

1 WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME I

7
8 McGrath, Alaska
9 October 5, 2010
10 1:00 o'clock p.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 Mickey Stickman
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

(McGrath, Alaska - 10/5/2010)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'd like to call this meeting to order. I have 12:59 on the clock. My name is Jack Reakoff. I'm the Chairman of the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council. And so we're going to have the roll call. You have the roster, Donald.

MR. MIKE: Okay, Mr. Chair. Just a second.

(Pause)

MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, you were asking me to do the roll call.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, please.

(Pause)

MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman. This is a roll call of the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council.

Mr. Robert Walker.

MR. R. WALKER: Here.

MR. MIKE: Mr. Donald Honea.

MR. HONEA: Here.

MR. MIKE: Mr. Michael Stickman.

MR. STICKMAN: Here.

MR. MIKE: Mr. Timothy Gervais.

MR. GERVAIS: Present.

MR. MIKE: Mr. Ray Collins.

MR. COLLINS: Here.

MR. MIKE: Mr. Jack Reakoff.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Here.
2
3 MR. MIKE: Mr. James Walker.
4
5 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. James Walker would
6 like to be excused. He had personal business to take
7 care of.
8
9 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. Mr. James Walker
10 requested to be excused from this meeting.
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, he has a valid
13 reason for absence.
14
15 MR. MIKE: Ms. Jenny Pelkola.
16
17 MS. PELKOLA: Here.
18
19 MR. MIKE: Mr. Carl Morgan.
20
21 MR. MORGAN: Here.
22
23 MR. MIKE: Ms. Eleanor Yatlin.
24
25 MS. YATLIN: Here.
26
27 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. You have nine
28 members present, one absent, excused, you have nine
29 members. You have a quorum, Mr. Chair.
30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks Donald. And
32 so we're going to review and adopt our agenda. Has the
33 Council reviewed the agenda for this meeting, and would
34 you like to insert anything or arrange the agenda
35 differently.
36
37 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chairman.
38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.
40
41 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chairman. I'd like
42 to put some -- a time slot in the agenda to discuss the
43 Marine Stewardship Council Sustainability Certification
44 for Bering Sea pollock, probably 20-30 minutes
45 discussion required on that.
46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Maybe after we go
48 through the proposals, like 11A or something like that.
49 On our agenda we have 11 is to develop an issues paper
50 regarding Yukon River salmon fisheries management, and

1 we could put that as 11A; does that sound good?

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: All right.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And titled marine
6 stewardship discussion.

7

8 MR. GERVAIS: It could be Bering Sea
9 pollock sustainability recertification.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Any
12 other insertions into the agenda or arrangement of the
13 agenda by the Council.

14

15 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Donald.

18

19 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
20 have Staff that have suggested as far as the sequence
21 of the fisheries proposals. Maybe we can have Staff
22 approach the Council and discuss the sequence of the
23 proposed, particularly Proposal 11-05 and Proposal 11-
24 07.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

27

28 MR. MIKE: Mr. Cannon, can you present
29 that please.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

32

33 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 Just for the Council's consideration if you'd look at
35 the proposals that will be before you today, there are
36 a number that begin with Fisheries Management
37 regulatory issues, when you get down to 11-05 then you
38 begin to talk about the customary trade and then 11-07,
39 you go back and talk about drift gillnets in Districts
40 4 and 5.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

43

44 MR. CANNON: What we're suggesting is
45 that you take up all -- that you switch positions
46 between -- that you put 07 basically after 04 and then
47 take up with the customary trade as one group.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that sounds
50 good. Is the Council agreeable to that.

1 (Council nods affirmatively)
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
4
5 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chairman.
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.
8
9 MR. GERVAIS: I'd also like to request
10 a small amount of time to see if the Council wants to
11 draft a letter to Representative Don Young's office
12 regarding the Section 404(c) part of the Clean Water
13 Act which is trying to remove from the Clean Water Act.
14 It would only take five or 10 minutes of discussion.
15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we could
17 discuss that and I would like to discuss that with
18 Staff, we get into this Hatch Act, and can we actually
19 contact the Representative's office as a Council, and
20 if we do we would have to submit that through the
21 correspondence review for the Council. So is there any
22 preclusion of that from OSM?
23
24 Go ahead, Donald.
25
26 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. One thing that
27 this Council can do is, like Mr. Gervais, was stating,
28 is writing a letter to Representative Young, I think
29 the best avenue for that would be to write a letter
30 directly to the Federal Subsistence Board, and then
31 they can probably forward it to Representative Young's
32 office.
33
34 Is that a good course of action?
35
36 MR. BUKLIS: We'll check on that.
37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could take it up
39 though, and where would you like to insert that.
40
41 MR. GERVAIS: Anywhere in the fisheries
42 section.
43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, so we could
45 make that 11B. And you want to title that, state the
46 title?
47
48 MR. GERVAIS: Clean Water Act 404(c)
49 discussion.
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
2
3 (Teleconference - wrong number call in)
4
5 REPORTER: Donald, what line do you
6 have this hooked into?
7
8 MR. MIKE: Just the phone line.
9
10 REPORTER: But is it their direct line,
11 okay, I don't think you have the conference line in
12 place.
13
14 (Laughter)
15
16 MR. MIKE: I'm not sure.
17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other agenda
19 insertions.
20
21 (Pause)
22
23 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chair.
24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.
26
27 MR. WILSON: Thanks. Seth Wilson,
28 Division of Subsistence Fish and Game in Fairbanks.
29
30 REPORTER: Come on up.
31
32 (Laughter)
33
34 MR. WILSON: I put together a short 10
35 minute presentation on some of the projects we're
36 working on in this area, if we could present that.
37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That would
39 be.....
40
41 MR. WILSON: Probably under agency
42 reports, No. 12D, other.
43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Oh, other,
45 yes, that would be good. Those are fisheries.....
46
47 MR. WILSON: I'm sorry.
48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:Subsistence
50 Division Fisheries.

1 MR. WILSON: Subsistence Division
2 Fishery reports.
3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And we'll put
5 you down as ADF&G, Subsistence Division. That would be
6 the only other ADF&G report. ADF&G is going to give us
7 a Staff report for the post-season.....
8
9 MR. WILSON: Right. Aside from that, I
10 think, I would be the only other one.
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, that sounds
13 good.
14
15 MR. WILSON: Thank you.
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Any
18 other agenda.
19
20 (No comments)
21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing no other
23 insertions.
24
25 MR. R. WALKER: Move to adopt the
26 agenda.
27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
29 the agenda as amended by the insertions signify by
30 saying aye.
31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.
33
34 REPORTER: No, wait.....
35
36 IN UNISON: Aye.
37
38 MS. YATLIN: What, the agenda.....
39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got something,
41 Salena, Eleanor.
42
43 MS. YATLIN: I didn't think we had a
44 second so I was going to second.
45
46 REPORTER: Right.
47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we're adopting
49 the agenda. Those in favor of the agenda as modified
50 signify by saying, aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same
4 sign.
5
6 (No opposing votes)
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Agenda's adopted as
9 modified. And so we're going to welcome and introduce
10 our Staff and guests here, and so we'll go around the
11 room.
12
13 I'll recognize our court recorder,
14 Salena Hile, she's been to many of our meetings, many
15 meetings and so I really appreciate your presence here
16 and assistance during our meetings.
17
18 REPORTER: Thank you.
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Rich, do you want to
21 go around the room and introduce yourselves on the
22 record, please.
23
24 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
25 I'm Richard Cannon. I work with OSM. I'm the Yukon
26 fisheries biologist.
27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.
29
30 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli. The
31 Bureau of Indian Affairs, subsistence anthropologist.
32
33 MR. JENKINS: David Jenkins. I'm an
34 anthropologist with OSM.
35
36 MR. BLESSINGTON: I'm Jeff Blessington
37 with ADF&G, I'm the fall yukon manager, commercial
38 fisheries.
39
40 MR. BUKLIS: Larry Buklis. I'm with
41 the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm the
42 Fisheries Division Chief.
43
44 MR. WILSON: I'm Seth Wilson with
45 Division of Subsistence in Fairbanks. My title is
46 subsistence resource specialist.
47
48 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning. George
49 Pappas, Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence
50 Liaison Team. I'm the fisheries guy.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Vince Mathews. What am I
2 now?

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: Refuge subsistence
7 coordinator for Arctic, Kanuti and Yukon Flats.
8

9 MR. SANDONE: Good morning, my name is
10 -- good afternoon, my name is Gene Sandone. I
11 represent Kwik'pak Fisheries. I live in Wasilla,
12 Alaska. Kwik'Pak is a fisheries business down in the
13 Lower River. I provided comments to the Federal
14 Subsistence Board and I would like to testify on each
15 proposal during public comment.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

20
21 MR. ROMAS: I'm Keith Ramos. I'm the
22 deputy Refuge manager for the Koyukuk Refuge, Galena.
23

24 MR. BUE: I'm Fred Bue, Fish and
25 Wildlife Service. Yukon area manager.
26

27 MR. MEARS: Jeremy Mears, fisheries
28 biologist for the Fairbanks field office of the Fish
29 and Wildlife Service.

30
31 MS. BUCKLEAU: Stacy Buckleau, ADF&G,
32 assistant area manager for summer season on the Yukon.
33

34 MS. GREEN: Dina Green, assistant
35 manager for the Yukon for fall season, Fish and Game.
36

37 MR. BYERSDORF: Geoff Byersdorf, Bureau
38 of Land Management out of Anchorage.
39

40 MR. ARDIZZONE: Good afternoon. Chuck
41 Ardizzone, Wildlife Division Chief and liaison to the
42 Federal Board of Game for OSM.

43
44 MR. MOOS: Kenton Moos. I'm the Refuge
45 manager of Koyukuk/Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge.
46

47 MR. BERG: Jerry Berg, InterAgency
48 Staff Committee member for Fish and Wildlife Service
49 out of Anchorage.

50

1 MR. SLOAN: Bo Sloan, the Refuge
2 Manager for Innoko National Wildlife Refuge
3 headquartered here in McGrath. And I'd also like to
4 take this time to say welcome to McGrath, glad you
5 guys, you know, decided to have the meeting and if you
6 have any questions about McGrath ask Kevin.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 MR. WENTWORTH: Kevin Wentworth, Deputy
11 Refuge Manager for Innoko National Wildlife Refuge
12 based out of McGrath here.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, thank you very
15 much. I really appreciate all of your presence and the
16 assistance during this meeting.

17
18 And so we're at review and approval of
19 various minutes. We had two teleconferences. We had
20 our February meeting and the minutes are in the book
21 here on Page 5 of our book. And the only thing I saw
22 was under F, Tim attended the Board of Fish meeting,
23 not the Board of Game meeting, and that would be the
24 second sentence under F. That's the only thing I
25 caught there.

26
27 And so covering our February 24th to
28 26th game meeting, the only thing that's lacking is the
29 first day, which was a joint meeting with Eastern, and
30 I don't see that here. But as far as the game portion
31 of our meeting, the 24th through 26th, it's here.

32
33 Are there any comments on these
34 minutes.

35
36 MR. GERVAIS: Will they insert that
37 joint meeting?

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can approve the
40 game portion of these minutes. The joint portion is
41 not here so we can adopt those at our -- if they are
42 produced, I guess, at our next meeting. There was a
43 joint fishery meeting on Proposal 12 and 13, the 7.5
44 inch gear size and the 35 mesh, and we had that the
45 first day with Eastern and then we went into the game.

46
47 These minutes reflect the game portion
48 of the meeting.

49
50 And we had a reconsideration that's

1 reflected in these minutes on Proposal FP09-12, but it
2 doesn't actually reflect the -- it was probably an
3 oversight of Ann Wilkinson, and so I would suggest we
4 adopt the game portion, which would be, I think that
5 was the 25th and 26th, we could change the minutes to
6 reflect February 25 and 26, and we can approve these,
7 if you see if any problems with these, and then we'll
8 request that Donald come up with -- those minutes are
9 somewheres, I've seen -- they're floating somewheres
10 out there, and we'll see those at our Galena meeting.

11
12 Any comments on these.

13
14 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

17
18 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair. I'd like the
19 record to reflect that I wasn't able to be at the
20 meeting, and I'd like the minutes to reflect to be
21 excused.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Where would
24 you like that inserted?

25
26 MR. HONEA: I'd like it to be probably
27 -- just for the record.....

28
29 REPORTER: Don. Don.

30
31 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair. I'd just like
32 for the record, wherever it is, maybe on the roll call.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: On the roll call.

35
36 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Don
39 Honea was excused. All right, that's been inserted
40 under roll call and establishment of quorum, excused
41 absence.

42
43 Any other comment on the minutes.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, those
48 -- anyone want to make a motion to adopt the minutes
49 titled February 25 and 26, game portion of our winter
50 meeting.

1 MR. HONEA: I so move.
2
3 MS. PELKOLA: Second.
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.
6 Those in favor of the minutes for the game portion with
7 the understanding that the fisheries joint meeting with
8 the Eastern Interior will be submitted to our Galena
9 meeting, signify by saying aye.
10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same
14 sign.
15
16 (No opposing votes)
17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the minutes are
19 adopted. Then we had two teleconferences, so those
20 teleconferences were April 6th; we had a short
21 discussion on why the Board of Game adopted Proposal
22 81, and Robert Walker was the main driver of that
23 teleconference feeling that the Board of Game was
24 acting outside of its agreement under the Innoko Moose
25 Plan, and so we had that short discussion. These
26 minutes reflect that teleconference fairly well.
27
28 Any insertion to that teleconference
29 meeting of April 6th.
30
31 (No comments)
32
33 MR. COLLINS: I move approval as
34 submitted.
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we got a
37 second.
38
39 MR. HONEA: Second.
40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don seconded. Any
42 further discussion.
43
44 (No comments)
45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
47 the minutes of April 6th teleconference signify by
48 saying aye.
49
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same
2 sign.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So then we move to
7 our May 14th teleconference. And the reason we needed
8 the May 14th teleconference was the notice for the
9 April 6th conference did not include all of the
10 proposals that the Council had worked on so we had to
11 review what the Board of Game had done and they had
12 adopted basically for the winter hunts, an antlered
13 bull and we had submitted for a five inch antler as the
14 proposal was written from the Alaska Department of Fish
15 and Game and so we had to align with the State
16 language, and that teleconference was fairly short and
17 sweet. This reflects that teleconference fairly
18 concisely.

19
20 Any further discussion on the minutes
21 of May 14th teleconference.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MR. HONEA: Move to adopt.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to adopt.

28
29 MR. COLLINS: Second.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded. Those in
32 favor of adoption of May 14th teleconference minutes
33 signify by saying aye.

34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same
38 sign.

39
40 (No opposing votes)

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the minutes
43 except for the joint meeting with Eastern are adopted.

44
45 The Chair's report.

46
47 I attended the Board of Game meeting.
48 And I'm also co-Chair of the Koyukuk River Advisory
49 Committee and when it came down to it, my co-Chair was
50 absent so I presented to the Board of Game for, not

1 only the Western Interior Council, but also for the
2 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee. And so we made
3 certain positions on the various proposals before the
4 Board of Game, that this Council and the Advisory
5 Committee, which were very similar positions.

6
7 I also attended two Federal Subsistence
8 Board meetings. The first meeting was on fisheries
9 proposals 09-12 and 09-13, the net restriction
10 proposals. And I felt -- I was not going to attend but
11 I felt in the end that it was necessary to assure that
12 the Council's wishes were made, so I traveled to that
13 meeting on April 14th, I think it was.

14
15 I also attended the Federal Subsistence
16 Board game meeting May 20th, and we were successful on
17 the proposals. The only thing that didn't happen that
18 the Council was pushing for, the Council adopted the
19 winter season and season changes for the Koyukuk
20 Controlled Use Area, the Federal Subsistence Board
21 adopted those with the one antlered bull if the hunt
22 occurs, any bull that's showing an antler, even a small
23 nub is legal in April when they start to grow antler.

24
25 We were successful in the winter 21E
26 moose hunt, that gives a February 15th to March 15th
27 hunt. We were successful in moving the season back
28 from August 20th to August 25th and then to the end of
29 September 30th for 21E.

30
31 We were successful in the proposal for
32 the Kanuti Controlled Use Area and the Bureau of Land
33 Management lands were included in the winter hunt,
34 which is from December 15th to April 15th for basically
35 Allakaket, Alatna and also Bettles would be benefitted
36 by that new winter hunt.

37
38 The Proposal 69, the 19A, customary and
39 traditional use determination was deferred. The
40 Federal Subsistence Board, there was lots of comments
41 from people within 21E that felt that there was not
42 enough time given to comment on the customary and
43 traditional use determination and the area of the
44 customary and traditional use that the Western Interior
45 Council had drawn from Piamuit Slough to the upper sand
46 banks and then to Melinta Mountain (ph), and so it was
47 felt by the Federal Subsistence Board that the Western
48 Interior Regional Advisory Council shall have a working
49 group to review and take comments. And so I would like
50 to see at our Galena meeting this winter, that we bring

1 in representatives, and I suggested to the Federal
2 Subsistence Board one representative from each
3 community that would be affected, the customary and
4 traditional use communities, I think they were Aniak,
5 Lower Kalskag, Chauthbaluk, and those communities in
6 19A, then the communities in the GASH, and they should
7 be -- one representative from each community shall come
8 before the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council
9 to discuss this customary and traditional use
10 determination. I feel that a neutral location of
11 Galena is beneficial for the discussion.

12
13 And so how does the Council feel about
14 that.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any discussion on
19 that.

20
21 MR. HONEA: I think that's a great idea
22 myself.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I would like to
25 transmit the wishes of the Council to have that
26 planning group attend our Galena meeting, and probably
27 the day before we have our winter meeting have that
28 discussion on this customary and traditional use
29 determination to finalize this for the Federal
30 Subsistence Board which has deferred the Proposal 69.

31
32 I wrote a letter as the Yukon River,
33 YRDFFA meeting, and started to progress, the
34 teleconferences and I was becoming more and more
35 concerned about the management not adjusting and
36 meeting the escapement goals and so I wrote a letter
37 that I had Ann Wilkinson send out to the Council, and
38 it was to the Yukon River Panel and it was requesting
39 protection of the 42,500 to 55,000 chinook border
40 passage should be calculated to be protected, that it
41 would be unfished to get it into Canada, well, that
42 didn't happen, the Department and the Federal
43 biologists felt that the run strengths would be
44 adequate and that the full fishing schedule would
45 occur. Well, in hindsight that didn't work out, we
46 came way under escapement. And so I wrote that letter.
47 That was one of the things I was doing.

48
49 Go ahead, Tim.
50

1 MR. GERVAIS: What was the final
2 escapement number?

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That'll be presented
5 but the was something like 37,500 or something like
6 that. It'll be presented. The minimum threshold was
7 42,500 and we'll get into discussion about the
8 composition of that escapement during that discussion
9 with the Staff.

10
11 I just wrote a letter, the Board of
12 Game is taking up black bear trapping proposals. And I
13 was out moose hunting, and I received -- I have very
14 slow mail, and I received a notification from the
15 Advisory Committee coordinator, and the Department was
16 sending out notification that they were going to take
17 up trapping proposals for black bears on September
18 13th, and they wanted to close the comments on
19 September 30th. Well, the Board of Game, I sent that
20 letter out the other day, and I don't know if you got
21 that, that the Board of Game is under obligation to the
22 Procedural Act, which only allows them to publish for
23 30 days -- they have to notify the public for 30 days,
24 and the Procedural Act is very clear, that they have 30
25 days, and there's real no real rush to rush this bear
26 trapping proposals through because they don't go into
27 effect until the next regulatory year, and so I wrote a
28 letter to the Board of Game on that.

29
30 I feel this Council has taken positions
31 on bear trapping and talking about big animals and the
32 issues around it. I feel that this Council, and the
33 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee needed time to talk
34 about this proposal and I felt the Board of Game was
35 working outside of its legal parameters, and I felt
36 that that letter was necessary. I would like to poll
37 the Council, the Board of Game has been taking up
38 additional harvest times for caribou, the petition that
39 this Council signed onto to petition the Board of Game
40 on the Unit 26B caribou regulatory expansion of two and
41 a half months or cow caribou, that was not in the
42 proposal, that is a violation of the Procedural Act,
43 and I would like to poll the Council on what the Board
44 of Game is doing by not including the Advisory
45 Committees and the Council is actually working against
46 the subsistence users and the resource, without having
47 -- staying within their statutory mandates and
48 basically defying the public to sue them, we are losing
49 out. We're losing -- you can talk to anybody that went
50 on the Dalton Highway this year, it was an absolute

1 bloodbath up there. There was dead caribou, there was
2 hundreds of caribou went down the road. There was an
3 Air Force at Happy Valley just like we predicted.
4 They're pounding that caribou herd, it's the Mulchatna
5 situation all over again. And so the Board of Game,
6 acting outside of its legal parameters is actually
7 damaging resources that this region relies on for
8 whether its black bear use or caribou use or whatever
9 they're doing outside of their legal parameters, that's
10 having an effect on our subsistence users within this
11 region.

12
13 Is there any comments from the Council
14 on that.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, i wanted to
19 give you opportunity. I feel it's a real big issue and
20 it's getting worse.

21
22 This is black and white, this bear
23 trapping proposal that the Department submitted with a
24 basically two and a half week window for comment is way
25 outside their Procedural Act timeframe and I feel that
26 it's becoming more and more of a problem.

27
28 And I told that -- I'll tell the
29 Council here, when I was at the Federal Subsistence
30 Board meeting, Chuck Ardizzone there is the liaison to
31 the Board of Game, the Board of Game can be violating
32 statutes and he's not a lawyer, he's a biologist, I
33 told the Federal Subsistence Board that I felt that the
34 Federal solicitor should be present to assure that the
35 State Board of Game is acting within their legal
36 parameters and not acting outside of their legal
37 parameters; that was discussed at the Federal
38 Subsistence Board. And Keith Goltz, the solicitor,
39 said that -- he conferred with the State and they says,
40 well, we wouldn't care if you attended the meeting, and
41 so I wanted the Council to be aware that I'm trying to
42 get a Federal solicitor to be present at the Board of
43 Game meeting to assure that the Board of Game is not
44 acting outside of their legal parameters, which is
45 damaging our resources.

46
47 And so that would be my Chair's report
48 at this point.

49
50 Go ahead, Tim.

1 MR. GERVAIS: Could you clarify, a
2 Federal solicitor is an attorney.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's basically our
5 attorney, the OSM and -- they act and represent Bureau
6 of Land Management and some other agencies, but they
7 represent the Federal Subsistence Board and act
8 basically for legal counsel to the Federal Board. They
9 are present at all the Federal Board meetings.

10
11 MR. GERVAIS: So what was the Board of
12 Game's response to.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Board of Game is
15 going to meet on this bear trapping issue on October
16 9th and they haven't responded and so I can't attend
17 the meeting. Our Advisory Committee, there's no way,
18 during hunting season, we can call a meeting and attend
19 that meeting, there's no way. The public is completely
20 being bypassed, we're left in the dust, legal dust.
21 And so it's a huge issue.

22
23 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

26
27 MR. HONEA: I guess I'm kind of a
28 little confused about, first off, we're talking about
29 bear regulations and the proposals that came forth and
30 they -- I guess the justification they said -- and this
31 is, you know, I'm just reading the Fairbanks News Miner
32 recently, about some of the comments -- I mean their
33 justification was that it doesn't have to go out for
34 public input or something. But I don't know what the
35 legal ramifications are, but, you know, I think that
36 it'd be great if they could be at one of the meetings
37 instead of having to attend the Board meetings. But I
38 think, you know, if at all, that we just have a paper
39 trail anyway to bring this issue to light.

