

1 WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6  
7 VOLUME II

8  
9 Holy Cross, Alaska  
10 October 11, 2012  
11 8:35 a.m.

12  
13  
14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

15  
16 Jack Reakoff, Chairman  
17 Ray Collins  
18 Timothy Gervais  
19 Donald Honea  
20 Jenny Pelkola  
21 Pollock Simon  
22 Robert Walker  
23 Eleanor Yatlin

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27 Regional Council Coordinator, Carl Johnson  
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Holy Cross, Alaska - 10/16/2012)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Bring the meeting back to order again. It's 8:35. We had Robert here earlier.

MR. R. WALKER: I'm right here.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, he's back there. He's around. Has anybody seen Eleanor?

MS. PELKOLA: She's getting up.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted the Council to think about at least two proposals from the Yukon and a couple proposals from the Kuskokwim to go over -- we can't do all of the State proposals, but we can do the most important triage proposals. Does any Council members have any burning issues in the Yukon proposals? We'll go over the Yukon proposals, continue with those. A couple more of these. I got cheat sheet from Vince he emailed me on these proposals. I could go over real quick the proposals that -- it gives a synopsis of what they are.

What did we go through. We went through 131.

132 is prohibit the sale of Yukon king salmon unless a directed king salmon season.

133 is allow commercial chum fishery in Districts 1, 2 and 3 during time of king salmon conservation using 5.5-inch gear.

Require 6 inch or smaller nets for Proposal 134 with a depth of 30 mesh.

135 is allow commercial summer chum fish with 6-inch nets in District 1 beginning July 1.

Some of these proposals are specific to continuing chum harvest when we have conservation concerns for king salmon.

I don't like some of these.

1                           136 is cap bycatch of kings in the  
2 summer chum fishery in Districts 1 and 2 at 2,000 fish.  
3  
4                           137 is develop an optimum escapement  
5 for the Yukon River chums that originates above Pilot  
6 Station.  
7  
8                           138 is modify fall chum management plan  
9 to trigger points from 500,000 to 400,000.  
10  
11                          139 is adjust closures around  
12 commercial openings and allow concurrent subsistence  
13 and commercial by EO.  
14  
15                          140 revert back to a windows only  
16 schedule.  
17  
18                          141 allow concurrent subsistence  
19 commercial fishing in Districts 1 through 3.  
20  
21                          142 open districts 5D from July 4 to 18  
22 for subsistence.  
23  
24                          143 is remove restrictions during  
25 subsistence fall chum seasons in Districts 1 through 3.  
26  
27                          144 is restrict gillnets to 35 meshes.  
28  
29                          145 is also a restrict 35 meshes for  
30 subsistence and commercial.  
31  
32                          146 is allow only 6-inch nets drainage  
33 wide.  
34  
35                          147 is allow drift gillnets in 4A  
36 upriver of Ruby.  
37  
38                          148 is extend 4B and C gillnet  
39 downstream of the Yuki.  
40  
41                          149 is create a harvest reporting  
42 system for subsistence take drainage wide.  
43  
44                          150 is create a harvest reporting  
45 system for subsistence take.  
46  
47                          151 is require a primary use of  
48 subsistence salmon for direct personal and family  
49 consumption as food, which would preclude customary  
50 trade in State regulations, which I feel is a moot

1 subject on State.

2

3 That would be the Yukon proposals. I  
4 have real concerns about reducing.....

5

6 MR. COLLINS: The mesh size.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....the mesh size  
9 proposals. We should pick the most detrimental. I  
10 think the Department has been using 6-inch mesh. Fred,  
11 do you want to come to the mic there. The managers  
12 have the authority to restrict mesh size to 6 inch.

13

14 Is it necessary to actually implement a  
15 6-inch?

16

17 MR. BUE: No, Mr. Chairman. Good  
18 morning. I don't think it's -- the 6 inch -- I think  
19 what the key to the 6 inch ones are is they're  
20 inserting a date into it, so it's -- so that with the  
21 date it's almost more like they want to make sure they  
22 have a chum fishery regardless of the chinook. So with  
23 the date it may be where the chinook overlap and summer  
24 chum overlap. They don't want to miss -- again, I  
25 don't want to speak for anybody else but I think part  
26 of it is to make sure they have an opportunity to  
27 harvest some summer chum.

28

29 Some of the other ones, the 5.5 inch is  
30 another one. Some of the information suggests they  
31 catch fewer kings by stepping down. Again, it's  
32 another gear change that they have to go through  
33 analysis to figure out what the cost of changing over  
34 gear and restricting gear.

35

36 A couple of the 30 mesh is different  
37 also. That's a shallower net. Some people said  
38 there's some merit to that, not fishing so deep and  
39 maybe they're avoiding some kings. I think  
40 quite a few of these is trying to figure out some way  
41 to get a commercial chum fishery and still be  
42 conservative on chinook. I don't know where the break  
43 even or balance is on a lot of these things, but to a  
44 fisherman you give them a gear and they figure out how  
45 to fish it and it kind of takes a life of its own once  
46 it gets going.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Fred. Tim.

49

50 MR. GERVAIS: Fred, do you remember the

1 dates that the chum fishery started this year and maybe  
2 the two years preceding that? This year, I think you  
3 were saying in your analysis yesterday that you held it  
4 back more than ever before, is that correct?

5  
6 MR. BUE: I don't know that we held it  
7 back more than ever before, but usually the commercial  
8 fishery -- the last few years has been held back to  
9 after the midpoint to the three-quarter point or maybe  
10 later. I think last year it might have been closer to  
11 the 80 percent level. This year it was initially held  
12 back to what we think an average three-quarter point,  
13 but you don't really know the in-season. So post  
14 season it looked like it was about a little bit past  
15 the 50 percent point in the chinook run, but it's also  
16 after the midpoint and after the peak of the summer  
17 chum run is when commercial summer chum fishing opened.  
18 This year.....

19  
20 MR. GERVAIS: You can't tell what's  
21 going on because it all depends on the numbers at Pilot  
22 Station. Is that why you just have to.....

23  
24 MR. BUE: Well, it's partly that, but  
25 you're projecting. Like this year the chinook run was  
26 10 days late or something. You know, there were some  
27 -- a little bit of fish early, but the bigger segment  
28 of it was later, so it's difficult to tell. It can be  
29 -- you know, 10 days late is quite a bit when the  
30 middle 50 percent of the run is only like, on average,  
31 11 days or 10 days. So shifting that one way is quite  
32 a bit. So it's difficult knowing timing, pinning down  
33 timing exactly.

34  
35 Last year the first Y1 period was June  
36 29th. I don't have the.....

37  
38 MS. LEBA: This year the 29th.

39  
40 MR. BUE: Yes, this year was 29. Last  
41 year I don't know what.....

42  
43 MR. NEWLAND: Mr. Chairman. This is  
44 Eric Newland with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
45 I can.....

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

48  
49 MR. NEWLAND: So in 2011, June 24th.  
50 In 2010 it was the 28th. In 2009 it was the 29th. In

1 2011, that was at .62 chinook run at LICF. 2010, .78  
2 for the chinook run and .81 in 2009.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Does that  
5 answer your questions, Tim?

6

7 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does the Council  
10 members have any questions about these proposals.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's a proposal  
15 for a bycatch cap of 2000 chinook in the directed chum  
16 fishery. It doesn't state whether there's a during  
17 times of conservation concern, but I do feel that a  
18 direction from the Board to the Department on  
19 conservation of chinook salmon, if it would try to  
20 suppress the fishers and -- it's like the bycatch in  
21 the Bering Sea. If there's a cap and they're going to  
22 reach that cap, they'll try to avoid those chinook  
23 instead of catching them. The disincentive to not cell  
24 them is part of it, but last year they achieved almost  
25 10,000 bycatch. So I do feel there should be a  
26 direction from the Board to suppress bycatch in the  
27 directed chum fishery.

28

29 Ray.

30

31 MR. COLLINS: Well, my son worked one  
32 summer on the Lower Yukon for one of the buyers down  
33 there on fish and he indicated that there were a few  
34 fishermen that brought in more kings than others, so  
35 they can target kings if they really want to. So an  
36 incentive to not do that might be appropriate.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's also a  
39 proposal to preclude the sale.....

40

41 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....preclude the  
44 sale of chinook salmon during the chum fishery. That  
45 may be a big enough disincentive.

46

47 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that would be  
50 132, prohibit the sale of Yukon Kings unless a directed

1 commercial king season. I do feel that one of those  
2 proposals is very important for the Board of Fish to  
3 direct the Department to maintain a suppression -- a  
4 disincentive to catch chinook salmon.

5  
6 And then these gear type proposals, I  
7 those are going to take a long time. There's going to  
8 need to be studies just like there was for the 7.5-inch  
9 gear and I can't see that those are actually going to  
10 come forward any time real soon without the Department  
11 having any kind of data on 5.5-inch net and stuff like  
12 that. So I don't feel that we need to waste a lot of  
13 time on those. We could take a position on those  
14 proposals.

15  
16 I do feel that using 5.5-inch net would  
17 reduce the number of -- for the directed chum fishery  
18 would reduce the number of chinook because a lot of  
19 times those 6-inch net would actually be catching even  
20 up to 10-pound chinook on the cheek and kill them in  
21 the gear. And 5.5-inch net would reduce the number of  
22 bycatch. I was just talking with Heather back here  
23 with Fish and Game and I think that would actually take  
24 studies and it would take a long time to document that,  
25 so I can't see that that is going to happen any time  
26 soon and not at this Board of Fish meeting.

27  
28 So we want to prioritize proposals. I  
29 would feel that 132, prohibit the sale of Yukon kings  
30 unless there's a directed king salmon season, would  
31 give the Department the regulatory backing of the Board  
32 of Fish. Do you feel that that would be appropriate,  
33 that the Department has free reign to preclude sale of  
34 chinook salmon?

35  
36 MR. BUE: Mr. Newland may be able to  
37 speak to that, but I think they already have like in  
38 regulation a management option is to -- if subsistence  
39 is restricted, then they can preclude the -- prohibit  
40 the sale of chinook. They already have that in  
41 regulation as far as the State.

42  
43 Mr. Newland may be able to speak to  
44 that.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Would you care to  
47 speak to that, Mr. Newland.

48  
49 MR. NEWLAND: Sure, Mr. Chairman. Fred  
50 is correct. We've been using that option since I

1 believe 2009 and it's been pretty successful in  
2 steering people away from targeting kings during these  
3 commercials. The idea is if they catch the kings, they  
4 can take them home, or if they see that they can  
5 release them, then they can release them alive or they  
6 can share with friends and family. But the idea is  
7 that there's no reason for them to go and necessarily  
8 harvest more than they need for subsistence purposes in  
9 a commercial. If they wanted to target kings, it would  
10 be for their subsistence, not -- there would be no  
11 monetary gain in that.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. If the  
14 Department has that authority and I see the Department  
15 is very earnest about suppressing chinook bycatch.  
16 What proposals would the Council like to address.

17  
18 Go ahead, Tim.

19  
20 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair. I would like  
21 to hear from Fred or Eric regarding whether they feel  
22 like that bycatch hard cap would be effective or hard  
23 to manage or create some bad fishing behavior on the  
24 ground in Emmonak.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to speak  
27 to that, Eric.

28  
29 MR. NEWLAND: Yes, Mr. Gervais. Mr.  
30 Chair. I would say that this year we definitely, I  
31 think, tried to work within kind of a guideline. I  
32 know last year in 2011 we had 4,000 that were taken  
33 incidentally and this year we definitely wanted to  
34 reduce it knowing that 2012 was going to be kind of a  
35 worse run. So we tried hard to kind of start with the  
36 whole south mouth stuff for a long time. I can't  
37 remember when we actually had a Y1 wide open. District  
38 2, where it's harder to kind of separate the harvest  
39 and pick apart where the chinook might be and where the  
40 bulk of the summer chum might be, where it's more  
41 channelized, they didn't get as many opportunities, so  
42 it was difficult. I don't know. We try to keep it  
43 down, but, yeah, we didn't have anything that was like  
44 super hard cap. We just figured we wanted to do  
45 somewhere around half of last year if that makes any  
46 sense.

47  
48 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. Well, we certainly  
49 appreciate your effort as managers to reduce that and  
50 stuff. I just was trying to get your feel for if it

1 was -- if a hard cap was too hard to work with, too  
2 inflexible or might create some kind of underreporting  
3 scenario. Or do you feel like if you just go forward  
4 with best interest of the chinook fishery in mind and  
5 try to create some chum opportunity that we can just  
6 continue to, just through your own management  
7 strategies, just keep the bycatch minimized if you feel  
8 like that's maybe the best way to proceed.

9

10 MR. NEWLAND: Mr. Gervais. I would say  
11 that at this time we're probably not really prepared to  
12 speak to these proposals specifically. We will have  
13 our Staff comments that will be put together here in  
14 the next couple months. I would say the Department at  
15 this time probably has to refrain from making any  
16 really pointed comments towards these proposals, okay?

17

18 MR. GERVAIS: Sure. Appreciate it.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fred.

21

22 MR. BUE: Just from a management  
23 strategy, thinking as a manager, a lot of times you  
24 have two runs that you're watching at the same time,  
25 the summer chum and the chinook. So like last year  
26 they had eight periods in Y1 alone that were just in a  
27 real small isolated area. So it's opportunistic. You  
28 know, you want to try and get the best ratio of chums  
29 to kings you can in that area and sometimes there may  
30 be some kings there, but if there's a real lot of chum,  
31 then maybe there's some benefit to do that even though  
32 you're pushing that upper end where you may be at the  
33 cap. But if you have a very large chum run, you know  
34 that it may be a benefit or things to consider.

35

36 The other thing is the way we are now  
37 we're fishing on the back side of the king run, so  
38 every period there's getting fewer and fewer kings out  
39 there. So that cap may be a little restrictive or  
40 confining, but at the same time if it's there, then  
41 it's a target to be managing for, so it could go either  
42 way. That's kind of how a lot of the thoughts that are  
43 in that management action.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

46

47 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. The  
48 Kuskokwim Management Working Group is monitored pretty  
49 closely. They have the same issue over there and we  
50 found that it was enough to have that smaller gear type

1 because the chinooks that were caught tended to be  
2 predominantly males and smaller females that don't  
3 contribute much and the requirements that they go to  
4 subsistence helps meet a subsistence need too, which  
5 would reduce some of the pressure when the subsistence  
6 openings were in. So they're catching smaller kings to  
7 meet some of their subsistence quotas, so I would say  
8 that would be enough and not put a cap on.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thinking about this  
11 issue, I think that the disincentive to not be able to  
12 sell chinook salmon is adequate. The cap could  
13 actually be counterproductive because people might  
14 start throwing chinook away or underreporting or  
15 something. The bycatch, I don't look at -- if it's not  
16 sold, I look at the bycatch as actually subsistence  
17 harvest because it either goes into the subsistence use  
18 there or Qwik'Pak has been processing and disseminating  
19 that fish upriver.

20

21 So I don't think a hard cap is actually  
22 probably the best thing to do. It's like antler  
23 requirement. There's going to be people shooting  
24 sub-legal moose and leave them in the field. You're  
25 going to cause problems. I think the disincentive by  
26 not being able to sell chinook salmon is enough. If  
27 the Department has the authority to continue to do  
28 that, fine, but I do feel that that's probably the best  
29 thing for the chinook bycatch, is that it cannot be  
30 sold when there's conservation concerns for chinook  
31 salmon.

32

33 I do have concerns about Proposal 138,  
34 reducing the trigger point from 500,000 to 400,000.  
35 You know, fall chums are becoming more of a reliant by  
36 subsistence users and fishing coincidentally for coho  
37 and so changing that high end from 500 to 400,000 to  
38 allow more commercial harvest, as far as I can tell,  
39 that would start cutting -- I'm concerned that this  
40 could start to affect the amount of time that  
41 subsistence users are fishing for subsistence. If you  
42 reduce the number of fish in the drainage and people  
43 have to fish longer, so I would be concerned about  
44 increasing commercial opportunity when people are  
45 shifting more towards the fall chum and coho, silver,  
46 portion.

47

48 What does the Council think about that  
49 one?

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Eric, are you still  
4 online?

5

6 MR. NEWLAND: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 138 basically would  
9 allow more commercial opportunities is the way I read  
10 this proposal, is that correct?

11

12 MR. NEWLAND: I believe that's the  
13 intention, to provide a lower trigger point in that  
14 management plan. The idea is that there's foregone  
15 harvest and I think it's primarily looking at the years  
16 2007 through 2011 and it has to do with, I think, some  
17 of the assessment of the run at the time.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What are the wishes  
20 of the Council to address -- at this time, I feel that  
21 we should this 138. I don't feel that it's appropriate  
22 at this time when we have subsistence restrictions and  
23 people are having a harder time and escalating fuel  
24 costs in the upper river to meet subsistence needs with  
25 fall chum and silvers. Does the Council feel that  
26 there's more and more reliance on fall chum and silver  
27 salmon? Jenny.

28

29 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah, I was just thinking  
30 if they start reducing the numbers one year, you don't  
31 know what they're going to do in the future. Is there  
32 going to be another thousand to go down and down. I,  
33 myself, I really don't fish the summer chum unless  
34 they're in my net and I have to use them. I go more  
35 for the fall chum and to me they are better fish.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That was what I'm --  
38 my position. You know, with the chinook run declining  
39 and all the restrictions people are shifting to silvers  
40 and fall chum. To give more commercial opportunity  
41 would actually reduce the number of fish available for  
42 people who are trying to meet subsistence needs on the  
43 fall fish. I don't feel that at this time that's  
44 appropriate. Tim.

45

46 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I would like to  
47 just for now maintain this trigger point where it is  
48 and we can keep an eye on it and see if there is a lot  
49 of foregone harvest and take care of that or maybe be  
50 more agreeable with that in three years. As far as

1 moving through these, I think if we act on that 138 and  
2 I'd also like the Council to take a position on the  
3 sale of incidentally caught king salmon, I think we're  
4 covering our bases good enough.

5  
6 This is a pretty intense amount of  
7 fisheries proposals to work through. We might be  
8 missing something, but I think we're getting reasonable  
9 coverage in looking at those two proposals.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I do think that  
12 those are probably the two most important proposals to  
13 address right now. Some of these I don't feel will go  
14 anywhere, like these mesh depths and so forth. There's  
15 no data. The Board is not going to adopt proposals  
16 that don't have data for backing. With the gear  
17 change, they already have it. I feel that you're  
18 exactly right.

19  
20 Any other discussion on which proposals  
21 to take up.

22  
23 (No comments)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that would be 138  
26 and 132. The Chair will entertain a motion to adopt,  
27 support Proposal 132.

28  
29 MR. GERVAIS: So moved.

30  
31 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.  
34 Prohibit the sale of Yukon River kings unless there's a  
35 directed king season is how it's stated. I feel that  
36 that's very appropriate.

37  
38 Further discussion on 132.

39  
40 MR. R. WALKER: Call for the question.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to make  
43 a justification for the record. The preclusion of sale  
44 of chinook salmon in the directed chum fishery gives a  
45 disincentive to target chinook salmon and the bycatch  
46 is disseminated into the subsistence use and helps  
47 facilitate subsistence harvest needs.

48  
49 The question is called. Those in favor  
50 of the proposal 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: Proposal 138 is to  
9 modify the chum management plan trigger point from  
10 500,000 to 400,000 to facilitate additional commercial  
11 harvest. The Chair will entertain a motion to support  
12 proposal 138.  
13  
14 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.  
15  
16 MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded  
19 by Don. For discussion. As stated earlier, the  
20 increased commercial opportunity for fall chum and coho  
21 is unwarranted at this time as restrictions placed on  
22 summer salmon fishing has caused the majority of  
23 fishers on the Yukon River system, the subsistence  
24 component who have priority use, to shift to fall chum  
25 salmon and coho salmon fishing, so at this time a  
26 reduction and trigger point is unwarranted.  
27  
28 Further discussion on the proposal.  
29  
30 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
31 Under discussion, I'd have to agree with any reduction  
32 in the numbers of this. We have become more dependant  
33 -- I don't know what the fishing is like for the fall  
34 chum here in the Lower Yukon -- I mean here in the  
35 Middle Yukon, Innoko area and stuff, but we have really  
36 relied on that as a viable food source and we take  
37 advantage of that fall run. There was actually very  
38 good fishing there, very healthy fish. I think in the  
39 future if the numbers are going to continue to be low  
40 we're going to have to take advantage of this resource  
41 here.  
42  
43 Thank you.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.  
46 Appreciate those words for the record.  
47  
48 Tim.  
49  
50 MR. GERVAIS: Do we have to ask for any

1 public testimony on this?

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does any of the  
4 public care to testify on Proposal 138?

5

6 Come up, Leroy.

7

8 MR. PETERS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman  
9 and everybody. About the silver fish, the processor  
10 down at the mouth of the Yukon, you know, I think  
11 that's a replacement of the king salmon, these fall  
12 chums. And, you know, that's the first time in my  
13 lifetime ever seeing abundance of these fall chums.  
14 All chums and cohos coming in and they had about -- at  
15 least about four or five pulses and that is a great  
16 number of fish passing by.

17

18 If we're going to use restrictions on  
19 the mesh size, I don't think that will work. You have  
20 to keep it there the same. The number that came up,  
21 the 400,000 to 500,000 to pass by to open up that  
22 commercial fishing, you know. I know for a fact  
23 there's more fish than ever than I've seen all these  
24 years in the fall chum.

25

26 You know, people haven't been fishing  
27 these fall chums and summer chums all these years and I  
28 notice the low return of the abundance of the king  
29 salmon are not returning. I noticed that the people  
30 along the Yukon are going after the fall chums and  
31 summer chums. They're really good eating fish, no  
32 different from the king salmon.

33

34 In my district, in Y3, you know, we had  
35 a problem. Every time we get on restriction, you know,  
36 7.5, they restrict us down to 6-inch mesh and lots of  
37 people did not have no gear around here, around Holy  
38 Cross, Shageluk and Russian Mission. You know, on this  
39 teleconference I can hear people complaining that they  
40 don't have no gear to go out there and fish these small  
41 little fish.

42

43 I speak up for my district all the time  
44 and, you know, I know there's lots of fish in the  
45 Innoko River and in Shageluk  
46 there's less than 50 people up there and the Alaska  
47 Department of Fish and Game gave them a restriction  
48 when they gave Y3 a restriction down to 6-inch gear and  
49 the people up in Shageluk did not have that gear. You  
50 know, it just put them in a spot. You know, these

1 people up there in the Innoko River they catch so much  
2 fish. Like I say, the population is less than 50  
3 people up there. You know, they take so much, maybe  
4 about 20, 30 fish and that's good enough for them, you  
5 know.

6

7

Thank you.

8

9

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks Leroy.  
10 That's exactly what the Council's feelings are, that  
11 there's going to be more people fishing for fall fish  
12 as time goes on and we don't want to like start  
13 limiting the number of fish, especially for the  
14 subsistence users that are going to be more reliant on  
15 those.

16

17

I did get a note here from Jack  
18 Lorrigan. People at the airport are wondering how many  
19 people from this meeting are leaving on this morning's  
20 plane. Apparently 10:45 is not a hard and fast time.  
21 The plane could show up anywhere between 9:00 and  
22 11:20. How many people are leaving on that airplane?  
23 Got one back here. I guess just one. All right. Just  
24 a public service announcement.

25

26

(Laughter)

27

28

MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair.

29

30

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

31

32

MS. PELKOLA: I would just add I agree  
33 with Leroy there that restricting the mesh size to 6  
34 inch when we don't have -- you know, a lot of people  
35 didn't have any gear upriver. They did that upriver  
36 too, so we didn't have any gear so we didn't fish.

37

38

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that TCC and  
39 AVCP are going to have to start thinking about getting  
40 an additional gear size, an appropriate mesh size for  
41 fall fishing and to assist people because I can see  
42 that this is the direction of this fishery. If this  
43 king salmon run keeps holding down, there isn't going  
44 to be that much king salmon fishing. Everybody is  
45 going to have to shift to coho and fall chum, which is  
46 all five and three-quarter year or something like that.

47

48

Fred.

49

50

MR. BUE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 Yeah, just to put it in perspective a little bit. We  
2 were talking about thresholds and triggers. The  
3 management plan says the escapement objective is 300-  
4 600,000 fall chum, is what the goal is. That's the  
5 range. So, for perspective, currently the annual  
6 subsistence harvest is around 80-90,000. It's been as  
7 low as 70,000. So that's -- you know, and now we're  
8 looking at a trigger of 400,000, so the low end of the  
9 range is 300,000. We have an annual subsistence  
10 harvest between 70 and 90,000, maybe 100,000. We've  
11 heard some talk that maybe the subsistence harvest may  
12 creep up with diminishing chinook runs. Just for your  
13 perspective.

14

15 Thanks.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. That  
18 data, 70-80,000 was through what time frame, like two  
19 years ago?

20

21 MR. BUE: Through last year, I think.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can see where  
24 there's so many pounds of fish that's needed for  
25 subsistence and a lot of those fall chum has got red  
26 meat, just like a sockeye, so they can be really  
27 high-grade fish. If people start shifting to those,  
28 they're smaller fish, it's gong to take more of them to  
29 make the amount that king salmon would make.

30

31 Fred.

32

33 MR. BUE: Yeah, I think that's right.  
34 I think, if you recall our ANS discussion yesterday,  
35 the ANS is considerably higher. Historically people  
36 used fall chum. That was a dog food fishery. A lot of  
37 people used to have a -- harvest at a lot higher rate.  
38 Part of the lowering threshold is in recognition of how  
39 people changed their lifestyle a little bit there.

40

41 So, yeah, I better leave that there.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks. Any further  
44 discussion on Proposal 138 to reduce the threshold from  
45 500,000 to 400,000 for fall chum.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Time for a question.

50

1 MR. HONEA: Question.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of  
4 State Proposal 138 signify by saying aye.  
5  
6 (No aye votes)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
9 sign.  
10  
11 IN UNISON: Aye.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does the Council  
14 feel that there's any additional Yukon River proposals  
15 that need to be addressed. I don't see one myself.  
16  
17 (No comments)  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see any  
20 additional from the Council, so we should look at these  
21 Kuskokwim proposals. Does everybody have this handout  
22 that has the Kuskokwim proposals.  
23  
24 104 through 114. Ray.  
25  
26 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. I'd like  
27 to speak to 110.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.  
30  
31 MR. COLLINS: That's one that was  
32 supported or submitted by the working group, which  
33 we're a part of over there. It was to remove the 8  
34 inch option on there, which is to make it clear that  
35 that isn't there. People keep hoping -- some of them,  
36 you know, have that bigger gear and keep hoping that  
37 there's going to be an opening and so on. I think it's  
38 been demonstrated that 7.5 catches kings across the  
39 spectrum, they move that way, so it's kind of a cleanup  
40 thing. But to take that off the books so there isn't  
41 an incentive to hang on to 8-inch gear that they'll  
42 think about going to smaller size.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Do you want  
45 to make a motion to adopt.  
46  
47 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'll move to adopt  
48 110.  
49  
50 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.  
2 This 8 inch -- larger than 7.5-inch mesh was found to  
3 be detrimental to the larger chinook females especially  
4 on the Yukon River mesh size analysis conducted by the  
5 Department of Fish and Game. So this basically would  
6 preclude the use of 8-inch mesh in a directed chinook  
7 fishery on the Kuskokwim River.

8  
9 So, discussion by the Council.

10  
11 (No comments)

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Time for question.

14  
15 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is  
18 called. Those in favor of State Proposal 110 to  
19 eliminate the option of 8-inch mesh on the Kuskokwim  
20 River signify by saying aye.

21  
22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
25 sign.

26  
27 (No opposing votes)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other proposals.

30  
31 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

34  
35 MR. GERVAIS: Do you want to look at  
36 104, which is similar to opening up the ANS amounts on  
37 the Kuskokwim.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yes, we  
40 should. Would you like to make a motion to support  
41 Proposal 104.

42  
43 MR. GERVAIS: So moved.

44  
45 MS. YATLIN: Second.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.  
48 The Department is requesting an ANS change for the  
49 Kuskokwim River, a similar proposal that was submitted  
50 for the Yukon system. At this time of hardship, I

1 don't feel that that's appropriate to evaluate  
2 additional commercial harvest opportunities. Does the  
3 Council have other discussion on that issue, which  
4 involves similar to the Yukon River proposal.

5  
6 Ray.

7  
8 MR. COLLINS: Well, Mr. Chair, I  
9 noticed down here one of the things -- it says one of  
10 the things that will happen if they go through this is  
11 that the findings may under represent the amount of  
12 subsistence needs and the only case I think that might  
13 be true of is if people are shifting more to silver and  
14 chum and so on. So do we think that those numbers are  
15 adequate on there? Do you see what I mean?

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

18  
19 MR. COLLINS: That was the only one --  
20 the kings, I think, is fine for covering what the need  
21 is, but if there's a shift to more of the smaller ones,  
22 I'm not sure whether that will change those numbers or  
23 not for subsistence needs. I don't know if we've got  
24 figures on what the harvest has been in the last few  
25 years on chum and kings.....

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you online  
28 there, Eric?

29  
30 MR. COLLINS: .....or chum and sockeye.

31  
32 MR. NEWLAND: Yes, Mr. Chair.  
33 Unfortunately, I don't have any Kuskokwim information  
34 as far as their harvest in front of me. I think that  
35 Staff is covering the Y-K Delta RAC, which is happening  
36 today as well.

37  
38 I think we're kind of on our own.

39  
40 Sorry about that.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No problem.

43  
44 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

47  
48 MR. GERVAIS: I was wondering if we  
49 could ask Eric if we're missing some of the  
50 significance of opening up this ANS recalculation.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you get Tim's  
2 question, Eric?

3  
4 MR. NEWLAND: I did, Mr. Chair. I  
5 would just say that I think a lot of what the  
6 Department is trying to do is just get the most current  
7 information out there as far as what the harvest has  
8 been so that the ANS is appropriate for that time frame  
9 and so that there's not any misrepresentation. I don't  
10 think it's necessarily a loophole to make because I  
11 think they're saying that we should review it and get  
12 the best information out there.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you for that  
15 input. You know, with the chinook returns in the  
16 Kuskokwim declining for over 10 years datasets are  
17 typically at 10 year time frames, recent 10-year time  
18 frames. I would be concerned that ANS's would be  
19 changed for chinook, but because of restrictions people  
20 weren't meeting subsistence needs on the Kuskokwim and  
21 I would be concerned about moving those number amounts  
22 necessary downward for chinook with recent data. That  
23 would be one of my concerns. Has the working group  
24 considered these proposals at all, Ray?

25  
26 MR. COLLINS: No. We didn't have time  
27 to go through these. They came out fairly late. But  
28 we might defer to the lower Yukon group that's meeting  
29 right now on these because there'll be more discussion  
30 there and more of the harvest is on the Lower River  
31 down there, so they should be vitally concerned. Maybe  
32 we could defer to them or do the same thing we did on  
33 the Yukon one and oppose it.

34  
35 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair. This is Drew  
36 Crawford at the Fish and Game in Anchorage.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Drew.

39  
40 MR. CRAWFORD: I'd like to add  
41 something on this ANS discussion if I can. ANS  
42 represents historical harvest drainage-wide by species  
43 and not necessarily the harvest, but specific  
44 individuals, communities or sections of the drainage in  
45 regards to the Yukon River ANS, the postal communities  
46 were included in determining these ranges as these  
47 communities harvest most of their salmon from the Yukon  
48 River Drainage stock.

49  
50 Now ANS is used by the Board as a

1 method to determine if reasonable subsistence fishing  
2 opportunities were provided. ANS levels were  
3 established for chinook salmon, summer chum, fall chum  
4 and coho salmon, not pinks or sockeye salmon on the  
5 Yukon River. The Yukon ANS ranges right now were  
6 currently determined by the best available data as of  
7 the year 2001. These levels, referring to the ANS,  
8 require periodic adjustment as the ANS cannot account  
9 for trends over time such as changes in fishing  
10 patterns, the population shifts or changes in the  
11 fisheries.

12

13 I was looking at Proposal 104. The ANS  
14 levels for the Kuskokwim were determined based on data  
15 collected between 1990 and 1999. So, again, new  
16 information is being factored into this proposal  
17 suggestion.

18

19 Over.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Drew. But  
22 that's my concern, that the Board reviewed 1990 to  
23 1999, but since that time the chinook salmon has  
24 declined on the Kuskokwim and more recent data may  
25 reflect a lower harvest and I would not prefer that the  
26 Board did not reduce the amounts necessary for chinook.  
27 It may be the case that people are shifting more to the  
28 coho and sockeye.

29

30 One of the things that this Council  
31 could do is make an amended language that the amounts  
32 necessary shall be reviewed, but that they shall not be  
33 reduced. How would the Council feel about that,  
34 inserting that amended language?

35

36 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

37

38 MR. HONEA: I think that's good.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to amend  
41 your motion, Ray?

42

43 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I would amend that  
44 to insert that wording in there so that they not be  
45 reduced during this time of changing patterns due to  
46 the low king runs. I so move to amend if there's a  
47 second to that.

48

49 MR. HONEA: Second.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded  
2 to support Proposal 104 with amended language to allow  
3 review of the amounts necessary for subsistence without  
4 any reduction in the amounts necessary for subsistence  
5 on the Kuskokwim.

6  
7 Is that clear to the Council. Further  
8 discussion.

9  
10 (No comments)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Time for the  
13 question.

14  
15 MR. HONEA: Call for the question.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is  
18 called. Those in favor of Proposal 104 as amended  
19 signify by saying aye.

20  
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
24 sign.

25  
26 (No opposing votes)

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Council support  
29 Proposal 104 as amended. Any other proposals. Mike,  
30 I'd like to have you come up for to the Council for  
31 KNA. Do you feel there's another proposal the Council  
32 should review.

33  
34 MR. THALHAUSER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
35 Mike Thalhauser with Kuskokwim Native Association.  
36 There's two. It's kind of a little tricky as far as  
37 timing goes, I think, but I think 105 and 106 are going  
38 to be really important proposals this year. Something  
39 that you don't see in any of the proposals because it's  
40 not actually a proposal is some of the escapement goals  
41 that are going to be added or changed at this year's  
42 Board of Fish and I think that gives it some context.

43  
44 The State, at this Board of Fish, is  
45 planning on adopting a total in-river escapement goal  
46 of 65,000 to 120,000 chinook salmon. That's for the  
47 entire escapement for the Kuskokwim River. Lowering  
48 escapement goals on the Kwethluk, the George and the  
49 Kogruklu, of which the Kogruklu is the longest  
50 dataset that we have for weirs on the Kuskokwim and

1 then eliminating the Tuluksak escapement goal for  
2 chinook salmon.

3

4 I think when you were talking about --  
5 that's kind of where this -- and if you read through  
6 the first one, I think 105, it talks about the Board  
7 adopting -- no, I guess that would be 106, an OEG as  
8 opposed to an escapement goal, an SEG or BEG, then  
9 that's kind of where that one comes from.

10

11 As far as the management plan, I think  
12 the management plan is obviously for a fishery, is  
13 where the kind of rubber meets the road on these  
14 escapement goals and the escapement goals are what's  
15 used to define what is a sufficient escapement for  
16 chinook salmon that is referred to in like .11 of  
17 Proposal 105 says if the -- you know, it's talking  
18 about whether the king salmon escapement is projected  
19 to be adequate or inadequate.

20

21 As far as reference, if you look at the  
22 last 35 years that was just published in the State's  
23 run reconstruction for chinook salmon, if you're  
24 looking at that 65-120,000 fish escapement goal, the  
25 escapement estimates for those years, we would have  
26 been above that range for 20 of those 35 years, so  
27 basically it would have been an identified harvestable  
28 surplus for those 20 -- 20 of those 35 years. There  
29 would be some management concerns for only two of those  
30 years. I think 2010 was below 65 and one other year.

31

32 And then just kind of more of a recent  
33 context for the last 10 years or 2001 through 2011, I  
34 think only one of those was below -- would be where we  
35 would actually be worried about what was going on about  
36 escapement. And that I think combined with the fact  
37 that our in-season tool of management, the Bethel test  
38 fish, has got a lot of variability in there and the  
39 fact that we've had four managers in the last six years  
40 that I've been on the Kuskokwim.

41

42 I think the management plan with a new  
43 written river escapement goal really has to be  
44 something that gives a little bit more direction to  
45 that manager and gives the people, the users there,  
46 something to hold them accountable whether they're  
47 actually trying to meet that goal or if they're  
48 managing for the -- managing the fishery around the  
49 minimum of what's acceptable. Which a manager could  
50 look through this and say, well, 65,000 is fine for

1 escapement, but if you look at past escapements and  
2 average, the densities of fish that come out of a  
3 65,000 escapement might be just fine.

4  
5           The Lower River fishery might do fine  
6 and get their 80 percent of -- usually what comes out  
7 of the escapement goes to subsistence down there, but  
8 the densities past say Kalskag where the commercial  
9 fishery is and where that 80 percent or so is pulled  
10 out for subsistence are going to be -- well, the fish  
11 are going to be there. There's going to be enough to  
12 make their portion of the 65,000 for escapement and  
13 that 5 or 10,000 fish that get harvested for  
14 subsistence past Kalskag is going to be darn hard to  
15 get it out there and catch the fish that people are  
16 used to catching even though they might theoretically  
17 be there.

18  
19           So I don't -- it's hard to really take,  
20 I think, these proposals up and to say whether or not  
21 -- because really I think when there's still -- like  
22 Ray knows with the working group, we still probably  
23 have another two meetings before the Board of Fish to  
24 try to hash some of this stuff out. I know the  
25 Department at the last working group meeting had  
26 requested people bring up some ideas of how we can --  
27 and I don't know if allocation is the right word -- how  
28 we can make sure that there's still going to be  
29 densities, but there's still that potential for  
30 harvestable surplus to be utilized down river. So I  
31 think the timeline is kind of tough to deal with.

32  
33           As far as you guys taking this up, I  
34 think maybe at least getting your concerns and some  
35 priorities that you think the Board should look at.  
36 The way I see it, this Proposal -- like I said, with  
37 105 and the rebuilding management plan, I think there  
38 should have been more talks with the user groups. I  
39 think there should be a more elaborate management plan  
40 considering all the new changes that are coming out.  
41 That's my opinion on 105.

42  
43           106 with the OEG, I think that's going  
44 to be something that might get a lot of attention, but  
45 might not if the talks with the working group and if  
46 things go well with the next couple meetings, so that  
47 is something maybe just to kind of get some -- to defer  
48 and put some priorities that you guys think should be  
49 looked at when it does come from the Board.

50

1                   So those are two of the ones I think  
2 are going to be a big deal at the Board of Fish and are  
3 going to set a lot of precedence for a long time on the  
4 Kuskokwim.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

7  
8                   MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. This  
9 is what I was referring to in my opening comments on  
10 that. It kind of leaves us in a dilemma because if  
11 they lower the escapement goal, in some ways that means  
12 that there won't be as much restrictions on subsistence  
13 fishing because -- but, at the same time, it's not  
14 going to put the fish up there in terms of density. If  
15 we keep the higher on there, they'd be triggering  
16 closures more for subsistence fishing like happened  
17 this year, which we don't want to see.

18  
19                   So it really leaves us in a dilemma on  
20 whether it's appropriate or not. The whole  
21 reconstruction thing is relatively new and we're  
22 suspicious about how that might be used because if they  
23 use that and end up opening up a commercial because  
24 you've met that minimum or pushed in that direction,  
25 that would be a detriment because it's not really  
26 looking at the, as you mentioned, the long-term trends  
27 of what's been happening, you know.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's my impression  
30 that it's premature without any real hard numbers,  
31 without some of the stuff being fleshed out to take a  
32 position on these proposals, but I do feel that the  
33 Council can transmit a letter to the Board of Fish on  
34 Proposal 105 and 106 and state to the Board that we're  
35 concerned about meeting subsistence needs especially in  
36 the upper Kuskokwim River. We want to see optimum  
37 escapements for salmon. We want to see densities of  
38 salmon passed into the Upper River so that it does not  
39 put subsistence users in hardship and we do not want to  
40 see commercial harvest that would conflict with those  
41 uses, those priority uses and escapements, something to  
42 that effect.

43  
44                   Is the Council comfortable with  
45 transmitting a letter to the Board of Fish on 105 and  
46 106 to that effect?

47  
48                   MR. GERVAIS: Yeah.

49  
50                   MR. R. WALKER: I got a question.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert.

2

3 MR. R. WALKER: What about -- is this  
4 Federal waters right here we're talking about or State  
5 waters? What about their AC? Do they have any kind of  
6 recommendations here besides just Association of  
7 Village Council Presidents. I'd like to hear some of  
8 the other people's opinions also if we could.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, these -- the  
11 Kuskokwim is Federal waters up until Lower Kalskag here  
12 and from that point all the way to the headwaters is  
13 all State and BLM land, which has no Federal fishery  
14 priority. So it's only basically from Lower Kalskag  
15 down river. Ray.

16

17 MR. COLLINS: But that's where about 80  
18 percent of the harvest takes place too down there, so  
19 that really has an impact on what's left to go up to  
20 the headwaters. Because our management strategy has  
21 built up the runs in some of those lower tributaries,  
22 but we've never seen a return in the headwaters to what  
23 it was historically before the commercial fishing and  
24 so on came in down there. They haven't been able to  
25 recover because by the time they take those fish out a  
26 lot of them, especially with the larger gear and so on,  
27 were targeting bigger fish that were  
28 heading to the headwaters. So it's been tough to  
29 manage for those upriver streams as it is. If they  
30 lower the number, then it's going to be even harder.

31

32 MR. R. WALKER: We're getting back to  
33 what we're doing on the Yukon. We're fishing the  
34 Middle and Lower and then looking at the escapements  
35 for what's going to happen the year after and  
36 restrictions. I mean looking at the spawning and upper  
37 part of the Kuskokwim River where -- I believe you have  
38 weirs up there, don't you? Doesn't your AC Board have  
39 a little more -- the State AC Board up there has a  
40 little more to say there?

41

42 MR. COLLINS: We have a pretty good  
43 distribution of those, but again they're concentrated  
44 on some of the lower with larger runs. We only have  
45 one at the headwaters. That's up on the Takotna and  
46 that's a run that was wiped out and it's just started  
47 coming back from '60s and '70s on. They do flyovers on  
48 the other. They have that data on there on the Salmon  
49 River and Pitka fork and so on. We don't have the  
50 weirs because that's not where the majority of the

1 salmon go. Some of the lower -- Holitna is one of the  
2 major ones up there. But we do have a fair  
3 distribution of weirs right now and we're doing all we  
4 can to keep those funded just so that we do have that  
5 data.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So it's  
8 agreeable to the Council to transmit the letter to the  
9 Board of Fish on 105 and 106. Can I get further  
10 comments. Ray.

11

12 MR. COLLINS: Well, do we have to deal  
13 with that other -- the motion on the Board to adopt the  
14 other one. How do we do that? Do we have to modify  
15 that to turn it into a letter or how do we.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Let's vote that one  
18 down and then go back to -- oh, let's vote this 105  
19 down. So we're going to take up a vote on -- the  
20 motion on the table is to support.....

21

22 REPORTER: Wait. You don't have a  
23 motion on the table.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We don't have a  
26 motion.

27

28 MR. JOHNSON: You just brought it up.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, we just brought  
31 it up. There was no motion.

32

33 REPORTER: You were just going to do a  
34 letter.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I thought we had a  
37 motion. No, my mistake.

38

39 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The letter -- do we  
42 need to take a vote on that, Carl, transmitting a  
43 letter?

44

45 MR. JOHNSON: No.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So don't need to --  
48 but it's agreeable to the Council.

49

50 (Council nods affirmatively)

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see affirmative  
2 from the Council members to transmit that letter to the  
3 Board of Fish on those two proposals. So that kind of  
4 closes out our fisheries. Go ahead there.

5  
6 MR. GERVAIS: I've got a question for  
7 you. I don't feel like taking any action on it, but I  
8 wanted to know if KNA had a position on Proposal 107  
9 about the cold-smoking from the Orutsararmiut Native  
10 Council.

11  
12 MR. THALHAUSER: Through the Chair.  
13 Thanks, Tim. Our Board hasn't taken this up, so we  
14 don't have an official position on that one and I  
15 really haven't reviewed that one close enough that I'd  
16 really speak to it too much.

17  
18 MR. COLLINS: Do you know which village  
19 council that is, which community?

