how much the local people
27 recorded. In our records, I looked at our minutes in
28 the past, the average rural person makes \$6,000. So
29 when you start looking at the dollar sign, the gasoline
30 prices, and it's going to be raising again this year,
31 I'm very optimistic about it being done by November.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Robert.
34 The subcommittee will work through those various
35 aspects of regional differences and cost of living and
36 what's appropriate. I want to reiterate the tribal
37 council involvement in this process is very important
38 and so we need to at this meeting transmit to OSM and
39 the Federal Subsistence Board the need for tribal
40 council involvement and working with -- well, I'll
41 bring Polly up to the table here on the legalities. I
42 have written a questionnaire and how the OSM can
43 rewrite the letter. We need to be able to transmit
44 questions to the tribal councils. Whether the Federal
45 Subsistence Board has to make a request of changing --
46 DOI is requiring things, so DOI and maybe the Secretary
47 of Interior has got to cut some red tape. This is
48 going to really hinder the work of this Council on this
49 customary trade issue if we can't involve the tribal
50 councils.

1 Go ahead, Polly.

2

3 DR. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, thank you.
4 Polly Wheeler with the Office of Subsistence
5 Management. I have a couple things, but just as a
6 reminder the subcommittee is involving the YK Council,
7 the Western Interior Council and the Eastern Interior
8 Council. I think before you get ahead of yourself to
9 sending out the tribal questionnaire you need to
10 remember that there's going to be representatives of
11 each of the three Councils that are going to be
12 participating in this subcommittee. So you probably
13 want to get together as a group and then figure out how
14 you want to proceed.

15

16 Now in terms of the Federal government,
17 the Office of Management and Budget has a rule that if
18 you ask more than 10 people a series of questions you
19 have to get approval from this body, the OMB. There's
20 probably ways that we could get around it, but I don't
21 know until the subcommittee gets together as a group
22 and you move forward and figure out how you want to
23 move forward. I'll tell you right now the Secretary of
24 the Interior has no authority over OMB. It's a
25 different department. But that's sort of government
26 speak. I would encourage the group to get together and
27 figure out an approach and then we'll figure out a way
28 to make that approach work. So let's just give the
29 group time to get together as a group and then figure
30 out the approach they want to take and then we'll
31 figure out how to help you get there.

32

33 Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. This
36 customary trade issue is boiling in the forefront of
37 our Council discussion this morning, so I wanted a
38 clarification on that. So when we get to the Yukon
39 River fisheries we'll develop a position on this
40 customary trade and try and -- my perception is that we
41 could push for a subcommittee meeting in April, all
42 three Councils, send a position from this Council to
43 that subcommittee, try to get the three Councils to
44 agree on a questionnaire and try to get that
45 questionnaire out to the communities by September so
46 that they can be transmitting their feelings for the
47 next Council meetings. That might give us the six
48 months. If we can build a fire under that to expedite
49 it six months or shorter. So that should be the
50 direction of this Council on the customary trade.

1 And you're right, the three Councils
2 have to work together. The questionnaire that I
3 produced I would like to see that sent to all three
4 Councils so that they can be mulling it over in their
5 minds, but I'm not sure if that happened.

6
7 Thanks, Polly, on the clarification on
8 that.

9
10 Any further comments, Robert?

11
12 MR. WALKER: No.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock, do you have
15 comments about your concerns or anything from your area
16 in your perspective? Go ahead.

17
18 MR. SIMON: Yes, thank you, Jack. My
19 name is Pollock Simon, Sr. I live in Allakaket. I'm
20 glad to be down here in Galena. I have a lot of
21 friends down here. My son is PJ. He's lived down here
22 with you guys for a while. Crazy kid. Thank you for
23 putting up with him when he lived here.

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 MR. SIMON: I appreciate that. A few
28 years ago there was only 13 moose taken in Allakaket
29 for about 30 or 40 families, so you can guess that meat
30 was spread out pretty thin. With also that salmon
31 crash, more subsistence fishermen on the Koyukuk River
32 and we depend on the salmon if there's not enough meat.
33 One year I caught 30 king salmon and I thought that was
34 lots. In the '70s we stayed in fish camp and catch
35 king salmon that's close to four feet long. Not today,
36 you don't see those anymore. They're more like three
37 feet. The fish are getting smaller. If all the fish
38 that's being caught on the high seas would return to
39 the Yukon River, there would be plenty fish for
40 everyone. We wouldn't be discussing fish that much.

41
42 I got on that YRDFA this year too and
43 went to Mountain Village meeting recently and there was
44 a lot of discussion about the fish and customary trade.
45 People have been selling fish for years and that's a
46 touchy issue. Every committee I sit on we have to sit
47 down and talk about it for a lengthy discussion. But
48 that's all right. We can talk about it the next time.
49 You will still continue to sell strips and put some
50 away for yourself. I don't think we'll come to an

1 agreement on anything.

2

3 In closing, I'd say that working
4 together, unity, is the key to surviving. Thank you,
5 Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock. I
8 appreciate your comments on your perspective of the
9 size of the chinook salmon and customary trade, having
10 attended the YRDFA meeting down in Mountain Village.
11 It is a very touchy issue. It's going to take a long
12 time, actually quite a bit of work to work through
13 that.

14

15 Carl.

16

17 MR. MORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 My comments -- and I'll try not to be lengthy. I'd
19 just like to reiterate what I've already said before in
20 all my other comments and my reporting when I gave
21 these comments was just continued close monitoring of
22 the salmon, the continued close monitoring of the
23 caribou herd in Mulchatna, close monitoring of our
24 moose. I think that should never be given up.

25

26 One of my biggest worries or concerns
27 is this customary trade. I'm glad it's a hot issue and
28 it's something that's very contagious. I'd just like
29 to say that it's something that is not one size would
30 fit all. One size will not correct everything. We've
31 got too many different diverse people. We're a big
32 state and we've got different needs. We have different
33 traditional uses. I think that should be very
34 considered and one of the considerations that we should
35 be taking into heart and to feel the traditional uses
36 in each region.

37

38 The other concern I'm glad about is
39 that the Federal U.S. Board is included or the
40 Secretary has agreed that we have two public members to
41 represent Alaska subsistence users. And when it says
42 public, like what you said earlier, your concern is
43 that -- you know, because of our shortage of teachers,
44 our shortage of health workers in our clinics and
45 stuff, we always have a shortage, a lot of them come
46 right out of college, right out of universities in the
47 Lower 48 who have no idea how subsistence is being
48 used. They come in here. They're a rural public
49 subsistence user. You look at that and they could
50 qualify to be our representatives in the Federal Board.

1 They could. Public. Title VIII say if you live in
2 rural Alaska, you're a rural subsistence user.

3
4 That's why I'd like to have some
5 emphasis on -- because the regulation, the way it is,
6 it speaks nothing to whom the new representative will
7 be or how the process will progress. Like any other
8 Board I look at or even committees, I always see -- I'm
9 not prejudiced. I've got to emphasize that real hard.
10 This is not a prejudice issue. I'd like to see
11 aboriginal Alaskans on those two. I look at the Alaska
12 Board of Game. How many we got? One. Federal
13 Subsistence Board. One.

14
15 To be equal in ethnicity I think we
16 should have -- one of the criteria should be aboriginal
17 Alaskan. I think one of the big issues, one of the big
18 criteria should be because we're underrepresented.
19 We're going to be even more afraid when the State
20 legislature gets reappointed. We're going to be still
21 underrepresented. So that's my concern because the
22 decision of who gets on these is going to be appointed
23 by the Secretary of Interior and we need to be really,
24 really concerned about that.

25
26 That's how I feel right now. Thank
27 you, Mr. Chairman.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I really appreciate
30 those comments, Carl. I too feel that Alaska Natives
31 should sit in those seats on the Federal Subsistence
32 Board. That's an agenda item under 18 here, these
33 mandates for those two Board members. The Federal
34 Subsistence Board is going to take comments from this
35 Council on those. So we can insert those into our
36 comments when we discuss that issue.

37
38 I have other feelings on the criteria
39 of those two Board members, the eight criteria. I feel
40 they should have direct dependence on the resource and
41 those kinds of things. Those should be part of their
42 qualifications. Not I'm an Alaska Native from
43 Anchorage, never seen a moose in my life except it ran
44 across the road by my house or ate my bush or
45 something, no. They have direct dependents and things
46 like that.

47
48 So I really appreciate your comments on
49 the Federal Board makeup. It's an important change to
50 the Federal Subsistence Board though and we are going

1 to review that.

2

3 Eleanor, do you have comments and
4 concerns. Go ahead.

5

6 MS. YATLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
7 do have a winter moose hunt this year, March 1 through
8 5, starting today. Last year that went pretty good.
9 It's a Federal subsistence moose hunt. Last fall I
10 believe most of the families in Huslia did okay on
11 moose hunt.

12

13 On fishing, we were the only ones that
14 stayed in fish camp. This is noted to me because we
15 live in fish camp a lot of the years of our lives and
16 we're dependant on our subsistence food, but this year
17 -- you know, we stayed in fish camp all last summer to
18 cut fish and we helped a lot of people in the village.
19 The dry fish that we cut we finished it end of January.
20 Usually by March, end of March we finish our -- that's
21 how much we get for the winter. You know, even giving
22 it to the elders or giving it to the New Years
23 potlatch.

24

25 The other comment I wanted to make and
26 usually I try to call either Allakaket or Hughes and
27 talk to people in Huslia, but I'm sorry to say I didn't
28 do it this time, but I talked to one person in
29 Allakaket and it's something that my cousin Polly said
30 about the moose. You know it's been declining for a
31 number of years. We lived in Bettles for almost 11
32 years and I saw the crash there with all that moose and
33 I testified to that many times to our advisory
34 committee.

35

36 The same issues are still a concern
37 there because this one person I talk with she stated --
38 well, I'll read from my notes and she said I hope we
39 don't have another rough year without moose meat. This
40 is the second straight year that we don't. We're just
41 really tired of (In Native). That's, you know, store-
42 bought food. It's really so hard to live like this
43 where we have to be dependant on the store. She said
44 that the Old Man River where they go moose hunting it's
45 just a trickle of water coming out right now. They
46 can't go back Old Man River anymore to go moose
47 hunting.

48

49 The other thing is, when they have
50 their -- last year I know they had one month open for

1 moose hunt and it was a Federal subsistence hunt. It
2 was so deep snow, this one person said that they went
3 out -- and they have to go really far and with the
4 price of gas the way it is, you know, they didn't get
5 any because they have to go too far up the Kanuti with
6 the elements and snow.

7

8 She talked about that and the price of
9 gas and she compared the price of gas to the price per
10 pound of meat that they have to buy. When you really
11 look at it, it's just about the same for, you know,
12 like -- I don't know what their price of gas in
13 Allakaket is right now, but I know it's pretty much.
14 When you do per pound of meat, would you rather try to
15 get that gas and have no luck going out to Kanuti or
16 buy that per pound. They're tired of that. They have
17 so hard time. I can't imagine.

18

19 The reason why I brought up our moose
20 hunt down -- you know, we are fortunate. We are. But
21 I also know how it is to live up in Bettles. And she
22 talked about elders, like Kitty and David. They've
23 been going hunting for 70 years and they didn't have no
24 luck last fall. So if she is having a hard time past
25 two years trying to feed her grandchildren and her
26 children, then you can imagine what it's doing to the
27 elders. I think that's a great concern.

28

29 Another thing she brought up was those
30 outfitters in Bettles. You know, to go to Allakaket
31 through the airlines you have to land in Bettles
32 sometime or Anaktuvuk Pass. She said she was sitting
33 at the airport in Bettles and there was these hunters
34 and she saw the front quarters -- this one hunter had
35 just the two front quarters and she really wanted to
36 know where the rest of the meat was because they're
37 hungry for it. She saw the horns. So it's still
38 happening what was happening in the '90s. They're still
39 making money off, you know -- and I wanted to bring
40 that -- and I know it's an issue because I saw it. I
41 think it's a great concern that we try to do something
42 for the people, for Allakaket and their hard times
43 because we're talking going on five years probably of
44 their low moose hunt.

45

46 Oh, the other thing is that customary
47 trade. My feelings on that is we could discuss it from
48 here to forever because it's been on everyone's agenda
49 no matter what entity, whether it's a Federal or State
50 subsistence. I went to an ANILCA training and my

1 feelings -- because of Title VIII and their
2 description, it's so vague that customary trade and
3 subsistence, both the words. It's so vague in, you
4 know, the way they put it in Title VIII. It just like
5 non-existent.

6

7 I think my feeling is all the people
8 that work for the State or the Federal should take the
9 training because it's a three day intensive training
10 and then maybe they'll have a different idea of what
11 we're talking about.

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Eleanor.
16 One thing that is different this year for -- oh, you've
17 got a comment there, Pollock?

18

19 MR. SIMON: No, go ahead.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One thing that is
22 different up in Unit 26 or, correction, 24B around
23 Allakaket is the Board of Game just increased the
24 season from December 15 to April 15 one bull, which
25 gives a four month season and then there's an
26 additional Federal areas on some BLM lands under
27 Federal permit have the same season. So that is a
28 change up there.

29

30 The State of Alaska, Glenn Stout,m
31 brought that proposal forward and passed the Board of
32 Game. It's not the best, what people would really
33 like, to be able to hunt cows in winter, but it's as
34 good as we're ever going to get right now, so we have
35 to be very happy with what we can get for at least a
36 winter hunt. Not five days, not 10 days and
37 specifically Federal land. This gives enough -- it
38 allows hunting anywhere below the Henshaw, so it helps
39 some.

40

41 I just flew down from -- we flew to
42 Bettles, we flew to Allakaket and that pilot flew low.
43 It just snowed four feet and all these moose were
44 coming -- there was trails coming down from the
45 mountains. They were all coming down to the river.
46 So I think it's going to be a good year to harvest
47 moose all the way through the middle of April because
48 all the moose are coming down by the river. I saw one
49 right on the river right above Allakaket laying on the
50 river.

1 I think there is going to be more
2 winter hunting opportunity than there has been in the
3 last five years. That would be my comment on the
4 winter hunting for that area.

5
6 Did you have a comment, Pollock.
7

8 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Jack.
9 Remembering we had a winter moose hunt around Allakaket
10 some years back and now the moose crashed. We used to
11 have a cow season, which was good and everybody
12 prefer. And fall time you never get a moose you can
13 get a cow during the winter. But now there's not that
14 much moose, so there's no cow season. A couple years
15 ago on the Federal land there was an opportunity to get
16 a bull moose in winter, but that's kind of difficult.
17 Allakaket got pretty cold. Last month was 70 below for
18 two days and during that five day season for bulls only
19 it was 40 below. It's not like going on the river and
20 there's a moose standing right there. In winter it's
21 different. You have to put on snowshoes and walk
22 around.

23
24 There's also other difficulties like
25 immediately behind Allakaket it's all different land;
26 Federal land, private land, corporation land,
27 checkerboard land. The catch is you have to shoot the
28 moose on the Federal square. So I tried to shoot moose
29 one time. Of course, I didn't get a moose in the fall
30 season. I followed this little bull moose, but then I
31 know it crossed over to State land, so that's the end
32 of my hunt. That gas at \$7 a gallon, it's hard to go a
33 long ways to get moose. Caribou is up 60 miles.
34 Traveling that far is difficult. But, yeah, there's
35 moose, you know, but the thing is bulls only. All the
36 old people say most of the time bull moose has no fat
37 and it's tough meat and they'd rather have fish or go
38 to the store and buy burgers.

39
40 Thank you, Jack.
41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.
43 Yeah, bull is not the preferred moose, but that is as
44 good as we're going to get for a moose hunt. Like Ron
45 told me, they used to get bulls at spring camp. They
46 used to kill a bull in spring camp and they're starting
47 -- at least the muscle is coming back a little bit and
48 they make good dry meat. That's all we're going to
49 get. That's all we have right now is a winter bull
50 hunt. Until these moose come back we're not going to

1 have cow hunting, so that's as good as we're going to
2 get right now. We can't do any more than that. There's
3 no way we can try to get an additional cow season or
4 anything.

5
6 But there is a four-month season. We
7 have to be happy for some kind of winter hunting
8 opportunity where you can pick the weather, the
9 conditions. So you can go all the way to the middle of
10 April. That's all we can really do right now. This
11 Council has worked hard to try -- and I appreciate the
12 State coming forward with a reasonable hunt, something
13 we can work with.

14
15 At this time is there any additional
16 comments from the Council?

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, no. So we're
21 through the Council comments. It's a good point in our
22 agenda to let Council members vent their concerns and
23 so forth and I always appreciate this part of our
24 agenda to bring everything forward that's on people's
25 minds at that time.

26
27 I see administrative business. You've
28 got some comments, Donald?

29
30 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
31 provided a handout folder for the Council members.
32 I'll just go over that briefly. In it we have the
33 minutes from the February 23, 2010 and last fall's
34 minutes. The comments on the -- it's got the heading
35 Western Interior RAC-02, it's comments regarding Gates
36 of the Arctic SRC hunting plan recommendation 10-01,
37 comments from the Western Interior. And then Western
38 Interior RAC-03, it's a letter to Mr. Reakoff from the
39 Bureau of Land Management regarding hunting guide
40 operations and BLM permits. That's for your
41 information.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Donald, these
44 comments were my personal comments to the BLM in the
45 guide area selection process and that was the basis of
46 developing a letter from this Council, so I wrote a
47 letter yesterday and it got lost when I put it into
48 your thumb drive there. So there's a more concise
49 comment for the Council. I have some other letters
50 that Donald has to print out in addition to that, but

1 this letter to the BLM is my own personal comments and
2 it's the basis of an issue for guide selection for the
3 Dalton Highway Corridor.

4

5 Go ahead, Donald.

6

7 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for
8 the clarification. And then Western Interior RAC-04,
9 it's a State Board of Game Proposals No. 222 and 223,
10 which is on the agenda for later on in the meeting,
11 under Item No. 16. That's for Council information in
12 preparation for that discussion.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see the State's
15 draft feasibility for intensive management and then I
16 see the Seward Peninsula Advisory Council
17 recommendation for Bering Sea bycatch and I see a
18 resolution from the YK Delta on Bering Sea pollock
19 fishery. So we will use these documents at the
20 appropriate time in the agenda. So then there will be
21 some additional letters or recommendations that I have
22 for the Council that need to be printed out on other
23 agenda items. Then I see Gene Sandone's PowerPoint,
24 which he's going to present here, so that's in this
25 packet.

26

27 Other comments there, Donald?

28

29 MR. MIKE: No, that's it then. Just
30 finally, as you summarized, the resolutions from Seward
31 Peninsula and YK Regional Advisory Council, and a
32 briefing on changing the composition of the Federal
33 Subsistence Board as Mr. Morgan briefly discussed this
34 morning. Finally, there's a March 1 and 2, 2011
35 Western Interior Advisory Council. Federal review
36 requires the RAC to comment on the current
37 Federal/State MOU. Mr. Chair, that concludes the
38 summary of what's in the packet.

39

40 Mr. Chair, I just want to remind you to
41 give an opportunity for the public to testify. Thank
42 you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. That's next
45 on our agenda. Item here 10. So there's more
46 documents that will come into this packet here. At
47 this time we'll take public testimony on any agenda
48 item that you see that the Western Interior Council is
49 going to be working on. I also encourage public
50 testimony throughout the meeting. At various points in
the meeting I also encourage public testimony. The

1 Councils are to meet and to act as a platform for
2 public comments, so I appreciate public comments
3 greatly and we're actually mandated by ANILCA.

4
5 You had a comment, Eleanor.

6
7 MS. YATLIN: I wanted to introduce
8 someone for the public testimony whenever.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're at public
11 testimony.

12
13 MS. YATLIN: So this is the time to do
14 it?

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you would like to
17 do that, go right ahead.

18
19 MS. YATLIN: I'd like to have Darrell
20 Vent come up for the Huslia Tribal Council. He wanted
21 to do public testimony.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is the
24 appropriate time. Thank you. Go right ahead, Darrell.
25 Turn the mic on there. Good to see you again.

26
27 MR. VENT: Yeah, it's been a few years
28 since I've been here. I think the last time I ever
29 went to a meeting was we had a big issue down there in
30 McGrath concerning moose population and what kind of
31 wolf control management we could use, which we have
32 introduced to Juneau for trying to get aerial wolf
33 hunt. It was a touchy issue. We did get it passed,
34 but it took many years for them to kind of utilize the
35 fact that they could hunt from the air because it's
36 such a hard area down there. Now we've got issues here
37 concerning Bettles and Allakaket area where the moose
38 population is limited.

39
40 The thing I see is that -- you know,
41 Carl Morgan mentioned that and I heard it over there
42 from Robert Walker about Federal land is public land
43 and the regulations that could go wrong with these.
44 We're subsistence users here and everything is kind of
45 vague. It's not really addressed toward the
46 subsistence users from the villages. Our issues are
47 not really heard. We don't have a lot of input from
48 the management boards because like it was stated
49 earlier there's not a lot of rural users in there. We
50 can't go back to our aboriginal rights and work from

1 there. So if we could get, you know, a lot more
2 involvement from our villages that would address these
3 issues, maybe we wouldn't have low counts on our moose
4 and stuff.

5
6 Our area in Huslia is fine right now,
7 but what's to say five to ten years down the road that
8 you start having issues like this that Bettles and
9 McGrath area are having right now. With all the
10 management that should be done on it, I think that
11 these issues are important to us. So if we learn to
12 work with the State and look at the harvest and if we
13 have input to the State on how the harvest should be
14 done, I think they should address our concerns. The
15 natural resource part of it should be regulated
16 because, like I say, the Federal government on this
17 advisory board here is public use. So, you know,
18 there's a lot of things that we probably have to work
19 on to get regulations done on.

20
21 It's a touchy issue, but, you know, if
22 there's going to be management in Alaska, I think it
23 has to deal with the rural people. So that was my
24 point on how we should address these issue.

25
26 Under that, I think where Pollock and
27 them are hunting moose at, it's a pretty poor thing to
28 be hunting a bull in the winter. It's a tough thing to
29 do. I remember when they used to tell stories about
30 how they used to go moose hunting a long time ago. It
31 would take them three or four days walking just to
32 catch a moose. Now up in your area they're opening
33 caribou hunt, is that correct?

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Up to the north of
36 us the State of Alaska Board of Game passed a proposal
37 to allow five cow caribou on July 1, basically hunting
38 cows all fall when they've got baby calves. There was a
39 lot of cow caribou killed. That's what happened down
40 in Southwest Alaska. They started hunting cows in fall
41 time, lots of non-resident hunters. The caribou herd
42 crashed. So we're real concerned about the caribou
43 population up north. We petitioned the Board of Game.
44 That failed. So we're at a point where we're just
45 monitoring the situation. There's a hugh
46 infrastructure being built. Air taxis are applying for
47 permits. You can go on the internet and Google caribou
48 hunting on the North Slope. You'll see all kinds of
49 people trying to attract hunters to the North Slope.
50 In the next two or three years it's going to go south

1 is what's going to happen.

2

3

4 At one point I want to clarify to you
5 is this is a Federal Regional Council. We deal with
6 Federal lands and we have a Federal priority for rural
7 users, so rural users have a priority on the Federal
8 lands. The issue is that the Native corporation lands
9 are managed by the State of Alaska. That's the issue
10 around Huslia.

11

MR. VENT: Okay.

12

13

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But the corp. lands
14 actually have to have State regulations, so we can only
15 make Federal regulations that apply to the Refuge
16 lands. I wanted to clarify that to you. Go ahead.

17

18

MR. VENT: One of the issues that we
19 have in our area is the regulations on transporters. I
20 realize that you guys don't have much regulations and
21 that has to do with the State. I think that's going to
22 be an important issue later on because we're really
23 dealing with that problem right now. There's a lot of
24 things that's not restricted. Not a lot of regulations
25 on there and we need more regulations on it because
26 it's starting to become a problem. I think that's one
27 of the important issues from our area that needs to be
28 looked at real close.

29

30

Once we start getting down to it, we've
31 got to start working for our moose. Like Pollock and
32 them, they had to come down to our area, some people,
33 to go hunting. That's a long ways to travel and costs
34 a lot of money for the gas. It's something that
35 probably will continue on for a while until their area
36 is through with their intensive management. I don't
37 know when that's ever going to happen. It's some
38 issues that we have to look at and look for in the
39 future. We're going to be able to try to help them,
40 but we need to watch what's being taken out of our
41 area.

42

43

It's depleting our natural resource.
44 Not our natural resource, our moose. We're the ones
45 that have to live on this moose. If we have to go to
46 the store to buy food, that's not what we want. We want
47 to be able to have that meat for our diet and
48 abundance.

49

50

Hopefully we can look into these issues

1 on how to regulate a little bit more on transporting
2 and guided hunting. All our issues are dealing with
3 subsistence but a lot of our problems, I think, has to
4 deal with other things, so we have to include
5 everything.

6

7

Thank you.

8

9

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate your
10 comments. The State of Alaska regulates through the
11 Commercial Services Board regulates transporters, so
12 Huslia Tribal Council can send a letter to the
13 Commercial Services Board to state that you would like
14 regulations to control the numbers of transporters or
15 requests to them. The Federal Subsistence Board
16 doesn't regulate that at all. The number of guides is
17 regulated on the Refuge lands by the Refuge system and
18 there's a selection process for that. Then the numbers
19 of moose is regulated in the Koyukuk Moose Hunting
20 Plan. There's only so many moose, so the subsistence
21 use is accommodated by harvest under the subsistence
22 tag. The drawing is the allocation to the
23 non-residents and other users that want to keep the
24 antler. Residents of the area can actually apply for
25 the drawing permit and if you draw a permit you can
26 keep the antler. I always encourage local people to
27 apply for the permits because then you can actually
28 keep the antler and sell them.

29

30

Glenn Stout over here calculates the
31 number of bulls that are available and calculates how
32 many drawing permits. The permitting system that we
33 have on the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area I consider it
34 exemplary of wildlife management. It can't get any
35 better than that unless we have wolf control. But the
36 reality is we can't have wolf control. It's very hard
37 to get wolf control on Refuge lands and especially when
38 you've got this kind of a moose population. It's going
39 to be a real hard sell. So I just flat out like to
40 tell people the realities of what can happen and what's
41 not going to happen.

42

43

Since you're here at the table I would
44 like to ask you -- I had a call or comment from a
45 person in Huslia that felt that the winter hunt, the
46 Federal winter hunt for 10 moose with no more than five
47 to be cows that's what's currently happening today, so
48 there's Federal permits that were issued. Brad Scotton
49 can probably tell us how many permits have been issued.
50 I'd like to know how many have been issued.