40
41 I mean I agree wholeheartedly with you,
42 and I believe -- I mean I think it's -- I don't believe
43 that, you know, the public should be shut out on these
44 issues.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What I would -- a
47 course of action that I would like this Council to take
48 is that I think that a letter should be transmitted to
49 the Federal Subsistence Board and the Federal
50 solicitor's office to attend the Board of Game meeting

1 and tell the State Board of Game that they're violating
2 the Procedural Act, they violated our rights as Alaskan
3 citizens to comment -- to have adequate review and
4 comment, they're acting outside of the Procedural Act,
5 and so I would like a letter transmitted from the
6 Council, the Western Interior Regional Advisory to the
7 Federal Subsistence Board and to Keith Goltz, solicitor
8 for the Federal Subsistence Board, to attend the
9 October 9th through 12th, I think it is, Board of Game
10 meeting, reviewing bear trapping proposals.

11
12 There's no real reason to rush this
13 bear trapping thing. I feel that our Council needs to
14 have input on that.

15
16 MR. R. WALKER: Do you need a motion?

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like a
19 motion on that.

20
21 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. I'd like
22 to make a motion to this matter that you brought forth
23 here for the meeting October 9 through the 12th, the
24 Board of Game.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Have a second to
27 that.

28
29 MR. GERVAIS: Second.

30
31 MR. MORGAN: Second.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded
34 to transmit a letter to the Federal Subsistence Board
35 and to Keith Goltz, solicitor, for the Federal
36 Subsistence Board to attend the Board of Game meeting
37 October 9th through 12th, 2010 in regards to bear
38 trapping that the Board of Game and Alaska Department
39 of Fish and Game have not adequately stayed within the
40 parameters of the Procedural Act for notification and
41 involvement of public and to the promulgation of bear
42 trapping regulations; something to that effect.

43
44 Further discussion to that letter.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MR. R. WALKER: Question.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called --

1 go ahead, Jenny.

2

3 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair. When do you
4 plan to get that letter out because it's soon.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That has to go out
7 fairly soon.

8

9 MS. PELKOLA: Okay.

10

11 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. Just one
12 comment. There was an attempt to cont -- I'm the Chair
13 of the McGrath Fish and Game Advisory Committee and I
14 got a call and they were trying to set up one in late
15 September, but as mentioned in the motion, there wasn't
16 adequate time given to do that. We had been on record
17 before, though, so what I did tell them was that they
18 could use the comments in our minutes on those
19 proposals before so there was input from past action to
20 them. But, you're right, in that, we weren't able to
21 have a meeting beforehand and discuss them again.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the Board of
24 Game is under clear regulation and it's A of their
25 regulations that they have to abide by the Procedural
26 Act and that the Procedural Act is clear that there's a
27 30 day notice. We didn't get a 30 day -- as co-Chair,
28 I didn't get a 30 day notice for the Koyukuk.....

29

30 MR. COLLINS: Right. Right, right,
31 yeah, no, they didn't.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:River Advisory,
34 they're violating my State Advisory Committee's rights,
35 they're violating this Council's rights.

36

37 Go ahead, Tim.

38

39 MR. GERVAIS: After the letter's
40 drafted I would recommend we fax it or communicate over
41 the phone since the meeting is occurring on
42 Saturday.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

45

46 MR. GERVAIS:because mail won't
47 be effective.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. We'll have
50 to draft that -- I'll try and write that maybe tonight

1 or something, and I'll jump it to you and you can
2 transmit it, Donald.

3

4 MR. MIKE: (Nods affirmatively)

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we've probably
7 covered that. Any further comment on that.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MR. R. WALKER: Question.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
14 Those in favor of the letter draft and transmitted to
15 the Federal Subsistence Board and solicitor, signify by
16 saying aye.

17

18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same
21 sign.

22

23 (No opposing votes)

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so that was my
26 Chair's report.

27

28 (Phone interruptions)

29

30 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead Donald.

33

34 MR. MIKE: Can we take a five minute
35 break, I neglected to call in the teleconference.
36 There was some folks that wanted to listen in on this
37 meeting.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

40

41 MR. MIKE: So if we could take a five
42 minute break.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, we'll
45 take a five minute break or so.

46

47 (Off record)

48

49 (On record)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Western Interior
2 Regional Council meeting's coming back to order. And
3 so I conferenced with some OSM Staff to expedite -- our
4 letter should still be transmitted to the Federal
5 Subsistence Board and the solicitor's office, but also,
6 OSM Staff is going to call Polly Wheeler and see if we
7 can't expedite this with a telephone call or two, and
8 so our letter will be forthcoming. So the OSM Staff is
9 going to try to expedite this because this meeting is
10 coming right up. The Board of Game has moved so fast
11 we got to play catch up here. And so I would like to
12 see that phone call's made and see if we can't get on
13 top of this issue to the Board of Game meeting coming
14 up this weekend.

15
16 And so we're down to identifying issues
17 for the annual report.

18
19 So we'll go around the table here.
20 This time of year we come up with issues that are
21 burning in people's minds on management within our
22 region that they want the -- some things that aren't
23 necessarily regulatory, but need to be conveyed to the
24 Federal Subsistence Board, and so we'll go around the
25 room, you got some burning issues there, Mickey.

26
27 MR. STICKMAN: No real burning issues,
28 but.....

29
30 REPORTER: Mickey. Mickey.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mickey.

33
34 MR. STICKMAN: I'm sorry. Sorry
35 Salena.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 MR. STICKMAN: The one burning issue
40 that I have really is, you know, throughout the year
41 there was a bunch of media about the Federal system
42 being broken, and even our Council system came to be
43 broken, you know, and there was -- you know there was
44 some big meetings there with the tribal leaders and Ken
45 Salazar, the Department of Interior head man, but I was
46 just wondering, you know, through all of that, you
47 know, the President made a mandate for all these
48 agencies to be in line within 90 days. So I was just
49 wondering as far as the Office of Subsistence
50 Management and our Council, what's going on with all

1 that media hype that the Federal system is broken?

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are we going to have
4 a presentation from OSM on the Federal Review, Larry?

5

6 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Larry
7 Buklis, Office of Subsistence Management. No, we do
8 not have plans to deliver a briefing on the program
9 review. There really is no more new information.
10 There was a news release earlier in the summer, Donald
11 Mike may have a copy, and, if not, we will provide one,
12 and it outlined some general principles and points of
13 the review, but did not have detailed information, and
14 we have not since received detailed information.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Go ahead,
17 Don.

18

19 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. There is some
20 numerous information that I handed out prior to this
21 meeting starting and there's a news release from the
22 Department of Interior, Office of the Secretary.

23

24 It's just a news release stating:

25

26 A comprehensive review of the
27 Subsistence Program calls for Board
28 action to strengthen the rural
29 representation and Regional Advisory
30 Councils.

31

32 And that's the latest we got from the
33 Department of Interior.

34

35 And, our program, the Subsistence
36 Office, we are not involved in this program review, so
37 it would be under the Secretary of Interior's Office,
38 Pat Pourchot.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's where my
41 knowledge base ended. So there's still more
42 information to come forth on the final tweaking, so
43 good point Mickey, I've been wondering that myself.

44

45 So you have any comments for our annual
46 report, Jenny.

47

48 MS. PELKOLA: I don't know if this is a
49 concern, but it's a concern from someone around the
50 area.

1 During moose hunting season was an
2 airboat that went by and I thought that was outlawed,
3 there was just concern about that.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we'll have a
6 report from Koyukuk/Nowitna and make a note of that,
7 Kenton, about presentation -- during your presentation
8 about airboat use within the Refuge.

9
10 Any other concerns, Jenny.

11
12 MS. PELKOLA: Not at this time.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Ray.

15
16 MR. COLLINS: No, Mr. Chairman, I don't
17 have any issues this year for the Federal report that I
18 think of at the moment. Maybe something will arise
19 through the meeting, so maybe do we have a chance at
20 the end to.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Right.

23
24 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

27
28 MR. COLLINS: Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is just sort of
31 a first round on the annual report subjects, and so at
32 the conclusion of the meeting we can insert additional
33 annual report, so this is not closed at this point in
34 our agenda.

35
36 So, Don, do you have any points.

37
38 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair. I don't at this
39 time, but I would like to thank you or whoever compiled
40 it. I think that it was a great job and you brought up
41 some of the things that were on there that needed to be
42 asked and I appreciate whoever drew that up.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert.

45
46 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 One of the issues is I talked with OSM and we cannot
48 lobby the State here for any kind of changes with State
49 regulations, but one of the things that's always in the
50 back of my mind was how do the -- when the State does

1 generate revenue for -- let's say Roy Nowlin's job,
2 Randy's job here, it is created by hunting licenses and
3 game tags, I believe that we should somehow -- I would
4 like to have a little more research on this. I'd like
5 to have a written to me saying that how this could be
6 changed and why this should be changed or why we should
7 have it changed, because it seems like every time we
8 turn around the Board of Game is authorizing and
9 opening more areas to big game hunting to support their
10 way, for their funding.

11
12 Mulchatna Herd, Gates of the Arctic,
13 these things here shouldn't be that much, really should
14 be taken a hard look at because what game we do have,
15 it's going to be gone in five years. I went up to
16 Galena this year, I seen more hunter up there, more
17 hunters are coming down to Unit 21E and 21A by boat.
18 So we have to take a stand, take a look at this here,
19 because I think that we're going to be out of moose and
20 caribou within the next five to 10 years.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Robert.
25 I also have those concerns.

26
27 Go ahead, Carl.

28
29 MR. MORGAN: I really don't -- I got
30 the same concerns you guys got, but it seems a real
31 interesting agenda and I'm really looking forward to
32 listening to the C&T. There's some important and very
33 serious discussion coming up later on these.

34
35 But the other thing I'd just like to
36 say is that, you know, we -- not just recently, the
37 Governor filed suit against the Federal government for
38 jurisdictional right over navigable waters on the
39 Yukon, and the State's saying the Federal government
40 have no authority in enforcing their right, but under
41 ANILCA we got -- it's supposedly on Federal land, the
42 water adjacent and in that is supposed to be under
43 Federal, so there's a jurisdictional lawsuit that's
44 coming through the Federal government. So it'll be
45 interesting to listen to see what's the outcome of
46 that.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Eleanor,
49 you have any issues that you want the Federal Board to
50 be aware of.

1 MS. YATLIN: Mr. Chairman. My concerns
2 are mainly pretty much what Robert stated. And I've
3 seen it happen up in the Upper Koyukuk, you know, how
4 they had these outfitters -- I said this time and again
5 probably at every meeting, but I'm going to say it
6 again anyway, and it's how the moose was depleted. And
7 I'm worried about the Dulbi area and the Three Day
8 Slough.

9
10 I know this year for two weeks they had
11 guide hunting down there. It's been reported by some
12 of the residents of Huslia that there were some big
13 boats down there, and there were like -- there was like
14 maybe eight camps they saw and some of these big boats,
15 to get back, because the lower water, to get back into
16 Dulbi Slough or Edwards Slough, they had to -- they
17 brought their own rubber rafts or whatever with kickers
18 on their outboard motors on there and then they went
19 hunting in that area. And the reason I'm bringing this
20 up is because I think mid- to about 18th we got our
21 moose, and it was pretty hot. And then if these
22 residents from Huslia were going down that way hunting
23 and saw all these big boats in there, and then all
24 these like eight camps; I just wonder, you know, about
25 the salvaging the meat, you know, taking care of the
26 meat. Because we had to put it away like within one or
27 two days otherwise -- because it went up to about 70,
28 74 degrees that one day, so it was fairly hot. And
29 this was about time -- the same time that they seen
30 these boats down there.

31
32 And the other thing was, when they come
33 in and, you know, have their load, you know, I wonder
34 what the regulations are for them to bring out
35 everything that they bring in, you know. Because these
36 residents from Huslia say they go down that way and
37 they could see, you know, stoves left behind and
38 camping gears, and barrels. So they must bring their
39 own drum of gas and then they leave. You know, what
40 the regulations are on that.

41
42 And the other thing is. I know this is
43 an ongoing and always is an issue is, you know, is
44 local hire. And reading this report, we get the very
45 same thing, it's always in the future we'll get more
46 information, so this is, what, the third meeting I'm
47 attending and we're still in the same, you know, it
48 don't seem to be resolved so that's the other issue I
49 had, was that local hire.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Tim.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: My main concern for the
4 annual report would be with this chinook cross border
5 passage of 33,000 this year. That's three of the last
6 four years we didn't meet escapement, and that's just
7 an incredibly tragic situation.

8

9 We have these different management
10 regimes in place, the Federal side, the State side, and
11 the in-season, or excuse me -- the Federal side, Board
12 of Fish, and the in-season management, we can see from
13 action, or lack of action, that the North Pacific
14 Council's not interested or effective in giving us good
15 protection for the chinook on the bycatch side. The
16 Board of Fish process we just came out of, this last
17 cycle, for the January meeting, was ineffective. We
18 basically had the entire river corridor agreeing in
19 some form of pulse protection and then the --
20 apparently the Board of Fish said they couldn't make
21 any sense out of the testimony or the committee -- or
22 couldn't come to consensus on that so they came up with
23 a -- or they enacted Departmental recommendation to go
24 with the mesh size restriction, which I'm not very
25 convinced is going to be a solution to the decreasing
26 size of the fish.

27

28 And so we're left with the in-season
29 management having to make up the difference on how the
30 fishery performs, or trying to make it perform with
31 what Mother Nature provides it, after what's left,
32 after the trawlers are done with it. And it's not
33 being effective. I don't know enough about it to know
34 if it's bad planning or bad performance, but it's
35 definitely an issue that needs to be addressed because
36 even though it's -- of course it makes hardship on the
37 subsistence users, the more significant aspect is that
38 it's destroying the stock. And I feel that we should,
39 as a Council, we should push for kind of changing the
40 mind set of not trying to meet escapement anymore but
41 we need to be focused on what actions are appropriate
42 to put the Yukon chinook in a rebuilding mode and
43 rebuilding mind set and get aggressive about having
44 some good results on the spawning grounds. And we need
45 to do whatever it takes to make up for this really
46 dismal decade that we've just been through.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. And so
49 those were Council concerns for 2010 report.

50

1 I jumped over the 2009 report for the
2 2010, I jumped over the 2009 response to our report
3 last year.

4
5 The Federal Subsistence Board's
6 response to our various issues, we had seven issues. I
7 feel that some of the responses were almost
8 inappropriate.

9
10 Our issue six, which I still feel is an
11 issue for our 2010, not six, but let's see, yeah, it's
12 six, that the Federal Subsistence Board's paragraph is
13 that, you know, that we need baseline data for
14 management of our game. And when we got into trying to
15 calculate what the subsistence harvest were for game
16 resources the Subsistence Division's data for moose and
17 caribou is getting so old for some of these villages,
18 it's almost archaic, and so I feel that the Federal
19 Board is providing liaison support to the Federal
20 Subsistence Management Program, but when I go to the
21 Federal Subsistence Board meeting there's a huge
22 contingent of State people there that could be
23 accommodated with we have one fisheries and one game
24 liaison to the Board of Game and the Board of Fish.
25 And so we're spending all this money with all these
26 Federal liaisons, their Attorney General's office,
27 their Tina Cunnings, we got the Commissioner of Fish
28 and Game there, we got Deputy of Fish and Game there at
29 the Federal Subsistence Board meeting, and we have no
30 money to find out what the harvest report harvests are
31 for the communities, and so I feel that monies need to
32 be spent appropriately for the protection of the
33 subsistence users and the resources. And so I would
34 like to see that submitted as a point.

35
36 I still feel that the drop out
37 mortalities for gillnets is a data lack and so I would
38 like to see that in our annual report. I would also
39 like to see that as a project for OSM to publish for
40 this 2012 Fisheries Monitoring Program. I feel that
41 that's a very important data lack, going to smaller
42 gear sizes increases the drop out rates and so that's
43 an unknown that's being ignored by the Alaska
44 Department of Fish and Game and the Federal managers.

45
46 I feel that there needs to be
47 management plans. The Department of Fish and Game and
48 Board of Game is not adhering to biological parameters.
49 ANILCA specifically says that fish and wildlife are to
50 be managed for health by recognized scientific

1 principles. That's what ANILCA says. And the Board of
2 Game violates recognized scientific principles by
3 suppressing bull/cow ratios, suppressing populations
4 from overharvest, and putting populations at risk and
5 suppressing these populations that rural subsistence
6 users rely on then the Federal Subsistence Board is
7 under an obligation to make the State -- and so the
8 Memorandum of Understanding with the State, the Federal
9 Subsistence Board is saying, well, we're relying on the
10 State, well, the State under a caribou regulation
11 change this spring, they didn't analyze the amounts
12 necessary, they didn't -- there is no data that shows
13 how many caribou people are using, and so the Board of
14 Game is absolutely derelict on recognizing subsistence
15 uses; and then they allocated five caribou to non-
16 residents, they added huge rates and risking the
17 populations. And when Mulchatna fell below 20, 30
18 bulls per 100 cows, the population starts into a
19 decline. And I've researched on the internet and that
20 is a violation, you cause reproductive failures when
21 you do that. And so when the Mulchatna Herd started
22 below the bull/cow recognized scientific principles,
23 the herd crashes into the toilet, who's taking the
24 cuts, the people who rely on the Mulchatna Caribou
25 Herd, the local rural residents.

26

27 The understanding with the State of
28 Alaska is that they are going to adhere to recognized
29 scientific principles, if they're not doing it, I feel
30 the Federal Subsistence Board, it's their obligation.
31 All the agencies are under the same obligation.
32 They're enabling legislation and ANILCA says that they
33 have to adhere to healthy populations with management
34 by recognized scientific principles. And if the
35 State's not doing it, the Federal managers are under an
36 obligation to reduce the level of harvest to
37 sustainability.

38

39 I feel that this, at our game meeting,
40 this spring, that we should start setting management
41 objectives for populations of caribou and moose within
42 the Western Interior region. And if the State violates
43 those management objectives, they harvest far beyond
44 sustainability, if they start to get below 30 moose
45 bulls per 100 cows, if they go below 35, 40 bulls per
46 100 cows on caribou then the Federal government, it's
47 their obligation to reduce the non-local use to the
48 point to stay within sustainability. We can't allow
49 the State of Alaska, in 19A, to go to eight bulls per
50 100 cows. Down where Carl's at they're on Federal

1 drawing permits and Tier II hunts down there in 19A
2 because they went to eight bulls per 100 cows. They
3 were exceeded sustainability beyond any recognized
4 scientific principle. And if the State of Alaska does
5 that then we have to pull the throttle. It's just like
6 a co-pilot, he's got his hand over the throttle of the
7 pilot. If the pilot screws up, he has a heart attack
8 you pull the throttle if there's a problem. The
9 Federal government has to move into a position because
10 this Board of Game is showing over and over and over
11 harvest beyond sustainability. We're doing it on the
12 caribou on the North Slope right this minute. There
13 were hundreds of caribou, bull caribou down the road.
14 We're going to go below the 35 bulls per 100 cows, this
15 population will crash.

16
17 MR. COLLINS: You're writing the
18 report.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I want.....

23
24 MR. COLLINS: It's an issue, yes, but I
25 mean.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I want this on the
28 record because this is how the report gets.....

29
30 MR. COLLINS: Okay. Right.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The transcripts, and
33 you can get them off the internet, Salena's going to
34 have those transcripts, and when Donald goes to write
35 the report, these discussions are inserted into the
36 report.

37
38 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so this is an
41 issue. I feel that the Federal Subsistence Board has a
42 mandate to rewrite the memorandum of understanding to
43 where they -- are a co-manager of these resources,
44 that's the title of this point, that the Federal
45 Subsistence Board is not a subservient position on the
46 Federal public lands, they are a co-manager and if the
47 State is screwing then the co-management authority has
48 to preempt the State of Alaska from destroying our
49 resources and putting our people in hardship and our
50 resources in hardship.

1 And I would like to work at our spring
2 game meeting on drawing management objectives for
3 populations of moose and caribou.

4
5 Those will be two main points for the
6 annual report.

7
8 Any other discussion on the annual
9 report subjects at this time.

10
11 MR. STICKMAN: I have one last one.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Mickey.

14
15 MR. STICKMAN: My one last one on the
16 annual report would be for the Kaiyuh Flats where the
17 people in Nulato and Kaltag, that's their primary moose
18 hunting area. Well, this fall or sometime this summer
19 there were some guides that were going to check and see
20 if they could actually -- they were looking for
21 permission from the manager, Kenton, to actually to do
22 their hunting and guiding -- to do their moose guiding
23 up there in the Kaiyuh Flats, but it's a primary
24 hunting area for the whole village of Nulato and
25 Kaltag. And with all those people in those two
26 villages really struggling to -- I don't think that
27 moose population can handle the pressure from -- it's
28 just barely handling the pressure right now from the
29 local people. And so if you add additional hunters,
30 like the guides want to move in there, that were asking
31 for, they were checking with Kenton to see what they
32 needed to do to get permits to guide in the Kaiyuh
33 Flats area. But that's another big issue.

34
35 And then the other one, like Robert,
36 one of the things that's always been on the back of my
37 mind all the time was the Intensive Moose Management
38 Plan for the Koyukuk River. They had -- you know
39 they're always good with throwing out moose bull/cow
40 ratios and those kind of things, but still the people
41 from Koyukuk, Nulato and Galena, they go up there and
42 we don't all get a moose. I mean, sure, a lot of
43 people have pretty good luck up there and Eleanor, she
44 was talking about the Three Day Slough area, and this
45 year was my first time I actually went up there, to the
46 Three Day Slough area, just to look and I lucked out
47 and I got a -- I went up there and Gilbert Huntington
48 was stuck up there, he was not actually stuck but he
49 was waiting for a guy from Wasilla to return his jet
50 boat so he was up there at his guiding camp but he's

1 not a guide anymore, he lost his license so -- but he
2 still has all his equipment up there so people from
3 Wasilla and Fairbanks and Anchorage actually rent his
4 boats and his jet units and things like that, so he was
5 up there waiting for it. And I picked him up and I
6 rode around with him for two days up there so he showed
7 me the area. But one of the things, like I said was in
8 the back of my mind, when it comes to the Intensive
9 Moose Management Plan, it's when it comes to those
10 ratios, those numbers, they're actually thinking --
11 well, the State is actually thinking to increase the
12 non-resident permits for the Koyukuk River. Right now
13 it's at 50, 40 permits go to the local -- the non-local
14 people, the people that come from -- that drive all the
15 way from Fairbanks, and then the other 10 non-local are
16 non-resident, and those guys have to, by regulation,
17 they have to have a registered guide.

18

19 So we tried to cover all the bases on
20 that Intensive Moose Management Plan but one of the
21 things that's coming up and that's always sticking in
22 the back of my mind is those moose ratio numbers are
23 changing and it's changing where the State actually
24 wants to increase the amount of hunters that are coming
25 up there and I don't think that it's the correct time
26 for that.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the bull/cow
29 ratio is a biological parameter of the moose and if the
30 subsistence uses [sic] where they cut the antler -- if
31 the subsistence hunters take -- there's only so many
32 bulls to keep it at that 30 bulls per 100 cows, if the
33 subsistence hunters get to a point where they take all
34 of the bulls then the drawing hunt actually goes away.

35

36 And at the Board of Game -- I'll let
37 you know one thing, at the Board of Game meeting, Ted
38 Spraker was trying to eliminate the cutting the moose
39 antler. If they eliminate cutting the moose antler,
40 which could happen at one of these, you'll see so many
41 thousands of hunters show up because then they can keep
42 all the antlers, and you'll see so many thousands of
43 hunters that are Alaskan subsistence hunters, we will
44 be back to square one when we started in 1999. Cutting
45 the antlers stops them from coming at huge numbers. If
46 we go -- everybody in Alaska will then become a
47 subsistence hunter, they'll be shooting every 60 inch
48 moose and hauling them out, basically like the drawing
49 permit.

50

1 And there will be -- it'll be back to
2 the Three Day Slough where there's 10 camps on every
3 sand bar.

4
5 And so that's what could happen, I
6 wanted to warn the Council, that's one thing I forgot
7 to tell you, was Ted Spraker wants to eliminate the
8 antler destruction thing, that will increase the number
9 of hunters astronomically.

10
11 Go ahead, Mickey.