20  
21 MR. THALHAUSER: That's out of Bethel.  
22 I'm guessing that's definitely being taken up probably  
23 pretty closely at the Y-K RAC especially with Greg as  
24 the chair, Greg Roczicka, who works at ONC. So I  
25 think, yeah, that one is probably definitely going to  
26 be brought up pretty extensively down there.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

29  
30 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair. I was  
31 wondering if we could have five minutes to discuss with  
32 Eric. I'm interested in the Yukon River kings being  
33 designated as stock of management concern and I don't  
34 quite understand the process of the Board of Fish of  
35 how that gets voted on. Right now it's a stock of  
36 yield concern and I feel that because we've taken all  
37 these pretty significant conservation actions and we're  
38 still not seeing the stock recovery, I'd like to see  
39 this management criteria elevated up. The Ruby  
40 Advisory Council had put in a proposal for that, but  
41 I'm not seeing that in the proposal book, so I don't  
42 know if that was the correct avenue to get the  
43 discussion out there on elevating it as a stock of  
44 management concern.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to  
47 address Tim's question there, Eric, elevating the  
48 chinook salmon on the Yukon River from a stock of  
49 concern to a management concern.

50

1 MR. NEWLAND: Yeah, let me -- can I get  
2 back to you real quick. I can get some notes together  
3 here and I'll try to do my best. Is that possible?

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: While Eric  
6 researches we'll break for 15 minutes, until 5 after  
7 10:00.

8  
9 MR. NEWLAND: I appreciate that, Mr.  
10 Chair.

11  
12 (Off record)

13  
14 (On record)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray had a question  
17 for Eric, but I do want to recognize Angela  
18 Demientieff, one of our past RAC member, beloved RAC  
19 member, so I'm happy to see her here. Thanks for  
20 coming, Angela. Good to talk to you. So Eric was  
21 going to get some data on the chinook salmon stock of  
22 concern versus management concern. Are you there,  
23 Eric?

24  
25 MR. NEWLAND: Yes, Mr. Chair. I thank  
26 you for the opportunity to do a little digging around  
27 in my notes here. I guess I'll start off by talking  
28 about the threshold or the levels of the concern here.  
29 The Alaska Board of Fish designated the Yukon River  
30 chinook as a stock of yield concern in September of  
31 2000 and has continued this designation in 2004, 2007  
32 and 2010 Board meetings.

33  
34 Just to kind of give you an idea of  
35 what that means, a stock of yield concern is defined as  
36 a concern arising from chronic inability despite the  
37 use of specific management measures to maintain  
38 specific yields or harvestable surpluses above the  
39 stock's escapement needs. A yield concern is less  
40 severe than a management's concern.

41  
42 The Yukon River chinook is one. The  
43 Yetna sockeye is another. The Kvichak sockeye is  
44 another. Norton Sound, Subdistrict 5, 6 chinook and  
45 Norton Sound Subdistrict 1, 2 and 3 chum are also stock  
46 of yield concern at this time.

47  
48 Management concern is a concern arising  
49 from a chronic inability despite the use of specific  
50 management measures to maintain escapements for a

1 salmon stock within the bounds of an FEG, BEG or OEG or  
2 other specified management objective for the fishery.  
3 A management concern is not as severe as a conservation  
4 concern. There is one stock of management concern.  
5 That's McDonald Lake sockeye. Conservation concern is  
6 the most extreme and there is none at this time.

7

8 So right now we're at the yield concern  
9 and that means that we're not always able to meet our  
10 historical yields of harvestable surplus. This will be  
11 addressed at the Board through a stock status report.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does that answer  
14 your question, Tim?

15

16 MR. GERVAIS: That's a lot of it. So,  
17 Eric, the Board of Fish is going to ask for the Fish  
18 and Game managers to make an assessment of what the  
19 stock designation is or is this something the RACs can  
20 contribute in on? When I was at the Board of Fish  
21 meeting in 2010 in Fairbanks, we were in committee and  
22 the chairman of the committee asked Steve Hayes what he  
23 thought the designation should be and he just said  
24 yield concern and then he didn't give any supporting  
25 information how he felt where that was and then it just  
26 kind of ended there.

27

28 What I'm seeing happening with this  
29 king stock for the Yukon is really intensive management  
30 action, really significant harvest sacrifice by the in-  
31 river user groups and I'm not seeing any kind of  
32 rebound on the stock. So I felt that we should elevate  
33 the level of concern for the stock and hopefully the  
34 ultimate goal is to see better protection in the marine  
35 environment for these chinooks because as we've  
36 discussed in this meeting and prior meetings there's  
37 not very many other places to get the extra salmon to  
38 meet our escapement goals. We're not meeting our  
39 escapement goals consistently and I think that's really  
40 bad policy and precedent to not meet your escapement  
41 goals as consistently as we have.

42

43 So I'm trying to get more emphasis put  
44 on king salmon conservation. I mean I feel like you  
45 in-river managers are doing your part with what you  
46 have available for tools and I'd like to see the North  
47 Pacific Management Council take more significant steps  
48 in limiting the bycatch because that's about the only  
49 place that we have available to make improvements at  
50 this point in time.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So is the Department  
2 contemplating a shift from yield concern to management  
3 concern? Eric.

4  
5 MR. NEWLAND: Mr. Chair. Mr. Gervais.  
6 At this time the Department is drafting its stock  
7 status report. This is a report that would be  
8 presented to the Board and then the Board would make a  
9 determination based on. At this time we're reviewing  
10 the data. It usually consists of looking at the past  
11 five years to make this determination, so we're at that  
12 level. At this time I guess I can't speak to what  
13 level we would recommend, but it will be presented at  
14 the Board, okay.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
17 Tim.

18  
19 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I would like to  
20 know if you'd like to drop a letter to Commissioner  
21 Campbell in discussing these issues where despite what  
22 we're doing in-river we're not getting a recovery of  
23 the stock and we'd rather see the State of Alaska move  
24 more in the mode from salmon conservation to stock  
25 rebuilding and highlights.

26  
27 I can get the underescapement years. I  
28 think we're at four out of the last six counting 2012.  
29 Highlight the point that there's not a lot of excess  
30 salmon being taken out in the river system and that  
31 we'd like to see better protection in the marine  
32 environment for the king salmon stock. So specifically  
33 ask for a more intensive upgrade on this stock. I  
34 don't know if it should be management concern or  
35 conservation concern. Probably management concern, but  
36 I'm not that familiar with the triggers for that.

37  
38 And then highlight this almost  
39 perpetual underescapement and understand that the two  
40 main issues are the great sacrifices that it's causing  
41 amongst the subsistence users and also that if we take  
42 appropriate action now it could probably bring the king  
43 stock back to a healthy point, but if the management is  
44 less restrictive, we could be in danger of bringing the  
45 abundance of king salmon down low enough that it would  
46 be extremely hard to recover, such as we see in  
47 Atlantic cod and wild Atlantic salmon where they're so  
48 decimated that they just can't rebuild no matter what  
49 happens.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So my question,  
2 Eric, is conservation concern is the highest status for  
3 conservation of a salmon stock?

4  
5 MR. NEWLAND: Correct.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, Tim, would you  
8 make a motion to have a letter drafted to Commissioner  
9 Campbell, cc'd to the Board of Fish, to elevate the  
10 Yukon River chinook salmon to conservation concern from  
11 yield concern and then giving specific language as you  
12 just stated on the record.

13  
14 MR. GERVAIS: Sure. I also would like  
15 to see that go to Eric Olson on North Pacific  
16 Management Council.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. The  
19 Commissioner of Fish and Game is a North Pacific  
20 Fisheries Management Council seat also, so she should  
21 be aware that there needs to be steps taken in the  
22 marine system. So I feel it's appropriate to send that  
23 letter to the Commissioner of Fish and Game through OSM  
24 through the correspondence analysis. So you made that  
25 motion.

26  
27 MR. GERVAIS: So moved.

28  
29 MR. HONEA: Seconded.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion and seconded.  
32 The record reflects the intent and content of that  
33 letter.

34  
35 MR. R. WALKER: Question.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is  
38 called. Those in favor of the motion signify by saying  
39 aye.

40  
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
44 sign.

45  
46 (No opposing votes)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're past the  
49 Yukon and Kuskokwim fisheries issues. We're running  
50 out of time here. We've got a lot of agenda to go, but

1 you wanted to go over some agenda items you inserted,  
2 Tim.

3

4 MR. GERVAIS: That letter was one, so  
5 that's done with. The second one just kind of  
6 information on how they do the selection of the council  
7 seats for that North Pacific Fisheries Management  
8 Council. We had seen proposals out of Norton Sound  
9 last year or the year prior to that to try to get a  
10 rural user or Native subsistence user on that council.

11

12

13 Anyway, these council seats, as of now,  
14 some are designated by position, such as like  
15 Commissioner of Fish and Game for Oregon, Washington  
16 and Alaska, Coast Guard has a seat, National Marine  
17 Fisheries Service has a seat and then there's appointed  
18 seats appointed by the governors of these various  
19 states, Alaska, Washington and I think Oregon has only  
20 one seat.

21

22 Anyway, the governor of Washington  
23 appointed a lady, Lori Swanson, to be approved and it  
24 has to be approved by Department of Commerce in  
25 Washington, D.C. and the At-sea Processors Association,  
26 which is a lobbying group for the pollock fleet, didn't  
27 like this lady being in there because she wasn't from  
28 the pollock industry, so they had their lobbyists get  
29 active in Washington and were able to lobby the  
30 congressional delegation and the Department of Commerce  
31 and got one of their pollock executives put into that  
32 seat position instead of this other gal.

33

34 My point of bringing this up is I just  
35 wanted to highlight the amount of intensity of the  
36 pollock fleet to maintain these positions on the  
37 council. I mean these are the -- when you go to  
38 testify for salmon conservation to the North Pacific  
39 Council, these are the people you're testifying to, the  
40 various council members, but if a lot of the council  
41 members are pollock industry executives or lobbyists,  
42 then you have a hard time getting your salmon  
43 conservation agenda put forth.

44

45 So, in the short term, the only way to  
46 get any kind of representation for subsistence uses on  
47 the council is if you could convince the governor to  
48 make an appointment as such. In the long term, you'd  
49 have to go -- when they re-authorize the Magnuson-  
50 Stevens Act, you could try to get some language in

1 there that reserves a seat for rural or Native  
2 representation. That's all I'm reporting on.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that  
5 information, Tim. This council is under constraints  
6 under what we were told is the Hatch Act and we're not  
7 allowed to lobby for any kind of congressional or  
8 political entity, so we could transmit a letter to the  
9 Federal Subsistence Board and the regional directors  
10 requesting that there be -- and Pat Pourchot at DOI to  
11 look at having rural subsistence representative on the  
12 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and  
13 encourage a seat through the Federal process so that  
14 when the Magnuson-Stevens Act comes forward that the  
15 Executive Branch can try to assure tribal  
16 representation or subsistence representation on the  
17 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

18

19 Would you be agreeable to a letter to  
20 the Federal Subsistence Board to that effect?

21

22 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, that would be fine.  
23 I suppose we could also in that letter we're drafting  
24 to Commissioner Campbell we could -- well, she doesn't  
25 do the selection, but -- yeah, let's just leave that as  
26 it was approved. Sure, I think it would be good for  
27 the Federal Subsistence Board to express those  
28 concerns.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Or another avenue is  
31 to put it in our annual report. Do you want to make  
32 that an annual report item instead of a letter or a  
33 letter and annual report item?

34

35 MR. GERVAIS: Let's do both and maybe  
36 it might be appropriate to send a letter to the  
37 governor and tell him that we don't feel like rural  
38 Alaska is getting good representation on these issues.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Carl.

41

42 MR. JOHNSON: Just as a matter of  
43 timing, Mr. Chair, if you want this to be an expedient  
44 issue, if you want it exclusively through the annual  
45 report route, the Board would not see your annual  
46 report until approximately June or July of next year.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It can be included in

1 the annual report as a topic, but we can send a letter  
2 that will expedite the issue to the Federal Subsistence  
3 Board so they are aware of the issue at their next  
4 meeting, which I think is in January.

5  
6 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. The reason I'm  
7 bringing it up, I'm not anti-commercial fishing, but I  
8 feel like the representatives that have been on the  
9 council that do work for the pollock industry as  
10 executive or as lobbyists have not been fair and  
11 equitable in their allocation of salmon.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Exactly. It's a  
14 weighted council and that's inappropriate, but that is  
15 occurring and that issue should be highlighted. At  
16 least cast a light on the issue. Do you want to make a  
17 motion to that effect.

18  
19 MR. GERVAIS: So moved.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A motion to transmit  
22 a letter to the Federal Subsistence Board highlighting  
23 the issues that Tim has brought forth regarding North  
24 Pacific Fisheries Management Council. Do I have a  
25 second.

26  
27 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.  
30 Further discussion.

31  
32 MR. R. WALKER: Question.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is  
35 called. Those in favor of the letter of transmittal  
36 signify by saying aye.

37  
38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
41 sign.

42  
43 (No opposing votes)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's all your  
46 issues now, Tim?

47  
48 MR. GERVAIS: (Nods affirmatively)

49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

1 We're moving on in our agenda to Number 10, old  
2 business, review of the draft Memorandum of  
3 Understanding between the Federal Subsistence Board and  
4 the State of Alaska and develop comments and  
5 recommendations. This is on Page 125 of our book. Mr.  
6 Chen is going to give us the overview.

7

8 MR. CHEN: I'll be doing it, but Jerry  
9 is online.

10

11 MR. JOHNSON: Jerry Berg, are you on  
12 the line?

13

14 MR. BERG: I am here.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So who is  
17 going to give the overview then? Jerry, are you going  
18 to give it or is Glenn?

19

20 MR. BERG: Mr. Chair. I'm here and I'm  
21 available to do it. I guess it's up to you guys. If  
22 you want somebody there in person to do it or I can do  
23 it online. Either way is fine with me.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What do you prefer,  
26 Glenn?

27

28 DR. CHEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair and  
29 Council members. I'm Glenn Chen with the Bureau of  
30 Indian Affairs. Jerry, I'll be happy to give it since  
31 I'm here in person. If you could answer questions  
32 about some of the revisions of the protocol that were  
33 made with the recent MOU Working Group, I think that  
34 would be great.

35

36 MR. BERG: All right. Sounds good.

37

38 MR. CHEN: Thank you. The briefing  
39 materials for this agenda topic start on Page 125. If  
40 I could bring your attention to that page. The subject  
41 of the Federal/State MOU has come before this Council  
42 before. The reason why it's back before you again at  
43 this meeting is the Federal Subsistence Board is again  
44 seeking your comments, your revisions, edits and so  
45 forth, feedback on the latest version of the MOU.

46

47 A little bit of history here might be  
48 helpful. Back in 2008 in December the Federal and  
49 State representatives signed the MOU. Prior to the MOU  
50 being signed in December of 2008 the State and Feds

1 were working under a Memorandum of Agreement. With the  
2 signing of the MOU in December 2008 it was then  
3 released to the RACs for their comments and feedback,  
4 which then provoked some interesting responses from the  
5 RAC because they felt that they should have been  
6 involved in review and feedback and input prior to its  
7 signing.

8  
9 In 2009, Secretary Salazar put this on  
10 his list of items that he wanted the Federal program to  
11 undertake, was to review again the Federal/State MOU,  
12 this time with concerted and dedicated input and  
13 involvement of the RACs.

14  
15 In 2011, during the winter meeting  
16 cycle, the latest version of the MOU was circulated to  
17 all the RACs and all the RACs did provide comments.  
18 The comments are summarized starting on Page 128. You  
19 will see that each of the RACs provided some comments.  
20 They ranged from some of the RACs being satisfied with  
21 the MOU to some of the RACs providing some specific  
22 comments as far as changes and suggested revisions.

23  
24 The Federal Board then charged the task  
25 of reviewing and updating the MOU to a Federal/State  
26 MOU Working Group. On the Federal side, the Federal  
27 members included Pete Probasco from OSM, Jerry Berg,  
28 who is on the line, he's from Fish and Wildlife  
29 Service, Steve Kessler from the Forest Service and  
30 Sandy Rabinowitch from the National Park Service, were  
31 the Federal members on the MOU Working Group. Then  
32 Jennifer Yuhás was the State representative for Alaska  
33 Department of Fish and Game.

34  
35 During this last summer the MOU Working  
36 Group met a couple times, made a variety of changes to  
37 the MOU based on Council input that was provided during  
38 the 2011 winter meeting cycle and then that revised  
39 document is here today before you and that starts on  
40 Page 131 in your Council book.

41  
42 The format for this revised document is  
43 in what we call the red line strike-out format, which  
44 is admittedly difficult to follow and read, but we  
45 wanted to present to you in this format because we  
46 wanted to make available to the Council what the  
47 previous version was and what the suggested changes  
48 would look like. If you would be willing to sort of  
49 bear with the difficulty of reading this sort of  
50 format, that was the purpose of providing both the

1 previous version and the new changes. If you look on  
2 the right side of each of those pages starting on 131,  
3 there's a column that describes comments as to what  
4 those changes actually entailed.

5  
6 On July 18th of 2012 the Federal Board  
7 met. They decided that the revised version should be  
8 sent to the Councils during its fall meeting cycle.  
9 I'll just briefly review some of the both general  
10 changes and the specific changes.

11  
12 I think probably one of the more  
13 important changes that the MOU Working Group sought to  
14 include in this version was a comment raised by a  
15 number of Councils about desire to have the MOU be  
16 written in plain language. Now, given that this is a  
17 document that's been reviewed by lawyers and advisors  
18 on both the State and Federal side, there needs to be a  
19 fair degree of complex language and legalese written  
20 into it. That's just the nature of the document. But  
21 the MOU Working Group did, in a number of places,  
22 attempt to distill down some of that legalese, some of  
23 that complex language into more plain and readable  
24 English. That's one overall change.

25  
26 A number of the Councils wanted to have  
27 the Federal program aspects of the MOU emphasized, so  
28 in other places you will see that the text is  
29 reordered, so it refers first to the Federal  
30 Subsistence Program and the Federal language is placed  
31 before the State language.

32  
33 The prior version had a glossary and a  
34 definition of terms and that's been eliminated.  
35 They've been now inserted in the document and there's  
36 been an effort to explain what certain terms and  
37 definitions are within the document itself rather than  
38 having a separate section with a glossary and term  
39 definition.

40  
41 I'll also point out some specific  
42 changes that were made to the prior version. A number  
43 of Councils emphasized the desire and the need to  
44 include language traditional ecological knowledge or  
45 TEK. What the workgroup felt would be a possible  
46 solution to this would be to incorporate the language  
47 that describes customary and traditional uses. The  
48 reason for this is that this is what ANILCA mentions,  
49 is words of customary and traditional uses. This has  
50 been added in there in conjunction with the phrases of

1 scientific information. Again, the desire was to make  
2 this document consistent with the language in ANILCA  
3 says.

4  
5 A number of Councils wanted more  
6 reference to predator management. So what the Federal  
7 Board had decided a while ago was that anything having  
8 to do with predator management on Federal lands would  
9 be the responsibility of the individual agencies and  
10 they developed a Predator Management Policy a while  
11 back and this is referenced in this version of the MOU.

12  
13 A number of folks took issue with the  
14 fact that State management plans were mentioned in the  
15 prior version and that somehow the Federal program  
16 might be addressing or might be turning its activities  
17 to these State management plans only, so this current  
18 version discusses not only State management plans but  
19 also included more broadly Federal, State and other  
20 cooperative management plans.

21  
22 The Southeast RAC, one of their  
23 comments was that they wanted opportunity to review  
24 periodically the MOU and to revise and update it as  
25 necessary. So there's specific language included in  
26 this version that covers that.

27  
28 With regard to protocols, there were a  
29 variety of protocols that were in place and were part  
30 of the discussions when the Memorandum of Agreement was  
31 changed to the Memorandum of Understanding. Some of  
32 these protocols include things such as the data sharing  
33 protocol. So this version does include reference to  
34 those protocols, that the protocols themselves would be  
35 reviewed and updated as well.

36  
37 A brief summary of the timeline here.  
38 As I mentioned back in June and July, the Federal Board  
39 met and they agreed upon this revised version that's  
40 before you and that this version would go before the  
41 Councils during this fall cycle. We are now into the  
42 August and October part of the calendar where both the  
43 RACs and possibly the advisory committees are reviewing  
44 and providing comments.

45  
46 Continuing on to Page 127, following  
47 RAC meetings all of your Councils comments and  
48 viewpoints on this version of MOU will then be taken up  
49 by the MOU Working Group and the State Working Group  
50 and they will be meeting to address and hopefully

1 incorporate a number of your comments and suggestions.  
2 The goal is to have this next version of MOU taken  
3 action by the Federal Board next January of 2013.

4  
5 That pretty much summarizes my briefing  
6 and I'll turn the microphone over to Jerry Berg and see  
7 if he has any other things he wants to add.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Glenn.  
10 Jerry. Are you still there, Jerry.

11  
12 MR. BERG: I'm sorry, I had my phone on  
13 mute. Yeah, I don't really have anything to add unless  
14 you guys have questions on some of the specific  
15 changes. We tried to address every comment that came  
16 in from the Regional Councils.

17  
18 So unless you guys have any questions,  
19 I don't really have anything to add, Mr. Chair.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
22 Carl says there's a draft MOU in our blue folder that  
23 has larger font for those who have a hard time reading  
24 the smaller font. So at this point the  
25 Council should make comments and discuss the MOU if  
26 they feel appropriate. I have some comments myself.  
27 Any Council.....

28  
29 MS. YUHAS: Mr. Chairman. I'm Jennifer  
30 Yuhas from Fish and Game. I'm also on the working  
31 group and have some more comments from the State when  
32 you're ready.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay. I'm glad  
35 to hear you're there, Jennifer. I would like to take  
36 your comments right now if you could.

37  
38 MS. YUHAS: My name is Jennifer Yuhas.  
39 I am the State/Federal Subsistence Liaison Team Leader  
40 and I am on the working group for the MOU. One of the  
41 things that I'd like the RAC to know is that in  
42 previous MOU Working Groups we have included a member  
43 of the Board of Fish and a member of the Board of Game  
44 and the person in my position has always represented  
45 the Department.

46  
47 One thing that's different in this  
48 working group is that I was actually delegated by the  
49 Chairs of the Board of Fish and of the Board of Game to  
50 represent them at these meetings, so I'm in effect

1 wearing three hats to go to these meetings. If there  
2 was any questions why the Boards were not represented,  
3 they are. It's all in one person this time. Folks  
4 being rural, I'm sure you understand how that goes.

5  
6 One of the State's concerns -- now we  
7 did work on the language and we did fully agree to put  
8 this language before the RACs and the advisory  
9 committees and have at each meeting simply allowed  
10 everyone to know that the State does have one concern  
11 on your MOU briefing paper on Item 7 where it says  
12 evaluate the MOU. We still think that language is a  
13 little bit confusing because it seems to portray a one-  
14 time opportunity with a schedule and maybe a time frame  
15 that could be missed on commenting on the MOU. We  
16 think that things have been a little confusing since  
17 there was a directed opening of the MOU in 2008 through  
18 the AFN request.

19  
20 There has always been an open door to  
21 the MOA or the MOU where at any time a member of the  
22 public, a RAC, an AC or anyone else can bring a  
23 concern, make a suggested change to the MOU and that  
24 would have to be taken up by the Board for  
25 consideration. We don't want this language in Item 7  
26 to in any way make folks think that that has changed.  
27 This was really supposed to simply portray that there  
28 would be a reminder to the RACs once a year that the  
29 MOU is available and open for consideration, but the  
30 intent really wasn't to set a schedule where there  
31 would be an opening and a closing and you could miss  
32 the window, so we wanted to be clear on that.

33  
34 The language that you have in front of  
35 you for consideration is what the State has agreed to  
36 at this point to circulate to the RACs and the ACs. We  
37 do need to be clear that we are evaluating the value of  
38 the MOU based on more than the language. The two major  
39 items we're also considering are that the MOU was  
40 signed previously, as testified by Mr. Rabinowitch, we  
41 only had a Memorandum of Understanding -- or Memorandum  
42 of Agreement and that only was initialed and not  
43 signed.

44  
45 In 2008, the Office of Subsistence  
46 Management began sending it to the Liaison Office here  
47 at the State and that gave an extra layer of obligation  
48 and that's when the MOU was signed. We have been told  
49 with no malice, just a reality, that Federal budget is  
50 looking at cutting Fish and Wildlife Service and this

1 Liaison Office would be one of the items cut if that  
2 happens. So the Department does have to consider  
3 whether that layer of obligation would remain if the  
4 funding is cut, so we need to be honest about that.

5  
6 One of the questions that leadership  
7 along with both Boards and usually the RACs and ACs  
8 have been asking is (static). It's very difficult to  
9 have to report that we have had some bumps in the road  
10 because I think the people that we're dealing with at  
11 OSM are very well intended. No one has had any  
12 maliciousness. Nothing has been done on purpose, but  
13 the State has been left out of several meetings. We  
14 have not been copied on several requests for data and  
15 that has posed complications and we are evaluating the  
16 value of the MOU if it won't be adhered to.

17  
18 For example, the InterAgency Staff  
19 Committee has met several times and there has not been  
20 an invitation extended to the State. Meetings have been  
21 missed because the State was not notified. The way  
22 that has manifested has been that the State has had to  
23 follow up with correspondence when the Board has  
24 already been in deliberation on an item.

25  
26 An example this year included a  
27 wildlife special action where the Board had been  
28 notified that the ISC had met and taken unanimous  
29 position. We had to follow up with that and say we  
30 weren't in that meeting and we don't have unanimous  
31 position, so the Board had to change their course in  
32 the middle of deliberation.

33  
34 That also occurred with a few other  
35 items, including a delegation of authority. That's not  
36 really the way the process was designed to work. So  
37 we're having a hiccup in the way the MOU is being  
38 implemented and that also needs to be considered for  
39 the signatories in January.

40  
41 With that, Mr. Chairman, the language  
42 before you is what OSM is seeking comment on, if the  
43 RAC would like to offer more changes or simply endorse  
44 the language before it. I think that's what the MOU  
45 Working Group is looking for.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks for  
48 your comments, Jennifer. Any questions from the  
49 Council on the State's points made.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none. We'll  
4 open the floor to the Council to discuss the MOU and  
5 the language changes that's been worked out by the  
6 working group and the State and Federal delegates. Any  
7 comments on these.

8

9 MR. R. WALKER: I can't even read it.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's a larger  
12 font in your blue folder. Carl says there's a larger  
13 font. I looked through this MOU and I'm happy the  
14 Councils have another opportunity to comment on the  
15 work that the working group has done.

16

17 Under No. IV, Federal Subsistence Board  
18 and State mutually agree, No. 3, it says to recognize a  
19 Federal priority for rural residents on Federal public  
20 lands for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife  
21 resources. Additionally, to allow for other uses of  
22 fish and wildlife resources when harvestable surpluses  
23 are sufficient, consistent with ANILCA and Alaska  
24 Statute 16.05.

25

26 I want the Council to be aware that  
27 there's quite a divergence in harvestable surplus  
28 between Federal ANILCA mandates and maximum sustained  
29 yield. I would like the Council members and the  
30 Federal Subsistence Board -- that language to be more  
31 clear as there is a large divergence in harvestable  
32 surpluses.

33

34 ANILCA states that fish and wildlife  
35 shall be managed for healthy populations using  
36 recognized scientific principles, not maximum sustained  
37 yield. Maximum sustained yield under State Board of  
38 Game can cut the fine edge of what's sustainable and  
39 reduce populations to where it becomes highly  
40 competitive for subsistence users, whereas ANILCA  
41 maintains healthy populations, which would reflect  
42 healthy bull/cow ratios and compositions of the  
43 populations at levels that would be actually better for  
44 subsistence users and the general public.

45

46 I'll use the Koyukuk River Moose  
47 Management Plan as a 30 bull per 100 cow. We maintain  
48 30 bulls per 100 cows and Glen Stout, the area  
49 biologist, now recognizes that the encounter rate for  
50 bulls is much higher and it's easier for hunters to

1 actually catch moose than when populations of bulls are  
2 down at 20 and there's no breeding bulls and you start  
3 into reproductive failures. So there's a big  
4 divergence in what the Federal mandates are and what  
5 the Board of Game is trying to do with maximum  
6 sustained yield.

7

8 I feel that No. 3 under IV there needs  
9 to clearly state that there is a divergence in what  
10 harvestable surplus sufficiencies would be.

11

12 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

15

16 MR. GERVAIS: Under that same No. IV,  
17 No. 1, is it necessary to insert at the end -- it says  
18 subsistence use on Federal public land. Do we need to  
19 insert and waters in there or does the land cover  
20 everything?

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jerry, did you get  
23 that question Tim had?

24

25 MR. BERG: No, I didn't quite catch  
26 everything. What was that again, Tim?

27

28 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. Under Chapter IV,  
29 Item No. 1, it says to cooperate and coordinate their  
30 respective research, monitoring, regulatory, and  
31 management actions to help ensure the conservation of  
32 fish and wildlife populations for subsistence use on  
33 Federal public lands. I was wondering if we need to  
34 put and waters in there or does the lands cover the  
35 water.

36

37 MR. BERG: Okay. Yeah, sorry. Yeah,  
38 that's just a general term that we use throughout  
39 numerous documents, not only this one. We generally  
40 say Federal public lands, but we also infer that that  
41 includes waters. I mean that's been debated back and  
42 forth. We've included waters before and we've gone  
43 back and forth, but I think we've pretty much stuck  
44 with just Federal public lands, but it does infer that  
45 it includes waters as well.

46

47 MR. GERVAIS: Okay, thank you.

48

49 MS. YUHAS: Mr. Chair. We debated this  
50 and a few others and some of the language we're happy

1 to explain. What we did was go back to ANILCA each  
2 time we'd come to a convergence and say do we need  
3 this, do we not need this. We'd say what does ANILCA  
4 say and since the Board operates under ANILCA, we just  
5 deferred back so the language would be consistent.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks,  
8 Jennifer. Is that clear, Tim?

9

10 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other comments on  
13 the section so far by Council members.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I will drop down to  
18 No. 11 under Chapter IV or point IV of the document.  
19 To cooperatively review and endorse existing -- State  
20 fish and wildlife management plans. I do not feel that  
21 endorsement -- I feel that there should be endorsement  
22 of management plans if it's appropriate.

23

24 Management plans -- there are bull/cow  
25 ratios set in Southwest Alaska for moose and caribou  
26 that I do not feel are appropriate. Those management  
27 plans should be reviewed by the Federal -- and that's  
28 what this Council has stated in annual reports, that  
29 there needs to be a review of management plans to  
30 assure that there are healthy levels of bull/cow  
31 ratios, that we have breeding structures and  
32 appropriate composition.

33

34 So I don't feel that endorsing existing  
35 plans is appropriate unless they're deemed through  
36 review of the State and Federal biologist whether they  
37 are appropriate for maintaining healthy populations on  
38 Federal public lands. That's why I'm saying the State  
39 and Federal mandates for management have discrepancies  
40 on maximum sustained yield. Twenty bulls per 100 cows  
41 with zero three-year-old bull moose in the population  
42 is not a healthy management plan. Thirty bulls per 100  
43 cows with some adult bulls over three to five years old  
44 is appropriate management and should be -- the  
45 management plan should reflect healthy population  
46 management with scientific principals.

47

48 So endorsing management plans that do  
49 not have science based or cutting to the fine edge is  
50 not appropriate for Federal land management. That's my

1 position. I do not feel that current management plans  
2 should be reviewed and endorsed if appropriate. I feel  
3 that the words should be if appropriate.

4

5                   And there needs to be a reflection of  
6 the -- a little stronger language regarding the health  
7 of populations using scientific principals in this  
8 section. Consider -- down here. Consider State and --  
9 State -- let's see. Consider Federal -- consider  
10 Federal and cooperative -- and State -- how am I  
11 reading this. The document is a little bit hard to  
12 read as stricken.

13

14                   I do feel that the language in this  
15 section needs to reflect that management plans need to  
16 be developed and I mean cultured as needed. There  
17 needs to be a large review of management plans  
18 throughout this region for ungulate species, especially  
19 bull caribou and bull moose. I think that there needs  
20 to be Federal management plans and State managers need  
21 to work together to develop and agree upon healthy  
22 parameters for ungulate management. I think there's a  
23 need to strengthen the language, that that's an  
24 imperative in this Memorandum of Understanding.

25

26                   Do you have comments on that, Jennifer  
27 or Jerry.

28

29                   MR. BERG: Mr. Chair. This is Jerry.  
30 Yeah, I mean those are all very good comments. I think  
31 our changes to this paragraph are probably some of the  
32 most significant to the entire document. It used to  
33 say, if you remember, that we would use the State  
34 management plans as an initial basis unless we had  
35 developed our own plans and we heard from many of the  
36 Councils that they didn't feel that was appropriate, so  
37 we tried to balance it more.

38

39                   Not to say that we would endorse  
40 anything outright, so I think it is appropriate maybe  
41 to add some language to qualify when we might endorse  
42 some of those management plans, but the intent was to  
43 say that we're going to use whatever State or Federal  
44 management plans are out there, review all of them and  
45 try to use what's most appropriate in different  
46 situations.

47

48                   Certainly, I think the intent is for  
49 people to work together, coming up with these  
50 management plans. As you know, it's a lot of effort

1 that goes into formulating these plans. You know,  
2 that's not perfect. We don't have all the ones we  
3 want, but certainly when we do move down that path we  
4 all need to be working together on it.

5  
6 So I think those are very good  
7 comments. Certainly in the workgroup we'll take those  
8 into account the next time we get together.

9  
10 MS. YUHAS: Mr. Chairman, this is  
11 Jennifer with the State.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jennifer.

14  
15 MS. YUHAS: I think Jerry has the most  
16 -- on our working group Jerry had the most historical  
17 knowledge of this section. This was a troubling  
18 section and one that I came into the working group  
19 actually having to say what is this supposed to be  
20 getting at, what does this actually say, and we spent a  
21 lot of time on that one. I think Sandy and I even went  
22 back and forth on it and Jerry had to say, well, here's  
23 the history.

24  
25 So to get at the gist, I think this is  
26 one of those sections that was written very early on.  
27 Just like we all weren't sure this whole Federal  
28 program would be here 30 years later, I think it has  
29 some remnants of the initial language. It turned out  
30 in the working group that the gist that Jerry just  
31 spoke to was what we were getting at. That we wanted  
32 to cooperate, that we wanted to be able to recognize  
33 that something was mutually beneficial and call it good  
34 and solid when it was, but that we didn't -- part of  
35 the reason we struck what it says and proposed because  
36 our working group said, well, what if it's proposed and  
37 it's not a good one. If it hasn't been adopted, why  
38 should it be endorsed.

39  
40 So I really appreciate your comments  
41 because I think it gets at another layer and sometimes  
42 you just need to step away from the document and hear  
43 another comment like this to say, okay, did we fully  
44 fix that section that was confusing and probably we  
45 didn't, so thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I really appreciate  
48 the development of this paragraph, but I feel that it  
49 needs to be fine tuned a little bit. My objective on  
50 the ground would be for the State and Federal managers

1 to develop management plans that assure health of the  
2 resources using recognized scientific principals  
3 according to ANILCA and those be reviewed by the  
4 Councils so we're comfortable with State and Federal  
5 management objectives on the Federal public land. So  
6 that's where I would like to see this go.

7

8 I see that you're moving in that  
9 direction. Maybe I didn't read it accurately, but I do  
10 feel that this is a major step towards healthy  
11 populations of wildlife on the Federal public lands and  
12 I appreciate the work that the working group has done  
13 on this. I just wanted to make the comments that I  
14 don't feel that all the State management plans are  
15 appropriate.

16

17 On Dall sheep, I do not feel that full  
18 extirpation of all full curl rams is beneficial to a  
19 population. I feel that it extirpates pheno types and  
20 is detrimental to a sheep population. That's in  
21 opposition to State management. State management feels  
22 that that's a self-regulating hunt. I don't feel so.  
23 I feel that it's detrimental to the genetic health of  
24 the populations and I feel that Federal managers and  
25 State managers should sit down and actually review  
26 what's healthy for populations, not just take a blanket  
27 endorsement of State policies, which is for maximum  
28 use, without looking at long-term genetic integrity of  
29 populations.

30

31 Four brow tine moose harvest is  
32 culling, eliminating, full extirpation of all the four  
33 brow tine moose on the regulations, eliminates a  
34 phenotype. That's a genetic damage. That's State  
35 management. I feel that Federal management should sit  
36 down and look at what is healthy for the populations  
37 and work with the State on how we're going to develop  
38 management plans that move away from doing genetic  
39 damage to populations and maintaining breeding  
40 structures. That's the direction that ANILCA requires.  
41 That's why I'm discussing this particular paragraph to  
42 this extent.

43

44 So that's all on the record. The  
45 working group can think about it. Robert.

46

47 MR. R. WALKER: We've talked about this  
48 numerous times, our tribal boards here in 21E that how  
49 would the Federal government say we're here for you for  
50 subsistence, we're 100 percent for you so you can get

1 and gather your fish and your meat and on the other  
2 hand they say, all right, this is Federal public lands.  
3 You can have your transporters, you can have your  
4 guides over here and you can all share the same land  
5 together. Now how is it supposed to work?

6  
7 We find it kind of hard to understand  
8 because it's just like another dirty white man trick to  
9 a lot of the tribes and that's what it is. I'm not  
10 being derogatory about it, but it is true. When you  
11 look at all these transporters that come in, they don't  
12 work like we do. We work the rivers, they work the  
13 hills, they work everywhere, they've got money, they  
14 can do just about anything they want. The State  
15 searches us, checks our ID, make sure we're bringing  
16 the meat home. You look at the transporters, there's  
17 only antlers going out, no meat.

18  
19 I mean how does this balance out here  
20 with all these issues here. We're here for you, but,  
21 again, bye, you know. It kind of like strikes a lot of  
22 us like we're just like a Third World. We're actually  
23 like people who live in the woods live in the woods  
24 versus urban, whatever. I mean this is a hard sell for  
25 a lot of tribes here because they're starting to wake  
26 up and look and, hey, what's going on here. I mean  
27 people want to go to the Board, these RAC meetings, but  
28 they feel like we're letting them down. Sometimes I  
29 feel like just resigning because what have I done to  
30 help my people or help the other people.

31  
32 This is something that we -- if we  
33 can't do anything here, might as well just dissolve the  
34 Board because -- look at it. Look at the hard thing to  
35 be looked at right here. That's one of them. I really  
36 feel that maybe it's just time we quit because we're  
37 not helping these people. The State is overriding,  
38 overrunning everything we've got. The Federal  
39 government say this, that. So I mean we're going to  
40 have to have a hard sell here somewhere to try to prove  
41 to the people that we are working for them. That's the  
42 bottom line.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, this kind of  
45 -- what we're working on in this document is going to  
46 -- every nut and bolt we twist in this, all for  
47 yesterday and today, is helping the people. If you're  
48 flying the airplane, nobody knows what's going on  
49 sitting in the passenger seat, but we're trying to help  
50 the people here. We're working for the people and the

1 resources. So, yeah, it seems like it gets a little  
2 frustrating sometimes, but we're here to work and I'm  
3 going to keep working for the people and for the  
4 resources.

5  
6                   It can be very frustrating sometimes,  
7 but I feel that a review of the Memorandum of  
8 Understanding is a very positive move by the Secretary  
9 of Interior. I feel a very positive movement of the  
10 State towards working towards a working document and I  
11 feel that just a little fine tuning of this language  
12 will achieve what the State and Federal managers -- we  
13 should have sustained yield. There is no maximum in  
14 the State constitution under fish and wildlife  
15 management, replenishable resource. There is no  
16 maximum. The State is convoluted. They took that out  
17 of the front part of the constitution and inserted that  
18 in fish and wildlife management. Sustained yield  
19 management is healthy populations and ANILCA requires  
20 that.

21  
22                   This document should reflect as a State  
23 and Federal management on Federal public lands should  
24 reflect what Congress intended for management on those  
25 Federal lands, which is healthy populations. This  
26 document will move towards developing and understanding  
27 that we are going to work for healthy populations on  
28 Federal public lands and I really encourage and want  
29 the State involvement in development of those plans.  
30 The State of Alaska has a lot of good data on managing  
31 populations of game. How the Board of Game changes or  
32 manages is a completely different issue.

33                   I do feel there's a couple little  
34 tweaks here. That you endorse the existing plans if  
35 appropriate and to recognize that there's a little more  
36 strengthening for the health of the populations on  
37 Federal public lands. Involvement of the Councils and  
38 the rest of this paragraph I have no fault with. I  
39 just wanted to bring out those few little issues there.  
40 I think we spent a lot of time on that.

41  
42                   Does any other Council members have any  
43 other comments on the document.

44  
45                   (No comments)

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have any more  
48 comments, Jennifer?

49  
50                   MS. YUHAS: I do not. Thank you for

1 the opportunity, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate all the  
4 work that you've done representing three different,  
5 Board of Fish, Board of Game and the Department. I  
6 appreciate that.

7

8 Any comments, Jerry?

9

10 MR. BERG: No. Thank you very much,  
11 Mr. Chair. Those are very good comments and we'll  
12 certainly take them into serious account when we get  
13 ready to make the next draft going forward to the  
14 Board.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that.  
17 Thank you. So we're going to continue on in the  
18 agenda. That was the Memorandum of Understanding.  
19 We're on new business.

20

21 Glenn.

22

23 DR. CHEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank  
24 you, Western Interior Regional Council members, for the  
25 opportunity to present the MOU and for obtaining your  
26 comments. We'll certainly convey them to the working  
27 group and the Board.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate you  
30 pinch hitting there for Jerry. So under new business,  
31 A, discussion of open.....

32

33 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

36

37 MR. GERVAIS: I had a question for  
38 Glenn while you're up. Is there any kind of mechanism  
39 through the Bureau of Indian Affairs authority that can  
40 help us get better traction on trying to get better  
41 precedence with this king salmon issue? Right now the  
42 North Pacific Council uses this criteria, I think it's  
43 called national standards, for determining how  
44 important commercial enterprise, such as the pollock  
45 harvest is against how important the salmon is as a  
46 resource for the rural users.

47

48 When I listen to debate at that North  
49 Pacific Council level, they seemed justified  
50 maintaining the pollock harvest based on how much

1 commercial value there is. I just was wondering is  
2 there any kind of mechanism with the Bureau of Indian  
3 Affairs where you can exert some authority that gives  
4 more precedence to the rural users?

5  
6 DR. CHEN: Mr. Chair. Mr. Gervais. I  
7 think the process that we're trying to do now is to  
8 have a collective effort among the entire Federal  
9 program to address some of these issues. So as you've  
10 probably heard in prior meetings, the Federal Board is  
11 quite interested in what's going on in the Bering Sea  
12 for the pollock fishery and the bycatch of salmon and  
13 so forth. So we do have members from our organization,  
14 Office of Subsistence Management and representatives of  
15 the Federal Board at some of these meetings and I think  
16 that's, at present, probably the most effective way  
17 that we can work.

18  
19 I'll certainly convey your interest and  
20 your viewpoints to our BIA regional director so then  
21 when he sits on the Board he can emphasize some of  
22 those aspects.

23  
24 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim.  
27 Thanks, Glenn. Under new business, discussion of open  
28 Council applications.

29  
30 Do you want to give that, Carl.

31  
32 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
33 The reason why I had this placed on the agenda is  
34 pretty much for the last seven or eight years there's  
35 been an overall decline statewide of all the regions in  
36 the number of applications or nominations received each  
37 year for Council members. This decline has been  
38 particularly pronounced in the northern regions,  
39 including this Council. This Council had barely enough  
40 applicants this last year to fill open seats on this  
41 Council. We had a couple of Councils -- we had one  
42 Council actually have fewer applications than there  
43 were open seats. We have another Council that had two  
44 resignations this year and as a result there were not  
45 enough applications to fill the unexpected  
46 resignations, so they're going to have a seat short.

47  
48 So what I wanted to do was take this  
49 opportunity to kind of give you an overall view of what  
50 we've done in the past and how I'd like to change that.

1 Typically what we've done at OSM in the past is to send  
2 out -- we kind of do a big launch in the fall at AFN of  
3 the applications processed, but we also make  
4 applications available at the fall meetings and then  
5 around the time of AFN we also send out a mass mailing.  
6 Last year it went out to over 1,500 different  
7 individuals, tribal organizations, associations, State  
8 agencies. Submitting the packets to encourage people  
9 to apply for the Councils.

10

11 What I want and hope that each one of  
12 the Councils will do is to assist us in a much more  
13 personal approach and that is you all are people who  
14 are obviously leaders in your community or else you  
15 wouldn't be here and you are involved in your regions  
16 and you're involved in your communities. What I'm  
17 hoping is you can help us to make more personal  
18 approaches. Maybe you can identify people in your  
19 community who you think would be good Council members  
20 or you might approach tribal leaders or other community  
21 leaders in your area and see if they know of somebody  
22 who they think would be a good Council member and  
23 encourage them to nominate someone.