1 I would like to know -- his perception
2 was that killing cow moose was a bad thing to be doing
3 around Huslia and that should be stopped. I would like
4 to know -- I have a letter that I would like to submit
5 to the Huslia Tribal Council requesting their
6 perception of how they feel the winter hunt, is it a
7 good thing, and do you feel that shooting cow moose --
8 since you're here representing Huslia, do you feel that
9 shooting -- taking five cows, only five in a very dense
10 moose population, primarily to be used for elders, do
11 you feel that that's a bad thing or a positive thing?
12

13 MR. VENT: The way I look at it,
14 through the years we always hunted cow moose in the
15 winter, the spring hunt, and the fall time was the bull
16 hunt. The meat is the right texture to eat and it's,
17 you know, the nutrition value is a lot better with the
18 cows in the spring than the bulls because the bull is
19 way too skinny. There's a lot of sinew. But if you're
20 feeding it to elders, it's kind of hard for them to
21 chew on sinew and things like that, so it would be a
22 lot better if they had what we originally had from the
23 beginning was cow hunt in winter and spring compared to
24 trying to take a bull which is too hard to chew on and
25 the nutrition value is not really adequate.
26

27 I think that's a good thing because our
28 elders did that from years back, so it would be good to
29 have more cow hunt. What we have is a good sustained
30 yield, a good harvest. Our area got enough moose to
31 support it. I'd say that going for more than the five
32 cows. I don't know what you considered the other ones,
33 probably five bulls, but I figure it would be good to
34 have all of them cows instead of bulls.
35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the biological
37 parameters are -- I can't leverage for more than five
38 right now with the moose population. The cow
39 population is basically stable or slightly declining.
40 Until we see more moose going into the population, five
41 cows is about all I can really leverage the Refuge into
42 giving. So I wanted to know your perception of the
43 hunt. I got one perception. I want to know from the
44 people in Huslia whether they think that this winter
45 hunt is jeopardizing the moose. This person thinks
46 that it is. I want to know from the Huslia community
47 to this Council whether they feel that that hunt is
48 jeopardizing the moose. Hopefully at some point in
49 this meeting I will review this letter of Huslia
50 requesting that information and I want the tribal

1 council to review that and then send it back to us.
2 That's what I would like to do.

3

4 Go ahead, Darrell.

5

6 MR. VENT: There's one thing I'd like
7 to address when we start hunting. Well, you know, in
8 order to keep our moose pretty much stable you have to
9 have a breeding bull which produces strong calves to
10 survive. Our survival rate in calves is one that I
11 think is going to be really affecting us because you
12 get the big bears and you get the wolves. They have a
13 high kill ratio when you don't have a strong calf. The
14 breeding bull is the one with the big horns. We don't
15 use the big horns. We go out and hunt the two, three,
16 four year old bull, which is good. It has good meat for
17 us. If that issue is going to be addressed, I think
18 that, you know, it should be addressed like I said, who
19 the State has to regulate. It should be looked at in a
20 different way. Instead of trying to place blame we
21 should learn to work together and address the problem
22 from where it starts.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I've reviewed the
25 moose biology for the Huslia and the bull/cow ratio is
26 -- Glenn Stout is precise on maintaining the 30 bulls
27 per 100 cows. He's doing an excellent job. So we've
28 got several big bulls in the population. We have the
29 breeding bulls and it's as good as game management is
30 going to get. I consider it the best moose management
31 plan in the Interior of Alaska right now. It can't get
32 any better than that. We have proposals to eliminate
33 the antler destruction. That will bring all kinds of
34 hunters, our bull/cow ratio will go in the toilet and
35 things will go south.

36

37 Any comments from the Council to
38 Darrell. Go ahead, Tim.

39

40 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 Before I asked a question of Darrell I wanted to ask
42 you or perhaps the Refuge Staff could comment on what
43 controls the amount of transporters on Federal lands in
44 the area around Huslia?

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's for the
47 Koyukuk/Nowitna. Brad, are you here?

48

49 MR. SCOTTON: Yeah.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Come to the mic,
2 please.

3
4 MR. SCOTTON: Mr. Chairman, Timothy.
5 Brad Scotton from the Refuge. Normally Kenton Moos,
6 our Refuge Manager, would be handling these questions,
7 but he's having to fill in for somebody in Anchorage in
8 the regional office so it falls to me. The regulation
9 of transporters is handled via a permit process. On
10 the Refuge system it's simply an application to the
11 Refuge for a commercial use permit to transport hunters
12 onto the Refuge. Guiding is a separate issue, a
13 different set of regulations, and there's only I think
14 currently two guides in all of Koyukuk Refuge that are
15 allowed to operate and there are two on the Nowitna
16 Refuge.

17
18 Transporting, you apply and there's
19 some regulations they have to follow and conditions of
20 their permits. Currently I think there's two or maybe
21 three permitted transporters onto the Refuge by air and
22 there might be one or two more that are allowed to do
23 it using boats on the Refuge. Again, the hunting is
24 all under permits, either drawing permits or
25 registration permits, so the only people that are
26 allowed to fly in with the commercial transporters are
27 the ones that have already won the lottery permit that
28 allowed them to go onto the Refuge and that's highly
29 regulated so that the number of hunters that can come
30 is pretty regulated on the Refuge by that way, so there
31 aren't very many transporter permits out there.

32
33 Did that answer your question?

34
35 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, thank you.
36 Darrell, thank you for traveling here to discuss the
37 views of the Huslia Tribe. If it was up to you or up
38 to the tribe, what are you seeing as the biggest threat
39 up there from commercial services? Is it the number of
40 guides or the volume of the guides or is it the number
41 of transporters or what? If it was up to you to make
42 the regs, what would you or the Huslia Tribe like to
43 see happen?

44
45 MR. VENT: I think some of the issues
46 that we're having right now is with transporters. You
47 know, the guides, we got them limited back to areas
48 where they're not able to hunt on the Doyon lands, so
49 it kind of gave them areas that makes it a hot spot for
50 them to hunt moose. It's probably around the Dalki

1 area with the guides and up above the Dalki area. So
2 transporters are able to go back onto the lakes onto
3 Federal lands, which we consider public lands, and
4 float down through the system into the State controlled
5 areas, which are the rivers and the tributaries off the
6 rivers or the high water mark. I guess that's how it's
7 stated.

8

9 Some of the things that we find out is
10 that it takes them probably four or five days to come
11 out of those areas with those moose. The restrictions
12 on that is not limited, so we want a little more
13 regulations on how much time it takes them to come out
14 of there so the meat wouldn't be spoiled because we can
15 smell the meat when it comes out of there. It ain't
16 very -- you notice that smell after years like in the
17 Galena area there used to be a lot of bad-smelling meat
18 because it wasn't taken care of.

19

20 I guess our issue is that the meat --
21 you know, we've always had that problem from years
22 back. Trying to issue some of these little things, you
23 know. I'm just getting back into the tribal council,
24 so I'm trying to address these regulations and see if
25 we can do something about it because it was mentioned
26 in our meeting up there in Huslia. Just trying to get
27 our information in there. We want to work with them
28 because they're doing good management. I could see
29 that. We want to keep it a good management, so we had
30 to address our issues and the one thing was the
31 transporters.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Darrell.

36 Tim.

37

38 MR. GERVAIS: Darrell, do you think
39 there needs to be more enforcement so that there's less
40 wanton waste? Is that something the Huslia Tribe would
41 support?

42

43 MR. VENT: Yes, if we wanted to put in
44 a resolution, that would be one of our issues, is to
45 try to get a little more control on them, how to work
46 with us in order to provide something that will look
47 good for both State and tribal.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

50

1 MR. GERVAIS: And then just a quick
2 last part. So how about -- I didn't quite hear you
3 comment directly to the amount of guided hunters or the
4 amount of transported hunters in there. Do you feel
5 it's an appropriate level or you'd like to see that
6 reduced?

7
8 MR. VENT: It depends on the areas
9 they're hunting because some areas we have more
10 abundance of moose and some areas we have less. Moose
11 aren't stable all over the whole area, so we have high
12 hunt areas, low hunt areas. Some places get hunted out
13 too much one year and then it has to grow back. The
14 Dalki area is different than Dalbi area. We always
15 address everything in one big area. When you hunt
16 somewhere, you hunt one area too much, it reflects on
17 the other area.

18
19 If you look at the counts, sometime you
20 might have a lot of counts in one area and nothing in
21 the other area and then you put it together and that's
22 not the way management works. If we want transporting,
23 we'd really try to address the areas that we put them
24 in. It would reflect, you know, on how we manage our
25 areas. It's kind of a hard subject, but we've all got
26 to learn to work together. Hopefully management
27 becomes more capable as the years go along.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Thanks
30 for those questions, Tim. Eleanor.

31
32 MS. YATLIN: Just one quick comment on
33 that transporters, Mr. Chairman. This past year for
34 two weeks they were allowed to be in the Three Day
35 Slough, so that's new. I think it was Umphenours, the
36 outfit that came up there. They were up there for two
37 weeks. I testified on that at our last meeting the
38 complaints we got from local people about them leaving
39 their barrels and camp stoves and stuff behind. I just
40 wanted to add that they did have more people, more
41 transporters here this past fall.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I remember you
44 talking about that. Any other questions of Darrell.
45 Go ahead, Don.

46
47 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
48 just want to thank Darrell for his comments on there.
49 We like to ideally see some place where that's taken
50 care of. I was up the Novi I think it was last week

1 there and there was some hunters that came out of the
2 Dalbi. I don't know if the Dalbi is below the cabin or
3 wherever the check station is, but they had already
4 pulled up camp there. They wanted to actually check
5 out, so they did it at Novi. They didn't have to. But
6 the thing is, I mean I have concerns too. When he
7 talks about -- when we hear of the hunters giving away
8 meat here in Galena, I don't know what kind of shape
9 that meat is in. Like you say it could be hanging
10 there a week and it might not be edible. By the time
11 we get up to Ruby all we see is racks. Just
12 enforcement of that, I guess. We don't much know what
13 enforcement-- what they check for here in Galena or
14 when they check out of the -- but I'd have to comment
15 and, you know, I just have to -- you know, we just have
16 to keep up with what's happening to the meat. That's
17 my only comment.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. Jenny.

22

23 MR. PELKOLA: Darrell, I'm glad you
24 came. I think we need more councils to send their reps
25 from the villages. This is hard work and we try to
26 represent our people, but sometimes we don't get
27 feedback from anybody.

28

29 What I would like to say is in the fall
30 time I'm at Bishop Mountain and we watch all these big,
31 huge boats go by. Sometimes they're just little boats
32 and they have about three or four racks on there. I
33 wonder where they put all the meat. I wish the State
34 and people would listen to us because we see what's
35 going on and they're way out in their offices or
36 wherever they are. They don't really see it and we're
37 complaining, we're telling them, but yet they don't
38 hear us. I think it's about time now they hear us
39 because a lot of that meat I don't know where it goes.
40 I don't even think they check them here in Galena. A
41 lot of the meat they try to give away some of it is
42 spoiled and you can't fool old Native people about
43 trying to give them meat. They know what it smells
44 like. It's pretty sad and I think we need more -- you
45 need to track the meat and track it from day one to
46 where it ends up. I'm sure by the time they probably
47 get to Fairbanks or wherever they're going they
48 probably just have the horns on there. That's a lot of
49 waste and that's sad.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny. Any
4 other questions for Darrell.

5

6 MR. WALKER: I got one.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

9

10 MR. WALKER: Darrell, you mentioned
11 something about Federal lands here. Maybe you could
12 ask a question of Jack, what is Federal public lands.
13 On one hand they say that we're here for subsistence
14 for you and on the other hand they say they're public
15 lands. Maybe you can get a clarification for that.

16

17 MR. VENT: Yeah, that's right. Thank
18 you, Robert. I did mention that earlier that I wanted
19 to know the definition of why is it called Federal
20 public lands, whether it's representing the subsistence
21 users, as this Board is supposed to represent the
22 subsistence. Could you make a clarification on that?

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It comes from
25 ANILCA, Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
26 and there's a Title VIII in ANILCA that gives basically
27 how management is to occur on Federal public lands. So
28 the rural subsistence users have the highest priority
29 use. If there's a problem with the game population,
30 all other uses on the Federal lands are to go behind
31 the rural subsistence use first. But Title VIII of
32 ANILCA .815, it's not an exclusive use. .815 of ANILCA
33 allows sport use also. If there's game population to
34 support it, sport use can also occur and is actually
35 part of the Title VIII. It's not exclusive use, it's a
36 priority use. If there's a problem with the game
37 population, it prioritizes to the rural people on the
38 Federal land. The Native corporation lands are managed
39 by the State of Alaska. There is no rural priority
40 use. It's all Alaskan residents are a priority user.
41 The corporations then are compelled to post their lands
42 and stop people from hunting on their lands below the
43 mean high water mark.

44

45 The Federal priority is for the Federal
46 lands and those would be the Refuge and BLM lands in
47 this area and those have a priority use. So the winter
48 hunt that we have for Huslia right now applies only to
49 the Federal lands, not to the corp lands. That's the
50 clarification.

1 We can't stop sport hunting. It's
2 allowed in ANILCA. If the population can support it,
3 sport hunting can occur and the Federal Board can't
4 stop it. We have to kind of work together on the sport
5 hunting issues, you know, the meat care and so forth.
6 The Koyukuk River Advisory Committee has worked to have
7 meat on the bone regulations on the corridors. There's
8 regulations trying to go away from -- I think at the
9 check stations don't you hand out pamphlets, Glenn, on
10 meat care? There's been educational processes.

11
12 Action item, Donald. I feel that this
13 Council should write a letter to the Koyukuk/Nowitna
14 Refuge to go to Huslia and discuss the transporter
15 regulations with the tribal council and talk about the
16 transporter issues that people have there so the Refuge
17 itself issue these permits. So this letter from this
18 Council shall go the Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge requesting
19 them to go to Huslia Tribal Council, discuss the
20 transporter issues, the guiding issues so people
21 understand what the parameters are, and try and work
22 towards mitigating some of these issues with local
23 people and so people can work together on this
24 transporter issue.

25
26 The Council will entertain a motion to
27 transmit that letter to the Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge.

28
29 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you making the
32 motion?

33
34 MR. GERVAIS: I wanted to add one thing
35 onto that.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead. You'd
38 make the motion and amend.

39
40 MR. GERVAIS: I would make the motion
41 to draft that letter and I would like to amend it to
42 include some discussion. As we're dealing with the
43 Federal agencies, it will be increasingly common to
44 hear that there's not enough money available to do
45 enforcement and whatnot and it seems like there's
46 enough of an issue of this wanton waste going on that I
47 would think the fines from enforcement action should be
48 able to cover the increased costs of this enforcement.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

1 MS. PELKOLA: Second.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.
4 Discussion on the letter to the Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge
5 on developing a dialogue with the Huslia Tribal Council
6 on the transporter issue, the guiding, the sport use
7 issues and then reporting back to this Council. The
8 Refuge will report back to this Council on that
9 meeting. Any further discussions on that letter.
10
11 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. A carbon
12 copy to the Huslia Tribe to.
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, a carbon copy
15 to the tribal council.
16
17 MR. WALKER: Call for the question.
18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
20 called on that letter transmittal to the
21 Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge on transporter and sport use
22 issues meeting with Huslia Tribal Council. All in
23 favor of the letter signify by saying aye.
24
25 IN UNISON: Aye.
26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same
28 sign.
29
30 (No opposing votes)
31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That should be
33 forthcoming, Darrell. Thanks for your comments. I
34 really appreciate you coming all the way down here to
35 Galena, so thank you very much.
36
37 MR. VENT: Thank you, Chair.
38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Donald, you got a
40 comment.
41
42 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
43 Council welcomes all public comments and testimony to
44 the Council. I just want to remind the public if they
45 wish to testify it would be helpful if you fill out a
46 green sheet or just let myself know or the Chair know
47 that you wish to testify in front of the Council and
48 we'll make that happen.
49
50 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have further
2 public comments. Yes, come up. She was first there.
3 State your name for the record, please.

4
5 MS. J. HUNTINGTON: Joy Huntington,
6 thank you. I just wanted to thank you for coming to
7 Galena. It made it easier for people to come in from
8 different areas around here, so it's good to be here
9 and thank you to the community of Galena for hosting
10 this. I wanted to first make a quick recognition of
11 someone very important for all of this to be going on
12 today and that's the late Morris Udall. ANILCA was his
13 baby law and I was a part of one of the organizations
14 that was founded in his honor and so it's really proud
15 for me to see this going on and to see Section VIII
16 really being taken seriously and used and taken
17 advantage of by the communities, which is really good.

18
19 Just a few comments here. I had some
20 suggestions. When we're talking about how to get
21 tribes input, I do see that there's some regulations
22 from OMB that may slow that process down. I guess my
23 suggestion would be if the tribes initiated that survey
24 versus -- since you're a Federally mandated body there
25 is obviously some regulations there.

26
27 One thing that I was kind of concerned
28 about was if the questionnaire doesn't go out until
29 September and you want it back in October, as we all
30 know that's the time when people are going out moose
31 hunting and their concern is preparing for winter. One
32 suggestion that I would have is that most communities
33 that I know have village youth workers every summer and
34 most of the time they're cutting grass and they're
35 looking for more kind of.....

36
37 (Phone ringing)

38
39 MS. J. HUNTINGTON: Is that my time to
40 go sit down now? You're done.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 MS. J. HUNTINGTON: My recommendation
45 would be that those youth workers possibly if they have
46 the questionnaire they could go around and do it
47 themselves and it would be community driven. The elders
48 in the community may feel uncomfortable giving certain
49 information to -- you know, we kind of get the us
50 against them mentality sometimes, but if the young

1 people are going around, I think that would help make
2 the process go a little smoother. And they would have
3 something meaningful to do that would really give them
4 good training and community involvement. As good as
5 cutting grass is, I think this would be a more
6 meaningful thing for them to take part in and then
7 you'd get the information a lot sooner than the fall
8 months, which I think everyone is a little distracted
9 at that time.

10

11 The second comment I wanted to make was
12 on the customary trade and I'm sure this point has been
13 spoken across the state already, but definitely one
14 thing that I would like to reiterate and enforce is
15 that the cost, the expense of going out and fishing,
16 and I'm sure you all are aware of this is very high and
17 it differs. A comment that I believe Carl made was
18 that in each of the communities it's different,
19 especially how much it cost to go out there. I think
20 in Ruby the last I heard the per kilowatt hour is like
21 a dollar. What is the expense of gas in each
22 community.

23

24 Personally I know that my husband Keith
25 likes to go out and get a moose for his mother here in
26 Galena. In the past few years we've looked at how much
27 that costs and we were not able to with the gas, the
28 expenses that it costs to get everything together and
29 to go out. So I understand there's an issue between
30 identifying what is customary trade, what that dollar
31 amount is.

32

33 But I would like to see it left a
34 little open to interpretation because as the cost of
35 gas goes up that's going to impact people and if we set
36 it at a certain -- you know, not that we're selling
37 moose meat, but I think it's an important note to make
38 that the cost of going out and getting that fish is
39 going to keep rising.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One comment. My
42 position on the customary trade issue is there's
43 proposals to set dollar amounts. My position with the
44 Federal Subsistence Board is inflation will eat that
45 dollar amount. So my position is that we should be
46 moving towards a percentage of your harvest or a pound
47 limit. So I'm on the same sheet of music with you,
48 Joy. Go ahead on your comment.

49

50 MS. J. HUNTINGTON: That's great to

1 hear. I see that one point I think we should raise is
2 that probably in our communities probably 95 to 99
3 percent -- I'm kind of an optimistic, but I'd like to
4 say 99 percent of our people out there in the rural
5 areas are not abusing customary trade, so maybe this
6 one percent and that's really the issue, is the abuse
7 of that and not necessarily the fact that people do
8 sell it. It's sad that the few misbehaving students in
9 the classroom get the attention and they set the
10 precedent for everybody else, but if we keep track of
11 that and I think, as you've stated, Jack, just now, you
12 want to keep it open enough, but then also manage the
13 abuse. So I would like to see both of those taken into
14 account when you are working at the solution there. I
15 do see it as a major challenge, but I think everyone's
16 comments today have shown that you're going to take it
17 very seriously and make some good decisions.

18
19 The last comment I'd like to make is
20 when you get to the agenda item 18(i), which is
21 expanding the Federal Subsistence Board seats. Just as
22 kind of a general comment, I think there's no such
23 thing as over representation of our rural areas. So if
24 they want to expand it by 20, I'd say go ahead, feel
25 free. We've all had a steep hill in the rural areas
26 for underrepresentation and that comment was made
27 earlier as well. So I'd like to see this RAC and
28 across the state everyone really stand behind that and
29 any way other people can offer input. The people here
30 in the community, I'm sure. The more people that say,
31 yes, we want that expanded. You know, when it comes to
32 these policies it's kind of a numbers game. We've had
33 70 people write in and say that this is something that
34 they want in the communities, so I definitely wanted to
35 support that.

36
37 I really enjoy listening to you and
38 something that Pollock said about unity is the key to
39 our survival. I really enjoy that and I see that
40 happening right now. Thank you for your hard work. I
41 may make comments when there's opportunities at another
42 point.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Joy.
45 Does any Council members have questions of Joy on her
46 presentation. Don.

47
48 MR. HONEA: I don't have a question,
49 but I'd like to thank her for the views she presented.
50 I'd have to totally agree with what she said about

1 customary trade. Maybe 10, 15, 20 years ago that
2 system itself was greatly abused. To this day,
3 especially within the Middle Yukon or where I'm at,
4 like I commented in meetings before, there's just a few
5 people who may do that. It's not a customary thing
6 these days to do that. A \$750 limit or whatever,
7 that's fine with me. I don't care what it is, but it's
8 just that -- you know, as you say, you may take
9 advantage of that thing. So it's across the board.

10

11 When we met at our Ruby Advisory
12 Committee, I said that -- and I'll say it here, that
13 it's just not customary to do that any more. Like I
14 said, maybe it was abused in the past, but we're just
15 using that chum run if we have to and, you know,
16 tighten your belt.

17

18 I appreciate your comment.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. Any
23 other questions for Joy. Go ahead, Ray.

24

25 MR. COLLINS: I was going to thank her
26 for her comments too because she did trigger something
27 on the customary trade and you commented on it further,
28 that the cost of production is going up. It's probably
29 doubled just on gas alone. So you can't use a dollar
30 amount or you're going to have a reduction in the
31 amount you'd actually be able to take and put into
32 customary trade. So that's important to pass forward
33 to this task force or subcommittee.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Ray. I
36 appreciate that comment. When the Department of
37 Interior was reviewing the Federal program, as Chair I
38 attended Pat Pourchot's meeting down in Anchorage. One
39 of the issues that I brought up and recommended to the
40 Department of Interior was that the Federal Board
41 makeup should entail three rural seats. They only took
42 two. I felt that the Board currently is six members
43 and in addition they were requiring two more. It still
44 makes an even Board. I felt three seats would give the
45 Chair as one rural member and then three additional.
46 It would be more of a split Board. They only took the
47 two seats, so it's better than nothing, but that's what
48 the Department of Interior requires. So we will try to
49 push for as much rural criteria, subsistence criteria
50 for those seats as we can or that's my intention. So

1 thank you for your comment on that.

2

3 MS. J. HUNTINGTON: Thank you. I have
4 one follow-up question. When it comes to the youth
5 workers or the tribes initiating that, I'd like to kind
6 of see what that is to see how the tribes may want to
7 take that initiative on their own. Is there going to
8 be any representation of this Board at the TCC
9 convention this spring aside from the Council members
10 that are part of it? I didn't see a report or anything
11 happening, but that might be a good opportunity to
12 solicit some of that support.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This Council could
15 write a letter to TCC requesting them to make comments
16 on the Federal Subsistence Board's mandate of a
17 subcommittee made up of the three RACs and then the
18 tribal council input into that and maybe TCC could help
19 facilitate that as a non-government entity. That may
20 be another avenue of using TCC to facilitate this
21 tribal council involvement. The Department of Interior
22 wants to see that. The Federal Subsistence Board wants
23 to see that. I would like to see that. So that's a
24 good question. At this time, would the Council be
25 willing to submit a letter of request to the Tanana
26 Chiefs. What do they call it, the annual meeting in
27 mid March?

28

29 MS. J. HUNTINGTON: Convention, yeah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Convention.
32 Requesting they review the Federal Subsistence Board's
33 mandate for a subcommittee formation on customary trade
34 and have input into tribal council involvement in the
35 process. I would like to include the Tanana Chiefs in
36 the whole mix here.

37

38 Did you have one additional comment on
39 that letter?

40

41 MS. J. HUNTINGTON: Just to kind of
42 help support that letter. I guess that would really
43 allow the tribes to say this is how we best feel we can
44 give input. Instead of having that given to them, I
45 think if they were a part of the process they could
46 make that decision and that would probably make it a
47 lot stronger.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would also like to
50 attach -- I have suggestions on that questionnaire. I

1 would like to attach those questions after the Council
2 approves those questions to be also transmitted sort of
3 a proposal to TCC. Does the Council feel that a letter
4 to TCC would be warranted and do I have a motion to
5 that effect?
6

7 MR. HONEA: We have a motion to that.
8 I so move toward the letter, but I think that to be
9 able to get it in in a timely manner I think TCC -- if
10 we're going to put it in the form of a proposal, that
11 has to be submitted by the 1st of March, the 6th of
12 March, something. I mean there's a dead.....
13

14 MS. J. HUNTINGTON: For the resolution?
15

16 MR. HONEA: Right, in the form of a
17 resolution. So just bear that in mind. If we could
18 check on that, then I so move.
19

20 MS. PELKOLA: Second.
21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.
23 In the form of a resolution? They have to be in the
24 form of a resolution?
25

26 MS. J. HUNTINGTON: Maybe the
27 resolution could be open ended, like this is just a
28 resolution to start working with the RACs to -- I mean
29 just so that it's not like exactly specific and this is
30 exactly what it's going to be, so that allows TCC to
31 start that conversation. And it does have to come from
32 one of the specific tribal councils if it's a
33 resolution. If it was just a letter, that would be a
34 slightly different process. The resolutions are
35 definitely prioritized. So if Huslia or Galena or
36 Louden wanted to submit a resolution very broad saying
37 we ask TCC to follow up with the RAC in this process,
38 that would be enough to get staff motivated.
39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't know that
41 that works for this Regional Council reaching that far
42 out.
43

44 MS. J. HUNTINGTON: Okay.
45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This Council needs
47 to make it stand on its own because we're an arm of the
48 Federal Subsistence Board. So I would like this
49 Council to transmit the letter and a list of what we
50 would like see the participation of the tribal councils

1 and Tanana Chiefs in this customary trade issue.
2 That's the basis of the letter. So I feel that would
3 be appropriate. Reaching out to a tribal council to
4 try and get them to come up with -- that might not even
5 meet the framework, so I would prefer not to actually
6 go there. I do think that a Regional Council request
7 like that would actually be highly sought by TCC on
8 this issue because it is a high-profile issue.