12
13 MR. STICKMAN: I mean, you know,
14 Robert, he talked about what happened was all those
15 guys that were displaced out of the Koyukuk River,
16 those were the guys that we see in between Galena and
17 Nulato, Kaltag and further on down the river, well,
18 because they're not allowed to go up in the Koyukuk
19 because they don't have a drawing permit but they're
20 still able to go into those other management areas,
21 like 21E and, you know, so those are things that we
22 really need to think about, bringing back to our own
23 Advisory Councils on the State side, not just on the
24 Federal side, but on the State side, too, because, you
25 know, there's ways and means to squeeze them out, you
26 just got to figure it out and you just got to have a
27 good Advisory Council.

28
29 But, you know, my whole intention is
30 never to squeeze anyone out but when it comes to people
31 struggling to feed their families, that's a hard thing
32 to see, you know, it's not something that you want to
33 see anywhere in the world, you know, but when you see
34 it back in the villages it makes a difference to the
35 community overall because we all like to feel good.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, we can
38 discuss the guide use areas, the Federal guide use
39 areas that are conflicting with subsistence users when
40 we have Kenton Moos up here for Koyukuk/Nowitna.

41
42 So any other -- you have a comment
43 there, Don.

44
45 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I just -- I didn't
46 realize that this was kind of bringing up our Council
47 member concerns. I guess it's kind of Council member
48 reports. But I also share the concerns of what Robert
49 brought up, the pressure they're getting down there,
50 increasing pressure. We seem to be pretty stable at

1 Nowitna checkstation and the numbers have actually gone
2 down but I'm camped about 25 miles up above the village
3 of Ruby fishing, I was doing some late fishing there
4 and the number of boats that went by was just I don't
5 really know where they went, it was just phenomenal, I
6 mean they were coming and coming everyday.

7
8 And like Eleanor mentioned, it was
9 really warm. So I'd like to know from, you know, the
10 Koyukuk/Nowitna Wildlife Station, what goes on in
11 Galena, what do you have to report? I mean I've seen a
12 lot of boats going by and the racks aren't huge because
13 you know you hunt them consistently you're not going to
14 have very big racks, but like she says, you know, I
15 mean I've talked to hunters that were going up the
16 Dulbi and they were going way up there and they had
17 little boats and stuff. And I mean you can't
18 consistently -- I'm just worried about the numbers, you
19 know, when you bring up numbers that -- you know,
20 because right there in Ruby we don't see it. I mean
21 I've heard that maybe in Galena you could get -- you
22 could get meat because, you know, at that temperature,
23 70 degrees and above, it was really warm and I got a
24 moose kind of early and I had to bring a little
25 generator, my generator and freezer up there and, you
26 know, plug it in and hurry up and I'm wondering what
27 are the hunters out there doing, where is the meat
28 going, are they giving it away?

29
30 I mean so it's a real big concern and
31 maybe when the wildlife refuges report on that they
32 would give us some info on that, that's all.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.

35
36 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

39
40 MS. PELKOLA: I would also like to say
41 that my camp is below Galena, and I see these boats,
42 big boats going down going past my camp loaded down and
43 I'm wondering how are they going to bring a moose back
44 because they got all this stuff in there. And sure
45 enough when you go back sometimes you just see horns
46 going by and I'm wondering where's all the meat, you
47 know.

48
49 And I have a concern, too, and it's
50 sort of sad that this day and age we have to start

1 fighting for what we've always had all our lives but I
2 think we need to. We need to, you know, we need to say
3 we -- enough is enough and I don't know how we can do
4 it but, you know, a lot of people depend on moose and
5 fish and caribou and stuff like that and people that
6 come in don't really realize it so I'd just like to
7 keep on this and maybe someday, someday something will
8 happen.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny. Got
11 a comment there Tim.

12

13 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, my comment
14 regarding the volume or numbers of moose hunters
15 traveling in is -- I do see pressure around the Ruby
16 area, and maybe the Refuge could help us out with some
17 checkstation numbers and that would put some more
18 definite thing on what the volume of hunters is. But
19 when you -- when regulations are put in force on the
20 Koyukuk or perhaps we get stronger restriction like
21 down in 21E, that's going to have a spillover effect
22 for other areas and one of those other areas, I feel is
23 around the Ruby region where I think has already had an
24 impact or has potential impacts of having more hunters
25 hunting on the Yuki and on the Refuge areas around
26 Ruby. I mean there's a lot of the -- a lot of the
27 Ruby region is locked up between Deniga and Doyon and
28 stuff, but the other -- the public lands, there's
29 hardly any State land but the Refuge lands do see --
30 there's going to be some amount of hunters that are
31 going to do a moose hunt somewhere and I mean in state
32 hunters that are traveling from wherever they may be,
33 and as everybody has their own desire to restrict the
34 non-local hunting in their area, it puts pressure on
35 other places that are still boat accessible.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, what I was
38 talking about is we're going to have a regionwide
39 bull/cow ratio parameters, health of population
40 parameters, so there's not going to be a squeeze point.
41 It's not going to like squeeze from one to the next.
42 If there's an area that's getting suppressed we have to
43 either destroy the population or do some kind of
44 management restriction. And so we can't be letting the
45 State keep going down to these eight bulls per 100
46 cows. The Koyukuk plan has held that moose have come
47 up to 30 bulls per 100 cows and we've stayed at 30
48 bulls per 100 cows for a few years now, so we're
49 floating right where it's supposed to be. And so we
50 need to be concerned with areas where -- like caribou

1 on the North Slope. Those caribou, we have customary
2 and traditional uses in Unit 24 for that herd, Central
3 Arctic Caribou Herd. If that herd goes down to really
4 low bull/cow ratios we need preemptive actions to be
5 taken. We can't just let the State wipe it out to go
6 to 14 bulls per 100 cows like they did in Mulchatna,
7 that's where we're going, that's where the Central
8 Arctic Herd is going.

9

10 So we need to have preemptive actions.

11

12 And so we're not talking about
13 squeezing people here and there we're talking about
14 destroying populations and going to drawing permits in
15 19A, that's what we're talking about. We're talking
16 about we need, whether it's king salmon on the Yukon or
17 it's moose or caribou, we need a management agreement
18 with the State to where they're under full awareness
19 that there will be preclusion of their authority of
20 they violate recognize scientific principles. That's
21 where I would like to explore.

22

23 We're not doing that right this minute,
24 but that's where I would like to explore at our meeting
25 this next spring.

26

27 You have final comment, we need to move
28 on too.

29

30 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, that's fine and
31 appropriate. I just wanted do to bring up that as we
32 work through this process we need to make sure we don't
33 create an unintended consequence.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Eleanor.

36

37 MS. YATLIN: Just one quick, to
38 reiterate what I was saying earlier about Three Day
39 Slough and the Dulbi area, this year they had the two
40 week period where they had guided hunters in that area,
41 so that's an additional, so I just wanted to.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Get that on the
44 record.

45

46 MS. YATLIN:get that on the
47 record, yes.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that.
50 And so we've sort of blurred between the Council

1 member's reports and the annual report but a lot of the
2 annual report is driven by the Council's concerns.

3
4 Does any Council member have any
5 additional Council member reports from your community
6 on any other issue that wasn't discussed on this annual
7 report discussion.

8
9 Mickey.

10
11 MR. STICKMAN: I just have one last
12 thing to report. And I was up on the Koyukuk during
13 this moose hunting season and I actually hunted right
14 up until the last day, the 25th, and I came out on the
15 26th and the checkstation was already closed. I was
16 really surprised. I got there about maybe between 2:00
17 and 3:00 on the afternoon of the -- the day after the
18 last day and everything was gone, checkstation,
19 everybody personnel, tents, everything was gone. So I
20 told my hunting partner, man, we should have shot that
21 nice big bull up there, we could have got a couple
22 moose, but we should have killed a couple cows on the
23 way down.....

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 MR. STICKMAN:because there was
28 nobody at the checkstation.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll talk about
33 that at the Koyukuk/Nowitna report also. Any other
34 Council members concerns.

35
36 Ray.

37
38 MR. COLLINS: Well, just reporting as a
39 member, I wanted to welcome you all to McGrath and I'm
40 glad you're meeting here. And I wanted to comment that
41 we probably won't see a lot of local people at the
42 meeting because we don't have Federal lands right
43 adjacent to McGrath, most are hunting on State land.
44 But in general people were able to get the moose here.

45
46 But there are some lessons, I think,
47 that were learned in this area that wolf -- or predator
48 control does work. In order to get it out in this area
49 they had to study what -- we weren't getting calves,
50 the calf survival was very low in this area and our

1 population was declining a number of years back, you
2 may be aware of that, and we determined that it was
3 both bear and wolf predation but especially the bears
4 early on. And they created a management area around
5 McGrath so we couldn't hunt for 20 miles all around
6 McGrath, there was no hunting for three or maybe four
7 years. We were willing to give that up in order to get
8 the predator control in the area. And as a result of
9 that we started seeing the calf survival go up.

10

11 One of the other things we learned,
12 that we need to keep in mind in other areas that if you
13 have good calf survival during through the summer when
14 you have a bad winter, you still come out pretty good.
15 Because we had a die off about three years ago with a
16 bad winter here and we lost -- of the tagged calves we
17 lost a lot of them, but more calves, percentage wise,
18 more of them survived that winter than was surviving
19 before from predation and so on, from -- from the
20 general predation.

21

22 So if you go into even a bad winter
23 with a lot of calves out there you're better off.

24

25 The other thing is where I hunt is a
26 couple hours up the Nixon up here and for three, four
27 years in there they were seeing no cows in the lakes up
28 there, I mean the numbers were down, we'd come in in
29 the fall and previous to that there had been a good
30 number around, you'd see tracks and beds and so on,
31 well, they're back now this year. We had four or five
32 of them right in the area I'm hunting and we were
33 seeing cows and calves everyday and we were careful not
34 to disturb them because we knew eventually a bull would
35 come in. And in the last week of the a season I went
36 back up there and I got a little bull there, and that
37 was the only bull I saw though.

38

39 But all of those little -- and a lot of
40 the harvest here is of young bulls but their sisters
41 are out there breeding and so it has worked. And we've
42 opened it up now around McGrath for three years. It
43 was a shorter season the first two years and then they
44 went to a longer one. The third year it's the same as
45 the whole area there.

46

47 And I'm hoping that those lessons
48 learned will apply down in the Lower Yukon. And I know
49 they've -- well, they have in the Lower Yukon because
50 they've got moose down to the Coast down there now

1 because they did close it and try to get all -- stop
2 shooting cows and so on. The reason I say that is it
3 came up up in Allakaket a few years ago that they were
4 seeing no moose around the villages, close anymore, and
5 you have had cow seasons and other things there, well,
6 if the cows are not raising calves there, they're not
7 likely to come back there so much. That's why I was
8 glad to see cows and calves up where I hunt again
9 because those young ones that are growing up there,
10 they're going to be back there next year.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

13
14 MR. COLLINS: And some of them will be
15 young bulls.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

18
19 MR. COLLINS: So we need to keep that
20 in mind. But we have more of a problem of getting
21 predator control programs going on the Federal land,
22 but I hope they can look at the examples that that
23 method does work and it does help.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I feel it's
26 very important to have predator harvest.....

27
28 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:so I'm a
31 proponent of local people taking wolves and bears in
32 conjunction with hunting moose and caribou. If you
33 shoot a moose or a caribou, you should shoot a bear or
34 a wolf; that's just the way it goes.

35
36 And so I hear Innoko's going to give us
37 a report on some trapping schools and stuff and I'm
38 encouraging the Federal agencies to provide additional
39 trapping education and so forth, whatever we can to get
40 additional predator harvest in the region.

41
42 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I think we've
45 covered a lot of the Councils annual report topics, and
46 we can add to that and so we'll get a draft of those
47 annual report topics at our spring meeting -- or winter
48 meeting. And so we need to move on in our agenda and
49 we can add to this annual report topics throughout this
50 meeting here.

1 So we're at the review of the Fisheries
2 Resource Monitoring Program, review and make
3 recommendations on priority information needs for the
4 2012 Fisheries Monitoring Plan. And so Rich Cannon and
5 David Jenkins are going to report.

6
7 Go ahead, Rich.

8
9 MR. CANNON: My name is Richard Cannon,
10 OSM, for the record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
11 Council members. To my right is David Jenkins. He's
12 an anthropologist with OSM and he will be up here with
13 me to answer questions and to discuss some of the areas
14 information needs that we'll be talking to you about
15 here for the Yukon and the Kuskokwim regions.

16
17 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring
18 Program briefing is found on Pages 21 and 31, through
19 31 of your Council books. The Monitoring Program was
20 initiated in 2000, as you're aware. To date the Office
21 of Subsistence Management is funded statewide, 322
22 fisheries projects and 15 projects are ongoing in 2010.
23 91 projects have been funded to monitor and support the
24 management of Yukon River subsistence fisheries and
25 likewise 75 have been funded for the Kuskokwim River.

26
27 Currently the monitoring program
28 releases a call for proposals every two years. The
29 call for new or continuation of projects beginning in
30 2012 will begin in November following review and
31 comment by your Regional Councils of the information
32 needs presented to you today. Projects go through an
33 extensive evaluation process, which includes review and
34 recommendation from an InterAgency Technical Review
35 Committee and the affected Regional Advisory Councils.
36 And these follow policies and funding guidelines set by
37 the Federal Subsistence Board.

38
39 Proposals and later investigation plans
40 will be reviewed and a draft monitoring plan will be
41 compiled for review by all 10 of our Councils statewide
42 in the fall of 2011. The Federal Subsistence Board
43 will make the final funding decisions in January of
44 2012. Projects funded can begin then in April of 2012.

45
46 Taking into account commitments for
47 ongoing projects and assuming a stable Congressional
48 funding, we anticipate approximately 2.7 million
49 dollars available for new projects for the 2012 call,
50 which is for new projects.

1 The proposed information needs for the
2 Yukon River fisheries are presented on Pages 27 through
3 28. For the Kuskokwim River on Pages 28 and 29. And
4 multi-regional projects affecting both the Yukon and
5 the Kuskokwim on Page 30, and I'll be going through all
6 three of those separately and allowing the Councils to
7 discuss and act on each of those three groups.

8
9 This draft information needs was
10 developed by the Office of Subsistence Management and
11 the Forest Service Staff for Southeastern and
12 Southcentral drawing on strategic plans and previously
13 identified priorities by the Councils.

14
15 Nine proposed information needs for the
16 Yukon River subsistence fisheries have been identified
17 for your consideration and recommendation.

18
19 Now, you'll notice that these are
20 fairly general and in many cases they're bullets,
21 they're fairly short, concise statements of the need,
22 but we try to develop these so that we set a direction
23 for those things that are most needed at this present
24 time for projects. So we're not trying to exclude
25 everything else, if something that comes in that's
26 really, really important and somebody makes a good case
27 for it, it'll be given consideration, but we're trying
28 to provide a call that really focuses this effort on
29 those things that really are most important so we get
30 the best set of projects to address management needs,
31 and so that's what we hope that you can help us do here
32 today.

33
34 I'll just kind of go through these and
35 then, you know, we can -- I'll go through all of them
36 for the Yukon and then you guys can discuss them and
37 ask us questions, Dave and I will be happy to discuss
38 any of these things with you or talk about how we can
39 add things to the list for the Yukon.

40
41 Okay, first of all we're looking for
42 reliable estimates of chinook and chum salmon
43 escapements and this is sort of an ongoing need.

44
45 Another need is looking at the effects
46 on salmon stocks and users of fishery management
47 practices implemented to conserve chinook salmon,
48 specifically, and we're looking, for example, for
49 things like the gillnet mesh size restrictions
50 regulations, gillnet depth and windowed openings.

1 Mr. Chairman, which you mentioned
2 earlier about drop out mortality might be included
3 under that particular need and, you know, I could
4 include that as an example, if that's the way you'd
5 wanted that addressed.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I feel this issue is
8 completely lacking data by the Department of Fish and
9 Game and the Federal managers and so I think I feel
10 that if you think this is the appropriate point, that I
11 would like to see this drop out study designed for
12 enumeration for this loss of larger fish that are
13 killed in gillnet and then fall out. There is a real,
14 real need with this and if these stocks become more and
15 more suppressed, we have to know what these incidental
16 harvest mortalities are and that is not being addressed
17 at this time. And so I would like to see that inserted
18 at that point, for under that, effects of salmon stocks
19 and users of fishery management practices. I,
20 personally, would like to see that inserted there.

21
22 Any Council discussion on that.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No.

27
28 MR. CANNON: Well, I will note that.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.

31
32 MR. CANNON: And then I'll go through
33 the rest and you can come back and look at the whole
34 list.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

37
38 MR. CANNON:and make any
39 additional changes or add things if you'd like to.

40
41 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chairman.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim, go ahead.

44
45 MR. GERVAIS: Richard. I was talking
46 with a fellow from Bristol Bay this morning about
47 gillnet regulation by mesh size and what not, and just
48 to give you an example of how they had gone for -- let
49 me get this right, they had -- shoot -- they had
50 changed the gillnet size restriction, minimum size

1 restriction because they had increased it because they
2 thought that they were letting the females -- better
3 escapement on the females than the male and that's
4 opposite discussions we've had, at least as far back as
5 this past winter's Board of Fish meeting. So, that, I
6 would -- that aspect of the study might be included in
7 that gillnet mesh size is sex selectivity as several
8 people are concerned with getting more females on the
9 spawning grounds. And I don't know enough about the
10 biology to know if you can skew it towards females or
11 if you just need the natural balance in males and
12 females on the spawning ground.

13

14 MR. CANNON: Through the Chair to Mr.
15 -- how do you pronounce that Gervais, Gervais?

16

17 MR. GERVAIS: Gervais.

18

19 MR. CANNON: Gervais, I'm sorry. Yes,
20 I'll note that and we'll definitely consider including
21 some specific language under this particular bullet to
22 try to capture some of those ideas for the Council.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

27

28 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

29

30 MR. CANNON: I'll continue then. The
31 next one is methods for including quality of escapement
32 measures and establishing chinook salmon spawning goals
33 and determining the reproductive potential of spawning
34 escapements.

35

36 The next is trends in Yukon River
37 chinook salmon production relative to other spawning
38 stocks in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska.

39

40 Next is contemporary economic
41 strategies and practices in the context of diminishing
42 salmon runs. Topics may include an evaluation of
43 barter, sharing and exchange of salmon for cash as well
44 as other economic strategies and practices that augment
45 and support subsistence activities. Of particular
46 interest are distribution networks, decisionmaking and
47 the social and cultural aspects of salmon harvest and
48 use.

49

50 The next is description of the use of

1 gillnets to harvest salmon species by residents of the
2 Yukon River drainage.

3

4 The next is location.....

5

6 MR. GERVAIS: Excuse me.

7

8 MR. CANNON: Go ahead.

9

10 MR. GERVAIS: Is that study going to
11 cover like customary use of gear types in certain
12 regions or can you be more specific about that
13 description of the use of gillnet.

14

15 MR. CANNON: This particular need would
16 be simply to get better information on the types of
17 gear that people are using in different parts of the
18 river for different species, to get better information
19 about -- in the subsistence fishery about gear type.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And this would be in
22 regards to historic variations and gear mesh size and
23 then incorporating the new 7.5 gear and then also the
24 twine size and the way the gear is hung, whether -- how
25 the configuration of in or out methods or is that
26 getting way outside of what you're looking at?

27

28 MR. CANNON: That certainly could be
29 addressed. We're -- you know, we're not limiting it
30 to, you know, just one aspect of gillnet usage. What
31 we do with these is we offer this as an idea to
32 investigators and we -- and frankly we often, as we
33 work with them on their concept plan, we call it pre-
34 proposal, then go through the investigation plan which
35 is a very much more detailed but a lot of these very
36 specific things begin to come out. But a lot of this
37 will depend on the -- you know the interest and sort of
38 the initial investigation that these investigators will
39 do about the need for various types of information. So
40 we don't exclude something by putting this list
41 together.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I personally
44 feel that in the directed chum fishery that the way the
45 gear is used, whether the gear -- the mesh size for
46 chum can be -- you can use heavier twine and hang it in
47 and you can entangle chinook salmon, you can kill
48 chinook salmon by hanging the gear in and going to a
49 larger twine size where the kings can't break it. And
50 so you can actually have a selection for gear types for

1 a chum fishery that actually targets chinook salmon to
2 a higher degree and I think that that should be an
3 aspect of the investigation.

4

5 Go ahead, Tim.

6

7 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I would like to add
8 on that -- I'm seeing in the discussions we're having
9 with various fishermen on the river is people are
10 bringing up points like, well, this was the customary
11 way we fished in this region or from this time period,
12 in that decade we were using such and such gear and the
13 research needs to cover -- get an accurate appraisal of
14 what -- how it's being fished with what type of gear
15 and then as Jack's saying, too, with a modern gillnet
16 it's a lot different than a traditional material
17 gillnet and it's going to have different catch
18 characteristics. And these aspects are important
19 because as people are trying to justify through regions
20 use of specific gear type and we're going to cover it
21 in one of these proposals that's before us in this
22 meeting is well, drift gillnet's not your customary
23 practice in that region, so to get some good
24 information about what's customary practice with the
25 exact gear type and then -- I mean go back just beyond
26 what we're using now with -- with what a modern gillnet
27 and you have to look at, you know, whether
28 (indiscernible) mothfilman or super crystal and all
29 these nets are catching different rates and what not,
30 and that would be wonderful if that could be documented
31 into some meaningful information.

32

33 MR. JENKINS: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
34 Gervais. This is David Jenkins, OSM. One of the
35 things that we're really interested in, and this is a
36 point that you raised, is having a historical
37 understanding of the changes in gear use and the
38 effects on the environment and how people incorporate
39 those changes into their practices, which speaks to one
40 of the earlier bullets here that we have. So it's
41 exactly that kind of issue that we are interested in.

42

43 What environmental effects have gear
44 changed -- changes have -- what effects have they had
45 on the fish and how people incorporated them into their
46 regular practices. So that's an information need we
47 should address.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Exactly. Any other
50 comments on that bullet.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Rich.

4

5 MR. CANNON: The next need was one that
6 came out of a strategic planning effort that this
7 program, your program has funded from the Yukon and
8 Kuskokwim that involves all the stakeholders, including
9 some Regional Council members and -- but it is the
10 location and timing of Bering Cisco spawning
11 populations in the Yukon River drainages that's come up
12 as a really important need given the interest in the
13 subsistence fishery but also in the commercial
14 fisheries for this particular species, we know very
15 little about them.

16

17 Going on then, complete -- we need to
18 complete the genetic baseline sampling and population
19 marker development for sheefish spawning populations in
20 the Yukon River drainage. There's been some work done
21 on that. We simply need to take that to the next step
22 and complete that work.

23

24 And then finally looking at harvest use
25 and associated contextual information for whitefish by
26 species in the Lower Yukon drainage communities, we
27 need better information on whitefish specific species
28 use in the various Yukon River communities on the Yukon
29 River.

30

31 Now, I'm going to pause here to allow
32 your Council to discuss these proposed information
33 needs and you have them listed in your Council book and
34 then allow you to provide your comments, further
35 comments and recommendations before we move on to the
36 Kuskokwim and the inter-regional projects.

37

38 We're asking your Council to answer the
39 question, are these items we have identified, are they
40 priorities as you see them, and are there more
41 important information needs for Federal subsistence
42 fisheries that have not been included?

43

44 So with that, Mr. Chairman, I'll turn
45 it over to you for your discussion.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Rich. I
48 feel that all of these are very important informational
49 needs, and especially some of these gear, gillnet, drop
50 loss and effects on harvest of non-targeted fisheries

1 fish, like chinook, during a chum, directed chum
2 fishery. Those are very important issues. If we
3 continue into this low production of these chinook
4 salmon we're going to have to really, really have some
5 good information on how we're going to manage these
6 fisheries. And so I do feel that these are all very
7 important items and I commend this list.