24

25 Nominating someone for the Council is a  
26 highly underutilized process. This year we only had  
27 five nominees out of a total 67 applications received  
28 and two of those nominees dropped out of consideration  
29 and I suspect because somebody nominated them without  
30 actually talking to them first to see if they'd be  
31 interested in being on the Council. So that would be  
32 another important aspect of it. Whoever is considered  
33 to be nominated that the nominating individual or  
34 organization would approach them first and see if  
35 they're interested and then confirm that and then  
36 submit a nomination for them to the Council.

37

38 I have brought a stack of application  
39 forms with me. They are on the table. I want to  
40 encourage each Council member to take at least one if  
41 not two applications home with them as kind of a  
42 reminder and maybe they can think of someone themselves  
43 they might want to approach or you could encourage  
44 somebody, an organization in your community to approach  
45 someone or nominate someone to the Councils.

46

47 Again, this year we had a total of 67  
48 applications, whereas a matter of just six, seven or  
49 eight years ago we had well over 100 applications in a  
50 year. I don't know what's behind the decline. One of

1 the common things that I've heard at different Council  
2 meetings is that the per diem rate that we provide for  
3 participation in these Council meetings is low compared  
4 to other organizations or other groups or Councils.

5  
6                   Unfortunately, there's nothing we can  
7 do about that, but my response to that is let people  
8 know that the per diem rate, while low, may be  
9 discouraging, what's important is for them to  
10 understand the role of these Councils in the Federal  
11 Subsistence Program and how much of an impact they have  
12 on Federal Board decisions. Jack can attest to this.  
13 When you attended the wildlife regulatory meeting this  
14 last January and the Board pretty much across all  
15 proposals accepted the Council recommendations with  
16 very few exceptions.

17  
18                   Built into ANILCA is this expectation  
19 that the Federal Subsistence Board will take the  
20 recommendations of the Councils with limited  
21 exceptions. This Federal Subsistence Board has been  
22 very engaged and very responsive to the Council  
23 recommendations. So I think that's one thing you take  
24 home to that potential applicant or nominee is the  
25 importance of these Councils and their influence in  
26 subsistence management on Federal public lands in  
27 Alaska and I would hope that would be encouraging.

28  
29                   I'm open to any questions.

30  
31                   MS. YATLIN: Mr. Chairman. I think a  
32 lot of the -- not feedback, but a lot of us here who  
33 have been on these boards or the RAC -- you know, I was  
34 on that RAC for about 15 years and there was -- I think  
35 comments I mostly heard was the Board of Game or Board  
36 of Fish don't hear us anyway. So that's the level of  
37 -- you know, when I try to get people interested in  
38 either this one or the State RAC, they just have this  
39 feeling that they never listen anyway, so they don't  
40 even come to our meetings, you know.

41  
42                   So I've got to try to get past that and  
43 you are right about trying to -- maybe I have to bring  
44 a nomination packet to them to get other people  
45 interested. Because there's a lot of young people that  
46 are very intelligent. They went to school and they  
47 could go far if they even attend one of these meetings  
48 or RAC meetings. But they just have that thought in  
49 their head. I did too before. I just thought, well,  
50 they never hear us anyway, but it's changing. Thank

1 you.

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

4

5

MR. COLLINS: I know that issue has  
6 come up before on the per diem and so on and  
7 compensation, but I think it's a real issue for some  
8 because now I'm retired, so I have income, but people  
9 give up income opportunities and other things if  
10 they're going to really participate.

11

12

I know one meeting I turned down is  
13 when I was still working. I was going to require four  
14 days of travel to get to a two-day meeting because I  
15 had to go to town, stay there, go out the next day to  
16 Nulato, then do the same thing coming back. So, in  
17 other words six days I was missing of work or five days  
18 because one of them probably ended up on the weekend  
19 obviously.

20

21

Then with the per diem, right now on  
22 the Denali Park I've got about \$500 out of pocket that  
23 I haven't been reimbursed for because I had to pay for  
24 my own hotel and so on. The report is being bounced  
25 back and forth because something is missing in it, you  
26 know. So a meeting in August, here it is October now  
27 and I still haven't got -- I've been out that amount of  
28 money.

29

30

We've done a little better at this  
31 because we did have a per diem check here. But not  
32 only is it sometimes low, but it doesn't really  
33 compensate and yet we're required to be here and all  
34 the others are on salary here. You're making your 200  
35 a day or 150 a day or whatever it is and we're here  
36 with no compensation for our time and no compensation  
37 when we travel, you know what I mean.

38

39

I think for people that are still  
40 trying to support their family and have few work  
41 opportunities, even if it's just subsistence or  
42 trapping or something you're giving up time to  
43 participate in these activities and the compensation  
44 isn't very much, so that's one consideration. Then  
45 when it's so tough to get -- it helps when you pay for  
46 hotel rooms and things ahead of time so we don't have  
47 to do out of pocket, but some people don't have credit  
48 cards they can use. They have to come up with cash  
49 even to participate. So that's one aspect of it.

50

1                   Then there is frustration because  
2 things are so slow. I know on the Federal side issues  
3 were brought up in the Parks and so on. To get a permit  
4 to replace a subsistence cabin, it took us two or three  
5 years because there had to be a study of how they were  
6 done before and so on. Meanwhile, the trapper is out  
7 there staying in a tent or something because he can't  
8 replace the cabin. So it's frustrating, but that's  
9 part of the democratic process. It just takes so long  
10 to get responses.

11  
12                   But it would help on the compensation  
13 one if they seriously look at people wanting to be  
14 adequately compensated for work they're giving up or  
15 for certainly their per diem and how quickly the checks  
16 come in. That's my comment.

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert.

19  
20                   MR. R. WALKER: Yeah, I've got the same  
21 thing. I've been here a long -- like 12, 14 years so  
22 far. I have a job at the airport moving snow and when  
23 I'm gone sometimes five days, it's a little snow and  
24 the guys will spend maybe 30 hours cleaning the runway.  
25 That's \$600 out of what I've got to pay them. My  
26 income from here is probably only like \$400. I'm  
27 losing \$200 every time from November to May. Over the  
28 last 12, 14 years I've probably lost \$2,000 just to be  
29 here to ensure something that -- you know, what we're  
30 looking at to talk about, to ensure it's going to work.

31  
32  
33                   Like I'm having doubts now, like what  
34 have we accomplished, you know. Some of the people ask  
35 me what have you accomplished. I said, you know, just  
36 some of the things that you're going to have to take a  
37 look at. I spend my time, spend my money to ensure to  
38 try to make something balance out here for the people,  
39 our way of life or whatever.

40  
41                   But again, like I said, it's our money  
42 they're spending. I've done this for a long time.  
43 Spent my own money just to be here. Again, we brought  
44 this up last year too or two years ago, say, hey, why  
45 can't we be given a stipend for a meeting. Well, the  
46 budget has been cut. You know, we're here just making,  
47 what, 20, 30 dollars a day, 50 dollars a day or  
48 something.

49  
50                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Robert.

1 Pollock.

2

3 MR. SIMON: Yeah. I kind of like going  
4 with what Ray said about per diem rates. I think the  
5 Feds are paying us the Lower 48 rates, but the cost of  
6 living up here is three times that of the Lower 48.  
7 I'm retired, so I can leave my home. But there's some  
8 young peoples that are working and they have to leave  
9 their job to come to the meeting. Like Ray said, for  
10 two-day meetings you've got to travel four days. The  
11 current per diem doesn't reflect that.

12

13 I, myself, is dedicated to be on this  
14 Board and try to work with the agencies and try to help  
15 the local people all over the state. I don't work, I'm  
16 retired now, but I have a dog team and while I'm away I  
17 have to hire somebody to feed them. That amount of per  
18 diem is enough to pay that person to take care of my  
19 dogs, but after that, in town or some place, I have to  
20 dig in my pocket to do some expense.

21

22 So I think that's part of the reason  
23 that a lot of young people -- some of them are  
24 interested in being on the board, but, again, the cost  
25 of travel in Alaska is too high and the per diem  
26 doesn't reflect that.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.  
31 Appreciate your words. My comment -- Vince wanted to  
32 say something, but my comment would be the per diems  
33 are set awfully low and people sacrifice a lot. OSM  
34 will pay for per diem and travel and hotel and what I  
35 want to reiterate to OSM is that we want the most  
36 expeditious -- and I appreciate these charters that cut  
37 two days of travel off of my and Ray's and various  
38 people's travel times.

39

40 I want Pete Probasco and OSM to  
41 understand that that should be a given. I don't care  
42 if it costs a little bit more. We sacrifice -- and you  
43 heard it. We sacrifice a whole bunch to attend  
44 meetings. We don't need to be sitting around in hotels  
45 in Anchorage or Fairbanks waiting for planes, so we  
46 would like to have the most expeditious charters or  
47 whatever it takes.

48

49 And I highly appreciate what Melinda  
50 did to get us to this meeting more expeditiously, and

1 yourself, Carl.

2

3                   But I want OSM to understand that the  
4 most expeditious transportation for Council members  
5 that are sacrificing time away from jobs or away from  
6 home. My wife is at home with a six-week-old baby  
7 throwing wood on the fire and she's running out of  
8 wood. I need to be home and I can't be spending extra  
9 time away from home. So I've got a 78-year-old mom.  
10 I've got stuff at home I need to be doing.

11

12                   So I would appreciate OSM understanding  
13 that the cheapest method of getting us to meetings is  
14 not always the most beneficial to Councils and  
15 maintaining Council membership. The question is about  
16 membership. People get tied up spending too much time  
17 away from home they're not going to want to be on a  
18 Council. So I think that's a big answer to the  
19 question that you posed here.

20

21                   Did you have a quick insert there,  
22 Vince.

23

24                   MR. MATHEWS: Speaking as the past  
25 State coordinator for 14 advisory committees and this  
26 Regional Council and others, what needs to be added to  
27 the process is -- the government runs in a linear  
28 fashion. Got proposals, get comments in, Board acts,  
29 process moves on. When I go to the villages and sit  
30 down in a room like this and talk to tribal council and  
31 I said, oh, you know, so and so or such and such  
32 proposal got passed, they go oh really. I didn't know  
33 that.

34

35                   I think what's missing is there needs  
36 to be a feedback loop to the communities. Now if they  
37 read it or not that's their decision, but right now  
38 people leave board meetings because their individual  
39 issue didn't get passed, so they just assume that all  
40 the other ones didn't get passed. There needs to be a  
41 feedback loop. You guys do that feedback loop. You're  
42 above the majority of the villages. You're doing that.  
43 But there needs to be a mechanism that feeds back  
44 because they're not getting a report. No one is going  
45 to do something for nothing, so why apply for something  
46 if you don't know what they do to benefit you. I think  
47 that's what Robert was indicating for this area.

48

49                   So that can be done through your .805c  
50 letter, it can be done through the different agencies

1 to get back there, including the proposals that didn't  
2 pass, that didn't meet what they want there, but the  
3 smarter ones, like you and this Council, would they  
4 know why. See that's what's missing in the loop. They  
5 don't know why the Board didn't pass it. It may have  
6 been just because of timing. May have been because of  
7 reasons that could be quickly changed in the next  
8 round, but no one knows that.

9

10 So based on my experience both with the  
11 State side and the other side that falls upon the  
12 managers. Well, Fred's got to run the fisheries. Your  
13 area biologist has got to continue doing all that and  
14 others. So there needs to be some kind of mechanism  
15 that backfeeds through so they understand and then go  
16 from there. But I serve on those nomination panels and  
17 it's really difficult when you have so few applicants.  
18 In full respect to those that applied, they were very  
19 qualified people. I'm not indicating they're not, but  
20 at some point that's going to tip and then it doesn't  
21 function.

22

23 So that's my little bit and I've worked  
24 with Carl on some feedback loops, but I haven't been  
25 able to succeed on that, Carl. Part of my duties is --  
26 well, because of the factor is that there's timing in  
27 there. Your timing doesn't meet other timing. But I  
28 was trying to get back, take the proposals, boil them  
29 down, which one affects -- since Pollock is here, which  
30 one affects Allakaket so when Staff goes out there they  
31 can share with them all that happened. Yes, Pollock  
32 could do that also, but I think it's easier -- well,  
33 Pollock is in a unique situation. A lot of the other  
34 villages don't have a representative. But even for his  
35 area I think it's easier for the people to hear it from  
36 the agency and then he can explain how his effort was  
37 in it. So if we could do that I think you'll see  
38 others saying maybe I should get on board.

39

40 Then finally it was a dream that's  
41 never happened, but we need to -- there's a whole bunch  
42 of students right over there and they need to be over  
43 here because they're the next ones you're going to  
44 nominate. So somehow or another my dream was to  
45 develop a school program. I never got to it. But the  
46 point is they're over there, we're over here.

47

48 So until we get those two together it's  
49 just going to be you people are making these bridges,  
50 making these extra sacrifices. I'm not sure the next

1 generation is ready to do that. In full respect to  
2 all, when you've had students here you've highly  
3 respected them, so I applaud you for doing that because  
4 they're the ones that are going to take what they're  
5 learning over there and applying it through here.

6  
7                   Anyway, that's my little speech, but  
8 hopefully there will be some kind of feedback loop so  
9 people can see your report card. When I did it for the  
10 State, I analyzed it for the advisory committees and it  
11 was as high as 80 percent success rate. I think on the  
12 Federal side it's actually higher and that's what he  
13 said, but that's not getting to Leroy and others in  
14 this village that you have that high success rate  
15 because all they see is the book. God bless us now, we  
16 marked the changes in the regulations books, but they  
17 don't see what else you're doing.

18  
19                   Anyway, thank you.

20  
21                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Vince. I do  
22 feel it's very important for actions of the Federal  
23 Subsistence Board to be transmitted back to the  
24 villages under the tribal consultation aspect and a  
25 synopsis, just like the cheat sheet. What the proposal  
26 was, what it was going to do, what the Board did and  
27 why they acted on that issue. It can be a real short  
28 little document sent out to the tribal councils and key  
29 individuals on the advisory committees and so forth in  
30 those communities and I think that would be a real  
31 positive thing so people would know what's actually  
32 happening and whether it's actually making any  
33 difference, their comments. Jenny.

34  
35                   MS. PELKOLA: I'd also like to make a  
36 comment. I think it's very important that you have a  
37 contact person in the village. Usually when we're  
38 going to meet in Galena I just get nosy and I try to  
39 make it my business because when we come -- when we  
40 have visitors come to our village we like to have food  
41 for them, you know, make sure they're eating and stuff  
42 like that. I know for a fact and I'm sure if there was  
43 a contact person, maybe more than one or two, you need  
44 a backup plan, but we'd have more food here from the  
45 village. So just think about that.

46  
47                   Back to the application process. I  
48 think that we need more -- well, you guys did a good  
49 job, I guess, sending to so and so and so, but they  
50 don't distribute. Like you send a whole stack to the

1 village council maybe and they don't really bring it  
2 out. So I think you need a contact person or you need  
3 someone and maybe you can get from the village councils  
4 ask them who would be the contact person or maybe the  
5 chief, you know, would be doing that or maybe the  
6 second chief. Every village has a chief and a second  
7 chief, so you can probably try that. I, myself, am  
8 retired, but I do more work now than when I was  
9 working.

10

11 MR. COLLINS: Amen.

12

13 MS. PELKOLA: I think that's just  
14 something that happens. Anyway, I reapplied. My seat  
15 was up. I did reapply, but I won't hear until  
16 December. Anyway, we'll see what happens.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny. I  
19 think we've covered this issue enough and we need to  
20 move on in this agenda. We're on item B, regulatory  
21 cycle review on Page 139.

22

23 Tom.

24

25 MR. KRON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
26 During the past regulatory cycle several of the  
27 Councils expressed concern, including this one.  
28 Basically there was a request that the fall meeting  
29 window be moved later in the year so that the Council  
30 meetings could occur into November after the fall  
31 subsistence had occurred. The Board met -- the Federal  
32 Subsistence Board met in May 2012 this past spring and  
33 discussed this issue and decided not to take action  
34 until it heard first from the Regional Advisory  
35 Councils.

36

37 I guess a little bit of history. I  
38 think the Board has tried to be responsive. Back in  
39 2003 there was a committee assigned to work on this  
40 issue. I chaired that committee. I specifically  
41 remember talking to Ron Sam at that time, your former  
42 Chair, to ask him about his concerns. One of his  
43 concerns was the same thing we're hearing now about  
44 impact on subsistence, can we move the Regional Council  
45 meetings later in the fall and we did back then. The  
46 summary of some of the changes that we recommended, the  
47 committee recommended and the Board implemented, are  
48 included there on Page 139. I won't spend a lot of  
49 time on that.

50

1                   But, again, based on your request and  
2 other Councils' request, there's an interest to see if  
3 we can make things more accommodating now. Some of the  
4 recommendations from Staff are included there on Page  
5 140. The changes that again would help the process  
6 overall, help OSM get things done, accommodate  
7 subsistence schedules for the subsistence users on the  
8 Regional Advisory Councils, I guess I'll go through  
9 those real quickly, but we're looking for your comments  
10 and input and then we'll pass that on to the Federal  
11 Board.

12  
13                   One of the recommendations was to hold  
14 Board meetings to review proposed changes to the  
15 wildlife, hunting and trapping regulations in early  
16 April instead of trying to do those in January at the  
17 same time the fish regs are done.

18  
19                   Extend the Regional Advisory Council  
20 meeting window into early November. Right now it's  
21 through mid October. We've granted some exceptions  
22 when people just can't do it. But formally extend the  
23 window even further into the fall to allow subsistence  
24 users to be able to complete their subsistence  
25 gathering activity.

26  
27                   Three, on Page 140, is to hold the  
28 Board meeting to review proposed changes to the  
29 subsistence fisheries regulations no  
30 later than early January. Those of you that have been  
31 involved in the process a long time will remember the  
32 Boards used to meet in December and then in 2003, based  
33 on the recommendations of the committee, they moved it  
34 to January, which allowed a little bit more time for  
35 the Councils and developing the Staff analyses. Again,  
36 focusing in on when the Board would meet and, again,  
37 just come right out and say that they're not going to  
38 meet on subsistence issues until January.

39  
40                   And then maintain the current effective  
41 date for the subsistence fisheries regulations.  
42 Essentially we put out a regs book that applies across  
43 the state. A lot of the fisheries, particularly those  
44 in Southeast and further south began in the spring and  
45 the idea was to get through that process so that you  
46 could provide those subsistence opportunities for those  
47 earlier fisheries.

48  
49                   Anyway, those were the recommendations,  
50 but we wanted to hear from you as well and see what you

1 think.

2

3

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tom. Is the Council clear on the issue? This was one of our annual report items that we included. Included several of these points. Other Councils have taken up the charge so to speak because there was many Chairs at the January meeting stating that they didn't like coming at that time of the year.

Does the Council have questions on the issue. Does the Council have comments on the issue? Pollock.

MR. SIMON: I used to trap lots in my life. I don't trap much now, but I don't have no trouble with going to meeting in early October rather than November because November 1st trapping season opens and some people might want to go trap. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'd like to see the window open through the middle of November like when we have our Subsistence Resource Commission meeting after the first week of November. You can get your traps set and go to a meeting. It also gives the Council a leeway to decide on when to have the meeting instead of being compressed. I see these Councils are all overlapping and fighting over the same week sometimes and if there's more weeks available it allows the Councils to have more opportunity to select when they have adequate Staff.

I do appreciate the change on 1. I do appreciate the change to November on 2, but I would say through the middle of November, the 15th of November. On 3 I still -- it says that fishing regulations to change Board meeting will occur in early January. They met on January 18th this year. I again will reiterate that early January for Interior people is extremely hard to attend because it was 60 below zero when I was trying to leave home and I do not feel -- there's many reasons why I said that's a bad time. A, it's really cold. It's not a good time for travel. Bert from Southeast was saying that he didn't feel comfortable leaving his wife there in Southeast in early January -- or the middle of January.

1                   The other thing is many Staff members  
2 are coming back from vacation, they're trying to do  
3 catch-up. They're like coming off of vacation and here  
4 they have to get dropped right into a Federal Board  
5 meeting. I feel that it's counter productive for our  
6 Staff. OSM has lost so many people. I don't want to  
7 stress the Staff out at OSM. There's really no reason  
8 to have an early January meeting because of the Staff  
9 stress also.

10  
11                   Under 4 it says maintain the current  
12 effective dates for subsistence fisheries. There would  
13 have to be a regulation change. Can this Council  
14 propose a regulatory change to align to a regulatory  
15 year with game of July 1 to April 30 for fisheries  
16 regulations? What type of proposal would that be?

17  
18                   The regulatory cycle for fisheries  
19 regulations should be July 1 to June 30th. Right now  
20 it's March -- April 1 to February 28th or whatever.  
21 There's really no reason -- there may be a few  
22 Southeast fisheries issues, but those can be  
23 supplements in regulation. If the Board passed  
24 something that goes into effect, those can actually be  
25 implemented earlier.

26  
27                   I feel that the benefit of having a  
28 coinciding State and Fish and Game regulations coming  
29 into effect on the regulatory cycle July 1 has far more  
30 benefit to the subsistence users and Federal Program  
31 and for the few regulations that may come into effect  
32 by the Board previous.

33  
34                   So what would be the proposal that the  
35 Council could make to change the regulatory year?

36  
37                   MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. You could do  
38 this in a number of ways. Essentially, just by talking  
39 about it the Board will be able to see the transcripts.  
40 We'll pass this information along. So it's being done  
41 right now without doing anything additional. You could  
42 send a letter if you wanted to.

43  
44                   To change the date for the fish regs,  
45 again, in 2003 we moved it from March 1 to April 1, so  
46 we moved it a month later. To move it to July 1 --  
47 again, I guess what I was thinking about a little bit  
48 when you were talking was that there's going to be an  
49 interest in trying to get the changes made before the  
50 salmon season for example and the salmon season is

1 going to be starting in June, going into July and  
2 August. You've got some fisheries that are occurring  
3 earlier in the spring and there's a benefit to being  
4 able to address some of those for the Yukon and Upper  
5 Kuskokwim as well. Again, it's going to be a little  
6 bit later because those stocks don't get up into the  
7 Western Interior Region until a little later in the  
8 summer.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What about shifting  
11 it to May 1?

12

13 MR. KRON: You can request that.  
14 You've done so in the transcripts right now.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I feel that even a  
17 one-month shift where we move the Federal Board cycle  
18 out of January and we move it into February instead of  
19 meeting in January, the Federal Board meets in  
20 February, the weather is lightening up, the Staff is  
21 off of vacation, they've cleaned their 3,000 emails out  
22 of their email box.....

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....everybody's all  
27 happy again, the sun is coming back, travel is easier.  
28 So if the fish regulations went into effect on May 1,  
29 it would still be a heck of a lot better than the cycle  
30 we're stuck in right now.

31

32 Can that accommodate getting the  
33 regulations published by the first of May if the Board  
34 meets in the middle of February? It should be.

35

36 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. I think that  
37 sort of thing would work. To make this kind of change  
38 we'd have to again submit a request through the Federal  
39 Register process to change the scheduling and that was  
40 what was done back in 2003 to change it from April 1 --  
41 or from March 1 to April 1. So to shift it another  
42 month, again, it would give us more time with Regional  
43 Councils, it would give us more time with the Board  
44 meeting and that's what it's about. But, again, it's  
45 your call what you want to recommend.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: As a Chair, I feel  
50 that we should send a letter to the Federal Subsistence

1 Board requesting that the regulation publication date  
2 for fisheries regulations be shifted from April 1 to  
3 May 1 and that the Federal Subsistence Board meeting  
4 for fisheries should be shifted back to mid February.  
5 Do I have a motion effect?

6

7 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Carl, do you  
10 have.....

11

12 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. I just wanted  
13 to point out the potential complications of shifting a  
14 Federal Subsistence Board meeting to mid February,  
15 which is also the time when the Council meeting cycle  
16 commences in the winter as well. So you'd have  
17 possibly a Board meeting and Council meeting.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When does the cycle  
20 start, mid February?

21

22 MR. JOHNSON: That is correct, Mr.  
23 Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Or the first week --  
26 what about the 7th of February or first week in  
27 February, 10th of February? Can the Staff accommodate  
28 the Federal Subsistence Board and then go into the  
29 Council meetings?

30

31 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. We're your  
32 Staff, so we'll work to accommodate you as best we  
33 possibly can. But, again, I think what Carl raised is  
34 an issue, but even shifting things to the first week of  
35 February would address a lot of the issues that you've  
36 been talking about.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It addresses a lot  
39 of the issues. We'll state early February in the  
40 letter. Do I have a motion to that effect.

41

42 MR. SIMON: So moved.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do I have a second.

45

46 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded. Any  
49 discussion on the letter to shift the fisheries  
50 publication to May 1 instead of April 1st and the

1 Federal Subsistence Board meeting to early February.

2

3

(No comments)

4

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MR. SIMON: Question.

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is called. Those in favor of that letter to the Federal Subsistence Board signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same sign.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other than that I appreciate this document and the work that OSM has done on this. Tom, thank you.

MR. KRON: Thank you.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

MR. COLLINS: I have another comment. Maybe this is the place to say it, but I've been thinking about with the previous discussion about getting members on. Robert mentioned the frustration with how slow it is in making decisions and feel you're not getting anywhere. I think if there was an effort on the part of the Staff in helping us developing proposals and for all the agencies involved if they looked at ways that decisions could be made in a more timely manner.

For instance, like now we have to have special action to extend the season because the weather was bad and they couldn't get out and hunt and so on. So if we drafted proposals where there was more flexibility for that manager in the Park or in the Refuge to be able to make those changes, but we're going to need help in developing proposals that would pass that and that has to do with the debates of the Board when they're looking at that to recommend things back to us or whatever.

How do we speed up the process to have

1 what we're approving actually put into place in a more  
2 responsive way especially with the weather change. I  
3 think about late winter hunts and so on where we've  
4 allowed five days and then the weather doesn't even  
5 allow people to go out. We haven't given an  
6 opportunity. Yet ANILCA says they're supposed to be  
7 provided an opportunity.

8

9                   Sometimes the stuff we deal with  
10 doesn't clearly provide an adequate opportunity, yet  
11 the resource was there and was underharvested, but it  
12 isn't on paper that you can do it at this time. If  
13 that whole process would change, I think people would  
14 be more happy taking part in the Boards and we would be  
15 responding better to community needs. I don't know  
16 where this goes in, but if we can just keep that in  
17 mind all the way around.

18

19                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tom.

20

21                   MR. KRON: Again, a very good comment.  
22 I've heard Jack remind us that Federal agencies are  
23 supposed to have the least adverse possible impact.  
24 That's right in ANILCA and it's something that I think  
25 we all need to remember. All the Federal agencies  
26 working with the Councils. We need to strive to have  
27 the least adverse impact possible. Thank you.

28

29                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tom. Okay.  
30 We're coming down on lunch, but we've got a real short  
31 one here under C, reappointments of Gates of the Arctic  
32 Subsistence Resource Commission member.

33

34                   Do you want to speak to that?

35

36                   MR. SUMMERS: Certainly. Mr. Chairman.  
37 Clarence Summers, National Park Service, Alaska  
38 Regional Office. I want to point out that your charter  
39 allows you to appoint a member to the Gates of the  
40 Arctic National Park Service Subsistence Resource  
41 Commission. Pollock Simon currently serves in that  
42 position. He's currently the chairman. You have an  
43 opportunity to reappoint him to the Gates of the Arctic  
44 Subsistence Resource Commission.

45

46                   MS. YATLIN: So moved.

47

48                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got a motion  
49 to reappoint by Eleanor.

50

1 MS. PELKOLA: Second.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.  
4 Discussion. Robert.  
5  
6 MR. GERVAIS: Question.  
7  
8 MR. R. WALKER: Did Pollock Simon want  
9 this?  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to be  
12 reappointed, Pollock?  
13  
14 MR. SIMON: Yes, I'm interested. Thank  
15 you, Mr. Chair.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm the vice chair  
18 of the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource  
19 Commission. Pollock does an excellent job for the  
20 Commission, so I highly endorse his chairmanship and  
21 membership.  
22  
23 Question on the motion.  
24  
25 REPORTER: It was called.  
26  
27 MR. HONEA: Question.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question is called.  
30 Those in favor of reappointing Pollock Simon to the  
31 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission  
32 signify by saying aye.  
33  
34 IN UNISON: Aye.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
37 sign.  
38  
39 (No opposing votes)  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock.  
42  
43 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair. Thank you,  
44 Council members, for reappointing me this position. I  
45 appreciate your trust in me.  
46  
47 Thank you.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.  
50

1 MR. COLLINS: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think lunch has  
4 arrived. It's probably a good time for a break for  
5 lunch. We'll come back at 1:00. Recess until 1:00.

6

7 (Off record)

8

9 (On record)

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to bring  
12 the meeting back to order and I guess we can start  
13 without Carl. He'll probably show up here pretty  
14 quick. I did get a call. Geoff Beyersdorf was on the  
15 conference call. Said he was listening to our  
16 discussions for a couple hours and wanted to convey his  
17 greetings to the Council and said he missed us and  
18 hoped we're doing well.

19

20 MR. HONEA: Where was he?

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He's down in  
23 Montana. Says he mainly deals with litigation. He  
24 works for BLM managing some BLM area down there. So I  
25 wanted to convey his greetings to the Council. So  
26 we're on Item D. Western Arctic Caribou Herd issues.

27

28 I received a letter from the Chairman  
29 of the Western Arctic Caribou working group and that  
30 letter was to the Governor and basically the letter was  
31 telling the Governor that the concerns regarding  
32 building roads in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd's  
33 migration routes, the Ambler Road and the Foothills  
34 Road.

35

36 I wanted the Council to be aware that  
37 there are roads proposed to be built through the  
38 Western Arctic Caribou's migration route. Those roads  
39 would also impact the Central Arctic and Teshekpuk  
40 Herds in the northern portion of our region in Unit 24.  
41 That's a big issue for us where those caribou would be  
42 impacted.

43

44 Pollock is on that working group and I  
45 would like to have Pollock add any comments that he  
46 would have from that working group. He'd basically be  
47 representing this Regional Council as a member of the  
48 Council. He's also in the working group.

49

50 Go ahead if you have something to say

1 there, Pollock. Appreciate it.

2

3 MR. SIMON: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
4 Chairman. I sit on the Western Arctic Caribou working  
5 group representing Koyukuk River and want to mention  
6 the road affects the caribou migration route. In the  
7 '70s and into the '80s, that plan was made along with  
8 the Haul Road. It was called the Haul Road the first  
9 time for a few years and of course it was Federal  
10 public funds mostly and pretty soon it became a public  
11 road. People go up and down the road. What I always  
12 tell them is that headlights from the vehicles going  
13 back and forth, the caribous are afraid of it.

14

15 They used to go into the  
16 (indiscernible), which is in our area, but there's a  
17 road going north/south and pretty soon the caribou is  
18 afraid of the traffic and they're staying more to the  
19 west. After the Haul Road was built we didn't have  
20 caribou for a while. But they go around the coast and  
21 then come in from the west into Allakaket. The caribou  
22 came around this winter. We never had caribou for 10  
23 years and all of a sudden November caribou was just  
24 trotting through the village.

25

26 In Nome, they have north from Nome a  
27 100-mile road and the caribou go west out to the  
28 Peninsula, but it shows some of those caribou have  
29 those radio collars and they're tracked by National  
30 Park and Fish and Game. You can see on the map that  
31 all the dots representing each caribou to the east. A  
32 straight line those dots. That tells me that they're  
33 scared of the road.

34

35 There's going to be a road from  
36 Prospect north to Ambler and that's in the process.  
37 It's on the drawing board. There's a road from Umiat  
38 to some more minor sites or something like that. Those  
39 are on the drawing board. Can't do much about that.  
40 We're fighting progress, but I'm not afraid to say that  
41 the roads always distracts the migration caribou  
42 route.

43

44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.  
47 The Western Arctic Caribou working group, their main  
48 request is to the governor and they have two main  
49 points. The State of Alaska funded a community health  
50 request that the State of Alaska fund a community

1 health impact assessment to identify the potential  
2 impacts of proposed roads on people and their  
3 communities within the range of the Western Arctic  
4 Herd.

5  
6 Part of this project could be  
7 structured using the technical guidelines of health  
8 impact assessments in Alaska report that identifies  
9 health facts categories relevant to the Alaskan  
10 Resource Development projects. The food, nutritional  
11 and subsistence activity category on Page 29 of this  
12 document appears to address the primary concerns of the  
13 working group including, A, how changes in wildlife  
14 habitat hunting patterns and food choices will  
15 influence the diet and cultural practices of local  
16 communities and, B, protect specific impacts that may  
17 affect the availability of food needs by local  
18 communities to survive in a mixed cash/subsistence  
19 economy in rural Alaska.

20  
21 Under .805 of ANILCA the Council is to  
22 identify subsistence needs and impacts in our annual  
23 report and this letter I felt is precise. The Federal  
24 Board should be made aware that the working group,  
25 which is comprised of membership in a vast area  
26 including members of our Council, is bringing out some  
27 very important issues to the governor and these should  
28 be made aware to the Federal Subsistence Board and I  
29 would like to have the key points of the Western Arctic  
30 Caribou Herd's working group from April 20th, 2012 to  
31 Governor Sean Parnell submitted in our annual report.

32  
33 Is that agreeable to the Council.

34  
35 (Council nods affirmatively)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing affirmative,  
38 that will be an annual report topic. Eleanor.

39  
40 MS. YATLIN: Just a note. I heard that  
41 one of their ways to put in the road is -- I mean when  
42 they do do the development, they wanted to put an  
43 overpass over the road so the caribou will go over  
44 that.

45  
46 (Laughter)

47  
48 MS. YATLIN: Or under.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I don't know

1 if you can get them to go through a tunnel.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. GERVAIS: Crosswalk.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The only way they'll  
10 do that is on the back of a pickup. So I just wanted  
11 the Council to be aware of this issue and that it  
12 should be included in our annual report as a topic. So  
13 that's the coverage on that issue I would like.

14

15 We're to E on our agenda. Special  
16 action request regarding 21E moose. I'll have Innoko  
17 Refuge come up and they can pass out -- we discussed  
18 this issue at previous meetings and, as I stated at the  
19 beginning of this meeting, the Federal Subsistence  
20 Board passed the WP10-69, which was a customary and  
21 traditional use determination for Lower Unit 21E, which  
22 this Council has referred to for Aniak, Chuathbaluk,  
23 Upper and Lower Kalskag. Those communities now will be  
24 able to hunt for moose in the lower portion of 21E from  
25 Paimiut Slough to Molybdenum Mountain south. Our  
26 concerns were the winter moose hunt and Innoko has  
27 taken our comments and then developed a preliminary  
28 strategy.

29

30 You can go over that now, Bo or Jerry,  
31 if you'd like.

32

33 MR. SLOAN: Mr. Chair. Before I get  
34 into this I want to kind of go off point just  
35 slightly.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure.

38

39 MR. SLOAN: .....and address something  
40 that Robert touched on earlier and Ray and I talked  
41 about it at the break. I really want to say thank you  
42 to everybody on this Council for what it is that you  
43 do. To be quite honest, I think you do a tremendous  
44 job. I think you guys represent your community well.  
45 I think you represent the users of our resources very,  
46 very well.

47

48 Throughout the year I have to attend  
49 several meetings. Some of them I kind of want to go to  
50 and a lot I don't, but there are two types of meetings

1 that I truly enjoy going to and that's the ACs and the  
2 RAC. To be quite honest with you, like I say, it  
3 validates tremendously what I try to do for a living as  
4 a Federal land manager. So without you guys, what I do  
5 wouldn't be near as effective because a lot of times we  
6 wouldn't know what issues are the most important, what  
7 things to address.

8

9 So don't ever think that you're not  
10 having a real positive impact out there because you  
11 guys really are. There again, like I say, as a Federal  
12 land manager I appreciate the heck out of what you do  
13 because it truly helps validate what I do for a living  
14 and what we're trying to do out here with these  
15 National Wildlife Refuges and other conservation units  
16 here in the state. So thanks.

17

18 MR. SIMON: Thanks.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Bo.

21

22 MR. SLOAN: So to get back on point now  
23 with what we were talking about relative to the 21E  
24 winter moose hunt. Jerry Berg, are you still on the  
25 line?

26

27 MR. BERG: I'm here, Bo.

28

29 MR. SLOAN: Okay. Like Jack said,  
30 we've all been talking about this and trying to come up  
31 with a plan to try to administer this hunt with the new  
32 C&T finding of the villages to the south and the  
33 delineation of that Paimiut area. In working with  
34 Jerry, Jerry actually drafted this Federal emergency  
35 special action request. We're just proposing to the  
36 Council as a potential course of action. This is  
37 something that if you guys like it, you can adopt it  
38 and go to the Federal Subsistence Board with it.

39

40 Basically what it does is it takes --  
41 you see right there in No. 1, what regulation does it  
42 change and that's the regulation as it currently exists  
43 right now. It changes it to the wording in No. 2.  
44 Basically what it does in a nutshell is it takes that  
45 40 moose harvestable limit that we have in our 21E  
46 Federal hunt and basically suggests that we assign no  
47 more than eight moose to that Paimiut Slough area.  
48 Once that eight moose harvest is it, then as the Innoko  
49 manager I would close that section of 21E, so that part  
50 of the Federal winter hunt would close. So, in a

1 nutshell, that's what this is.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Bo.  
4 Council questions on the special action request draft  
5 language before us. Questions on the need or on the  
6 draft language.

7

8 Tim.

9

10 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
11 Bo. So say it was bad hunting down in that southern  
12 Paimiut Slough area, they could still harvest like 35  
13 bulls in the rest of 21E and only 5 in that special  
14 harvest area? Like you could -- those eight bulls  
15 aren't reserved for just that southern section?

16

17 MR. SLOAN: Right. Right. The way it  
18 is now -- and let me say, too, you know, I mean of  
19 course things change over time, but up to this point we  
20 haven't harvested anywhere near our -- or not had  
21 reported harvest of our 40 moose harvestable limit in  
22 21E. But, yeah, eight is that maximum and certainly  
23 you could have a 35 and 5 like you described. It's  
24 just that once we -- we've got a 24-hour reporting  
25 requirement and it's a registration hunt and it has a  
26 24-hour reporting requirement. Once we get eight  
27 harvested moose reported in that Paimiut area we'll  
28 close it, but it's certainly within the realm of  
29 possibility that this hunt could run its entire 30-day  
30 course and that never occur. I don't think it's very  
31 probable, but it's certainly possible.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And one  
34 clarification, Tim. This is eight moose, not bulls.

35

36 MR. SLOAN: Yeah.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is a winter  
39 hunt, antlerless moose. They could kill three bulls  
40 and five cows or whatever. Other questions or  
41 clarifications.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When the Federal  
46 Subsistence Board discussed this in April of 2010, the  
47 GASH communities came to the Federal Subsidence Board  
48 meeting, wanted additional time in Aniak, we had a  
49 conference call and took testimony regarding the C&T,  
50 but throughout the whole Federal Board process I

1 continuously cautioned the Federal Board that there is  
2 a winter moose quota of 40 moose and we do not want  
3 them all taken in the new C&T area. The fall hunt for  
4 bulls only is not a concern with the bull/cow ratio  
5 that we have, but we did have concern and we would  
6 submit a special action request, and this is a very  
7 necessary thing to control how many moose are going to  
8 be taken in that lower portion. I personally feel that  
9 eight moose is a healthy number of moose to not stress  
10 the population even if they were all cows. I don't  
11 think it would be detrimental to the moose population.  
12 It still allows the Zone 2 area or everything above  
13 Paimiut in 21E to have the remainder of that quota.

14

15 What was the harvest? Do you have the  
16 harvest data this year?

17

18 MR. HILL: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
19 Council. Yes. Harvest data for this year was seven  
20 moose during the February 15th through the March 15th,  
21 2012 hunt. Unlike the previous year where I think we  
22 had four cows and two bulls. We actually had two cows  
23 and five bulls harvested.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So harvest in Zone  
26 2, the upper part of 21E, has still got lots of  
27 additional harvest capacity. So at this point this  
28 draft language looks good to me. I do think that the  
29 regulation that -- the first part it says the  
30 consultation with the ADF&G area biologist, Chair of  
31 the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council and the  
32 Middle Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee. That is  
33 actually a typo in regulation and it should actually be  
34 in consultation for the GASH Advisory Committee. For  
35 the special action request, I would like to change that  
36 to the GASH Advisory Committee for consultation on  
37 conditions and needs for closure for the winter hunt.

38

39 Is the Council clear on that slight  
40 language change there.

41

42 MR. HILL: Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

45

46 MR. HILL: One more addition to that.  
47 We would like to add the BLM field supervisor to the  
48 list of those to be consulted.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure. BLM field

1 supervisor.

2

3 MR. HILL: Yes. They're going to have  
4 a significant role in administering this hunt, issuing  
5 permits, plus they have a significant amount of land,  
6 the majority of the land in the unit.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That would  
9 also be their wildlife biologist position?

10

11 MR. HILL: Yes. That position is still  
12 not filled, Geoff Beyersdorf. Merben suggests put  
13 field manager, not supervisor.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Field manager.

16

17 MR. HILL: Yeah, I think that's the  
18 same office the subsistence coordinator is in, so  
19 without the position being filled.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

22

23 MR. HILL: .....I think that's what we  
24 decided.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Merben.

27

28 MR. SLOAN: To be honest, I think just  
29 like that other one was a typo, I'm pretty sure that's  
30 what happened because that really should have always  
31 been in number one because the reality is that's  
32 physically how it worked. It just was omitted, I  
33 think, when it was written the first time.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any further  
36 additions or discussion on the winter quota for the new  
37 C&T area, which this Council refers to as Zone 1 and  
38 21E. Don.

39

40 MR. HONEA: I actually wanted to thank  
41 you for your comments. I think it's a sentiment across  
42 the Board. Sometimes we get to feeling like what  
43 difference are we making and I could say that about  
44 ours, so I wanted to thank you for those exact  
45 sentiments and express that.

46

47 I just think that people are fortunate  
48 here in this area where this hunt is here because I  
49 know that the numbers in the Nowitna and I don't know  
50 about the Koyukuk, but the numbers expressed as I

1 mentioned on the first day I don't think -- even though  
2 this is on Federal land, I don't think we are ever  
3 going to be granted a State hunt for any kind of moose,  
4 a winter hunt. So I'm thinking now is this for hunters  
5 that did not get a moose in the fall time? Is this the  
6 only place on your refuge where you do have a winter  
7 hunt? Thank you.

8

9 MR. HILL: Mr. Honea. Yes, that's  
10 accurate. This hunt is only eligible for those  
11 households that did not harvest moose in the fall hunt.  
12 So if you have a household where one member of that  
13 household was successful, they're not eligible. It is  
14 the only winter hunt that we have on the Refuge or on  
15 any Federal lands in BLM outside of the fall hunt,  
16 which is bull only.

17

18 MR. HONEA: I just wanted to say I  
19 think it's a fair number and should meet the needs of  
20 the locals. Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like Robert  
23 to comment on the special action request since he's a  
24 resident of this area.

25

26 MR. R. WALKER: I think pretty much cut  
27 and dried here. As long as it's maintained, whatever  
28 Bo and his crew could do, I guess I'm fine with that  
29 now. Not much we can say.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate  
32 that. Any further discussion on the language.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Chair will  
37 entertain a motion to adopt the draft language  
38 submitted to the Council by the Innoko National  
39 Wildlife Refuge Staff, including the language addition  
40 for the GASH Advisory Committee and the BLM field  
41 manager.

42

43 MR. HONEA: I so move.

44

45 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded. Further  
48 discussion.