9

10 Further discussion. Eleanor.

11

12 MS. YATLIN: So clarification on Don's
13 motion would be a letter?

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

16

17 MS. YATLIN: So one quick comment is
18 we're trying to get village participation and we're
19 trying to get tribal councils involved, so I think this
20 letter would be a way of reaching out to more people
21 because there's a lot of people at that TCC convention.
22 The letter would be like a public announcement saying
23 that we are a part of the Federal Subsistence Board and
24 we are advisory and they have the right to come to us
25 to make any comments like the tribal council member did
26 this morning.

27

28 So that's what I wanted to say.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Eleanor. I
33 would like to also include in the letter that TCC is
34 invited to the subcommittee meeting as part of that
35 letter and request for their involvement in the tribal
36 council. They're like the giant tribal council for the
37 region.

38

39 Further comment, Don.

40

41 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair. So I'm
42 kind of confused now. If we can't as a body as the
43 Western Interior submit to TCC, then how would you
44 propose to do it? I mean if you say Louden or Ruby or
45 whoever cannot -- I'm kind of confused. Did you say
46 that we will as a body submit that?

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The intent of this
49 letter is to submit the request of information. The
50 Federal Subsistence Board wants our Council to have a

1 subcommittee and meet on the questions of what -- the
2 overall question is what signifies a significant
3 commercial enterprise. That's the basis of the
4 question. The peripheries of that is do people
5 actually have customary trade in their community, do
6 they sell fish, and you have to define this in this
7 letter. Do they sell fish, do they buy fish, some
8 people buy fish in this region, and what is an
9 appropriate amount. That's the questions. So the
10 letter that we will send to TCC is stating those are
11 the questions that we have to answer at the
12 subcommittee meeting and we have a mandate by the
13 Federal Subsistence Board to answer those questions and
14 let TCC discuss this at their annual meeting or
15 whatever it's called. That's the basis of the letter,
16 Don. Does that clarify that?

17

18 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I guess so. Actually
19 we're just doing it as the Western Interior, we're
20 going to submit the letter to TCC and it doesn't
21 necessarily have to come before the convention because
22 of the time we're under. I'm still confused if we're
23 going to do it in the form of a resolution or just a
24 letter of intent.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Carl.

27

28 MR. MORGAN: Yes. I think your comment
29 about we must be very careful in this that we are not
30 lobbying TCC to start this. That's not our -- I don't
31 think we can do that. We can't go out and -- it's just
32 like going to DC or someplace and lobbying. We're
33 asking them for their opinion, what do you think about
34 -- so we cannot come right out and ask them and lobby
35 to support.

36 .

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're not lobbying
38 them. We're not under the Hatch Act with TCC, are we,
39 Polly?

40

41 DR. WHEELER: No, I think in this
42 instance you're asking for input. You're not asking
43 for a particular product or a thing, but you are asking
44 for input. I think that's appropriate. You're not
45 even advocating a particular point of view. You're
46 just asking for input to this issue that the Federal
47 Board has said it needs information on. So I think
48 you're safe, but I think putting a resolution it may
49 appear that you're advocating something. So writing a
50 letter with the attachments is open and whether it goes

1 before the convention or it goes to the leadership,
2 whatever, the request has been made.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Any
5 further discussion on that letter to TCC?

6

7 MS. J. HUNTINGTON: I think you're
8 exactly right. It doesn't have to happen before a
9 convention, but just to help speed up the process so
10 that you're not scrambling to get tribal input in
11 September, getting that letter to them, so they can
12 start, you know, considering if they would like to
13 participate. It's definitely not a mandate, but an
14 invitation and I think that should be taken very well
15 that you're reaching out to the unified voice of the 42
16 tribes.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So is that
19 clear, Donald, on the intent of that letter? It's an
20 outreach to TCC stating -- the overreaching effect is
21 the Federal Board needs this information, this Council
22 is charged with a subcommittee and do they want to
23 participate in this process. You're exactly right,
24 September is not a good time for the tribal councils
25 to.....

26

27 MS. J. HUNTINGTON: You might get one
28 person's comment maybe.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So we need
31 to -- I'm getting more squared away. This is going to
32 take quite a bit longer as time goes on. So is it
33 clear, the letter's intent to TCC? I will provide my
34 basic questions to the Council. They're lost in my
35 paperwork here, so I will find them and give those to
36 the Councils maybe after lunch. We're coming up on
37 lunch.

38

39 Any further discussion on this letter
40 to TCC.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
45 the letter of request to participate in the customary
46 trade issue outreach to the Western Interior Regional
47 Council, the letter shall be cc'd to the Eastern and YK
48 Delta also.

49

50 Do you have another question there?

1 MR. GERVAIS: Do we need to send it to
2 AVCP also since they're on the river and Gwich'in
3 Council. I'm sorry, I don't know the correct name.

4
5 MS. J. HUNTINGTON: Council of
6 Athabaskan Tribal Governments.

7
8 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could do that.
11 We could have further outreach out of our region.
12 That's a good idea, cc'd to them also.

13
14 MS. J. HUNTINGTON: TCC also represents
15 the 10 villages of the Council of Athabaskan Tribal
16 Governments so they would still be included, but I see
17 AVCP.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: AVCP. Any further
20 discussion.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
25 the letter and the cc'd list signify by saying aye.

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same
30 sign.

31
32 (No opposing votes)

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none. Thank
35 you very much, Joy. I appreciate your comments and
36 interaction with the Council.

37
38 MS. J. HUNTINGTON: Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have one more.
41 Come up here to the mic, Fred.

42
43 MR. F. HUNTINGTON: Now that I'm up
44 here you guys are going to be skipping lunch, I think.
45 Thank you, Board, for coming to Galena. I represent a
46 lot of entities. My efforts with the family of
47 subsistence harvest continues year around. I'm Louden
48 Tribal Second Chief. I'm also on the Middle Yukon
49 River Advisory Board. I'm also a member of YRDFA. I
50 hold other seats that's too numerous to name.

1 A lot of my history comes from
2 confirmed with elders, as you know. My stepfather,
3 Sidney Huntington, he's 95 years old. My stepmother
4 Angela is 84 years old and my Aunt Hilda is 85 years
5 old. So I do confirm with a bunch of them when we do
6 harvest our fish and game. A lot of that goes to the
7 family, extended family and whatnot.

8
9 As I see it, customary trade comes off
10 from ANILCA subsistence user. There's a lot of -- oh,
11 I lost the word, but there's a lot of discretion
12 between subsistence user and the State relation,
13 Federal lands and State lands. When ANILCA was passed,
14 as Eleanor mentioned, that she took a course in Title
15 VIII, which is the Federal subsistence law.

16
17 In 1970, '71, I testified when Thomas
18 Berger was involved and taking statements from the
19 beginning of where ANILCA came out of. That's where we
20 got ANILCA and which our rural Federal subsistence
21 users have priority over State regulations. Customary
22 trade, you might ask the question is it determined by
23 State law or is it by Federal law. If it's under
24 Federal law, it becomes under subsistence rural user,
25 which has preference over commercial entities,
26 especially on the river with the salmon crash.

27
28 Now I urge you to take very careful in
29 making your decisions on some of the resolutions you
30 are making because when there's a shortage of resources
31 on the river our Federal users will have priority
32 rights over any state which is commercial fishing.
33 Only place there's commercial fishing is down at the
34 mouth and that little bit in Kaltag.

35
36 So when you take a stand on customary
37 trade you might as well know that Yukon River
38 commercial king salmon would be jeopardized because the
39 only way you're going to change Federal subsistence law
40 is by opening ANILCA. You cannot go to Congress and
41 ask Congress to open ANILCA to change the Federal
42 subsistence law.

43
44 Other than that the abuses are going to
45 continue. There's a few people that make a livelihood
46 of subsistence fishing where they're going out and
47 selling and I can tell you who the buyers are are our
48 own Native people, our own Native corporations, buying
49 it up by the thousands and there's nothing under ANILCA
50 says that's wrong. I don't know if you have a

1 different definition of that, but under ANILCA there's
2 no limit to the amount of fish -- and it's not only
3 fish now.

4
5 If you go to Fairbanks in the fall
6 time, there's going to be people asking me about
7 bringing their dry meat to town to sell and I feel
8 that's wrong. Bringing your moose meat into town to
9 sell it for a dollar. At the price of gasoline, those
10 things make it available. Right now we're paying \$6.50
11 a gallon of gasoline at the pump and \$11 for a gallon
12 of milk. There's families out here that have been
13 living out here with kids, you know. Of course, if I
14 had 20 pounds extra of salmon, I would trade it in for
15 cash to buy the milk and the gas. Now that's
16 reasonable.

17
18 But when you're getting your yearly
19 income off the river on two weeks run of fish, that's
20 where abuse is coming from. If you've got anything to
21 say or do about that, that's what to look at rather
22 than saying you're going to cut customary trade.
23 Customary trade is -- and I mentioned it during the
24 Middle Yukon or the YRDLFA board we had a couple weeks
25 ago down in Mountain Village that any time you're
26 pointing the finger at subsistence user you're
27 jeopardizing others, especially commercial fishing at
28 the mouth, which they make their livelihood on that.

29
30 I'm trying to make this short and
31 sweet. Now that I said what I came to say, the other
32 resolution I think you have is your antler destruction
33 resolution came from the Board of Game. They want to
34 do away with antler destruction. In the Koyukuk
35 controlled use area antler destruction came about to
36 save some of the moose. We were going up the Koyukuk
37 River, too big a population going up the Koyukuk River
38 and we saw the moose declining.

39
40 Some of the things we did, and I'd like
41 to thank Glenn Stout for the management he did, he's
42 been doing. But the destruction of antlers discouraged
43 the trophy hunters. Another thing that discouraged the
44 trophy hunters was the permitting system. There's an
45 early permit system and a late permit system, which is
46 applied up the Koyukuk River controlled use area. The
47 early hunt for the permit, you can get your moose.
48 It's 50 inch or larger within the first 10 days of the
49 season. After that you've got so many hours to leave
50 the controlled use area. Your hunt is over for that

1 permit. The late permit goes on later, last 10 days.

2

3 So when the resolution -- if antler
4 discussion comes out, I'd like the antler destruction
5 continued and I urge this Board to see that the
6 resolution is supported for destruction of the antlers.
7 When the Board of Game wrote that resolution, they're
8 implying that Koyukuk River controlled use area could
9 sustain more hunters. Over the last five years since
10 it's been applied, we've been going up the Koyukuk
11 River every fall and getting a little bit larger, a
12 little bit larger moose. This last two years we got,
13 you know, one 58-inch and another time we got one in
14 the 64 range. Prior to that we were getting 30-inch or
15 some even smaller. It's a good process too that we
16 have for the game management.

17

18 With that, it's getting to lunchtime
19 and I'm sure I said everything I had to say.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Fred. Does
22 the Council have any questions on Fred's statements.
23 Don.

24

25 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I'd just like to
26 thank Fred for those comments. It makes it a little
27 more clear exactly the intent of that proposal.
28 Anything we can do to keep the numbers down. I think
29 the drawing permit, whatever is in effect on the
30 Koyukuk is working. Tell me it's cut down a lot of
31 numbers. Because maybe 10, 15 years ago or something
32 there was trophy size racks coming out of that area and
33 to this day I mean because of a lot of the breeding
34 bulls that have been taken and stuff, you know, this
35 past fall I've seen a lot of mid-size to small racks
36 coming out. So maybe that's a deterrent too. You know,
37 anything to bring the number of hunters coming down.
38 So thank you for that.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Fred. Tim.

41

42 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you for your
43 comments, Fred. A comment I have to you on this
44 process for the customary trade, it's my understanding
45 that the only legal customary trade that can occur is
46 for raw unprocessed fish and if you feel it's important
47 to have strips or dry fish as to be allowed in
48 customary trade, those comments should come forward as
49 this working group is going over this issue.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fred.

2

3 MR. F. HUNTINGTON: Your definition
4 is.....

5

6 MR. GERVAIS: It's not my definition.

7

8 MR. F. HUNTINGTON: Whatever definition
9 we do have, it's still a subsistence rule, subsistence
10 user process. I always say there's a State law and
11 Federal law. Federal waters and State waters, Fish and
12 Wildlife and State Fish and Game, all come to you with
13 different views of regulations. We're out there
14 fishing and some guy come up to the boat and started
15 asking us questions and names and numbers and those
16 kind of things, but he doesn't really have the right
17 because under ANILCA when you're a Federal subsistence
18 user we're not in the wrong pulling fish out of the
19 river. When you go in the wrong as a subsistence user
20 is you bring your harvest to Safeway or Fred Meyers or
21 something of that for resale and that's what I
22 determine is wrong.

23

24 I say selling \$25,000 worth of strips
25 in one season is wrong, but under ANILCA there's no
26 limit. When the State passed the last regulation on
27 the net change, if that went to court with a Native
28 person and that Native person was using eight-inch mesh
29 net in the Federal waters and the State took it to
30 court, it would be thrown out because it would have
31 been Federal waters. Now if the Federal regulators
32 came and took him to court on Federal law, there would
33 be a question whether that subsistence user was in the
34 right or wrong.

35

36 I feel that law was only passed for
37 State waters. Nobody made a determination of who could
38 fish or who couldn't fish with that net or not. Go
39 ahead.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One clarification
42 for you, Fred. The Federal Subsistence Board took up
43 the 7.5 inch regulation and it's now in Federal statute
44 also, both and State and Federal regulations read that
45 no more than 7.5-inch net can be used in the Yukon
46 River drainage, so there is no difference now. The
47 Board of Fish adopted 7.5 in January. The Federal
48 Subsistence Board adopted in April the same regulation,
49 so it's uniform throughout the whole river.

50

1 The clarification for you is ANILCA has
2 an undefined amount for customary trade. That's what
3 the subcommittee is working on. That's what the
4 subcommittee's job is to do from all three Councils and
5 requesting. Galena will be one of the -- I'm intending
6 that this community will get the request what is an
7 appropriate amount. You know, you could keep saying
8 you feel that 25,000 is an inappropriate amount. We
9 want to know that and it's good to hear your input. We
10 want to know from the whole community what is an
11 appropriate amount. How we work that out legally to
12 make that question available to the tribal councils.

13

14 When all three council work out what
15 Eastern Interior's definition is, our definition is and
16 the YK Delta's definition, those are all going to come
17 to the Federal Subsistence Board and the Federal
18 Subsistence Board is going to determine what an
19 appropriate level of customary trade is. I feel dollar
20 amounts
21 cannot be used because there's inflation. In 10 years
22 \$700 might be worth nothing. It might take \$700 to buy
23 a five-gallon can of gas. So we can't set dollar
24 amounts.

25

26 That's the question. We're not trying
27 to change ANILCA. Customary trade is in ANILCA and it's
28 recognized that people did sell some fish. What the
29 Federal Board wants to see, what's the definition of
30 too much sale. That's the overlying question. So
31 we're not trying to change the law. We're trying to
32 define what customary amounts, what is traditionally
33 sold.

34

35 Did that clarify that issue for you,
36 Fred?

37

38 MR. F. HUNTINGTON: Well, what I was
39 saying is if I was to go to court under the cause of
40 overselling my catch and it went to the Federal system
41 of the law, actually the Federals would win the case or
42 I would win the case or would it go all the way up to
43 the Supreme Court and that's the direction it's heading
44 because subsistence is part of customary trade under
45 ANILCA.

46

47 Any regulation you make under
48 subsistence will determine who gets to go to court and
49 who is going to win the case.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

2

3 MR. F. HUNTINGTON: And that's what I'm
4 saying.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right now the
7 Federal regulation says that you can have customary
8 trade of raw, unprocessed fish that does not constitute
9 a significant commercial enterprise. The question is
10 that the Federal Board wants answered what is a
11 significant commercial enterprise. What is customary
12 and what's too much. We're kind of to the point where
13 they can't prosecute effectively people with this gray
14 area. It's a target we don't know what we're shooting
15 at. That's what the subcommittee is going to be
16 working on, defining what is a significant commercial
17 enterprise.

18

19 Go ahead.

20

21 MR. F. HUNTINGTON: When you say
22 commercial, that's determined under State law.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would be moving
25 into what is commercial. What we're trying to define
26 is what is subsistence and what gets into commercial.
27 Where is the threshold? Where does selling like a boat
28 load of strips moves into commercial. That's what the
29 subcommittee is going to be working on. That's the
30 question, Fred, the Subsistence Board is asking of us.

31

32 One more comment.

33

34 MR. F. HUNTINGTON: One thing, you
35 know, when I'm sitting there, I'm not making these
36 things up on my own or anything. I don't wish it to be
37 as it is. However, we're still looking at the idea of
38 the Federal user, subsistence user, which have rural
39 preference over State law. If the State does not
40 comply with the Federal law, eventually the State could
41 lose it's hold on management and that's what we want to
42 avoid. We don't want the Federal managers to take over
43 what State -- the co-management. Co-management system
44 seems to be working for us. However, we're fine tuning
45 some stuff in regards to what's happening. We need to
46 be aware the Federal management could take over State
47 management of fish and game in Alaska should they not
48 comply with what we're doing there.

49

50 So I just needed to come up and make

1 those comments. We could talk on it all day and worry
2 about it. That's what's going to happen if it's going
3 to go somewhere.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I appreciate
6 your comments, Fred. I think the Council is getting
7 hungry. Any further questions of Fred.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate it.

12
13 MR. F. HUNTINGTON: Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other public
16 comments. I didn't know of any. Donald.

17
18 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
19 would just remind the Chair that we may have some
20 people online wishing to testify and I can double check
21 on that, Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is there somebody on
24 there?

25
26 MR. MIKE: Do we have anybody on the
27 telephone that wishes to testify to the Council?

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't hear
30 anybody.

31
32 MR. MIKE: There's no one, Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. At this time
35 we've covered the public comments, so a break for
36 lunch. How long? About an hour for lunch? Eleanor,
37 you had a comment? Is the lunch here?

38
39 REPORTER: It's not, no.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, it's not here.
42 When does it get here?

43
44 REPORTER: When it gets here.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 REPORTER: She said around noon.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: For some reason I

1 was smelling food. I just assumed it was here. Sorry.
2 We have some salmon bycatch on groundfish fisheries
3 issues that we're moving into. Do we have a fairly
4 short presentation, Donald, of one of these?

5
6 MR. MIKE: Yeah, Mr. Chair. We do have
7 a short OSM briefing on Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands on
8 Page 18.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

11
12 MR. MIKE: And we didn't have any
13 Federal Staff identified to provide that briefing, but
14 that briefing is on Page 18 for the Council's
15 reference.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So there is no Staff
20 to review this with? Go ahead, Polly.

21
22 DR. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. There is a
23 briefing in the book, but that briefing was intended to
24 supplement what the North Pacific Fisheries Management
25 Council Staff were going to say. It was my
26 understanding they were going to be on the plane this
27 morning, but they weren't, so I don't know where they
28 are. Donald, have you heard from them?

29
30 MR. MIKE: No, I haven't heard, but
31 they said they would be on the morning flight and I
32 haven't seen them yet.

33
34 DR. WHEELER: Well, they weren't. I
35 have a couple points I can make about the North Pacific
36 Fishery Management Council, Mr. Chair, if you'd like,
37 but it looks like lunch is here, so you probably want
38 to do that.

39
40 MR. WALKER: Yeah, we want to do that.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, let's eat
45 lunch now that it's arrived. I appreciate your
46 information that you'll bring to the Council. So we'll
47 break for lunch for about one hour, so 1:20.

48
49 (Off record)

50

1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Western Interior
4 Council is coming back to order. Darrell, we're going
5 to start the meeting, so I want to get everybody's
6 attention here. So we're back on Agenda Item 11 and
7 the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands OSM briefing can occur,
8 but the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
9 Staff that was supposed to be here this morning is
10 going to come tomorrow I've learned, so we're going to
11 move them back in the agenda because we do want to hear
12 their presentation. Then OSM has a Gulf of Alaska
13 briefing and then we're going to move into Yukon River
14 salmon pre-season outlook. I would like Gene Sandone
15 -- he has a time constraint, so we'd like Gene Sandone
16 to present agenda item 12 at that time. So if you can
17 hold on for those two OSM presentations on Bering
18 Sea/Aleutian Islands OSM briefing. I guess you're
19 doing that, Polly.

20

21 DR. WHEELER: Yes, Mr. Chair. I can
22 actually be pretty brief on that. I'm not going to get
23 into the specifics of the information that the North
24 Pacific Fisheries Management Council is going to get
25 into. So you can actually see the written briefings in
26 your book on Page 18 and the Gulf of Alaska is on Page
27 26.

28

29 I will tell you right up front the
30 briefings are pretty technical in nature. My
31 recommendation is that you, as a Council, read them on
32 your own time and be prepared with questions tomorrow
33 when the North Pacific Council is here. Our key piece
34 of information for you to consider is that the North
35 Pacific Fisheries Management Council is going to be
36 meeting in Nome in June to deal with chum bycatch. We,
37 being OSM, are prepared to pay for a Council member
38 from each of the affected Councils to attend that
39 meeting. Clearly you don't have enough information in
40 front of you to make a specific recommendation from
41 this Council to the Council up in Nome at the June
42 meeting.

43

44 My recommendation is that at this
45 meeting you select a person to represent this Council
46 and because you're not going to be able to give
47 anything real specific, you can talk generally what
48 your recommendation may be, you may want to express
49 that chum salmon is important to the inshore
50 subsistence users, management plans for inshore

1 subsistence fisheries are conservation based and chum
2 salmon conservation needs to be assured whatever
3 bycatch option they choose. So that you have sort of
4 these general principals that this Council has in mind
5 and that whoever you select can go to the meeting and
6 speak to those general principals.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you,
9 Polly. Does the Council have any questions. Robert
10 and Carl just came in during Polly's briefing. She's
11 pointing out the Page 18 Bering Sea pollock fishery
12 chum salmon bycatch update, which the North Pacific
13 Fisheries Management Council was supposed to be here
14 this morning but they're not until tomorrow, so I
15 suggest, as Polly does, reading Page 18 and 26 so that
16 you kind of know what the overview is, so that when the
17 North Pacific Fisheries Management presentation is here
18 tomorrow we can ask pertinent questions during their
19 presentation. Is that clear, Robert and Carl?

20

21 (Member Morgan and Walker nod
22 affirmatively)

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments
25 from the Council at this time. Tim.

26

27 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Polly, is there any information here that talks about
29 the distribution of -- I see one chart that shows the
30 numbers of non-chinook salmon bycatch on Page 23, but
31 is there any breakdown of what river systems like on a
32 percentage basis the bycatch is?

33

34 DR. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. Member
35 Gervais. We're way out of my league here with regard
36 to what this information actually means. My
37 understanding is based on genetic samples they have
38 general idea where the fish come from, but it's not
39 tied necessarily to specific tributaries or anything
40 like that. I've already exhausted my knowledge on
41 this, so I would encourage you to speak to the Council
42 Staff tomorrow when they come in or if any fisheries
43 biologists are sitting behind me that want to volunteer
44 that information they're welcome to.

45

46 MR. GERVAIS: Okay, thank you. Do you
47 know what dates in June that meeting in Nome is?

48

49 DR. WHEELER: I don't even know that
50 either. I'm not very helpful, am I? It's June 2011 in

1 Nome. That's what I do know. The council may know the
2 meeting. They're going to have to know the meeting
3 shortly. I don't know the date offhand, but I can get
4 on my technology and find out if we know the dates yet
5 and get back to you on that.

6

7 MR. PAPPAS: 6 through 14th.

8

9 DR. WHEELER: See, I didn't even have
10 to get on my technology.

11

12 MS. PETRIVELLI: Page 25.

13

14 DR. WHEELER: Oh, there you go. Read
15 what's in front of you, I guess.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This Council will be
18 -- I would like to have representation at that meeting
19 in Nome and we'll designate a representative after we
20 hear the North Pacific Management Council presentation
21 tomorrow whenever they may arrive. I appreciate the
22 overview on that Polly. Until the North Pacific
23 Management Council arrives I feel I would like the
24 Council to read 18 to 26 tonight or whenever you get
25 the chance to sort of get an idea of what's going to
26 happen and thing about some questions.

27

28 We're moving down the agenda to 12,
29 fisheries issues. The Yukon River salmon preseason
30 outlook. We're going to put that on hold. Gene
31 Sandone has presented to the YK Delta Council a
32 PowerPoint presentation. Come to the table, Gene. I'm
33 going to put Gene up here. He's under a time
34 constraint. So he'll give us an overview of some
35 issues with his organization and then we'll move into
36 the preseason outlook after that.

37

38 Go ahead, Gene.

39

40 MR. SANDONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
41 really appreciate you allowing me to make this
42 presentation today. I have to get back. My daughter
43 is having my first grandchild, so my wife is going
44 down. That's why I need to be back tonight.

45

46 My presentation here, I presented it at
47 YRDFA and also presented it at Yukon Delta
48 telephonically. It's Yukon Area Chinook Salmon
49 Subsistence and Personal Use Harvest Patterns. You can
50 throw trends in there. This is all data taken from

1 ADF&G publications or preliminary data and there's also
2 a few personal communications when I needed
3 clarification on numbers. So this is not any of my
4 data. It's kind of summarized for you. I will note
5 where data are preliminary in the presentation.

6
7 I think this was useful for the RACs to
8 see for a number of reasons. First off I think you can
9 probably use it in your customary trade discussions as
10 a base. It's basically what has happened over the
11 years with chinook salmon harvests. I think that as
12 maybe subsistence grows or as the runs decline we're at
13 a point now where there is just enough fish for
14 subsistence uses or maybe not even enough because of
15 the run sizes that have decreased over time.

16
17 In my estimation, we've lost maybe a
18 third to a half of the production of the Yukon River
19 chinook salmon. That translates basically into
20 harvest. So we lost our commercial fisheries. We used
21 to take 100,000 per year in the commercial fishery
22 chinook salmon. They're gone basically. Last year we
23 had an incidental harvest in the chum salmon fishery of
24 10,000 fish. Besides that, all the incidental harvests
25 in District 4 with all the fishwheels, they're gone.
26 So we're seeing a lot of fish moving upriver that
27 didn't move upriver before. A lot of the smaller fish
28 are moving upriver now. The chum fisheries are gone in
29 the lower river and also the chum fisheries in District
30 4.