8

9 Any comments, further comments from the
10 Council on this list. Go ahead Tim.

11

12 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I don't feel that
13 at this time it's not as priority as what's already
14 written down but I see from a commercial end that
15 there's increasing commercial demand for eel, and I was
16 wondering if you could comment on if there's much plan
17 for any commercial eel fishing in the future and if
18 there's any resources available to study about it. I
19 haven't -- as a Yukon River resident I don't have very
20 good information on what -- how these eels live and
21 where they're doing their life cycles and stuff, but I
22 see 10 or 15 years out that there's going to be -- that
23 somebody's going to want to eat those eels on a
24 commercial basis and it'd be prudent to start getting
25 some information about them.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Rich.

28

29 MR. CANNON: Through the Chair. Tim.
30 This same interest came up at the YK Delta Council
31 meeting about eel and certainly managers, when they're
32 going to be coming up here next, you can actually talk
33 to them more specifically about, you know, any
34 commercial or other interest as you're -- I'm sure
35 you're aware there have been some -- in the past some
36 interest in these products, or eel commercial products,
37 and you're right we don't know much about, you know,
38 these populations. And so this is something that in
39 addressing the concern of the YK Delta Council about
40 other species, I was thinking about taking some of
41 these bullets that deal about non-salmon species and
42 not necessarily just identifying whitefish, but,
43 including, you know, making it just non-salmon so other
44 species could be included.

45

46 Now, you have to realize that we may
47 not get an investigator or somebody from a university
48 or an agency to pick this up and turn it into a
49 proposal. We may not. The call goes out, we may not
50 get any takers, that sometimes happens. But as the

1 issues focus in on some of these things, often you
2 will, eventually, get somebody interested, you know,
3 more and more interest on fisheries -- you know, a new
4 emerging fishery. And so we make the call and we hope
5 we get somebody interested in making a good proposal to
6 us.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

9

10 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

13

14 MR. COLLINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I
15 think something that's missing on both the Yukon and
16 the Kuskokwim is an overall view of a history of the
17 fishing on there. When you're talking about this
18 baseline data, I mean we're looking now at mesh size
19 and length and all of that and so on, but I've been
20 trying to analyze what was going on on the Kuskokwim,
21 for instance, the people up here used to put in fish
22 fences and take their salmon that way on the stream,
23 and they caught more fish than in those weirs and so on
24 than our escapement right now. Our escapement is done
25 and I think one of the reasons the escapement's down in
26 the headwaters up here and this probably has to do with
27 Canada too is that the methods of fishing all along the
28 river have changed.

29

30 For instance, before the commercial
31 fishing came into the Kuskokwim people didn't have big
32 boats and motors down there, they used set nets close
33 to shore or close to where they were turning off into
34 the side streams or they fished in the side streams,
35 then the fishwheel came in and they moved to the main
36 river, that happened up here. They moved off to the
37 main river, and in addition to putting up dog food,
38 they were getting their king salmon, too, where enough
39 would be caught to eat and so they didn't -- and they
40 stopped using the weirs on the spawning streams. But
41 then when the commercial fishing came in they had the
42 bigger gear and they started drifting in the main
43 river. So I think, historically, a lot of those
44 headwater fish, they just trucked right up the river
45 and they weren't even touched down below, down by the
46 mouth; there was none of them being caught down there.
47 And I would think the same thing has gone on in the
48 Yukon and so on.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

1 MR. COLLINS: But I don't think
2 anybody's written the history of that, of when did
3 commercial fishing come in, when did the fishwheel come
4 in, when did people make transition from fishwheel to
5 nets, and if people were gathering that information as
6 they go along and putting it into a database, you'd
7 have a view of that over all of how the practices have
8 changed and are those practices impacting or is there
9 other things going on, in the ocean or weather or
10 whatever.

11
12 But I'd like to see somebody making an
13 effort to try to put that historical data in that you'd
14 have something to look at and reflect on. And a lot of
15 these could feed information into that then.

16
17 But I don't think that exists on either
18 river, so I'd like to see that while you still have
19 elders around that remember what it was like, of what
20 was going on when they were fishing, how they were
21 fishing and so on to get that.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Response, Rich.

24
25 MR. CANNON: Through the Chair. Mr.
26 Collins. Yes, obviously that is an important thing to
27 know. I know that, I think, David wants to speak to
28 this as well, but we have funded on the Yukon one
29 project that begins to look at that to some degree and
30 the work from that project has just recently come in.
31 I think David's maybe had a chance to use it in Bob
32 Wolfe's work. And I have not really had an opportunity
33 to really look at it in a lot of detail.

34
35 But that may be something that, you
36 know, at future Council meetings we could get, you
37 know, have a special presentation so that you could --
38 the Council, as a whole, could have the benefit of
39 hearing what was done with a project like that.

40
41 I'm not aware of anything on the
42 Kuskokwim.

43
44 So I just wanted to give you that
45 amount of information.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I know it doesn't
50 exist.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further -- oh,
2 you got comment on that David.

3
4 MR. JENKINS: Just very briefly. An
5 environmental history of the Yukon or the Kuskokwim
6 would be very, very useful, and by that I mean a
7 history of human engagement with these rivers and the
8 resources within. And to have that long-term study,
9 would be helpful both for managers and for local people
10 to understand better the changes that have been going
11 on over the last 100, 150 years and it's that sort of
12 study that, following Mr. Collins' suggestion that I
13 would hope to see as well.

14
15 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

18
19 MR. COLLINS: There's one other thing
20 that, when people are gathering ecological information
21 from the villages and so on, I'm hearing reports of
22 changes, let's say, of whitefish, and it's not --
23 sometimes they just look at the species themselves and
24 that's not enough. What's happening is, trapping is
25 decreasing and the beavers are closing off access to
26 some lakes that whitefish used to go in and use. So it
27 would be interesting to know, again, historically,
28 people that went for those resources, which lakes had
29 whitefish in them and are they there now, and, so on.
30 Because, again, it's because of changes in trapping,
31 part of it and the beaver are part of it, they've
32 blocked off several dams on some of the streams and the
33 whitefish can't get in and out of the lakes now. And I
34 think you'll hear those kind of comments if you're
35 looking for them in different places. And, again, that
36 would be part of the history of what's going on in the
37 rivers.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Council
40 members have any more comments on these bullet points
41 and the additional points that the Council's made on
42 this Yukon River focus?

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. And, I'm
47 unclear what you would like to do here, Gene, you would
48 like to comment on these points?

49
50 MR. SANDONE: I just want to make a

1 general comment.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

4

5 REPORTER: Come on up.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yep.

8

9 MR. SANDONE: I am Gene Sandone. I
10 represent Kwik'Pak Fisheries. I live in Wasilla,
11 Alaska. And regarding the lamprey studies, they're
12 referred to eels, we would support that as being one of
13 the priorities or at least mentioned in the Federal
14 Office of Subsistence Management program thing. There
15 is a small experimental fishery going on now,
16 commercial fishery, it usually occurs through the ice
17 at Grayling, but other villages have participated in
18 the past and last year I conducted the first pilot
19 study on lamprey, you know, we tagged a few lamprey,
20 found it was feasible, so we want to move on from
21 there.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I do
24 think that that, as Tim brought up, that's an important
25 issue for the future. And if the price of those goes
26 way up then there could be a significant impact to that
27 fishery and we need baseline data on that.

28

29 Any further comments from the Council
30 on the Yukon River proposal focus.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see none. I think
35 that these proposals are well worth the effort to get
36 this information. The managers have to have good
37 information to make good management decisions so these
38 are all -- all these issues brought up in the
39 additional bullets should be considered.

40

41 Go ahead Rich.

42

43 MR. CANNON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, other
44 Councils have, after their discussions, have --
45 although these are not treated as regulatory proposals
46 that you will be dealing with later in your meeting,
47 the Council can, you know, take a vote to accept the
48 recommendations of the Staff with the changes that
49 you've offered and, you know, I can quickly summarize
50 those that I've heard from you.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, if you could
2 summarize.
3
4 MR. CANNON: And I heard the Council
5 say that they were interested with regard to looking at
6 effects of gear;
7
8 They wanted to look at some additional
9 topics, including sex selectivity;
10
11 Drop out mortality need to be
12 emphasized.
13
14 With regard to species, they wanted to
15 include lamprey, looking more at their
16 life history because of increased
17 interest in that species.
18
19 And more information on the customary
20 historic use -- the customary historic
21 fisheries themselves for the Yukon,
22 and, of course, we're going to talk
23 about the Kuskokwim in a minute.
24
25 And then also looking at, with regard
26 to use of gillnets, to look, you know,
27 beyond just gillnet mesh size or depth,
28 to look at some of the other aspects of
29 how gillnets are fished and how it can
30 affect the way that they actually catch
31 fish.
32
33 Those are the things I heard and we
34 will try to include in our call, and then if you wanted
35 to take some action with those changes I'll allow you
36 to do that.
37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Okay.
39
40 Those sound like excellent additions to
41 the focus points for the Yukon River region, and does
42 somebody want to make a motion to adopt the amended
43 bullet points as described by Rich.
44
45 MR. GERVAIS: I have one thing I wanted
46 to clarify with Rich.
47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.
49
50 MR. GERVAIS: Is there whitefish going

1 to be included in this or do we need to add that on its
2 own because I can -- it just seems like it's a high
3 quality fish, it's not exploited, while, again in the
4 future I think it's going to be in demand.

5
6 MR. CANNON: Through the Chair to Mr.
7 Gervais. Yes. Yes, we are trying to include the
8 results of this two year whitefish strategic plan that
9 was done for the Yukon and Kuskokwim. So we are
10 specifically looking at whitefish in our call.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hum.

13
14 MR. GERVAIS: Okay.

15
16 MR. CANNON: Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Again, do we have a
19 motion to endorse these amended bullet points.

20
21 MR. GERVAIS: I'll make a motion to
22 endorse these.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to adopt the
25 amended bullet points, do we have a second.

26
27 MS. YATLIN: Second.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Eleanor.
30 Those in favor of the discussed bullet points signify
31 by saying aye.

32
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same
36 sign.

37
38 (No opposing votes)

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So moving on to the
41 Kuskokwim region priority information region needs, go
42 ahead, Rich.

43
44 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
45 The eight proposed Kuskokwim subsistence fisheries
46 information needs are found on Pages 179 and 180.
47 These include projects that will provide -- I'll go
48 through these as I did on the Yukon.

49
50 Reliable estimates of chinook, chum and

1 coho salmon escapement, and these are things like the
2 weir projects.

3
4 Harvest use and associated contextual
5 information for whitefish by species in Upper Kuskokwim
6 River drainage communities.

7
8 Oh, I'm sorry, I got the wrong pages.
9 Pages 28 and 29. I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.

10
11 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead.

14
15 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, on your reliable
16 estimates of chinook, chum and coho, could you also
17 include sockeye, because we do get sockeye up the
18 Kuskokwim.

19
20 MR. CANNON: I have that, Carl.

21
22 MR. MORGAN: Okay.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

25
26 MR. CANNON: Next, is harvest use and
27 associated contextual information for whitefish by
28 species in Upper Kuskokwim River drainage communities.
29 Communities of interest include McGrath, Telida,
30 Nikolai, Takotna and Lime Village.

31
32 Traditional ecological knowledge of
33 whitefish by species in Central Kuskokwim River
34 drainage communities. Communities of interest include
35 Upper Kalskag, Lower Kalskag, Aniak, Chauthbaluk, Red
36 Devil, Sleetmute, Stony River and Crooked Creek. The
37 findings from this research will supplement harvest and
38 use information from previous research.

39
40 Again, similarly harvest use and
41 associated contextual information for whitefish by
42 species in Lower Kuskokwim River drainage communities.
43 Specific groups, communities of interest are Kwethluk,
44 Akiachuk, Napaskiak, Tuluksak, Chefornak, Kipnuk,
45 Kignuk -- sorry about the pronunciations.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 MR. MORGAN: You did fine.

50

1 MR. CANNON: Thank you, you're very
2 kind.

3
4 Then broad whitefish population
5 assessment, including distribution and age structure.

6
7 Location and timing of Bering cisco
8 spawning populations in Kuskokwim River drainage.

9
10 Complete genetic baseline sampling and
11 population marker development for sheefish, spawning
12 population in the Kuskokwim River drainage.

13
14 And then finally status of sheefish
15 spawning populations in HighPower Creek, an upper
16 tributary of the Kuskokwim River.

17
18 And that concludes the Kuskokwim.

19
20 Like what we did for the Yukon, I would
21 request the Council discuss and provide comments and
22 recommendations regarding the proposed Kuskokwim
23 information needs.

24
25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Carl.

28
29 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman. Since you
30 included the eel on the Yukon, I was wondering if you
31 could include freshwater burbot, or what we call lush,
32 I think they still -- we put fish traps in -- there's a
33 lot of communities that still use the fish traps during
34 the winter under the ice, and I think they use them,
35 too, down therein the Yukon for the lush. So I think
36 that's one of the species that we should include, it's
37 an important subsistence used fish.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any -- go ahead,
40 Tim.

41
42 MR. GERVAIS: Is any of this Kuskokwim
43 region information needs driven by Donlin Creek?

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Rich.

46
47 MR. COLLINS: Through the Chair. Not
48 specifically, although people who are involved with
49 strategic planning for sheefish are certainly aware of
50 that project and I know a lot of the discussion that

1 occurred at the stakeholders meeting had to do with
2 habitat concerns. These sheefish populations -- well,
3 the whitefish populations in general, they use
4 relatively few spawning areas. For example, the Bering
5 cisco, what we're finding is that, you know, the Bering
6 cisco that populate the entire Bering Sea coastline may
7 actually originate from just, you know, perhaps one
8 major spawning area in the Yukon, and perhaps as few as
9 one or two in the Kuskokwim. So those habitat concerns
10 are very, very serious, and so habitat changes that
11 could result from climate change or from development or
12 a combination of those two are of very serious concern
13 to the people who were providing us input through this
14 stakeholder committee.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

19

20 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I'm
21 on the fisheries management committee for the Kuskokwim
22 and one of the issues that's come up in relation to
23 Donlin Creek is they were talking about using increased
24 barge service for bringing fuel and so on up the river,
25 several barges a day or daily and so on. And our
26 concern was for the out-migration of those small
27 salmon, like in the Kenai River, you know, they're
28 careful about not destroying that shore habitat. So I
29 don't know if we have baseline studies, they may have
30 done some work, Donlin Creek, themselves, but how
31 important are those and what would have to be done to
32 protect those if you've got increased barge traffic on
33 the river. Because if the salmon can't make it back
34 down safely to the ocean the whole thing could go down.

35

36 So I don't know what information is
37 available and what's being done in that area but I
38 think that'd be a critical one.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Rich, got
41 a comment.

42

43 MR. CANNON: Through the Chair to Mr.
44 Collins. Yes, I hear you about the habitat concerns
45 and if there's a way that we -- with these programs we
46 have to be careful about not getting -- the Federal
47 Subsistence Board has given us specific directions
48 about not getting involved with funding projects that
49 are the responsibility of our various Federal managers
50 and they have a specific responsibility and then

1 through their programs, Refuges, you know, Parklands
2 and BLM lands and so on, and they often deal with
3 habitat impacts.

4
5 There's a fine line and we can look at
6 it if it can be cast specifically in terms of the
7 production of a fishery that supports a subsistence,
8 you know, use.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. Go ahead,
11 Ray.

12
13 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I guess what you
14 could do though, I think, is to look to see what is
15 being done about who is gathering information like that
16 because it will have a bearing directly on subsistence
17 fishing. I mean maybe not doing the studies yourself,
18 but finding out is that being looked at, the habitat
19 along the river and how critical is it to the fishery
20 and so on.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Rich.

23
24 MR. CANNON: Through the Chair. I know
25 you've already passed over this on your agenda but that
26 might be a good question for your annual report, to get
27 a more immediate response from the appropriate Federal
28 managers, land managers on the river.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Would you like to
31 insert that into the annual report, Ray?

32
33 MR. COLLINS: Yes, I would, I think,
34 because Donlin Creek is moving forward and I know
35 they're trying to figure out how they're going to get
36 the power needs down there and they don't know how
37 they're going to haul fuel in and so on and it has
38 bearing on that, so, yeah.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You want to state
41 that in a concise, for the record.

42
43 MR. COLLINS: Well, to review the lower
44 river shoreline habitat in relation to its use by
45 out-migrating salmon fingerlings and so on so that we
46 know how much it's used, in what areas are they resting
47 in and using and so on, prior to mining development
48 which may take place before long at Donlin Creek.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Lower river

1 use of out-migrating smolt and.....

2

3 MR. COLLINS: And the relation is if
4 they do have to use the barge traffic it's the waves on
5 the shore. Because now you get one or two -- I mean
6 it's a long time between the barges coming up the river
7 but they create a tremendous wake and if you're getting
8 daily barges going back and forth.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

11

12 MR. COLLINS:it's going to do a
13 lot more erosion along the shore and that kind of
14 thing.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Any comments
17 from the Council on that, that annual report item that
18 Ray brought up.

19

20 MR. R. WALKER: Jack.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead,
23 Robert.

24

25 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr.
26 Chairman. I would also consider that -- the annual
27 report would consider the Yukon River because at one
28 time they did ask to do fuel hauling from the mouth to
29 the Holy Cross region there so I would ask that they
30 put that in the annual report too.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That could be in the
33 annual report discussion, it could actually state Yukon
34 and Kuskokwim.

35

36 Okay, any further discussion on that
37 issue.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. And did you --
42 I've lost track of where I'm at here, go ahead, Rich.

43

44 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. I think
45 where you're at on this is that you've had some
46 discussion about the Kuskokwim information needs. I've
47 taken some notes on some useful additions.

48

49 I've included in addition to the
50 chinook, chum and coho, I've added

1 sockeye salmon.
2
3 Also added with regard to nonsalmon
4 looking at burbot as another species of
5 interest.
6
7 And you've had a discussion also about
8 looking at some of the concerns about
9 increased wave action and its affect,
10 because of various activities on the
11 Yukon and Kuskokwim, about the
12 important nearshore rearing habitat
13 salmon, particularly chinook.
14
15 And you were going to, I guess, your
16 decision was to include that as a question in your
17 annual report. And similar to what you did on the
18 Yukon, if you would want to -- given the things that
19 we've added and discussed, if you'd want to take some
20 action on this list then that would be appreciated.
21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, we wanted to
23 take action on this. We can put the wave action
24 effects into the annual report and we'll review the
25 annual report in our winter meeting, but we want to
26 have it also included into this draft priority
27 information needs for the Kuskokwim.
28
29 Any further discussion on this.
30
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Chair will
35 entertain a motion to adopt the amended language for
36 the informational needs for the Kuskokwim.
37
38 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.
39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.
41
42 MR. MORGAN: Second.
43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Carl.
45
46 Any further discussion.
47
48
49 (No comments)
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
2 the motion signify by saying aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same
7 sign.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion carries.

12
13 MR. CANNON: We're just about through
14 this. The last three information needs are found on
15 Page 30 and these are multi-regional and they address
16 both the Yukon and Kuskokwim drainages. And I'll go
17 through these like I have for the other two sets.

18
19 First are changes in subsistence
20 fishery resources and uses in the context of climate
21 change relevant, including but not limited to fishing
22 seasons, species targeted, fishing locations, harvest
23 methods and means and methods of preservation including
24 management implications. And this one is specific to
25 do with the very high interest that Federal Subsistence
26 Board and its member agencies have in what's going on
27 with climate change in Alaska.

28
29 The second is an indexing method for
30 estimating species specific whitefish harvest on an
31 annual basis for the Kuskokwim and Yukon drainages.
32 Researchers should explore and evaluate an approach
33 where subregional clusters of community harvest can be
34 evaluated fore regular surveying with results being
35 extrapolated to the rest of the cluster contributing to
36 drainage wide harvest estimates. And David can speak
37 to this better than I can, but I think we're looking at
38 more effective methods for collecting harvest
39 information. That's the idea behind what this proposal
40 is looking at, improved methods.

41
42 And then, finally, the last one is
43 evaluation of conservation factors used to estimate
44 edible pounds from individual fish and from unorthodox
45 units such as tubs, sacks or buckets; and that's
46 another improvement on our ability to interpret and
47 understand our information on subsistence uses.

48
49 Like, what you've done with the other
50 sets of information needs, I'll, again, turn this over

1 to you and you can have your discussion.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council discussion
4 on these multi-regional priority needs.

5

6 That last point evaluation of
7 conservation factors used estimate edible pounds,
8 that's one of the factors of the size decline of
9 chinook salmon, is the, you know, the Department and
10 the managers assess by numbers of fish, but as the size
11 of.....

12

13 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:the fish
16 declines dramatically, maybe the fish are only a third
17 as big or half as big as they used to be, the numbers
18 of fish used increases. So it can be a significant
19 factor to evaluate.

20

21 Go ahead, Tim.

22

23 MR. GERVAIS: I just want to point out
24 you guys keep referring to it as conservation factor,
25 it's conversion factor.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I said that
28 incorrect, misread that. The conversion factor.

29

30 A lot of analysis is done in poundage
31 of use for subsistence but when you get into the
32 harvest then you get into numbers of fish and so there
33 has to be a timeline -- a calculation over time, these
34 fish are getting smaller for chinook, in particular,
35 and the poundage of use is actually declining if it's
36 stable, if it's in -- if use is increasing, then it's a
37 reflection of the amounts used, and so it's actually a
38 very important question, as these fish get smaller.

39

40 Any further discussion on these three
41 topics by the Council.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Chair will
46 entertain a motion to -- I feel these are important
47 issues, entertain a motion to adopt these priority
48 needs for multi-regional.

49

50 MR. COLLINS: I so move.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Ray.
2
3 MR. GERVAIS: Second.
4
5 MR. STICKMAN: Second.
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Mickey
8 and Tim.
9
10 Further discussion.
11
12 (No comments)
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
15 the multi-regional priority information needs signify
16 by saying aye.
17
18 IN UNISON: Aye.
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same
21 sign.
22
23 (No opposing votes)
24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we should go
26 to a break since we've been going for awhile here.
27 It's a good time for a break.
28
29 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30
31 (Off record)
32
33 (On record)
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to
36 try and come back together again here.
37
38 (Pause)
39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Nancy Swanton
41 and Don Rivard are on the conference call. We're
42 coming back to order again.
43
44 And, Ray, wanted to make an
45 announcement about tomorrow's dinner at his house, go
46 ahead, Ray.
47
48 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'm inviting you
49 all to my house again tomorrow night, couldn't do it
50 tonight because there's elections going on and my

1 wife's involved in that and I assume you're all going
2 to be here Wednesday night, I think, and leave the next
3 morning on the plane, that's the schedule. I need to
4 know a number, though, if I can.

5
6 I'll tell you what we're going to do.
7 We're going to have about 85 percent subsistence meal.
8 You're going to have moose roast, king salmon
9 barbecued, cranberry relish, blueberry pies, local
10 baked potato, locally raised, and the school is helping
11 in prepare some of the food for me and I'm asking you
12 to make a donation then in lieu of the meal cost to the
13 school and it goes for the travel for the kids, so
14 you're not paying for moose meat.

15
16 (Laughter)

17
18 MR. COLLINS: And I'm not getting
19 anything out of it except the pleasure of sharing my
20 house with you.

21
22 So how many people can come.

23
24 IN UNISON: Everybody.

25
26 MR. COLLINS: Everybody, okay. Yeah,
27 we've got room. Can somebody do a number.

28
29 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: How about who's
30 not going.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 MR. COLLINS: Somebody do a quick
35 count.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, who's not
38 coming?