49

50 (No comments)

1 MR. SIMON: Question.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is  
4 called. Those in favor of submitting the special  
5 action request for the winter hunt for 21E southern  
6 portion Zone 1 signify by saying aye.  
7  
8 IN UNISON: Aye.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.  
11  
12 (No opposing votes)  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.  
15 Appreciate the work you've done on that.  
16  
17 MR. SLOAN: Yes, sir. Thank you. If I  
18 might, let me make one more comment or plea, I guess.  
19 You know, as far as land ownership, especially in this  
20 hunt, especially when you start getting into the  
21 southern part of 21E, BLM has the lion share of the  
22 landholding and Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge  
23 actually has quite a bit of land there around Paimiut  
24 Slough. So although we're technically administering  
25 this hunt, you know, it's certainly going to be done in  
26 serious cooperation with all these other players and  
27 stuff.  
28  
29 Kind of like we've talked about in the  
30 past, especially with these new villages having C&T in  
31 this part of the world. Honestly it makes it, I think,  
32 that much more important that as we go back to our  
33 villages and stuff from this meeting and hopefully  
34 informing our constituents of what's happened here that  
35 we try to use that as a platform to plead with them to  
36 report their harvest because this year was honestly  
37 worse than last year relative to folks letting us know  
38 what they harvested and it's near but impossible to do  
39 really really good management if you don't have all the  
40 information. So whatever you guys can do to try to get  
41 your folks to give us a call and just let us know it  
42 will really help.  
43  
44 Thank you.  
45  
46 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.  
49  
50 MR. GERVAIS: Bo, could you give us

1 your best estimate on how much underreporting is going  
2 on in 21E.

3

4 MR. SLOAN: I can certainly give you an  
5 opinion and I will because I have one, but it is just  
6 that and it is a guess. A buddy of mine that I've  
7 known for years used to be the trooper. He's gone now,  
8 but he was a trooper around McGrath and this part of  
9 the world and his judgment to me, which is better than  
10 my own, he said he'd easily triple it. He said if  
11 you're getting six or seven, he said I'd call it 18 or  
12 20 all day long. There again, this is all opinion.  
13 You know, that and \$3 will buy Coke at the store. You  
14 know, that's about what it's worth.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim, on the Koyukuk  
17 River moose management planning, the subsistence  
18 division stated that and we utilized -- they called it  
19 a 40 percent fudge factor. Whatever was reported there  
20 was an additional 40 percent on top of that would be  
21 unreported harvest, whether it was taken out of season  
22 or incorrect sex or something like that. So the  
23 Koyukuk moose management planning team used a 40  
24 percent fudge factor was what they were using.

25

26 MR. SLOAN: Yeah. That's probably got  
27 a lot more documentation behind it. Like I say, that  
28 was his opinion. But we are pretty easy to get along  
29 with, so if folks would just call us and let us know,  
30 we would greatly appreciate it.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Where they got that  
33 was actually from taking the harvest reports and then  
34 comparing those to the household surveys of people that  
35 actually say I caught a moose and they didn't have a  
36 record of that on the green card but they were --  
37 household surveys reflected a 40 percent increase by  
38 underreporting.

39

40 Any other discussion.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.  
45 Appreciate that. So we're down here to review of the  
46 Federal Subsistence Board annual report reply. That's  
47 on Page 144 of the book.

48

49 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair. While Fish  
50 and Game is still on the phone do you want to reopen

1 the MOU regarding recognition of the RAC.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. During break  
4 Tim thought about it and under the MOU, Memorandum of  
5 Understanding between the Federal and State of Alaska,  
6 Tim felt the MOU should reflect  
7 the lack of accommodation by the Board of Game and  
8 Board of Fish of the Regional Advisory Councils. They  
9 were treated as individuals and not as an advisory  
10 body, so the MOU should reflect that Regional Advisory  
11 Councils shall be treated in the Board process as  
12 advisory bodies.

13

14 I received that reception in 2008 and  
15 2010. I was accommodated with lobbying of OSM to have  
16 20 minutes instead of 5, but that should be a given  
17 that the Boards understand that the Regional Advisory  
18 Councils are an advisory. We take in multiple advisory  
19 committees and we have a regionwide understanding of  
20 the issues and have deliberated those in a public  
21 process and the Memorandum of Understanding should  
22 reflect that.

23

24 Would you like to make a motion to  
25 reopen the Memorandum of Understanding and insert  
26 specific language, Tim.

27

28 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I make a motion to  
29 reopen that Memorandum of Understanding discussion and  
30 insert language that the State of Alaska recognizes the  
31 Federal Regional Advisory Councils on equal footing and  
32 equal notification when they do their summary sheets to  
33 the Board of Fish and Board of Game members, that  
34 they're on equal footing with the State Advisory  
35 Committees.

36

37 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion and seconded  
40 by Jenny. I'm not exactly sure where to insert that,  
41 but OSM can take that concern and insert that into  
42 record and hopefully into the document for recognition  
43 of the Regional Councils as an advisory body to the  
44 Board of Game and Board of Fish. That should be a  
45 portion of the Memorandum of Understanding between the  
46 Federal and State of Alaska processes. Any further  
47 discussion on that issue.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Time for the  
2 question. Tim.  
3  
4 MR. GERVAIS: Can we get any State  
5 comments to what we're proposing.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are there any State  
8 people left online.  
9  
10 (No comments)  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This sort of popped  
13 up. I'm sure Jennifer is not there. Are there any  
14 State people online.  
15  
16 MR. HUNTINGTON: This is Orville. I'm  
17 online.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you working for  
20 the State now, Orville?  
21  
22 (Laughter)  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you have a  
25 comment on the Memorandum of Understanding?  
26  
27 MR. HUNTINGTON: No, no, I don't have  
28 no comment on that.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we have  
31 TCC on our agenda. Were you going to comment then?  
32  
33 MR. HUNTINGTON: If I'm still here.  
34 I'm waiting on the jet.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: How much time do you  
37 have?  
38  
39 MR. HUNTINGTON: About a half an hour.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I'll take  
42 that into consideration. We're in the middle of a  
43 discussion on the Memorandum of Understanding. The  
44 State doesn't appear to be online. Time for the  
45 question.  
46  
47 MR. SIMON: Question.  
48  
49 MR. HONEA: I call for the question.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is  
2 called. Those in favor of insertion of additional  
3 language into the Memorandum of Understanding  
4 recognizing the Regional Advisory Council's position at  
5 the State Board of Game and Board of Fish meetings  
6 signify by saying aye.

7  
8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
11 sign.

12  
13 (No opposing votes)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim. It's a  
16 valid point. We're back on the agenda to review the  
17 Federal Subsistence Board annual report reply, but  
18 since we do have Orville waiting for a jet and he's  
19 only got half an hour, he wanted to make comments to  
20 the Council. I would like to accommodate his comments  
21 at this time. Can you hear me very well, Orville?

22  
23 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yes, I can.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

26  
27 MR. HUNTINGTON: Somebody wanted TCC's  
28 position on something. I wasn't sure what.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There were various  
31 fisheries proposals we were going through yesterday and  
32 there was -- TCC favored or disfavored proposals and we  
33 would have liked to have had additional information.  
34 There was only one proposal, I think it was '08, that  
35 actually had -- there was some justification of the TCC  
36 position.

37  
38 Then under Native organizations Alyssa  
39 something wanted to make a report. Were you going to  
40 make that report at this time or would you rather defer  
41 to her making a report?

42  
43 MS. FROTHINGHAM: I'm online. I can go  
44 ahead and do that during the scheduled time.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So do you have  
47 additional comments you would like to make to us,  
48 Orville?

49  
50 MR. HUNTINGTON: Actually, no. I just

1 got out of a Board of Fish meeting, so I don't know  
2 what you guys are discussing. I don't know what  
3 questions you had on fisheries. Whatever position we  
4 had I think we were trying to make sure that the people  
5 from Holy Cross didn't get left out of -- or lumped in  
6 with some other proposals that we saw. I think  
7 something about limiting their ability to fish we  
8 didn't like. I can't recall what proposal it was.  
9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've passed by  
11 those proposals and we did take into account TCC's  
12 position on various proposals, but those were all  
13 accomplished yesterday. So we'll continue with our  
14 agenda and you're welcome to stay on line and make  
15 comments if appropriate whenever you feel like it,  
16 Orville.

17  
18 MR. HUNTINGTON: Well, I just had one  
19 thing. We had that predator control program up around  
20 Allakaket and we were working with Allakaket Tribe to  
21 fund some of the wolf skimmers there. Fish and Game  
22 was our partner on that project. That's really the  
23 only thing I had.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I appreciate  
26 TCC working with Allakaket on that project. That's  
27 been long in coming and Allakaket and Alatna are very  
28 excited about that one. Thank you.

29  
30 MR. HUNTINGTON: Thank you.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to go  
33 into review of Federal Subsistence Board's annual  
34 report reply on 144. Who is going to give an overview  
35 on that, Carl.

36  
37 MR. JOHNSON: I could do that, Mr.  
38 Chair. Beginning on that page. I had to get caught  
39 up. I was still typing that last action report.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can take -- I see  
42 where we're at here. I can.....

43  
44 MR. JOHNSON: Okay.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Federal  
47 Subsistence Board is replying to our annual report  
48 topics. Topic 1 was number 1 and that was addressed by  
49 the Federal Board in the OSM working group and we dealt  
50 with that earlier.

1                    Mesh size and incidental harvest  
2 mortality for chinook salmon dropouts from directed  
3 chum gear. I have continuous concern for those  
4 incidental harvest mortalities for chinook salmon in a  
5 directed chum fishery using mesh that's about an inch  
6 and a half smaller than is adequate for harvesting  
7 chinook and there's no indice for what that mortality  
8 factor is and there is a mortality factor, but it  
9 appears that there was no response for development of a  
10 proposal.

11  
12                    Under the .804 hunt scenario where we'd  
13 have to prioritize subsistence users, our annual report  
14 requested a Tier II type hunt, but the Federal  
15 Subsistence Board feels that we should develop our own  
16 Tier II and submit it as a proposal. So I would like  
17 to direct the OSM Staff to look at the old State Tier  
18 II systems that the Board of Fish and Board of Game  
19 developed, bring those before the Regional Advisory  
20 Council for our next meeting. The State Board of Fish  
21 and Board of Game spent a heck of a lot of time  
22 developing a criteria of direct dependence on the  
23 resource, proximity to the resource, et cetera, et  
24 cetera and it developed a scoring system.

25  
26                    My concern with a drawing permit system  
27 that is currently being utilizes in 19A for moose is  
28 that somebody can move to Aniak and be there one day,  
29 have a post office box and move there for one day and  
30 put in for a drawing permit and can take a moose when  
31 there's people who have lived there their whole life  
32 don't draw the permit and I don't feel that that's what  
33 .804 is actually -- its intent was. I feel that .804's  
34 intent was to prioritize for users who had a direct  
35 dependence and a longstanding use of the resource. So  
36 I would like to look at the  
37 State Tier II regulations that were developed.

38  
39                    There were several different stages of  
40 regulations and I would like to have the Council be  
41 able to look at those, review those before our meeting  
42 and then look at submitting a proposal with a selection  
43 and we don't have to reinvent the wheel. The Board of  
44 Game and Board of Fish already did that work. A lot of  
45 the better Tier II programs were thrown out by the  
46 State Supreme Court because of common use issues, but  
47 this is the Federal Subsistence Board, so it works  
48 under a different system. So I would like that to be  
49 brought forth.

50

1                   Is that agreeable to the Council to  
2 develop a Tier II scoring system for .804. Moving  
3 through to issue number -- oh, go ahead, Carl.

4  
5                   MR. JOHNSON: Sorry to interrupt. For  
6 all the people who are joining us on the teleconference  
7 please mute your phones so we cannot here the noise in  
8 the Council meeting.

9  
10                  Thank you very much.

11  
12                  Pardon the interruption.

13  
14                  MR. HUNTINGTON: It will be fine when I  
15 shut my phone off. I'm at the Board of Game, Board of  
16 Fish. This is Orville.

17  
18                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm not even sure  
19 what that fisheries meeting is about. Which region is  
20 that?

21  
22                  MR. HUNTINGTON: The Board of Fish  
23 manages all fisheries in State waters. I'm on that  
24 Board.

25  
26                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I'm not sure  
27 -- and none of it is affecting the Western Interior  
28 Region though, is it?

29  
30                  MR. HUNTINGTON: It's all State waters  
31 in State of Alaska.

32  
33                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can't think of  
34 anything, a burning question at this time. Does any  
35 Council member have a question about the Board of Fish  
36 meeting.

37  
38                  (No comments)

39  
40                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Council doesn't  
41 seem to have a question at this time, Orville.

42  
43                  MR. HUNTINGTON: All right. At least I  
44 know.

45  
46                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.  
47 Preservation practices, issue 4. The respondent says  
48 we requested the Board to recognize customary and  
49 traditional practices of preservation. The Board's  
50 response is that that's a State jurisdictional issue

1 and people that sell strips and so forth would be  
2 subject to State regulations and criminal prosecution.

3

4

5 We had a mic drop here for the record.  
6 That's not a fight, that's just a mic falling off the  
7 table.

8

9

(Laughter)

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But I do want the  
12 Council to be on the record and reflected in the record  
13 that this Council feels that customary and traditional  
14 practices of jarring, drying strips, et cetera are  
15 customary and traditional. People have done it for  
16 hundreds of years or decades in jarring, so those  
17 practices are customary and traditional as far as this  
18 Council is concerned and should be recognized by the  
19 Federal Subsistence Board as such. Is the Council  
20 agreeable to that?

21

(Council nods affirmatively)

22

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Carl, do you have a  
25 comment.

26

27 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. I do want to  
28 highlight some language that I think does address what  
29 you're talking about. If you can look to the second to  
30 last paragraph. About the middle of the paragraph  
31 after reciting some of the existing regulations the  
32 letter does say, in other words, the Board has already  
33 recognized the practice of making salmon into strips or  
34 jarring as a long-standing cultural practice. But this  
35 recognition is not an assertion that such practices are  
36 safe for human consumption. Such assertions are not  
37 within the Board's jurisdiction.

38

39 The last paragraph gets into the issue  
40 that you're talking about and that is the advise that  
41 people who engage in customary trade of processes fish  
42 may be subject to some type of enforcement action by  
43 the State, but at this time there's been no actual firm  
44 determination if that's actually the case.

45

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm aware of the  
49 direction the Board was cautioning the Council. I do  
50 feel it's within the Council's purview to state on the

1 record for Federal law enforcement officers that we  
2 recognize customary and traditional preservation  
3 practices in conjunction with customary trade. So I  
4 want to be on the record for the subsistence users in  
5 our region, that they have -- that's a recognized  
6 practice. So the Council was agreeable to making that  
7 assertion on the record. Are all the Council members  
8 affirmative to that.

9

10 (Council nods affirmatively)

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see a complete  
13 affirmation of that. Issue 5, high speed jet boat  
14 traffic on the Aniak River. Basically the Board says  
15 that that's navigable waters and refers us to the DNR.  
16 That was one of Carl Morgan's issues. Eleanor.

17

18 MS. YATLIN: So if they refer you to --  
19 they're saying it's not a Federal issue, the jet boats,  
20 but they refer you -- it's a State issue because of  
21 the navigable waters. If they refer you to these  
22 people, what could they do? That's my question.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the Department  
25 of Natural Resource could, through a long process  
26 working with probably the State Habitat Division, et  
27 cetera, would develop, if it was found to be a  
28 detriment to fish stocks and et cetera, may develop  
29 regulations, but that's fairly unlikely knowing what  
30 the DNR's mentality is on a lot of issues.

31

32 Carl.

33

34 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. I just wanted  
35 to remind you and the members of the Council that any  
36 time you have a discussion on the record about how you  
37 may want to communicate to any other agencies on issues  
38 of concern like this, we have the Office of Subsistence  
39 Management through your coordinator can assist you in  
40 preparing those letters or communications or if you  
41 want to submit a proposal of some kind that would  
42 address this issue through the correct agency, then we  
43 can also assist you with that.

44

45 Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Carl.

48 Eleanor.

49

50 MS. YATLIN: It seems like, if I

1 remember correctly, he was not only referring to fish.  
2 What my concern is this is happening probably in all  
3 the -- you know, not only around here, but in the  
4 Koyukuk River too. So that's my concern because we  
5 know those jet boats go up on the Dulbi River and way  
6 up in Huslia River during moose hunting, so that's why  
7 I'm asking these questions.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could, as Carl  
10 suggested, transmit a letter to Department of Natural  
11 Resources to Richard Thompson and Clark Cox in  
12 Anchorage and basically reiterate our annual report  
13 topic 5 to them concerning not only the Aniak River but  
14 the entire Western Interior Region about jet boat  
15 traffic on spawning streams and sensitive habitats and  
16 maybe start a dialogue with the Department of Natural  
17 Resources. Would that be good, Eleanor?

18

19 MS. YATLIN: Yeah.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to make  
22 a motion to that effect.

23

24 MS. YATLIN: So moved.

25

26 MR. HONEA: Second.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Discussion.

29

30 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I think  
31 she brings a valid point here in covering all the  
32 waters because I was thinking this is the Koyukuk  
33 National Wildlife Refuge, but the Dulbi River and some  
34 of the tributaries of the Koyukuk are not indeed in the  
35 Refuge itself, so that's a good point.

36

37 I second that.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Further  
40 discussion on that letter to be transmitted to the  
41 Department of Natural Resources regarding jet boat  
42 traffic and sensitive habitats.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Time for question.

47

48 MR. SIMON: Question.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is

1 called. Those in favor of that letter to the  
2 Department of Natural Resource signify by saying aye.

3

4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So moving down the  
11 agenda we're on Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program  
12 priority information needs. Karen. That's on Page 153  
13 of the book.

14

15 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
16 members. We're preparing to put out our 2014 request  
17 for proposals for our Fisheries Resource Management  
18 Program. I come before you today to get your input for  
19 our priority information needs. Many of you have been  
20 through this process before, but I just want to remind  
21 you that every other year we put out a request for  
22 research proposals and this coming year for 2014 we  
23 have approximately \$4.8 million for research proposals.  
24 That money will be spread throughout all of Alaska and  
25 it will be divided up by regions.

26

27 What we will do is we will put out a  
28 list of what we feel are the priorities and those  
29 priorities will be developed through input from the  
30 Council. So that will go out and then researchers can  
31 submit proposals to our program for research projects  
32 and then they'll be evaluated. So that's coming up.  
33 The request will go out sometime in November and what  
34 we need from this Council is help developing these  
35 priority information needs.

36

37 What I have before me is a list of  
38 draft priority information needs for both the Yukon and  
39 the Kuskokwim and I'll simply go over them and then I  
40 will just open it up to the floor so you can give me  
41 your input. If you turn to Page 155 that's where it  
42 begins for the Yukon Region. I guess the list actually  
43 begins on Page 156.

44

45 I'll go ahead and start with the Yukon  
46 and I'll just simply read you the list. Before I  
47 start, I just want to remind you too that this is what  
48 we put out and we say this is what's important to our  
49 users in our regions, but we don't always get proposals  
50 for these information needs. Sometimes we'll get

1 proposals that address issues that aren't on this list  
2 and then they have to justify to us why it is a  
3 priority. We have in the past funded projects that  
4 haven't been related to the priority information needs  
5 list, but this helps guide investigators to let them  
6 know what we feel is important for funding.

7

8                   So I'll just start and go through the  
9 list and the first thing is reliable estimates of  
10 chinook and chum salmon escapements such as weir and  
11 sonar projects. The second is effects on salmon  
12 stocks. A sample would be gillnet dropout mortality  
13 and subsistence users of fishery management practices  
14 implemented to conserve chinook salmon. Again, such as  
15 mesh size, gillnet depth, and windowed openings.

16

17                   The next one is methods for including  
18 quality of escapement measures, such as egg deposition,  
19 size composition, habitat utilization, in establishing  
20 chinook salmon spawning goals and determining the  
21 reproductive potential of spawning escapements.

22

23                   The next one is contemporary economic  
24 strategies and practices in the context of diminished  
25 salmon runs. Topics may include an evaluation of  
26 barter, sharing, and exchange of salmon for cash, as  
27 well as other economic strategies and practices that  
28 augment and support subsistence activities. Of  
29 particular interest are distribution networks, decision  
30 making, and the social and cultural aspects of salmon  
31 harvest and use.

32

33                   The next one is description of changes  
34 through time in gillnet use, as in setnet versus  
35 driftnet and by mesh size, for chinook salmon  
36 subsistence harvest in the mainstem Yukon River, in  
37 context with harvest and escapement levels.

38

39                   The next one is complete genetic  
40 baseline sampling and population markers development  
41 for sheefish spawning populations in the Yukon River  
42 drainage.

43

44                   Then we have harvest, use, and  
45 associated contextual information for whitefish by  
46 species in lower Yukon River drainage communities.

47

48                   And then retrospective analyses  
49 concerning effects of natural disasters, such as floods  
50 or fires, on salmon rearing and spawning habitat and

1 subsistence activities.

2

3                   Finally, arctic lamprey population  
4 assessment, including abundance, migration patterns,  
5 and habitat needs.

6

7                   Below that you have the priority  
8 information needs for the Kuskokwim. I'll go over  
9 those too. The first one is reliable estimates of  
10 chinook, chum, sockeye, and coho salmon escapement.

11

12                   Then we have effects on salmon stocks  
13 and users of fishery management practices implemented  
14 to conserve chinook salmon.

15

16                   Then we have methods for including  
17 quality of escapement measures, which is the same as we  
18 had on the Yukon.

19

20                   Then we have harvest, use, and  
21 associated contextual information for whitefish by  
22 species in upper Kuskokwim River drainage communities.  
23 Communities of interest include McGrath, Telida,  
24 Nikolai, Takotna, and Lime Village.

25

26                   Then we have contextual information  
27 associated with whitefish harvest by species in central  
28 Kuskokwim River drainage communities to supplement  
29 information from previous research. Again, there's a  
30 list of communities there.

31

32                   And then we have harvest, use, and  
33 associated contextual information for whitefish by  
34 species in lower Kuskokwim River drainage communities  
35 and we have communities listed there.

36

37                   We have broad whitefish population  
38 assessment, including distribution and age structure.

39

40                   Then we have location and timing of  
41 Bering cisco spawning populations in the Kuskokwim  
42 River drainage.

43

44                   We have complete genetic baseline  
45 sampling and population marker development for sheefish  
46 spawning populations in the Kuskokwim River drainage.

47

48                   And then finally for the Kuskokwim we  
49 have estimate the number of salmon, by species,  
50 transported from the Kuskokwim River drainage each year

1 by Federal and State subsistence users.

2

3                   So those are the priority information  
4 we have listed specific to the Yukon and the Kuskokwim.  
5 If you'll turn to Page 158, we have a section there  
6 called multi-regional priority information needs. Some  
7 of these also apply to the Kuskokwim. These are  
8 possible research topics that affect more than one  
9 region. I'll just go over those also.

10

11                   Changes in subsistence fishery  
12 resources and uses, in the context of climate change  
13 where relevant, including but not limited to fishing  
14 seasons, species targeted, fishing locations, fish  
15 quality, harvest methods and means, and methods of  
16 preservation. We ask them to include management  
17 implications with that.

18

19                   And then the next one is develop models  
20 based on long-term relationships between ocean  
21 conditions and production for Bering Sea and Gulf of  
22 Alaska chinook salmon stocks to better understand and  
23 respond to changes in run abundance.

24

25                   The third one is an indexing method for  
26 estimating species-specific whitefish harvests on an  
27 annual basis for the  
28 Kuskokwim and Yukon River drainages. Researchers  
29 should explore and evaluate an approach where sub-  
30 regional clusters of community harvests can be  
31 evaluated for regular surveying with results  
32 being extrapolated to the rest of the cluster,  
33 contributing to drainage-wide harvest estimates. So  
34 that's a sampling one.

35

36                   The final one is evaluation of  
37 conversion factors used to estimate edible pounds from  
38 individual fish, and from  
39 unorthodox units such as tubs, sacks, or buckets.

40

41                   Some of these are carry-overs from two  
42 years ago that weren't addressed and some of them are  
43 new to the list, so if you feel there are issues on  
44 here that have already been addressed and you'd like to  
45 see them removed, I'd like that input as well as  
46 anything you'd like to see added to the list. At that  
47 point I will turn the floor back to you and I'm  
48 interested in your input.

49

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Karen.

50 We should go through these in blocks. Yukon Region

1 first. So you're looking for a priority one, two, et  
2 cetera?

3  
4 MS. HYER: Not necessarily that because  
5 numbering them doesn't help us because we put the list  
6 out and then investigators simply submit. What I'm  
7 interested in is if there's something on this list you  
8 feel is important that's not here I want to know so we  
9 can add it and if you feel some of these are no longer  
10 a priority I want to know that so I can take them off  
11 the list. Numbering the list doesn't really help us  
12 because we don't get proposals for everything we feel  
13 is important.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You don't prioritize  
16 the needs until you get submissions of projects?

17  
18 MS. HYER: That's correct. Because  
19 sometimes we'll have a need and we won't get a project  
20 for it. What happens is we get the projects in and  
21 then we have to prioritize them through the evaluation  
22 process and then we come back to the RACs with that  
23 list and then you approve that. So right now  
24 prioritizing information needs isn't especially useful.  
25 Prioritizing the projects once we have them is useful.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

28  
29 MS. HYER: But sometimes we just don't  
30 get the projects even though the priority is quite  
31 high.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, like  
34 the incidental harvest mortality issue I feel is a huge  
35 issue and could be accounting for thousands. In  
36 Bristol Bay it's in the hundreds of thousands of  
37 sockeye are dropped and lost on the beaches. In the  
38 Yukon River, there could be literally thousands of  
39 chinook salmon dropping out of -- the longer the  
40 endurance of the chum fishery, the more incidence of  
41 harvest of -- there's an indice that should  
42 be developed by the State, but it's not there. They  
43 don't use an indice, which is baffling to me because it  
44 is a human-induced mortality.

45  
46 So I do feel that this dropout facet is  
47 a large effect on a population. We're looking at 2,487  
48 chinook bycatch in the directed chum fishery. That was  
49 the retention. That's not actually the mortality. It  
50 could be as many as -- with an inch and a half smaller

1 net it could be as many as twice as many of those. It  
2 could be more than 5,000 fish. So I feel it's a large  
3 factor.

4  
5                   Everybody that fishes, you know, when  
6 you fish chum gear, you'll see those kings falling off  
7 that -- they roll down the net and they're getting  
8 away. Some of them live and some of them don't. A lot  
9 of them are just dead. I feel that this is a big  
10 issue.

11  
12                   Maybe OSM should -- maybe the proposal  
13 is a little bit too vague for the researchers to  
14 understand what is actually wanted for that, what the  
15 issue is. Maybe it needs to be expanded. I see there  
16 was no interest in the last round. Maybe there needs  
17 to be more of an expansion of the language of what this  
18 is actually doing, of why we need to have this number.  
19 If we're talking two or three thousand chinook salmon  
20 reduction, it's a big deal with these kind of numbers  
21 and underescapements. So maybe the OSM needs to expand  
22 that particular issue a little wider to where the  
23 researchers understand what the need is for this  
24 information. That's just that one issue.

25  
26                   Does the Council have discussion on  
27 other issues or sees things that need to be taken off  
28 or expanded on this list?

29  
30                   Don.

31  
32                   MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
33 Thank you, Karen, for your presentation. You have  
34 quite a varied list on here. I'm just wondering -- I  
35 guess on Page 156 and on Page 158, the multi-regional  
36 priority information, I guess you could have a lot of  
37 things fall directly under that. You know, under a  
38 heading of changes in subsistence fishery, do you guys  
39 give technical help?

40  
41                   I mean say if I had an office out there  
42 and had somebody working in the Fish and Game and we  
43 wanted to explore or something on the Melozi across  
44 from the village of Ruby or something and this was one  
45 of the things brought up, do you guys give technical  
46 assistance in formulating a grant to do that? I'm just  
47 trying to figure out a scenario here because, you know,  
48 during the break we talked about it and a good example  
49 for this area is that the numbers of -- the pike thing  
50 here that somebody in the office here could have got

1 funding for that.

2

3                   So, you know, I mean I'm always trying  
4 to look out for our village in the way of employments  
5 and stuff and this is great funding opportunity I think  
6 for villages to undergo studies. So do you guys do  
7 that and how does that operate? I mean do you give  
8 technical assistance in formulating a grant?

9

10                   Thank you.

11

12                   MS. HYER: Mr. Chair. Council members.  
13 We actually cannot provide technical help to somebody  
14 submitting a grant because it's a competitive process  
15 and because we're the agency actually granting. We can  
16 though, if you have something that you're interested  
17 in, an idea, we can help you hook up with other  
18 investigators that might be interested in that to form  
19 the partnerships we had talked about. But as an agency  
20 we can't help you technically because then we are  
21 giving you an unfair advantage to somebody else. So  
22 anything we provide to you we have to provide to  
23 everybody and that's been quite clear with our  
24 contracting.

25

26                   We also are not a research agency.  
27 We're the funding agency and there are many research  
28 agencies out there. As we spoke before, a lot of these  
29 projects are successful partnership, so we can provide  
30 you with contacts to possibly get somebody that can  
31 provide you with the technical help, but we can't do  
32 that ourselves.

33

34                   MR. HONEA: Thank you.

35

36                   MR. GERVAIS: Karen, a topic that I  
37 have some interest in is what would be the effects of  
38 frequent underescapement regarding two items. One is  
39 potentially maybe there's not enough biomass left on  
40 the spawning ground to provide nutrition for the young  
41 salmon and the second item in regards to that is maybe  
42 it's creating some kind of bad effect to the genetics  
43 of the fish.

44

45                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Wouldn't that be  
46 covered in the third one, methods for including quality  
47 escapement measures, egg deposition, size composition,  
48 habitat utilization, in establishing chinook salmon  
49 spawning goals? That's kind of what you're talking  
50 about. Do you want to add to that?

1 MR. GERVAIS: Well, when I read quality  
2 escapement, to me that seems like the number and size  
3 of the fish crossing the border or getting onto the  
4 spawning grounds, but what I was looking for was like  
5 potential evaluation of -- if there's enough fish  
6 getting onto the spawning grounds to provide enough  
7 nutrition for the young salmon to grow up before they  
8 out-migrate as smolt.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That kind of goes  
11 along with this project. It's just an addition to that  
12 project. Quality escapement in conjunction with  
13 nutrient flow to the in-river system and an analysis in  
14 conjunction with that would be taking phytoplankton,  
15 zooplankton levels, basically fry -- analysis of the  
16 food resource for fry. I think that could be -- what  
17 Tim is talking about could be included in that project.

18  
19 MS. HYER: Yeah, and often when we have  
20 these more general things investigators will pick out  
21 some component of it they feel they can address well,  
22 so we could add it in and -- most likely we won't get a  
23 project that has everything in it, but has some  
24 component of it that somebody feels like they can  
25 accomplish.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Just a side note on  
28 that. With these larger chum returns that actually is  
29 benefitting chinook because they actually bring quite a  
30 bit of nutrient to associated habitat. So that's kind  
31 of the positive thing of these larger chum runs. Oh,  
32 my gosh, it's over-escapement. Oh, my gosh, it's  
33 helping the nutrient flow to the system where the  
34 chinook salmon stay as fry in the system for one to two  
35 years. Ray.

36  
37 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I'm wondering are  
38 there any studies on -- it's listed in this, but is it  
39 written up enough to attract somebody that -- what is  
40 the difference between, let's say, a small king and a  
41 large king. Are the eggs larger also? You know, what  
42 is the value of those large spawners as opposed to a  
43 smaller fish? What is the difference, really  
44 difference in numbers? Because often all we get is  
45 escapement numbers, but we don't really have anything  
46 about the composition of those in terms of small and  
47 what are we actually putting into the system. So are we  
48 getting the research that we need in that area and, if  
49 not, are we writing up the requests right.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Heather, come to the  
2 mic, please.

3  
4 MS. LEBA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Ray,  
5 to address your question, there is a study that has  
6 been done in concert with some of our folks at Fish and  
7 Game, Katie Howard, who used to be the area research  
8 biologist for the Yukon. She's been working on a  
9 fecundity study to address that and she's writing that  
10 up. It's in the process of being written up right now.  
11 Preliminary evidence does show that larger females do  
12 have significantly more eggs to contribute to the  
13 spawning grounds than smaller female chinook. There  
14 may or may not be a difference between Canadian origin  
15 fish and Alaskan origin fish as far as egg size and  
16 quality. So we recognize that there is a difference  
17 and we're trying to potentially address that through  
18 research projects.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I live  
21 on the spawning grounds and I watch those kings  
22 spawning and those bigger females can dig deeper redds,  
23 have more energy. They're fatter. They stay there  
24 longer and defend those redds. They stand right there  
25 in that -- it's right where the water breaks at the top  
26 of a river. They just stand there and they can stay  
27 there longer than smaller fish and defend those from  
28 grayling and other predators. So there's two benefits,  
29 more eggs and they have more endurance to stay there  
30 longer. That's the two things I see about bigger  
31 chinook and why they would have higher production,  
32 would be one of those factors.

33  
34 Mike, you had a comment.

35  
36 MR. THALHAUSER: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
37 Chair. One, I kind of wanted to respond to Don's  
38 question a little bit and I think TCC would be a great  
39 route as far as someone giving technical assistance  
40 because they provide a really similar role as KNA does  
41 to our representative villages.

42  
43 I also wanted to kind of point out, and  
44 I think what's pretty much going on, is this is a  
45 really great opportunity to steer a lot of the money  
46 that's going to be going into research in the future,  
47 so I would just encourage everyone here to kind of go  
48 back in your head before this meeting is over, maybe at  
49 the next break or whatever, and think about the  
50 proposals and if anything came up where a researcher or

1 a manager that gave you an answer that was, yeah, we  
2 need to do more research before we make a decision on  
3 that, that's something that this is a perfect  
4 opportunity for and to kind of start thinking back  
5 through those. Like the pike issue we talked about  
6 where we weren't really sure who's coming in and  
7 harvesting and how much and things like that. This is  
8 the time and the place for that. Thanks.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So if I was going to  
11 highlight some of these Yukon issues, I would highlight  
12 the dropout mortality, the quality of escapement with  
13 the insertion that Tim has, the genetic marker for  
14 sheefish. That's a highly-sought fish, fairly  
15 sensitive fish. In retrospect of analysis concerning  
16 the natural effects, disasters of floods, fires, and I  
17 would also insert in that snow depth and hydrology  
18 effects inter-annual. There's variations and snow  
19 depth has a big effect on hydrology and how much water  
20 is there and how the fish fry and predators can stay.  
21 You know, the predator factors and so forth.

22

23 So those things add into how those fry  
24 survive. You might get lots of spawning. You get real  
25 dry conditions and the water drops out and they freeze  
26 out. That doesn't do you any good then. Nobody really  
27 looks at the hydrologic effect on salmon to a large  
28 degree. I know all these refuges and land managers  
29 have snow markers all over the place and have all the  
30 snow data everywhere and we should utilize that for  
31 hydrologic effect on fish.

32

33 Any other comments on the Yukon River  
34 or the Kuskokwim? There's overlapping on the  
35 Kuskokwim. There's the same issues. This escapement  
36 issue, the Kuskokwim also has this dropout factor and  
37 this sheefish population.

38

39 Don.

40

41 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
42 thank Mike for his comments there. I guess it would be  
43 not very appropriate to be asking the funding agency  
44 for help in writing up a grant of sorts. I hope Alyssa  
45 Frothingham is still on. Maybe she's still online here  
46 and I certainly will correspond with her.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 MS. FROTHINGHAM: Thank you, Don. And

1 I'd be happy to do that.

2

3 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that,  
6 Alyssa. We need to move down on this agenda. Is there  
7 any projects -- Tim.

8

9 MR. GERVAIS: I'd like to bring up one  
10 more potential topic, Mr. Chair. Perhaps it would be  
11 worthwhile to put out a proposal or have a researcher  
12 evaluate these -- since we have been using and it looks  
13 like in the future we're going to be using this pulse  
14 protection model to have some researcher evaluate the  
15 movement of salmon up the river. Like yesterday Leroy  
16 was testifying the salmon are moving 25 miles a day  
17 through this region. It's my understanding up near  
18 Ruby that the salmon are moving about 50 miles a day.  
19 Maybe they move at all different speeds depending on  
20 the fish, but somebody could do some research in  
21 tagging to get a better handle on how these fish are  
22 moving as pulses and how much variation there is with  
23 individual fish on its movement and how much it's  
24 affected by water levels.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There was telemetry  
27 project done by Fish and Game and they had those  
28 archived tags that showed the progress up the river,  
29 but I don't know if there was a correlation between  
30 water level and hydrology at those specific years that  
31 they were collecting that data and what that compares  
32 to high water years and whether there should be an  
33 archival tagging project that would be implemented when  
34 there was high water to see what the progress rates to  
35 get sort of an indice of idea to help the managers  
36 understand where those pulses are going to be with  
37 specific hydrologic conditions.

38

39 Is that more along the line you're  
40 thinking there, Tim?

41

42 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

45

46 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair. Well, I think  
47 they have that information for the Kuskokwim because  
48 they -- that's why they set the closure for eight days  
49 because they figured that the speed they're traveling  
50 there it takes at least seven days to get through one

1 of those units and I know they have it figured out by  
2 tagging and checking like the Takotna weir of how fish  
3 traveled that 450 miles to get up there and so on.

4

5 But I'm wondering if they got enough  
6 tags to separate out the stocks genetically, like  
7 Canadian bound versus some of the other drainages. Do  
8 we need more fine tuning on that so you could identify  
9 in the lower river if you wanted to sample down there  
10 which fish are being caught and where they're going.  
11 Would that be useful information?

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's part of our  
14 genetic sampling that I've been working with the  
15 Department on. We catch fish, we take off that little  
16 teeny auxiliary fin on the belly, there's a tiny little  
17 tine. You clip that off, put it in alcohol. They do a  
18 DNA and each upriver stock is getting its own DNA  
19 profile. And then when they come through the lower  
20 river we know which fish are going to go to which  
21 drainage. So that's how they're going to do that  
22 because those DNAs can be run a lot faster now and in  
23 the near future. They're going to be able to put  
24 samples in at the mouth and like, oh, these fish are  
25 going to the Upper Koyukuk, we better hold off on those  
26 because those are sensitive. Right, Fred?

27

(Laughter)

28

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But I don't want to  
31 get too bogged down on these fisheries monitoring. If  
32 there's any additional proposals that the Council  
33 members can think of for the Yukon, Kuskokwim or multi-  
34 regional priority needs. If not, we should move on in  
35 the agenda.

36

(No comments)

37

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see any  
40 more. Thanks for your presentation, Karen. Everybody  
41 doing good? We're on Item H, BLM hunting guide  
42 capacity analysis, comments and recommendations.  
43 That's on 160. Are you online, Dan Sharp?

44

MR. SHARP: Yes, sir, I am.

45

46

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

47

48

49 MR. SHARP: Thank you, Chairman Reakoff  
50 and RAC members there. This is Dan Sharp with BLM.

1 I'm in the Anchorage State office there. I'm just  
2 going to try to be very brief here. I'll give you a  
3 status report of BLM's hunting guide capacity  
4 environmental assessment effort. To remind folks, the  
5 purpose was to assign a maximum number of special  
6 recreation permits that will be issued for any guide  
7 use area, which includes BLM managed lands. BLM is the  
8 only Federal agency that has not gone through the  
9 exercise to determine the appropriate levels of guide  
10 use activity.

11  
12                   One of the underlying concerns is that,  
13 as you may be aware, the State of Alaska is going  
14 through their guide use area initiative to assign guide  
15 use areas. The State of Alaska has licensed  
16 approximately 1,500 or so guides. They're currently  
17 proposing to have roughly between three and four  
18 hundred guide use areas potentially leaving over 1,000  
19 guides without a designated area so to speak. One of  
20 BLM's concerns is that certainly without a mechanism to  
21 assign what number is too many as a lot of folks will  
22 come looking to BLM for land on which to operate.

23  
24                   So we're undergoing this environmental  
25 assessment and what we have done is just finished our  
26 initial formal scoping period, which ran from July to  
27 September, to try to solicit comments with respect to  
28 what sort of range of alternatives that the BLM should  
29 consider with respect to assigning special recreation  
30 permit numbers.

31  
32                   Now what the powers that be have  
33 indicated is that they'll continue to reach out to RACs  
34 despite this formal scoping period. We'll continue to  
35 bring this issue up at affected RACs and solicit  
36 comments throughout this process as things develop.  
37 The initial scoping period that we did have we  
38 received, I think, 16 emails and I believe it was six  
39 or seven letters. Some of them were helpful with  
40 respect to the range of alternatives. A lot of them  
41 sort of delved right into resident versus non-resident  
42 and horses versus non-motorized areas. A range of  
43 things that are probably pertinent once a number of  
44 permits are determined, but don't really help in this  
45 initial scoping period.

46  
47                   Where we stand right now though is BLM  
48 is starting to develop a draft environmental  
49 assessment. We'll develop a range of alternatives  
50 which typically will include the do nothing approach,

1 which I don't think would be the appropriate preferred  
2 alternative, to I guess a number of alternatives in  
3 between there. One, to focus on areas where we know we  
4 have some significant social issues between subsistence  
5 users and guide operations. The Squirrel River and the  
6 Dalton Highway Corridor are two that leap immediately  
7 to mind. And whether we should focus our efforts on  
8 areas where we know we have problems or take on the  
9 entire range of BLM-managed lands.

10

11                   Again, we're fairly early in this  
12 initiative. Although this is referenced as an action  
13 item for the RAC, we're certainly interested in  
14 comments and recommendations from your area and issues  
15 that RAC members may have with respect to guiding in  
16 their areas and we're certainly interested in both  
17 positive and negative comments. This will be an  
18 ongoing opportunity, I guess, until the EA is  
19 developed.

20

21                   What I anticipate next is bringing a  
22 draft EA in front of the RAC to see if we've captured a  
23 reasonable range of alternatives and addressed  
24 particular guide use areas in the Western Region area.  
25 So I guess I'll leave it at that for now. If folks  
26 have comments and want to speak to this particular.....

27

(20-minute power outage)

28

(Power back on)

29

30                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So is everybody  
31 online aware that we had a power shutdown. We started  
32 into OSM agency reports and we covered the budget  
33 pretty well. I think we'll stop there and continue  
34 with -- are you online, Dan Sharp?

35

36                   MR. SHARP: Yes, I am. How much did I  
37 get in before the power was gone?

38

(Laughter)

39

40                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think you were  
41 kind of winding down.

42

(Laughter)

43

44                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You seemed to be  
45 winding down. I was kind of -- I wanted the Council to  
46 be aware that in your blue folder there's a BLM guide

47

1 capacity paper and it was somewhat what Dan was working  
2 off of. Did you have any final -- give your final  
3 portion of your presentation if you might.

4

5 MR. SHARP: Well, I guess you missed  
6 the best part there. No, I'll leave it at that if  
7 there's questions. I believe it's fairly self-  
8 explanatory other than the fact that I will be coming  
9 before the RAC in the future again and we'll have a  
10 draft EA for them to review and comment on to see if we  
11 captured the scope appropriately enough.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Also in the  
14 packet is a letter from a resident of Wiseman. She  
15 sent this to the BLM and I have this -- she emailed it  
16 to me and I had the OSM put it in your packet. It  
17 basically lays out some of the user conflicts with  
18 Dall sheep, hunting and hunting guides and some of the  
19 regulatory problems for the Dalton Highway Corridor  
20 where there's high competition with various users,  
21 including guiding.

22

23 Does the Council have any comments on  
24 this guide capacity. I do have comments that I've  
25 written, sort of scratched out here and would like to  
26 read into the record at some point.

27

28 Tim.

29

30 MR. GERVAIS: Is this your sister?

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This would be my  
33 sister. These homogenous populations.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Eleanor.

38

39 MS. YATLIN: Before the power went out  
40 I did have a bunch of -- not a bunch of questions,  
41 comments. Actually concerns. I was really paying  
42 attention to what he was reading on this BLM scoping  
43 period for hunting guides and he did state that there  
44 was 1,500 guides that did ask to go in these areas  
45 that's marked yellow here for BLM lands.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

48

49 MS. YATLIN: That I understood. But  
50 then where I'm really concerned about is the Dulbi area

1 because that's a big, high moose population in there.  
2 We do have a lot of people go in there. Some people  
3 come as far as Anchorage area and they put their boats  
4 in the river in Nenana and then they go out the river  
5 there and go through the Yukon River up to Koyukuk  
6 River to Dulbi area. So that's my concern because I  
7 saw what happened up in Bettles the 10 years I lived up  
8 there and I sw how they depleted the moose population  
9 up there. My friend and I would be sitting on the  
10 Koyukuk River in front of Evansville and she'd comment  
11 how could they fit a moose in that raft that's drifting  
12 down. All we see is just this really big rack, moose  
13 horn, you know.

14

15 We have been and I have been stating  
16 time and again about the stuff they leave behind in  
17 their camps. These hunters from Huslia go down that  
18 way and they say, well, there's a camp here or a camp  
19 there. They do have their camps there and they do  
20 leave stuff behind; barrels, you know, fuel tanks.  
21 They don't want to haul everything back. Maybe the  
22 locals would like to use that, but that's beside the  
23 point. They're not supposed to leave anything on these  
24 lands. So I do have concern about the Dulbi area.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Dulbi is in the  
27 Koyukuk Wildlife Refuge, so the guide capacity planning  
28 effort that the Bureau of Land Management is  
29 endeavoring to proceed on is for the yellow lands,  
30 which is the BLM lands, but there are a lot of BLM  
31 lands that are relatively close to communities and so  
32 all of these issues of guide capacity have many facets.