31
32 My name is Gene Sandone and a little
33 bit of background. I've worked for the Department on
34 the Yukon River since 1988. I was Yukon River research
35 biologist, then the regional research biologist, and
36 then finally the regional supervisor for AYK, so I have
37 a long history with Yukon issues.

38
39 Just to get you familiar with the Yukon
40 River, the Alaska portion, about two-thirds of it is in
41 Alaska, about a third in Canada. You've got District 1
42 here, going about from the mouth through St. Mary's.
43 District 2, St. Mary's up to and including Pilot
44 Station, Marshall. Then District 3 we have Russian
45 Mission, Holy Cross. District 4 is a very long
46 district. It goes from Old Paradise, was just below
47 Anvik, all the way up to Illinois Creek here. It also
48 includes the Koyukuk River drainage. District 3 also
49 includes the Innoko River drainage. District 5 goes
50 from Illinois Creek all the way up to the Canadian

1 border, so that's a very long district also. District
2 6 is basically the Tanana River drainage.

3
4 Now if we look at chinook salmon
5 harvest over time, and I want to point out to you that
6 the data from 1975 through 1987 are not strictly
7 comparable with data after 1987 because there was a
8 change in methodology of assessing the runs. But these
9 can be used for trends. We believe that this trend
10 probably occurred; that the harvests were fairly low
11 and an increase through the late 1980s and remained
12 fairly constant as far as the averages go overall.

13
14 The red is the upper river harvest and
15 the blue is the lower river harvest with these
16 horizontal lines representing five year averages. So
17 you can see that the upper river took about, most
18 recent average about 30,000 fish, with the lower river
19 taking about 20,000 fish.

20
21 This is the same graph except we're
22 using proportions over here from 0 to 80 percent and
23 you can see that most recently the upper river is
24 taking about 60 percent of the harvest with the lower
25 river taking about 40 percent.

26
27 I'm going to spend a little bit of time
28 on this graph, but on graphs of this nature in the
29 presentation I'm not going to spend that much time
30 because I think the subsequent graphs are more
31 informative. This is a graph that shows the chinook
32 salmon harvest on the Y axis and years on the X axis by
33 district. The Lower Yukon area Districts 1, 2 and 3,
34 and then the Upper River District 4, 5 and 6, and
35 they're color-coded.

36
37 You can see that District 5 is
38 currently taking the most fish, about 17,000. District
39 4 about second, 13,000. District 2 over here about
40 nine. District 1 at about six. District 3 at about a
41 five and then down here the decreasing trend in
42 District 6 about 1,500 chinook salmon subsistence
43 harvest.

44
45 This graph, you take these five-year
46 averages and this is why I think it's more informative
47 than the next graph. If you look here, you'll see that
48 these are the five-year averages reflected in the
49 previous graph. I think you can see trends a little
50 better here. You can see that District 5 was taking an

1 average of close to 19,000 fish in the 1989-93 period,
2 declined through the disaster years 1998 through 2003,
3 and then increased in the most recent years. Again,
4 the pattern of District 5 ranks 1, 4 ranks 2, District
5 2, District 1, District 3 and then District 6.

6
7 This is proportion. I'm not going to
8 spend a lot of time with this one. This is the five-
9 year average proportion for each district and the ranks
10 basically follow the harvest pattern.

11
12 This graph I'm going to spend a little
13 time here. This is chinook salmon harvest by
14 community. We have all the communities here on the X
15 axis. There's the coastal district here. We have
16 numbers on the Y axis. Coastal district. District 1
17 is in the blue diamonds. District 2 is red diamonds.
18 District 3 is the black diamonds with Shageluk on the
19 Innoko River as a triangle. The triangles represent
20 communities that are off the mainstem or off the Tanana
21 River. We have District 4 in light blue here. The
22 Koyukuk River drainage communities down here. District
23 5 in the red diamonds with the two Venetie and
24 Chalkyitsik on the Chandalar and Black rivers and then
25 also the Tanana River drainage.

26
27 You can see that it ranges from about
28 4,000 fish in the Tanana to very very low numbers in
29 the Koyukuk with fairly low numbers in mainstem Birch
30 Creek and Central in District 5. This is the 2004 to
31 2008 mean and I want to point out that the 2006 and
32 2007 data are preliminary and they're subject to
33 change.

34
35 Now we looked at a number of fishing
36 households. It's interesting that basically they've
37 been staying the same. It hasn't had much change
38 overall, but what's changed is that the lower and upper
39 river communities now are basically even. There's
40 about the same number of fishing households in the
41 upper area as in the lower area and that's the 2004 to
42 2008 average.

43
44 This is number of fishing households by
45 districts. I said I wasn't going to spend a lot of
46 time with these, but these kind of show the variations
47 and you can see that District 6 has shown a remarkable
48 drop here and you'll be able to see this more prevalent
49 on this five-year average graph. Again it's the same
50 information, just using the five-year averages. It

1 shows some increasing trends in these districts up
2 here, District 2, 4, 1 and 5 with a decrease -- well,
3 District 5 is basically stable, with a decrease during
4 the disaster years, but the precipitous decline in
5 District 6 through the 1994-98, through 1999-2003
6 period, and then stable. District 3 increasing
7 slightly.

8
9 This is fishing households by
10 community. I've divided it into quartiles. This is
11 the top 11 communities on this graph. Ranks 1 through
12 6, ranks 7 through 11. I'll go through the rest of the
13 quartiles here momentarily. You can see that in ranks
14 1 through 6 most of them are either stable or
15 increasing here. Alakanuk is fairly stable. Hooper
16 Bay has increased dramatically through '99-2003 and
17 then has basically leveled off. Here's that big
18 decrease in District 6 where you can see Fairbanks.
19 These are personal use permits that dropped off
20 dramatically for people fishing in the Tanana River.
21 So that's where that big drop off comes. Again, these
22 are the top 11 communities as far as fishing
23 households.

24
25 Then we go to the next quartile, the
26 next 11. I've kept the axes the same, 0 to 140 for
27 comparative reasons. More stable here, possibly even
28 decreasing. Then the third quartile, and you can
29 probably see your village that you're from on these and
30 note how they compare to the rest of the drainage.
31 Finally the fourth quartile. Most notably Minto here
32 has decreased quite a bit along with Rampart. So these
33 communities have decreased pretty much in numbers of
34 fishing households.

35
36 If we look at fishing households by
37 communities, we see that this is a coastal district.
38 There's kind of a decreasing trend here possibly
39 through District 4 and then a leveling out in District
40 5 and District 6. This median at about 20 fishing
41 households per community is indicating that 50 percent
42 of the communities are above that. They have more than
43 20 fishing households per community and 50 percent are
44 below that line.

45
46 So that kind of gives you a point of
47 reference, the numbers or the villages that are above
48 the line and then below the line. You can see that it
49 ranks from about nearly 120 in Hooper Bay and then we
50 have -- I think that's Marshall at about 100 and then

1 drops off in the Koyukuk communities here and then the
2 Ramparts and Birch Creek are fairly low too.

3
4 This is chinook salmon harvested per
5 fishing household. Again, I'm not going to spend a lot
6 of time on this graph. It shows the variation by year
7 and then they also have the five-year averages in the
8 bars, and you go to the next graph and it has just the
9 five-year averages, so it's a little easier to see
10 trends in chinook salmon harvested per fishing
11 household. Again, the 2006-2007 data fishing household
12 data are preliminary. They don't have those, ADF&G,
13 published yet. You can see there's a decreasing and a
14 stable trend in District 5. District 3 is decreasing.
15 District 4 is basically stable and then there's slight
16 decreasing in District 2, District 1 and District 6 is
17 fairly stable.

18
19 This is like the other graph, but this
20 is chinook salmon harvested per fishing household and
21 I've ranked the communities. These are the top 11
22 communities and the number one community for numbers of
23 fish is Rampart and they're kind of converging here.
24 Tanana is seconds, Stevens Village third, Circle
25 fourth, Fort Yukon is in there and also Anvik. Anvik
26 has shown quite an increase here from around 25 up to
27 nearly 75 or 80.

28
29 This is the second quartile or the next
30 11 villages, ranks 12 to 21. There's been a decline in
31 Russian Mission and also the District 5 villages that
32 are too few to select as one village. They're kind of
33 lumped by ADF&G.

34
35 And the third quartile. And the fourth
36 quartile.

37
38 This is a graph similar to what you've
39 seen before and this is mean number of chinook salmon
40 harvested per fishing household by community and
41 there's a somewhat trend up through Districts 3 here of
42 increasing where -- again, this is the median value.
43 It's 33 salmon per fishing household. Fifty percent of
44 the communities are above that line, 50 percent are
45 below that line. They range from about over 105 in
46 Rampart down to maybe one in Bettles with low numbers
47 in District 6 villages and Chalkyitsik.

48
49 This is a number of people per fishing
50 household by community. The median is about 3.3 people

1 per fishing household. The P's inside these red and
2 green blocks indicate that these were taken from
3 permits issued. I don't have the information from
4 permits that were fished and returned, but these are
5 from permits issued and over 50 percent of the permits
6 issued in the permit area have been returned, so I
7 think it's a pretty good surrogate for the numbers of
8 fishing households per permit. So it ranges from about
9 six in Scammon Bay down to about less than one in
10 Bettles.

11
12 Talking about the permits. I wanted to
13 bring this slide in to show you where the communities
14 are that are required permits, so it's the entire
15 Tanana River drainage. Up in 5C it's Rampart and then
16 around Circle and Eagle. So people that live in these
17 villages need permits, either subsistence permits or in
18 the case of the Fairbanks non-subsistence use personal
19 use permits.

20
21 You figure one more step further you
22 have chinook salmon harvested per person by community.
23 Overall we've got about 8.1 chinook salmon harvested
24 per person. That, again, is 50 percent of the
25 communities harvest more than that per person, 50
26 percent harvest less than that per person. The coastal
27 districts are very low. The Koyukuk River is very low
28 and the Tanana in some villages are very low.
29 Increasing in District 1, District 2, District 3,
30 District 4. Finally we have about 35 fish per person
31 in the village of Tanana, closely followed by Rampart.

32
33 Now I want to talk a little bit about
34 the origin of chinook salmon in the subsistence and
35 personal use harvest. Now we have three stock
36 groupings in the Yukon. There's the Lower River stock,
37 and I'll just go to this next slide. The lower river
38 stock includes all the tributaries. Fish originating
39 from these tributaries in the Lower River up through
40 the Gisasa River and the Koyukuk and then up around the
41 Tozitna River, which is up here. So all that's
42 classified as the Lower Yukon stock group.

43
44 The middle stock group, which is also
45 Alaskan, is the Upper Koyukuk River, the Tanana River
46 and also the Chandalar River and the Sheenjok River,
47 which is not shown in this graph but is a tributary to
48 the Porcupine River. So you have two stocking grouping
49 in Alaska, the lower and the middle.

50

1 Then you have the stock grouping in
2 Canada, which is all the fish that originate from
3 Canadian tributaries. We're going to see what they
4 contribute to the Alaskan subsistence and personal use
5 harvest. You can see that the upper grouping or the
6 Canadian grouping averages maybe about 60 percent
7 overall. That's six out of every 10 fish that are
8 harvested in Alaska for subsistence personal use are
9 Canadian origin.

10
11 The Middle River right now is about 32
12 percent, the most recent average. It has been lower.
13 Recently the Lower Yukon stock grouping has dropped
14 dramatically. It started to rise there, a trend, and
15 then dropped off here. I'm not really sure why that
16 happened. It seems like there's a switch that's going
17 on. It could be possibly windows. People are fishing
18 harder earlier and taking more of these stocks that
19 come in earlier than Lower River or possibly it could
20 be a stock productivity problem, that they're not
21 producing as many fish as they have in the past.

22
23 This is the Lower River stock and the
24 contribution of the Lower River stock to each district.
25 Districts 6 and 5 do not have an opportunity to harvest
26 Lower River stocks because those fish branch off the
27 tributaries before they hit those districts. So you
28 have Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4 are harvesting Lower River
29 stock and all the districts right now in the 2004 to
30 2007 average harvest less than 2,000 fish a piece.

31
32 The Middle River stock we're going to
33 talk about now. It averages maybe about 17,000 fish.
34 This is the contribution of the Middle River stock to
35 the harvests and we can see -- first off, District 5,
36 there's a contribution to the District 5 harvest that
37 has just recently been discovered. In 2002 ADF&G did a
38 radiotelemetry study that indicated there was
39 substantial populations of spawning chinook salmon in
40 the Chandalar and Sheenjek and that was news to ADF&G.
41 We assumed that every fish in District 5 was Canadian
42 origin until we found out that.

43
44 We did genetic stock -- I'm sorry.
45 ADF&G did genetic stock identification and found out
46 that about on the average about 3,000 fish harvested in
47 District 5 are coming from Chandalar and Sheenjek, so
48 that's why they are now represented on the Middle River
49 stock. They probably harvested fish from the Middle
50 River stock in these years, but we don't -- ADF&G

1 doesn't have the data to indicate that.

2

3 District 4 has recently increased their
4 harvest of Middle River stock from about 2,000 in 2003
5 to about 6,000 now. The rest of them have been fairly
6 stable with District 6 declining. Again, Middle River
7 stock, Tanana River, Upper Koyukuk, Chandalar,
8 Sheenjek. Then we look at the Upper River stock, which
9 has contributed about 30,000 fish most recently, 2004
10 to 2007 average. So basically the bulk of the fish,
11 about 55, 60 percent of the Alaskan harvest is Upper
12 River stock.

13

14 District 5 harvests the most. They
15 don't have the opportunity to harvest Lower River
16 stocks. They have limited opportunity to harvest
17 Middle River stocks, so the only fish they harvest
18 basically is Canadian origin. I just want to point out
19 here that this number -- these are not really
20 comparable because this number is -- these numbers
21 include Middle River stock through here and I don't
22 know how many they do, but they do include some. This
23 number doesn't. If you want to make it comparable, you
24 would add 3,000 to this number, making it about 17,000,
25 so that dot would be up here or decrease all these. So
26 I guess what I'm saying is this shows that it's stable
27 when it really isn't. It's increasing here these last
28 10 years.

29

30 As we've seen with the Middle River
31 stock, District 4 is harvesting more of that stock.
32 The rest of them are fairly stable with maybe a slight
33 increase here, overall increase in District 2.

34

35 That was just looking at proportions of
36 the Upper River stock. We can see that District 5 is
37 taking anywhere from greater than 60 percent to most
38 recently about 45 percent. Again these numbers are not
39 strictly comparable because these don't have the Middle
40 River stocks subtracted from them. This is a real
41 number. This is about 45 percent. So 45 percent of
42 all the Canadian fish harvested in the Alaska
43 subsistence and personal use fishery are harvested by
44 District 5 fishermen.

45

46 District 4 is now above 20 percent. We
47 have District 2 at about 15 percent and Districts 3 and
48 1 are less than 10 percent. District 6, again because
49 of their location, doesn't have an opportunity to
50 harvest Canadian origin stock.

1 Summary. The average -- this is
2 looking at 2004 to 2008 average Yukon area chinook
3 salmon harvest. The average harvest has been around
4 50,000 fish. Average district harvest ranged from
5 about 16,000 in District 5 to about 1.5 thousand in
6 District 6. The average harvest by community ranges
7 less than one chinook salmon in Bettles to nearly 4,000
8 in Tanana with the median value being 818. Again, 50
9 percent of the community is above that number and 50
10 percent below.

11
12 Average number of fishing households by
13 district. In District 2, there's 316 ranging down to
14 District 3, 103. Again, the Lower and Upper Rivers are
15 basically the same. The average number of fishing
16 households by community range from about 118 in Hooper
17 Bay and then 101 in Mountain Village on the mainstem to
18 less than one in Bettles. These are averages. The
19 median value is about 20 fishing households per
20 community.

21
22 Average chinook salmon district harvest
23 per fishing household range from about 63 in District 5
24 to about 15 in District 6. Average district harvest
25 per fishing household by community ranged less than one
26 in Bettles to about 105 in Rampart. The median value
27 is 33.

28
29 The number of people per fishing
30 household by community range from about six in Hooper
31 Bay and about five in Kotlik on the mainstem to less
32 than one in Bettles and the median value is about 3.3
33 people per fishing household.

34
35 Harvests per person by community ranged
36 from less than one in various six communities to 32 in
37 Tanana with a median value being about 8.1. The
38 Canadian stock contributes an average of over 30,000
39 salmon or over 58 percent to the total Alaskan harvest.
40 The average harvest proportion of Canadian stock by
41 district ranges from about 45 in District 5 to zero in
42 District 6 because they're not available, but in
43 Districts 3 and 1 they're about 9 percent.

44
45 I want to note again that District 5
46 does not have an opportunity to harvest Lower River
47 stocks and a very limited opportunity to harvest Middle
48 River stocks. That concludes my presentation.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Gene. Those

1 are pretty enlightening numbers. I enjoyed your
2 presentation. Does the Council have questions and
3 comments. Tim.

4

5 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6 Thanks for your presentation, Gene. Can you talk to on
7 your first chart why the 1970 numbers are so low?
8 Maybe if you know the data into the '60s. Is that due
9 to the joint venture or is it because there's no drift
10 gillnet fishing in the Lower River?

11

12 MR. SANDONE: Mr. Gervais, Mr. Chair.
13 Again, I want to point out that there was a change in
14 methodology in 1988 to estimate the harvest and that
15 could be part of it, but I do believe that there was an
16 increasing trend up through the mid '80s. What I've
17 been told, like I can speak to maybe a little bit of
18 the Lower River, is that they didn't have electricity
19 and their main fish that they used to harvest were chum
20 salmon because they dried very easily. When they
21 brought electricity on, people had freezers, so they
22 could actually take some more chinook salmon. I don't
23 know if that's true or not, but that's what I've been
24 told and I don't know any other reasons why. Maybe
25 someone else would have a better idea than I do.

26

27 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert.

30

31 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 Gene, all this is done with the subsistence calendar,
33 am I correct here?

34

35 MR. SANDONE: Mr. Chair. Mr. Walker.
36 No, sir. Fish & Game does a survey every year. They go
37 out to the villages and they interview different type
38 users, heavy users, medium users and light users, and
39 they come up with an estimate. I'm sure that people in
40 the audience, Steve Hayes, could speak to that more
41 intelligently. The calendar, I believe, are only used
42 in certain circumstances, maybe for timing and to give
43 people a better idea of what they caught throughout the
44 year. So it's the post season survey that is the
45 instrument that they use.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Further questions.

48 Don.

49

50 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 Gene, I just had a question. I mean a few years ago,
2 maybe it was two years ago when there was really high
3 water and stuff like that, there was people from, I
4 believe, Venetie and Chalkyitsik or something getting
5 enormous amount of king salmon up in their area, the
6 likes of which I haven't seen for some years. So
7 you're saying actually more of the fish are being --
8 you know, there was a bunch of numbers you gave us, but
9 is there more fish spawning in some of these rivers
10 that are not Canadian bound then?

11

12 MR. SANDONE: What I said is that when
13 we did the radiotelemetry project in 2002 to 2004,
14 prior to that time we thought that all the fish
15 harvested in District 5 were Canadian in origin. I
16 believe that there was some small harvests from Venetie
17 and Chalkyitsik that we attributed to Middle River
18 stocks, but they were the only harvest and we didn't
19 believe that there was a substantial spawning
20 population until the radiotelemetry indicated that,
21 hey, there's a lot of fish going up the Chandalar and
22 the Sheenjek.

23

24 Before 2004 we used scale pattern
25 analysis to determine stock of origin. We looked at
26 the different circular on the scales. They're like
27 rings of the tree. We could differentiate between the
28 Canadian, the Tanana and the Lower River stocks just by
29 that technique. But then we moved into genetic stock
30 identification where fish in the certain areas look
31 similar genetically and when we start looking at the
32 run in District 5 we realized that maybe about 8 or 10
33 percent of those fish that were caught were actually
34 going to spawn in the Chandalar and Sheenjek Rivers.

35

36 MR. HONEA: So is that kind of an
37 accurate figure then, about 60 percent of the fish,
38 chinook, 60 percent are Canadian bound?

39

40 MR. SANDONE: There's different timings
41 of stocks through the river. The Canadian usually
42 contribute more to the early run fish. The first
43 pulse, the second pulse, and their percentages decrease
44 as the run goes through. The Tanana is similar and
45 they are kind of an early run fish also, but maybe not
46 as early as the Canadian. They're kind of mixed. But
47 at the tail end the Lower River fish come in and they
48 predominate in the last few pulses.

49

50 So the subsistence fishery I believe is

1 front-end loaded. People want to get out and get their
2 fish, so they usually, I believe, harvest more of the
3 Canadian than in the total run and probably more of the
4 Middle River run that's in the total run. So the 60
5 percent that are Canadian stock that contributed to the
6 Alaska harvest is probably a little bit higher than the
7 run.

8

9 Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.
12 Comments. Questions from the Council. Ray.

13

14 MR. COLLINS: Based on where you are at
15 now in your understanding, that protecting of that
16 early stock then is the thing that would contribute to
17 most to escapement in Canada, is that right, based on
18 that being loaded and also that being the heaviest
19 fished?

20

21 MR. SANDONE: That is probably true,
22 but I think -- I don't want to speak for Fish & Game
23 here, but it's a balancing act because you don't want
24 to take the entire harvest of that first pulse and
25 throw it on the Alaskan stocks. You want to try to
26 make your escapement goals throughout the drainage and
27 that's, I believe with the runs that we're seeing now,
28 very difficult to do with the subsistence harvest.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any more questions
31 or comments.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My questions are the
36 number of fish that each household uses was portrayed,
37 but one point I would like to make is with the use of
38 large mesh gear in the Lower River, the size of the
39 fish -- you were just counting fish, but the size of
40 the fish was much larger and that was testified in the
41 Federal Subsistence Board meetings that people could
42 catch very large fish and didn't seem to realize there
43 was a problem of smaller fish up the drainage.

44

45 So one of the aspects that should be
46 thought of is that the size of the fish of each
47 household's take it may appear that there's reduced
48 numbers of fish, but the amount of poundage of harvest
49 is actually fairly large. As you move up river, the
50 fish have been sorted by gear size and actually it

1 takes more fish to achieve the same amount of effect
2 and I would like your comment on that.

3

4 Go ahead.

5

6 MR. SANDONE: Mr. Chair. I think that
7 you're partially right, but I think that large mesh
8 gear has been used throughout the Yukon River and I
9 know that people who use fishwheels, at least from Stan
10 Zuray's testimony, do not use fishwheels exclusively.
11 They may be putting in the net to catch the larger fish
12 for cutting. He just presented information for that
13 for the net replacement study, in supporting that
14 fishwheel people do get nets also.

15

16 I think it just depends on the gear
17 you're using. I mean if you're using fishwheels, I
18 think you're going to catch small fish, but there's not
19 a lot of fishwheels out there anymore. I think a lot
20 of people are using large mesh gear to harvest chinook
21 salmon. But I think you're partially right that it is
22 a poundage issue and somehow it could be incorporated
23 into this.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Another
26 comment. I see that what your presentation portrays is
27 the Rampart area is actually 5C and there's many
28 households from Fairbanks and various permits. That's a
29 permitted area and there's many users coming from
30 Fairbanks to fish. I know them fishing up there in
31 that 5C and I see that it's one of the highest harvest
32 per capita and the harvest rates. I wanted to point
33 out to the Council that that's not Rampart village
34 doing that, that's actually a significant urban usage
35 area on the Yukon River. That's a significant point. I
36 like the presentation, but I wanted to clarify that to
37 the Council that that's not just Rampart people doing
38 that.

39

40 Your comment.

41

42 MR. SANDONE: Yes, Mr. Chair. You're
43 absolutely correct. It appears -- and I'm not 100
44 percent sure of this, but I believe that where you
45 report -- like some people may fish in Rampart and then
46 their harvest information is reported in Fairbanks,
47 people who fished in District 5 and it's up there.
48 Also there could be people who fish in Rampart's area
49 that report from Tanana. I believe that the reports
50 now indicate what subdistricts the fish were caught at,

1 but I'm just reporting where they were reported by
2 village. But you are right.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, a cautionary
5 there is that, you know, people that live in Fairbanks
6 could be reporting District 6 if they're fishing in 5C,
7 so there's a significant impact to the Yukon River
8 upriver stocks by a fairly large urban contingent. I
9 just wanted to point that out to the Council that it's
10 a significant harvest area. I know people that have
11 fish camps up there, various fairly high-profile people
12 in Fairbanks that actually fish up there a significant
13 amount of time and take a lot of fish. Less than 20.
14 It would be fairly high significant numbers. So I feel
15 that 5C could be highlighted as an area of concern if
16 we're talking about Canadian stock. I wanted the
17 Council to be aware of that point.

18

19 The question is what is -- you know,
20 the Chandalar drainage contribution, I know it's
21 contributing to the harvest. Do you have sort of an
22 average run size for the Chandalar? I've never seen a
23 number on what those Chandalar runs are. Is it several
24 thousands? It must be 20,000, 30,000 fish, chinook
25 going in there.

26

27 MR. SANDONE: I know they can't
28 differentiate Chandalar from Sheenjek and I'm not
29 really sure if they could differentiate Chandalar,
30 Sheenjek from Upper Koyukuk or Tanana. I know we don't
31 have a weir on there, nor a sonar. I think the only
32 thing we have is aerial surveys and I can't speak to
33 that.

34

35 Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you. I
38 would be somewhat concerned about the Chandalar stocks
39 if they're contributing 3,000 harvest and we don't know
40 what the stock composition is. I would be thinking
41 about that stock also.

42

43 Mr. Sandone.

44

45 MR. SANDONE: Mr. Chair. That's
46 Chandalar and Sheenjek contributing 3,000.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sheenjek's a
49 tributary of -- Sheenjek goes into which?

50

1 MR. SANDONE: Porcupine.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, is that a
4 Porcupine drainage? My geographic knowledge failed me.
5 Thank you. Any further comments from the Council on
6 the presentation. Did you have a statement for the
7 Council that's supplementary information?

8

9 MR. SANDONE: Maybe I could take my
10 science hat off now and just be public testimony.
11 Regarding customary trade, I've said it before, and I'm
12 not speaking to anything here. I'm just speaking as a
13 person, public.