39
40 MR. COLLINS: Who's not coming, maybe
41 that'd be easier, and then we'll just count.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hands up of who's
46 not coming.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 MR. COLLINS: Okay, all but two. So if

1 somebody'd do a count of the room that would help here
2 for me, I don't know.
3
4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: 20 are coming.
5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 20, okay.
7
8 MR. COLLINS: Well, we'll have food for
9 at least 30 so I guess we're in good shape. I had
10 enough pies being made for that.
11
12 MR. GERVAIS: Are you married to Sarah
13 Palin?
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 MR. COLLINS: Whoa.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to
22 move on to our agenda here. And did you want to make
23 one comment about those eels, Ken. Ken, did you want
24 to make one comment about those eels.
25
26 MR. CHASE: Well.....
27
28 REPORTER: Come on up.
29
30 MR. CHASE; You caught me by surprise
31 there.
32
33 I just heard the comment from Gene
34 there about his pilot project with the State and I'd
35 just like to say that I've fished lampreys, you know,
36 they're really lampreys on the Yukon for a good many
37 years, way back in the early 1960s, and we've had a
38 small sale for them for the past three years through
39 Kwik'Pak Fisheries and Anvik and Grayling harvested,
40 and I think last year it was somewhere close to 43,000.
41 And those are going for human consumption somewhere, I
42 don't know where. But it's a fisheries that's really
43 small and I don't think it can stand a lot of
44 commercial take. So we didn't want to really get that
45 out too wide to the public.
46
47 (Laughter)
48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yeah, it's a
50 concern any time a commercial fishery opens up for a

1 limited fish stock like sheefish on the Kobuk or
2 sheefish on the Yukon. I get concerned about that
3 myself. So thanks for your comment.

4

5 MR. CHASE: Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we're going
8 on to fisheries proposals, Yukon River -- oh, Yukon
9 River salmon post-season report and so we have -- go
10 right ahead, or whoever's up first.

11

12 MR. MEARS: Hello. My name is Jeremy
13 Mears. Hello, Mr. Chairman and members of the Council,
14 my name is Jeremy Mears. I'm a fish biologist with
15 Fish and Wildlife Service.

16

17 MR. ESTENSEN: And, Mr. Chairman, my
18 name, again, is Jeff Estensen. I'm with ADF&G, fall
19 manager for the Yukon commercial fisheries.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead.

22

23 MR. MEARS: All right.

24

25 Pre-season the 2010 chinook and fall
26 chum salmon runs were projected to be below average to
27 average. The summer chum salmon run was projected to
28 be near average while the coho salmon were anticipated
29 to be average.

30

31 Because chinook salmon have performed
32 below expectations in recent years the US/Canada Yukon
33 River Panel provided funds, as it had in 2009, to
34 coordinate a special outreach preparation program
35 during the winter and the spring. In May, prior to the
36 start of salmon fishing activity ADF&G and USFWS, with
37 input from users, distributed a joint Yukon River
38 salmon fisheries 2010 outlook sheet that described
39 expectations of run strength and management approaches
40 for the coming season.

41

42 Most subsistence salmon fishermen
43 delayed their fishing effort due to high gas prices and
44 low fish abundance early in the season. Throughout the
45 drainage there were episodes of wet and cold weather
46 and high water events with heavy debris loads which
47 preempted subsistence fishing. As the chinook salmon
48 migration moved up river, managers considered reducing
49 fishing time in order to conserve salmon but found that
50 poor fishing conditions coincided with periods when

1 chinook salmon were passing through those areas.

2

3 Consistent with the pre-season
4 management plan no directed chinook salmon commercial
5 periods occurred.

6

7 Directed summer chum commercial fishing
8 periods were open starting on June 28th and occurred in
9 Districts 1, 2, 4 and 6. The preliminary season total
10 commercial chum salmon directed periods landed in
11 fishing districts 1, 2, 4 and 6 combined was 9,897 and
12 232,888 chum salmon.

13

14 In-season run strength and assessment
15 of chinook and summer chum was mainly based on the
16 lower river test fisheries at Emmonak and Mountain
17 Village, the Pilot Station sonar and subsistence
18 fishermen catch reports. The preliminary end of season
19 Pilot Station sonar estimate was approximately 114,500
20 chinook salmon as compared to the 1995 to 2008 average
21 passage of 141,000 salmon.

22

23 The total chinook salmon passage at
24 Eagle sonar was 34,600 and the border passage estimate
25 was 33,000. This passage was below the Canadian
26 spawning estimate goal of 42,500.

27

28 The preliminary end of season Pilot
29 Station sonar estimate was approximately 1.3 summer
30 chum as compared to the 1995-2008 average of 1.6
31 million fish.

32

33 After observing the performance of the
34 summer chum salmon managers entered the 2010 fall chum
35 season expecting a below average fall chum run around
36 600,000 salmon. Near the midpoint of the fall chum
37 run, the run size projection was on track to be
38 400,000, which was below expectations.

39

40 To conserve fall chum salmon all main
41 river districts except subdistrict 5D were placed on
42 their regulatory windowed schedules, additionally one
43 subsistence fishing period was cancelled beginning in
44 district 1 and implemented chronologically up river
45 through subdistricts 5B and 5C. Later in the season up
46 river escapement projects were indicating that
47 restrictions were no longer necessary and the
48 subsistence fishing schedule was relaxed in the rest of
49 the Yukon River mainstem.

50

1 Although escapement assessment
2 continues, it appears that drainagewide objectives, the
3 Chandler River, the Tanana River and Canadian mainstem
4 fall chum stocks have obtained their escapement
5 objectives. The Sheenjek and fishing Branch Rivers
6 near or below goals.

7
8 The coho salmon run also had later than
9 average timing within a near average run size for the
10 season. Based on in-season assessment, managers did
11 not open a directed fall chum salmon commercial
12 fishing. Commercial fishing did open late in the
13 season to target coho salmon in districts 1, 2 and 6.
14 The preliminary total Yukon area fall season commercial
15 harvest was approximately 2,200 fall chum and 3,500
16 coho salmon.

17
18 Management of both summer and fall
19 seasons were challenging due to weak and unusually late
20 salmon runs. Many fishermen voluntarily lowered their
21 subsistence harvest goals throughout the area, worked
22 harder than usual or shifted their harvest to other
23 fish species to provide for household subsistence needs
24 this year.

25
26 In-season management actions were taken
27 to conserve both chinook and fall chum salmon.
28 Subsistence fishing periods were cancelled during the
29 fall season. Sportfishing and personal fishing use
30 were closed in the fall and some commercial fishing
31 opportunity for summer chum and coho salmon was
32 foregone to further conserve chinook and fall chum
33 salmon.

34
35 The end results were that most
36 escapement goals were achieved with chinook and fall
37 chum stocks falling short of their goals.

38
39 The outlook for 2011 will be prepared
40 by ADF&G after the escapement information and age
41 composition analysis are completed over the next
42 several months.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks,
47 Jeremy.

48
49 Does the Council have questions on the
50 post-season report provided.

1 Go ahead, Don.

2

3 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Jeremy, I just had a
4 question on the numbers. Is there anything in the
5 report that reflects the numbers that you are giving
6 us? I mean, you know, the -- I realize that the fall
7 chum was really kind of devastating, it was really
8 pretty bad. And I actually took part in that fishing
9 but -- and it seems like there was really a low count
10 of silvers, actually of silvers, a lot of summer chum
11 -- I mean fall chum, but is there a record here -- or I
12 mean is there a report here because you are giving us
13 some numbers and I'd just like to see that report.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead, Don.

18

19 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
20 believe the report that this gentleman was giving out,
21 I handed out a copy to all the Council members.

22

23 MR. HONEA: Oh, thanks.

24

25 MR. MIKE: It has the title 2010 Yukon
26 River Salmon Season Overview.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Donald. Any
31 other questions from the Council.

32

33 Go ahead, Eleanor.

34

35 MS. YATLIN: I had a question on the
36 conditions of the fall chum. I know it was lower than
37 expected but I had some comments from down Koyukuk on
38 the residents from the village of Koyukuk and they said
39 it was not the same as before. The silvers were not --
40 I just wanted to know, what conditions, if you had any,
41 you know, were they poor fish or were they in excellent
42 condition, were they same as like 15 years ago, you get
43 any comments back on that.

44

45 MR. ESTENSEN: Jeff Estensen, Fish and
46 Game. Mr. Chair. As far as I'm -- to answer your
47 question as far as I've heard on the river I didn't
48 hear any indication from any fishermen of any fish that
49 were not of poor quality or not what was to be expected
50 throughout the season. In the early part of it, when

1 the people were targeting people food as compared to
2 when they were catching -- in the later -- excuse me,
3 when they were catching food for other reasons, I don't
4 know, Fred, if you heard anything or not.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Fred.

7

8 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. For the
9 record, Fred Bue, Fish and Wildlife Service. I think
10 it may be a matter of timing in your area, this year
11 the fall chum were exceptionally late, so it may be
12 that you were seeing a different section of the run
13 when you actually did go fishing. I know in district
14 4, a lot of times when the fall run is really late,
15 people end up taking -- they can't wait that long so
16 they have to go hunting and then they come back and
17 hunt, pick up fish after, you know, towards the end of
18 the run, sometimes that occurs.

19

20 But then there's also -- but the fall
21 chum and coho runs were late and so just the timing of
22 those segments that are moving up the Koyukuk River may
23 be a little bit different than what you're normally
24 seeing.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Go
27 ahead, Eleanor.

28

29 MS. YATLIN: This was during the
30 regular, you know, when the fall chum started running,
31 and that was when they commented. This was from the
32 village of Koyukuk, and they said it was -- I don't
33 know if she described it as poor or it was just totally
34 different than what they used to get, the silvers.
35 That's why I questioned.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

38

39 MR. BUE: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, again,
40 thank you. I think what may have been going on is the
41 middle of the run is a transition time at the mouth of
42 the river where we have summer chum and fall chum
43 mixed, and they usually come together. And this year
44 there were very few fall chum in that early part of the
45 run and I think maybe that's why when the fish got up
46 there they're both mixed summer chum and fall chum, if
47 you take away the brighter fish in there you're left
48 with the tail end of the summer run. Possibly that's
49 what they're looking at is my only comment.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those fish that
2 would be going through late would go into the lower
3 portion in the Koyukuk mainly, and the summer -- the
4 late part of the summer chum.

5
6 MR. BUE: Right. Or it's just the tail
7 end of the summer chum run.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, there's
10 stragglers.

11
12 MR. BUE: This year the actual -- the
13 Koyukuk did pretty good on summer chum, you know,
14 especially the upper portion, Henshaw was pretty good
15 runs, and so we know that there were some good runs of
16 summer chum up there. When there's good runs,
17 typically that run is protracted and it goes longer
18 into the later season so it could be that they're
19 pulling out the missing fall chum out of that segment
20 is what they saw.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Jenny.

23
24 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair. I don't know
25 for what it's worth, but I've been in my fish camp
26 since May 26th through September 25th, spent most of my
27 time there and fishing the chums, last run silvers or
28 whatever you would call it, they were a little smaller
29 to me and there weren't as many. So I think when --
30 sometimes when our people say the fish is poor, that
31 means maybe the stock was poor, the whole, you know,
32 not the fish itself but the run.

33
34 I'll just throw that out.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.
37 Appreciate that.

38
39 Any comments.

40
41 Mickey.

42
43 MR. STICKMAN: I fished for fall chum
44 this fall too and one of the things that I noticed was
45 you were catching a lot more males than females. Yeah,
46 I didn't get very many fish. I usually save a lot of
47 eggs from the fall chum for fishing for grayling and
48 trout in the fall time when we do our fishing so -- but
49 this year I didn't save as much eggs because I didn't
50 fish as long but I didn't catch as many females as I

1 normally do but the silvers I caught were in pretty
2 good shape but like Jenny said a lot of them were not
3 really big fish. I mean the really big ones were the
4 males. But, you know, I did okay and the fish quality
5 was really good.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Tim.

8

9 MR. GERVAIS: Yes. I wanted to get
10 your comments on how you felt about how well your
11 preseason plan was matched up to how the run came out,
12 and I'd also -- on a second question I'd like to know
13 what do you feel needs to happen so we can get our
14 across border escapement?

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

17

18 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Are
19 you referring to fall chum or are you referring to
20 chinook?

21

22 MR. GERVAIS: Chinook.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Fred.

25

26 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. Fred Bue. I
27 think we knew the run was not going to be good, but I
28 think in season weather had a big factor on what was
29 going on. We knew that the lower river, they didn't
30 fish that first pulse, it was just stormy straight,
31 well, the run was delayed to begin with because we
32 thought that there was ice along the coast, you know,
33 and so when you have ice along the coast that causes
34 the coast to be pretty wet, and so people just didn't
35 take much during that first section. Then by that
36 time, when we got into the run then we started getting
37 those rains and flood events from up river, and we
38 heard a lot of fishermen saying that, well, we were on
39 windows and so we had sections of windows of closures
40 times, and we heard a lot from people saying that when
41 it was open that that coincided with when the wet
42 weather was and they had a lot of drift going through,
43 particularly in district 4 was a big problem, the
44 Koyukuk, and some places maybe had okay slots but we
45 heard predominately there were problems with
46 subsistence fishing, so that's why we didn't close a
47 period, pull a period. We thought that the weather was
48 taking care of a lot of that for us.

49

50 And so it, you know, there was a lot of

1 hardship and I'm not telling many of you anything new,
2 you knew that there was quite a bit of drift and high
3 water. So we thought that the weather was saving fish
4 for us. It turns out that, yeah, there was hardship
5 and I guess maybe we probably could have had some --
6 and pulling some more hardship by pulling another
7 period in the middle, but that would have been right
8 about at the peak of the run and so if you pulled that
9 period and you had a wall of water before and a wall of
10 water after, then there'd probably be very little
11 opportunity to fish at all.

12
13 So in hindsight, we probably could have
14 saved more fish by pulling more fishing time but that
15 would have been -- it would have been difficult.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

18
19 MR. GERVAIS: So how do you -- what's
20 your feeling about this not meeting the across border
21 escapement 75 percent of the time? How significant of
22 event is that for you?

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Fred.

25
26 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. Yeah, that's a
27 serious concern for myself, a serious concern for the
28 Fish and Wildlife Service and Fish and Game. And I
29 think that probably this winter, what we're going to
30 need to do is go and talk to the people and get
31 commitment preseason. You know, are people really
32 willing to forego a potential opportunity to get
33 additional fish across the border, come high water or
34 whatever and so I think we need commitment all the way
35 across the board. You know, in-season it's hard to go
36 in and say, well, it's lining up with high water, these
37 guys are going to be out of the water, they're not
38 fishing, you know, this next slot will -- well, they
39 may get an opportunity, but then why should they get to
40 fish and somebody else not get to fish.

41
42 And so I think it probably needs a
43 commitment across the board. You were close to getting
44 one this last spring, I think, you know, the
45 Subsistence Board is coming up, but I think we also
46 have other meetings and other opportunities and I would
47 urge everybody to speak with their neighbors, you know,
48 above and below you to see where we stand, and hope
49 that we can come to some compromise because it is going
50 to end up being a compromise.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Ray.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.
4 I head heard before that historically about half of the
5 production for the river comes from Canada, is that
6 true, and that's why the escapement is kind of
7 important for everybody on the river, because they were
8 producing over half of the fish in the river, weren't
9 they, historically?

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Fred.

12

13 MR. BUE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. For
14 chinook, yes, and it still is pretty much to this day.
15 There are other stocks that definitely have performed a
16 little better like the Tanana has performed a little
17 bit better in recent years, but still -- we're still,
18 ball park, we're saying 50 percent of the run are
19 Canadian origin.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: So that means that in the
24 future we're going to be looking at fewer coming back
25 because of that low escapement, is that right, it's
26 been about three out of four years it's been low now,
27 is that right, so that has implications for what's
28 going to happen up ahead.

29

30 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. It certainly
31 does. But I think we also have -- it see-saws back and
32 forth. We've also had some really high escapements
33 that have produced -- performed very poorly. We've had
34 some poor escapements that have performed pretty well.

35

36 And that's what's really confounding
37 this. And so that's why you almost need to go
38 preseason in saying that you agreeing to do something.
39 Our projection -- we're not under-projecting on
40 purpose, there's a pretty wide variance on where we end
41 up versus where we're projecting. Our projection was
42 actually substantially higher, you know, based on
43 normal production levels, we were looking at over
44 200,000 chinook. We downgraded that in the projection,
45 including it's a joint projection between United States
46 and Canadian biologists, and their projection was -- it
47 was a joint projection and we were looking at over
48 200,000 for a general production rate. With -- based
49 on recent performance we were looking at 150,000, and,
50 yet we still came in below that. And so it's -- you

1 know, we even performed a little bit poorer than we had
2 in previous years. So we're kind of chasing our tail
3 to some extent.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You have a comment,
6 Mickey.

7

8 MR. STICKMAN: I don't have any comment
9 for the information, but, you know, when they let that
10 first pulse go through in 2009, the United States did
11 meet their escapement goals as far as crossing the
12 border, and I was just wondering why an idea like that
13 that worked, that was proposed by the village of
14 Koyukuk and all the fishermen agreed and they let that
15 first pulse go and we met the escapement goals -- not
16 only did we meet the escapement goals, but the people
17 up on the Koyukuk River, up in Huslia and Hughes and
18 further on up the river, they saw more fish than they
19 saw in 10 years. And then ideas like that, that have
20 results within one year, and then they just don't even
21 think about it the next year, or they don't think that
22 it's -- you know, they don't get the fishermen to agree
23 to do it another year. I mean I think the fishermen
24 would agree to have done it for two or three years.

25

26 A lot of times -- I mean I know there
27 was a lot of complaints about people not meeting their
28 needs but both me and Jenny know because we're from the
29 same area, that year we let the first pulse go by,
30 everybody that fishes in our area came really close to
31 meeting their needs, I mean it really did not make that
32 big of a difference in our subsistence catches as far
33 as meeting our needs. I mean we didn't get as many as
34 we got before, but the change was not so drastic that
35 we couldn't live with it.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those
38 comments, Mickey, those are very important comments.

39

40 You have a comment in follow up.

41

42 MR. BUE: Yeah, thanks, it's important,
43 and I've heard that and people are trying to beat it
44 into my head and it's getting there, and I appreciate
45 it.

46

47 I think, you know, last year we did
48 have a little bit bigger run than this year, and so
49 that's also a factor.

50

1 But I guess my question to you is --
2 well, in-season management this year, we thought that
3 subsistence harvest was going to be lower because of
4 the fishing conditions and we've -- people tell us that
5 all the time, we're -- Fish and Game's in the process
6 of doing their subsistence surveys now and moving up
7 the river and we'll get a better sense, you know, in
8 another month from now, but I guess you, as a Council,
9 have a lot of experience fishing; are you -- how did
10 you feel this year about your chinook harvest? Was it
11 similar to last year or how did you make out? Last
12 year we pulled a period, was it -- did you still
13 harvest that much fish this year or how did that work?

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

16
17 MS. PELKOLA: I guess because of the
18 high water and all that good stuff, you know, we
19 weren't fishing during that time because where our camp
20 is there was so much drift and so I felt like I didn't
21 -- in our camp we didn't get as much as we did the year
22 before.

23
24 And I just wanted to clarify something,
25 just because I live in camp from May to September, I'm
26 not fishing that whole time; just to let you know that.

27
28 (Laughter)

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You have a comment
31 on your take, Mickey. Mickey.

32
33 MR. STICKMAN: The one other thing is
34 Jenny's right, though, the water does make a
35 difference. A lot of times it depends on the direction
36 of the wind. Like this summer, a lot of people were
37 pulling more sticks out of their net than fish because
38 of the drift and the way the wind was. There's a lot
39 of times when you have no choice, as far as drift in
40 spots in our area, you either drift across from Koyukuk
41 or across from Last Chance or just right four miles
42 above there or six miles below there and that's the
43 spots that you have to pick from.

44
45 So, you know, people don't have enough
46 gas money to go all the way down to six mile and check
47 on the drift and then go all the way up to Koyukuk and
48 check on the drift so a lot of times if somebody else
49 tell them it's not good fishing because there's too
50 much drift, well, they won't go, because it's just a

1 waste of time.

2

3 But for me, myself, even if I'm not
4 doing good, I'll still -- there's days when I go out
5 and I fish for like 48 hours in a row, I'll make a
6 couple trips to town, but I'll stay up like two whole
7 days in a row, never take no breaks from fishing, but
8 change partners.....

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MR. STICKMAN:but, you know,
13 that's the only way I'll be able to -- that's the only
14 way I get even close, is those days that I stay out
15 like for 48 hours in a row and I'll get like maybe
16 anywhere from 40 to 60 kings but those are the only
17 times that I -- if I get -- if I want to get really
18 close I'll have to stay up for three days, like maybe
19 two or three periods.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Mickey.

22 Ray.

23

24 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. In line
25 with what Mickey was saying, the experience on the
26 Kuskokwim River when we had the windows, we ended up
27 dropping the windows, and the reason we dropped them
28 down there because we thought that that was going to
29 spread the take out over the season, but what happened
30 is when there was an open window, it fished harder and
31 longer and they were taking just as many fish in that
32 early run as they were without the windows. So looking
33 at those strategies, I think, the only thing that helps
34 is to let that first pulse go by completely because the
35 windows may not be having the impact even on the Yukon
36 that you think they are if people are fishing harder
37 during those limited openings then because you're still
38 taking the same number of fish out of that part of the
39 run.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Robert.

42

43 MR. R. WALKER: Thanks, Jack. Fred, a
44 couple of years ago in Anvik we kind of like cut back
45 on the fishing because they said they were going to --
46 there was not going to be a big run so everybody kind
47 of like did conservative, some of the family's
48 practiced on taking the backbones and scraping the meat
49 off for jarring, which was really interesting because
50 that was the first time we ever did that.

1 And this year we found out that a lot
2 of people, like below us and above us, didn't --
3 weren't very conservative as we were in Anvik, I think
4 there was something like maybe 800 kings were caught in
5 Anvik or less, for all the town, the community. So
6 this year, I think the people did step on it because
7 why should we be conservative when the other people are
8 not conservative.

9
10 You know if we could learn to work
11 together on some of these issues where I talked with a
12 lady up there at University of Alaska, and also my wife
13 did, Julia, about taking the king salmon backbone and
14 scraping all the meat off for jarring or what you call,
15 canning, and start putting that into University of
16 Alaska extended services for rural Alaska, and it'll
17 work on the Kuskokwim, it'll work on the Yukon, it'll
18 work on just about anywhere if you start learning how
19 to be more conservative, how not to waste as much.

20
21 So this is something you could look at
22 in the perspective in a way of doing things.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 MS. PELKOLA: I'd like to make a
27 comment on that.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

30
31 MS. PELKOLA: I didn't scrape my fish
32 off the bones, I mean, you know, I canned and jarred
33 the whole thing and it's delicious. You eat the bones
34 and all. And so I conserved in that way. And my
35 brothers they tasted it, my brother and family, and
36 they said, wow, this is good, so hopefully people will
37 get educated and I know we have a lot of -- in Galena
38 anyway, we have a lot of people that are new to the
39 area and are not really subsistence-minded like we are,
40 you know, that -- people that have lived there for
41 years, and they don't really -- some of them waste a
42 lot, not only them, but anybody that's not educated in
43 what parts to use of the fish, you know, we use the
44 head, I use the tails, I started using the backbones, I
45 use everything. The only thing that's thrown out is
46 the guts, you know.

47
48 So if people would get educated and
49 get, you know, ask around, there's so much you can use
50 of the fish and even save it for dogs, you know, don't

1 waste anything.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I'm glad
4 to hear that. I hardly ever get fish. If somebody
5 gives me a fish I've always scraped the backbone and
6 cooked the head, just the guts is the only thing that I
7 really like don't want to eat too much.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But I think that
12 that's something that needs discussion at the planning
13 -- preseason planning, is there needs to be more
14 education on uses of fish throughout the whole Yukon
15 River drainage; that should be a point that's brought
16 out. And part of the conservation is utilizing the
17 whole fish. And I've seen carcasses that were like, I
18 mean they want -- I mean for strips, they want to cut
19 it like that and there's a whole bunch of meat leftover
20 that just gets kind of wasted, and I really hate to see
21 that.

22

23 So other comments.

24

25 Tim.

26

27 MR. GERVAIS: Fred, what are you seeing
28 as the main challenges to the chinook run? I mean
29 could you like -- can you address the Bering Sea
30 interception? I had a conversation this August with
31 Tim Sands, who's the Fish and Game biologist for the
32 Nushagak District in Bristol Bay and they had -- we had
33 a really weak king salmon run down there where he ended
34 up having to close the sockeye fishery to allow kings
35 up the Nushagak to meet his escapement goal. And I
36 asked him how he felt about the Bering Sea bycatch and
37 he was irritated with my question, and he said that it
38 was from the decadal oscillation; what's your opinion
39 on what -- what are like the top three factors that are
40 affecting the king salmon abundance on the Yukon?