33

34

35 I do appreciate the Regional Director,  
36 Bud Cribley, at the January Federal Subsistence Board  
37 meeting stated that the BLM was going to address guide  
38 use capacity issues and is doing that and I would like  
39 to transmit a letter to the Regional Director to thank  
40 him for starting into this guide use to try and start  
41 delineating guide use areas.

42

43 I'm not exactly pleased with having  
44 multiple guides all on top of one another and not  
45 setting any kind of quotas. I'm going to go into what  
46 ANILCA requires for Federal management of Federal  
47 public lands and the direction the guide capacity needs  
48 to go to have the least adverse impact on subsistence  
49 users. Could I, at the pleasure of the Council, go  
50 over a few items here that I jotted down and I want

1 those on the record and also to be transmitted to the  
2 BLM.

3  
4 I looked at this on the U.S. Fish and  
5 Wildlife and National Park Service Preserves they have  
6 a guide selection process. They select one guide,  
7 typically one guide for a guide use area and many times  
8 they set quotas on how many animals they can actually  
9 take there. I've known of these quotas being set on  
10 the Alaska Peninsula for brown bears and also for Dall  
11 sheep. I feel that the BLM shouldn't reinvent the  
12 wheel. They should actually look at their sister  
13 agencies and the Interior Department and look at what  
14 other agencies -- how they're implementing guide use  
15 areas.

16  
17 Under ANILCA Title VIII .801(3) and  
18 .802(1) ANILCA requires states under the policy of the  
19 Congress that, one, consistent with sound management  
20 principles and conservation of healthy populations of  
21 fish and wildlife and utilization of the public lands  
22 in Alaska to cause the least adverse impact possible on  
23 rural residents that depend upon subsistence use of  
24 resources of such lands consistent with management of  
25 fish and wildlife and in accordance with recognized  
26 scientific principals in the purpose of each unit.

27  
28 The Federal public lands are to be  
29 managed for healthy populations. State regulations are  
30 for maximum yield, not consistent with Federal  
31 congressional mandates, so the Bureau of Land  
32 Management relies too heavily on State management  
33 policies when, in reality, they have to look at the  
34 populations and health of those populations.

35  
36 .801(3) precludes threatening  
37 subsistence use of resources on public lands by taking  
38 fish and wildlife in a manner consistent with  
39 recognized principles of fish and wildlife management  
40 and the increasing populations and increased access  
41 into remote areas of Alaska.

42  
43 What should be occurring in the Federal  
44 Bureau of Land Management Guide Capacity Analysis is an  
45 allocation of the available harvest shall consider  
46 these points. One, healthy post-hunt populations of  
47 wildlife. What your breeding capacity is after the  
48 hunt is over, not clear-cut, every last legal moose,  
49 every last legal sheep out of the population. What's  
50 actually there after the hunt.

1                   Two, subsistence needs of the available  
2 harvest of the wildlife. So the first priority is the  
3 subsistence users' needs. Are they going to be met.

4  
5                   Three is the level of non-guided sport  
6 hunters use of the population. How many non-guided  
7 hunters are actually utilizing this resource. You  
8 can't exacerbate if you have hundreds of people hunting  
9 an area. You can't allocate all of the available  
10 resource to the guides. I think about subsistence or  
11 the other users of the resource.

12  
13                   Four is allocation of animal harvest  
14 permits to guides, which are within scientific  
15 principles of healthy harvest parameters. Guides which  
16 are qualified and have a clean record without pending  
17 charges should be scored for the use areas. Guide use  
18 areas shall have only one guide assigned to each area.  
19 Highly competitive guides for the same animals have no  
20 reason to harvest conservatively.

21  
22                   Single use guides will most often farm  
23 and protect animals in the areas they are using. This  
24 is seen in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and National Park  
25 Service preserve lands. Highly competitive guides.  
26 They have no reason to conserve. They're going to kill  
27 every last animal they can because they think everybody  
28 else is going to shoot those animals also.

29  
30                   So the guide capacity issue has to  
31 involve the issuance of guide areas that have one guide  
32 assigned and they have to have an allocation of how  
33 many animals they can actually take. You've got to  
34 remember that moose hunts are going for \$15-20,000.  
35 Dall sheep hunts are \$15-22,000. These guides have  
36 huge incentive to harvest every available animal and if  
37 they don't have restrictions and they're competing with  
38 other guides, they'll kill everything that's there.

39  
40                   So the guide capacity has to go towards  
41 a single guide use area and they have to allocate the  
42 available resource and calculate what the subsistence  
43 needs are, what would be considered non-guided hunters,  
44 sport hunters, and then what's available for allocation  
45 to the guides. That's what the BLM is required by  
46 ANILCA to harvest, maintain healthy populations of  
47 animals that do not conflict with subsistence uses.

48  
49                   So I wanted to get those comments on  
50 the record. I would like a letter transmitted to the

1 BLM guide use capacity with those points included in  
2 the letter and I would like the Council to add anything  
3 in addition to that letter.

4

5 Does the Council have any additions.

6

7 Don.

8

9 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No,  
10 but I think this certainly warrants some action. I was  
11 going to say whether BLM does anything or not, I  
12 believe that we have to have a paper trail to say that  
13 -- I mean time again, I know what a concern it is.  
14 I've talked to a number of hunters who came out of the  
15 Dulbi with -- you know, and they were saying, well, I  
16 just -- we're from Kenai. It's only one -- .8  
17 something moose per square mile and up there on the  
18 Three Day Slough it's almost four moose per -- .4 or  
19 something per square mile, but it's not always going to  
20 be that way.

21

22 So I have concern for that.

23

24 Because of the high water this fall I'm  
25 sure they went way up the Dulbi and certainly would be  
26 in favor of -- if we can't cut the numbers on anything  
27 like the drawing permits or something -- because these  
28 are State hunts, they're issued, but we certainly can  
29 maybe try to check with BLM to see if there's some kind  
30 of restrictions we could put on them or something.  
31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. Other  
34 comments.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you still there,  
39 Dan?

40

41 MR. SHARP: Yeah, Chairman, I'm still  
42 here. I captured most of your comments. They did echo  
43 some we received by email there, especially the  
44 competitive guides being less motivated to conserve.  
45 In the Federal bureaucracy the acronym is WOMO, wipe  
46 'em out and move on. I'm certainly aware of the  
47 concern there, but those are very good points, Jack.  
48 Before the letter is received I assure you Bud will  
49 hear it verbally.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we will transmit  
2 a letter from the Regional Council cleaned up with the  
3 intent. The guide capacity alternatives should reflect  
4 an alternative that is more in alignment with what's  
5 being done on the sister agencies lands; a single guide  
6 use, numbers of animals calculated that maintain  
7 healthy populations and accommodate subsistence users  
8 needs. There may be remote where there is no other  
9 users. Well, then you can allocate all of the resource  
10 to those guides, but in highly competitive areas, like  
11 the Dalton Highway Corridor and Squirrel River and  
12 stuff, you're going to have to think about what the  
13 allocation can actually be supported by the resource.

14  
15                   So ANILCA is clear, very clear, crystal  
16 clear, that healthy populations -- I don't care if  
17 you're BLM, Forest Service, Park Service, Fish and  
18 Wildlife, there needs to be healthy populations so that  
19 there are subsistence resources available without any  
20 kind of threat of decline in restrictions on  
21 subsistence uses. So I think there needs to be an  
22 alternative that reflects some of the concerns that I'm  
23 stating here have also been incorporated in the  
24 previous planning efforts by your sister agencies for  
25 the last 20-something years.

26  
27                   MR. GERVAIS: Jack, I have a question.

28  
29  
30                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

31  
32                   MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
33 Dan, I'd like to make a comment. Although Jack is  
34 promoting these guide use area concessions, as the U.S.  
35 Fish and Wildlife Service does on the Refuges, I think  
36 that concession is okay, but I would hope the BLM sets  
37 up their program -- their scoring system for evaluating  
38 the guides is quite a bit different than Fish and  
39 Wildlife Service and that it actually takes into  
40 account local hire on the guides and the assistant  
41 guides, the minimization of impact to subsistence users  
42 in subsistence hunting areas and the amount or pounds  
43 of meat that's actually going to remain in these  
44 communities that are adjacent to these permitted areas.

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those are very good  
47 points, Tim. I very much agree with those points. One  
48 of the main points I have against the U.S. Fish and  
49 Wildlife guide system is that the guides are eligible  
50 and able to sell the guide use areas. They also do not

1 have to personally participate in guiding. I know  
2 guides that are just -- basically they're booking  
3 agents and they've got assistant guides doing all the  
4 work. Well, bad things can happen.

5  
6 We've got a moose that ended up in  
7 Wiseman that was half rotten because a non-resident  
8 assistant guide took very poor care of the moose and it  
9 was sub-legal and the assistant guide got a ticket  
10 because of that. I feel that guides should be guiding  
11 hunters and in the field participating so they assure  
12 that bad things don't happen.

13  
14 I don't feel that there should be an  
15 economic incentive to score high. Get an older master  
16 guide that gets the guide area and then sells it to  
17 somebody else that may not even score that high. So  
18 those are some of the issues that BLM should be looking  
19 at. I agree with your points there, Tim.

20  
21 Eleanor.

22  
23 MS. YATLIN: Okay, Mr. Chairman. The  
24 other concern I hear about guide hunters in Huslia is  
25 they do give meat out, but they do not take the stomach  
26 fat, they do not give out the head, that's a delicacy,  
27 and they don't bring the skin back so we could tan the  
28 skin, they don't bring the ribs to the village. They  
29 do bring meat into the village and to those people that  
30 do not go hunting, cannot go hunting, they give meat to  
31 them, but that's their complaint is they don't get no  
32 head, they don't get no ribs, they don't get no fat or  
33 the skin.

34  
35 So that's our way of life to utilize  
36 all parts of the moose to conserve it in the future for  
37 the future generation is to utilize all parts of the  
38 moose or any animal or fish so we'll get it back.  
39 That's a belief, so if all guides believed that, we'd  
40 be -- we conserved land and the animals. That's just a  
41 concern.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think it would  
44 behoove all of the agencies that have guide use to  
45 request from the communities that they intend to donate  
46 meat to to request from the communities what those  
47 communities would like to receive in preserved state;  
48 head, fat and various portions. When you go to the  
49 store, they call those giblets in the chicken or  
50 turkey. Those pieces of the animal -- there's a lot of

1 food there. I mean there's a bunch of meat on the head  
2 of a moose. That's just thrown away. On the Koyukuk  
3 that has to be retained to go through the check  
4 station. Those should actually be brought to the  
5 villages and donated to the communities.

6  
7 So, you're right, Eleanor, there's need  
8 for more outreach by the agencies that have guide use  
9 for donating meat to communities and what those  
10 communities want to get. They want that internal fat,  
11 all that kidney fat. I got a bag of fat that was about  
12 a quarter of a garbage bag full of fat out of a moose.  
13 I mean there's a lot of fat there.

14  
15 So there's some issues with guiding  
16 that can be offensive to rural communities. If some of  
17 those more choicer parts that are considered waste,  
18 that would make the communities a lot happier. So  
19 there needs to be -- all of the agencies that have  
20 guide use need to be thinking about those kind of  
21 issues.

22  
23 On this letter to the BLM is there any  
24 additional issues that need to be included. Jenny.

25  
26 MS. PELKOLA: I just want to ask a  
27 question. Would the transporters be included?

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Dan, the question is  
30 would transporters be included? I don't see that in  
31 the capacity. It's just guide capacity.

32  
33 MR. SHARP: No, transporters would be  
34 handled differently. I suspect transporters are  
35 probably one of the biggest issues we've heard. As  
36 much we hear about guide issues, we certainly hear  
37 about transporter issues. That's a separate  
38 initiative. This is done in part to coordinate with  
39 Department of Natural Resources and Big Game Commercial  
40 Services Board and knock off the guide issue first.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
43 Ray.

44  
45 MR. COLLINS: Further clarification on  
46 that. Does that mean -- this is Ray. Does that mean  
47 that the transporters don't need any kind of permitting  
48 from you to operate on your lands?

49  
50 MR. SHARP: No. No, they still need to

1 get permits to operate on BLM land. It's just the  
2 capacity issue with respect to guides is what we're  
3 trying to address right now. No, there's no free rides  
4 on Federal lands here.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I think we've  
7 covered the guide capacity issue. I'm losing track.  
8 Did we have a motion?

9  
10 MR. JOHNSON: No.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No motion to  
13 transmit this letter to the BLM. The Chair will  
14 entertain.....

15  
16 MR. HONEA: Motion to transmit the  
17 letter.

18  
19 MS. YATLIN: Second.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to transmit  
22 the letter by Don, seconded by Eleanor.

23  
24 MS. YATLIN: Question.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of  
27 transmitting the letter to Bureau of Land Management on  
28 guide capacity issues signify by saying aye.

29  
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
33 sign.

34  
35 (No opposing votes)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much for  
38 being online there, Dan.

39  
40 MR. SHARP: My pleasure.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moving down on the  
43 agenda. Identification of the 2012 annual report  
44 topics. We've had one or two issues during this  
45 meeting. One was the chinook salmon.

46  
47 Go ahead there, Carl.

48  
49 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. The two  
50 issues I've identified so far from this meeting were

1 the issue on parity and appointment to the North  
2 Pacific Fisheries Management Council, that there should  
3 be a seat for rural subsistence users on that council.  
4 Then also you had identified some key points from the  
5 April 20th, 2012 Western Arctic Caribou Working Group  
6 letter to Governor Parnell. This should also be  
7 included in the annual report.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, those are some  
12 of the issues. Did you want to include the chinook  
13 salmon issues, Tim, into the annual report?

14

15 MR. GERVAIS: Certainly.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And specific would  
18 be the lack of performance of chinook salmon and to  
19 meet escapement needs and subsistence needs on the  
20 Yukon River and also now the Kuskokwim River and the  
21 need to explore with North Pacific Fisheries Management  
22 Council and the NMFS conservation areas. You referred  
23 to conservation areas. Could that be included in this,  
24 in the Bering Sea?

25

26 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, you could put in  
27 MPAs or marine protected areas to specifically provide  
28 some mid-life habitat that's non-trawl for the king  
29 salmon.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Federal  
32 Subsistence Board may not -- may say this is not within  
33 their authority, but it is within their authority if  
34 we're reduced -- subsistence needs are not being met or  
35 escapements are not being met. They need to begin  
36 dialoguing on additional thought processes to the North  
37 Pacific Fisheries Management Council on marine  
38 protected areas and other mechanisms to protect chinook  
39 and chum salmon passage in the Bering Sea.

40

41 Another comment.

42

43 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, another strategy  
44 that may be effective is they shorten that pollock B  
45 season so they're done by the end of July with that  
46 fishery instead of the end of October. Yeah, and I  
47 think one way we can communicate it is to say that  
48 we're --we've kind of exhausted the methods that we can  
49 conserve on the in-river groups and it seems like at  
50 this point in time the biggest chance to be able to get

1 more chinook onto the spawning ground is to take some  
2 of that bycatch harvest and not have it be bycatch, but  
3 be part of the functioning salmon run.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's  
6 another annual report topic. Any other annual report  
7 topics at this time.

8

9 Ray.

10

11 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. This  
12 discussion we were just one, I'm wondering since now  
13 guides and outfitters need permits that in the  
14 permitting process there should be points or  
15 consideration given for how they work with subsistence  
16 users to make sure that meat is utilized or something  
17 like that so they would be conscious of the need to --  
18 since subsistence is a priority and they have to meet  
19 it, they could meet part of those needs if they handled  
20 it -- if they got some points in that for doing that,  
21 there would be an incentive for them to consider that  
22 when they're applying. So is there something like that  
23 that could be mentioned?

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That wouldn't  
26 actually be an annual report topic. This Council could  
27 transmit a letter to the National Park Service on  
28 Preserve lands and the Federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
29 to request them to evaluate the point system for  
30 contribution of meat to local communities, including  
31 those portions of the animal that would be considered  
32 desirable, including head, fat, ribs, et cetera, that  
33 people would consider as salvage of the entire animal  
34 and that would actually score the guide higher.

35

36 I know that occasionally the Fish and  
37 Wildlife and the Park Service re-evaluate their guide  
38 use permitting systems, so we should send a letter and  
39 that may encourage them to open that up and look at --  
40 and also include in that preclude the sale of guide use  
41 areas on National Park Service and U.S. Fish and  
42 Wildlife lands to the highest scored guide so there's  
43 not an economic incentive to score high and then sell  
44 to undesirable guides.

45

46 MR. GERVAIS: And also the guide and  
47 transporter's ability to keep their clients away from  
48 subsistence areas and off of subsistence populations.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that would be a

1 separate issue. The Chair will entertain a motion to  
2 transmit a letter to the National Park Service, BLM and  
3 U.S. Fish and Wildlife regarding guide use issues that  
4 would -- guides that are hunting near communities that  
5 contribute meat would poll the communities on what  
6 would be desirable to be utilized and returned to the  
7 communities of the affected area and the hunters would  
8 not -- the guides would be encouraged to hunt further  
9 away from communities and that guide use permits would  
10 not be sold. Those would be the points in the letter.

11

12 MR. COLLINS: I so move.

13

14 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second. Do you want  
17 to comment there, Jenny.

18

19 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah. I forgot my  
20 comment now, but -- oh, is there going to be a tracking  
21 -- say I was a guide and I was going to bring the head  
22 and skin and everything back to the village, how are  
23 they going to keep track of that? Is there a tracking  
24 system or something?

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the community  
27 members receive those and it will be word of mouth. If  
28 people come in and they have bad meat, they've got a  
29 head that's half rotten, people will complain and the  
30 Refuges or whoever the land managers are will hear  
31 about that. That's kind of the best tracking there is.  
32 But we do need to move on in this agenda. This issue  
33 is really -- guide conflicts and transporter conflicts  
34 are a big issue in many areas within this region. I  
35 think this letter is very warranted.

36

37 There's a motion to transmit this  
38 letter. Any further discussion.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MR. SIMON: Question.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is  
45 called. Those in favor of transmitting the letter to  
46 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, National Park Service and  
47 the BLM on guide uses signify by saying aye.

48

49 MR. GERVAIS: And transporters.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And transporters.  
2  
3 IN UNISON: Aye.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.  
6  
7 (No opposing votes)  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is there any more  
10 annual report topics.  
11  
12 (No comments)  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: None at this time.  
15 We're down to J, Council charter review. How are we  
16 doing? Is everybody fine?  
17  
18 (Council nods affirmatively)  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Council charter  
21 review. Carl.  
22  
23 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, thank you.  
24 This is just a process you undergo every two years.  
25 While you just have a new charter that was signed by  
26 the Secretary just December of last year, we always  
27 start this process a year out to start considering  
28 different changes to make to the charters. Although,  
29 on reviewing the Federal Advisory Committee Act  
30 materials, there's really not a lot that the Councils  
31 themselves can change about the charters. You can  
32 suggest to change the name of the charter, a change in  
33 the amount of the number of Council members you have in  
34 your Council, but that is just about it.  
35  
36 In previous years, Councils have made a  
37 variety of suggestions on different changes to make.  
38 For example, one, language on how to remove members of  
39 the Council in incidents of non-attendance or other  
40 issues. That was removed out of the charter. Instead  
41 it is now being codified so to speak in the RAC  
42 operations manual that we're revising. It will be  
43 available for the winter meeting. So there will be  
44 some pretty good information there that will guide the  
45 Councils on that issue.  
46  
47 So even though FACA restricts what you  
48 can put specifically in your charter, your Council  
49 operations manual serves as a means, as a place where  
50 you can put other things that you think are important

1 regarding the management and the operations of these  
2 Councils.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Carl. Does  
7 any Council member have an issue with the current  
8 charter or would like to discuss any point of the  
9 charter.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I feel our current  
14 membership total is adequate at this time for the  
15 region. I don't currently see any issue with the  
16 charter that's before us. Any Council comments on the  
17 charter.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see no problem  
22 with the charter from the Council members, so we'll  
23 move on in the agenda. We're back on agency reports.  
24 We'll bring Tom back up here and continue with OSM. So  
25 we had staffing and budget updates. Council membership  
26 application/nomination update.

27

28 Go ahead, Tom.

29

30 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. I guess I'm  
31 wondering -- I'm looking to Carl. Do you want to cover  
32 the Council membership application/nomination issue?

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did we -- is  
35 that.....

36

37 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. This is a  
38 different issue. This is just essentially a status  
39 update as to where the nomination's process is for this  
40 year's nomination cycle. So the Federal Subsistence  
41 Board did meet in July to submit its recommendations  
42 for appointment to all the Councils. Those names have  
43 been forwarded to the Secretary's office in D.C. and as  
44 Ms. Pelkola has noted on a couple of occasions  
45 everybody will find out in December as to who was  
46 appointed to those Councils. It is a long process, but  
47 it's just one thing that we have to do every year.

48

49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When you have  
2 reapplied, you're sort of in limbo. You don't know  
3 what's going to happen to you, whether your head is  
4 going to roll or not. It sounds like if you reapply  
5 there's not a lot of competitors for your seat, so no  
6 worries.

7  
8                   So rural determination process and  
9 method review.

10  
11                   MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Again,  
12 there's a brief summary on this issue and the next one,  
13 but on Page 168 at its January 2012 public meeting, the  
14 Federal Subsistence Board passed a motion to direct  
15 staff to initiate a review of the rural determination  
16 process and the rural determination findings.

17  
18                   So, again, we're starting the process  
19 again with the census information. The intent of the  
20 Board is to conduct a good review, good solid review of  
21 the determination process, analytical methods, findings  
22 and begin the public input.

23  
24                   All areas within Western Interior are  
25 considered rural, but, again, this is an issue that's  
26 near and dear to the heart of some of the Councils and  
27 this is an opportunity if you'd like to provide input  
28 to that process, but it will be ongoing and we'll  
29 continue to keep you informed.

30  
31                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32  
33                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. The  
34 following topics will be reviewed: Rural definitions,  
35 population thresholds, rural characteristics,  
36 aggregation of communities, information sources. Many  
37 years ago I talked about -- I felt that aggregating  
38 communities could be problematic and that happened down  
39 near Ketchikan, so I feel that reviewing the rural  
40 determination process is a valid process and needs to  
41 be reviewed. In our spring meeting or when would we  
42 get a -- would there be work provided for the Council  
43 at a future date?

44  
45                   MR. KRON: Again, I'm looking at the  
46 summary there, but the very last sentence says the  
47 winter 2013 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
48 meeting will provide an initial public forum for  
49 comment on the rural determination process, analytical  
50 methods, and findings.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
2  
3 MR. KRON: Again, we just wanted to let  
4 everybody know it's starting again. Thank you.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Thanks, Tom.  
7  
8 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, what does  
9 aggregation of communities mean?  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They were taking  
12 communities of similar economic status and area -- what  
13 was that community, Klukwan?  
14  
15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Saxman.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Saxman. Saxman was  
18 sucked into this aggregate around Ketchikan, but  
19 they're completely dissimilar community of Native  
20 people compared to the area around them. So they got  
21 sucked in and lost subsistence and they're like not  
22 happy about that. That's one of the things I was  
23 cautioning is because of the proximity of a community  
24 to another that doesn't mean they have the same life  
25 way or the dependence on resource and all that. I  
26 think the Federal Board is stepping back and, like,  
27 whoa, that was a mistake, we better re-evaluate this.  
28  
29 Tom.  
30  
31 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Council. There  
32 were some aggregations that were made in Southcentral  
33 as well down in the Homer area basically and definition  
34 around Anchorage out in the Valley. So, again, there  
35 were some other aggregations, but the one there at  
36 Saxman and Ketchikan has generated a lot of discussion.  
37  
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Some aggregations  
41 may be warranted or valid, but some may not. I think  
42 the Federal Board needs to look a little closer on how  
43 they're doing that.  
44  
45 Any other comment.  
46  
47 MR. GERVAIS: (Shakes head negatively)  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So briefing on  
50 consultation policies.

1 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. The briefing on  
2 consultation policies begins on 169 and continues on  
3 from there. The Federal Subsistence Board adopted its  
4 Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation Policy at  
5 their May meeting. The Board postponed adopting the  
6 supplemental ANCSA corporation consultation  
7 policy pending the Department of Interior finalizing  
8 its own policy on this issue. So, again, that's still  
9 in process.

10

11 I think the people working on this  
12 would like to have input at any point. I think, as  
13 you've all seen, there's been more of an effort. There  
14 was direction from the President. All agencies have  
15 been working to get more consultation.

16

17 In Alaska, there's this requirement  
18 that we get it from ANCSA corporations as well as  
19 tribes, but again we're trying to -- it's to the  
20 program's benefit to get as much input as possible and  
21 we're working hard to get tribal consultation.

22

23 So there's a copy of the tribal  
24 consultation policy included for those of you that may  
25 not have seen it before. Also, I think we have a draft  
26 policy for the ANCSA corporation. Again, we're trying  
27 to move in that direction, but it requires a lot of  
28 input and there's some information there for you and  
29 we'd appreciate any input you have.

30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32

33 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Carl.

36

37 MR. JOHNSON: Just to add to Tom's  
38 comments. The ANCSA overall DOI policy was finalized  
39 in late August, so now that's been done. There's that  
40 firm guidance that they'll be now building on. The  
41 other thing is the implementation policy for the tribal  
42 consultation and that is in draft mode. The Board will  
43 approve that draft at its January meeting so that at  
44 your winter meeting you'll be able to provide comment  
45 on the implementation policy or implementation  
46 guidelines for the tribal consultation policy.

47

48 Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Does any

1 Council member want to comment on the tribal  
2 consultation policy.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. That document  
7 is developing nicely and I know there's a lot of work  
8 going into it. I'll be interested in seeing the  
9 implementation document. Ray, do you have a comment.

10

11 MR. COLLINS: I'm wondering if that  
12 means both the Tanana Chiefs and Doyon, are they both  
13 covered by that or are they looking at them together,  
14 collectively, or how does that work?

15

16 MR. KRON: Again, I think maybe people  
17 can help me here. I'm looking to Carl. But my  
18 understanding is that this would be TCC, AVCP, for  
19 example, the ANCSA corporations and all the tribes,  
20 more than 200 tribes across the state, but the ANCSA  
21 corporations specifically.

22

23 MR. JOHNSON: Actually TCC and AVCP  
24 kind of sit in a world outside of tribes and ANCSA  
25 corporations. They're non-profit associations, so  
26 they're completely different. So Doyon would be under  
27 the ANCSA consultation, but any of the tribes that are  
28 members of AVCP or TCC would then be -- those tribes  
29 individually would be the tribal consultation policy.

30

31 MR. KRON: Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I attended the  
34 Federal Subsistence Board in May of 2011. There was  
35 tribal consultation for public comment and you would  
36 not believe how many people are not happy with  
37 corporations being consulted on subsistence issues and  
38 they were testifying before the Federal Subsistence  
39 Board and I want this Council to be aware that there  
40 were many people that don't trust their corporations to  
41 comment on subsistence issues. That was the kind of  
42 comments I saw at the Federal Subsistence Board and I'd  
43 like to report that back to this Council.

44

45 There's a provision that Ted Stevens  
46 put in some appropriation bill that requires that, but  
47 a lot of people, a lot of Native leaders do not like  
48 that, so I want the Council to be aware that was the  
49 tempo at that meeting. There was a lot of talk about  
50 that.

1 So moving on in this agenda.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: Jack.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

6

7 MR. GERVAIS: So are you saying that  
8 the ANCSA corporations have to be part of this tribal  
9 consultation process?

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. It's required  
12 in the budgetary portion of Federal law. The Federal  
13 Board has to abide by law and they have to consult the  
14 corporations, but corporations are corporations. They  
15 don't always look out for subsistence use, they look  
16 out for economics, so that may be in conflict with  
17 local subsistence users. I'll leave it right there.

18

19 So we're done with OSM reports and  
20 we're down to National Park Service. Clarence, do you  
21 want to come up to the mic there.

22

23 MR. SUMMERS: Clarence Summers,  
24 National Park Service.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll stop you there  
27 for one second. You weren't here at the beginning of  
28 the meeting. We had the Gates of the Arctic  
29 Subsistence Resource Commission and a letter regarding  
30 the 10-01 hunting plan recommendation in the Denali and  
31 we tabled those until National Park Service, so those  
32 are also going to be at this time. We're going to deal  
33 with Park Service all at one time. So I'll just let  
34 you know that we've got some -- all of this is in the  
35 National Park Service agenda.

36

37 MR. SUMMERS: Okay.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So go ahead with  
40 your presentation.

41

42 MR. SUMMERS: Certainly. I'll start  
43 with Denali. I've just got a couple items. The Denali  
44 Commission met -- I believe it was in August and  
45 they've got a proposal, a motion that they approved for  
46 a community hunt for Telida and Nikolai. It's a  
47 situation where I believe Dan has requested this and  
48 Ray may want to chime in here shortly to provide more  
49 background, but the bottom line is they're working on a  
50 proposal to be submitted to the Federal Board for a

1 regulation change to allow a community hunt for the  
2 communities of Telida and Nikolai in Denali National  
3 Park and Preserve in Unit 19 or portions in the areas  
4 open for subsistence. I'll stop with that.

5

6 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, this is a winter  
7 hunt for sheep that was disallowed by the State further  
8 down the range where they had traditionally hunted and  
9 they also traditionally hunted out toward Denali and  
10 they figured they could open a trail out there. Telida  
11 is not that far from this area and they are willing to  
12 go through to be able to get a limited hunt on the  
13 number of sheep out there.

14

15 I haven't seen the final thing that's  
16 being drafted there because one of our members was  
17 working, but it's like half a dozen sheep or something  
18 like that just to get it on the record and see if they  
19 can get a winter hunt because that's when they can get  
20 out there by trail, snowmachine and so on. They can't  
21 afford the flying out and hunting during the fall  
22 season when there's all the other hunts going on in  
23 those areas.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that proposal  
26 will be coming before the Western Interior Regional  
27 Council when we review Federal proposals.

28

29 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's just a heads-  
32 up that that proposal has been submitted, correct,  
33 Clarence?

34

35 MR. SUMMERS: That's correct. On  
36 another item, this has to do with hunting in a portion  
37 of Denali in Unit 20 in the National Preserve area.  
38 There are new regulations that affect brown bear  
39 baiting. At the same meeting Ray attended on August  
40 28th the Commission discussed this with the National  
41 Park Service and went on record in support of a  
42 possible regulation, a compendium regulation, that  
43 would prohibit baiting for brown bear in National Park  
44 and Preserves in Unit 20. So that's something that you  
45 may hear about. As you know, currently, this is not an  
46 allowed use on National Park Service lands.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

49

50 MR. COLLINS: The subsistence hunters

1 that use those lands, like in Cantwell and so on,  
2 weren't interested in using baiting for bears, didn't  
3 think it was appropriate and they didn't want to cause  
4 conflict and I know the concern with the Park was that  
5 it habituated bears to bait, then you're just  
6 encouraging more getting into the campgrounds and  
7 things like that too, so they didn't want to touch it.  
8 They thought it would be cleaner just to leave it off  
9 the books in the Park.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Intensive baiting  
12 can draw bears, especially along road systems, towards  
13 communities. That happens on the time in Fairbanks.  
14 Every year they've got bears that show up -- brown  
15 bears show up killing sheep in people's yards and  
16 stuff. It's the bread crumb theory. Bait stations all  
17 along the Elliot Highway bring those bears right into  
18 Fairbanks. Bear baiting may be appropriate possibly  
19 somewhere, but not along the road system, so I agree  
20 with your commission's position.

21

22 MR. SUMMERS: That's all I have for the  
23 high points for Denali unless Ray would like to speak  
24 to an issue.

25

26 MR. COLLINS: I've got a wildlife  
27 report here and I know I've been pushing for them to  
28 continue study of predator/prey relationships and so  
29 on. Also they suffered quite a loss there in their  
30 Staff in that Tom Meier, who had worked for a number of  
31 years and is recognized as an expert on wolves and he  
32 does a real good job of dealing with all factions on  
33 that issue and being able to present the case and keep  
34 factual information out about wolves, so he'll be  
35 really a loss. He's a co-author of a study on the  
36 wolves of Denali.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did he retire?

39

40 MR. COLLINS: He died. He passed away  
41 early on August 12th this year. I know he's been -- we  
42 really appreciate him because he gives us the wildlife  
43 updates and he's been a good spokesman for us and  
44 supported subsistence as well as the other. There was  
45 a lot of pressure to -- well, just an example of  
46 wolves. They've tagged the wolves and there's concern  
47 of trying to close areas outside Denali because some of  
48 those Park wolves go out of the Park. There was just  
49 one of them killed near Cantwell and there was all  
50 kinds of furor that they ought to extent -- the State

1 ought to close that area and so on. I know the State  
2 Board had wanted to. But he's pointed out that  
3 biologically it didn't impact at all.

4

5                   They had put transmitters on 14 --  
6 let's see, what was it here, 14 wolves, I think, and  
7 there were -- where is the information on that. Yeah,  
8 of the 14, five of them died from natural causes.  
9 There were 14 of them of those collared that were  
10 killed and five of them were from natural causes and  
11 four of them were outside -- oh, let me change this.  
12 Fourteen wolves were tagged, five of them died of  
13 natural causes, four of them were killed by human  
14 hunters, but only one of them was in the Park. One of  
15 them was clear over by Paxson, one by Tok and one down  
16 by Nikolai, so the Park disperses those over a long  
17 way. They only lost one in the area adjacent to the  
18 Park. Those kind of studies gives us factual  
19 information about what's happening.

20

21                   The other one is that the number of  
22 caribou in there have been low. People talk about  
23 healthy and abundant populations. Well, in terms of  
24 caribou they've been staying around 2,500 animals, but  
25 their calf survival is only 28 percent over the last  
26 eight years. Because of the predator/prey  
27 relationships are low and it's those kind of studies  
28 gives us information about what happens in a system  
29 where there's no hunting, you know. The numbers just  
30 end up reaching a low stability.

31

32                   The same is true on moose. For  
33 instance, on moose, 75 percent of the cows are without  
34 calves in this one count. They had 496 moose that they  
35 identified, 21 percent of the cows had only one calf,  
36 four percent had two calves, so there's a low twinning  
37 rate too, so you do end up with stability, but it's  
38 often a low stability. To have actual information on  
39 that where there's not this human interference I think  
40 it gives us good data on what happens to compare to  
41 outside where there is wolf control and management.  
42 That's just some of the data I think is important for  
43 us.

44

45                   Also they're tracking sheep, so it  
46 gives us information on the sheep population of what  
47 the composition is. For instance, the rams, they  
48 identified 26 percent of the population were rams less  
49 than full, eight percent were full curl rams. So it  
50 kind of gives you again statistics on a population

1 that's not hunted what kind of numbers you can expect.  
2 So I think that's good information and I encourage them  
3 to keep on studies like that.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that's real  
6 good data. I'd like to take a look at that at some  
7 point here. So that would be Denali's presentation.  
8 Continue.

9  
10 MR. SUMMERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Earlier we had Marcy  
13 on the phone here and I'm not sure if she's still on  
14 there. Are you still on the phone, Marcy?

15  
16 MS. OKADA: I'm still on the phone,  
17 Jack.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Clarence is  
20 going to continue his presentation.

21  
22 MR. SUMMERS: We're going to go to  
23 Gates if there are no questions for Denali.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So Marcy will  
26 do it? Okay. Go ahead, Marcy.

27  
28 MS. OKADA: Okay. Did you receive our  
29 Park update for Gates in your meeting materials binder?

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have the SRC's  
32 letter to Ken Salazar about the -- to the governor.  
33 Oh, it's to Ken Salazar about the governor's letter  
34 rather from our June 19th teleconference.

35  
36 That's the only thing I have here.

37  
38 MS. OKADA: Okay. I submitted a Parks  
39 update.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's in the blue  
42 folder. Stand by, Marcy. It's been found. Okay, we  
43 have it. Go ahead. It's in the left side of your  
44 packet of the blue folder.

45  
46 Go right ahead, Marcy.

47  
48 MS. OKADA: Okay. So you did receive  
49 it.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We found it.  
2  
3 MS. OKADA: Okay. I guess no one has  
4 had a chance to look it over.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No.  
7  
8 MS. OKADA: Okay.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So do you want to  
11 just hit some of the high points on those bullets for  
12 the Council.  
13  
14 MS. OKADA: Okay. Let's see. I think  
15 I'm going to cover more of the biological information.  
16 If you go to the bottom of Page 1 it explains that  
17 there are Dall sheep fecal samples collected.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.  
20  
21 MS. OKADA: So this past April fecal  
22 samples were collected in order to get an assessment of  
23 diet composition quality for Dall sheep. This is going  
24 to be an ongoing project, so I think more fecal samples  
25 are going to also be collected in 2013. If anyone has  
26 any questions about this particular project, they can  
27 contact Kumi Rattenbury.  
28  
29 Distance sampling surveys were also  
30 conducted for Dall sheep in Itkillik Preserve and the  
31 numbers are posted in the table below. If you compare  
32 the numbers between 2010 and 2011, it doesn't show a  
33 strong -- I wouldn't say it shows a statistically  
34 strong decline in the numbers. The 2012 data is  
35 currently being analyzed and will hopefully be  
36 presented at your next meeting.  
37  
38 We also have had four climate stations  
39 put up in Gates of the Arctic and data is being  
40 collected but hasn't been compiled or analyzed at the  
41 current moment. Let me know if I'm going a little bit  
42 too quickly.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, you're fine.  
45 Keep going.  
46  
47 MS. OKADA: I also want to share that  
48 caribou diet information is also being collected for  
49 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd with our Park Service  
50 biologist. That data hasn't been analyzed just yet as

1 well.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would be  
4 through fecal samples or through grazing analysis?

5

6 MS. OKADA: I can't answer that  
7 question.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's fine.

10

11 MS. OKADA: But I can get back to you  
12 with the answer. I'm assuming it's primarily through  
13 fecal matter.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

16

17 MS. OKADA: The moose project, there  
18 were GPS collars placed on moose and that project has  
19 currently come to an end. Not for any particular  
20 reason, but that's when it was just basically slated  
21 through a certain time period and that money has since  
22 run out.

23

24 Let's see. Just to wrap up. We're  
25 also collecting contaminate data for fish in certain  
26 lakes in Gates of the Arctic. That's being done with  
27 Angela Matz with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but  
28 the Park Service is collaborating with her on that  
29 project.

30

31 Lastly, we have hired two new  
32 scientists for the Arctic Inventory and Monitoring  
33 Program and that's Jon O'Donnell, who is a new aquatic  
34 ecologist, and Jeremy Mizel is the new ornithologist.

35

36 I think that's it in a quick nutshell.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. It's good to  
39 keep the Council informed what's going on with the Park  
40 Service also. There's significant portions of the  
41 upper portion of the Western Interior that's inside the  
42 Gates of the Arctic Park.

43

44 Does the Council have any questions on  
45 any of the projects.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Subsistence  
50 Resource Commission, Pollock is the chair of the SRC

1 and I'm the vice chair, so we attended a meeting, as  
2 you see in April 18th over in Anuktuvuk Pass, but we  
3 couldn't meet quorum. Our commission has been having a  
4 problem meeting quorum for various reasons. People  
5 have what lives and other issues, meeting conflicts and  
6 so forth. We did have a good meeting. We had people  
7 from the community show up at our meeting, so it was  
8 more informational.

9

10 We also happened to have quite a bit of  
11 discussion about the Umiat Road and the impacts that  
12 people are concerned about with the Umiat Road and  
13 there's several individuals in Anuktuvuk Pass that are  
14 advocating to the legislature and various entities on  
15 the Umiat Road. The commission wanted to transmit a  
16 letter to the Corps of Engineers on -- they're doing  
17 the environmental impact statement, but because we  
18 didn't meet quorum I wrote my personal comment to the  
19 Corps of Engineers regarding various issues that the  
20 commission had actually discussed.

21

22 Hopefully we'll be able to meet quorum  
23 at our next meeting. We had a preclusion. Did you  
24 want to go over that funding issue?

25

26 MR. SUMMERS: No, you go ahead.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Park Service  
29 switched into a different computer programming system  
30 that precluded our fall meetings and our subsistence  
31 resource commission chair's meetings, so we're  
32 basically on hold at the Park Service level until they  
33 can get up and running and that possibly will be more  
34 toward the spring, what would be our spring meeting  
35 cycle.

36

37 Did you want to add any additional  
38 comments there, Pollock.

39

40 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Like  
41 Fish and Wildlife, the National Park doesn't hand out  
42 enough money on the per diem issue. We discussed that  
43 here at this Board that in the past we talk about SRC  
44 meetings we are not receiving enough money for -- I  
45 mean coming to the meeting, the National Park itself  
46 does not have enough money for per diem.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.

1 You had a comment, Ray.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I had one  
4 additional on Denali there. There's another study  
5 they're looking at is on the headwaters of some of  
6 those streams that go into the Tanana there. They're  
7 realizing that the wolves and some of the others,  
8 possibly bears, are using more of the salmon up at the  
9 end of the run, so they're going to be checking on that  
10 to see that it may be an important part of the diet of  
11 some of those animals there. It's right up at the  
12 headwaters in the spawning area, but they want to get  
13 more information on that, so they'll be doing a study  
14 on that this next year. That will give us some  
15 information.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Wolves are  
18 fairly reliant on salmon if they can get them to feed  
19 pups in the summertime and get them through that  
20 hardship period until they can get snow and the pups  
21 can travel. They're pretty tied down when the pups  
22 can't travel in July. Wolves go into real hardship. I  
23 have a female wolf in my yard stealing old bones out of  
24 my rhubarb that had nothing on it. She was chewing on  
25 those. She ate a hornet nest in my yard. She was  
26 having a hard time. So wolves actually have a real  
27 hard time in July, so salmon runs, where they have  
28 salmon, is a big deal for wolves.

29

30 One other issue I wanted to bring up.  
31 It's on Page 11 of our Council's book here. The  
32 hunting plan recommendation that this Council endorsed,  
33 which would set out a development of management plans  
34 for wildlife primarily in the Park Preserves areas of  
35 the Gates of the Arctic National Park, which is the  
36 Itkillik in the northern portion and then the Kobuk  
37 boot preserve area. Those management plans are  
38 necessary because there is sport hunting inside of  
39 those preserve areas and there's getting to be more and  
40 more Dall sheep hunting in the Itkillik Preserve and  
41 this data that Marcy sent us here shows that there's  
42 only 2 percent adult full curl rams, which is getting  
43 fairly low. So that's showing a heavy human harvest is  
44 what that actually is showing.

45

46 It's important for the Park Service to  
47 work with the SRC, the State and the Federal  
48 Subsistence Board on these management plans and the  
49 Regional Councils are a part of that. This Council  
50 will be hearing about these management plans that are

1 going to be coming forth from the SRC and hopefully the  
2 other SRCs in the future will develop management plans  
3 on their preserve areas also.

4  
5                   So I just wanted the Council to see the  
6 response to the Governor's letter. Basically the  
7 Governor was saying that the SRCs didn't have authority  
8 on the Park Preserve lands, which there was a lot of  
9 misinformation disseminated in the Governor's letter to  
10 the Secretary of Interior, so the SRC responded to the  
11 Governor's letter with more factual information. So I  
12 wanted the Council to be able to review what the  
13 commission actually stated.

14  
15                   So that's sort of the update on the  
16 Park Service.

17  
18                   Tim.

19  
20                   MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair. Where is the  
21 Governor's letter? Is it in this packet?

22  
23                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I thought the  
24 Governor's letter would be included, but I'm not sure  
25 what happened to the Governor's letter.

26  
27                   MR. GERVAIS: Since I can't see that  
28 letter, can you just.....

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A synopsis would be  
31 that the Governor -- each one of the HPR paragraphs is  
32 a response to the Governor's concerns. One would be  
33 that we're not violating Federal law by having  
34 management plans, which are required under Title VIII  
35 .801 and .802 of ANILCA. So the management plans are  
36 part of management using recognized scientific  
37 principals. Management plans are part of game  
38 management, so we're not violating ANILCA law.