14

15 I've said it in the past that I'm not
16 concerned that much about customary trade even defined
17 as it will be in the future. What I'm concerned about
18 is the abuses of customary trade. We're getting to the
19 point now where the chinook salmon runs cannot satisfy
20 all the subsistence uses and I was at the Federal
21 Subsistence Board meeting when I saw the door crack as
22 far as priorities for subsistence uses. ANILCA lists a
23 number of subsistence uses, human consumption,
24 customary trade, transportation.

25

26 Now both the State and the Federal
27 Subsistence Board have prohibited the feeding of
28 chinook salmon to dogs and that was the first priority
29 that the Subsistence Board did with chinook salmon. At
30 the Federal Subsistence Board, the Solicitor indicated
31 that there was the potential for further prioritizing
32 subsistence uses. I suggested to YRDFA that they
33 consider a resolution indicating that priority for
34 chinook salmon should be human consumption.

35

36 I believe, I didn't stay for the whole
37 meeting in YRDFA, but what I heard is that YRDFA took
38 that resolution or that idea and made it their own and
39 said that there should be -- customary trade should be
40 restricted to rural to rural and that includes a lot of
41 Alaska. So my suggestion would be to consider in your
42 customary trade discussions, especially when the runs
43 are this low so that they're not going to satisfy all
44 uses, is to restrict your customary trade when runs are
45 low to the Yukon management area rural to rural.

46

47 It doesn't make a lot of sense to me
48 that when runs are so low you have a Federal special
49 action restricting subsistence to Federally qualified
50 rural people if they're going to take a large portion

1 of their catch and sell it in Fairbanks or Anchorage.
2 I mean it kind of defeats the purpose in my mind.

3

4 So that would be my recommendation, Mr. Chair.
5 Thank you for allowing me to voice that.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is public
8 comment and I consider you part of the public now, not
9 an ADF&G on your hat anymore, so I considered it as
10 public comment. Personally, I do think that the
11 customary and traditional use determinations for Yukon
12 River chinook salmon are for Yukon River communities
13 and that you could actually lean in that direction,
14 rural to rural within the customary and traditional.
15 You get into what -- Fairbanks is in the Yukon River
16 drainage, but Fairbanks is in a non-subsistence area
17 and would not actually be eligible under Federal
18 regulations to participate.

19

20 When this Council discussed customary
21 trade several years ago, I personally, as a Council
22 member, said that if there was a problem of Yukon River
23 fish it should be rural to rural inside the Yukon. I
24 actually said that. It's in the transcript somewhere
25 back there in the archives. I feel that it may come to
26 the point -- you know, that should be a part of the
27 discussion of the customary trade. It should be one of
28 the things on the table at the subcommittee meeting, so
29 I appreciate that comment personally.

30

31 Further comments or questions for Gene
32 Sandone's presentation. Don.

33

34 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I'd just kind of like
35 to mention, I guess, in the McGrath meeting that when
36 we say that we use, taken for dogs, we're not talking
37 about chinook salmon at all. It's personally chum.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Tim.

40

41 MR. GERVAIS: Gene, could you comment
42 what you think would be the important component or
43 components of an effective rebuilding program for the
44 Yukon chinook run?

45

46 MR. SANDONE: I'll put my science hat
47 back on. I think that getting the right numbers and
48 right type of fish on the grounds is paramount. I
49 think if we make it in Canada under the management
50 regime we have now, we'll make it everywhere in the

1 rest of the drainage. But I believe that the
2 escapement should reflect the long-term brood year
3 return.

4

5 In other words, if the brood year
6 return says they have 60 percent six year olds in it,
7 then that's what should be on the ground, 60 percent of
8 six year olds. It shouldn't be a predominance of
9 younger-aged fish.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

12

13 MS. PELKOLA: Gene, I just want to
14 clarify something, I guess. When I was growing up,
15 chinook salmon, to me wasn't king salmon. I mean king
16 salmon wasn't chinook salmon. To me, chinook was the
17 last fish that came up the river and it looked
18 something like trout and there's still some elders that
19 do call it -- they don't call chinook -- I still have a
20 hard time. King salmon is chinook, right?

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

23

24 MS. PELKOLA: Okay. They don't call it
25 chinook, they call it king salmon. I guess what I'm
26 trying to say is I know a lot of the elders still call
27 it king salmon and we still call chinook salmon chinook
28 salmon and I don't know what kind of fish that is, the
29 English name for that one. In my mind, I'm trying to
30 keep up with your report, but I keep seeing this other
31 kind of fish when you say it. So I guess we have to
32 educate the elders and myself included to get the new
33 term. That's just a comment.

34

35 MR. SANDONE: Mr. Chair. I think I
36 need to tailor my presentations to say king salmon
37 rather than chinook. I think you're right. I think
38 next time I give my presentation it will be king
39 salmon.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comment, it may
44 be that coho, which is silver salmon, are the late run
45 and they can be blush like a king salmon.

46

47 MS. PELKOLA: I know what coho is.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's not that.

50

1 MS. PELKOLA: It's not that.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the late run is a
4 small king then is what you're talking about.
5
6 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah. It has red meat.
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We have to
9 have it all on the record. Enough discussion on that.
10 Thanks for the presentation, Gene. I appreciate that.
11
12 One more little thing that was kind of
13 rattling around. You present information by community.
14 What is the confidence level on participation of the
15 communities in the data collection. Some communities
16 may be better at divulging information than others and
17 I was wondering is subsistence division sorted that
18 out? Do they have fudge factors calculated in? In
19 your research, did you see that?
20
21 MR. SANDONE: Mr. Chair. Commercial
22 Fisheries Division does all the subsistence surveys.
23 It's based upon a sampling design that Subsistence
24 Division did do, but to answer your question
25 specifically there are confidence intervals on many of
26 the estimates that ADF&G makes and it's in the annual
27 report. So if you go to your community, I know they
28 have a stratified design where they sample -- they
29 surveyed more of the heavy users and medium users and
30 down to the light users. They try to get all the heavy
31 users surveyed, but there are confidence intervals
32 around that estimate.
33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I again
35 appreciate your presentation. It does have some very
36 pertinent information. For this Council, as we move
37 forward in trying to rebuild these stocks and various
38 proposals that may be necessary for conservation of
39 Yukon River king salmon.
40
41 Thank you.
42
43 Becca, you have something to say there?
44
45 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Yeah, thank you,
46 Mr. Chair. I just have a quick correction that I
47 wanted to make sure was reflected on the record. Gene,
48 Becca Robbins-Gisclair with the Yukon River Drainage
49 Fisheries Association. I just wanted to clarify that
50 the YRDFFA board did not pass any resolution addressing

1 customary trade. I think Gene just said that we had
2 looked at that. The board did talk about it, but no
3 resolution was based.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate
6 that clarification. I got a request from the public,
7 from Tim Bodony, that has a prior commitment today, so
8 he wanted to make a comment to the Western Interior
9 Council. Go ahead, Tim.

10

11 MR. BODONY: Thank you very much for
12 fitting me in the agenda. My name is Tim Bodony, B-O-
13 D-O-N-Y. I'm an eight-year resident of Galena and I've
14 been a subsistence user for seven of those years since
15 I was Federally qualified. I wanted to speak while I
16 had the opportunity here about Yukon River salmon
17 management.

18

19 I think I have the dubious distinction
20 of being the only one, Mr. Chair, who filed a comment
21 to the Federal Subsistence Board in support of your
22 proposal that ended up being rejected regarding
23 protection of the first pulse of king salmon. I want
24 to thank you for putting that through and hope you
25 stick with it personally, and all the other boards
26 continue to consider that management option of
27 protecting that first pulse of king salmon going into
28 the river.

29

30 That said, I'd like to comment on
31 what's coming up next in the agenda and that's State
32 and Federal managers talking about the rebuilding
33 initiative for king salmon. I'm encouraged as a
34 subsistence user by some of the things I read here in
35 this summary document, this two-page document 2011
36 Yukon River chinook salmon rebuilding initiative. I'm
37 very encouraged by some of the language in here that we
38 are now talking about conservation in a real serious
39 way.

40

41 In general, if I could sum up my
42 comments today to you, it would be that I don't feel
43 like we can fish our way out of the problem we're in.
44 Adjusting net sizes, changing window lengths, adjusting
45 the legal limits of nets and boats and everything I
46 think is going to get to a sort of Darwinian moment
47 where only the strong survive in the village. Those
48 with the most wherewithal and force to go out there in
49 an eight-hour subsistence opening and dominate a
50 driftnet spot and try to intimidate others off of it.

1 I think it would only create more animosity within
2 villages and between villages as we continue to tinker
3 and tinker with opportunities.

4
5 I see more hope for rebuilding the king
6 stock and doing something like a full closure on the
7 first pulse, which is a pretty drastic management
8 action. Certainly not popular in many places, but I
9 think it was effective in 2009 to accomplish the goal
10 of getting higher escapement.

11
12 I believe that's all I wanted to
13 present to you. Again, thank you for allowing me to
14 squeeze into the agenda here.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate those
17 comments. Does Council have questions for Tim's
18 position.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I personally can see
23 how short windows could be highly competitive, so I
24 will take that into consideration as we move through
25 this dilemma that the king salmon run is in.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MR. BODONY: Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have some others,
32 Brad Scotton and John Stam wanted to make comments. I
33 was wondering if you two are going to be present after
34 these fisheries issues and can you make your comments
35 afterward, Brad?

36
37 MR. SCOTTON: Yes.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And John.

40
41 MR. STAM: Yes.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we'll move
44 into Yukon River salmon preseason outlook. That would
45 be Alaska Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and
46 Wildlife. State your name for the record, please.

47
48 MR. MASCHMANN: Mr. Chairman and RAC
49 members. My name is Gerald Maschmann and I work for
50 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service out of Fairbanks. I

1 assist Fred Bue, who is the Federal Manager with Yukon
2 River salmon management. If you'll turn to Page 31 in
3 your book, you'll find the joint ADF&G/Fish & Wildlife
4 Service paper titled 2011 Yukon River chinook salmon
5 rebuilding initiative.

6

7 The one in your book we've found an
8 error, so I've handed out a new one. The error is in
9 the second graph. You'll notice at the top of that
10 second graph it says lower IMEG. That should read
11 42,500 and the one in your book says 45,000.

12

13 This paper will be part of a packet of
14 materials that YRDFA will be sending out advertising
15 this spring's salmon preparedness meeting similar to
16 what we've had the past two years. The purpose of the
17 meeting is to bring people together from all over the
18 drainage to exchange information and communicate their
19 concerns and suggestions with fisheries managers.

20

21 The meeting is funded by the
22 U.S./Canada money and is scheduled for April 13th in
23 Anchorage. Jason Hale with YRDFA will have more
24 specifics for you on the meeting. At this time we are
25 still working among both agencies and with Canada on
26 the 2011 outlook, so we do not have a formal outlook in
27 hand yet. However, this paper generalizes our
28 expectations for the coming season. Since it's fairly
29 short, I'd like to just read through it now.

30

31 Yukon River chinook salmon are
32 important to all users in the Yukon Area.
33 Unfortunately, they have experienced a drop in
34 production. Current run sizes are about half of
35 historic levels, making it difficult to meet escapement
36 goals and provide for subsistence uses on the river.
37 Harvests have been greatly reduced since 2000. Despite
38 good parent year escapements in 2007, 2008, and 2010,
39 runs were below expectations and escapement goals into
40 Canada were not met.

41

42 Preliminary analyses suggest the 2011
43 Yukon River chinook salmon run will again be below
44 average to poor. Due to poor production in recent
45 years, it is likely the 2011 chinook run may not be
46 sufficient to fully support subsistence needs. Over
47 half of the Yukon River chinook salmon that are
48 harvested in Alaska are Canadian-origin. Therefore, it
49 is very important to keep Canadian as well as Alaska
50 stocks healthy.

1 Conservation of fisheries resources by
2 all users is extremely important for ensuring future
3 salmon runs. It is now prudent to enter the 2011
4 season with the expectation that conservation measures
5 will be required in an effort to meet escapement goals
6 and share the available subsistence harvest.

7
8 It is necessary for all users to help
9 in meeting escapement goals. In recent years, Canadian
10 fishermen have voluntarily
11 reduced their subsistence harvest, sometimes by more
12 than 50 percent, in order to allow fish to reach the
13 spawning grounds. During these low runs, it is
14 necessary for all users to look at the amount they
15 harvest and determine how they can help ensure adequate
16 Chinook salmon escapement.

17
18 Given the users concerns over the
19 future of Yukon River chinook salmon runs, it is
20 necessary to develop a management plan focused on
21 rebuilding the stocks. The initial objectives of the
22 plan would be to achieve escapement goals in the Alaska
23 portion of the drainage and meet escapement and harvest
24 sharing commitments to Canada. Furthermore, this plan
25 must provide for subsistence use of chinook salmon in
26 the Alaska portion of the drainage and management of
27 overlapping summer chum salmon fisheries.

28
29 Yukon River fisheries managers need
30 your assistance developing options and management
31 strategies for 2011 that will
32 assist in getting fish to the spawning grounds should
33 the chinook salmon run be similar to the poor runs of
34 2007, 2008, and 2010. Because of the trend of low
35 productivity, it is anticipated that a conservative
36 rebuilding plan will be in place for the next few
37 years.

38
39 During the winter and spring, State and
40 Federal fisheries managers will attend several meetings
41 to inform fishermen and user groups of the 2011
42 outlook, and to receive input on management options for
43 the 2011 fishing season. Yukon River fisheries
44 managers are soliciting practical ideas for reducing
45 chinook salmon harvests from resource users on the
46 river. All people who depend on Yukon River salmon
47 have a role in protecting these special fish for future
48 generations.

49
50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Gerald.
2 That's the completion of your presentation. Does the
3 Council have questions on Gerald's presentation.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none. Steve.

8
9 MR. HAYES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 For the record, my name is Steve Hayes with the Alaska
11 Department of Fish and Game. I'm the summer season
12 manager for chinook and summer chum. Just to briefly
13 add to what Gerald had just gave you, at this time we
14 don't have our confirmed outlook although we do have
15 preliminary information. We're looking at a run size
16 probably similar to what we saw last year for chinook.

17
18 We'll be going to the Yukon River Panel
19 meeting at the end of this month to determine what
20 escapement goals we'll have for the border into Canada
21 and also to present a more formal outlook to the panel.
22 After that we will then have our outlook that we will
23 get out to the public so that they know what's going
24 on.

25
26 At this time I would expect that we
27 should all be looking at something similar to last year
28 for both chinook and summer chum. As you heard in the
29 flyer that we put out, at this time we are looking at
30 conservation measures. What those are going to look
31 like I can't tell you at this time. I mean we have
32 some ideas of tools that we've used in the past in
33 2009. Whether it's reducing windows or pulling periods
34 off the first or second pulse.

35
36 I know we all talk about the first
37 pulse, but I think we need to be more open that it
38 could be more spread out because we do have a large
39 portion of Canadian fish still running in that second
40 pulse as well. It could be done differently within
41 districts. In 2009, it was pretty much consistent all
42 the way up the river how we did it. Well, we learn
43 more as we go that each district fishes differently
44 somewhat. There may be better ways to actually get
45 fish through each district differently. So we're going
46 to address that too as well in that in-person meeting
47 that Jason Hale will talk about I think later here.

48
49 I wish I had more to offer you, but as
50 I said at this time we're still working on the outlook.

1 The idea of the meeting is to get input from the users
2 that we can hopefully put into the management plan for
3 the summer.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Steve. Does
6 Council have comments on the State's preseason outlook.
7 Go ahead, Tim.

8
9 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 Thank you, Steve and Gerald, for your presentations.
11 To either of you, when we had that first pulse go
12 through in 2009 -- what the basis of this question is
13 going to be is about like tracking that pulse. People
14 didn't fish on that pulse, but just on the basis of
15 chance or luck or coincidence, when those fish got up
16 into Rampart rapids area they were on an opener with
17 that and actually had to pull their gear before their
18 period was closed because they couldn't handle the
19 volume of fish and stuff.

20
21 I wanted to get your comments on how
22 feasible it is to do accurate tracking in a subdistrict
23 mode and if it's financially feasible or have you given
24 any consideration to how to -- if you decide you want
25 to let a pulse through how you can track it so it
26 doesn't get stepped on by some village or some
27 district.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim. Go
30 ahead, Steve.

31
32 MR. HAYES: Mr. Chairman. Tim. First
33 of all I guess I would say managing this fishery or any
34 fishery you're not always going to be perfect. We put
35 that schedule in place in 2009 pretty much preseason
36 and we were actually pretty lucky that we did as well
37 as we did on the timing of the closures. It worked out
38 pretty well in the end. There's going to be times
39 where one subdistrict or district may hit the tail end
40 or the front of the pulse.

41
42 That's why earlier I said that we're
43 going to be trying to look at ways that we can treat
44 districts differently and when they may be closed.
45 Maybe it's not on the first pulse, maybe it's on the
46 second pulse. Like in subdistrict 5D, for example,
47 they're only fishing on Canadian fish. We have a
48 little bit more latitude that we may be able to pull
49 them off of either the first or second pulse.

50

1 At the same time, when we go into the
2 plan preseason, we're going to have in-season
3 information in the Lower River that we'll have a good
4 idea on the timing of the fish at that time and adjust
5 as we go. In 2009, it was pretty much set preseason
6 what we were doing.

7
8 But these are the things that we're
9 going to work on in this meeting and get input on and
10 how to address it. Is it going to be perfect in the
11 end, no, but the goal is to meet our escapement goals
12 and do what we can.

13
14 The other thing is to shift the
15 harvest. It's like Mr. Sandone had said earlier, you
16 know, at this point we feel that we have enough fish to
17 meet our escapement and provide for subsistence on this
18 run. It's delicate when you're trying to shift harvest
19 from maybe the first pulse to the second pulse and
20 things like that that we're trying to figure out how to
21 do.

22
23 I would anticipate looking at something
24 similar to what we did in '09. I don't think, based
25 upon the preliminary outlook that we're seeing, that
26 it's going to be as restrictive as it was in 2009.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Ray.

29
30 MR. COLLINS: Do you have the means and
31 the technology to accurately track a pulse let's say by
32 tagging those fish and following a certain number of
33 them upriver? Do you have gear that could check when
34 they go by there? Is any of that being done? How are
35 you tracking the pulses?

36
37 MR. HAYES: Well, currently we're
38 tracking the pulses in the Lower River. The first
39 project that we have is the Lower River test fishery.
40 Once those fish have hit that project we then know at
41 what speed they're traveling. We have a spreadsheet
42 that we track in-season. Based on the miles between
43 that project and the next community or project we're
44 able to tell when those fish will be hitting that area.
45 It actually works pretty well. I mean it's not perfect
46 all the time. It could be half a day off at times, but
47 overall it does pretty well.

48
49 You could do like radiotelemetry, which
50 is actually a very expensive project to do to track the

1 fish all the way up the river if you wanted to.
2 Unfortunately there's no funding to do something like
3 that. I think currently what we're using to track the
4 fish in-season works pretty well. Of course, we're
5 always verifying that in-season with fishermen along
6 the river. And the YRDFA teleconferences, we'll hear
7 as fishermen tell us if they've seen the fish or not,
8 we're able to track it to what our sheet is showing us.
9 We can correct it as we go.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert.

12

13 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 Steve, with doing away with the 8.5-inch mesh this
15 coming summer and projected to use 7.5-inch mesh, has
16 it been determined that -- will there be a big
17 difference in the escapement here? Have you guys
18 talked about it? What is going to be the plan here? I
19 don't want to see you do away with the windows. I want
20 to keep those in place. That's the last thing I want
21 to get rid of too.

22

23 MR. HAYES: At this time there's no
24 talk about doing away with the windows. Obviously that
25 would be a Board of Fish proposal that they would have
26 to take up. In changing to the 7.5-inch mesh obviously
27 it's going to be the first season this year that we're
28 going to be using that, so we have no data at this
29 point that we can use to say what is it doing, so we're
30 going to have to start collecting that data, which is
31 on the spawning grounds.

32

33 The spawning grounds into Canada we're
34 going to have to collect. Unfortunately right now
35 there's not a lot of projects in Canada that they're
36 collecting this stuff, but they are starting to. So
37 over time, and it's going to take quite a few years to
38 collect that information to see if we're getting the
39 results we want to get from that mesh size.

40

41 MR. WALKER: That would be interesting
42 because I tried to fish one summer with 7.5-inch mesh
43 and just about killed myself spending all the dollars
44 on there and hardly get anything. I've already got
45 firsthand information on that.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

48

49 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50 Steve or.....

1 MR. WALKER: Gerald.

2

3 MR. HONEA: Gerald. I had a question.
4 Is there like -- I know at Pilot Station I believe you
5 guys have a tracking there and you have another one
6 below there. Is that what protocol is? I mean if
7 you're not getting enough fish passing the lower one,
8 you -- because, you know, there's also fishing going
9 on. Maybe the Lower Yukon has already gotten whatever
10 they want, but we have to bypass that first pulse or
11 whatever. Is that going to be the norm again? I mean
12 if you're predicting a run that's as bad as it was last
13 year or something, is that the general procedure then
14 we can expect?

15

16 MR. HAYES: One thing we are looking at
17 working on -- well, we're working on it now and whether
18 or not we're able to actually incorporate it into our
19 management this season is looking at triggers at Pilot
20 Station. Most of us know that the Pilot River sonar is
21 really the project that we get the actual index numbers
22 from that tell us how many fish have gone by. The
23 Lower River test fishery, it gives us some abundance
24 information, but mostly just timing information.

25

26 We're looking at the potential of using
27 the triggers so that some level of passage at Pilot --
28 let's just say 140,000, pull it out of the air, if that
29 was the number we want it to be at and let's say we had
30 pulled a subsistence period in District 1 and 2, but we
31 were projecting we were going to hit 140 or above, we
32 may not have to continue on with the restrictions. We
33 can let up on those. Or vice versa. If we're below a
34 certain number, we may have to take more severe
35 reductions. So we are looking at how to incorporate
36 that into the management. Whether or not it's in place
37 this summer I don't know yet.

38

39 MR. HONEA: My question do you have one
40 near the mouth or isn't the one at Pilot Station
41 further up where you've already passed and you had an
42 open season, you know, until you hit those numbers? I
43 mean wouldn't that be -- is that a correct question?
44 Do you have one near the mouth that you go by or do you
45 use the Pilot Station one exclusively?

46

47 MR. HAYES: That's correct. Pilot
48 Station is the only sonar project we have in the Lower
49 River. Of course, at the border we have Eagle. There
50 is fishing that goes on prior to Pilot Station. Those

1 fish we do account for. In other words, we get our
2 number from Pilot, but then we have to assume that
3 there's so many fish that are caught from subsistence
4 below, and then we can add those in to kind of get what
5 we think the run size will be.

6

7 Typically we're not making any type of
8 management decisions or historically until about the
9 first quarter point of the run that we've seen.
10 Because we're in these really poor runs now we're
11 having to go in preseason with these plans in place,
12 which now we're looking at halfway through the run or
13 third quarter point of the run before we actually shift
14 in our management. That also brings up our summer chum
15 management is largely affected by that because we're
16 letting three-quarters of the king run go by before we
17 can even think about doing anything with chums, so
18 we're letting surpluses of chums go by as well.

19

20 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Further questions
23 from the Council. Tim.

24

25 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
26 Steve and Gerald, I'd just like to communicate from the
27 community of Ruby that we would encourage you to manage
28 conservatively. We're prepared to stand down to let
29 the escapement to get past. It's not just a nutrition
30 issue any more. People are being affected emotionally
31 and spiritually by the lack of kings in the river. It
32 feels like the king fishery has kind of been foreclosed
33 on. It's probably the most significant subsistence
34 issue for our community. If you guys want to be really
35 tight with your closures, that's okay with us, just do
36 whatever it takes to get fish on the spawning grounds.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Tim.
39 Additional comments, questions. Jenny.

40

41 MS. PELKOLA: It's just a comment. I
42 know the year in 2009 when you let the first pulse go,
43 I just want to make sure that it's really clarified
44 because a lot of us were confused. We didn't know what
45 the pulse was because I guess they were coming in
46 slowly. Just so it's clarified. Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other questions,
49 comments from the Council.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comments. Tim
4 testified at the beginning of the meeting when he first
5 arrived that the Bering Sea North Pacific Fisheries
6 Management Council has increased the pollock harvest
7 quota by up to 58 percent.

8

9 MR. GERVAIS: 56.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 56 percent. Is the
12 Department contemplating the huge increase in bycatch
13 that will ensue with that amount of biomass, numbers of
14 trawls and the amount of bycatch that's going to ensue
15 in that? Is that a calculation at this point?

16

17 MR. HAYES: Mr. Chairman. Not at this
18 point for this season. It wouldn't affect us for what
19 we're looking at right now. Obviously it would in the
20 future and the next few years we'll have to look at it
21 for those runs coming up, but not for this year.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Another question I
24 have, is the Department contemplating precluding sale
25 of chinook salmon in the directed chum fishery and
26 requiring retention for subsistence for this season as
27 a precautionary against intentional harvest of chinook
28 salmon in the directed chum fishery?

29

30 MR. HAYES: That will be one of the
31 items we'll be discussing at the April 13th meeting.
32 Obviously we have regulations in place that can help us
33 deal with the incidental harvest of chinook during the
34 chum periods. But we do want to get input from the
35 parties that are affected by that before we move
36 forward in our planning of it.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's my opinion that
39 the incentive to harvest chinook with chum gear is very
40 high if they're over five bucks a pound. I feel that
41 those fish should be retained as subsistence use and
42 that windows and opportunity for upriver stocks should
43 be reduced in the Lower River to allow -- the directed
44 chum fishery would actually be targeting more of the
45 Lower River chinook stocks. I would feel that the
46 Department and YRDFA should work towards targeting
47 subsistence harvest of Lower River chinook stocks for
48 personal consumption and avoiding directed commercial
49 harvest of chinook salmon.

50

1 If I was getting paid \$5.50 a pound, I
2 would go after king salmon. I would hang my net in and
3 I'd use heavier twine and I would catch king salmon in
4 the directed chum fishery and you can do it. I used to
5 commercial fish. You can tangle a king salmon and hung
6 in gear with larger twine size. So that could be an
7 issue and I feel that in this time that it's imperative
8 that we move away from a commercial incentive to
9 harvest chinook salmon. If people were understanding
10 that we're just there to catch chums and you're going
11 to take home these fish, don't catch so many kings in
12 the first part of the run, I think that would move
13 towards conservation of the chinook.