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fred.

43

44

45 MR. BUE: That's a real -- I have all
46 kinds of things and it's a good thing I don't drink
47 beer because I'd have all kinds of -- more theories.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. BUE: But I think one thing that
2 you point out that is that, yeah, the Nushagak also had
3 problems and so the Yukon's not the only place, I think
4 actually the Kuskokwim is starting to feel it now.

5
6 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

7
8 MR. BUE: Even though they've had, you
9 know, a moratorium on six inch fishing gear nets for
10 quite awhile, but, you know, the Kuskokwim does have a
11 big subsistence harvest maybe which takes the place of
12 a lot of the commercial fishing on the Yukon.

13
14 But we see that up the west coast, too,
15 and weather, environment is something I kind of --
16 well, I'm kind of a fanatic on and I watch it and I --
17 it's interesting that on the one hand we have the
18 Arctic Ice Pack melting and going, you know,
19 disappearing and getting smaller every year, but at the
20 same time you look at the Bering Sea and we have a
21 farther southern extension of the ice pack in the
22 winter. It got as far as Cold Bay this year.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

25
26 MR. BUE:and well below -- pretty
27 far, which, you know, some people say that's good and
28 other aren't, but when you watch and look at where the
29 ice edge is, that's pretty close to the shelf line in
30 the Bering Sea, you know, the shelf line is where a lot
31 of the upwelling is in the Bering Sea, and so that's
32 where the nutrient rich source is, that's where you
33 have a lot of fish foraging and pollock are there,
34 salmon are there. It's also when you have a lot ice
35 like that going all the way to Cold Bay then the open
36 water's on the Asian side, are fish going around
37 further towards to the Asian being picked up; we don't
38 know. And then the bigger driver, of course, is the
39 Pacific decadal oscillation, which we have in the
40 Pacific Ocean. And fall time, especially since I was
41 the fall manager, I watched the storms coming up and
42 where fall season, some of you know that fall chum are
43 really pulsed fish, they come in in a pulse and in
44 between pulses there's no fish. So what I've been
45 watching is where the remnants of typhoons come up out
46 of Asia and they wrap around and when most of the --
47 the low pressure's wrapped around the Gulf of Alaska
48 and swing down south, but when you get that low
49 pressure that bounces up above the Alaska Peninsula
50 then it brings storms on shore and tends to bring fish

1 in and so by tracking those you can tell when fish are
2 going to be on shore and when to have a commercial
3 period or whatever or be prepared for fish.

4
5 So I think some of those storms, the
6 sequence is changing, you know, in recent years and
7 maybe that's part of the Pacific decadal oscillation or
8 part of the weather pattern is changing, but upwelling
9 is a big factor. And upwelling the biggest forages of
10 the south side of the Alaska Peninsula, that's where
11 everything in the whole Pacific, you know, the North
12 Pacific ends up there, Asia stocks, Alaska stocks,
13 California stocks, everything's competing there and so
14 timing, when the fish are there and are they getting
15 the nutrient upwelling when they need it, I guess, and
16 we're seeing timing of our runs is changing a little
17 bit and so that may mean that there's also something
18 else going on like the weather or the forage is being
19 delayed so fish are taking longer getting here.

20
21 But I guess that doesn't answer any
22 question but there's a lot of complexities.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

25
26 MR. GERVAIS: Okay, thank you for the
27 time on this, Mr. Chair. I'm just asking this
28 because.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

31
32 MR. GERVAIS:it's going to kind
33 of fit into what we can do as a Council to try to get
34 this run back where we need to.

35
36 What do you feel like -- because of
37 high bycatch years that have gone by, do you feel like
38 the ocean component of the chinook population is low
39 enough that that's probably the reason why we're, for
40 the last two years, we've had low bycatch numbers
41 reported?

42
43 Like have we crossed this apex point
44 and kind of crashed this king population?

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fred, go ahead.

47
48 MR. BUE: I guess I don't -- I couldn't
49 comment whether or not we've crossed an apex or a
50 threshold or whatever point.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tipping point.
2
3 MR. BUE: But it -- I think there's
4 fish out there and I think our task is to maintain
5 something there so that when the environmental
6 conditions come back then we can make hay when the
7 weather's good and get some production back. But until
8 production changes we're not gaining very much by
9 putting fish in the river or whatever, we need to
10 maintain what's there and then when they do -- when
11 production does spike up then we can put more money in
12 the bank and get some more interest back.
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. One more
15 Tim.
16
17 MR. GERVAIS: What I'm hearing from our
18 village is that they are prepared to stand down, forego
19 harvest, to allow some healthy and significant spawning
20 escapement. The one, not really condition, but the
21 wish that goes along with that is they'd like to see
22 that there's more effort on the -- in the saltwater
23 aspect, like something to the effect of -- right now
24 the trawl fishery's in operation for approximately nine
25 months out of the year, and we feel that if we could
26 reduce that amount of time that the trawls are actually
27 working out there, regardless of what their tact is,
28 that they limit their trawl time to six months out of
29 the year to give the salmon in their mid-life cycles
30 just a break from the constant trawl pressure.
31
32 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman, this is
33 Larry Buklis with Subsistence Management Office.
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Larry.
36
37 MR. BUKLIS: I can speak to some of the
38 bycatch numbers. 2007 was the large chinook bycatch
39 year as you recall, the number was about 122,000
40 chinook. This isn't, of course, just Yukon and
41 Kuskokwim origin chinook, it's chinook destined for
42 many different systems, but the gross catch was about
43 122,000. And since then the catch has dropped off
44 significantly. In 2008, the catch was estimated, the
45 bycatch was estimated at 20,000 kings, total, not Yukon
46 River, total. In 2009 it was down to 12,000. So I
47 know there's a lot of concern about the bycatch, but we
48 also have to keep the numbers in perspective.
49
50 Now, people respond to those numbers by

1 saying how valid are the numbers, and they challenge
2 the numbers, but this is the data we have, and I think
3 it's a high rate of observer coverage, or moving to 100
4 percent of observer coverage, and so we think this is
5 good information.

6

7 And, Tim, I think you were eluding to
8 the fact, to the concept that, okay, if the chinook
9 bycatch numbers are very low, is it because the stocks
10 are so low. Well, I think the drop off from 2007 to
11 2009 is a ten-fold drop, and the Yukon River chinook
12 run was a disappointment this year but it wasn't a ten-
13 fold drop. I mean if a mid-normal, good chinook run is
14 200,000, and this year's run was 100,000 plus, that's
15 not a ten-fold drop. So I don't think you can explain
16 the change in the river based on the bycatch. And I
17 don't think you can say the bycatch is so low because
18 the Yukon is so low. It's a factor, but that factor's
19 being brought under control.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fred, another
22 comment.

23

24 MR. BUE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
25 was just going to kind of follow up, part of that is
26 like you say is the weather and the winter season, that
27 area was covered with ice, which moves those boats out
28 of that high incident area, and so that, you know,
29 that's one of the things that may also lead to it.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted to bring
32 out some points myself.

33

34 And so I feel that one thing that's not
35 being -- I haven't heard any discussion of, and I've
36 heard rumors that with the war effort that America's in
37 right now that a lot of C-130 coverage for high seas
38 driftnet has been reduced. I was wondering if any
39 agency is looking at entrance into the market of
40 chinook from the high seas fleet caught in other areas,
41 either in or outside the Magnuson-Stevens line. That's
42 one avenue that some of these fish may be leaving the
43 fisheries, actually caught in the high seas driftnet
44 fleets because they haven't stopped fishing, and
45 without constant observation by Coast Guard, they could
46 be fishing inside the 200 mile line and I've heard that
47 there's significant reduction in C-130 observation.
48 That's one aspect that we got to talk about.

49

50 Another aspect is I was wondering if

1 there's been any, you know, you get these brood tables
2 and get fixated on what went into the river, but what I
3 never hear a lot of discussion about, what the
4 wintering conditions and hydrologic conditions were in
5 correlation and anybody doing studies as to the actual
6 productivity in the season, productivity of any given
7 escapement. There's huge variations in hydrology with
8 snow depth, snow depth allows more water to enter the
9 drainage and actually allows better productions. And
10 so I was wondering if there's any correlations to
11 reduced run strengths, smolt out-migrations, and snow
12 depths overwintering success of those brood tables, of
13 the brood years.

14
15 Go ahead, if you've got an answer to
16 that one.

17
18 MR. BUE: That's what I was going to
19 say, I don't have really much of an answer. But I do
20 know that climate change is a big issue for the Federal
21 government at this point and there is opportunities to
22 develop programs around changes that most of us are
23 observing; what's driving those changes we don't know,
24 but how we deal with them and can live with them.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

27
28 MR. BUE:in the short-term is
29 really important right now.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I mean there's
32 oscillations and snow depths and hydrologies in any
33 system and so whether that can be a correlated effect;
34 I don't research -- go ahead, Rich.

35
36 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. If your
37 question is, are we aware of any work.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

40
41 MR. CANNON:in this area, looking
42 at large scale changes in climate in terms of our --
43 the terrestrial environment, the freshwater
44 environment, and there is -- there are some studies
45 that are on going. There's one on the Kuskokwim that's
46 a fairly significant one, and there's an effort that's
47 a multi-national effort, money has come in from private
48 sources to fund this effort and it involves the
49 University of Montana, the US Fish and Wildlife
50 Service, and the USGS and they have developed habitat

1 models for a number of species based on hydrologic
2 conditions, for the purpose of -- and taking -- they
3 have representative rivers around, both in Asia all the
4 way around, including North America and in Alaska, and
5 they study these representative rivers in great detail.
6 I mean one of the investigators, I've heard him speak
7 about it and he said in some cases they're trying to
8 model these hydrologic systems down to the last water
9 molecule. And from it, they think, though, that they
10 can predict changes in productivity. And then they
11 take that information and then they are able to go to a
12 larger scale, they call sort of a landscape scale,
13 where they can look at those indicators and go down and
14 take certain key measurements in other river systems,
15 then to begin to predict likely what the changes will
16 be.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

19

20 MR. CANNON: And, of course, when
21 you're talking about climate change research, this is
22 right on target. But this is -- we're fortunate in
23 that this work was started in the YK-Delta Refuge about
24 seven years ago and so there's been a lot of -- several
25 million dollars already spent on that research, and
26 that's just coming to the point where we're going to
27 start seeing more of its application. So it may give
28 us some important information.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

31

32 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I feel
35 that there's some important.....

36

37 MR. R. WALKER: Jack.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead,
40 Robert's got a question for you there, Rich. Rich,
41 Robert has one more question.

42

43 MR. R. WALKER: Rich. Just a question
44 here, with all this freshwater being introduced back
45 into the ocean here from our declining ice cap and the
46 temperature of the water, how does it affect the
47 feeding habits of the fisheries in the Bering Sea and
48 also how much more is it creating spawning grounds in
49 Northern part of Alaska and the Northern part of Canada
50 or even in fact in Russia, does the Federal government

1 have any idea about what's going on there?

2

3 MR. CANNON: Through the Chair, to Mr.
4 Walker. All good questions, you're right on target,
5 those are important questions. You know, I can
6 speculate a little bit but we really don't know. I
7 mean different species have different habitat
8 requirements which most likely that you're going to see
9 some species helped by changes, some won't do so well
10 with these changes.

11

12 So there is change, there's no doubt
13 about that, we're seeing it. We're seeing it in the
14 vegetation, the animal movements. We've certainly --
15 you know the people in fisheries, when we talk about
16 decadal oscillation and El Nino, El Nina events, those
17 are related, certainly to climate change in the marine
18 environment, and so these things have been observed for
19 a long time, for decades.

20

21 So there's no simple answer to your
22 question but those are the right questions, and, I'm
23 sorry, I just can't -- I can't give you -- I can't
24 generalize that, you know, any answers about those
25 things.

26

27 MR. R. WALKER: Okay, just a quick
28 followup. Would this be something that we would put
29 into our annual report here because I think this is
30 pretty -- definitely where we would have to have some
31 kind of an answer within the next year or two or three,
32 looking down the road here because I think this is
33 pretty important to our spawning grounds also; don't
34 you think so?

35

36 MR. CANNON: Well, that's certainly, I
37 think, from what I understand about how the annual
38 reports are to work, is that for those questions that
39 go beyond just the specific nature of what you deal
40 with with the subsistence program with monitoring
41 harvest and directly managing the populations, these
42 are bigger questions and they certainly would be
43 something that you could ask the Federal Subsistence
44 Board. They'll turn around and give it to their member
45 agencies and then to the appropriate people in them to
46 get you an answer.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, I -- George.

49

50 MR. PAPPAS: Just real quick. George

1 Pappas, Department of Fish and Game. A significant
2 amount of money has been invested on the North Slope
3 for research on salmon. Doing some catalog work,
4 seeing fish we've never seen before in the areas, and
5 you can catch humpies off the beach in Barrow right
6 now. Is that from fish strain because now that the
7 spawning grounds aren't freezing solid, becoming
8 permafrost and killing everything, we don't know,
9 that's just recently -- some significant funding has
10 been put forth for that and we have a talented research
11 staff up there looking into it, at least to monitor it
12 and document for the anadromous stream catalogs where
13 the fish are, which species they are.

14

15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, George.

18 Yeah, I've seen pictures of people catching chinook
19 salmon, fairly shallow water, they can wade out to
20 their net and catch chinook salmon right off the beach
21 up by Barrow, and so they're catching -- and they tell
22 me that they never caught chinook salmon until about
23 15, 20 years ago, it was the first one they ever saw up
24 there. And so they're starting to -- and I consider
25 that, catching kings that are just swimming by in that
26 shallow of water, that's a -- if you really went out
27 and looked for them, if you really knew what you were
28 doing with real king gear you might catch quite a few.

29

30

Yeah, that's kind of a weird deal and
31 I'm glad to hear that there is funding to investigate
32 these Arctic salmon stocks that seem to be developing
33 fairly expanding.

34

35

And so you had a comment there, Ken.

36

37

MR. CHASE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
38 sort of lost my train of thought. My name is Ken
39 Chase, I'm not representing the GASH Communities, I'm
40 speaking for myself. And it was interesting to hear
41 Tim's questions there to Fred. And the thing that
42 doesn't seem to really come out all too often is we
43 hear escapement like into Canada grounds, but we don't
44 hear the return of the fingerlings and fish and I think
45 that the king salmon spawning, and the rule of thumb is
46 something like four return or survive to come back as
47 their reproduction. And it just seems that there's --
48 we hear the problem with the -- maybe the Kuskokwim
49 starting in on low runs and the other river they were
50 speaking about.

1 And we also don't hear too much about
2 predator fish. The State was doing some testing and
3 sampling on sheefish, we heard earlier at the Federal's
4 were going to do that, and they were tagging them down
5 in Russian Mission, they were going all the way up to
6 Tanana and we've been getting huge amounts of -- large
7 sheefish in the past couple years in our king salmon
8 nets and you open them up you find all sorts of
9 fingerlings. And we don't know what type but I don't
10 even know when -- I don't know when kings come back
11 down, you know, after they spawn, I don't know whether
12 it was that cycle. But it just seems that the predator
13 fish are taking a lot of those fingerlings coming back
14 and I think that's kind of one of the missing links
15 we're not really looking at. And that's just kind of
16 interesting to me.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Interesting comment.

19
20 Eleanor.

21
22 MS. YATLIN: Since the decline in
23 chinook salmon there's been discussion for a couple of
24 years, and a couple of years ago we had a meeting with
25 the Tanana Chiefs region and there was pretty much
26 consensus on the villages that, you know, just to --
27 like Mickey or Jenny said, to slow down fishing the
28 kings. And then there was some people there from
29 Canada and they said they already had been doing that.

30
31 And, I guess my question is, where -- I
32 mean on the management portion before the -- you know
33 before the season start, it sounds like they do the
34 management right up until the season starts, how much
35 input is from the villages and from the elders.
36 Because at our meeting a couple of years -- or about a
37 year ago, it was in February a year and a half ago, I
38 guess, or two years, Sidney Huntington stated that they
39 knew the declining on the kings was going to be drastic
40 so he just said just quit fishing for five years or
41 something, the life span of the fish. So I just want
42 to know how much consideration is taken from the people
43 that live in the villages and live on the riverways
44 where the fish -- where they go fishing.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead,
47 Fred.

48
49 MR. BUE: From a managers perspective
50 it's very important, we listen to people and that's

1 why, like this year, rather than pulling a fishing
2 period we knew there wasn't very much fishing gone, it
3 was too much debris in the water and people were
4 telling us that and so we tried to respond and then,
5 you know, thinking that we're saving some fish there,
6 the first pulse is -- is moving through.

7
8 There are some pretty wide extreme
9 views on some of that, and Sidney Huntington, I was at
10 that meeting, and it's not just that meeting, he said
11 it a few times, a few places, and I think it was
12 actually more like eight or 10 years, it wasn't -- you
13 know, and so we certainly consider that but, you know,
14 there's lots of different people on the river with lots
15 of different ideas and opinions and that's -- and
16 everybody there is pretty much somebody who lives on
17 the river. The Yukon River isn't someplace where
18 there's people from outside, it's all people that live
19 there and they have their view from their position on
20 the river, and what works for them doesn't necessarily
21 work for someone else. So it's not a one size fits all
22 thing.

23
24 And that's the difficulty with
25 managing, you know, a fishing schedule in one area
26 isn't necessarily applicable to someplace else and the
27 same with fishing gear, you know, different -- you have
28 different nets and you fish different ways and it's --
29 so I think people need to listen to each other and
30 recognize there are differences and try to figure out
31 what each person can do to help.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Fred.

34
35 Don.

36
37 MR. HONEA: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Fred, I have a question. I guess I'm not really
39 entirely satisfied that you answered Tim's questions,
40 and I'm just -- I'm just wondering, you know, what's
41 the options here? What is the State's, you know, view
42 on -- you know, I mean the 7.5 inch thing that's
43 proposed by the State, I mean, okay, you know, the
44 scenario of trying to enforce that and, you know,
45 letting people know how to check that and replacing
46 nets is going to be kind of, you know, a little
47 difficult but I'm just -- you know, I'm really
48 supportive of the approach that we took, I believe when
49 TCC and the village of Koyukuk, you know, I was just
50 wondering is the State still, you know -- would still

1 support letting that first pulse go by and stuff
2 because I really believe that, you know, we have to,
3 you know, start bearing down. And if we have to, you
4 know, start closing for a few years, so be it. But,
5 you know, I was just talking to some of the guys here,
6 Council members today, and, you know, I think it's too
7 little too late doing the depth -- you know the mesh
8 size and the depth and stuff and I think it's -- I
9 think those, you know, they're all fine and stuff but
10 it's going to be a problem enforcing that and carrying
11 that out throughout the whole Yukon. And some of these
12 proposals that we're going to -- that are going to come
13 before us, you know, I mean you say, hey, what's good
14 for one place is good for the rest but, you know, it
15 just -- I think it's just kind of ludicrous that some
16 working group proposes something for our area when
17 they, you know, I think it's almost mean-spirited.
18 And, you know, I mean that's -- you know we aren't
19 making any proposals for their area.

20

21 But specifically getting back to it,
22 you know, I just wanted to see the State's take on that
23 -- your opinion on, you know, what options are open
24 and, you know, doing the -- letting the first or second
25 pulse, if necessary?

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Response, Fred.

28

29 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry if I
30 caused some misunderstanding, I do not work for the
31 State of Alaska anymore.

32

33 MR. HONEA: Oh, okay.

34

35 MR. BUE: I recently retired and now
36 I'm with Fish and Wildlife Service.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 MR. R. WALKER: You got to put a name
41 tag on there.

42

43 MR. HONEA: Oh, okay, well, I'm sorry.
44 I guess what I -- is there anybody from the State who
45 would like to respond to that.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MR. HONEA: Okay, thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is the State --
2 okay, go ahead.

3
4 MR. ESTENSEN: Mr. Chair. Jeff
5 Estensen with the fall manager for the Yukon, and I
6 guess this is in reference to Proposal 11-02, and what
7 I could do if it's -- if you want me to, is just read
8 what the Department's comments are straight from
9 the.....

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't really want
12 to get into that proposal.

13
14 MR. HONEA: Yeah.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don's question
17 mainly wants to know is the State considering various
18 options for in-season management changes for the 2011
19 season. I don't want to go into the proposal.

20
21 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I'd
22 feel more comfortable if the summer manager, Steve
23 Hayes, was here to discuss that regarding chinook.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's appropriate.
26 And so I think that there'll be lots of discussion
27 during the winter on various management avenues with
28 the various users along the Yukon River, I'm positive
29 that's going to happen.

30
31 So you got a comment there, Carl.

32
33 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I'd just like to
34 compliment you guys that you're looking out of the box,
35 rather than the normal thing to restrict fishermen,
36 restrict subsistence fish, restrict this, cut down on
37 the net size and you're looking at other options,
38 you're getting outside of the box and looking at the
39 climate, and looking at why. I'd just like to
40 compliment you. I just think shutting down the
41 fisheries for five, six years, 10 years is not going to
42 -- I think it'll do more harm to our people because
43 they depend on that diet, you're going to shift them to
44 another diet that they're not really used to, and then
45 we're dealing with obesity and all kinds of other
46 unhealthy stuff that causes ailment.

47
48 But I'd just like to compliment you and
49 continue to look at stuff outside of the box rather
50 than the normal status quo.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have a couple more
2 comments I want to make.

3
4 The gear size change is adopted by the
5 Federal Subsistence Board and the State Board of Fish.
6 There is a 7.5 gear restriction on the Yukon River that
7 will be in place for this next season. That's not a
8 maybe, that's the way it is. That gear change will
9 harvest more large male summer chums. And one of the
10 educational things that needs to happen on the Yukon is
11 that we have a suppressed chinook run and we have to
12 start using some of these chums, they're bright chums,
13 they're pretty nice fish, and so those fish have to be
14 incorporated into the subsistence use. We're running
15 out of large chinook female and large chinooks, and so
16 we need to start using the backbones of the chinooks,
17 we also need to start using some of these summer chums,
18 and there's going to be a significant more harvest of
19 summer chum with this gear size change.

20
21 I live at the Upper Koyukuk River, I've
22 got a small contract with the Alaska Department of Fish
23 and Game to take auxiliary fin clips for genetic
24 analysis to get a genetic profile. We need this
25 genetic information. So I'm out on the spawning
26 grounds, walking up and down the rivers because I don't
27 -- you can't -- the rivers are shallow and I went to
28 places where I know where chinook salmon spawn; on the
29 Jim River drainage last year I saw 10 -- five pairs, 10
30 chinooks on one bend, this year I walked to many
31 places, I saw seven chinook on the whole Jim River and
32 five of them were male jacks, two were females. I
33 consider that a complete run failure on the Jim River
34 system that I actually looked at.

35
36 And I also was sampling at Wiseman with
37 a net, muddy water, could catch fish, they couldn't see
38 the gear, I caught with 5-3/8ths gear, basically an old
39 red net to tangle them on their teeth, I caught 10 male
40 jacks, no females, pre-spawn.

41
42 The runs were really, really poor.
43 They were skewed towards very small males. That's what
44 I seen on the spawning grounds. And that's after we
45 run that fish through that gauntlet of large mesh gear
46 all the way down river and this is what we get on the
47 spawning grounds is nothing for female component. And
48 so I'm real, real concerned about this issue.

49
50 This 7.5 inch gear change is going to

1 help, but the Bromaghin study also said that the gear
2 size change has to be taken in conjunction with
3 allowing passage of unharvested components, and so
4 that's an aspect of rebuilding these stocks. We can't
5 just -- the windows that we had this year have shown
6 that the fish, they blur, and so eventually they will
7 be harvested. If up river stocks are basically male
8 jacks and small fish, that's what you get -- you're
9 getting real low returns of larger females, we have to
10 strategize for a protection to get real escapement back
11 on the grounds.