39  
40                   One accusation was that the Gates of  
41 the Arctic was trying to increase -- basically  
42 reallocate resource to subsistence users over sport  
43 use. That was a completely off-the-wall statement  
44 because the commission's job is to assure that the  
45 populations remain healthy, just like this Council's  
46 job is to remain -- is to look out for the resource.  
47 So we're not trying to reallocate resource. We're  
48 looking out for a management plan would be developed to  
49 maintain the health of the resource. So the allegation  
50 that we were trying to restrict non-subsistence users

1 illicitly is actually precluded by .815 of ANILCA that  
2 does not allow that. So that's not a valid point by  
3 the Governor's Office.

4

5 MR. GERVAIS: Who was offended by your  
6 HPR 10-01? Was that Fish and Game or Professional  
7 Hunter's Association?

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Governor's  
10 Office -- see, we sent -- the hunting plan  
11 recommendation goes to the Governor and the Secretary  
12 of Interior has a 60-day comment period and then we had  
13 another meeting to review the comments. Well, the  
14 State never sent any comments in. So we evaluated all  
15 the comments that we got from the Councils. We had to  
16 back-step because Northwest Arctic and North Slope  
17 hadn't put it on their agenda. We had to wait for them  
18 to have a meeting. They endorsed. So WIRAC, Northwest  
19 Arctic and North Slope endorsed the hunting plan  
20 recommendation because they have appointed Regional  
21 Council membership on the SRC. The State hadn't  
22 commented. We sent the hunting plan recommendation in  
23 to the Secretary of Interior and then the Governor  
24 slams us with this letter having all these allegation.  
25 Well, we felt we needed to respond to those  
26 allegations, so that's what this letter is, is a  
27 response to the Governor's allegations to clarify the  
28 hunting plan.

29

30 One other issue that the Governor had  
31 was that the State would be precluded from involvement,  
32 which that's completely not the case. FACA has a  
33 publication date. The State is invited to every  
34 meeting. They have full opportunity to participate,  
35 just like at this meeting. Exactly the same thing.  
36 They have the full opportunity to participate at these  
37 Federal meetings. There's no preclusion of the State  
38 Staff and the input into the management plan  
39 development or anything like that.

40

41 So that's what this letter is  
42 responding to the Secretary to clarify what the  
43 position of the SRC is. So each one of these is a  
44 response to a portion of the Governor's letter. So  
45 that's a synopsis of what happened.

46

47 Any further comments on National Park  
48 Service issues on the Gates of the Arctic and Denali.

49

50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We don't have  
2 anything from Lake Clark. Lake Clark is within the  
3 Western Interior Region, but haven't heard anything  
4 from Lake Clark for a while. Everything must be cool  
5 down there. I

6  
7 (Laughter)

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I knew the Mulchatna  
10 Herd is on the rocks still. At 16 bulls per 100 cows,  
11 Mulchatna Herd is a big concern of mine and part of  
12 that herd goes into Lake Clark National Preserve  
13 Monument -- is that monument?

14  
15 MR. SUMMERS: Mr. Chairman. I'll have  
16 Mary McBurney prepare a report and she'll bring you  
17 hopefully up to speed and you can -- we'll share it  
18 with the commission if you haven't received one.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. We'd like to  
21 get kind of an update from Lake Clark also when we get  
22 Park updates. We should take a little break. We've  
23 covered the Park Service stuff. We'll take a little  
24 break for about 10 minutes and then we're going to move  
25 down this agenda with the rest of these agency reports.  
26 We do have dinner and then we're going to have a 7:30  
27 open house meeting with the public here in Holy Cross,  
28 so we need to move along a little bit.

29  
30 Thank you.

31  
32 (Off record)

33  
34 (On record)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to start  
37 this meeting again. Sorry to be a slave driver, but  
38 somebody's got to do it. We're moving down on the  
39 agenda to U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Innoko National  
40 Wildlife Refuge updates.

41  
42 Jerry.

43  
44 MR. HILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 Members of the Council. Our written update can be  
46 found in the meeting materials on Page 186. We'll try  
47 to be as quick as we can to get through this. I know  
48 time is getting short. I'm going to revisit the 21E  
49 winter moose hunt we discussed earlier. The first two  
50 years, 2011 and 2012 are very similar. 2012 only saw a

1 drop in two registered permits issued. Harvest is one  
2 more. It went from six to seven. Like I said earlier,  
3 the harvest went from two cows to five bulls, which we  
4 obviously like to see.

5  
6 The only thing that really dropped off  
7 from the 2011 to 2012 was actual return of harvest  
8 report from permitted hunters. It was significantly  
9 less. We still have 15 outstanding at the moment,  
10 which we will call the folks and at least get the  
11 information back.

12  
13 I guess to clarify something we stated  
14 earlier during the special action request, I believe  
15 Mr. Gervais asked about if only five moose are  
16 harvested in the Paimiut zone or Zone 1, will 35 be  
17 eligible in Zone 2. When this issued to the Federal  
18 regulation that we're going to have eight in the  
19 Paimiut Slough, I mean logistically trying to get that  
20 word out to permitted hunters that we're reallocating  
21 during the hunt would be difficult. So that would mean  
22 a 32 allocation for the Zone 2. However, all residents  
23 in Unit 21E and Russian Mission have access to the  
24 first zone. Essentially members of 21E have access to  
25 one or all eight of those moose. Eight moose in Zone 1  
26 are not necessarily allocated to villages that were  
27 just granted C&T.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Excuse me. Will  
30 that be clarified during the permit issuance to the  
31 communities here that they're eligible, legal to hunt  
32 down there also?

33  
34 MR. HILL: Yes. And it's stated  
35 clearly in the Federal regulations that Russian Mission  
36 and all residents in Unit 21E have full access to the  
37 Paimiut Slough area or Zone 1. So Holy Cross is  
38 probably the most likely to utilize that. So Holy  
39 Cross shot four moose in that zone, there's only four  
40 moose left for residents outside Unit 21E. So that's  
41 an important clarification for folks. I don't know if  
42 it's been articulated very well.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that  
45 clarification. It is part of the customary and  
46 traditional use area of this community also.

47  
48 MR. HILL: It is. If Holy Cross shot  
49 eight moose down there before anyone else got to it,  
50 that closes that zone on the biological determination.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions on  
2 that, Robert?

3  
4 MR. R. WALKER: No, I think that's  
5 fine.

6  
7 MR. HILL: Yeah. So it's Anvik. It  
8 could be Shageluk. It's most likely Holy Cross, but  
9 any of the residents that have access to that zone.  
10 Technically, all residents of 21E have access to 40 of  
11 the harvestable surplus whether they get 40 or whether  
12 -- you know, obviously the take has been very low so  
13 far, but all 40 moose are still eligible to Unit 21E  
14 residents. It's just a matter of who harvests the  
15 moose first in that Paimiut -- or Zone 1.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

18  
19 MR. HILL: So just clarification.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

22  
23 MR. HILL: A GSPE survey was concluded  
24 in Unit 21E in March of 2012. It was a survey led by  
25 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game with assistance  
26 from the Innoko Refuge and Bureau of Land Management.  
27 Fish and Game in McGrath couldn't make it to the  
28 meeting today, but they did approve the distribution of  
29 the results from this survey, so earlier we distributed  
30 two memos. One is actual GSPE results and the second  
31 is a composition survey from 2011, the most recent  
32 survey for composition that's kind of supplementary.

33  
34 During the GSPE survey we did manage to  
35 complete all 150 units of the survey. We had good  
36 weather. Observable moose was equivalent to previous  
37 years, which kept our moose at one moose per square  
38 mile, which is what Fish and Game's hope was. The  
39 cow/calf ratios from the previous two composition  
40 surveys and GSPE surveys being relatively consistent  
41 give us a positive outlook on the population.

42  
43 This is our first year doing a  
44 sightability correction factor of telemetry moose that  
45 we have out in 21E. There's a table in the back of  
46 this form that summarizes the data between years. This  
47 is the first year of the sightability correction  
48 factor, so if you want to compare results between  
49 years, that table in the back takes that correction  
50 factor out. Anyway, the sightability correction factor

1 bumped the total estimate up to 1.1 moose per square  
2 mile. I won't go too far into that. If anyone has  
3 questions about that, you can ask me directly.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted to state  
6 that I really appreciate getting these composition  
7 figures for this moose population. This Council didn't  
8 have that before. I again will reiterate I really  
9 appreciate Innoko developing now a baseline data that  
10 we can actually work off of. Thank you.

11

12 MR. HILL: Yeah, I won't take credit  
13 for that. That is something Josh developed, but I  
14 don't think it was disseminated in a physical format.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There seemed to be a  
17 lack of incentive on the State's part also to develop  
18 this. So with Innoko's I considered leadership, it  
19 sort of drove a working relationship to develop this  
20 dataset, so I appreciate that.

21

22 MR. HILL: Thank you. With that, I'll  
23 say it right now, we're going to do our second run of  
24 our trend count/composition survey here in November.  
25 Hopefully we'll have some comparable data. It's only a  
26 two-year dataset. That will be in Unit 21A on the  
27 Refuge.

28

29 Something new for this year is we did  
30 attempt to do a twinning survey on Unit 21A in the  
31 middle of the Refuge. Generally our obligation to  
32 twinning surveys is assisting the Fish and Game with  
33 surveys in 21E. Fish and Game had an extra plane  
34 available this year, so our commitment was met, so we  
35 thought we would attempt to do a similar survey in 21A  
36 even though there was a thought that there was too low  
37 of a density to do it.

38

39 We did attempt it on McGrath, but due  
40 to pilot/observer pairings and logistics it didn't work  
41 too well, but Koyukuk/Nowitna biological staff assisted  
42 and they provided two planes for a day, about nine  
43 hours of survey time over target. They did observe 16  
44 cow/calf pairs on the Refuge. The minimum target was  
45 30 cow/calf pairs. The twinning rate that came out of  
46 that was 68.8 percent. It was such a low sample it  
47 doesn't really mean a whole lot.

48

49 The important thing that came out of  
50 this is that Brad and Nate, the two pilot biologists,

1 both thought it was a feasible survey in the future if  
2 we planned this right. So that would be great if we  
3 could do our composition, a twinning survey plus a GSPE  
4 survey. To back up, we are planning to do a GSPE  
5 survey in 21A this coming spring. So we got 21E last  
6 year, 21A on the Refuge in 2013. Hopefully this  
7 session of WIRAC next year we'll have some updates of  
8 what comes of that.

9

10 MR. GERVAIS: Question.

11

12 MR. HILL: Yes.

13

14 MR. GERVAIS: Jerry, that GSPE, what's  
15 the acronym mean?

16

17 MR. HILL: It's the geospacial  
18 population estimate. It's a technique developed by  
19 Alaska Department of Fish and Game that allows them to  
20 survey a large area using spacial correlation. So you  
21 have an area the size of 21E, about a thousand units  
22 within that area, and they select 150 units throughout  
23 that area and they can correlate habitat and expected  
24 moose presence based on observed units. I won't get  
25 into the nitty gritty on that, but it allows you to  
26 cover a great area. It doesn't give you specific data  
27 like you might want for Zone 1 on the C&T issue, but it  
28 gives you an overall reliable estimate for the entire  
29 area.

30

31 Like just using that data Fish and Game  
32 knows when the moose population is very stable from  
33 approximately just below Grayling all the way down to  
34 the southern point of the unit. So when we talked  
35 about that C&T issue, we talked about the proportion of  
36 the Paimiut area compared to the rest of the unit,  
37 which was basically 10 percent. With a stable  
38 population we thought, you know, by percentage you can  
39 break that 40 out. Well, they gave us four moose. It  
40 seemed pretty low. We talked about eight and Fish and  
41 Game and the Refuge were all comfortable. That's very  
42 conservative for a harvest. That survey doesn't give  
43 you that specific data, but you can make inferences off  
44 of it based on the entire unit.

45

46 MR. GERVAIS: So it's just a  
47 representative sample, but fairly accurate about what's  
48 going on.

49

50 MR. HILL: Yeah. That sightability

1 correction factor using the telemetry moose, that  
2 allows us to account for moose that weren't observed.  
3 Basically what happens there is they have a telemetry  
4 plane and they'll go into units that they know are  
5 going to be observed. They find the animals that are  
6 in the unit, they send an observation unit to that  
7 point. You'd observe the unit, the telemetry plane  
8 would ask the observers did you see any telemetry moose  
9 or collared moose, and if you said yes, you had to say  
10 where they were to justify that, yeah, you did. If you  
11 said no, they would bring you -- the telemetry plane  
12 would guide you to those moose and ask you did you see  
13 those moose and you had to be honest, yes or no,  
14 because sometimes you'd see the moose without seeing  
15 the collar.

16

17                   With that they get an estimate of how  
18 many moose are being missed in an observation. With  
19 that, your estimates are supposed to be more accurate  
20 of what's actually out there based off just observable  
21 moose. This stuff is all starting to tie together, the  
22 collars, the GSPE, the twinning surveys. It's all kind  
23 of gelling really well right now, so we're looking to  
24 keep going with that.

25

26                   MR. GERVAIS: All right, thank you.

27

28                   MR. HILL: Yes.

29

30                   MR. R. WALKER: Jack.

31

32                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

33

34                   MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Jack. A few  
35 years back when Beyersdorf helped tag these moose here  
36 in 21A just to see what would happen to them, one of  
37 the projects that we talked about with him before it  
38 was done was kind of like we could adopt a moose with  
39 our school program. The kids could track the moose,  
40 like adopt a moose to track it from day to day, week to  
41 week, month to month. This hasn't happened. What  
42 happened to the program?

43

44                   MR. HILL: That has been discussed.  
45 There was actually a meeting not long before Geoff  
46 departed. We had kind of a -- Fish and Wildlife  
47 Service, Fish and Game, BLM and Iditarod area school  
48 district meeting. I think it's slow developing. It's  
49 still in discussion. There's some debate of whether  
50 it's actual data given or maybe some delayed data and  
stuff like that.

1 I think Fish and Wildlife Service right  
2 now is working with BLM Campbell Creek Science Center  
3 on some environmental education stuff and that's  
4 incorporated in that. I think that will facilitated a  
5 little more when they replace Geoff's position. Right  
6 now they're just kind of piece-mealing who they can to  
7 fill that roll. It's still on the table. It just  
8 hasn't been brought to the schools yet and finalized.

9  
10 MR. R. WALKER: What do I have to do to  
11 crack the whip to get you guys moving on it because I  
12 think a lot of those kids are going to be graduating  
13 from out of our schools and this program is going to be  
14 lost. I mean the kids were well informed when  
15 Beyersdorf was here going to the schools to inform them  
16 that in a year or two and now they're going to be in  
17 8th grade going to Galena or Nunana or Mt. Edgumbe or  
18 whatever, but those kids are going to be gone.

19  
20 MR. HILL: I appreciate that, Robert.  
21 It is important and we will be contacting BLM directly  
22 about permitting for these hunts and that would be a  
23 great opportunity to reintroduce discussions on some of  
24 those topics. I understand your concern and we'll see  
25 what we can do to advance that.

26  
27 MR. R. WALKER: It would be nice to  
28 bring it to the Board meeting sometime in the near  
29 future to provide it to our school district just to  
30 inform them so it can be passed down. Thank you very  
31 much. I appreciate it.

32  
33 MR. HILL: Sure. Thank you. So, with  
34 the twinning survey, like I say, it's kind of a small  
35 dataset. Just to go along with that, Fish and Game did  
36 not get their twinning survey or weren't able to  
37 complete their twinning survey in 21E due to weather  
38 related issues. So there's not any twinning data to  
39 present here from the Fish and Game because they  
40 weren't able to get out here and accomplish that this  
41 year. It's one of those things that depends on the  
42 year.

43  
44 A new thing we introduced this summer  
45 on the Innoko Refuge was the Innoko Moose Browse Study.  
46 We're trying to assess the current condition of moose,  
47 browse, with respect to its distribution and abundance  
48 and overall structure. It's a pilot study. We did  
49 plot sampling and transect sampling technique and we're  
50 in the process of getting all the data entered, which I

1 believe is done. We're going to validate it and get it  
2 to statisticians and try to evaluate which technique is  
3 better and if it's giving us the right information to  
4 answer questions that we have.

5  
6 The long-term goal is you can compare  
7 that information with the census information and get an  
8 idea of the moose population status and habitat status  
9 and see if there's any correlation there.

10  
11 That's new for this year. The last  
12 moose topic I have is the moose telemetry project,  
13 which scheduled in 2014. To date we have 123,400 GPS  
14 points, so that's a lot of information. We're going to  
15 have a teleconference, I think, on the 16th of October  
16 with Fish and Game, BLM likely, about where this  
17 project is going to go. We might extend it for a year.  
18 We've had discussions about maybe about redeploying  
19 collars elsewhere, but I won't say much beyond.

20  
21 It's going to be a planning  
22 teleconference.

23  
24 I guess that's it for moose if anyone  
25 has any questions.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right now you  
28 collared 44 moose and currently you've had 18  
29 mortalities?

30  
31 MR. HILL: Yes.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What would be the  
34 primary mortality factors determined?

35  
36 MR. HILL: I'm not aware of that, Jack,  
37 to be honest with you.

38  
39 MR. SLOAN: I don't know exactly. Some  
40 of that stuff has been redeployed. I think we're in  
41 the mid to high 30's on collars that are out there  
42 right now, but I don't know what the primary mortality  
43 factor is as of yet.

44  
45 MR. HILL: I think we're actually at 26  
46 GPS. High 30's at the BHM. We know where a couple  
47 collars are located that we still have to pick up. A  
48 lot of times there's such a lag and the mortality  
49 signal gets out when they're actually recovered.  
50 Whether it's ability to get to them with a float plane

1 or a ski plane or what the factor is. A lot of it's  
2 tied into if you're making a visit to a village. We  
3 picked up one in Anvik last year during a workshop. A  
4 lot of times you get there and a lot of the evidence  
5 may be gone. Where it's been harvested and left or  
6 moose kill or just natural causes. I can check on that  
7 because I think I'm probably going to be the lead on  
8 that as far as a contact here with some personal  
9 changes which I'll mention here in a second.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I always want to  
12 know what the primary predation factors would be with  
13 those adult moose like that.

14

15 MR. HILL: Yeah, that would be good  
16 information. I'm sorry I don't have it in front of me  
17 right now. I guess for moose we'll move on. We had a  
18 very successful summer field season. We had seven  
19 volunteer employees. Summer students basically carried  
20 out most of the work on the Refuge.

21

22 We continued our preparation for  
23 potential introduction of wood bison and when that  
24 could occur by doing inventories of vegetation and  
25 small mammals in wet and dry meadow habitats. This  
26 year we moved up into the middle of the Refuge due to  
27 some constraints with weather and saturation, high  
28 water and equipment-related issues, but I think we had  
29 a successful season based on the constraints we were  
30 given.

31

32 We were going to help out a permafrost  
33 degradation study. Weathered out on that, so hopefully  
34 we'll revisit that next year. It's kind of a cool  
35 climate study. We want to continue looking at  
36 permafrost degradation.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have any  
39 baseline data on the general permafrost temperature?  
40 Are you taking deep probe or surface of the active  
41 layer?

42

43 MR. HILL: They're doing deep probe, I  
44 think, on transects and they've got data loggers  
45 monitoring, I think, soil temperatures down.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Drilling like six  
48 feet?

49

50 MR. HILL: I believe so. I haven't

1 been out there, so I haven't got to go through the  
2 whole process with them. That's the problem. And I'm  
3 not a soil scientist. That's why they wanted me to get  
4 out there, so I could see what they're doing, go  
5 through the transects and maintain data loggers and  
6 stuff. This is all preliminary and stuff we're trying  
7 to get going and maintain. Like this veg stuff and the  
8 small mammal data, hopefully by next year we'll have  
9 actually results to report on, not just that we've  
10 collected it. So it's kind of in that vein. That's one  
11 of the biggest goals this year is to get all this data  
12 entered and analyzed, so it's not just data sitting in  
13 a file cabinet somewhere.

14  
15                   We're currently assisting more  
16 logistically right now with a broad whitefish study on  
17 the Kuskokwim River. Ken Harper with Kenai Fisheries  
18 Unit is trying to -- he's kind of doing kind of a pilot  
19 study this year to see if he can capture and mark  
20 enough broad whitefish to determine if he can get  
21 enough sample size to do a mark and recapture study to  
22 determine I guess the spawning population in the Upper  
23 Kuskokwim. He's being affected a little negatively by  
24 high waters. I think he said he needed to average  
25 about 25 a day and 18 seems like a high number for him  
26 right now. It's kind of a techniques thing. He's  
27 trying to see if electro-fishing or gillnetting or  
28 different kinds of trapping efforts will allow him to  
29 be able to catch enough whitefish to actually do a  
30 population estimate in the future. So that's kind of a  
31 neat little project on the fisheries side that we don't  
32 get to participate in a lot.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock probably  
35 knows how to catch a broad whitefish better than  
36 anybody. I was wondering if you'd incorporate TEK with  
37 local people on methods in areas.

38  
39                   MR. SLOAN: Yeah.

40  
41                   MR. HILL: Yeah. Do you want to speak  
42 to that?

43  
44                   MR. SLOAN: Well, he actually has.  
45 When he was talking about initiating this study and  
46 stuff, one of the things I got him to do was put it out  
47 on the message board and let people know what's going  
48 on, you know, and then folks would come and contribute  
49 some TEK and tell him, hey, this is where we caught  
50 some fish, this is what worked for us, that sort of

1 thing. So, yeah, he has been doing that. It's just  
2 been so touch. I mean you guys know how the water has  
3 been all year, just, gee whiz, real high, but they've  
4 been laying with it every day for probably a month and  
5 they're going to go till freeze up, so they're giving  
6 it a lot of effort.

7

8 MR. HILL: Typical Alaskan logistics,  
9 dealing with that, water level and environmental  
10 conditions. There's a number of things that we get  
11 done every year. The breeding bird survey, Greater  
12 White-fronted Goose banding, the molting goose survey.  
13 The only thing to note is the molting goose survey had  
14 one of the lower numbers of recorded accounts, but I  
15 think they're attributing that to very high water and  
16 dispersal, so I don't think it's anything to be alarmed  
17 about.

18

19 Continuing with our landcover  
20 validation, things we presented in the past, we're  
21 trying to verify some landcover data. Apparently we  
22 may have an avenue to submit that and see if we even  
23 need to go much further with it.

24

25 Rural education and outreach. We  
26 missed our Round Mountain Science Camp, our outdoor  
27 science camp, last year, but it was reinstated this  
28 year. We ended up with, I think, nine students out of  
29 Shageluk, Holy Cross, Takotna and McGrath, who spent  
30 basically a week outside of McGrath doing various  
31 things like archery and learning about subsistence  
32 fishing, orienteering and a number of other things. It  
33 went over very well. A lot of good feedback on that.

34

35 We did a bird day with the Iditarod  
36 Area School District middle school summer camp in  
37 McGrath. We had 30 students come out and basically  
38 learned about bird biology, bird identification, bird  
39 calling, a bunch of associated things, avian biology.

40

41 I guess the fire management -- we're  
42 still in the process of updating our fire management  
43 plan for the Refuge, so if anyone has any interest in  
44 that you can contact our office or the fire management  
45 officer at 524-2033. We're currently working with BLM,  
46 TCC and some forestry people on a Community Wildland  
47 Fire Protection Plan for the village of Shageluk. I  
48 guess that's ongoing.

49

50 Lastly, we had a personnel report that

1 we haven't had any turnover in permanent staff. I  
2 mentioned the seven volunteers that served this past  
3 summer. We recently learned that our senior biologist,  
4 Steve Kovac, is moving on to the Forest Service in  
5 Idaho. He's scheduled to depart on November 5th, so  
6 we'll be down to two biological staff for an undefined  
7 period here in the future.

8

9 I think Bo -- do you want to touch on  
10 anything?

11

12 MR. SLOAN: I'll try and be quick. I  
13 know normally I'm not, but I know we don't have a whole  
14 lot of time. Yeah, from our full staffing level -- of  
15 course you know Clara Demientieff is living here in  
16 town now and so we've got that position vacant and we  
17 haven't been able to fill it and we're fixing to lose  
18 our senior biologist. Like Jerry said, he's leaving  
19 out. Right now it's kind of a hold off and wait on  
20 that too, so we've lost quite a bit of capacity and I  
21 do apologize for that project having hit kind of a lag  
22 spell because it has. It's not because it doesn't have  
23 at least some of our attention. We just haven't been  
24 able to get all of it done.

25

26 Dara Whitworth, Kevin's wife, that's a  
27 biologist IV, she's been working with some of the folks  
28 out of Campbell Creek Science Center, so that thing is  
29 still on the table and it's not dead. Let me just kind  
30 of play on this a little bit too, what Jerry mentioned  
31 about the science camp. One of the avenues that is  
32 available and it's a very successful educational  
33 outreach tool is that science camp and it's available  
34 to the students out here in these villages. And a lot  
35 of times -- sometimes we have trouble getting some  
36 participation and it doesn't cost anybody anything.  
37 It's a cooperative deal between us and the Iditarod  
38 Area School District, so the plane ride is payed for,  
39 the whole nine yards, and it's a pretty kicking  
40 program.

41

42 One of the young ladies last night that  
43 was helping serve our supper, she was one of our  
44 participants. If you see her tonight, ask her about  
45 the big sheefish she caught. So it's really good.  
46 Anything any of you guys can do to help increase that  
47 participation on this end would be greatly appreciated.

48

49 Something I want to touch on just real  
50 quick. I think it's pretty interesting. We're always

1 talking about guides and outfitters and resident and  
2 non-resident hunters and that sort of thing. These  
3 numbers I'm fixing to give you, they're minimum. I  
4 know there was a few camps that we missed, but we got a  
5 lot of them. Just out there on Innoko -- and this  
6 really is honestly just up and down the Innoko River.  
7 It's not on the Yukon, okay. Our transporters and our  
8 folks have to be permitted to be a transporter and they  
9 have to be permitted to be a guide. Innoko has three  
10 guide use areas. We only have one guide and he has all  
11 three of those areas. It's fairly easy to keep up  
12 with.

13

14 At any rate, all told, we had 62  
15 hunters that killed 35 moose. Out of the 62 hunters we  
16 had one resident, 29 non-residents and two that were  
17 not sure, so that could go either way. So there's  
18 about a 50/50 split on that deal. A lot of the  
19 residents come out of Fairbanks and Wasilla and the  
20 non-residents they were scattered all over the place.  
21 I just thought that was some pretty neat numbers to  
22 know. As far as the full-on guided stuff, it was a  
23 half a dozen. I mean it was six. The rest were  
24 outfitted, you know, transported and outfitted, but  
25 they weren't guided. But, like I say, we had 62 total,  
26 killed 35 moose.

27

28 There again, bear in mind, it was up  
29 and down the Innoko River. One reason why I'm hitting  
30 on these numbers is during season we got several phone  
31 calls and I'm glad people call because that means that  
32 they care and they were watching what was going on  
33 around them, but we got several phone calls about, oh,  
34 there may be a big guide operation here or they had a  
35 lot of boats coming down the river here and this and  
36 that. We did our best to get out there and check on  
37 that stuff. We tried to respond to it and that's where  
38 these numbers are coming from. One of the fairly good  
39 size camps from what we can tell right now, it wasn't  
40 really a guide operation, but they were actually  
41 residents of Alaska and that sort of thing.

42

43 Like I say, the pressure is occurring  
44 up and down the Innoko River and we got very little on  
45 the Yukon itself. If anybody has any questions about  
46 that. I just wanted to give you guys kind of the quick  
47 and dirty.

48

49 MR. GERVAIS: Question. How many of  
50 those hunters are from transporters?

1 MR. SLOAN: All but 18 or 19.  
2  
3 MR. GERVAIS: So like forty.....  
4  
5 MR. SLOAN: Forty-three. The rest of  
6 them did it on their own, but 43 were transported  
7 and/or guided. Six out of that 43 were a full-on  
8 guided hunt. The rest were just transported. A few of  
9 those were transported by a boat transporter. Actually  
10 five were. The rest were air.  
11  
12 MR. GERVAIS: Who is the concession  
13 guide?  
14  
15 MR. SLOAN: For -- there's three or  
16 four transporters and Willow Air is our guide. Is that  
17 what you asked, guide? Yeah, Willow Air.  
18  
19 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.  
22  
23 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You  
24 gave us some figures, like 60 and then about 39 moose  
25 or something harvested.  
26  
27 MR. SLOAN: Sixty-two hunters, 35  
28 moose.  
29  
30 MR. HONEA: Okay. I'm a little  
31 confused.  
32  
33 MR. SLOAN: And that's minimum. You  
34 know, we missed some, I know.  
35  
36 MR. HONEA: Okay, but you're talking  
37 about the Innoko. That doesn't include McGrath?  
38  
39 MR. SLOAN: No. No, no, no. That's  
40 strictly on Innoko National Wildlife Refuge.  
41  
42 MR. HONEA: Oh, okay. So are those  
43 numbers -- you've been pretty across the board pretty  
44 even?  
45  
46 MR. SLOAN: You know, the one index  
47 that I do have that I can answer that with is our guide  
48 and I can tell you his numbers are pretty consistent  
49 with what they were last year. Well, let's see, four  
50 years ago it was three and then it went to 14, then 19,

1 and now 22. So, with about the same number of hunters,  
2 35 to 38 hunters. Let's say the guide, he's the fellow  
3 that's the guide and the transporter. He's the largest  
4 one on the Refuge. He's been 35, 38 hunters that four  
5 years and that's been their take.

6  
7 MR. HONEA: I guess my question was  
8 your moose population straight across the board then  
9 has been pretty stable.

10  
11 MR. SLOAN: It looks like -- there  
12 again, this is kind of anecdotal. This is going off  
13 hunter harvest and pressure, but it appears to be  
14 increasing. It's still a low density population. It's  
15 definitely not the Koyukuk, but it's on the upswing it  
16 appears.

17  
18 MR. HILL: Mr. Honea, I guess I could  
19 add a little bit to that, just anecdotal too based on  
20 the information. I know when we went out to do that  
21 trend count analysis last year we want a minimum of 100  
22 moose to do the composition for one thing. Just the  
23 blocks we set aside to do our trend count we found 116  
24 moose. In just a little bigger area than that we  
25 counted 160. The numbers that we were hoping to get we  
26 were questionable of getting. We actually got higher  
27 than that.

28  
29 The same thing came with that twinning  
30 survey. To go out there and basically one day of  
31 flying with two Super Cubs, about nine hours of flight  
32 time to find 16 was, I guess, beyond most expectations  
33 because just assumed we couldn't do it. So that tied  
34 with this, it's a good indication that things are going  
35 well out there. Until we do a survey and get some  
36 repeatable data we can't really say for sure.

37  
38 MR. HONEA: I just had one other  
39 question. I know this is -- I see BLM is up a little  
40 later here and I've been kind of delinquent in  
41 attending these meetings. The last two I haven't been.  
42 But maybe a year ago or two years ago or something it  
43 was kind of -- BLM had set out I think three specific  
44 sites and I believe one of them was in Holy Cross and  
45 maybe Minto. You mentioned the bison thing kind of  
46 briefly. Where is that project at in your area?

47  
48 MR. HILL: I thin there's still some  
49 debate between the State and Federal agencies. Fish  
50 and Wildlife Service, as far as the permitting goes,

1 says it's going there and the State is waiting on  
2 certain, I guess, information or commitments on their  
3 end to feel confident in releasing them. I was told  
4 that probably 2013 is still too close. More likely it  
5 will be 2014 before the release near Shageluk. We  
6 don't have specific information, but it sounds like  
7 there's still some discussions that need to be had  
8 between the State and Federal.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

11

12 MR. COLLINS: I had a further question  
13 on that. Did they get by that -- one of the snags was  
14 whether it was going to be introduced as endangered  
15 species that would have to have special protection and  
16 couldn't be hunted. Did they get clarification on that  
17 that this population would not be in that category?

18

19 MR. HILL: On the Federal side, Fish  
20 and Wildlife Service is giving the green light that  
21 they have that 10-J exemption where it's experimental,  
22 non-essential population. Our regional director was  
23 adamant that is the case that Fish and Wildlife Service  
24 has signed off on that. So it's just, I guess,  
25 negotiations between two sides that need to be done.

26

27 But, yeah, on the Endangered Species  
28 Act, that stuff has been settled.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got to move on  
31 in this agenda. We can't stay on Innoko forever.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: One more on Willow Air.  
34 Is Willow Air both guiding and transporting.

35

36 MR. HILL: Yes, sir.

37

38 MR. SLOAN: Yes, sir, they are.

39

40 MR. COLLINS: What was their totals?  
41 You mentioned.....

42

43 MR. SLOAN: Thirty-eight and six of  
44 which were fully guided. The rest were transported.

45

46 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.  
49 Appreciate the detailed report and all the great work  
50 you're doing down there in Innoko. Thank you.

1 MR. HILL: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're up for  
4 Kanuti. We've got to break for dinner in about an  
5 hour, so we've got a lot of reports to go.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you guys may not  
8 know it, but Refuges do compete with each other and  
9 Bo's picture on 192 just set off Kanuti off the deep  
10 end. No, not really, but I did comment on that. Then  
11 right after that -- we have a newsletter, which I'll  
12 pass around, and if you look on the second to last page  
13 you'll see one of your famous stars on there. I'll  
14 pass that out. But Bo and I always joke back and  
15 forth. It's inspiring to see seven youths standing  
16 along the Innoko River at the Innoko Refuge. That's  
17 where we need to go and that's why I commented on that.

18

19 I've got another handout that Pollock  
20 Simon's son is putting on a snaring clinic in  
21 Allakaket. There's a long history behind that. But  
22 the point of it is is that there is some active  
23 participation in dealing with the wolves and et cetera,  
24 so I'll pass that out. It's kind of a neat thing  
25 that's coming up on snaring. Again, that was because  
26 of that picture on 192. We had to come up with some  
27 more pictures.

28

29 Anyway, you'll see in your book on Page  
30 193 -- I'll try to hit the high points. I'm following  
31 suit with what Tim Craig did except because of the  
32 printing process at OSM they can't use yellow  
33 highlight. That's what he used to do for you guys. So  
34 we got permission to use bold. So if I miss something,  
35 you can look at the bold points. On 193 you'll see  
36 that it's broken down into different categories and et  
37 cetera, the same pattern you've had for many years.

38

39 Under the habitat use studies, the  
40 Refuge began a two-year cooperative study in August and  
41 the purpose of that project is to determine the  
42 relationship between fire history and moose browse  
43 availability in the Refuge. For me, personally, I  
44 think it was Ron Sam or Franklin Simon when I was in a  
45 plane pointed out there's no moose down in that burn  
46 area and it's burned a long time ago and I've  
47 remembered that. This is not because of that, but the  
48 point I'm trying to get across is that when Staff can  
49 see these areas and understand it, it enlightens us  
50 more. The goal of that pilot effort this summer is to

1 understand the ecology within these burns and to  
2 document habitat use by moose and quantify the browse  
3 production. Anyway, it's going to be an interesting  
4 study because of the burns.

5  
6                   Following that is a cooperative radio  
7 telemetry study and I think they talked a little bit  
8 about that, how that data is used, but basically it's a  
9 cooperative effort with the Refuge, Gates of the Arctic  
10 and Central Yukon and Fish and Game to study moose in  
11 portions of 24A and 24B. You can see the rest of it  
12 there, but the main use of that is Fish and Game will  
13 use the radio-collars to locate moose in order to  
14 determine the moose twinning  
15 rates in the study areas. They found a rate of 52  
16 percent this spring and over the past five years 48.  
17 I'll have another year of that data coming up.

18  
19                   Now we get back into my world. In my  
20 world, I monitor seven to eight permit hunts. So I  
21 kind of will go a little off the presentation here, but  
22 I attempted with the project leaders, which is the  
23 project leaders across the whole state, to look at some  
24 kind of -- a little bit more uniformed program on these  
25 permit hunts that we have on the Federal side. That  
26 got some traction, but I'm now experimenting with  
27 Kanuti and Yukon Flats. Basically it's a three-step  
28 approach to the permits.

29  
30                   Let me explain that. What's going to  
31 happen is when they get a permit -- we have longer  
32 hunts too, so remember that. They'll get a reminder  
33 before the season ends that, hey, Tim, you've got a  
34 permit, don't forget to report. Then the paperwork  
35 kind of falls off his table a little bit and then after  
36 15 days after the hunt he'll get another reminder  
37 saying, hey, you're late and then he'll get a phone  
38 call and then that's it. You won't get a permit the  
39 next year. I'm leaving the fourth step up to law  
40 enforcement if they're going to site or whatever. I'm  
41 not going to get into that.

42  
43                   The reason I'm doing this is not -- I  
44 want that clear on the record -- is not to put it on  
45 the backs of the subsistence users. I just know if  
46 there's not good data, it's on their backs. If we  
47 don't have harvest reports, you heard that from the  
48 Refuge, management staff here are in the dark. My  
49 first time in Galena with an area biologist there on  
50 Front Street, he multiplied data that he had by three.

1 I was in real shock. So we are still not getting  
2 enough data to know what's managing. So, for you  
3 users, what does that mean. The manager has to manage  
4 more conservatively. Boom, it's on your back.

5  
6 In that light we also got on our  
7 permits -- I don't know if they're on the other Refuge  
8 permits -- in that second notice saying, hey, Tim, you  
9 forgot to report, it has a statement in there why it's  
10 important for you to report instead of just that you're  
11 going to get whacked over the head at some point.

12  
13 Also we've got on the permit that it  
14 says failure to report will result in loss of the next  
15 year's permit because it is, in my opinion, I'm not a  
16 lawyer, that the permit is kind of a contract. So,  
17 when the hunter signs that, he or she is agreeing to  
18 what's on there and it only referenced a code and no  
19 one has access to the code.

20  
21 So now back to the report here. Recent  
22 actions through your Council and the Board resulted in  
23 one permit for parts of the Kanuti Refuge and that's  
24 been implemented to this point. We also developed  
25 hunters map. I apologize I didn't bring them. Another  
26 reason why I didn't bring them is we have a cooperative  
27 relationship with Fish and Game. I shared that map  
28 with them and I just got data back from Glenn that he  
29 had a question about the map and I haven't had time to  
30 analyze his question.

31  
32 What we're trying to do on Kanuti and  
33 I'm hoping to apply to Yukon Flats is that if you're a  
34 hunter from that area, you'd be able to look at a map  
35 and you'd say that's where I hunt, you look at the  
36 codes and colors and it would tell you what you have to  
37 do. Our books are not user friendly in my opinion.  
38 I'm hoping through a mapping system or some other  
39 system that the hunter can just look and not have to go  
40 through two books. So that was an attempt. I think it  
41 met because Glenn only had one question and it was one  
42 word, so that was good. I think that covers that.

43  
44 And then we get into the caribou part  
45 and there's an article in the front of that newsletter  
46 when it goes around about the importance of possible  
47 calving within the Kanuti Refuge. Anyway, this past  
48 winter the Refuge biologist documented over 2,000  
49 caribou on or around the Refuge during aerial  
50 reconnaissance and that was in February and April.

1 They particularly want to know if the caribou mainly  
2 use -- what areas they mainly use within the Refuge and  
3 then compare that to other areas so they can see what's  
4 going on over time.

5  
6 They're looking into -- the Refuge has  
7 designated the largest of these areas as lichen  
8 protection zones and management there is aimed at  
9 maintaining old growth spruce/lichen habitat that  
10 caribou are known to utilize. Allakaket and Alatna has  
11 a low moose population. That's my term. That's how I  
12 look at it. So they're also dependent on other  
13 resources. So if caribou come through, that's a  
14 resource that is culturally important to them, but it's  
15 also an alternate resource.

16  
17 You can look at that chart on there and  
18 at some point in another meeting it would be  
19 interesting for an elder like Pollock to compare to his  
20 knowledge on burned and unburned areas, what he sees  
21 with caribou over his lifetime and what he's heard from  
22 others.

23  
24 I've already referenced the newsletter.  
25 I apologize only three or four copies, but literally  
26 I'm leaving the office and they said do you want to  
27 take these and I said, sure, after seeing the Innoko  
28 picture. No, Bo is great to work with. You have no  
29 idea how blessed you are to have Bo because he's just a  
30 great person to work with.

31  
32 You'll see the different bird studies  
33 there. I think in reference to time I'll leave that up  
34 to you to review. I'm not downplaying birds. They are  
35 indicator species and they are subsistence species, but  
36 I think it would be best for you guys to look those  
37 over. Tim is the one who put in the bold in there to  
38 help you find out the key points.

39  
40 On fire management you have a more  
41 lengthy discussion about the fire that was near  
42 Allakaket. I don't know if Pollock would like to share  
43 with you the fire they had near their community this  
44 summer, but that was the largest fire within the Refuge  
45 near Allakaket of 2,600-plus acres. I don't know if  
46 Pollock has anything to share on that or not, but it  
47 was a major fire and a major effort to control that  
48 fire.

49  
50 On the science camps, you heard my

1 little plea about getting youth involved. I work with  
2 three Refuges, so it's kind of difficult to go to all  
3 the science camps, but I believe I'll be able to go to  
4 Henshaw Creek. Last summer I was able to go to Camp  
5 Na'shee (ph), which is a cultural religious camp for  
6 the Beaver area for Yukon Flats. We need to do more of  
7 that.

8

9 I think I'll leave the rest of that up  
10 to you. I think with this Council, correct me if I'm  
11 wrong, that what Tim Craig has done and Lisa did before  
12 on these reports, this meets kind of your needs, this  
13 written one. I'm asking the other -- I work now with  
14 three Councils, North Slope and Eastern, I'm asking  
15 them what level they want on this. It's a lot of  
16 material. There's no doubt. Is this still comfortable  
17 at this level for you guys to keep informed? Because  
18 it takes a bit of work. Most of this work was Tim's.  
19 Mine is pretty minimal on this.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I read through  
22 these reports. You know, they might not need quite  
23 that much detail, but I do like to keep track of what's  
24 actually going on. A written report in the book so we  
25 can read it before or after the meeting so that we can  
26 keep apprised of what's actually going on, so I do like  
27 that format.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: It is hard for this  
30 particular meeting because -- nothing against OSM --  
31 their due dates are due during field season, so I'm  
32 learning more that there is difficulty in sometimes  
33 getting these reports done. Kanuti has made the  
34 pattern, it's part of their normal and I think that's a  
35 pattern going on in other Refuges. Just realize that  
36 sometimes those field studies that you want the data  
37 from may knock out time or not a lot of time to do  
38 these reports. Just something to be aware of. You  
39 have all your Refuges regularly attend, so I think  
40 you're blessed to have that.

41

42 So, with that, if there's no questions,  
43 I'm done, Robert.

44

45 MR. R. WALKER: (Thumb's up)

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Questions.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Vince.

4 Appreciate that. Koyukuk/Nowitna.

5

6 MR. HAVENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 Council members. My name is Jeremy Havener. I'm the

8 Refuge subsistence coordinator with Koyukuk/Nowitna

9 National Wildlife Refuge. With me today is our deputy

10 Refuge manager Keith Ramos. Did you want to start off

11 and talk about staff real quick.

12

13 MR. RAMOS: I guess I can talk about

14 that quick. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Council members.

15 Just a quick on our additions this year. We were able

16 to finally fill our habitat biologist position. Amy

17 Rockhill. She came in very energized and just finished

18 her Ph.D and she's hit the ground running, we we're

19 pretty excited about the projects that will be

20 happening. She's new to Alaska, so she still has a

21 good learning curve, but she's very good. We're very

22 happy to have her.

23

24 Also we had a turnover in our

25 administrative assistant position. It happened at a

26 horrible time in May, right towards the end of this

27 fiscal year, so that really hurt our Refuge a little

28 bit, but we were able to fill the position locally and

29 the person still has to get through all the training

30 part of the job.

31

32 Also this summer we lost our clerk

33 position. It's vacant currently. We are not filling

34 it for the moment. We ended up giving the job to other

35 staff. Also a law enforcement position, we've been

36 trying to fill it for two years. After we were almost

37 getting it filled it was pulled off, the money, the

38 funding, so we lost our -- it's still on the books, but

39 we're not filling our law enforcement position.

40 Thankfully Innoko Refuge will be providing law

41 enforcement support for us.

42 This year, throughout the season, we

43 brought in detailees to help during fishing and hunting

44 season, officers from other parts of the state, Arctic

45 Refuge and even from the Lower 48 to help out. Jeremy

46 spent a lot of time with the officers from Outside on

47 the river and whatnot.

48

49 This summer we also had one ANSEP

50 intern. We had a very good young lady from Anchorage

1 from the ANSEP program and we tried to put her through  
2 a broad spectrum of what we do in the Refuge and she  
3 had a great time with good experience for her. Also  
4 two local students that we hire as laborers to help us  
5 do some reconstruction on our building to make it more  
6 energy efficient. That's pretty much what we had for  
7 our staffing this year.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

10

11 MR. HAVENER: Thank you, Keith. I'm  
12 going to keep this moving along. I know there's some  
13 concerns and I'm going to be open for questions at the  
14 end of this. If you can just follow along in this  
15 report. I handed it out yesterday. Just a little news  
16 write-up from our Refuge.