14
15 I'm also concerned about tracking the
16 chinook run as it moves upriver. We have Pilot Station
17 sonar, we have the downriver indexes to show run
18 timing, but then this run blurs as you move through the
19 rate of passage changes. You get into the Ramparts,
20 those fish slow down because it's faster water. I feel
21 the Department should use a community assessment.
22 Select one fisher maybe randomly going through a list
23 of fishers to go out and take indexes to track the
24 pulse as it's moving up. So when the pulse arrives we
25 know where it's at. So use the communities as a test
26 fishery index as it moves up and allow them to use
27 drift gear if it moves into -- or setnet gear for the
28 best setnet sites. Some way of tracking this pulse.
29 So we don't have a window opening right in the middle
30 of a protected -- when everybody else is gone on
31 conservation. We don't end up with what happened up in
32 5C.

33
34 Comment on that.

35
36 MR. HAYES: Mr. Chairman. We do
37 communicate with the people in the communities to track
38 the fish. We have people that we've worked with over
39 years. The one thing I have to caution you on is that
40 because of the time it takes us to actually put out a
41 news release to get the word out to the people that
42 there will be potentially a closure in effect, that's
43 why I'm saying it's not always going to be perfect.
44 Typically we like to put them out two days in advance
45 to give people notice. When we try to do it sooner,
46 people haven't heard about it. They're out at fish
47 camp. So we do try to give advance notice. Things can
48 change between that 48 hours on the fish. Like you
49 just said, they can speed up, slow down. That's why
50 I'm saying it's not always going to be perfect.

1 I said earlier if you do happen to miss
2 that pulse that you want to protest, we have the option
3 to look at the second pulse or we have the option that
4 if a community totally missed fish that we wanted them
5 to fish on -- in District 4 in 2009, we actually added
6 more hours and they were able to pick up some fish
7 there. So those are things that we will have to
8 fine-tune in-season unfortunately. I just want to
9 caution you it will never be perfect. I think overall,
10 as we saw in 2009, we did do a fairly good job of
11 getting the majority of that pulse upriver.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What I'm saying is
14 that there's a need for assessment projects along the
15 way. I mean if we're going on full protection, we
16 don't have enough fish, we have to know where those
17 fish are in the river and we have to have some kind of
18 -- other than Pilot Station to Eagle. We have to have
19 some kind of an additional assessment projects along
20 the way. That's what I feel.

21
22 One way of doing that would be to pull
23 the first period window for chinook harvest. If it's
24 thought necessary, I feel that that's equitable. As
25 the comment from Tim Bodony here, you don't enter into
26 some combat fishery for a six-hour period or something.
27 Personally, I feel that that would be the most
28 equitable way, is to pull the first period. That's
29 just my opinion.

30
31 There's other things that may be
32 necessary in the future. If this run keeps going
33 further south, you know, setnet only. There could be
34 some other options. There's other options that may be
35 necessary, things that we don't want to go to, but may
36 be necessary in the future.

37
38 Another thing that you can put on your
39 list for your meeting is 5C, as presented, is a huge
40 harvest. I used to fish down in Bristol Bay and I'd
41 get my subsistence permit and down there you have 10
42 kings period, that's all you get, and you get 300 reds.
43 I feel there should be a contemplation of limitation in
44 5C on harvest amounts for king salmon. So that's
45 something that should be contemplated for 5C. That's
46 something that Gene's presentation was graphic.
47 There's a huge spike in 5C on the amounts of fish that
48 each fisher was catching. I feel those are basically
49 primarily upriver stocks.

50

1 We should be concerned about that huge
2 harvest in 5C and I feel a harvest limit per permit,
3 that each permit should have 10 fish or a reasonable
4 amount of fish, not 180 fish or some crazy amount of
5 fish. So I feel that to protect the upriver stocks
6 that a permit stipulation. You have discretionary
7 authority. My question is do you have discretionary
8 authority from the Board of Fish to limit the amount of
9 fish on the 5C permit?

10

11 MR. HAYES: I'll have to look into
12 that, but I think that would have to be something that
13 would have to go back to the Board of Fishery to start
14 limiting that.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'd like that issue
17 to be brought up at the in-season meeting in April.
18 That is graphic and a huge impact, in equitable impact
19 to the upriver stocks, so I feel that a permit -- I get
20 a 5C permit. I have yet to fish it because I don't
21 have a boat, but I've got a 5C permit. If it was 10
22 fish, okay, that's the way it goes. We have to get a
23 handle on that issue there in 5C. That's what I see.

24

25 Those would be my comments. Does
26 Council have any further comments on the preseason.
27 Tim.

28

29 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 Steve or Gerald. I wanted to know, and I hope you've
31 discussed it, how weak does the Yukon king run need to
32 be before the Federal government steps up to what's
33 going on in the Bering Sea?

34

35 I just don't see where it's fair that
36 those guys are going to be out there dragging for
37 probably 10 months this year and we're looking at
38 taking all these preseason measures. I feel that both
39 the State and the Federal government should provide
40 some protection for these user groups on the river. We
41 don't have the lobbying money to be effective in the
42 North Pacific Management Council process. I'd like to
43 see Cord Campbell and I don't who the -- the Federal
44 Subsistence Board asked for some conservation measures
45 that are more significant than what came out of the
46 chinook bycatch process in 2009.

47

48 We, as in-river fishers, commercial
49 fishers, subsistence fishers, we've taken a lot of
50 steps and we're not getting the rebound in the

1 populations. Have you guys discussed a number or a
2 level that it needs to get to where it's like, okay, we
3 can't get the stock rebuilt just on in-river measures.
4 We need some help by what's going on outside the three-
5 mile zone.

6
7 MR. HAYES: Mr. Chairman. I guess one
8 thing to point out is I don't know if you guys have
9 seen the handout that YRDFA put out on the bycatch
10 here, which I think does a fairly good job of
11 explaining the cap that was put on the bycatch for
12 kings. I guess the reason I'm bringing it up is I just
13 want to bring to your attention that the bycatch is not
14 our only issue.

15
16 In the bigger picture, if you take a
17 look at what this run used to be historically, 250-
18 300,000 kings, and what we're getting back now, like
19 last year we got 130-some thousand kings back, it's not
20 the bycatch. The bycatch is a part of the bigger
21 picture. As we all know, we also have these marine
22 environment issues that we don't even know what they
23 are. It's not just a Yukon issue, it's a statewide
24 problem with kings.

25
26 So I'm not belittling bycatch, and I
27 think they have taken steps on the bycatch issue with
28 the cap that will go into effect this year, January
29 1st, but there's still things out there that we're not
30 sure on what's happening within that ocean environment.
31 We've met escapements. These poor returns are coming
32 off good escapement years. We don't know what's
33 happening with the fish.

34
35 The unfortunate thing right now is all
36 we can do -- for me as a manager, I can manage what
37 comes back and meet the escapement goals and
38 subsistence needs. Hopefully in time there will be
39 some answers on the marine environment issues that may
40 be causing this. We'll continue to look at the bycatch
41 stuff. I know that people focus heavily on the
42 bycatch, but it is a small part of the big picture.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

45
46 MR. WALKER: Steve, when we start the
47 season up with 7.5-inch mesh, it's going to be from Y1
48 all the way up to Y6 with 7.5-inch mesh, 150 feet long
49 by 35 mesh deep?

50

1 MR. HAYES: Correct. From Districts 1
2 all the way up the river it will be 7.5-inch mesh, but
3 the current depth size in regulation remains in effect
4 for the areas. The lower district it's 6 inch or
5 larger, 45 meshes deep, 6 inch or smaller at 50 meshes
6 deep. In the upriver, it's 60 meshes deep.

7
8 I don't know what the buyers in the
9 lower river or what TCC what they purchased depth-wise,
10 I don't know that. I can tell you that you can still
11 go with the depth that's in regulation.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Any
14 further comments from the Council.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate
19 that.....

20
21 MR. WALKER: I've got a question.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead there,
24 Robert.

25
26 MR. WALKER: Steve, we're going to be
27 still using the 1-800 for the Tuesday fisheries
28 meeting, phone calls, whatever, call-ins?

29
30 MR. HALE: (Nods affirmatively)

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have an
33 affirmative from YRDFA that the 800 call-in number on
34 Tuesday is still in effect. Any other questions.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.
39 Appreciate that. Jason.

40
41 MR. HALE: I don't know if this will be
42 a good time, but since we were just talking about this
43 preseason planning, instead of waiting for me to.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's an excellent
46 time. State your name and organization.

47
48 MR. HALE: Super. Thank you, Mr. Chair
49 and everybody. For the record, Jason Hale, Yukon River
50 Drainage Fisheries Association. It's real good seeing

1 everybody again. Thanks for giving me a minute.

2

3 You guys are familiar with this
4 process. This is going to be the third year we've done
5 it, the preseason planning process. It's changed a
6 little every year. We're changing it again this year.
7 We're always trying to make it a little more complete,
8 a little better hopefully. First off, Gerald mentioned
9 it a moment ago, but it's funded by the Yukon River
10 Panel and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, so we're
11 sure appreciative of them for supporting the project.

12

13 The main purpose of this thing, what
14 we're really trying to do, is give the opportunity for
15 fishermen and for tribes to give their input into how
16 the run should be managed. It's their fishery and
17 let's let them come up with the good ideas that they
18 can support. So discussing specific management actions
19 and possibly trigger points for managing the 2011
20 chinook run and keeping in mind that funding isn't
21 guaranteed year after year, so trying to get as much
22 information as possible while we actually have the
23 money to bring folks together, so that in years where
24 we might not have that opportunity we can say, well,
25 we've already kind of got a sense of what people are
26 thinking.

27

28 I was really encouraged to hear all the
29 really well thought out ideas from you guys already
30 today and other people have been throwing stuff out
31 over the course of the winter, so I think we've got a
32 lot to hash out because there are a lot of good ideas
33 out there.

34

35 Also, secondarily at this meeting,
36 whenever we bring this many fishermen and tribal reps
37 together to talk about fish we figure it's a good idea
38 to have some informational sessions to get people
39 current on the current science and give them a chance
40 to comment and talk about it. So that will be sort of
41 another part of this process.

42

43 Let me just walk you through what the
44 structure is this year. We started it actually in
45 Mountain Village a couple weeks ago talking about it at
46 the YRDFA annual meeting. It was just sort of the
47 first kick-off point where the same information Gerald
48 presented a moment ago was presented to the YRDFA board
49 and they started talking about this coming season. The
50 State and the Feds were there talking about it as well

1 and getting some input. Then, of course, we're going
2 to all the RAC meetings for the Yukon and announcing
3 the meeting, getting ideas. That's part of what we've
4 been doing today.

5
6 Gerald referenced another thing, a
7 mailer, that was sent out on Friday to every tribal
8 council in the Alaska portion of the Yukon River
9 drainage, so that's 47 tribal councils. The mailer
10 consisted of -- I'm really excited about this. This is
11 really long overdue. So an introductory letter about
12 this process and about the coming season and how it's
13 not looking super, then that flyer that you guys all
14 read along with Gerald a minute ago. Then a list of
15 questions to consider. The idea is -- the meeting is
16 April 13th, the big river-wide meeting is April 13th,
17 and if we can get the information in front of the
18 tribes now, we know that they're all going to have a
19 meeting in March. We talked to every tribe months ago
20 to find out when their meetings were to be sure it
21 would fit. We said, heck, if we hit some of these main
22 points in front of them, maybe they can talk about them
23 and then send representatives to this meeting in April
24 and they'll be able to speak maybe more informed from
25 their tribal perspectives.

26
27 I wanted to take a second just to let
28 you know what questions we are encouraging them to
29 consider beyond just the information presented by Fish
30 and Game and Fish and Wildlife. Those questions were:
31 Does your tribe support cutting back subsistence
32 harvests to get enough king salmon to the spawning
33 grounds in years of poor salmon returns. So do you
34 think we should cut back when the runs are poor.

35
36 Number 2, does your tribe support
37 pulling or cancelling subsistence fishing periods on
38 the first pulse or second pulse of king salmon as a way
39 to get enough king salmon to the spawning grounds.

40
41 Number 3, how does your tribe feel
42 about using voluntary harvest reductions to get enough
43 king salmon to the spawning grounds.

44
45 Lastly, number 4, does your tribe
46 support the use of different king salmon management
47 tools or approaches different parts of the river.
48 Steve kind of references that a minute ago. Fishing is
49 different, conditions are different in parts of the
50 river. In the past, when there have been big cuts and

1 management actions, it's been all the same throughout.
2 What about mixing it up in recognition of the different
3 conditions. What do people think about that? Do they
4 think it's fair or do they not. It might give us some
5 different roads to go down for some of that precision
6 management that Tim was talking about earlier. So
7 that's in there.

8

9 Also, I've been invited to a lot of
10 weddings this year. For some reason I keep getting
11 these darn wedding invitations in the mail. I said,
12 well, heck, we're having a meeting, we should send out
13 like wedding invitations, so we did. So every tribe is
14 going to get this lovely little envelope and this
15 little thing that says, hey, we're having this
16 wonderful meeting and you should come on out and we'll
17 pay your way and stuff. We didn't ask them to bring a
18 date. And a little RSVP card and stuff, are you going,
19 who are you going to send and please respond by this
20 particular date and, you know, do it up right. You
21 know, we didn't ask them if they want to eat chicken or
22 fish, but maybe next year fish will be obviously what
23 we hope for. And we'll be calling all the tribes next
24 week to make sure they're good to go and if they've
25 already had their meetings, did you talk about it, how
26 did it go, who are you going to send. If they haven't
27 had their meeting yet, don't forget about that mailer,
28 you got it, right. Do you need me to fax it to you
29 again. Then start setting up their travel.

30

31 We'll also be talking about it at the
32 Yukon River Panel meeting, talking about all these
33 issues. Just basically trying to talk to every major
34 group on the river that gets together and talks about
35 fish. And get more input so that when the big meeting
36 hits, which will be April 13th in Anchorage at the
37 Clarion Suites downtown, we can already have some of
38 our homework done so we can hopefully start a little
39 ahead of the game.

40

41 The invitees will be every tribal
42 council in the Alaska portion of the Yukon River
43 drainage and we can fund the travel for one
44 representative of each of those tribes to come into
45 Anchorage to the meeting. We would like to ask a
46 representative from each of the three RACs. We'd very
47 much like for you guys to consider coming and then
48 figure out who you might like to send to represent your
49 RAC. The Yukon River Panel members from the Alaska
50 portion of the drainage. The processors who are still

1 operating on the river certainly have a stake in
2 management and should get a voice. The inter-tribal
3 groups and you guys, of course, talked about TCC
4 earlier and there's CATG and AVCP. We've been talking
5 to them for quite a while about this.

6
7 YRDFA will send, I'm sure, an upriver
8 and a downriver representative. We're coordinating the
9 process, but it's really the fishermen's process up and
10 down the river. It's not a YRDFA process, it's a
11 riverwide process for everybody regardless of whether
12 they're a member of YRDFA or not. And then, of course,
13 heavy agency involvement throughout. The State and
14 Federal manager have been heavily involved since the
15 initial planning of this. Of course, they need to be
16 since they're going to be the ones managing. And then
17 all the other agencies who are involved in any capacity
18 we'll be asking to join this whether it's to answer
19 questions or pitch in or learn from the fishermen.
20 We're hoping for a pretty packed house.

21
22 We polled people last year at the
23 meeting, do we need to keep doing it, what do you
24 think, we see value in it, what do you guys think, and
25 it was unanimous, keep doing it. Keep doing it pretty
26 darn similar, keep bringing people together before the
27 season. We want to see it. This is important. So
28 that's why we're doing it again.

29
30 The last thing on the riverwide
31 meeting. As I mentioned, we're going to try to have
32 some informational sessions. You guys are talking
33 about all the big issues going on on the river. If
34 there are any topics you'd like to see covered that you
35 think people would like to see more current information
36 on, please let me know. We'd like to hold three
37 informational sessions during the day. People can
38 choose which ones they want to go to.

39
40 Last year we did things on customary
41 trade, the sonar at Pilot and use of traditional
42 ecological knowledge and management, so those were our
43 three last year. We can repeat or we can do something
44 totally different. But what are you wondering about
45 and what do you think other people are wondering about.
46 Please let us know because I want to have those
47 sessions geared towards what the need is. So I'd just
48 love to hear from you.

49
50 Then lastly another really overdue and

1 super cool thing that we've managed to get funding for
2 is regional meetings. So after all this is said and
3 done and the plan is set, in May we're looking at doing
4 three regional meetings in May just before the fish
5 come in. We're looking at doing something in St.
6 Mary's, something in the Middle River and we're talking
7 about Nulato, maybe Galena, and then something in the
8 Upper River, hopefully Ft. Yukon, where we would bring
9 in a few people from the surrounding villages, fly them
10 in, maybe two or three people per village, as well as
11 involved fishermen in those areas. Bring them in and
12 present the plan. The managers will be joining and
13 present the plan. Just let people talk about it. Let
14 them ask questions and kind of be ready and we'll have
15 learned from the April meeting what people are
16 interested in, be ready to answer those issues, but on
17 a more grassroots, on the ground basis.

18

19 So we don't have dates set for those
20 yet. We'll have more information forthcoming by April.
21 But that will kind of be the end of the process and
22 afterwards we'll probably do a mailer with the plan and
23 take out ads in the papers to be sure everybody sees
24 the plan before the fish hits the river. Of course,
25 starting the first week of June, the first Tuesday in
26 June, we'll start out with those in-season
27 teleconferences. I think that might be June 7th. The
28 number is not going to change from past years, but if
29 you need any information on it just let me know and
30 I'll send it to you.

31

32 That's pretty much all I've got and
33 thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Robert,
36 go ahead.

37

38 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
39 Jason, when you talk about Yukon River Panel, how many
40 people does it consist of and what are their terms and
41 who are they?

42

43 MR. HALE: That's a good question. In
44 terms of number of people, there are four on the Alaska
45 side who are actual panel members and then there are
46 advisors and alternates and stuff like that. In terms
47 of the rest of it, I think we might have a panel member
48 here in the room and I might defer the question to Fred
49 Bue if he's.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Fred.
2
3 MR. BUE: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I think
4 Jason pretty much handled that. There's four panel
5 members. Each one of those has an alternate and then
6 there's at least four advisors, which also go to the
7 meetings and provide support to those panel members.
8 Canada has a similar balanced part to their side. We
9 also have what we call the JTC, Joint Technical
10 Committee, which is biological, technical staff that
11 provides staff analysis, input to the panel, supports
12 their questions and information that the panel can make
13 decisions. Joint Technical just kind of stops right at
14 the biological information. The Panel goes beyond that
15 and talks about the political and policy and that sort
16 of information.
17
18 As far as terms, I believe they are all
19 three-year terms. I think myself, I have only been on
20 there one year and I had taken Russ Holder's position
21 and so I have to reapply to that because I was just
22 finishing out his term. I'm appointed by the State
23 Department, I believe.
24
25 MR. WALKER: Who are the other three?
26
27 MR. BUE: Ragnar Alstrom, Andy Bassich
28 from Eagle and Stanley Ned is the Middle River person.
29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does that answer all
31 your questions, Robert?
32
33 MR. WALKER: Yes, it does. Thanks.
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim, go ahead.
36
37 MR. GERVAIS: So, Fred, what's the mood
38 or reaction from the Canadian members on the panel?
39 Are they really disappointed that we haven't made
40 escapement in three of the last four years or they're
41 just like I know you guys are trying, whatever shows up
42 shows up? I mean isn't there treaty obligations that
43 need to be met here?
44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fred.
46
47 MR. BUE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Again,
48 this is Fred Bue with the Fish and Wildlife Service for
49 the record. Yes, Canada is very concerned. Their
50 management is a little bit different on their side.

1 Their aboriginal fishing is a little bit different than
2 our subsistence.

3
4 Part of their fishery -- they fit into
5 a management plan and they managed to close some of
6 their fisheries and then the aboriginals take it as --
7 it fits into the structure of the plan, but when they
8 take restrictions, they consider it a voluntary
9 restriction. So they have significantly reduced their
10 harvest voluntarily in Canada.

11
12 This past season, you know, I guess
13 it's probably me that a lot of it falls onto, is that
14 they felt we did not restrict our subsistence harvest
15 nearly enough. As I said, this fall RAC meeting we
16 kind of went through this whole thing again. Where we
17 were trying to fish around the three high water events
18 throughout the season. They were pretty significant.
19 Some people lost gear, some weren't able to fish, and
20 that was part of our consideration why we specifically
21 didn't pull some periods. We thought we were saving
22 fish because of the high water. Rather than force
23 people to go out and fish when there's a lot of debris
24 in the water, take chances of potentially risking their
25 gear, we gave them the flexibility if they don't fish
26 when the debris is there they may get an opportunity at
27 another time. So that's why we didn't specifically
28 pull a period, but we also asked people to voluntarily
29 reduce their harvest.

30
31 I guess that would be one of the
32 questions of this Council and this coming preparedness
33 meeting, is how did you feel about a voluntary
34 reduction. I think we got mixed results. I think in
35 Canada it worked fairly well. People there see it as
36 they're more in control of what's going on. In Alaska,
37 my impression is that we're concerned that maybe those
38 other guys aren't -- you know, we're doing okay, but
39 those other guys maybe should be making more of an
40 effort to reduce their harvest.

41
42 So in that light I think my impression
43 is that a lot of people in Alaska would just as soon if
44 we told them when they could or couldn't fish, but I
45 guess that would be a question to this Council.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Would
48 the Council like to answer that question. Do you have
49 a comment, Don. I feel the Council should answer that
50 question. Should it be voluntary or regulatory

1 reduction.

2

3 MR. HONEA: Yeah, just a comment. When
4 we met with TCC, they had kind of a big meeting a
5 couple years back, and we met with the aboriginal
6 people from Canada on this issue. They weren't just
7 concerned, they were pretty angry about it. I would
8 have to agree with them for some of the things we're
9 doing on this side. Maybe we have some infractions
10 with the lower Yukon and all the groups, but I think
11 we're committed to -- you know, we're obligated to let
12 a certain amount go by, so whatever we can do in that
13 sense. It's pretty compassionate when people come out
14 and they're giving up some of their things, they're
15 giving up some of their fishing. They're the last ones
16 up there, so we're obligated to do that. When Tim
17 asked what's the feelings there, it's not just well,
18 you know, we're trying or something like that, it's
19 pretty upset because, you know, it's a food source for
20 them too.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.
25 Appreciate those comments. Any other comments from the
26 Council on the YRDFA process and the Yukon Panel
27 process.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to go
32 down the Council here and I think a position needs to
33 be taken on whether voluntary restrictions or
34 regulatory restrictions should be implemented.

35

36 Jenny.

37

38 MS. PELKOLA: Could we start on that
39 end?

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I'll
44 alternate. Go ahead, Eleanor.

45

46 MS. YATLIN: I wasn't asleep. I think
47 it should be voluntary. If Canadians could do it, we
48 could do it. I was at the same meeting that you talked
49 about a couple years ago. They were really passionate
50 about how they were going to do the voluntary not

1 taking the fish. They did it after they said it at
2 that meeting, so it can be done. I believe it should
3 be voluntary.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Eleanor.

6 Carl.

7

8 MR. MORGAN: You know, one time the
9 Kuskokwim had a similar problem and the upriver did
10 voluntarily restrict their fishing. It was not an easy
11 decision to make, but once you make the decision you
12 can't enforce it. You know, it's voluntary and it's up
13 to the individual. I think if it becomes regulatory,
14 then you're mandating that they do stop fishing. But I
15 would tend to go with voluntary and if that don't work,
16 probably go to regulatory.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Carl.

19 Pollock.

20

21 MR. SIMON: In the '80s, there was a
22 closure completely on salmon. We didn't stock our
23 caches for our own personal use and for our dogs. It
24 was a hardship all winter. The State came across and
25 got some fish from somewhere, from Valdez, to feed our
26 dogs and our people. I guess they could do it, but
27 they would have to close the commercial fishery to the
28 Lower Yukon. I mean close the fishing across the
29 board. You know, voluntarily stop fishing.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.

32 Robert.

33

34 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, thank you.
35 Volunteer, I don't know, but I think mandatory would be
36 a lot more direct to our part of the area. I would
37 have to talk to our tribe to see what they say. I'm
38 going to say mandatory.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,

41 Don.

42

43 MR. HONEA: What's the question?

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is do
48 you feel is voluntary
49 restrictions appropriate for a reduction of harvest of
50 king salmon at this time or should it be a regulatory

1 reduction?

2

3 MR. HONEA: I think I would have to go
4 with the mandatory and if it leads to the regulatory,
5 then so be it. I think we did an excellent thing in
6 the proposal that we came out with as Western Interior.
7 The numbers were too large, so we modified that at our
8 meeting over there. I'm not speaking for the tribe or
9 the advisory committee or anything, but just personally
10 I would do anything to protect. If we had to forego
11 the first pulse, so be it.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. My position
14 is that YRDFA would have to have complete consensus to
15 have a voluntary reduction. As Pollock said, there has
16 to be a reduction of the commercial in bycatch in the
17 directed chum fishery also. You can't have your cake
18 and eat it too. If that consensus could not be made, I
19 feel that there needs to be regulatory restrictions for
20 reducing chinook harvest on the Yukon River. I feel
21 the Canadians are making huge concessions. They're
22 buying fish from the coast and they're doing all kinds
23 of stuff to try and get these fish back. We have to
24 start doing our part on this side. If I was fishing, I
25 would voluntarily reduce my fishing. We have the huge
26 regional differences, so I don't know that we can come
27 to that consensus, so I lean towards regulatory
28 restrictions myself.

29

30 Ray.

31

32 MR. COLLINS: I think ultimately the
33 voluntary would be good if we could build up trust and
34 I like the efforts where we're trying to do that by
35 joint meetings and things. I think before you
36 personally want to volunteer something you want to know
37 the others are buying into it too. So I think it's
38 important that information get out and there be some
39 kind of consensus among the users that they're going to
40 go that way. So it's worth trying to promote that, but
41 if it's not working, then obviously we'll have to have
42 regulation.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Ray.

45 Tim.

46

47 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chairman. That would
48 be great if voluntary was successful. It would be nice
49 to live in a world like that, but I feel that it's so
50 important to get the spawning escapement, from our

1 household and our community, I would feel that
2 regulatory restrictions would be the most effective.
3 If you go the voluntary restrictions, then that just
4 benefits the pirates. You're going to have a river
5 that has a high concentration of salmon in it and then
6 the bad eggs are going to be out there just slaying
7 them. Everybody should bear the burden of conservation
8 and the way to ensure that is to have it be a
9 regulatory restriction.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim. I
12 appreciate that comment because when I fished down in
13 Bristol Bay we had strikes for a better price and there
14 were people that fished during the strikes and they
15 loaded up big time. So it benefits the bandits in this
16 case to the highest degree, especially if we don't get
17 this customary trade thing under control. We could
18 have people really making a lot more money and
19 exacerbating this issue if we don't have regulatory
20 restrictions. So I will agree with you on that, Tim.