12
13 So there's many -- we're throwing out
14 different pieces of puzzles to you. There's some
15 missing pieces that we're not looking at.

16
17 And so I wanted to bring up those
18 issues.

19
20 And Mickey's got another comment, go
21 ahead, Mickey.

22
23 MR. STICKMAN: The comment I have on --
24 well, Don brought it up, was the 7.5 inch mesh, you
25 know, one of the issues that I have there is there was
26 supposed to be some kind of program where you were
27 supposed to do a net trade in and I was wondering if
28 there was anybody here who had information on the net
29 trade in because there's people out there that, you
30 know, want to be ready, I mean they -- like they don't
31 get their net like one week or when the fish run hit,
32 they like to be ready so I was just wondering about the
33 fish net exchange program.

34
35 And then the other one that you talked
36 about climate change, there's the Arctic Council, the
37 Arctic Council is a Council of the eight nations around
38 the Arctic and they have meetings sometimes 4 times a
39 year and they talk about the melting ice pack. One of
40 the things that they talk about with the melting ice
41 pack around Greenland is it's opening up new areas for
42 fishing. We talk about conservation but when you go to
43 this international meeting they talk about resource
44 development, they're looking at how much money they can
45 get out of this area, how much fish they can get out of
46 this area, how much oil, how much gas, they don't look
47 at the subsistence aspect of the people that live there
48 in the region.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got a point on

1 this net distribution, Gene.

2

3 MR. SANDONE: My name is Gene Sandone.
4 And I've been involved in the Federal Disaster, direct
5 payments to fishermen and also the net exchange and a
6 brief update. The money has been received by Pacific
7 states and the letter is going to go out here shortly
8 to all the fishermen who are going to get direct
9 payments for the Lower Yukon and the Upper Yukon. And
10 also in addition to the direct payments there will be
11 nets for every subsistence household and for every
12 valid permit holder who holds a commercial fishing
13 permit within the entire Yukon.

14

15 So they will be ordered shortly. We
16 told them that we need them in the villages by March
17 1st so that they can be hung and the fishermen can use
18 them as early as the end of May.

19

20 And I'll tell you one thing, being
21 associated with the Yukon River for as long as I have
22 been, 1988, and hearing all the comments about spawner
23 recruit analysis and everything, I'm really sitting on
24 my hands back there trying not to raise my hand but I
25 understand the situation. But if there's any questions
26 you'd like to fire at me, I'd be willing to answer them
27 for you.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What's the rate of
32 spawner -- the return to each spawner, is that four
33 return on -- the rule of thumb on the Yukon?

34

35 MR. SANDONE: There's a marginal rate
36 of return. If you put a lot on spawners on the grounds
37 you get less. And for instance, the record spawning
38 escapement that went into Canada in 2003 was 81,000
39 and we anticipated -- and we believe that the return
40 from that spawning escapement was about 1.1 to one. So
41 you're basically getting what you put back on the
42 grounds, about 85,000 fish.

43

44 In 2000, we put about 26,000 fish on
45 the grounds in Canada and I believe, because there was
46 a commercial fishery on that year, and the run was so
47 poor, that the percentage of female probably wasn't
48 that high, we don't have any data, but we did get a
49 return of 4.35 to one.

50

1 Now, that's just two examples.

2

3 But there is a very good relationship
4 between the return per individual spawning fish and the
5 numbers of spawners that are on the grounds.

6

7 Average, I'd say somewhere between 2.5
8 and 3.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I posed the
11 question is there -- you know we're doing some work
12 over in Canada, do you know of any correlation between
13 weather -- overwintering weather events, like snow
14 depths and hydrology to run strength -- or smolt out-
15 migration strengths, I feel there's a direct
16 correlation on an annual basis, so these variables
17 throw these differentials in return.

18

19 MR. SANDONE: I believe there is
20 probably something going on there, but don't forget
21 king salmon are large and they spawn basically in the
22 middle of the river and they can dig deeper than most
23 other -- well, than most salmon species and they're
24 probably protected more than other species.

25

26 Additionally, when you have few
27 spawners on the grounds, they're not dumb, they seek
28 the best spawning habitat, the optimal spawning
29 habitat.

30

31 And another thing with Canada, most of
32 the spawning occurs, the largest concentration of
33 spawners in Canada are located at the mouths of lakes,
34 so the temperature and the flow is moderated by that
35 lake. So I don't think it's a major concern, I do
36 think it influences survival from egg stage to fry, but
37 I believe scientists think and believe that year class
38 strength is set at the first year of ocean life. If
39 they hit the ocean and there's not enough food for
40 them, they're not going to produce a lot of fish.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I think
43 we've covered this -- I think I allowed this to be a
44 venting season for this year's poor return, and I think
45 we've covered this post-season report fairly
46 extensively. How much more time do we have Donald,
47 when is dinner?

48

49 MR. STICKMAN: Five minutes.

50

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. For those folks
4 staying at the Hotel McGrath, I don't know what time
5 they serve dinner.
6
7 MS. PELKOLA: 5:00 to 7:00.
8
9 MR. MIKE: 5:00 to 7:00.
10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, between 5:00 and
12 7:00. What's the wishes of the Council to take up
13 another proposal, we're starting into our proposals.
14
15 MR. GERVAIS: Let's start.
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We got time for one.
18
19 MR. R. WALKER: Lunch.
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No the proposal.
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we should.....
26
27 MR. GERVAIS: Let's do one at least.
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Let's kind of get
30 into one proposal here, we'll start on the first FP11-
31 01 and 11-06; Rich Cannon and Larry Buklis.
32
33 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 For the record my name is Richard Cannon, Yukon River
35 OSM fisheries biologist. To my left is Mr. Larry
36 Buklis, who is the Chief of Fisheries -- Chief of the
37 Fisheries Division. And we'll be helping you go
38 through the proposed regulatory, the proposals that you
39 have in front of you today.
40
41 We'll start with 11-01 and 11-06.
42 These are two similar proposals that deal with the
43 depth of gillnets. The analysis for these proposals is
44 found in your Council books on Pages 33 through 52.
45
46 Proposal 11-06 was submitted by the
47 Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory
48 Council. It requests that all gillnets, both
49 subsistence and commercial with greater than six inch
50 stretch mesh be restricted to not more than 35 meshes

1 in depth in Federal public waters of the Yukon River
2 drainage.

3
4 Proposal 11-06 submitted by the
5 Mountain Village Working Group would restrict the depth
6 of 7.5 inch stretch mesh gillnets to 20 meshes in depth
7 in Yukon River districts 4 and 5.

8
9 11-01 specifically addresses regulatory
10 change that the Eastern Interior Council felt would
11 enhance the quality of escapement. The proposal was
12 based on the concern that the average length and weight
13 of returning adult chinook salmon is declining and
14 because of the belief that the existing allowable
15 gillnets disproportionately harvest larger size female
16 chinook salmon over males.

17
18 This proposal would be applied to all
19 gillnet fisheries occurring in Federal public waters.

20
21 The stated purpose of 11-06 is to
22 increase the numerical escapement. There's a
23 difference between the two proposals in that regard.
24 11-06 is for a numerical escapement by increasing the
25 catch efficiency of gillnets in two upper river fishing
26 districts.

27
28 The analysis indicates that reducing
29 depth of gillnets would likely result in reduced
30 fishing efficiency of gear for commercial and
31 subsistence fishermen. However, there is no way to
32 currently quantify reliably if a reduction of mesh
33 depth to 20 meshes would be more effective on reducing
34 harvest numbers than reducing fishing time, which
35 managers routinely do in order to reduce harvest
36 levels. In addition there are no quantifiable data
37 available to predict what effect reduction would have
38 on the harvest of larger and older age female chinook
39 salmon.

40
41 No new information supporting
42 decreasing size selectivity of gillnets by reducing
43 mesh depth has been identified since the Federal Board
44 last considered and rejected a similar proposal.

45
46 Key information used in this analysis
47 summarized published studies that examined the spacial
48 distribution of migrating salmon in rivers. This
49 research suggests that migrating salmon generally swim
50 near the river bottom to avoid current. Larger fish

1 swim farther off shore in deeper water to avoid surface
2 wave drag, that's the best theory that we have.

3

4 Evidence for Yukon River chinook salmon
5 from a large archival tag project suggest that Yukon
6 chinook swim along the bottom following submerged river
7 channels at depths ranging from less than a few feet up
8 to 90 feet. This information can be found on Page 40
9 and is summarized in Figure 1 on Page 41.

10

11 Test fishing with gillnets at the Pilot
12 Station sonar did show -- did not show any difference
13 in size of fish between shallow or in shore catches and
14 deeper off shore catches. Sonar traces, however, show
15 that fish do rapidly disperse to avoid fishing
16 activity. So there's a lot of fishing [sic] avoidance
17 going on and they see that on the sonar. The Pilot
18 Station data is summarized on Table 1 on Page 42.

19

20 If adopted, either proposal would pose
21 an additional burden on some, if not all affected
22 users, since they would have to modify existing
23 gillnets. In addition, adoption of either proposal
24 would expand the differences between Federal and State
25 subsistence regulations currently existing, while
26 increasing regulatory complexity and enforcement
27 concerns. Commercial and subsistence users fishing in
28 State managed waters under State regulations would
29 still be permitted to use the deeper gillnets.

30

31 For that reason, Mr. Chairman, the
32 preliminary conclusion that the Staff has reached is to
33 oppose both of these proposals.

34

35 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Rich. Very
38 nice analysis. Does the Council have questions on the
39 presentation.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions on the
44 presentation, Don.

45

46 MR. HONEA: No.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Agency comments.
49 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

50

1 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
2 members of the Council. George Pappas, Department of
3 Fish and Game. Our comments begin on Page 46 in the
4 RAC book and they will be adopted into the transcripts
5 as they appear so I'll do my best to not repeat what
6 was previously presented and in addition with our
7 comments, throughout this process, some of them I'll
8 repeat proposal so I'll do my best to shorten up for
9 you, sir.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

12

13 MR. PAPPAS: The proponents are
14 concerned that the deeper gillnets will select for
15 older and larger Chinook salmon which are believed to
16 migrate in deep water. The Federal Subsistence Board
17 and Alaska Board of Fisheries previously reviewed
18 similar proposals to restrict gillnet depth in the
19 Yukon River fisheries and took no action or opposed
20 those proposals.

21

22 Data from recent radio tagging projects
23 on the Yukon River Chinook salmon indicate that Chinook
24 salmon utilize the entire depth of the water column
25 during migration. And even if the net depth
26 restrictions could alter harvest in a specific
27 location, where shallower nets would not impede a
28 harvest of larger more valuable -- excuse me, let me
29 start that sentence over -- even if net depth
30 restrictions could alter harvest in a specific location
31 fishermen could compensate for a reduced net depth by
32 fishing in shallower locations where shallower nets
33 would not impede the harvest of larger or more viable
34 Chinook salmon. There's insufficient data to
35 demonstrate that gillnet depth restrictions would
36 effectively alter the size and age composition of the
37 harvest.

38

39 If these proposals were adopted harvest
40 of chinooks and other salmon species in the Federally-
41 regulated subsistence fisheries on the Yukon would be
42 or could be negatively impacted. These fishermen would
43 potentially need to fish longer hours to harvest the
44 same number of fish with less efficient nets.
45 Modification of existing nets or purchase of new nets
46 might be necessary in order to comply with gear type
47 restrictions that differ between State and Federal
48 fisheries.

49

50 If the Federal regulations regarding

1 allowable gear types are not the same as State
2 regulations, it will create a conflicting patchworks of
3 waters under differing State and Federal regulations,
4 and it might be difficult for subsistence users to know
5 the boundaries for each.

6
7 The Department, for opportunity, salmon
8 may be harvested under State regulations throughout the
9 majority of the Yukon River watershed, including a
10 liberal subsistence fishery. Under State regulations,
11 subsistence is the priority consumptive use; therefore
12 State subsistence fishing opportunity is directly
13 linked to the abundance and is not restricted unless
14 run size is inadequate to meet escapement needs.

15
16 The Department recommends opposing both
17 of these proposals.

18
19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20
21 *****
22 STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS
23 *****

24
25 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
26 Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

27
28 Fisheries Proposals FP11-01 and
29 FP11-06: Yukon River gillnet depth restrictions.

30
31 Introduction:

32
33 The Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
34 Council submitted proposal FP11-01 to limit all
35 gillnets (state commercial, state subsistence, and
36 federal subsistence fisheries gear) with a stretched
37 mesh size greater than six inches to a maximum of 35
38 meshes in depth in the Yukon River where federal
39 subsistence regulations apply. Stanislaus Sheppard of
40 the Mountain Village Working Group submitted proposal
41 FP11-06 to limit gillnets with a stretched mesh size of
42 7.5 inches to a maximum depth of 20 meshes for federal
43 subsistence fishing in districts 4 and 5 of the Yukon
44 River. The proponents are concerned that deeper
45 gillnets select for older and larger Chinook salmon,
46 which are believed to migrate in deep water. Proposal
47 FP11-06 was also submitted to allow more salmon to
48 escape to the spawning grounds and did not
49 differentiate between species or sizes of salmon.

50

1 The Federal Subsistence Board
2 previously reviewed similar proposals to restrict
3 gillnet depth in the Yukon River fisheries (FP05-03,
4 FP06-04, FP09-13) and took no action or opposed those
5 proposals. The Alaska Board of Fisheries unanimously
6 opposed a proposal to restrict subsistence and
7 commercial gillnets to 35 meshes in depth in the Yukon
8 Area during its meeting January 26 31, 2010, after
9 thorough review in an open public process that included
10 numerous oral and written reports. The Alaska Board of
11 Fisheries adopted a maximum mesh size of 7.5 inches for
12 subsistence and commercial gillnets effective in 2011
13 in the Yukon Area. The Federal Subsistence Board took
14 no action on deferred proposal FP09-13 to limit mesh
15 depth at the April 13 14, 2010, meeting after adopting
16 deferred proposal FP09-12, which paralleled the Alaska
17 Board restriction of a maximum mesh size of 7.5 inches.
18 The change in mesh size effectively reduces the maximum
19 depth of commercial gillnets in districts 1 3 by
20 approximately three feet compared to the depth of an
21 8.5-inch mesh gillnet (commensurate with the current
22 gillnet commercial fishery). Most subsistence
23 fishermen will likely use their commercial gillnets for
24 commercial fishing.

25
26 Data from a recent radio-tagging
27 project on Yukon River Chinook salmon indicate that
28 Chinook salmon utilize the entire depth of the water
29 column during migration. (John Eiler, National Marine
30 Fisheries Service Auke Bay Laboratory, Juneau; personal
31 comm. 2009). Even if net depth restrictions could
32 alter harvest in a specific location, fishermen could
33 compensate for a reduced net depth by fishing in
34 shallower locations, where a shallower net would not
35 impede harvest of larger and more valuable Chinook
36 salmon. There are insufficient data to demonstrate
37 that gillnet depth restrictions would effectively alter
38 size and age composition of the harvest.

39
40 Impact on Subsistence Users:

41
42 If FP11-01 and FP11-06 are adopted,
43 harvest of Chinook and other salmon species in
44 federally-regulated subsistence fisheries on the Yukon
45 River could be negatively impacted. These fishermen
46 would potentially need to fish longer hours to harvest
47 the same number of fish with less efficient nets.
48 Modification of existing nets or purchase of new nets
49 might be necessary in order to comply with gear type
50 restrictions that differ between the federal and state

1 fisheries. If federal regulations regarding allowable
2 gear types are not the same as state regulations, it
3 will create a conflicting patchwork of waters under
4 differing state and federal regulations and might be
5 difficult for subsistence users to know the boundaries
6 for each.

7
8
9

Conservation Issues:

10 The Yukon River Chinook salmon stock is
11 currently classified as a stock of yield concern.
12 Since 2001, subsistence harvest levels have reached the
13 amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence use within
14 state regulations, except for 2002, 2008, and 2009. A
15 majority of the Yukon River drainage escapement goals
16 have been met or exceeded since 2000, including the
17 Chena and Salcha rivers, which are the largest
18 producers of Chinook salmon in the United States
19 portion of the drainage. The agreed-to escapement
20 objective for the Canadian mainstem was met every year
21 from 2001 through 2006, with 2001, 2003, and 2005 being
22 the three highest spawning escapement estimates on
23 record. However, the escapement objective for the
24 Canadian mainstem was not met in 2007 and 2008.
25 Exploitation rate on the Canadian-origin stock by
26 Alaskan fishermen has decreased from an average of
27 about 55% (1989 1998) to an average of about 44% from
28 2004 2008 (Howard et al. 2009). Although the
29 subsistence harvest remains stable at nearly 50,000
30 Chinook salmon annually, commercial harvests have
31 decreased over 60% from an average of 100,000 annually
32 (1989 1998) to the recent 5-year average (2005 2009) of
33 nearly 23,000 fish. It is not possible to determine if
34 size-selective harvests, variations in environment, or
35 a combination of factors are causing a decrease in
36 harvest of age-7 fish or decreasing size trends of
37 older fish (JTC SSS 2006). Decreasing size of Chinook
38 salmon has been anecdotally noted across much of the
39 state in recent years. However, increasing the number
40 of larger and older Chinook salmon in spawning
41 escapements through mesh size regulations should
42 provide better future production potential.

43
44
45

Opportunity Provided by State:

46 Salmon may be harvested under state
47 regulations throughout the majority of the Yukon River
48 watershed, including a liberal subsistence fishery.
49 Gear types allowed are gillnets, beach seines, hook and
50 line attached to a rod or pole, hand lines, and fish

1 Game, Special Publication No. 09-26, Anchorage.

2

3

4 JTC SSS (Joint Technical Committee
5 Salmon Size Committee of the Yukon River US/Canada
6 Panel). 2006. Potential causes of size trends in Yukon
7 River Chinook salmon populations. Alaska Department of
8 Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries,
9 Regional Information Report No. 3A06-07, Anchorage.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, George. Any
11 comments from the Council on the State's presentation.

12

13 Go ahead, Ray.

14

15 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, that seems to
16 contradict what I'd heard before because when the
17 discussions were about going to 7.5, I was hearing in
18 previous discussions, that you would catch more fish
19 with 7.5 than you would 8 because you would be catching
20 some of the smaller fish as well as some of the larger,
21 so it would actually result in a larger catch and the
22 subsistence need would be met quicker but they would be
23 various sized fish, and that 7.5 was the more efficient
24 size that way if you wanted to spread the catch over
25 the different sizes. And in your comments you're
26 saying there was no difference. That seems
27 contradictory to what I'd heard before.

28

29 Do you see what I mean, you're saying
30 that none of them would catch any more or any less
31 fish, that it wouldn't limit the number.

32

33 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, Mr. Chair. Mr.
34 Collins. I'm speaking to depth of the net, not
35 actually mesh size.

36

37 MR. COLLINS: Oh, okay, only depth.

38

39 MR. PAPPAS: Only depth.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hum.

42

43 MR. COLLINS: Oh, okay, okay, see
44 that's a different issue.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, a different
47 issue.

48

49 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments
2 from the Council on the State's presentation.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, George.

7
8 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we have
11 Federal agencies. Any US Fish and Wildlife comments.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: BLM comments.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

20
21 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. I do have
22 one more on depth then. And what I'd heard previously,
23 traditional knowledge on the Kuskokwim was that the
24 fish headed for the up river tended to go mid-stream,
25 deeper water, in fact, some of the people from some of
26 the mid-river villages mentioned that if they wanted to
27 catch some of the big fish they'd go out there and
28 drift in the mid-river, and it would seem to me then
29 that the deeper depth would catch those so you may be
30 catching a different fish in the shallows as opposed to
31 the depth. I know that when they did tagging studies
32 in the Kuskokwim that the ones heading further up
33 stream traveled faster, and how they accomplished that,
34 I don't know, are they going in deeper less turbid
35 water to do that but the actual miles per day is
36 longer. It sounded like some of the ones heading for
37 streams down below they just took their time and lazed
38 along. Maybe they were on the side streams more. So
39 you may be getting different fish. I don't know if
40 they've looked at any tagging, depending on the depth
41 of your net and where you're fishing, deep or shallow,
42 and that could have an impact management-wise.

43
44 So, yeah.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Response, Rich.

47
48 MR. CANNON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
49 Through the Chair to Mr. Collins. The study on the
50 Yukon, where they actually -- the researcher who was

1 the principle investigator that looked at these tagging
2 studies from 2002 to 2004, they tagged a lot of fish on
3 the Yukon, he's now getting this essentially written
4 up, where he's actually looking at, not only the
5 radiotags, but these archival tags that look at -- that
6 they have to recapture the fish to look at. He ended
7 up recapturing over 700 of these fish up on the
8 spawning grounds.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hum.

11

12 MR. CANNON: So he's got a good data
13 set. So he's writing this up. The study's not
14 available yet for us to take a look at but he is going
15 to try to tease out some of those questions if he can
16 from the data, I don't know that he will be able to,
17 but he knows that people are interested. In fact he
18 listens to all of the YRDFA teleconferences, he's a
19 scientist down in Auke Bay, so he knows what the
20 questions are. And if he can, you know, within the
21 parameters of his study, try to tease some of this out
22 he said he would try to do that. But we won't know it
23 until next spring when he actually will have this
24 published.

25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Rich. Any
29 other comments.

30

31 George.

32

33 MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair,
34 addressing Mr. Collins. That's one of our points we
35 pointed out there, depending on location. Folks fish
36 the middle of the deep channel with deeper nets for
37 larger fish, well, if you're restricted to a net half
38 that size or, I don't know, what is this proposal,
39 three feet or what have you, you just move up river to
40 where those fish are forced to come to a shallower spot
41 to catch that same fish. So our point is if you made a
42 restriction like this and adopted it, fishermen would
43 adapt. They would move to where they could catch the
44 same fish with a smaller net, even though they'd have
45 to fish harder.

46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mickey.

50

1 MR. STICKMAN: I agree with that
2 because where I fish above -- I don't fish across from
3 Koyukuk unless there's no one there, but where I fish
4 across Last Chance, the water is really -- it's not
5 really that deep there but it goes from deep to shallow
6 so when I'm dragging my net through there, a lot of the
7 kings that I catch are full of muck because I dragged
8 them across the bar. I mean so when it comes to the
9 depth size, I don't really put too much faith in it.
10 Well, I've actually tried a deep net and I've done --
11 one time I found a 300 foot net in the woods across
12 from Koyukuk and I tried it out and got 85 kings in one
13 drift, you know, and so, you know, I never tried that
14 again but I never did find another net like that again
15 though. The guy moved it. So I never had a chance to
16 try it again.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. STICKMAN: But when it comes to the
21 depth size, though, I don't believe in that stuff
22 because a lot of the fish I catch I drag across the bar
23 because they're swimming on the bank and that's where
24 all the bars are, mostly on the Yukon. So a lot of the
25 fish I catch are full of muck because I drag them
26 across the bar so I don't believe in that -- I mean I
27 believe in it if you're out there in the middle of the
28 Yukon, that you have to have something that's going to
29 go deep but for drifting, I mean it's exactly like you
30 say, fishermen are going to go where they're going to
31 get the most out of their equipment, regardless of the
32 regulation.

33

34 I mean I saw it last summer. One of
35 the things that we never talk about, remember a couple
36 of years ago I brought up fishwheels and chinook, well,
37 there was one guy running a fishwheel for chinook this
38 year, you know, that's something that's going -- you
39 know it's going to be -- it's going to grow from that
40 one person because, you know, people they've done that
41 before and then they see this young guy being
42 successful, you know, he's not like super successful,
43 you know, he gets like eight, nine, 10 a day, but those
44 older people who remember those other spots from a long
45 time ago, you know, they'll say, okay, well, time for
46 us to build a fishwheel.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. Jenny.

49

50 MS. PELKOLA: I would just like to

1 disagree with my buddy here just a little bit.