17

18 We had a lot going on this summer. We  
19 just finished up our field season. We're getting ready  
20 to start off next month without inventory monitoring,  
21 which is a big part of our moose surveys. I'll have  
22 that data for the next RAC meeting in the spring. I'll  
23 start off with our outreach.

24

25 We had a couple good things going on  
26 this summer and including last year too with the Lower  
27 Koyukuk River place names project. That's something  
28 that went on last September. We had Refuge Staff  
29 teamed up with USGS Staff and Yukon River Drainage  
30 Fisheries Association staff and went to Huslia with I  
31 believe it was Eliza Jones and they gathered up  
32 important place names that were important to the Lower  
33 Koyukuk River and they document them on a map. Right  
34 now the process is looking to get funding to make a  
35 book. So that's where that one stands right now.

36

37 We did some invasive species outreach.  
38 The Refuge Staff and six volunteers visited Koyukuk,  
39 Nulato, Ruby, Huslia and Galena this year to go over  
40 invasive species with the tribal members. We talked  
41 about how to identify these plants, went over the  
42 abundance and distribution with them as a protocol  
43 survey. The intent of that survey is to put this into  
44 a statewide database, so that way it will be documented  
45 where these invasive species are taking place in the  
46 Interior of Alaska.

47

48 This one is kind of a neat one. We put  
49 in for a grant with Galena City Schools and Loudon  
50 Tribal Council to get funding to kind of provide

1 opportunities for students to get in touch with the  
2 outdoors and kind of incorporate a subsistence  
3 lifestyle with that. The teachers want to teach  
4 integrated village science with the students which  
5 investigates the hows and whys of Bush Alaska life.

6  
7 One example they were talking about --  
8 one of the teachers at the Galena City School, he wants  
9 to kind of start a smokehouse, so he's going to be out  
10 with the students catching fish, going through the  
11 drying process, smoking them, just getting them  
12 involved and keeping that kind of stuff going, so  
13 that's really neat to see.

14  
15 MR. RAMOS: Can I say something?

16  
17 MR. HAVENER: Sure.

18  
19 MR. RAMOS: That class is actually  
20 currently going on. They actually put it in the  
21 curriculum of Galena City Schools for the high school  
22 students. It's called village science and basically  
23 applying how science applies to everything that people  
24 do in a village. Right now, currently, they're trying  
25 to get a permit from the State to harvest a moose.  
26 Take the kids out for the entire process, anatomy,  
27 everything. And they've got permission to run a  
28 trapline with the students. So his goal is to get the  
29 kids interested and the lifestyle they've been living  
30 their entire lives, how science applies to it. At  
31 least get them interested in science one way or  
32 another. The kids are excited, he's very excited, and  
33 we're glad to be partnering with them.

34  
35 MR. HAVENER: One big one that we kind  
36 of took part in, me and the current RIT, Myra Harris,  
37 we went to Fairbanks this last winter and we got  
38 certified to be hunters ed instructors. We're just  
39 starting a program out and we completed our first class  
40 in Galena. Only six students were there, but it was a  
41 great turnout. They passed, they learned about hunter  
42 safety, handling guns and different stuff like that.  
43 We're getting ready to go into the classroom again this  
44 fall with the Galena City School District and go over  
45 hunter safety with the students again.

46  
47 If you know anybody in the villages  
48 that are interested, please let us know. We want to  
49 try to get out and do hunter safety throughout our  
50 region. That kind of sums up the outreach. I'll go

1 into fire now.

2

3                   We had a fire season this year. We had  
4 a total of 12 fires on the Koyukuk Refuge and it  
5 totaled for 15,352 acres of burned area. There were  
6 four modified fires, seven limited management fires,  
7 which we just monitor those, and a full management  
8 fire. In the Nowitna Refuge we had one fire and it  
9 totaled 22,366 acres and I believe they had to protect  
10 some structures on that one.

11

12                   In our biology program, we did complete  
13 a twinning survey in May, I believe, and the results  
14 from that were we had 32.8 percent, 41.2 percent and  
15 21.7 percent for Three Day Slough, Pilot Mountain and  
16 Kaiyuh Slough and then Huslia Flats and Treat Island  
17 respectively. On the next page you can see the graph  
18 with those results.

19

20                   Snow markers we completed this year too  
21 from 2011-2012. We monitor these for six months.  
22 There's 11 total sites and this year on average it was  
23 27 inches through all refuges was the average snowfall.  
24 I actually have the full report here if anybody would  
25 be interested in seeing it. It gives all the data.  
26 There was a couple sites like, for instance, one on the  
27 Innoko had 48 inches in March and on the Nowitna there  
28 was a site with 44, so there was some good snowfall in  
29 some of those areas.

30

31                   We've got one big science project going  
32 on with our fisheries this year. Our fisheries  
33 biologist was doing a proportional distribution of chum  
34 salmon in the Koyukuk River Drainage. It's kind of a  
35 pilot study. We want to do a full telemetry study, but  
36 we're just trying to get a good idea of the  
37 distribution of chum salmon up the Koyukuk River and  
38 its drainages.

39

40                   This year we went out to the Koyukuk  
41 River -- and I got the results posted on here. We went  
42 to the Koyukuk River by Ella's Cabin area there and we  
43 drift fished with gillnets and we were tagging fish and  
44 what we were looking for -- we were trying to find  
45 areas where you could tag the fish, good locations.  
46 The tags we were using were spaghetti tags, so they're  
47 color coded orange and green to differentiate if  
48 there's any bank orientation. So on one side we tagged  
49 the fish it would be orange and on the other it would  
50 be green. We just wanted to make sure there's no bias

1 on bank orientation if the fully telemetry study does  
2 go. Then we were looking at spacial information too.

3  
4                   You can see in the results that we  
5 caught 426 chum, which 66 percent were females tagged.  
6 I believe the net we were using was like a 4-inch mesh.  
7 It was from June 26th to July 18th. Our CPUEs ranged  
8 from .27 to 53.68, so it went up as the run progressed  
9 and we found better sampling locations, which was part  
10 of the project or this pilot study.

11  
12                   We had 15 tags recovered at the Gisasa  
13 River and 13 at the Henshaw Creek Weir. This is where  
14 they were determining the bank orientation bias, so  
15 they were collecting that information up there. We  
16 found out there was no significant difference between  
17 the tagging locations.

18  
19                   Future studies for this project is  
20 they're wanting to do a pilot telemetry study and then  
21 finally, if it progresses, go into a full telemetry  
22 study.

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Excuse me. Those  
25 would be radio telemetry and you'd fly the drainage to  
26 locate those?

27  
28                   MR. HAVENER: That is correct, yes.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: How many would be  
31 deployed?

32  
33                   MR. HAVENER: They don't have a number  
34 in this report that I've seen. It just says they're  
35 going to significantly increase the sample sizes if  
36 they do go to the full project.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

39  
40                   MR. RAMOS: Part of the project, it was  
41 not clear if it could even be done in the area we were  
42 trying to catch fish, so getting the funding prior to  
43 knowing if it could be done -- it's not cheap to do  
44 telemetry. So now this was incredible numbers. Frank  
45 ordered 500 tags and he thought he wasn't going to use  
46 a whole lot of them and they caught 426 fish and that's  
47 because we couldn't get out the last week we were going  
48 to try. We probably could have done the 500 fish. So  
49 now that it has good data, we said, look, we can catch  
50 these fish and that the weirs did collect tags, so it

1 has a lot more credibility. Hopefully we can get the  
2 funding to get the project through and continue.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think it's a great  
5 project.

6

7 MR. HAVENER: Then in the subsistence  
8 we had a Federal moose hunt, the FM2406, which is in  
9 Federal lands on Game Management Unit 24C and 24D on  
10 the Koyukuk Refuge. This last year we noticed a  
11 decline in the cow numbers in that area, so we took a  
12 conservative measure and we talked about this at the  
13 spring RAC meeting in McGrath. We took conservative  
14 measures and held the moose hunt in April, which went  
15 from April 10th through April 15th and it was a bulls  
16 only hunt. At this hunt, we issued out 15 permits and  
17 then four bull moose were harvested. Below is a graph  
18 with all the data since 2005.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have a question on  
21 that. Where was the hunter satisfaction? You issued  
22 15 permits. Were people happy with that? That's the  
23 first year of this bull moose only April 10 to 15. I  
24 was wondering how people responded to that. Were they  
25 happy about that?

26

27 MR. HAVENER: I know there's some  
28 current concerns about transportation during that time  
29 with it warming up and being hard to cross rivers. To  
30 my knowledge, I didn't hear anything negative about it,  
31 but maybe Eleanor has some information regarding that  
32 that she could fill in about the people's opinions on  
33 that.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was going to ask  
36 Eleanor next about that. This spring, there was not  
37 enough cows for a cow hunt, but there was an April 10  
38 to 15 bull hunt and 15 permits were issued, four bulls  
39 were killed. How were people -- were people happy that  
40 that hunt occurred or nothing? What was the response  
41 by local people?

42

43 MS. YATLIN: I didn't get any response,  
44 but I know it was all frozen up. It stays frozen until  
45 about close to the end of April, so that wasn't a  
46 concern, you know, can't cross the rivers and creeks,  
47 because it's frozen solid.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

50

1 MS. YATLIN: So that was no concern.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: On average there  
4 would be -- yeah, there can be more overflow and stuff,  
5 but it's not breakup yet.  
6  
7 MS. YATLIN: No, it's not.  
8  
9 MR. RAMOS: That was part of our  
10 concern at the beginning, but we held the hunt because  
11 the conditions were right. If it was unsafe, we  
12 probably would have said no.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, at least we  
15 got some harvest. Four moose in the spring, that's a  
16 lot of dry meat.  
17  
18 MS. YATLIN: These are people that  
19 five, six, seven, kids. They have big families, so I'm  
20 glad.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Eleanor.  
23  
24 MR. HAVENER: Out of these 15 permits  
25 that we issued we went up a day before the hunt and we  
26 visited Huslia and Hughes and all 15 of these permits  
27 were issued in Huslia. It appeared that there was a  
28 lot of caribou around Hughes at that time and nobody  
29 was interested in the hunt.  
30  
31 We finished up the Nowitna moose hunter  
32 check station on October 1st. We opened it on  
33 September 3rd and we had a total of 82 hunters check in  
34 this year and 28 moose were harvested, which compared  
35 to last year we had about 90 and I think about 36 or 37  
36 moose were harvested, so it was down a little bit. On  
37 the next page I've got data from 1988 with the number  
38 of moose hunters on the top there with a little X and  
39 then the harvest is in the squares and you can see  
40 since 2003 the number of moose hunters has dropped.  
41  
42 On September 26th we do the Federal  
43 Subsistence hunt and it goes through October 1st on the  
44 Nowitna. This year we had quite a bit of interest in  
45 it. I believe I issued out 11 permits and we had four  
46 moose harvested during this hunt. Last year we didn't  
47 have any moose harvested. I think I issued out two  
48 permits, so there was a lot more interest this year.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you want to

1 comment on that, Don?

2

3 MR. HONEA: No. No, not on that  
4 exactly, but I was just looking at the graph here. I  
5 mean I guess every Refuge has kind of a minimum amount  
6 of moose population that you don't want to drop below.  
7 I mean looking at the graph it's constantly going down.  
8 Like I mentioned earlier, we could say we got 28 moose  
9 out of there and four in the late season, but overall,  
10 I mean, like an elder said, gee, I haven't even seen  
11 any cows this season. I'm just wondering where the --  
12 are you guys comfortable with a sustainable number, I  
13 guess.

14

15 MR. RAMOS: We'll be doing our surveys  
16 coming up in November, but from last year's numbers it  
17 was not -- the population was still, if I remember  
18 correctly and reported to the Council the last meeting,  
19 it was stable. There was no problem. Of course, those  
20 surveys were done before this last winter we had with  
21 all the snow we had. So we'll have better numbers come  
22 November on how the population is doing.

23

24 One thing to add, we had a higher  
25 interest in the extended season, but we also had a lot  
26 higher water this year at that time than we had last  
27 year, so I don't know how much of that influenced the  
28 amount of people that came out. Of course, the high  
29 water up in the Koyukuk, I heard people that you could  
30 get in almost anywhere, but there's also hardly any  
31 beach to hunt. Anyway, we'll have good numbers for the  
32 next meeting with the population.

33

34 MR. HONEA: If I can, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

37

38 MR. HONEA: I just wanted to make one  
39 more comment. I guess because, you know, like the 60-  
40 inch club, you see that in the Fairbanks papers, and a  
41 lot of times they -- I mean three out of half a dozen  
42 or 10 of them or something would say they got it out of  
43 the Novi and we don't like that kind of publicity.  
44 What I'm saying is we have to live with it. After all  
45 the hunters are gone we have to have some kind of  
46 conservative measures, so I'm pushing this kind of a  
47 snaring thing and I just want it known on record that I  
48 asked for it specifically. If you guys had some kind  
49 of a snaring thing in Galena or in the villages.

50

1                   That's all.  
2  
3                   Thank you.  
4  
5                   MR. HAVENER: Don, you were talking  
6 about snaring wolf kind of clinic for trapping?  
7  
8                   MR. HONEA: Yeah.  
9  
10                  MR. HAVENER: To my knowledge, we don't  
11 have one of those in Galena right now, but I mean  
12 that's something we could look into.  
13  
14                  MR. HONEA: Maybe it was State. I  
15 remember Glen Stout doing that. We talked about that  
16 and it doesn't have to be specifically, but I wanted it  
17 to be wolves. Also the maintaining and curing of skins  
18 and stuff like that. A lot of people don't know that,  
19 kids especially.  
20  
21                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got to move  
22 along in this agenda.  
23  
24                  MR. HAVENER: Okay. I was just.....  
25  
26                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Eleanor has one more  
27 question.  
28  
29                  MS. YATLIN: Oh, you're done?  
30  
31                  MR. HAVENER: I was just going to talk  
32 about the drift fishery real quick and then that seems  
33 to be it. We finished the Federal drift fishery FFYK-  
34 01 this year. It's the drift fishery in Federal waters  
35 4B and 4C. We issued out a total of seven permits, two  
36 of them are used and seven chinook salmon were  
37 harvested this year. We also put in the proposal this  
38 year to remove that permit.  
39  
40                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We supported that  
41 proposal. Any questions of Koyukuk/Nowitna. Eleanor.  
42  
43                  MS. YATLIN: I just have a question. I  
44 believe that your office down there you give out  
45 permits to residents or people that live in Galena,  
46 people that live around Koyukuk Refuge to build cabins  
47 on the Refuge. How is that going right now? Do you  
48 allow that?  
49  
50                  MR. RAMOS: For subsistence cabins?

1 MS. YATLIN: Yes.

2

3 MR. RAMOS: Yes, we do have people that  
4 can show use of an area and rural residents they can  
5 apply for a permit to build a subsistence cabin on the  
6 Refuge. We have a number of cabins permitted out in  
7 the Refuge. This last year we had one permit request  
8 last year. We had other people that talked about it  
9 and got the application. We haven't gotten any more  
10 requests this year.

11

12 MS. YATLIN: When you do get permits to  
13 ask to build a cabin in the Refuge, they have to be  
14 rural people? They live in the area.

15

16 MR. RAMOS: Live in the area at the  
17 time and also show a usage of an area. You have  
18 records that they're using the area for subsistence,  
19 whether it's trapping or hunting.

20

21 MS. YATLIN: So if you figure they  
22 don't use that area, you just refuse them, right?

23

24 MR. RAMOS: It depends on the -- that's  
25 part of the permitting process, yes. There's a  
26 requirement that they have to have a history of using  
27 the area. Typically once the cabins are permitted we  
28 let one person can pass with a family member or that  
29 individual on the permit as well. Honestly, we try  
30 very hard to make sure people keep their permits up to  
31 date. If they expire, we try to make sure they renew  
32 because any cabin that they don't renew the permit  
33 becomes property of the Fish and Wildlife Service and  
34 we hate for people to lose their hard work that they  
35 put in the cabins.

36

37 MS. YATLIN: Okay.

38

39 MS. PELKOLA: I have one comment.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny.

42

43 MS. PELKOLA: Before I came there was  
44 some people that say they are getting permits to build  
45 cabins, but some people that do come in from outside,  
46 they don't know the local people's hunting area or  
47 trapping area. These people have been doing that since  
48 they were just little kids and they still hunt and  
49 trap. Just because they don't have a cabin there  
50 doesn't mean they're not using it. They have their

1 radius.

2

3 In particular, there's a couple  
4 trappers and hunters that say that some of those people  
5 that do come in, they come in with their planes and  
6 then they trap with their planes, so I don't know --  
7 I'm just bringing forward what I was told.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. And the  
10 public can review the cabin permits for user conflict  
11 issues?

12

13 MR. RAMOS: Well, typically the Refuge  
14 manager makes a decision to issue a permit or not in  
15 the location. I know Kenton tries to do a zone about  
16 the location and what users in the area as far as I  
17 know, but he usually is the one that approves the  
18 permits. Since I've been there we've only issued one  
19 permit so far.

20

21 One other thing is if there's issues, I  
22 haven't heard of any issues. So if there's issues, we  
23 don't know about them, we can't address them. The same  
24 thing with the issue with trash. The first time we  
25 hear this yesterday. We heard about the same issue  
26 last year. We went out, sent our airplanes out,  
27 couldn't find any. So if there's more issues this  
28 year, this is the first time we hear about it. We  
29 spent a lot of time on the Refuge, but I guess we don't  
30 cover every crevice. So, if we don't know -- and if  
31 there are any issues with people not bringing older  
32 meat out as well, we need to know because we don't like  
33 that either and we don't want it to happen.

34

35 MS. YATLIN: One more.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Eleanor.

38

39 MS. YATLIN: I'm doing the same thing  
40 as Jenny. She said she hears these concerns. I heard  
41 from two different people that ask for permits and they  
42 said they lived in Galena. I know for a fact this one  
43 person live in Galena all their life. So why issue  
44 some people a permit and not some? I'm just bringing  
45 out concerns that people bring to me. So I just want  
46 to clarify that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's on the record.

49 I

50

1 MS. YATLIN: Yeah, I want to put it on  
2 the record.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate Council  
5 members making input to the Refuge on their concerns  
6 about local people's use and cabin use on Refuge lands.  
7 So one final point. We need to move on in this agenda.  
8  
9 MR. HAVENER: Okay. I know there was a  
10 couple concerns that came up yesterday and one was the  
11 Board of Game proposal for the flights into the  
12 controlled use area and we called the manager, Kenton,  
13 and we talked to him and he said it failed. So just to  
14 have that on record.  
15  
16 MR. GERVAIS: Did what?  
17  
18 MR. HAVENER: It failed.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The controlled use  
21 area has not been changed by the Board of Game. There  
22 was a proposal for 10 percent allocation for fly-in  
23 with a river corridor and that failed. We weren't sure  
24 about that one. So appreciate that update.  
25  
26 MR. HAVENER: Yes. Thank you.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And appreciate all  
29 the good work you're doing down there in Koyukuk. I  
30 refer to it down there because I live way up north.  
31 That's all south of me. So, thank you.  
32  
33 MR. HAVENER: Thank you.  
34  
35 MR. RAMOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36  
37 MR. R. WALKER: Steve, I'll give Vince  
38 a good word for you.  
39  
40 (Laughter)  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're moving on  
43 to BLM and we've got Merben here to give us an update.  
44  
45 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock.  
48  
49 MR. SIMON: Look at the time, Mr.  
50 Chair. It's past 5:00. How long are you going to

1 continue? If you want to continue past 5:00, you need  
2 to post consensus.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does the Council  
5 want to continue. We have to finish this agenda. We  
6 have an evening meeting with the public. Does the  
7 Council wish to finish the agenda?

8

9 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're coming down on  
12 the end of the agenda. Dinner, I think, is at 6:30-  
13 ish, so we have about an hour before that occurs.  
14 Merben, you're up at the mic.

15

16 MR. CEBRIAN: We can do it in two  
17 minutes if you want.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'd like you to  
20 take your time.

21

22 MR. CEBRIAN: Actually, Mr. Chair, let  
23 me start. Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. My name  
24 is Merben Cebrian, BLM Central Yukon Field Office. I'm  
25 here to make a quick report on the activities on BLM  
26 lands. Some of these things in this handout that you  
27 have have been reported in different agencies because  
28 we have cooperative projects with Kanuti, with Park  
29 Service and such. I'm just going to go through some  
30 highlights here.

31

32 For the education and outreach, BLM  
33 Central Yukon Field Office recently participated in a  
34 unique partnership with the SCA and the Arctic Slope  
35 Regional Corporation. The project involved hosting a  
36 group of high school students from Anaktuvuk Pass for  
37 an experiential learning week at the Arctic InterAgency  
38 Visitor's Center in Coldfoot, Alaska. The students  
39 made casts of animal tracks at the Koyukuk River,  
40 observed boreal owl nesting boxes to catalogue new  
41 recruits and visited the world famous Toolik Lake  
42 Research Station to learn from some of the scientists  
43 studying the Arctic Region. The highlight of their  
44 week was an interpretive presentation entitled Voices  
45 from Anaktuvuk Pass where each of them shared oral  
46 history and visions for the future of the village. It  
47 was a deeply moving experience for all who attended.  
48 The SCA looks forward to expanding the program for  
49 villages throughout the region.

50

1 Another note here. The Central Yukon  
2 Field Office is scheduled to begin a land use planning  
3 process this year that will update the 1991 Utility  
4 Corridor Resource Management Plan, the 1989 -- these  
5 are old plans. Central Yukon Resource Management Plan  
6 and cover some currently unplanned areas. The  
7 likelihood of a continuing resolution may delay the  
8 schedule, but subject to Congress passing a budget we  
9 expect scoping meetings to begin sometime in fiscal  
10 year 2013.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One of those scoping  
13 meetings will be in Wiseman, I assume.

14  
15 MR. CEBRIAN: I will put a note here,  
16 yes, sir.

17  
18 (Laughter)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There better be one  
21 in Wiseman.

22  
23 MR. JOHNSON: It better be.

24  
25 MR. CEBRIAN: Yes, sir. Duly noted.  
26 Yeah, Wiseman, there it is.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And also Coldfoot or  
29 Coldfoot and Wiseman.

30  
31 MR. CEBRIAN: Coldfoot and Wiseman.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those communities  
34 are in the utility corridor, so I'd like to see that  
35 scoping planning process. We want to be involved in  
36 the scoping process so that we don't get blindsided  
37 with stuff.

38  
39 MR. CEBRIAN: Right. Yes. That's for  
40 both the utility corridor and the Central Yukon  
41 Resource Management Plan. So with fisheries, in 2012  
42 the Central Yukon Field Office fisheries staff  
43 continued its efforts to document reference  
44 characteristics and functional status of placer mine  
45 streams within the Dalton Highway Corridor. Within the  
46 Dalton Highway Corridor placer mining continues to be  
47 one of the primary impacting agents with respect to  
48 aquatic, riparian and water resources. Since gold  
49 prices remain at or near an all-time high, the number  
50 of requests received by the Central Yukon Field Office

1 to authorize new or modified mining plans will remain a  
2 major workload for the Central Yukon Field Office staff  
3 for the foreseeable future.

4  
5 So, in short, we are swamped with  
6 mining requests. Attainment of these performance  
7 standards is dependant on the complex interaction of  
8 chemical, biological and physical processes. The  
9 project proposes to document some of the basic  
10 components involved in the interaction thereby  
11 providing a solid foundation for evaluating mining  
12 plans of operation, establishing reclamation  
13 performance standards and monitoring the outcome of  
14 current and future proposals. As many as 26 streams  
15 along the Dalton Highway Corridor are candidates for  
16 the project.

17  
18 Moving on to mining. There is still an  
19 increased interest in gravel sales along the Dalton  
20 Highway from the Yukon River northward. There have  
21 been several inquiries by private contractor for gravel  
22 from existing pits as well as exploration expansion by  
23 ADOT. The reauthorization for the ADOT&PF mineral  
24 material pits are still ongoing. Several have been  
25 reauthorized, several are closing and there have been  
26 some requests for additional pits. Fieldwork for the  
27 environmental documents have been conducted this field  
28 season and will continue until next summer's field  
29 season.

30  
31 For realty actions, the Stevens Village  
32 Road, BLM has issued a right-of-way grant to Doyon,  
33 Ltd. for winter access from the Five Mile Airstrip off  
34 the Dalton Highway to Stevens Village for mineral  
35 exploration. This grant will expire December 31, 2016.

36  
37 TERRA Kotzebue. This project will  
38 encompass five communication site towers to be  
39 installed by Unicom GCI with three sites being in the  
40 Central Yukon Field Office lands and the remaining two  
41 sites in the Anchorage Field Office lands. This right-  
42 of-way is being worked by Tom Sparks of our Nome office  
43 with a phone number of 443-2177. This is phase three  
44 of a planned four phase project.

45  
46 Melozi Hot Springs. First phase of a  
47 three-year cleanup at the Melozi Hot Springs near Ruby  
48 was completed this fall. Solid waste and hazardous  
49 materials were removed in preparation for the non-  
50 hazardous materials and solid waste to be removed next

1 year. This work was completed on an expired lease.

2

3                   Five Mile Airstrip. Alyeska has  
4 completed the remediation of the Five Mile Airstrip  
5 this past summer and all buildings and equipment have  
6 been removed.

7

8                   Recreation. Central Yukon and Post  
9 Modern Company out of Denver premiered a 15-minute  
10 custom film for the Arctic InterAgency Visitor's Center  
11 in Coldfoot. Arctic Visions and Voices features the  
12 natural environment and interviews with people who live  
13 and work in the Dalton Highway area, Gates of the  
14 Arctic National Park, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
15 Service and local communities contributed.  
16 Interpretive staff are now working on a 30-minute  
17 version that will be available for sale in summer 2013.

18

19                   Concerns about safety, sanitation and  
20 camping and access restrictions led to more outreach to  
21 hunters along the Dalton Highway. Information about  
22 driver's safety, proper trash disposal and camping  
23 restrictions at Toolik Lake Research Natural Area was  
24 supplied to Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base  
25 recreation centers. The information was also  
26 incorporated into the Fairbanks Daily News Miner annual  
27 hunting edition, a new web page targeting Dalton  
28 Highway hunters was recently completed.

29

30                   Onto ecology. We hired a new  
31 ecologist. Her name is Jennifer McMillan. Her  
32 responsibilities include vegetation, non-game wildlife,  
33 invasive plant species, range management and climate  
34 change program.

35

36                   Regarding the Dalton Highway invasive  
37 plant strategy, there is some money from the IRA funds  
38 to complete an environmental analysis of a proposed  
39 invasive plant management strategy for the Dalton  
40 Highway. Public meetings were held in potentially  
41 affected communities. I'm not exactly sure where those  
42 were. Coldfoot and Wiseman most likely.

43

44                   The strategy includes the possible  
45 application of herbicides. Analysis of the proposal  
46 would include an ANILCA .810 analysis of potential  
47 impacts to subsistence resources. The document will be  
48 available for public review and comment this winter  
49 before BLM signs a decision record.

50

1                   Our new ecologist, Jennifer, is serving  
2 as the point of contact for several rapid ecological  
3 assessments. These are called REAs. REAs provide the  
4 BLM with a large amount of information about current  
5 and projected resource condition which is used to  
6 prepare land use plans and plan amendments, conduct  
7 cumulative impact analyses, establish development,  
8 restoration and conservation priorities, develop best  
9 management practices and authorize public land uses.

10

11                   One REA has recently been completed.  
12 The Yukon Lowlands, Kuskokwim Mountain, Lyme Hill Rapid  
13 Ecological Assessment was initiated in summer of 2012.  
14 Two others are planned for upcoming years.

15

16                   Western Arctic Caribou Herd winter  
17 habitat monitoring is ongoing. Two thirds of the long-  
18 term habitat monitoring transects were revisited this  
19 August. The remaining transects will be revisited in  
20 2013. In addition, the BLM is working towards Western  
21 Arctic Caribou Herd habitat management plan for the  
22 Nulato Hills. A scoping letter will be distributed to  
23 all interested parties. I don't have the particular  
24 date for that as yet.

25

26                   Onto wildlife. The Alaska Department  
27 of Fish and Game, BLM, Kanuti and Gates of the Arctic  
28 National park are still cooperating on a radio  
29 telemetry study of moose in GMU 24A and B. BLM and the  
30 Park Service have been radio tracking 20 moose in the  
31 northern part of the study area monthly when weather  
32 allows. There were no new mortalities in the last  
33 flight. This project will end in March of 2013 and  
34 this was reported also with the Kanuti report.

35

36                   The BLM, Fish and Game and Kanuti  
37 Refuge, in conjunction with the University of Idaho are  
38 analyzing caribou location data for the Chisana Herd  
39 and the Ray Mountain Herd. Results suggest that these  
40 two herds are spatially distinct from each other.

41

42                   Also, BLM contributed dollars to the  
43 Kanuti survey for them to fly the caribou flights in  
44 the Refuge that they reported earlier also.

45

46                   The BLM partnered with Fish and Game to  
47 survey Dall sheep population in the central Brooks  
48 Range in July of 2012. This year the survey area was  
49 expanded to include areas west of the Dalton Highway  
50 from Coldfoot to Koyuktovuk Creek. We observed a total

1 of 288 sheep within the Dalton Highway Corridor  
2 Management Area, including 103 rams, 56 of these were  
3 less than full curl rams, 13 were full curl rams and 34  
4 were rams that could not be classified by size. There  
5 was weather coming in and me and Marty were just being  
6 pushed around quite a bit.

7  
8 27 less than full curl rams were  
9 located east of the Dalton Highway in Unit 1A. All  
10 other rams were in the west side of the highway in Unit  
11 13C. Of these, 11 less than full curl rams, 7 full curl  
12 rams and 34 unclassified rams were east of the boundary  
13 of the Gates of the Arctic National Park. Overall,  
14 there was an apparent increase in sheep abundance, but  
15 there was no significant changes in sheep distribution  
16 since 2004.

17  
18 Last bullet for wildlife. The BLM,  
19 along with the Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife  
20 Service and ADF&G will be hosting the Western Arctic  
21 Caribou Herd Working Group meeting in December. The  
22 logistics of the meeting are still being planned and  
23 notices will be sent when plans are finalized.  
24 Additionally, also, I participated in the caribou  
25 capture in Onion Portage. We deployed 32 collars on  
26 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

27  
28 Law enforcement. The BLM is still  
29 planning to hire a law enforcement ranger in October of  
30 2012. Incidentally, that will be Jennifer McMillan's  
31 husband.

32  
33 One thing I want to add here. I've  
34 taken notes on the guide issue because of BLM we deal  
35 with guides in the Dalton Highway and the Squirrel  
36 River, but if you have any additional topics that I can  
37 convey to the management then please let me know now  
38 and I will take questions.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks for  
41 the expeditious report there, Merben. Does the Council  
42 have questions about the BLM's report.

43  
44  
45 (No comments)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Last year I had  
48 concerns of the Dall sheep and I appreciate the BLM  
49 spending time to survey the Dall sheep. As I stated,  
50 there were very few legal rams east of the Dalton

1 Highway and that was found in your survey. There were  
2 Park sheep that appeared to have come out into the  
3 survey area, but I know of several rams that were  
4 killed of the 13 that you've enumerated here. Several  
5 of those were harvested this season. I do want to  
6 state for the record that BLM divided the guides into  
7 smaller units and did not overlap them. I highly  
8 appreciate what BLM has done to address the concerns of  
9 this Council and appropriating funding to survey these  
10 sheep and I feel that BLM is working in a positive  
11 direction towards sheep management in the Dalton  
12 Highway Corridor.

13

14 Comment, Merben.

15

16 MR. CEBRIAN: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Yes, we  
17 are pushing for more ways to handle guides in BLM  
18 lands. As you are also aware, we also have a similar  
19 problem of a different nature in the Squirrel River  
20 area. This is one way for us to tackle that issue.  
21 Now the guide plan by BLM is a different approach.  
22 That plan, if approved for all of BLM lands in Alaska  
23 will supercede what we're doing here. Regardless of  
24 whether we issued six permits within the corridor,  
25 whatever that plan finds out, if there's only one guide  
26 ultimately on that corridor area, that will supercede  
27 what we're doing here, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I understand  
30 that. I appreciate our discussion of this Council and  
31 the BLM Yukon Office addressing that issue and being  
32 proactive and putting a lid on this problem. I really  
33 appreciate the work that -- and you can convey my  
34 appreciation back to Shelly Jacobson. So I'm very  
35 pleased with the direction that BLM is taking with  
36 sheep management and also looking at what the  
37 biological parameters are. This information is going  
38 to be helpful if the BLM planning alternatives  
39 incorporate health of populations into the guide use  
40 capacities, so I appreciate that.

41

42 MR. CEBRIAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions,  
45 comments.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Merben. We  
50 have Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I only have

1 one Department person here.

2

3 Did you want to make any comments,  
4 Heather.

5

6 MS. LEBA: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
7 Council members. I would say if you have any comments  
8 regarding the season summary packet that was handed out  
9 to all the Council members and was up in the front of  
10 the room, I would -- I don't know if any of the Fish  
11 and Game members who are in Anchorage are on the line  
12 right now, but Eric Newland would probably be the  
13 person to address those concerns at this time.

14

15 I would only say that if you wanted to  
16 hear about or had questions briefly about the education  
17 presentation I gave this morning to the children at the  
18 school, I'd be happy to answer any questions or after  
19 the meeting you can come up to me and I can discuss  
20 that with you.

21

22 Just briefly I did an education  
23 presentation as part of an education outreach program  
24 that myself and Stephanie Schmitt, the area research  
25 biologist for the Yukon, have been putting together the  
26 last year. We gave a similar presentation to the  
27 Eastern Interior RAC members back in February and then  
28 also at the YRDFA annual meeting in Galena earlier in  
29 the winter time.

30

31 If there are no questions, I can follow  
32 up with that after the meeting or if anybody has any  
33 questions for anybody who might be on the  
34 teleconference.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions for  
37 Heather. Go ahead.

38

39 MR. COLLINS: I want to thank you on  
40 behalf of the Iditarod School District for taking the  
41 time to go into the school. I think it's really  
42 important when you're traveling you do that. So thank  
43 you on behalf of the school district.

44

45 MS. LEBA: Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

48

49 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Jack. The  
50 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of

1 Commercial Fisheries news release. I like this one  
2 here where it was on Page 8, paragraph 3 here, about  
3 the Subdistrict 4A that was the commercial fisheries up  
4 at the Kaltag area.

5  
6 Mr. Chairman, I'd like to have this put  
7 into a record here because we have such a dilemma about  
8 our fishwheels from the Lower Yukon people here, but  
9 this would be something to show that the fishwheels do  
10 work because when I talk to some of the people up  
11 there, not only the king salmon that was thrown back  
12 into the river, but they threw like the sheefish, the  
13 pike, all the whitefish. They weren't using these.  
14 They were just using the chum salmon. So it does show  
15 that the mortality rate for a fishwheel is absolutely  
16 zero for any kind of freshwater fish or chinook salmon.  
17 I want to put this on record, Heather. No problem? I  
18 don't have to read it to you, do I?

19  
20 MS. LEBA: I don't think so. I mean  
21 that's public information. If you have any follow-up  
22 questions, you can certainly address those to Steve  
23 Hayes, the area management biologist or Eric Newland.  
24 I can give you my card and you can feel free to contact  
25 us.

26  
27 MR. R. WALKER: Okay. Thank you.

28  
29 MR. COLLINS: Were they using a live  
30 box on that?

31  
32 MS. LEBA: I believe they were using a  
33 shoot. I think live boxes -- having that commercial  
34 fishery in Kaltag, the use of live boxes were precluded  
35 for that specific fishwheel, so all the king salmon  
36 were allowed back into the river live immediately with  
37 the use of a shoot.

38  
39 MR. COLLINS: So they had somebody on  
40 it all the time.

41  
42 MS. LEBA: That's correct.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And that fished 24  
45 hours a day?

46  
47 MS. LEBA: I don't think so. I think  
48 there were periods during the season where they had a  
49 fishing window, but they weren't fishing it 24 hours a  
50 day.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see.  
2  
3 MS. LEBA: But when it was fished,  
4 there was somebody on it all the time.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I do think that it  
7 was a very effective management tool to preclude  
8 mortalities of chinook salmon. So Robert wants to  
9 assure that's in the record. All these documents are  
10 recorded. Go ahead, Carl.  
11  
12 MR. JOHNSON: Any documents that are  
13 handed out to the Council during a meeting are included  
14 in the official administrative record for any Council  
15 meeting.  
16  
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Any  
20 other questions for Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
21  
22 (No comments)  
23  
24 MS. LEBA: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Council  
25 members.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I also want to  
28 appreciate your educational outreach to the village  
29 schools and coming to Holy Cross in particular. Thank  
30 you.  
31  
32 Okay. So we're at YRDFA. We did have  
33 YRDFA earlier in our meeting. So we've come down to  
34 Native organizations. TCC possibly is still on the  
35 line. Are you still there, Alyssa?  
36  
37 MS. FROTHINGHAM: I am.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I very much  
40 apologize for the length of this meeting and I really  
41 appreciate you hanging online. You get a silver star  
42 for that. Go ahead.  
43  
44 MS. FROTHINGHAM: Thank you. No  
45 worries. First off, I just wanted to apologize for  
46 TCC's absence at this Western RAC meeting. Both  
47 Orville Huntington and myself had previous commitments.  
48 Orville, like he mentioned earlier, is attending a  
49 Board of Fish meeting.  
50

1                   It has come to my attention that some  
2 of the proposals discussed yesterday had wanted TCC's  
3 opinion. Unfortunately I was not involved in the  
4 discussions of those proposals, but I would direct any  
5 further questions again to Orville Huntington.

6  
7                   There is a couple projects that I  
8 wanted to update the Council on that TCC has been  
9 working on. One is, of course, the Henshaw Creek Weir.  
10 This is the only Upper Koyukuk River Drainage  
11 Assessment Project and only one of two escapement  
12 projects on the Koyukuk River as many of you know.

13  
14                   This year the weir was in operation  
15 from June 24th to August 4th. This year has the  
16 highest number of summer chum counted, 292,082. In  
17 contrast, chinook numbers were lower than average and  
18 we have about 922 chinook counted.

19  
20                   Another project, the Henshaw Creek  
21 Science Camp that Vince Mathews had alluded to. The  
22 camp began in 2007 and is offered to students 6th to  
23 12th grade from the villages of Allakaket, Alatna,  
24 Bettles, Evansville, Hughes and Huslia. The camp is  
25 successfully run alongside the Henshaw Creek weir,  
26 which remains a big draw to the students. The  
27 Allakaket Tribal Office was integral in locating boat  
28 drivers, cooks and students for the science camp.

29  
30                   It's become an annual community event  
31 that everyone seems to really enjoy. Like others had  
32 mentioned it has been a struggle to get students out  
33 there and get interest from the community. What we did  
34 this year was bring out Susan Paskvan of the Y-K School  
35 District and she brought her MapTEACH curriculum as  
36 well as teaching Athabaskan dialect to the students,  
37 which they seemed to really enjoy. Of course, we took  
38 them out to the weir as well and taught salmon biology  
39 and that was a big draw as well.

40  
41                   In total, we have 8 students from  
42 Allakaket, one student from Huslia and we also were  
43 able to bring out two students from Fairbanks from the  
44 Watershed School District.

45  
46                   Finally, one of our later projects, the  
47 Alatna River Inconnu Population Project. Myself and  
48 Paige Drobny went up to the Alatna river and we were  
49 looking to collect biological information from the  
50 sheefish. It was the only documented spawning

1 tributary in the Koyukuk River and it's presently an  
2 unmonitored fishery. There are no estimates for  
3 harvest of sheefish on the Alatna, but looking at  
4 subsistence surveys imply that sheefish represent about  
5 19 percent of the total of non-salmon subsistence  
6 harvest in the Koyukuk River.

7

8                   Thankfully we had P.J. Simon take us  
9 out, Pollock Simon's son. Just last week we did two  
10 trips, September 20th to 25th. We were thwarted by  
11 high water unfortunately, so we went back out October  
12 5th through the 8th and also unsuccessful in catching  
13 any sheefish due to high water. So we're hoping to  
14 conduct this project again next year if possible. We  
15 were only able to get two sheefish and we were hoping  
16 for 200.

17

18                   Finally, our annual subsistence chinook  
19 salmon project, sampling project. It was much scaled  
20 down compared to years past due to funding. We  
21 centered our subsistence sampling project in five  
22 villages, which included Anvik, Holy Cross, Ruby,  
23 Galena and Fort Yukon. We had a biologist go out to  
24 these villages and train at least five subsistence  
25 fishermen to collect biological samples on their  
26 chinook salmon. We received 80 samples from Anvik, 0  
27 from Holy Cross, 46 samples from Ruby, 30 from Galena  
28 and 253 from Fort Yukon. The majority of these samples  
29 were males. I don't have any averages for you, but I'm  
30 hoping to get them at the spring meeting.

31

32                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What were you  
33 sampling, auxiliary fin or ichthyophonous heart samples?

34

35                   MS. FROTHINGHAM: No, nothing  
36 ichthyophonous, but we were taking genetics as well as  
37 just ASLs for all king salmon.

38

39                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

40

41                   MS. FROTHINGHAM: And that's it.

42

43                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I appreciate  
44 that. Does anybody have questions for TCC's  
45 presentation.

46

47                   (No comments)

48

49                   MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Alyssa.

50

1                           CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.  
2 Appreciate that. The Council is tired and, of course,  
3 you are too.  
4  
5                           MR. R. WALKER: I've still got one more  
6 I've got to give.  
7  
8                           CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You've got another  
9 comment there?  
10  
11                          MR. R. WALKER: No, no. I've got  
12 another report here.  
13  
14                          CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So, go right  
15 ahead. We're in Native organizations. Is it under  
16 that title? You don't have to move chairs.  
17  
18                          MR. R. WALKER: I'm bored.  
19  
20                          (Laughter)  
21  
22                          CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. You just want  
23 to stretch. Go ahead, Robert. Turn your hat around.  
24  
25                          (Laughter)  
26  
27                          MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 Jack. Last week we had a four village meeting here in  
29 Holy Cross; Anvik, Grayling, Shageluk and Holy Cross,  
30 with the chiefs from the four villages. We had a two-  
31 day meeting here. One of the topics that did come out  
32 of here was that the four tribes would like to see some  
33 kind of a proposal to put into the Federal Board or the  
34 RAC about cutting antlers on the trophy moose on  
35 Federal land. Would this be a Federal special action  
36 request for 21E Federal lands or will it just be a  
37 proposal to be put into the regular Board meeting?  
38  
39                          One of the issues that came up was that  
40 a lot of our tribes were competing with a lot of  
41 transporters in Innoko River from Holikachuk up, Anvik  
42 River and the Bonasila River where they do fly in and  
43 there are transporters that boat up to there too. To  
44 compete with these guys that have more money than a lot  
45 of local people, it's kind of hard to say, well, you  
46 know, we don't have a 60 club yet like what they do up  
47 there, but they probably do that we don't know about.  
48  
49                          This is what they would like to have  
50 direct do. They don't want to deal with the AC board

1 because the AC board has three transporters on there.  
2 Usually when you get to the AC Board and you put a  
3 proposal there, it usually gets shot down real quick.  
4 A lot of people are losing faith in the AC board  
5 because they can't get nothing done. So this is one of  
6 the issues. Leroy was at the meeting here. He could  
7 probably elaborate something on what the other chiefs  
8 said. Leroy.

9

10 MR. PETERS: Yeah. These other tribal  
11 councils from the GASH region they were concerned about  
12 these transporters coming into our area. You know,  
13 that's putting a lot of pressure on the subsistence  
14 users around here. We just don't need that extra load.  
15 Like Robert was saying, is it up to the Board or is it  
16 up to us? Do we have to put in a proposal to put in a  
17 no-fly zone in some of these areas?

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, around Holy  
20 Cross is not very much Federal land. That's kind of  
21 the problem down here.

22

23 MR. R. WALKER: Well, if you look from  
24 Holikachuk up to the mouth of Iditarod, I think it's  
25 pretty much Refuge land there. When you get to  
26 Bonasila River from end of Doyon land, it's Federal  
27 land. When you get up to Anvik River right after the  
28 corporation land end, it's Federal land again.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is all this Paradise  
31 Controlled Use  
32 Area across the river?