21

22 Go ahead, Jenny.

23

24 MS. PELKOLA: I agree.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MS. PELKOLA: The reason why I wanted
29 to be last is because I didn't quite understand the
30 question. It seems like we're already being mandated
31 to volunteer part of our catch. I think being mandated
32 or regulated, I can live with that.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Fred.

35

36 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman, thank you.
37 Jason just whispered to me. Part of how Canada does
38 that is their biologist tells them about how much fish
39 they need. They give them a target and then they go
40 back to their community and try to work in their
41 community about how each individual community can get
42 to that target for their area. Again, Canada is a much
43 smaller area, it's fewer people. It's a lot easier to
44 work in those groups. It's more like a lot of them area
45 community fish camps. In Alaska, a lot of us are
46 pretty unique individuals. We're pretty spread out.
47 Even just communication in-season is difficult when
48 some of these decisions come down. So it comes back to
49 each individual and that's a tough decision.

50

1 I think in 2009 some of you may
2 remember, I believe it was Koyukuk actually made a
3 letter or a resolution and said they were going to
4 voluntarily reduce their harvest in half and they were
5 held up as leading the charge on that. I don't know
6 how successful they were, but I assume they did save
7 fish. They got community buy-in. It comes back to the
8 buy-in of the people. It's a public resource. It's up
9 to the public to share the responsibility. We work for
10 the public, so conservation. We can come up with
11 management guidelines or ways to conserve fish, but we
12 need the support of the fishing community also.

13

14 Mr. Chairman.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Fred. You
17 had a comment, Jason.

18

19 MR. HALE: Just kind of a tack on to
20 that. Following up on this voluntary thing. In 2009
21 there was a pretty big push. Hey, the run is looking
22 terrible. We need to figure out some ways to get more
23 fish up. I talked to a lot of fishermen throughout the
24 year. Just about every village several people would
25 say, you know, I said I got 100 percent of what I
26 needed, but I decided I needed 70 percent of what I
27 normally take or 50 percent. There were a lot of
28 voluntary restrictions. No one is ever going to know
29 about it.

30

31 So while voluntary probably isn't the
32 answer for Alaska, it helps and I think that these kind
33 of informational exchanges and talking about, hey, this
34 is important to us. I think in the end, you know, I'm
35 not going to take my normal 20 fish. I'm going to take
36 15, you know.

37

38 And on the Canadian side, just for a
39 matter of interest, they do talk to First Nations, DFO,
40 their Fish and Game says I think you need to cut back
41 by X percent, cut back by 25 percent, and then each
42 First Nation sorts out how they want to do that. Your
43 tribe or First Nation might say we're going to have
44 these two guys fish for the whole community and stop at
45 this number. Yours might say you can only fish on the
46 weekend. Yours might say 10 fish per household. All
47 of those were things the Canadians did, but the First
48 Nation said this is how we're going to do it. So
49 voluntary sounds like you just say, hey, everybody try
50 and take less and everybody just does and it's sort of

1 like this happy land.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. HALE: But really they did have
6 kind of more strict things that each First Nation put
7 into place, but they chose to agree with DFO and come
8 up with their own system to comply with it. Just so
9 you don't think it's all fairies and rainbows.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Tim.

12

13 MR. GERVAIS: I just wanted to relay an
14 experience in 2009 when we were trying to protect that
15 pulse. I believe it was Marshall decided to
16 voluntarily fish on a closure and for the people in our
17 community and I'm sure several other places on the
18 river they were like -- there was a lot of fence-
19 sitters where they really don't want to stand down, but
20 you talk to them, you say it's important, they can do
21 it. But when you have this breach in the pact of trust
22 for the river and everybody just gets pissed off at
23 those people that breached and then they just get
24 pissed off in the whole process. They're already at a
25 high level of anxiety anyway because they know they're
26 not going to get the fish they really want. It's a
27 really painful thing to endure. It's a lot of work for
28 me personally to try to keep people's head in the game
29 that we're all doing this for our future, our grandkids
30 and people 200 years from now can have really nice
31 salmon to eat. It's just not a perfect enough world
32 for that to happen in my opinion.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I think
35 that's expended that issue. We could go to a break.
36 We're still going to be working on Yukon River
37 fisheries. We have a customary trade issue, so we've
38 got some issues on the Yukon River fishery to clean up
39 before we move down in this agenda. So we're going to
40 have a 15 minute break.

41

42 (Off record)

43

44 (On record)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're coming back to
47 order again. Jenny has some quick announcements
48 pertaining to Galena here. Go ahead, Jenny.

49

50 MS. PELKOLA: May I have your

1 attention. Tonight at the Galena Bible Church there's
2 a concert going on by the Broken Walls and they said
3 they're going to be selling pizza about 6:00 to 7:00
4 and it starts at 7:00. Also, Shirley asked me to take
5 lunch for tomorrow, your names, and it's chicken
6 coconut curry over rice and it's \$10 and she said
7 she'll bring whatever other stuff she has. I think
8 there's something else going on, but I can't remember.

9

10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Science Fair.

11

12 MS. PELKOLA: Science Fair, yes, at the
13 school. It starts at.....

14

15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: 6:00.

16

17 MS. PELKOLA:6:00. And she's not
18 from Galena.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MS. PELKOLA: So it starts at 6:00.
23 That's just what I wanted to say. The sheet will be
24 over here.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. The sign-up
27 sheet for lunch tomorrow is over there by Salena. Some
28 people that have signed up to comment -- if you're John
29 Stamm, are you still wanting to comment on Yukon River
30 fishery issues?

31

32 MR. STAMM: Sometime.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right now is the
35 appropriate time because we're in the Yukon River
36 fishery stuff. If you want to come up and comment to
37 the Council. We had Brad Scotton and Ken Chase wanted
38 to say something also. Go ahead.

39

40 MR. STAMM: My name is John Stamm.
41 I've been a subsistence fisherman on the river system
42 for 38 years. Fishwheel permit holder for 36 years
43 although I haven't fished commercially since 1997. I
44 still fish subsistence.

45

46 Just a few comments on customary and
47 traditional use. I was stunned to learn that it's
48 actually illegal to sell anything but unprocessed
49 salmon. I was always under the assumption that what I
50 was selling was perfectly legal strips and dry fish and

1 so forth. I found out at our last meeting that
2 actually I'm a criminal because I was selling processed
3 fish. Which leads me to the question of if everybody
4 else on the Yukon River is selling strips and dry fish
5 and processed fish, what is the issue? It sounds like
6 the issue is an enforcement problem. If it's already
7 illegal and everybody is doing it, it sounds like
8 basically it's an enforcement problem until they change
9 the regulations, which I hope they do.

10

11 As far as whether voluntary reductions
12 will work to protect the king run, like I say, as long
13 as king salmon is worth \$30 a pound and the strips, I
14 don't think it's going to work.

15

16 Another topic unrelated to fisheries
17 directly, but indirectly I suppose, is the western
18 Alaska access corridor. We had a meeting out here this
19 winter concerning a road from Fairbanks to Nome. I get
20 the general feeling that the State is pushing the road
21 and they're making it sound really rosy, everybody is
22 going to get cheap freight, the trip to town is going
23 to be real cheap. From what the polls show, the
24 majority of the people are for the road and listening
25 to the comments at the meeting here in Galena and also
26 most of the local people were for this road.

27

28 What I'm concerned about is these
29 people aren't really thinking about what a road through
30 the western Alaska through the Yukon River corridor,
31 which is the most popular road, would do to subsistence
32 activities. We see what's happening at the bridge with
33 easy access from Fairbanks to the Yukon River at the
34 bridge. People are already concerned now with people
35 coming down with their river boats, coming out here to
36 hunt and amount of fly-in people coming in with planes.
37 Maybe we should start talking on this level about what
38 would happen if the State got serious and put a road
39 out here as far as competition for subsistence
40 resources.

41

42 The State is already planning for a
43 road out here. They've got a committee going. They're
44 studying it and they're pushing it. They're not
45 neutral on this. It might be a good time to start
46 talking about it.

47

48 That's all my comments.

49

50 Thank you very much.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, John. Does
2 the Council have questions or comments on John's
3 testimony. Go ahead, Tim.

4
5 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6 Thanks for your comments, John. One thing I wanted to
7 state about a correction from what I said earlier today
8 is with the customary trade, the fish, I said earlier
9 that it was for raw unprocessed fish and apparently
10 that's what the State uses as a definition for
11 subsistence, but I guess -- and anybody can correct
12 this if they want, if I'm saying something wrong or
13 misstating it. I guess in Title VIII of ANILCA it says
14 any fish, fish parts or eggs. So what I said and I
15 believe Jack made a mention to it too about the raw
16 unprocessed was inaccurate.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was corrected at
19 the lunch break. David, would you like to come to the
20 mic and tell the Council precisely what the Federal
21 regulation actually says, so I will stand corrected
22 also. Go ahead, David.

23
24 MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
25 David Jenkins, Office of Subsistence Management. As
26 you know under ANILCA customary trade is defined as a
27 subsistence use and in subsequent regulations customary
28 trade is allowed for subsistence users and they're
29 allowed to exchange for cash fish, parts and eggs.
30 There's nothing in those regulations about whole fish.
31 It's fish, parts and eggs are allowed to be exchanged
32 for cash under customary trade.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's the
35 regulation and I appreciate that clarification.

36
37 MR. STAMM: That was my assumption,
38 that it was legal all this time to sell processed fish.
39 It was also my understanding -- I remember when they
40 were first making the regulations, maybe 15 or 20 years
41 ago, it was \$5,000 per household. So I assumed that
42 was the general figure that the Federal government was
43 still using up to the present time. Maybe you could
44 clarify me on that.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, there was
47 proposed language of various amounts of dollar amounts
48 and that was never adopted. The only thing that the
49 Federal Subsistence Board passed was that it could not
50 compromise a significant commercial enterprise and

1 that's where we get into defining customary trade and
2 what level is appropriate for customary trade. That's
3 going to be the question for the subcommittee. That's
4 going to be the question for all three Councils on the
5 Yukon River as of January. The Federal Board wants the
6 Councils to determine what is an appropriate amount, at
7 least regionally, on the Yukon River and let them sort
8 it out. We're at that point where we're going to
9 define what is an appropriate amount. There is no
10 dollar figure in this Yukon River system. There is in
11 Bristol Bay, \$450, but there isn't here. And I think
12 for kelp or something down in Southeast.

13

14 Any other questions for John? Thanks
15 for the clarification, David.

16

17 MR. COLLINS: Just a further comment on
18 that. There was a task force that was put together to
19 deal with what was customary trade and we had a
20 statewide group put together to see. The consensus was
21 you could not set something that was statewide. It was
22 left up to each region to define. This is the first
23 time that the Yukon River has dealt with that now.
24 That's why they're asking the three groups on the Yukon
25 River to define what's appropriate for their area, but
26 there is no dollar amount. It just varies from area to
27 area what's customary.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll be moving into
30 this customary trade issue further on, so we're not
31 going to spend a lot of time. This PowerPoint needs to
32 be presented because Gene needs to head out on a plane.
33 Any further questions for John?

34

35 MR. STAMM: In closing, the only
36 statement I'd like to say is that I don't think a
37 percentage will work. A percentage of your catch could
38 go to customary trade because then the person would
39 just fish harder maybe. I think it has to be actual
40 numbers of fish or numbers of dollars.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It can't be numbers
43 of dollars because then inflation eats it up.

44

45 MR. STAMM: Okay, numbers of fish then.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I
48 appreciate that comment. Okay. Now we're going to the
49 State presentation because they're borrowing Gene
50 Sandone's computer here. Go ahead, Jeff.

1 MR. ESTENSEN: Good afternoon, Mr.
2 Chair. Members of the Council. For the record, my
3 name is Jeff Estensen. I am the fall manager, fall
4 season for the Yukon with ADF&G out of Fairbanks. What
5 I'd like to do here for the next couple minutes is just
6 give you a quick overview of what our preseason outlook
7 is for fall chum and coho salmon and then briefly
8 discuss some preliminary management strategy based on
9 these outlooks.

10
11 You also should have some handouts that
12 I passed out to everybody. We're going to kind of go
13 out of order of what you have in your handout, so I
14 didn't know I was going to have the luxury of having
15 the ability to do a PowerPoint here. This slide right
16 here is actually Page No. 2. Essentially what we're
17 looking at for the 2011 season is a run size and this
18 is for fall chum of about 737,000 fish. This is below
19 average for an odd year historically, which is right
20 about a million fish. Looking at our 80 percent
21 confidence interval around this point estimate, it's
22 from 605,000 to 807,000.

23
24 If this estimate were to hold water as
25 we go into the season, if we did actually see this
26 level of run, that would be adequate for escapement for
27 meeting subsistence priority and also our U.S./Canada
28 obligation and then also provide a commercial harvest,
29 which could be anywhere between 50 and 300,000 fish,
30 depending on run size.

31
32 This table is kind of hard to see on
33 the screen here. You might want to follow along in
34 your packet there. This is Page 1 of your packet, so
35 we're actually going back. This is how we derived our
36 outlook for fall chum. As you know, fall chum come
37 back as six year olds, which is going to be 2005 brood
38 year, as five year olds, which is the 2006 brood year,
39 and then four year olds, which is the 2007 brood year,
40 and then finally three year olds, which would be from
41 the 2008 brood year.

42
43 The second column on this table here is
44 what the escapement was in each of those parent years.
45 The next column there is the estimated production.
46 This is the recruit per spawner for each of those brood
47 years. The estimated production from each one and then
48 the contribution based on age and then the current
49 return.

50

1 Things to look at here is that for the
2 2011 run that the major contributors are going to be
3 the five year olds, which are from the 2006 brood year,
4 25 percent. Then also for the four year olds, which
5 were from the 2007 brood year, which is about
6 72 percent. In those years, you can see that the
7 recruit per spawner ratios are below zero or below one
8 I should say, which means that they're not replacing
9 themselves. There is a slight improvement, if you want
10 to call it that, from 2006 to 2007. You will note
11 though that the escapement in 2007 was about 900,000
12 fish. In this last column here is what we can expect
13 to get for a return of what we're looking at for each
14 of those brood years. Again, our estimate is about
15 737,000 fish.

16
17 This should be slide 3 in the packet
18 there. What this is showing is basically this is the
19 -- the shaded or the filled in bars here are what we
20 observed for the run and the lighter ones are what our
21 projection was for that particular year. What we kind
22 of see since 1998 through the disaster years here we
23 saw very low returns here or I should say runs, then
24 high runs during the mid 2000's and what we've been
25 seeing since 2006 is a decline in the runs to where
26 we're at right now in this kind of trough right now
27 after following this kind of peak through the mid
28 2000's.

29
30 A couple things to keep in mind when
31 we're looking at this projection we have for run size
32 is that the last three years, '08, '09 and '10, what
33 our observed run size, which is the dark bars here,
34 were about 30 percent less than what our projection
35 was. So if that trend continues for 2011, then as
36 opposed to 737,000 you might expect to see 500,000. At
37 that level of abundance, it would still be adequate for
38 escapement and subsistence priority and treaty
39 obligation, but that would be -- a commercial fishery
40 would be kind of a question mark whether one would be
41 prosecuted.

42
43 Something I want to point out to you is
44 that in 2010 we saw about 16 percent three year olds
45 for the fall chum, which is above the average
46 historical average of about 3 percent. So just keep in
47 mind though that sibling relationships between three
48 and four year olds is not strong with fall chum on the
49 Yukon. There has been years where it's been very
50 strong such as '01 and there's also been years where

1 it's been pretty bad. Overall, when you look at the
2 picture, this is the correlation about .48, which is
3 not good. So take that for what it's worth.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll stop you at
6 that point. Ray has a burning question. Go ahead,
7 Ray.

8

9 MR. COLLINS: How do you explain 2005
10 when your actual observed return was three times what
11 you estimated? I mean that shows you you can't always
12 rely on prediction. What's going on there?

13

14 MR. ESTENSEN: I don't know exactly
15 what happened with this year, why it was so off, but
16 you're absolutely right. You can't always rely on your
17 projections. You can see, looking over the years, that
18 there's been cases where our projection has been under
19 and there's been cases where our projection has been
20 over. What happened here I can't tell you. I could
21 find out for you and pass it on to you or maybe someone
22 who -- but I guess the thing to look at right now is
23 just what's happened in the last few years. We've been
24 3 percent under, so whether that holds true this year
25 we'll wait to see.

26

27 The other thing I'd like to point out
28 also is that we're kind of in this trough right now and
29 whether we start seeing like what we saw back in the
30 2000's disaster years, an upswing in run size, which
31 would kind of follow suit with what we've seen for the
32 cycles. If similar to other areas in western Alaska
33 remains to be seen.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.
36 Continue.

37

38 MR. ESTENSEN: Okay. Also I just want
39 to point out too is that this is our outlook for right
40 now. As most of you are aware, as we start getting our
41 numbers from the summer chum that there is a
42 relationship between the summer chum and the fall chum.
43 This is a regression that we've done over the years.
44 For the most part, historically, it's matched up pretty
45 good. Last year we were a little bit under that.
46 What's going to happen though, as we start getting
47 information from the summer chum performance, how the
48 run is looking there, we will be refining our
49 projection based on this relationship. So what we're
50 saying right now may not necessarily be the case. I

1 think last year we were looking at -- it changed just a
2 little bit last year from what our projection was based
3 on this and then what we got from the relationship.

4

5 Then just moving on to coho real quick.
6 This is abundance based on Pilot Station taking into
7 account their adjustment for run timing in Mountain
8 Village. This is for coho salmon. Number of fish from
9 '95 through 2010. This includes the harvest, which is
10 the stippled and then run reconstruction here or just
11 the run. Then this is the average over the years here.
12 Our parent year for our coho this year is going to come
13 out to 2007 parent year, which was above average in
14 terms of run.

15

16 Then also the only place in the
17 drainage where we do have an escapement goal is the
18 delta Clearwater. This is of the Tanana drainage.
19 Again, 2007 was within the upper part of the range
20 there, which is 52 to 17,000 and we hit just the upper
21 end of the range during that year. So I guess in a
22 nutshell, assuming that we have average survivorship to
23 this year and based on parent year escapement we're
24 looking at an average return of coho salmon. If that
25 was the case, then we should have -- there would be
26 abundance to allow a coho directed fishery taking into
27 account fall chum.

28

29 That's all I had.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I'll let Gene
32 take his computer.

33

34 MR. SANDONE: Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Gene has to go catch
37 an airplane. You can slide over and take the mic.
38 Does the Council have questions for Jeff on his
39 presentation? Go ahead, Tim.

40

41 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair, thank you.
42 Thank you for your presentation, Jeff. I have a few
43 questions. How do you define the difference between a
44 summer and a fall chum? Is it a date or a pulse?

45

46 MR. ESTENSEN: Well, genetics is the
47 first thing in my understanding, but also in terms of
48 the actual fish itself it would be genetics, but in
49 terms of when management occurs it's by date by
50 regulation in the Lower River in Y1.

1 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. Then you used the
2 term sibling relationship. That means if so many three
3 year olds come back one year that you'll see some kind
4 of relationship to the four year olds the next year?

5
6 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah. In other areas --
7 when I worked in the Kusko, that was part of our
8 outlook. If we had a strong showing of three year
9 olds, that might mean that you could see a strong
10 showing of four year olds the next year. It's been
11 pointed out to me with fall chum on the Yukon that that
12 relationship is poor, .48, as I mentioned in my
13 presentation.

14
15 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you. And have you
16 had an opportunity to look at this North Pacific
17 Fisheries Management Council chum bycatch information.

18
19 MR. ESTENSEN: I have seen it, yes. I
20 was able to see it at the YRDFA presentation in
21 Mountain Village. I suppose the next part of your
22 question is have I taken that into consideration with
23 this outlook. We have not.

24
25 MR. GERVAIS: That's good information.
26 What I meant to ask is do you feel it's detrimental to
27 the Yukon chum run?

28
29 MR. ESTENSEN: What I've looked at in
30 the last -- I've seen that the bycatch has gone down
31 considerably looking at the information that I've seen.
32 At this point in time, and I think Steve answered it
33 pretty well earlier is that, and I'll say the same
34 thing, is that it's certainly a factor. Is it the root
35 cause of the low runs that we've seen, I don't think it
36 is. Is it something that needs to be taken into
37 consideration? Yes, it does. I also believe that the
38 Council is taking steps to look at potentially putting
39 some restrictions or some incentives into place and I
40 think that's a good idea.

41
42 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. Well, I wish you
43 success in managing this fishery. I see extremely
44 large demand for chum coming up starting about a year
45 and a half ago and continuing into the future, so
46 there's going to be a lot of pressure from commercial
47 fishery interest and stuff to want to catch and harvest
48 and process these fish, so I hope we can keep the stock
49 in good shape. I also had a question. When the North
50 Pacific Council goes ahead and approved a hard cap and

1 they put in place their systems of trading salmon
2 between sectors or vessels and whatnot, to me that's
3 representing an allocation of fish. I don't really
4 understand how they can get an allocation of fish
5 outside the three-mile line. I don't know the State
6 statute, but I thought there was -- all the salmon in
7 Alaska were supposed to be harvested in terminal
8 fishery, so how does the State or Department of Law
9 reconcile allowing North Pacific Management Council to
10 give a salmon allocation on -- it's not the high seas,
11 but in the exclusive economic zone?

12
13 MR. ESTENSEN: I'm not entirely sure --
14 through the Chair. I'm not entirely sure I can answer
15 that question right now. I'm still learning about the
16 process. I'm not sure if I can answer that question
17 right now.

18
19 MR. GERVAIS: All right, thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim. Any
22 other questions or comments from the Council on Jeff's
23 presentation.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question is I
28 heard that Area M harvested around 700,000 chum salmon
29 as basically a bycatch in a non-terminal fishery. We
30 can't do a heck of a lot about the North Pacific
31 Fisheries Management Council, but are you in
32 coordination with your co-managers for Area M on some
33 way of reducing that fairly massive amounts of bycatch
34 of chum in the interception sockeye fishery? And the
35 drive to harvest chum that would be in Area M as a
36 bycatch.

37
38 Go ahead.

39
40 MR. ESTENSEN: Mr. Chair. We get
41 emails from the area managers down in that area and
42 we're certainly looking at the numbers right there. As
43 far as any active management, you know, there is none.
44 Coordinating with them or trying to get them to take
45 measures for us or something like that, no, there's
46 not.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They used to be
49 under harvest caps and quotas and stuff like that. If
50 this becomes more and more of an issue, I feel that

1 there should be a revisiting of that bycatch
2 interception in Area M, so I would encourage the State
3 managers to work more in concert with peers in the
4 Department on this bycatch issue. I haven't seen those
5 kind of numbers out of Area M in years. And then we go
6 into flat runs on the Yukon, which is a significant
7 component as the Yukon River fish, chum salmon.

8

9 You had a comment there, Fred.

10

11 MR. BUE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 Fred Bue, Fish and Wildlife Service. You're talking
13 about Area M fishery. Part of what we are doing though
14 is -- Jeff was giving his presentation referencing fall
15 chum. Part of the Area M fishery is there's a June
16 fishery and a post-June fishery. The June fishery we
17 think of more as a summer chum fish. Timing-wise in
18 order for those fish to go through in the June fishery,
19 they're likely to be summer chum. Post-June perhaps
20 could be fall chum because the timing and the distance
21 traveled, just to keep that in mind.

22

23 There is a report out there. Some of
24 you have heard about, were anticipating it coming out.
25 It's a WASSIP report, Western Alaska Salmon something
26 or other. Essentially what they did was, it's a
27 genetic sampling they did for four years in a row along
28 the western portion of Alaska, coastal waters in the
29 commercial fisheries and what they're trying to figure
30 out is the origins of those stocks that are picked up
31 in those areas. I was out in Sand Point a couple years
32 ago and watched them collecting their sample off
33 Shumagin and Unimak fish as they came in. They were
34 taking those samples -- they took them in north
35 peninsula, Bristol Bay, all the way up and I'm not even
36 sure. They may have even taken in Kotzebue. Even the
37 mouth of the Yukon we were looking at those fish. So
38 we're trying to get a handle on where fish are picked
39 up and those coastal fisheries are actually bound for.
40 It could be some of our fish that we're picking up in
41 the coastal district maybe bound for Norton Sound or
42 Kotzebue. We don't know that for sure.

43

44 So this report I believe -- maybe
45 someone knows. It's supposed to come out this fall, I
46 believe, but I'm not certain. But that should clear up
47 quite a bit of that. We have a lot of ideas, a lot of
48 supposition, but this report is going to be pretty
49 significant and put a lot of those pieces of place.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate those
2 clarifications, Fred. Did you have a timing on that
3 report?

4
5 MR. GERVAIS: What's the name of it?

6
7 MR. BUE: It's WASSIP. Maybe someone
8 knows exactly what it stands for.

9
10 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Western Alaska
11 Salmon Stock Identification Program.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Do you
14 want to repeat that on the record there, Fred.

15
16 MR. BUE: Challenge me. Western Alaska
17 Salmon Stock Identification Program.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for the
20 clarification on the record, Becca. Does the Council
21 have any further comments on the fall season report.

22
23 Don.

24
25 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
26 looks pretty promising, the 2011 chum salmon report,
27 the projection, so would that have any bearing on
28 closing down the king season? We could say, well, hey,
29 you've got a good summer chum coming up here, let's go
30 ahead and close that. I mean I don't know if that's a
31 question for.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jeff.

34
35 MR. ESTENSEN: Through the Chair. I
36 don't want to speak for Steve. I can't say what Steve
37 would think about that or not, so I'll leave it at
38 that. I don't know if Fred has any ideas on the
39 Federal side of things.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Fred.

42
43 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. That is a
44 concern. Although I don't manage the commercial
45 fishery, I do take quite a bit of stock in how the
46 subsistence fishery is and the overlap of chinook, king
47 salmon, overlaps the summer chum salmon. That is a big
48 deal and the strength of the summer chum run is
49 factored in. Often the bigger the summer chum run is,
50 the more overlap there is with kings. So typically if

1 there's a big chum run and a small king run, it gets
2 touchy at the end and a lot of those fisheries are --
3 it gets close to how many kings you may take even
4 though you're trying to catch chums.