2

3

(Laughter)

4

5 MS. PELKOLA: Not all of us are drift
6 fishermen. I have a set net and where I fish the water
7 is pretty deep. So I think there's two different
8 issues here. There's a set net issue and there's a
9 drifting issue. I think maybe the drifting people can
10 find spots but I've been fishing there for over 30
11 years now and my parents probably over 30 years and
12 people before that, you know, so it's a spot that is
13 known to be a good spot.

14

15 I just wanted to put my little comment
16 in.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that,
19 Jenny.

20

21 You got a comment there, Carl.

22

23 MR. MORGAN: I got a -- I do set net
24 and it's deep, but I also drift and we drift on all the
25 bars, we don't drift out in the deep water. We start
26 out in the deep water but we pull the net toward where
27 it's getting shallow and that's when we start catching
28 fish. And I agree, I don't -- it's not the depth.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

31

32 MR. COLLINS: Well, the question is
33 then, Carl, if you were fishing with a deeper net
34 wouldn't you reach the shallows quicker or not or does
35 it have any -- it doesn't have any impact on how deep
36 you net?

37

38 MR. MORGAN: Seem like every time I go
39 out, when I fish in the deep place, as i'm coming to
40 the shallows then I catch. I usually hardly catch
41 anything when I first throw the net out unless I go
42 real close and I don't want to go real close to the
43 bank because by the time I hit the shallows down below
44 I'll be dragging the bottom of the -- getting caught
45 and then everything.

46

47 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

48

49 MR. HONEA: Make a comment.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

2

3 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
4 going to have to disagree with Carl.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. HONEA: Because like, you know, I
9 mean at first looking at this, this is for set nets,
10 this is for gillnets. Whether it be set nets or
11 drifting. And, you know, a lot of our places are
12 fairly deep and we actually rely on these places. A
13 lot of these places we've been using them for year
14 after year after year, many, many years and we just
15 can't find places like that that's -- but even the last
16 summer we had, you know, the fishing -- because of the
17 high water it was really poor and, you know, you asked
18 earlier what the fishing was like, so I'm just going
19 to, you know, I have to disagree, you know, this is for
20 all nets and that's why, you know, all gillnets so I
21 have to disagree with it, oppose it.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Another comment Ray.

24

25 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, well, again, my
26 question is then would you prefer to be able to use a
27 deeper net or a shallower net or does it make a
28 difference which one you use?

29

30 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I mean I just said,
31 you know, I mean what we're doing essentially we're
32 restricting the depth of our net, right, you know, and
33 the people that put this across they have fishwheels, I
34 know because, you know, Tanana Advisory and they're
35 part of the Eastern Interior submitted this and they
36 also put our name on there, you know, Ruby Advisory and
37 we did not comment on there, we did not -- just by
38 saying nothing, not responding to it it was as if we
39 had endorsed it.

40

41 So I just wanted to make it clear, you
42 know, a lot of our places are fairly deep and, you
43 know, so I just don't like the idea of restricting that
44 when we have these nets, we're already going to a 7.5.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: George.

47

48 MR. PAPPAS: Yeah, one last comment
49 here, on Page 106 of the proposal -- or of the book
50 there's a table that has a breakdown of set net versus

1 drift gillnet uses for subsistence primary gear types,
2 once again Page 106. I'm not sure if that'll help you
3 make your decision but, yeah, there are definitely two
4 different types of uses, set net and drifting and
5 possibly that will help you make a decision. I don't
6 know, it's just reference material.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for pointing
11 that out.

12

13 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

16

17 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 Between 20 mesh deep and 7.5 is only going to give you
19 12 feet of water, 12 feet of net that you're going to
20 use so when you look at the fishermen in Y4, Y3, Y2 and
21 Y1, they all have fish finders, depth finders, and
22 they're going to find where the fish go regardless
23 because that is their business, that is the best thing
24 that they can do because that's what they always did
25 all the time.

26

27 So when you argue about 7.5 inch, 20
28 mesh, 24, 28, 30, 45 mesh, that's why they're going to
29 fish, it doesn't matter. I mean they're going to find
30 them anyway. So we can sit here and argue all day long
31 about this, talk about drag over the bar, talk about a
32 set net, I have a set net, so disagreeing with each
33 other, that shouldn't be because it's all one business,
34 that's all it's going to be.

35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Robert.
39 Thanks for pointing out this table here on the
40 different gear types. It's interesting that there's
41 been about a 10 percent increase.....

42

43 MR. R. WALKER: Yeah.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:in set gillnet
46 -- correction about a 10 -- yeah, there's an increase
47 in the set net -- no, that's not -- wait a minute I'm
48 reading the table backwards.

49

50 MR. COLLINS: That's drift.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In drift -- drift is
2 increasing.

3
4 But I wanted to make a comment myself.
5 I used to fish down in Bristol Bay and there's 29 mesh
6 gillnet restriction there and if you fish in the
7 Nushagak district you won't catch a king salmon if it's
8 flat calm and the only time you'll catch a king salmon
9 is if you cross the bars and those channels will suck
10 you right across the bars and you'll catch king salmon
11 that's on the bars. If it's blowing that's a
12 completely different story. If it starts to blow 20
13 knots or greater, and the best king fishing, when it's
14 blowing 40 knots right up the bay and it's driving
15 those fish and they surf the top of the water and
16 you'll catch kings, 50 pound kings in 7.5 inch mesh
17 gear a foot and a half, a foot underneath the cork line
18 and they'll roll your net up in a big ball if it's
19 blowing real strong.

20
21 And so I don't -- I've always said the
22 archival tags, there's no correlation to weather to
23 that specific day and so there's actually a correlation
24 to wind direction and the velocity of the wind, it
25 oxygenates the surface of the water and so it drives
26 the fish. And so if you've got a big enough boat and
27 you can tough out the weather, you can take -- you can
28 catch a lot of fish out, and so you could have 29 mesh
29 gear and you're going to still going to catch fish. If
30 you restrict people to gear depth, people will still go
31 to the bars, they'll still fish the rough weather,
32 you'll still catch fish. And I've told Eastern
33 Interior this, Virgil and Sue many times, but they
34 don't fish with nets and they don't understand net
35 fishing, and so that's the problem.

36
37 So I disagree with the net -- basically
38 you'll -- if it's calm, if you had a predominately calm
39 year you might catch a few less fish but eventually
40 people will find all the shallow bars and you'll still
41 catch the fish, they're still going to meet their
42 subsistence needs and so you're just going to make it
43 more expensive and this is a futile proposal, this 35
44 and 20 mesh proposals are just futile. We've talked
45 about this many times and this is back before us again.

46
47 You got a comment there Eleanor.

48
49 MS. YATLIN: I'm not agreeing or
50 disagreeing with anyone but it's just -- on the Koyukuk

1 River, you know, we stay in our camp, it's about 16
2 miles -- river miles below Huslia and below us there's
3 another camp, our brother-in-law, they put weights on
4 their -- you know, rocks here and there, if the river
5 is narrow so they go to a deeper area.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

8

9 MS. YATLIN: That's the same fishing
10 spot that they, you know, fish for all the time, and
11 where we're at, Al and I, we fish there all the time
12 and it's deep because it cuts through but that's what
13 we tried and that's when we get the kings.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

16

17 MS. YATLIN: So I just wanted to throw
18 that out.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. Thank you.

21

22 MS. YATLIN: Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Eleanor.

25 Any further comments.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any Native

30 organization comments.

31

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No InterAgency Staff

36 Committee comments.

37

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Advisory groups.

42 Oh, you got some comment there Jerry.

43

44 MR. BERG: Well, I'll just let you know

45 that the InterAgency Staff Committee did review all of

46 these fish proposals in the book about a month ago.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, you did.

49

50 MR. BERG: And the OSM Staff have

1 included all of our comments so we won't have any
2 comments on any of the fish proposals because they've
3 already been included.

4
5 Thanks.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.
8 Thanks for pointing that out.

9
10 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

13
14 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I'm a
15 little confused, are we talking about both of them as a
16 block or are we going to.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They're a package.

19
20 MR. HONEA: Okay.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Because they're
23 basically depth restrictions so they're bundled.

24
25 MR. HONEA: Okay, so I guess I'm going
26 to comment on 11-06, FP11-06.

27
28 I don't have a problem so much if this
29 was not just targeted towards, you know, a certain
30 district, if it was area wide, I would have no problem
31 with it.

32
33 That's my comment.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.

36
37 MR. R. WALKER: It's 5:30.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So where is the -- I
40 don't see the -- I see the OSM preliminary conclusion
41 but I don't see the InterAgency Staff Committee
42 conclusions.

43
44 Larry.

45
46 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
47 The InterAgency Staff Committee now has the role of
48 making comments, not recommendations or conclusions.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see.

1 MR. BUKLIS: And that process occurs
2 after the Council meetings.
3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see.
5
6 MR. BUKLIS: So they review the draft
7 material and provide comments to us to make
8 improvements to the draft that comes before you, and
9 then after the Council meetings they develop comments
10 for the Board meeting.
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh, oh, I see.
13
14 MR. BUKLIS: So in your Board book, at
15 the end of the process, you'll see Staff Committee
16 comments.
17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right, okay. I see.
19 Tim.
20
21 MR. GERVAIS: My comment on this
22 proposal is that it's going to affect some subsistence
23 users and/or commercial users and not others, depending
24 where they fish and whether they're set or drift, and I
25 think it's more equitable to focus on some kind of
26 management tool that affects all user groups
27 equally.....
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.
30
31 MR. GERVAIS:rather than penalize
32 somebody that happens to be fishing in a deep hole or
33 something like that.
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Good point.
36 And so we have the Advisory Committees, Koyukuk River
37 Advisory has not met on this proposal.
38
39 Do you have any Advisory Committee
40 comments, you haven't met on these Ken.
41
42 MR. CHASE: No.
43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And National Park
45 Service Resource Commission, the Gates of the Arctic
46 Subsistence Resource Commission has not reviewed this
47 proposal.
48
49 And so do we have any written comments,
50 Donald.

1 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, thank you.
2 You'll find your written public comments starting on
3 Page 49 and ends on Page 52 for Proposal FP11-01 and
4 FP11-06.

5
6 For Proposal FP11-01 three wrote in
7 support of the proposal and four opposed the proposal.

8
9 And for Proposal FP11-06 eight wrote in
10 opposition.

11
12 MS. PELKOLA: What was the first one?

13
14 MR. MIKE: Pardon?

15
16 MS. PELKOLA: What was the first one,
17 how many?

18
19 MR. MIKE: Proposal 11-01, there was
20 three in support of the proposal and four in
21 opposition.

22
23 Mr. Chair. I can summarize the written
24 public comments and just highlight on the key points.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, that'd be good,
27 go ahead.

28
29 MR. MIKE: Proposal FP11-01, Galena, he
30 states that limiting the depth of nets is the next
31 logical step in the effort to take pressure off of the
32 largest chinook salmon, especially the females.
33 Setting a net depth restriction makes good biological
34 sense for the Yukon River king run as a whole by giving
35 the large Canada bound fish and spawning females a
36 greater chance to escape to spawning grounds.

37
38 The Council of Athabaskan Tribal
39 Governments wrote in support of Proposal 11-01. We may
40 need these restrictions at some point to prevent
41 fishermen from targeting the next large groups of
42 kings. It is better to start making small sacrifices
43 now than wait until it is too late. A full salmon
44 season closure may be the only option to protect the
45 salmon stock and allow a good number for escapement
46 into the spawning grounds. Maintaining a healthy
47 salmon stock in the Yukon River rests with us as the
48 primary users of the valuable resource and nothing
49 short of working together will enable us to see the
50 long-term effects.

1 James Roberts from the Tanana Tribal
2 Council submitted in support of the proposal. This
3 proposal is sensible because it is a conservation
4 measure. We have been going through many restrictions
5 and closures in Y5 not allowed to driftnet, that it
6 would be wise to preserve what few large chinooks are
7 left in the river for the future generations. Y5 have
8 been in conservation mode for the longest of all
9 districts. Commercial fisheries are killing the future
10 fish. The effective methods used by all districts
11 could be considered the culprit for destroying a once
12 viable food source. Genetic codes that are very
13 valuable to the fisheries are not getting to the
14 spawning grounds to ensure a viable fishing future on
15 the Yukon River. With large egg laden females making
16 it, the odds increase for more in return for the
17 future. These measures should be endorsed by all
18 fishermen with the promise of a sustained yield for
19 everyone. We don't know the future of the economy but
20 we can all agree that serious hardships will be forever
21 if the chinooks are no longer available to feed our
22 residents of the Yukon River. Fisheries managers do
23 right or wrong and they still have jobs to feed
24 themselves. We have nothing if wrong choices are made.
25 The fisheries managers need to consider people that
26 will be hurt by their decisions and should try harder
27 to understand what is going on in the ocean
28 environments also.

29

30 Alyson Esmailka.

31

32 MS. PELKOLA: Esmailka.

33

34 MR. MIKE: Esmailka of Galena wrote in
35 opposition of FP11-01. Leave our fish net mesh and
36 depth size alone. We cannot all afford to buy new nets
37 every time the laws change. These proposals affect all
38 our lives in this area. If there is not enough fish
39 cut out commercial fishing for at least two years. If
40 there is still not enough fish, cut down the number of
41 catch or limit or fishing openings for the subsistence
42 users, don't start limiting the people that catch the
43 least amount, limit the people who catch the most.
44 Please use common sense and not pass Proposal 1-9 [sic]
45 -- I'm sorry, I read the -- that was a letter signed by
46 37 residents of Galena.

47

48 And this is Alyson Esm.....

49

50 MS. PELKOLA: Esmailka.

1 MR. MIKE: Esmailka.

2

3 MR. STICKMAN: Esmailka.

4

5 MR. MIKE: Esmailka. She's the one
6 that wrote in opposition of 11- -- FP11-01. The Yukon
7 River is warmer and salmon swim deeper to stay cool.
8 The fishing season of 2009 was made very difficult with
9 the restrictions that were cast upon the subsistence
10 fishermen. You restricted the amount of time we were
11 allowed to have our nets in the water. When the fish
12 reach Canada they had more than expected. Between the
13 strong arm of Canada and the loud and strong lobby of
14 the commercial fishing industry the subsistence
15 fisherman is being endangered. We are proposing to put
16 more restrictions on the lowly subsistence fishermen if
17 last years restrictions allowed more than enough fish
18 to make it to Canada.

19

20 Richard Burnham of Kaltag wrote in
21 opposition of FP11-01. Adoption of maximum mesh size
22 of 7.5 inches by the Alaska Board of Fisheries is
23 already going to be a hardship on subsistence
24 fishermen. At this point in time we have no credible
25 way to quantify the benefit of that gear reduction,
26 particularly the spawning grounds in Canada. If we
27 introduce a second kind of net reduction at the same
28 time we will further complicate in knowing which gear
29 reduction is giving us what benefit. As a result of
30 this uncertainty we may be asking subsistence fishermen
31 to bear more of the burden of conservation than is
32 necessary. The only big salmon -- the only bigger
33 salmon swim in deeper water is anecdotal at the best.
34 The best fishing water depths vary greatly up and down
35 the river. The archival radiotags deployed during the
36 chinook salmon radiotelemetry project showed this. The
37 differences in the depth of fish waters in the lower
38 river and upper river may unfairly place more
39 conservation on the lower river than upper river by
40 shallowing the fish depths to 35 meshes.

41

42 The Koyukuk Tribal Council wrote in
43 opposition of FP11-01. The people of Koyukuk rely on
44 chinook salmon and other fish in subdistricts 4A. The
45 main means of fishing is by set net, driftnet and
46 fishwheels. The State regulation for our area is 7.5
47 mesh size and we use 35 meshes in depth. If we go with
48 the smaller mesh size and depth it would affect our
49 catch.

50

1 For FP11-06, all -- we have eight
2 comments received and all wrote in opposition. Alyson
3 Esmailka.

4
5 MR. STICKMAN: Esmailka.

6
7 MS. PELKOLA: Esmailka.

8
9 MR. MIKE: Esmailka of Galena opposes
10 FP11-06.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Donald, a lot of
13 their reasons are very similar. Let's just read the
14 opposers.....

15
16 MR. MIKE: Okay.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:and a real
19 short synopsis, if anything stands out. But basically
20 their reasonings for opposing FP11-06 are very similar
21 to the 01, and I would like to get their names on the
22 record, on the oral record.

23
24 MR. MIKE: Okay, Mr. Chair, I'll just
25 go ahead and read the person's comments and where
26 they're from.

27
28 Alyson Esmailka.....

29
30 MS. PELKOLA: Esmailka.

31
32 MR. STICKMAN: Esmailka.

33
34 MR. MIKE: Esmailka of Galena opposes
35 the proposal.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 MR. MIKE: Sorry. Don and Jan Woodruff
40 of Eagle also opposed the proposal.

41
42 Fred Huntington, Jr., second chief
43 Loudon Tribal Council opposed the proposal.

44
45 Mike McDougal and Sonja Sager of Eagle
46 opposed.

47
48 Richard Burnham of Kaltag opposed.

49
50 A letter signed by 37 residents of

1 Galena opposed.

2

3 Koyukuk Tribal Council opposed.

4

5 And that concludes the written summary

6 -- a written -- the written comments, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And there was also
9 the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments opposed,
10 and they were in support of the difference -- they were
11 in support of the proposal for FP11-01, and so when it
12 starts to affect their nets then they're opposing the
13 20 mesh proposal, interestingly.

14

15 MR. R. WALKER: Hum.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I wanted to
18 get those on the record as far as who -- I do like to
19 get these written comments from the public and I do
20 like to review these written comments and have read all
21 of these comments. And I really appreciate the public.
22 I've sat down and written comments to various boards
23 and they're not really recognized and I appreciate
24 people taking their time to write these comments.

25

26 And so public testimony, Gene.

27

28 MR. SANDONE: My name is Gene Sandone.
29 And I'm representing Kwik'pak Fisheries, and all my
30 comments, or all Kwik'pak Fisheries are in this
31 comments to the Federal Subsistence Proposals 2011, the
32 report to Federal Subsistence Western Interior Regional
33 Advisory Council from Kwik'pak Fisheries, and all my
34 comments are in there and I'll summarize what I say.

35

36 Kwik'pak Fisheries recommendations. We
37 agree with OSM's preliminary conclusion and the state
38 of Alaska's recommendation to oppose Proposals FP11-01
39 and FP11-06, you know, the Board of Fish and the
40 Federal Subsistence Board just passed a regulation that
41 really altered large mesh fishing in the Yukon River.
42 It went from unrestricted for commercial and
43 subsistence fishing for king salmon to 7.5 and that was
44 a major step. There was a three year study that looked
45 at the effects of that switch from 7.5 -- from
46 unrestricted to 7.5 inch mesh and it showed that there
47 was a significant decrease in the number of large fish
48 caught.

49

50 For your information I ran the village

1 -- Mountain Village test fish drift fishery this year
2 with 7.5 inch mesh and we caught -- three percent of
3 the fish that we caught were greater than 900
4 millimeters, I think 35.4 inches and so that was
5 minimal catch. I also did the Little Salmon spawning
6 surveys in Canada this year and for your information we
7 found about 6.2 percent that were greater than 900
8 millimeters; just for your information.

9
10 The decrease -- we've already went
11 from, you know, unrestricted to 7.5, and if you
12 calculate the reduction in the net depth from 8.5 to
13 7.5 you get pretty close to 3.75 feet, which is a 12
14 percent reduction. Now, if you go from 8.5 to 35
15 meshes you get about a 31 percent reduction. And in
16 the upper river you're allowed to use 60 mesh deep nets
17 set nets, right, or -- yeah, set nets, and if you go to
18 35 meshes, that's nearly a 50 percent reduction. So I
19 think as the State and Federal government says, it
20 makes you more inefficient, it causes you to fish
21 harder, spend more money to get your fish and at least
22 we should look at what the 7.5 inch mesh is going to do
23 over the next two or three years, then maybe, if it
24 doesn't do what we anticipated it to do, then maybe
25 this proposal should rise again for consideration.

26
27 Mr. Chair, thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.
30 Appreciate the comments, and the calculations on depth
31 reduction with the proposals.

32
33 Any comments to the public comments
34 from Gene.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. So, thanks,
39 Gene.

40
41 MR. SANDONE: You're welcome.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so Regional
44 Council discussions and recommendations and a motion.

45
46 I'd like to entertain a motion to -- go
47 ahead, Donald.

48
49 MR. MIKE: I'm sorry, I forgot to
50 provide the Council information on the recent action

1 taken by the YK Regional Advisory Council at their
2 meeting.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

5

6 MR. MIKE: On Proposal FP11-01/06, they
7 opposed the proposal.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed the
12 proposals? Both proposals?

13

14 MR. MIKE: That's correct.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

17

18 MR. R. WALKER: What was that?

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That was the YK
21 Delta Council opposed both proposals.

22

23 And so the Chair will entertain a
24 motion to adopt the Proposals FP11-01 and FP11-06.

25

26 MR. GERVAIS: So moved.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Tim.

29

30 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

31

32 MS. YATLIN: Second.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.

35

36 MR. R. WALKER: Question.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further
41 discussion on the proposals.

42

43 MR. R. WALKER: Question.

44

45 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray's got one more
48 comment.

49

50 MR. COLLINS: I'd like to go on record

1 that I would oppose this and I think we should state
2 why we oppose it. That I think it's, from what I've
3 heard it's a mistake to assume that reducing this is
4 going to allow more big fish to get into Canada because
5 people fish in different places at different times.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

8

9 MR. COLLINS:and it would put all
10 the burden on the subsistence fisher to have to fish
11 harder to get the fish they need.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

14

15 MR. COLLINS: And, so, therefore, I
16 would oppose this because we're not all fishing in the
17 same depth of water to start with. If everybody was
18 then maybe it would have an equal impact, but it won't.
19 So I'm going to vote against it.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would also like to
22 insert into our justification, that the archival data
23 shows that fish swim at varying depths throughout their
24 incline up the Yukon River drainage. Reasons given for
25 that are depths of the water and also weather related
26 issues.

27

28 Any other further justifications by the
29 Council.

30

31 Don, you got something there, a
32 justification.

33

34 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I'm just wondering
35 clarification on the motion itself, I mean if we -- are
36 we voting for it and we're opposing it, what?

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. It's a motion
39 to adopt and if you don't like the proposal you vote no
40 on the proposal. I intend to vote against the
41 proposal.

42

43 Go ahead, Carl.

44

45 MR. MORGAN: And for the record I'd
46 like to say our justification is going to take place
47 after the vote, because we haven't voted it up or
48 down.....

49

50 REPORTER: Carl. Carl.

1 MR. MORGAN: if we're voting down
2 we have to justi.....
3
4 REPORTER: Carl.
5
6 MR. MORGAN: If we vote it up, we'd
7 have to justify, if we're voting it down we'd have to
8 justify.
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.
11
12 MR. MORGAN: So our justification comes
13 after the vote.
14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for the
16 clarification.
17
18 MR. COLLINS: Hum.
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further
21 comments.
22
23 (No comments)
24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
26 the motion signify by saying aye.
27
28 (No aye votes)
29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same
31 sign.
32
33 IN UNISON: Aye.
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further
36 justifications in opposition to the proposal, Carl.
37
38 MR. MORGAN: No, it's just that the
39 justification will go in.
40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I do like to
42 get it on the record why we're opposing or in favor of
43 a proposal so that it'll be incorporated into the
44 record and so the Councils or the proponents will
45 understand the reasons given to oppose this particular
46 proposal.
47
48 So it's a quarter to 6:00 o'clock, and
49 so we've covered one of our proposals so we will
50 adjourn the meeting -- or correction.....

1 MR. R. WALKER; Recess.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:recess the
4 meeting until 8:30 and I would like to immediately go
5 to work at 8:30 because we still have a lot of agenda.
6 Can we leave the books here, Donald, in this room --
7 Donald -- Salena, can we leave our things in the room?

8

9 REPORTER: Yes.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. All right,
12 Salena says we can leave our things in the room. So,
13 all right, recess until tomorrow at 8:30 a.m.

14

15 (Off record)

16

17 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 22nd day of October 2010.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 9/16/14