5
6 Also there's the rollover into the fall
7 season. As many of you know, there's not a distinct
8 line between a fall chum and a summer chum. You
9 fishermen know when you catch them and often you catch
10 them both at the same time and it's difficult to say
11 exactly what day which fish is going to be in your net.

12
13 MR. HONEA: I thank you guys for that
14 report because I'm personally relying more on the chum
15 than on the kings, so we have to use what we can.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other comments.

20 Fred.

21
22 MR. BUE: Maybe I should let it go, but
23 Mr. Gervais spoke to the chum bycatch and the pollock
24 fishery. I think it was on Page 23 in your report. I
25 think you see a big spike in the chum bycatch. I think
26 that also corresponded with a big spike in our in-river
27 fish. As managers, it's a little bit different with
28 chum salmon. Typically we think when we see an
29 abundance of chum salmon in the bycatch, that's usually
30 a good sign that we're going to get a lot of chum in
31 the river. When the chum run is down, I don't know
32 what that means.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for pointing
35 that out, Fred. Any further questions.

36
37 Go ahead, Tim.

38
39 MR. GERVAIS: Thanks, Mr. Chair. You
40 probably know better than I. So they're having a low
41 bycatch on kings right now, so that's second? That
42 would be indicated this king run could be weak?

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Fred.

45
46 MR. BUE: No, I'm not saying that at
47 all. I think for kings we don't know what it means
48 very well. It appears that the chum and kings are
49 using different areas in the ocean and encountered
50 different places. In fact, they're encountered -- the

1 kings are primarily in the winter bycatch fishery
2 whereas chum are more in the summer fishery. So even
3 locations they're encountered at different times. I
4 think the report tomorrow will show that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jeff.

7

8 MR. ESTENSEN: I'd just like to add
9 too, and this was talked about at the last JTC meeting,
10 is also I think with these restriction with chinook,
11 with these incentives and restrictions and whatnot, it
12 used to be I was told that -- it was brought up that
13 you used to be able to rely on that for chinook, but
14 now with the incentives it's not so much easy to do so
15 anymore because you don't know if the reduced catch is
16 because of the abundance or because they're simply just
17 not -- there's not much in the bycatch anymore, so you
18 can't use that information anymore for that.

19

20 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. My final
23 comment would be that as we move away voluntarily,
24 regulatorily towards reducing our king salmon harvest,
25 there's going to be a higher reliance on subsistence
26 use of chum and being a smaller fish to make the same
27 poundage. It's going to actually entail additional
28 fish. It's something to really keep in mind on
29 directed chum fisheries and stock analysis. So looking
30 at these graphs, this doesn't really look so good.
31 Non-chums going into these real super trough and
32 correlating directly to this reduced inshore, in-system
33 Yukon. It would indicate to me that this season is
34 going to be real flat compared to the project. The
35 fall chum could be a real problem and run timing and
36 various factors. I would just caution you both as
37 managers to be very cautious about making sure that we
38 get the additional fish on grounds for subsistence use
39 this year if we're going to shift towards chum in a
40 regulatorily or voluntarily away from chinook. That
41 would be my comments and I appreciate your presentation
42 and clarification.

43

44 Fred, go ahead.

45

46 MR. BUE: I hate to bring -- I think in
47 recent years we haven't seen as many chum in the
48 subsistence harvest as we have had historically.
49 Historically we've had some very strong runs when we
50 used to have dog teams and such. In fact, our harvests

1 have been well below the ANS guidelines that are in
2 regulation and so our management plans are looking at
3 the ANS as kind of factored into there, so I think
4 there is some buffer built into there. I think the
5 management plans that we have for summer and fall chum
6 have built in some of that already.

7

8 Mr. Chairman.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that
11 aspect. That's enlightening also. Thank you.

12

13 MR. GERVAIS: What is ANS?

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Amounts necessary
16 for subsistence.

17

18 Okay, we're still on Yukon River
19 fisheries. I should have apologize to Gene. He was
20 under time constraints and I took one comment and put
21 him in a bind and I'll email him and apologize. He
22 seemed to be stressed out leaving here. I would like
23 to have as much public comment as I can. Brad Scotton
24 was going to comment on Yukon fisheries from his
25 personal perspective since he is a Federal U.S. Fish
26 and Wildlife game biologist. I want the Council to be
27 clear that he's just a resident of Galena.

28

29 Go ahead, Brad.

30

31 MR. SCOTTON: Thank you, Mr.
32 Chairman. Brad Scotton testifying on behalf of myself
33 and my family. It is after 4:30, so even though I'm a
34 bureaucrat I'm now off the clock and I can legitimately
35 do this.

36

37 There's several of the comments I
38 wanted to make have already been covered and I think,
39 generally speaking, the testimony and the concern about
40 conservation of king salmon has been heightened again
41 and everyone is concerned. I feel from a personal
42 perspective we're going down the right path.

43

44 I was gratified somewhat to hear the
45 nation of Canada being mentioned more and more.
46 Educationally, people are beginning to really catch on
47 that they are the host for the majority of the breeding
48 stock that provides our subsistence catch in Alaska.
49 Sixty percent of the fish we catch as subsistence users
50 come from Canada and we have an international treaty

1 obligation to get escapement into Canada. That number
2 currently, I believe, is around 45,000 fish. What
3 exactly that's based on I don't know. I do know that
4 we've failed to meet that objective for several years.
5 I think three out of the last four is what I hear most
6 commonly.

7
8 One consideration I'd like to bring up
9 that I never really hear talked about a whole lot is
10 what type of fish those 45,000 are is important. I
11 think Gene Sandone touched on this. He said if you
12 want to conserve the species, if you want to do well
13 for the king salmon, and historically six year olds
14 were a large component in the harvest of these fish, we
15 need to be letting six year old fish get into Canada to
16 spawn. It's not acceptable to be harvesting them in
17 such a way in Alaska that we're taking out all the big
18 ones and only the three, four and five year olds are
19 making it. So we need to consider that in our
20 management options.

21
22 I would like to say that I considered
23 2009 a success. I think there was a great educational
24 campaign out there by YRDFA and various committees and
25 the State and the Feds that were saying, look, we have
26 a conservation concern, we need to do our best, we need
27 to do voluntary restrictions and we're going to protect
28 the first pulse. Guess what? It worked. We put
29 65,000 or so fish over the border into Canada. That
30 should be held up as a positive for Alaskans and a
31 positive for Canada that we did the right thing.

32
33 I don't think anybody starved to death,
34 but there were hardships for people certainly. My
35 family chose to forego fishing entirely that year for
36 king salmon. A lot of other families, and Timothy
37 Gervais testified to that, made voluntary restrictions
38 and we all tried to abide by the first pulse
39 restrictions.

40
41 I would like to say that for this
42 coming season as State managers and others should
43 consider that those first two pulses are the key pulses
44 to meet our escapement objectives for that big bunch of
45 fish and that's where the restrictions are going to
46 have to be and we need to start getting that
47 information out there and talking about it and prepare
48 people for a season of extreme sort of conservation
49 measures. And then if it turns out that more fish turn
50 up than planned and we can allow more fishing, then

1 everybody is happy. But if it really is an abysmal
2 year, people need to be psychologically prepared to not
3 fish as much this year. So that's just my thoughts on
4 that.

5
6 The sale of king bycatch in the
7 directed chum fishery on the Lower River was brought up
8 by Jack and that's the first time I've heard it
9 mentioned in a while. This, I think, frustrates a lot
10 of people. I know it frustrated me personally. When
11 people upriver on one hand, and Fred mentioned this,
12 were being asked to voluntarily reduce our personal
13 harvest late in the season when we realized we were not
14 going to meet escapement objectives and at the same
15 time there were Lower River commercial openings for
16 chums, which I have no problem with, it's called a
17 directed chum fishery and you're allowed to fish with
18 6-inch mesh nets which catch a lot of kings, and they
19 caught 10,000 kings.

20
21 Okay, a lot of those weren't going to
22 Canada, but some of them were and some of them would
23 have come upriver to be caught by subsistence
24 fishermen. Those 10,000 kings were allowed to be sold
25 commercially. That, to me, does not indicate a
26 directed chum fishery because the value of those kings
27 that were caught was probably greater than the 250,000
28 chums that were caught in terms of dollars.

29
30 So when the value of the bycatch is
31 greater than the value of the targeted catch, I don't
32 call that a directed chum fishery and I think maybe
33 there's some things we could do. I think there's
34 smaller mesh nets that the commercial fishermen own in
35 the Lower River. If it's a chum fishery, use 4.5 or 5-
36 inch mesh nets or whatever is available for chums,
37 don't allow the sale of bycatch of kings, let people
38 put those kings in their subsistence larders and the
39 rest of them that aren't being caught can come upriver
40 and feed the Alaskan stocks, which probably need help
41 as well. We don't even know because I don't think we
42 do a whole lot of escapement surveys in Alaska.

43
44 So those are sort of my key points and
45 I appreciate the Board's work and I appreciate YRDFA's
46 work and all the people that are on this and the
47 teleconferences that occur. I think the people of
48 Alaska, from what I hear in the teleconferences, are
49 more than willing to do their fair share for
50 conservation. The first thing we need to do is look

1 out for the king salmon and then take care of the
2 subsistence users and then take care of the commercial
3 fishermen.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comment on the
6 gear size is I used to fish in Bristol Bay with 5-
7 3/8ths gear, 5-1/4 inch gear for sockeye and you start
8 getting into too small a mesh you end up with a huge
9 drop out rate and it actually kills the fish and I have
10 a diagram that will show you how that all works. But
11 the reality is if you go to too small a gear, you
12 actually kill the larger chums and the kings. You
13 actually drop them. The perception is, and I argue
14 this over and over, there's been no statistical study
15 done to demonstrate when you use too small a net what
16 the mortalities are. So our annual report and our
17 fisheries funding is moving towards developing a study
18 to show drop out rates with too small a net. You can
19 move away from your intention by -- the perception is,
20 and it's widely promulgated, that you use smaller mesh
21 gear and you'll save fish. No, you actually kill fish.
22 You actually kill fish and you lose them. So you can
23 move away.

24

25 I feel strongly that the directed chum
26 fishery should not allow the sale of chinook salmon.
27 That's the direction this needs to go. If they have a
28 directed chum fishery, it is a chum fishery. It's not
29 a king salmon fishery and bycatch should not be sold.
30 If bycatch is harvested and cannot be used, it should
31 be processed and returned back to up the drainage to
32 the intended sources.

33

34 So I told the North Pacific Fisheries
35 Management Council that those bycatch fish in McGrath
36 in 2007 they should actually be processed, not ground
37 into powder and dumped overboard. They should be
38 processed and returned to the rivers of origin. They
39 didn't do that. I felt that that would be a
40 disincentive. I feel that the sale of chinook salmon
41 on the Yukon River should be disincentivized. I made
42 up a term. Sara does that all the time. So I agree
43 with you on that aspect. I don't agree on reducing to
44 4.5-inch mesh and I will transmit a document that I
45 designed for the Department of Fish and Game that shows
46 that small mesh gear actually can have a huge
47 mortality, an unknown mortality. I just wanted to put
48 that on the record.

49

50 Does any other Council members have

1 comments on Brad's personal comments.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I do appreciate your
6 conservation ethic and the conservation of the -- we're
7 both on the same sheet of music on conserving the Yukon
8 River chinook salmon and I appreciate you coming up as
9 a person that lives in Galena and your perspective. I
10 really appreciate that.

11

12 Go ahead, Don.

13

14 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
15 thank you, Brad, for coming up and speaking to that
16 effect because a lot of times it seems like we put
17 forth as the Western Interior -- you know, maybe we
18 don't have the blessings, maybe we don't have of our
19 own village and we're kind of -- you know, so it kind
20 of reinforces to hear a local say that, hey, we will
21 give up that first pulse if we have to.

22

23 Like Fred mentioned a while back ago,
24 Koyukuk took the initiative at the beginning, a couple
25 years back, to introduce that and they were the ones
26 that said, hey, we would give this up. So we, as
27 village councils, whatever, at TCC, we said, hey, you
28 know, so everybody thought about it and, you know, it
29 was just grassroots kind of stuff. So I appreciate
30 anybody that comes up and says, hey, you know, if we
31 have to do this, we would. It's not like we, as the
32 Western Interior, we -- sometimes I guess maybe
33 somebody in my village don't even know that we took
34 this step, so we have to kind of explain why. So I
35 appreciate those comments.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One additional
40 comment I had was that it was reported that about 25
41 percent of the chinook salmon that were taken in the
42 directed chum fishery were of upriver stocks and that
43 varied. There was various interpretations around that
44 figure. There were a significant portion of those fish
45 were upriver stocks.

46

47 Brad.

48

49 MR. SCOTTON: I'll make one additional
50 comment. I did sort of appreciate you polling the

1 Council on their considerations of whether they thought
2 voluntary or mandatory restrictions would be necessary.
3 By saying that I think there's a lot of people willing
4 to volunteer. I'm not saying that I advocate that as
5 the only solution. I actually think that mandatory
6 restrictions are necessary to fulfill our treaty
7 obligations and help protect the species. Again, from
8 a biological perspective I think it's got to be focused
9 on the first two pulses and do what we need to do to
10 make sure that those salmon are coming back.

11
12 I really dislike the term world class,
13 it gets used a lot, but if you look on a worldwide
14 scale of healthy, natural, wild stock salmon runs,
15 Alaska has, you know, more than their fair share in the
16 world. When you start talking about large scale king
17 salmon runs in the world, the Yukon River, if not the
18 biggest, one of the biggest. You look at the whole
19 west coast of the United States and what they're
20 dealing with with trying to rebuild stocks from a
21 handful of fish, and let's hope we're never in that
22 boat. We still have a healthy population. It just
23 needs a little bit of help right now to get back on
24 track and avoid some of the major problems that we
25 could see if something really collapsed. We are
26 dealing with a lot of unknowns and ocean conditions and
27 changing climate and those types of things that might
28 be out there. So as kind of end users, it is up to us
29 to some extent to make sure we're doing our part to
30 conserve the species.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

33
34 MS. PELKOLA: Jack, I have something

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

37
38 MS. PELKOLA: Brad, I want to thank you
39 for your comments. That year when we were asked to cut
40 back on our fishing and to let the fish go by, 10,000
41 kings were caught downriver for commercial and Canada
42 was lacking 10,000 kings to meet the quota, so I just
43 want to say that I agree that we shouldn't be selling
44 kings when it's a chum season.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny.
47 Thanks, Brad. So Ken Chase had his hand up earlier for
48 comments on Yukon River fishery. You got something to
49 say, Ken?

50

1 MR. CHASE: If it fits your agenda.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're working on
4 Yukon River fisheries. I had other commenters signed up
5 before you. That's why I had to take them first.

6

7 MR. CHASE: No, there's no problem.
8 Mr. Chairman. Members of the Committee. Ken Chase,
9 chair of the Grayling/Anvik/Shageluk/Holy Cross
10 Advisory Committee. I have a number of things I'd like
11 to talk about, but I can't because I'm up here on
12 behalf of the committee and we only have a meeting a
13 year and we haven't had ours until next month. In the
14 past we've talked about some of the things that's been
15 discussed here and one of the things I'm real glad to
16 hear is Don's comments and talks and interest in the
17 fall chum and the summer chum.

18

19 Growing up in Anvik back in the '50s we
20 didn't use king salmon. We used chum salmon, fall chum
21 and summer chum. There was very few people that caught
22 kings in the fishwheels. The reason was historically
23 they used fish traps and then when they outlawed fish
24 traps they didn't have the nets to fish the kings with,
25 so they just used fishwheels and the chum salmon was
26 the main source of fish for everybody. It was for
27 trade, for dogs, for human consumption, the whole
28 works.

29

30 Our committee has talked about this and
31 I know for a fact they will wholly support total
32 closure or total control to the Fish and Game to
33 rebuild the king salmon stock. It's plain to see that
34 there's been abuse and the reporting -- if it was
35 voluntary, it would not work. I would like to see it
36 work and people be honest, but it will never happen
37 because we could see in the past and you can see the
38 fish calendars and you can see the reports from people
39 come around. You look at the graphs that are being put
40 up by Fish and Game and I can tell that they're not
41 being honest with what's being taken. So I really feel
42 that there should be some curtailment of the first
43 salmon so they can get up the river to spawn.

44

45 The other area that I would like to
46 address is -- you talked earlier about a letter to TCC
47 supporting -- I'm getting off track here. Anyway, to
48 help with the.....

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In regards to

1 customary trade.

2

3

MR. CHASE: Yeah, customary trade.

4 Again, I've talked with some of the members and we feel
5 very strongly about -- we, as a committee, years ago
6 opted to tell TCC that we wanted to manage our own
7 affairs. We said we wanted to be more dependant
8 ourselves, teaching our people, our kids to make the
9 decisions instead of going to a political group to do
10 that. I feel that they will be also supportive. Be
11 very careful of how this body deals with TCC and
12 getting its input into helping on that area.

13

14 It's not personal, but I've seen it.
15 I've been Mayor for 30 years. I've been chief for 30
16 years and I've been on the TCC board a number of times
17 and I know how those committees and how those heads of
18 departments work. I just feel strongly and I know some
19 of the committee members would -- lets develop our own
20 resources, our human resource, our children and help
21 them to understand that it's their right and their need
22 to do this themself rather than being dictated by
23 somebody else.

24

Thank you.

25

26

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does Council members
28 have comments on Ken's testimony.

29

30

MR. HONEA: Yeah, I do.

31

32

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

33

34

MR. HONEA: Yeah, Ken, I appreciate
35 that, you know, because for me, for like during the
36 king season it's pretty hectic. There's a lot of
37 conflicts between our own people in the village,
38 fishing sites and stuff. I'm kind of pretty happy
39 about this projected outlook here because we go up to
40 the camp and we do the -- you know, it's usually pretty
41 late. It runs into September. So we're hunting and
42 it's a little colder, it takes a little longer to dry
43 the fish and it's not as rich or anything. It's still
44 edible, it's still good, kind of prized at that time.
45 I think just kind of gives us more of a thing to look
46 forward to if we had to not use that season. So I like
47 those comments and because we're out there, we're
48 hunting at the same time and we're taking care of it.

49

50 So thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other Council member
2 comments.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ken, I wanted to pry
7 a little deeper into your cautionary on TCC. Is it
8 your perception that they would leverage for customary
9 trade to urban areas or what would be your concern with
10 TCC and AVCP?

11
12 MR. CHASE: Well, they're political. I
13 mean they're sort of advocates for the Native
14 community. From our perspective, from the Advisory
15 Councils, we represent all users regardless of what
16 they are out in the rural areas. If they're non-Native
17 or not, you know, we try to encourage them to get
18 involved in our committee and our decisions. In the
19 past, I've seen Tanana Chiefs to where they discourage
20 that. I mean they want to go strictly with the group
21 and I don't want to go any further than that.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I appreciate
24 your comments and concerns. The Department of
25 Interior's mandate is for tribal council involvement
26 and that was the request and sort of the mandate from
27 the Federal program is for tribal council involvement.
28 That would be the primary outreach from the RACs is to
29 the tribal councils. TCC's comments are just
30 inclusionary in the process and AVCPs comments would be
31 inclusionary. Personally, I would look to the tribal
32 councils on the Yukon River system, and there's 40-
33 something villages, 43 or whatever.

34
35 MR. HALE: 47.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 47 villages on the
38 Yukon River. I would look at those comments as the
39 primary level, the local comments, because this body is
40 charged under .805 of ANILCA to be a platform for local
41 people to express their concerns. That would be my
42 comment to you on the TCC and the AVCP involvement.

43
44 Do you have a comment, Ken.

45
46 MR CHASE: Mr. Chairman. I understand.
47 Maybe I didn't clarify myself really. I'm going back
48 to the fact that one of the things that TCC, Doyon and
49 even the villages, self-determination, they want to
50 encourage the people to do things for themselves and I

1 don't think -- it's going in the wrong direction. I
2 think TCC could take maybe upper hand and sort of help
3 the villages to get their people not only the tribal
4 council. There's so much emphasis put on that. A lot
5 of the villages don't have really strong tribal
6 councils. There's just a few number of people that
7 take control and then the other people don't get
8 involved and say oh they can do it. So as a result you
9 don't get strong people into the process. I think if
10 you get people off the street -- if TCC worked that
11 course, you'd get more people involved, stronger people
12 and people are not so politically inclined and it could
13 be like a standing committee or just a committee that's
14 dissolves after a certain thing is done for that
15 specific reason. See what I'm saying?

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I do see
18 what you're saying. Joy was talking about including
19 youth and working with -- and polling the community
20 also, so I felt that was a great idea. So TCC could
21 facilitate that. We don't have the wherewithal to do
22 that from the Council or OSM. So I sort of lean
23 towards that aspect.

24

25 Any more comments from the Council.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate your
30 comments and concerns, Ken.

31

32 So we're at 5:00 o'clock. This
33 customary trade issue is still part of the Yukon River
34 fisheries and we do need to deal with that, but we're
35 kind of to the end of the day here. We can take up
36 that in the morning. This is a wildlife meeting. We
37 need to deal with some wildlife issues also.

38

39 We've accomplished a lot today, so I
40 feel it's time to break. I would like to complete the
41 agenda by the completion of tomorrow, so we need to be
42 prompt at 8:30 to achieve this agenda. Tim.

43

44 MR. GERVAIS: How long do you think
45 that North Pacific Council presentation is going to
46 take?

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have no idea how
49 long that is. The North Pacific Management Council
50 presentation was presented at the YK Delta and

1 approximately how long did that take?

2

3 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: I think the
4 presentation is probably about an hour and then
5 depending how many questions you have.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, wow. So there's
8 an hour there.

9

10 MR. GERVAIS: I'll probably have a few
11 questions for that.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm sure you do.
14 Well, we'll deal with that when they get here. We do
15 have many other issues. We have mandates that the
16 Federal Subsistence Board wants answered on the MOU and
17 various aspects. Those are real action items. That is
18 not an option, so we need to complete that also.

19

20 Polly.

21

22 DR. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. Just a
23 suggestion on a couple of those items. The first item
24 -- one of the items is expanding the Federal
25 Subsistence Board to include two new members. There's
26 a briefing document back on the table that didn't make
27 it into your books and that covers the gist of what the
28 proposed rule would do, which is to add two members
29 that represent the interest of rural Alaska subsistence
30 users to the Federal Subsistence Board and also the
31 proposed rule changes the quorum.

32

33 So I suggest you read the briefing
34 paper tonight. One way to kind of move things along
35 tomorrow. See what the proposed rule does and what it
36 doesn't do and you can move through that fairly
37 quickly.

38

39 The other item that I suggest and
40 you've already done it is read through the MOU, which
41 is also in your book, and then you can come tomorrow
42 with questions. I know at the YK Council they spend a
43 considerable amount of time going through the MOU line
44 by line, which I'd be happy to do with you, but it
45 might save time if you read it tonight and come up with
46 questions, comments, whatever. I would urge you to
47 make the questions and comments as specific as possible
48 because that's a lot more helpful.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those

1 comments, Polly. On the MOU there's a real glaring
2 need for change in the MOU and I'm encouraged by the
3 request to change the MOU. I have prepared comments
4 and the Council can review my position on the MOU and I
5 do encourage the Council to read the MOU and the
6 briefing paper on the Federal Board make-up. We can
7 comment on the criteria of the Federal Board selection,
8 the two members. That's closed at this time?

9

10 Go ahead, Polly.

11

12 DR. WHEELER: Do you want to get into
13 this now or wait until tomorrow?

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I just want to know
16 where we're at, how much preparation I'm willing to put
17 into that.

18

19 DR. WHEELER: This was actually brought
20 up a while ago with Pat Pourchot and I will make it
21 short and we can cover it again tomorrow. The
22 questions have been raised to him all along what
23 process are you going to use to get these two people on
24 there, are they going to be Native, are they going to
25 be tribal. He's like, whoa. In regulation, we're not
26 going to put the process by which these people are
27 selected. If we go to our implementing regulations for
28 like the composition of the Federal Board, all it says
29 is by regulation on the Federal Board is the regional
30 heads of the BIA, BLM, Park Service, Fish and Wildlife
31 Service and a citizen chair. That's all it says and it
32 says what the quorum is.

33

34 Pat Pourchot and the Secretary are
35 quite clear that they don't want to tie anybody's hands
36 by putting into regulation what a selection process
37 would be. As it turns out, the selection process for
38 the chair of the Federal Subsistence Board is sort of
39 an application process and they get vetted all the way
40 up through the White House. I imagine that would be
41 the same sort of thing for these two additional seats.
42 But Pat has been quite clear, as has the Secretary,
43 that they do not intend to put into regulation a
44 process or an ethnicity or tribal or anything like
45 that. That really is up to the purview of the
46 Secretary.

47

48 Now keep in mind that changing the
49 composition of the Federal Board is a subpart B change
50 in our regulations and that is program structure. That

1 lies with the Secretary. So the Secretary could do
2 this change if he wanted to anyway, but he's sort of
3 putting it out there for people. So I think it's
4 highly unlikely that the Secretary would put into
5 regulation what the selection process would be.

6
7 You can put that into your comments,
8 but it's been quite clear that they're not really
9 probably going to go down that path.

10
11 Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Polly.
14 Okay. I just wanted to know what point and status we
15 were. Pollock, you have a comment.

16
17 MR. SIMON: It's past 5:00, Mr. Chair,
18 10 after 5:00. You have to keep it between 8:30 and
19 5:00, you know.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

22
23 MR. SIMON: You're the Chair. You have
24 to keep the comments and questions brief and we finish
25 the agenda. Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for point of
28 order, Pollock. Everybody is getting hungry. We need
29 to know what we need to study for this next evening.

30
31 MS. PELKOLA: I have a correction on
32 the Science Fair. It's 6:30 instead of 6:00. Also we
33 have only two people signed up for lunch, so if you
34 want lunch tomorrow, you better sign up. Shirley is
35 back there.

36
37 DR. WHEELER: One more thing just to
38 add to your homework list, everybody. Robert says
39 grumpily. The closure reviews are in your book also.
40 There's a briefing document and the closure policy and
41 then there's one wildlife closure that you'll be taking
42 up tomorrow. So if you want to just kind of get your
43 prep work done on that, that would be good too.

44
45 MR. WALKER: Do we leave our books
46 here, Mr. Chair?

47
48 DR. WHEELER: You cannot leave your
49 books here. You need to take them home and read them.
50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The meeting is
4 recessed until tomorrow morning at 8:30.

5

6 (Off record)

7

8 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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