33

34 MR. R. WALKER: Right.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All that's Paradise  
37 way down there to Russian Mission. The Federal  
38 Subsistence Board -- well, all a Federal proposal would  
39 do is -- the subsistence users would cut their antlers,  
40 but sport hunters wouldn't have to do that.

41

42 MR. R. WALKER: Really?

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Because this is the  
45 Federal Subsistence Board and it affects.....

46

47 MR. R. WALKER: This would be the  
48 Federal hunters would have to cut their antlers?

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's what the

1 Federal Subsistence Board -- they don't regulate sport  
2 hunters. The State Board of Game regulates sport  
3 hunters. So like the antler cutting thing that you're  
4 talking about, that's a State on the Koyukuk Refuge and  
5 parts of 21B in the Novi and it's cut -- if they have a  
6 drawing permit, then they have a subsistence permit.  
7 All of the hunters that hunt on the Koyukuk, you  
8 register as a registration permit, you register it as a  
9 subsistence user whether you're from Fairbanks, Galena,  
10 Kaltag. Everybody goes up there. If they shoot the  
11 moose on the subsistence hunt, they've got to cut the  
12 antler, they've got to check back out. That's a State  
13 regulation.

14

15 The Federal Subsistence Board does not  
16 regulate non-subsistence users. That's the Board of  
17 Game's thing. So a proposal like that for the Paradise  
18 or the area that you would like or 21E, the entire unit  
19 of 21E, that would have to be a proposal that would  
20 have to be proposed to the Board of Game. If you want  
21 sport hunters to cut their antlers.

22

23 MR. R. WALKER: Yes, I think that's  
24 right, Jack. The tribes of the four villages would  
25 like to see that done, but the proceedings on doing  
26 this is -- you know, we don't have the knowledge of  
27 doing it, so that's why they asked me to come to the  
28 Board to get some kind of direction how to do this  
29 where we could be legal. We don't want to just jump in  
30 there and say, hey, this is going to happen, this is  
31 not going to happen, but we want to work on this to  
32 protect our subsistence life. If we do it with the  
33 State, that's fine. I mean if we get the help to do  
34 it, that's better yet.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You know, the Innoko  
37 Moose Management Plan kind of muddies this up a little  
38 bit. I think you'd have to re-open the Innoko Moose  
39 Management Plan or request that the Moose Management  
40 Plan be reconvened. If you wanted to put a limitation  
41 on the number of hunters that can -- you know, like on  
42 the Koyukuk and these different places they have a  
43 drawing permit which limits the number of hunters.  
44 They can keep their antlers and local people can put in  
45 for the drawing permit. Then you want to put a  
46 subsistence hunt that all subsistence users would have  
47 to cut their antlers. Non-residents aren't considered  
48 subsistence users, so non-residents wouldn't be able to  
49 participate in the subsistence hunt. The drawing  
50 permit hunt, that fluctuates generally around -- I

1 think the last Koyukuk drawing that I remember was  
2 something like 50 permits were issued. Bo was saying  
3 that there were like 38 hunters.

4

5 MR. R. WALKER: I got 62 hunters.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Or 62 hunters. So  
8 you could trim that down. Non-residents would have --  
9 I forget how many he said were non-resident hunters.  
10 Do you remember that number?

11

12 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. I believe it  
13 was something to the effect of 28 residents, 32 non-  
14 residents, somewhere around there.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So I think  
17 there is quite a bit of process that would have to take  
18 place because there is an Innoko Moose Management Plan.  
19 You'd have to open the plan up and you'd have to  
20 convene the planning group and then you'd have to  
21 develop a drawing permit in a subsistence hunt for  
22 cutting antlers, but all you would be accomplishing is  
23 basically -- the non-local, non-rural people that come  
24 here would be cutting their antlers. They would be  
25 eligible to hunt under subsistence regulations on State  
26 regulations.

27

28 MR. R. WALKER: See, this is one of the  
29 things that a lot of us don't understand here, how this  
30 works here. We don't want to end up like 19A, 19B and  
31 19C because all of a sudden we've got -- this is like  
32 the rumor here was that we had 10,000 moose here and we  
33 had like 6,500 bulls that were over 60 or 50-inch. So  
34 the rumor is out. Good grief, you know, we've got  
35 people coming in here like the ship was sinking  
36 someplace else.

37

38 My gracious. Everywhere you go there's  
39 a boat, there's a camp. When you have all these  
40 hunters going up the river there with no meat, just  
41 antlers. You have all these hunters leaving the  
42 airport here with no meat, just antlers. This is kind  
43 of like, wow, what did they do, did they eat up all the  
44 meat before they left or what the heck. I mean nobody  
45 else in the village got any. I don't think they gave  
46 anybody the meat in Holy Cross.

47

48 There was another issue here too that  
49 an elder lady was being harassed by a young Fish and  
50 Wildlife trooper here in Shageluk. She's 84 years old

1 and he kept going to her and trying to harass her and  
2 harass her and then, you know, like you've got moose  
3 meat from somebody killed illegal moose, et cetera,  
4 somebody turned you in. It was kind of like ironic.  
5 Meanwhile, out here, there's antlers being moved out of  
6 the community without moose meat. This is kind of  
7 something too that, hey, there's something wrong with  
8 this picture here. I know we can't fix it because it's  
9 already done.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm not sure when  
12 the Board of Game has a call for proposals again. This  
13 January is when the call for proposals begins?

14  
15 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, my understanding  
16 is.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Through what date?

19  
20 MR. MATHEWS: I just know it's on my  
21 mental calendar. It's the same as your call for  
22 wildlife proposals on Federal. So it's going to be a  
23 busy year.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So I think  
26 there needs to be -- we have to get a hold of -- there  
27 should be the planning -- you know, Randy Rogers.....

28  
29 MR. R. WALKER: He retired.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He retired, but  
32 Rita.....

33  
34 MR. R. WALKER: St. Louis.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....St. Louis, have  
37 to get a hold of her, have to reconvene the Innoko  
38 planning group and then develop a proposal through that  
39 planning group that would address the issues that you  
40 need to do because the Board of Game and the Federal  
41 Subsistence Board have adopted the Innoko Plan. They  
42 can't start adopting proposals that are way outside  
43 that plan. They'll want that plan to be reopened  
44 again.

45  
46 So I think the avenue is to get a hold  
47 of Rita St. Louis and the Department of Fish and Game,  
48 David James, Region 3, say you want to open the plan,  
49 you want to address some issues and then go through the  
50 planning process to develop a proposal to submit to the

1 Board of Game. The Federal Subsistence Board cannot  
2 regulate sport hunting. I've never known of them to --  
3 I mean I've known them to eliminate sport hunting, but  
4 they don't start setting antler cutting restrictions  
5 and stuff. That's not something the Federal Board  
6 would even -- I doubt that they would even contemplate  
7 something like that.

8

9 Carl.

10

11 MR. JOHNSON: Just to assist the  
12 Council's discussion on this, I looked on the Board of  
13 Game website. They do an annual call for proposals and  
14 the annual deadline is around May 1st.

15

16 MR. R. WALKER: Next year.

17

18 MR. JOHNSON: So that would be each  
19 year.

20

21 MR. R. WALKER: It already passed for  
22 May 1st.

23

24 MR. JOHNSON: That's correct, but every  
25 year it's the same call for proposals at the same time.  
26 Every year the deadline will be around May 1st. It  
27 just depends on whether or not May 1st falls on a  
28 weekend or a holiday.

29

30 MR. R. WALKER: Okay. Jack, my second  
31 question would be --we have a controlled use here with  
32 no-fly zone. One of the other things that were brought  
33 up in the meeting was that why can't we expand it to be  
34 the whole unit. Is it past the deadline here a few  
35 years ago or what to reopen this no-fly zone for 21E?

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the Paradise  
38 Controlled Use area, which goes into Unit 18, that area  
39 was put in place by the Board of Game a long time ago.  
40 With this Board of Game, I would be real concerned  
41 about opening that one up because the first thing  
42 that's going to happen is Fairbanks is going to want to  
43 cut that thing way down. This Board that we have is  
44 not sympathetic to subsistence. This Board that we  
45 have right now, they would love to chop these  
46 controlled use areas or eliminate control.

47

48 There was many proposals before the  
49 Fairbanks Advisory Committee to re-evaluate the  
50 controlled use areas, eliminate controlled use areas,

1 trim controlled use areas. That was in March of 2012,  
2 this spring. They were wanting to cut those things  
3 out. I'd be real concerned about trying to expand it.  
4 The first thing, you're going to infuriate them and  
5 they're going to want to chop it down. I would be very  
6 surprised if they wouldn't want to cut it.

7

8 MR. R. WALKER: Well, these are  
9 questions that have to be asked because I think the  
10 four village chiefs don't really understand what the  
11 whole picture is. I think to re-educate them and kind  
12 of like say this is what's going to happen if we do  
13 this, this is going to happen, this is not going to  
14 work, et cetera. I really think that there's a lot of  
15 other tribes and other villages in the same dilemma  
16 that we are. It's just kind of like, you know, to make  
17 this work it's probably going to be a lot of work for  
18 this first proposal that I asked for them what to do.  
19 I mean they seem like they want to do it. I told them  
20 I would help them as much as I could, but I said, you  
21 know, you guys are younger than me. You guys got to  
22 learn how to take over. Can't have us people coming  
23 around and doing this stuff for you anymore. Like  
24 Leroy and these guys, they're going to have to find out  
25 the hard way.

26

(Laughter)

27

28

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

29

30

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

31

32

33

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. Robert.  
34 I'm wondering if you wouldn't get faster results by  
35 having a meeting and ask Fish and Game protection to  
36 come, but try to get as specific information you can  
37 about what's been observed in terms of antlers going  
38 out. There's already laws on the books about antlers  
39 with no meat. They're supposed to bring meat out of  
40 the field before antlers are brought out when they're  
41 hunting. If they're showing up and flying into town  
42 with no meat, they need to account for that meat. I  
43 think it could be that the Fish and Wildlife or the  
44 State biologists that are in charge of that could  
45 answer, but you have to get people who actually  
46 observed it to try to get accurate data and then say  
47 this is what we observed. They could send somebody in  
48 during the season to be watching for that kind of  
49 thing. In fact, you could probably call.....

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What I do when I see  
2 a violation -- three guys illegally hunting near where  
3 I was at. I walked right up to them. I've got this  
4 camera in my pocket. People wonder why I've got this  
5 camera in my pocket.

6  
7                   (Laughter)

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I walk right up to  
10 them and I'm taking pictures of their license and them,  
11 their gear. They're like whoa. I tell them I'm going  
12 to turn you in. You're not supposed to be hunting  
13 here. They're like, uh-oh. You walk up and start  
14 taking pictures of a boat empty with just moose antlers  
15 in there and pictures of them and document who those  
16 people are, Fish and Wildlife Protection can use those  
17 pictures. So everybody here should have a camera in  
18 their pocket. You see somebody doing something that's  
19 illegal, you see a kill, guys with their camp, you see  
20 a kill and a whole bunch of meat laying there, take a  
21 lot of pictures of it. Oh, man, they'll nail them just  
22 like that. That's the way I help enforcement out.

23  
24                   Going back to the issues here, there's  
25 the Innoko Plan, which needs to be -- you know, would  
26 need to be opened up. There was discussion last year  
27 about whether the Innoko Plan needs to be opened again.  
28 I feel that the GASH communities could request from  
29 David James and Rita St. Louis to open the Innoko Plan  
30 and talk about some of the issues that local people  
31 want to see addressed in the plan again. That's kind  
32 of the first step.

33  
34                   I think that -- you know, to start  
35 expanding the controlled use area, I just don't think  
36 this Board is going to do that.

37  
38                   MR. R. WALKER: Yeah, I already hear  
39 you. What happened up there at Koyukuk the other year  
40 when they were talking about -- some guy was trying to  
41 get them to open up the controlled use area and they  
42 were ready to do it if the person -- but the people got  
43 -- lucky we were there. We were there. Remember the  
44 time we were there?

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. That was  
47 when we had a Koyukuk meeting.

48  
49                   MR. R. WALKER: Okay. That's fine.  
50 That was just brought up. Anyway, I think the people

1 are just getting tired of calling the Fish and Wildlife  
2 troopers and saying this is going on and on and on.  
3 Kind of like everybody's kind of like gave up calling  
4 them after a while. I mean nothing's ever really done.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Once they  
7 get away and they don't know who they are, that's a  
8 problem. That's why you've got to take pictures of  
9 them.

10  
11 MR. R. WALKER: Well, who has a camera  
12 like you?

13  
14 (Laughter)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You can buy them  
17 down there in Fred Meyers for 100 bucks.

18  
19 MR. PETERS: We go out there -- we go  
20 out there hunting and we catch these transporters, you  
21 know. They come out with their airplanes and they're  
22 taxiing down, they're going to take off toward us and  
23 we come around the bend, they turn around and take off  
24 upriver, you know. Long gone, you know.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, you can't do  
27 much about that.

28  
29 MR. R. WALKER: Jack and the rest of  
30 the board too, this is what really happened to us. We  
31 took off from Anvik in a caravan, Cessna 208. We were  
32 going to Aniak. Halfway down we were looking out the  
33 front window and here comes a Super Cub straight  
34 towards us, coming, coming, coming, coming. The pilot  
35 looks, finally he says it got too close, he just pulled  
36 it, turned and climbed up and got out. The Super Cub  
37 went right where we were. When we landed here, I  
38 talked to the transporter. I said what are you doing  
39 with your Super Cub. He says it's going up there. I  
40 said how come we almost ran into it. He got a little  
41 red in the face like what happened. So the pilot of  
42 the caravan said, hey, we were going right into your  
43 Super Cub head on. I don't know how many times this  
44 ever happened, but this has been reported to FAA.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

47  
48 MR. R. WALKER: I don't have anything  
49 else here, Mr. Chairman. Just to let you know.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We do want to know  
2 about these kind of issues, these user conflict issues.

3

4 MS. YATLIN: Jack.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

7

8 MS. YATLIN: I wanted to make a  
9 comment. You know, we sat there for two days, we  
10 listened to a lot of report, we listened to all the  
11 different agencies and we are a Council that have  
12 concerns for the people that do live in these areas. I  
13 take this very seriously, this Holy Cross, Anvik,  
14 Grayling, these four villages. The chiefs got together  
15 and made it a point to try to figure out ways -- and  
16 these are legitimate issues. They're all over. They  
17 were in Bettles, the same issues. Allakaket, that  
18 area. We see the planes same as them. We see them  
19 flying around Huslia. We don't know where they land.  
20 They have floats. We don't know where they -- you  
21 know, are they scouting out the area for the biggest  
22 moose? We don't know that. They are really legitimate  
23 issues.

24

25 Even if we have to just sit here for  
26 another half an hour talking about it, let's -- I'm  
27 glad to hear this because we need to have a two-way  
28 conversation between the Refuge managers and -- it's  
29 got to be communication two ways. We could sit there  
30 and talk blue in our face and tell the Refuge that this  
31 is going on or tell the enforcement this is going on,  
32 tell the State this is going on, but it's got to be two  
33 way and we cannot be talked to like, oh, yeah, we hear  
34 about this and we don't get no reports. Well, what am  
35 I doing sitting here reporting, saying there's trash.  
36 We don't see that, you know. We spend hours, we spend  
37 a lot of money flying around, you know.

38

39 We're a Council that should be listened  
40 to instead of talked to like, you know. It's got to be  
41 reported. There's got to be a two-way street here, a  
42 two-way communication. So that's just my comment.  
43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I  
46 appreciate your comments, Eleanor. One thing that the  
47 Western Interior Council could do is send a letter of  
48 request to David James and Rita St. Louis that local  
49 people have concerns about the escalating level of  
50 moose hunting and we would like the Innoko Plan to be

1 addressed. Would that start the ball rolling, Robert?

2

3 MR. R. WALKER: Yes, it would, Jack,  
4 because we didn't come here shouting and screaming. We  
5 came here sitting down starting a dialogue with Western  
6 Interior and all the Refuges and whoever is all here.  
7 We came in with a clear point and we would like to,  
8 like I say, move on and if we can improve on this here,  
9 that would be a great idea.

10

11 I'm not trying to battle these guys,  
12 but I'm trying to say, hey, there's a picture here,  
13 we'd like to have some kind of a line drawn because if  
14 we don't do this here in the next year or two, we're  
15 going to end up like the Kuskokwim. We're going to  
16 have to go to Tier II. We don't want to have to do  
17 that. We still like to ride out there and do what we  
18 have to do.

19

20 There was another point I want to make  
21 too. The boys up there in Kaltag brought me up to  
22 Nulato through the side sloughs on the other side river  
23 and they said tell me what you see. So I went with  
24 them. I rode up there and I rode, rode, and the water  
25 was not that high, but we rode something like 40 miles.  
26 There was only eight sets of tracks in 40 miles and  
27 that was in the middle of September. I thought, you  
28 know, man, if this is like down around Holy Cross or  
29 someplace, if we went 40 miles, we'd see an average of  
30 maybe 20 tracks per mile. Up there it's shot out. I  
31 talked to the boys up there. They said they're having  
32 a harder and harder time.

33

34 The transporters are down there below  
35 Kaltag. They're just kind of like having people flying  
36 them in and out. No disrespect. That's a business,  
37 but, again, you know, the local got to compete. So  
38 where do we draw the line? To compete? To start  
39 getting erratic, start threatening them, start throwing  
40 rocks, what? I mean there's a paper and pencil right  
41 here and that's where I think we should come in and  
42 help these four tribes.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we can  
45 transmit a letter to Region 3 director, David James.  
46 That's Rita St. Louis's boss. State in the letter that  
47 local people of the GASH area have concerns about  
48 increasing numbers of hunters in Unit 21E and the  
49 Innoko Plan needs to have additional planning efforts  
50 and possible regulation proposals to submit to the

1 State Board of Game. Does that sound like the first  
2 step?

3  
4 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair. I think that  
5 also -- I mean looking at this, looking at the concerns  
6 here, I think that maybe we're going to have to carry  
7 on into the Galena meeting. I think that maybe Glen  
8 Stout would be there from the State. For a long time  
9 -- I mean I'm just hearing this and looking -- if you  
10 see on your map the Yuki River between Ruby and Galena,  
11 it's a shallow river. You can only go so far, but I've  
12 heard this fall that there was locals that have Native  
13 allotments on that land that hunted consistently and  
14 there was people that -- I mean they found some meat  
15 that was spoiled and stuff. People with jet units  
16 coming down can go, I don't know, 70, 80 miles up there  
17 and get all these young, two or three-year-old bulls,  
18 whatever. So I think this, you know, whatever we do, I  
19 think we have to keep pressing the State. If we could  
20 work with Glen. I always want to have a paper trail of  
21 something.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Roger Savoy would be  
24 for this -- he's the area biologist for down here in  
25 the Innoko. 21E is one of his units. So we could  
26 transmit that letter. The Chair will entertain a  
27 motion to transmit a letter to Region 3 director David  
28 James stating some of the concerns and the need to open  
29 the Innoko Moose Management Plan.

30  
31 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So moved by Jenny.

34  
35 MS. YATLIN: Second.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Eleanor.  
38 Further discussion. Tim.

39  
40 MR. GERVAIS: Well, it sounds like part  
41 of the issue is there's lack of enforcement on existing  
42 regulations. In that letter you could probably discuss  
43 the need for some temporary additional enforcement  
44 during the moose season. Is there a VPSO here? Why  
45 aren't they dealing with this?

46  
47 MR. R. WALKER: No.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Highlighting lack of  
50 enforcement of transportation of moose without all the

1 meat and lack of response because the Fish and Wildlife  
2 protection officers are stretched too far. So that can  
3 be included in the letter. Any further discussion on  
4 the letter.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Time for question.

9

10 MR. HONEA: Call for the question.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is  
13 called. Those in favor of transmitting the letter to  
14 Region 3 Director David James for the need to open the  
15 Innoko Plan signify by saying aye.

16

17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All opposed same  
20 sign.

21

22 (No opposing votes)

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The letter will be  
25 drafted and transmitted. Thanks, Robert. I appreciate  
26 it. And Leroy for bringing these issues forward before  
27 the Council. That's what this Council is for. We do  
28 what we can. If we had full authority in all the  
29 lands, we could do a heck of a lot more, but we don't  
30 have that.

31

32 MR. R. WALKER: Take your hat off and  
33 put your State hat on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're down to  
38 future meetings. At the end of the book we have --  
39 Carl, do you want to go through this.

40

41 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. At the  
42 end of the book we have the calendars for the winter  
43 2013 and fall 2013 meetings. I will add to that that  
44 since your meeting was printed for winter 2013 the  
45 Seward Pen has selected March 12th and 13th for its  
46 meeting, although that's not going to happen because  
47 that's right when the teams are coming in for the  
48 Iditarod and there's no lodging in Nome. The Kodiak  
49 Aleutians have selected March 26th through 27th in Old  
50 Harbor for its winter meeting.

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That says 19th and  
2 20th.  
3  
4                   MR. JOHNSON: Yes, correct. They have  
5 changed that meeting date to one week later. So that's  
6 an update.  
7  
8                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's outside of  
9 the window.  
10  
11                  MR. JOHNSON: It is outside the window  
12 and we routinely grant permission to have meetings  
13 outside the window if they are within one week, but if  
14 you want to have it two or three or four weeks later,  
15 then that's probably not going to happen.  
16  
17                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll keep that in  
18 mind next time.  
19  
20                  (Laughter)  
21  
22                  MR. JOHNSON: And then for the fall  
23 2013 meeting two Councils have already scheduled  
24 meetings for the week of September 23rd, so that week  
25 is no longer available. The Seward Pen has selected  
26 October 8th and 9th for its fall meeting.  
27  
28                  Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
29  
30                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Council is going  
31 to meet on March 5th and 6th in Galena. You want a  
32 date for the fall meeting?  
33  
34                  MR. JOHNSON: That is correct, Mr.  
35 Chair. A date and location.  
36  
37                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The moose and sheep  
38 season where I live go through September 30th and  
39 October 1, so that week I don't want to preclude myself  
40 from hunting opportunity. That also affects Allakaket.  
41 They have a moose hunt through the 1st of October.  
42  
43                  MR. GERVAIS: And Ruby does also.  
44  
45                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that week is not  
46 real good for some of our Council members. So the 8th  
47 and 9th of October are good. I want to reiterate that  
48 the air services do not fly on the weekend and when we  
49 get backed up against Friday, like I am tomorrow, I'm  
50 hoping our charter gets to Fairbanks on time for me to

1 make the afternoon flight home. So I would prefer to  
2 have the 8th and 9th of October with travel on Monday  
3 and travel on Thursday for the meeting. Is that good  
4 for the Council?

5  
6 (Council nods affirmatively)

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So place of the --  
9 oh, Vince.

10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: It's more for Carl.  
12 Carl, Melinda has what regions?

13  
14 MR. JOHNSON: Melinda has Northwest  
15 Arctic, so there would not be a conflict for that  
16 schedule.

17  
18 MR. MATHEWS: But you do have a  
19 conflict for your winter meeting.

20  
21 MR. JOHNSON: She's aware of that.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we get her in  
24 Galena. That's just a given.

25  
26 MR. JOHNSON: You don't want me?

27  
28 (Laughter)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, not that we  
31 don't want you. We didn't say that.

32  
33 (Laughter)

34  
35 MR. R. WALKER: Why don't we have a  
36 meeting in Fairbanks in 8, 9 of October, 2013?

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In Fairbanks?  
39 Council meetings are typically in rural Alaska for a  
40 platform for comments. We normally have been bouncing  
41 between Galena, Aniak and McGrath. We got a special  
42 meeting over here in Holy Cross so that we could get  
43 comments from the public on fishery and this moose C&T  
44 stuff, which hopefully tonight we'll get comments on  
45 that.

46  
47 What is OSM's position on a meeting in  
48 Fairbanks? The Council keeps wanting a Fairbanks  
49 meeting. When we go to Aniak, we don't get any  
50 participation to a large degree and I'm not real super

1 happy with that. I got stuck in Fairbanks going back  
2 and Eastern Interior was meeting in Fairbanks. Here  
3 they are with all these people and Staff and they've  
4 got everybody at their disposal where we can hardly get  
5 Fish and Game here. So there is advantages to the  
6 Fairbanks meeting. I feel EIRAC is getting a way  
7 bigger bang for their buck because they keep meeting  
8 down there in Fairbanks. I really like to meet in  
9 rural villages, but our next community would be Aniak  
10 and we don't get a lot of participation there. What do  
11 you say Carl on the Western Interior meeting in  
12 Fairbanks?

13

14 MR. JOHNSON: I can say that last fall  
15 the Northwest Arctic and North Slope RACs had a joint  
16 meeting in Anchorage, which is a heck of a lot further  
17 away from their regions than Fairbanks would be for  
18 yours. I don't know the history of why that happened,  
19 but there is precedent for having a meeting not only at  
20 a rural location but not even within your region.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What does the  
23 Council feel about meeting in Fairbanks?

24

25 MS. PELKOLA: I want to meet in  
26 Anchorage.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Where do you want to  
31 go, Robert?

32

33 MS. PELKOLA: No, I don't care.

34

35 MR. R. WALKER: Either Anchorage or  
36 Fairbanks is fine.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anchorage is too far  
39 away for me.

40

41 MR. HONEA: I think Fairbanks for  
42 myself because just to be able to have access to --  
43 like TCC, they really should be here and we need that  
44 input too.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock.

47

48 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
49 Fairbanks is no for me. It's not our district or our  
50 area. We should go to Huslia.

1 Thanks, Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.  
4  
5 MR. COLLINS: It's okay. A lot of you  
6 end up going through Fairbanks to get to those other  
7 locations, so that's all right. It's a little further  
8 travel for me. I have to go to Anchorage and up, but  
9 I'd be the only one probably to travel that way. Well,  
10 no, Robert would too.  
11  
12 MR. R. WALKER: Carl and James.  
13  
14 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. But in terms of  
15 meeting in an urban area, I noticed we've had McGrath,  
16 Anvik, Holy Cross now, so we're not meeting very  
17 frequently in an urban area. Stick one in there. I  
18 don't think it would be a problem.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Western Interior  
21 was within Region 3 of the Alaska Department of Fish  
22 and Game, so Fairbanks is actually their headquarters,  
23 so we get their Staff from there if we're going to meet  
24 in an urban place. Eleanor.  
25  
26 MS. YATLIN: Huslia.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Huslia. We've got  
29 two for Huslia. Tim.  
30  
31 MR. GERVAIS: Huslia, Anchorage or  
32 Fairbanks is fine. I'll probably be coming in from  
33 Chignik anyway, so Anchorage is easiest for me. Oh,  
34 wait. In the fall?  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In October.  
37  
38 MR. GERVAIS: Oh, no, that's not  
39 correct. Probably -- is there any issues that you want  
40 us to speak with the Huslia people about that would  
41 justify that extra two flights?  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't know of any  
44 burning issues there. We've got our winter hunt and  
45 things.  
46  
47 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. I think Fairbanks  
48 is good enough.  
49  
50 MR. R. WALKER: I'll change to

1 Fairbanks too.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we've got the  
4 majority.....

5

6 MR. GERVAIS: But the one -- I mean  
7 we're meeting in Galena in February, so maybe if you  
8 want to accommodate the southern members and do  
9 Anchorage for the fall meeting, I can understand that.  
10 Basically half the Council hubs through Anchorage,  
11 right?

12

13 MR. R. WALKER: Four.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could give it a  
16 cost analysis for OSM to decide. Fairbanks is -- the  
17 majority of the Council would go to Fairbanks, so I  
18 don't see where Anchorage is cheaper. We're not going  
19 to have Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff and  
20 we're going to be talking about game issues. I don't  
21 think that Anchorage is actually an advantage for the  
22 staffing for this meeting. I think the Fairbanks would  
23 be the best position to get participation for the fall  
24 meeting.

25

26 MS. PELKOLA: Jack, I'll change to  
27 Fairbanks.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we got the  
30 majority of the Council that would like Fairbanks, so  
31 we'll stay with Fairbanks for this next meeting and  
32 then return back to our normal rotation or to hot spots  
33 if they can be calculated as a cost advantage.

34

35 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. Talk about  
36 transportation, they might be able to get a charter  
37 that would pick up the people here and go through  
38 McGrath and right to Fairbanks, just like this one, so  
39 we don't have that double link through Anchorage and  
40 Fairbanks.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was just going to  
43 say that. The people that have to travel from the  
44 southern part of the region I would request a charter  
45 to cut the travel time down so that they don't have to  
46 have nearly as much travel. I don't care if it's more  
47 expensive. We're having a hard time getting Council  
48 members and we do not want to burden them with  
49 additional travel time. I totally agree with you, Ray.

50

1 MR. R. WALKER: And make it not a 207.  
2  
3 (Laughter)  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We're down to  
6 closing comments. We'll go quickly around the room.  
7 Jenny.  
8  
9 MS. PELKOLA: Start on that side.  
10  
11 (Laughter)  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Tim.  
14  
15 MR. GERVAIS: All right. I'd like to  
16 once again thank the community and tribe of Holy Cross  
17 for having us here. I hope we can get some good  
18 comments from the people tonight at our open session.  
19 I'd like to thank the agency staff for making a long  
20 trip to a non-hub community. I'd like to thank all our  
21 Council members for their time and sharing their  
22 experience and wisdom with me and getting some  
23 reasonable business passed here.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim.  
26 Eleanor.  
27  
28 MS. YATLIN: I'd like to say thank you to Holy  
29 Cross for being here and the people that showed up I  
30 appreciate that. I do appreciate all this Council and  
31 their input. Just thank you.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Eleanor.  
34 Ray.  
35  
36 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'm also thankful  
37 for them hosting it. I appreciate the school and the  
38 effort they put out for meals. I would remind the  
39 members to please consider sharing part of your per  
40 diem with the school. It goes to the students up  
41 there. I think it's going to a good cause. With my  
42 school board hat, I'd say let's support the school in  
43 sharing that per diem.  
44  
45 Also, another issue, I'd like Carl from  
46 the Subsistence Management Office to really consider  
47 maybe shipping to iPad and getting rid of all this  
48 paper. If you had iPad for all of us and had a  
49 training session at the next thing in there, we could  
50 get rid of all these pieces of paper floating around.

1 We wouldn't have things coming in late. They'd be  
2 available online and you could do a training. The  
3 school boards are going that direction and I think some  
4 of us already had experience with that.

5  
6 We don't get much other compensation.  
7 I think you can get them for \$399 now. Yeah, that's  
8 enough, but I'd like serious consideration for that. I  
9 don't know what you're spending on all this paperwork.  
10 And then we've got it for the next meeting. We can  
11 refer back to it too if it was available right here.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock.

14  
15 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd  
16 like to thank the people from Holy Cross for their good  
17 hospitality and lots of good food.

18  
19 I enjoyed myself here.

20  
21 Thank you.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.

24 Don.

25  
26 MR. HONEA: I appreciate the fact that  
27 we had a place to stay. Like I mentioned when we first  
28 came here, there isn't a lot of villages that have  
29 housing, so I appreciated that. I think it was a good,  
30 productive meeting. I enjoy the composition of the  
31 board and I don't think that -- you know, whether we  
32 get so many people out there that aren't on there, I  
33 mean each one of us I think cares about the region as a  
34 whole. We can get pretty passionate and I think that  
35 even within my own region I want to be able to work  
36 with the Middle Yukon or Koyukuk River thing to try to  
37 work for like concerns, whether it's reducing the  
38 numbers of hunters or something that we could do.

39  
40 I thank each one of you.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Don.

43 Robert.

44  
45 MR. R. WALKER: Don, I didn't know you  
46 could be so passionate about having a bed.

47  
48 (Laughter)

49  
50 MR. HONEA: Do you want it?

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. R. WALKER: I'll flip you for it.  
4 Mr. Chairman and members of the Staff here. It is time  
5 to step up now because a lot of things are changing.  
6 We're going from pencil and paper to computers. We're  
7 not illiterate. You guys are supposed to be the  
8 smartest guys that are hired. I mean we're supposed to  
9 be the best that could be. We've got to start stepping  
10 up to more positive things. The fishing here, this is  
11 a fisheries meeting, next meeting is going to be a big  
12 game meeting.

13

14 I think it's time we start moving up  
15 here.

16

17 Thank you for your cooperation. I was  
18 impressed with a lot of your reports here. You're  
19 getting a little better. I mean Merben, good grief,  
20 your first year here or second year, you impressed me  
21 there too. The warden will always be there. The  
22 Staff, the board, Tina, welcome to the lady here,  
23 Karen, who came to our meeting here. Thank you very  
24 much.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Robert.  
27 Jenny.

28

29 MS. PELKOLA: I would just like to  
30 thank the city of Holy Cross for letting us meet in  
31 their hall and for the people here that came and also I  
32 noticed that ever since I've been on the board we  
33 always have the same way the reports go. I know some  
34 of these guys sit here for hours and maybe we could  
35 reverse some of them so they could have a chance to go  
36 first before somebody else.....

37

38 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Amen.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MS. PELKOLA: .....because they've  
43 always been last. Again, I'd just like to express my  
44 sincere thank you to the Holy Cross people and the  
45 Staff. Thank you much.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Jenny. I  
48 appreciate those comments. I do want to thank the  
49 Staff and all of the public that came out to this  
50 meeting. I know that people had a lot of travel, a lot

1 of time involved. I appreciate Leroy staying through  
2 -- he said he was going to stay through the whole  
3 meeting. Rita came quite a bit here. We're going to  
4 have some public comments at 7:30, so we've got to go  
5 to dinner and come right back. So I do want to get  
6 more public comments if local people are aware that we  
7 are here to take comments.

8  
9 I appreciate all of the hard work of  
10 this Council. This Council is very proactive. Tina is  
11 always a big help to this Council in the background,  
12 spaghetti sauce, stuff like that, making sure things  
13 are going good. Carl did a great job during this  
14 meeting. I appreciate all the work you're doing here,  
15 Carl. This is your first interaction with our Council  
16 and I think it was good for you to be here at this  
17 meeting.

18  
19 But, you know, we love Melinda too.

20  
21 She's great.

22  
23 I do want to thank my wife. She had to  
24 stay home with our six-week-old baby and take care of  
25 the fire and stuff and I do want to thank her. She  
26 sacrificed quite a bit, but she says this is a very  
27 important thing to go to these RAC meetings, so she's  
28 holding down the home fire so to speak, so I wanted to  
29 thank her on the record also.

30  
31 I guess we'll recess until 7:30 and  
32 then we'll finally adjourn after that meeting on the  
33 record. So we're recessing until 7:30.

34  
35 (Off record)

36  
37 (On record)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So who wants to go  
40 first. Probably the chief. We want to get all this on  
41 the record so we've got mics and stuff so that it will  
42 all be recorded and transcribed. You can actually go  
43 on the internet and you can look up what you said and  
44 you can use that in Game Board meetings and things, so  
45 it's a real good thing. I really like the way this  
46 Federal program works with these transcripts.

47  
48 Go ahead. State your name on the mic  
49 there.

50

1 MR. PAUL: My name is Eugene John Paul.  
2 I'm the tribal chief for my village here in Holy Cross.  
3 I've been the tribal chief for almost 10 years now.  
4 Got involved pretty young. I want to apologize that I  
5 wasn't at you guys's meeting most of the time. I  
6 stopped here this morning a little while to listen to  
7 some of the issues that you guys were taking upon  
8 through the subsistence chum salmon.

9  
10 I kind of believe that there are a lot  
11 of things are pressed upon us just to make our  
12 subsistence needs be met, but through the summer I know  
13 most of our village people were cutting back on the  
14 salmon because of the low runs and we believe that we  
15 can't fish our rivers the way we used to fish. Most of  
16 our people in our village believe that we have to save  
17 what we have there for our younger generation. So I  
18 really believe that you guys are on the right track and  
19 you guys are really -- you know, we have to have rules  
20 and regulations that we have to follow just so that we  
21 can be able to save what we have there for our future  
22 generation.

23  
24 I feel it's got to be set there for us  
25 to be guided and I believe you guys did -- from just  
26 watching a little bit this morning, it really shows  
27 that we really have great people that are -- you know,  
28 like you guys are taking upon the decision making and  
29 stuff. Just from listening to a few of you guys speak  
30 this morning I believe that we have -- you guys are  
31 doing the right thing to preserve what little resources  
32 that we have to provide for our families.

33  
34 Again, I do apologize for not attending  
35 most of the meeting. I'm building a tribal building  
36 right now and it took us 10 years to get it and I'm the  
37 only crane operator in the village.....

38  
39 (Laughter)

40  
41 MR. PAUL: .....and I'm leaving the  
42 village for two weeks. I'm going to attend meetings. I  
43 have to go to Anchorage and then go to NCI, so I really  
44 have to get this roof on and I was really pressed for  
45 time. Again, I really enjoy that -- you know, it shows  
46 the board is willing to go out to villages just to see  
47 how our village provides and we believe that -- like I  
48 said, we do believe in the rules and regulations we  
49 have to follow.

50

1                                   Again, thank you for coming to Holy  
2 Cross.

3  
4                                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that. I  
5 want the Council to have an opportunity to ask you  
6 questions or make comments. Any Council members. Tim.

7  
8                                   MR. GERVAIS: Thank you for coming  
9 tonight, Chief Eugene. Can you kind of describe how  
10 the scarcity of king salmon has affected your village  
11 culturally and economically.

12  
13                                  MR. PAUL: Culturally, I can say as a  
14 community, when we gather for a community gathering,  
15 we're not going to see much salmon there anymore.  
16 We're going to see other things that -- what we end up  
17 not eating as much anymore. That's culturally.

18  
19                                  The other side would be the bartering  
20 between each other. A lot of our people subsidize  
21 because some of the fuel costs that we have to go out  
22 and do the fishing and stuff, they subsidize some of  
23 that bartering for fuel costs. Some of that stuff --  
24 you know, since there's -- like the salmon was cut back  
25 and the low runs there, we're not out there as much any  
26 longer or much time. We don't have to spend that money  
27 to the fuel cost to be out there a longer period of  
28 time. That would be the economical part to it.

29  
30                                  MR. COLLINS: Thank you. Were you able  
31 to shift to other fish, chums or silvers or others, to  
32 meet some of your needs? Is that happening too?

33  
34                                  MR. PAUL: Yeah, we are -- now we're  
35 fishing a little longer than we usually do, but one  
36 thing that we've always been brought up was the salmon  
37 is here during the month of June and we're usually done  
38 the first part of July. The weather is nice between  
39 those -- between that month and then the fall chum,  
40 when they start showing up, the weather gets kind of  
41 cold and wet and it's kind of hard to dry our fish, but  
42 we did have more people out there doing the fall chum  
43 and just taking a little bit of salmon for strips and  
44 stuff. It's difficult, but they're doing what they  
45 have to do

46  
47                                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Questions. Don.

48  
49                                  MR. HONEA: Thank you, Eugene. I guess  
50 one of the main reasons that we meet in villages is to

1 get local concerns. I don't know if you guys get  
2 pressure from outside hunting as much as maybe in the  
3 Middle Yukon like we do. Sometimes there's confusion  
4 between State land and Federal land. I have to  
5 appreciate the support and the working together with  
6 our Refuges as we do. We have a good relationship and  
7 they are here to work with us on our respective  
8 Refuges. With the State it's a little different.

9  
10 I'm just trying to see -- you know, get  
11 the feel for the pressure down here because like in the  
12 Middle Yukon where I'm at, Ruby and Tanana and stuff,  
13 and if I'm sitting on a bank there and I see boats  
14 going by and it gets really discouraging if I didn't  
15 get a moose and I see these big boats coming from Homer  
16 and Kenai and stuff and you see a bunch of racks going  
17 by. So I think that's why Eleanor talks about the  
18 Dulbi River up the Koyukuk and I talk about the Yuki  
19 River below Ruby and stuff.

20  
21 Like even on the Nowitna Wildlife  
22 Refuge, the guys that manage it could say, well, here's  
23 the numbers, but we as -- you know, like I mentioned,  
24 in talking to elders and stuff, we see the population  
25 is -- I haven't even -- I think this whole fall I saw  
26 maybe -- all I saw was a cow and a bull and a calf and  
27 they were all together on the last day. I mean I could  
28 have got it on our late one, but I wasn't up there to  
29 do hunting. What I'm saying is I haven't seen the  
30 numbers, you know, that we've seen before.

31  
32 Even Keith and those guys that were up  
33 there, there were wolves just right close by and  
34 there's a lot of wolves there. You know, I'm just --  
35 my feeling is if I can't do anything about fishing, I'm  
36 going to darn well do something if I could to keep our  
37 numbers up in the moose.

38  
39 Right now I guess you guys are --  
40 because I've seen some hunters that said they went down  
41 to Anvik, you know, while I was talking to Robert and  
42 he didn't know anything about it. But if there's any  
43 way that I could keep the numbers down in working with  
44 Huslia or Middle Yukon or Ruby AC to try to work  
45 collectively with them to keep the numbers down, like  
46 the drawing.

47  
48 A good example, I think, is the drawing  
49 on the Koyukuk where like Kenton Moos at the  
50 Koyukuk/Nowitna Wildlife Refuge says, well, you know,

1 there's a drawing permit. You let the locals know so  
2 that they could fill those. If it's 50 -- and a lot of  
3 people don't know that. That's one way. That's the  
4 only way, but other than that, like the State hunts,  
5 anybody could come in from anywhere. I mean from  
6 Kenai, from Ketchikan, and go up there.

7

8 I wish you guys luck in that. I guess  
9 what I'm saying is you really don't see the pressure  
10 right now that we do. Maybe -- I don't even know about  
11 McGrath. I mean talk about people flying in to certain  
12 areas. But I'm just glad you guys are here to give us  
13 your view on that. Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. Did  
16 you have a response?

17

18 MR. PAUL: Thank you, Don. We just had  
19 a four village meeting here with all our chiefs here  
20 from the four villages and we did have pressure  
21 hunting. People come from a long ways just to come  
22 here hunting and we saw an influx of more boats coming  
23 here. Basically it's just an open season. We don't  
24 have no permit hunt or drawing. I think one of the  
25 things and a concern that one of the chiefs brought up  
26 was cutting the antlers in half to help the pressure of  
27 outside hunters coming in. I think that was brought up  
28 in you guys's meeting here. We're going to work with  
29 our GASH board, is what we call our AC board.  
30 Hopefully get something together with them, so it's  
31 hopefully going to work.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other --  
34 Jenny.

35

36 MS. PELKOLA: I just want to make a  
37 comment, Eugene. I, myself -- most of us on these  
38 board fish and we hunt. For myself, I stay in my fish  
39 camp all summer. In fact, I just moved up two weeks  
40 ago. I even hunt moose, but I don't shoot any.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MS. PELKOLA: Anyway, I just wanted you  
45 to know that we're all from different areas and  
46 different villages and our intent is to help the local  
47 people because in doing that we help ourselves too. We  
48 speak up for issues for our area and that's why I'm  
49 glad we're having an open session. So people that  
50 really are concerned about what's going on, we're

1 listening to you and we have the Staff, the people out  
2 here too that's sitting with us listening to you too.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny.  
5 That's exactly why we're here. I realize people are  
6 working in the daytime and it's best to have an evening  
7 meeting to just sit around and talk after dinner. I  
8 appreciate any comments we can get. That's why we came  
9 down here to Holy Cross because we figured we'd get --  
10 we had meetings here a long time ago and we got real  
11 good comments around here.

12

13 So thank you.

14

15 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair. I have one  
16 more question.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

19

20 MR. COLLINS: Would you comment on the  
21 hunting season. Do you feel most people here got their  
22 moose that they needed this season?

23

24 MR. PAUL: Yeah. It was maybe average.  
25 We have a cultural camp that we set up. They stay out  
26 in the woods I think three days. The last day they  
27 were breaking camp and they were fortunate they got a  
28 moose for this program. Our needs are being met, but  
29 it just took -- I think it took just a few extra days  
30 to go out and look for the moose and stuff there.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock.

33

34 MR. SIMON: Nice hearing your comments,  
35 Eugene. Thank you peoples here for your good  
36 hospitality. We have a nice gracious stay and lots of  
37 food. This is my fourth or fifth time that I come down  
38 here. Thank you very much.

39

40 MR. PAUL: Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions  
43 for Eugene. Robert.

44

45 MR. R. WALKER: Chief Paul, you could  
46 leave your name with Vince and Jack there so they can  
47 correspond with you too on this here so you can keep an  
48 open dialogue so we can keep working with this program.

49

50 MR. PAUL: Thank you, Robert. Yes, I

1 will.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If we can get email  
4 addresses. Is there a sign-in sheet that we have so we  
5 can get your email addresses. It would be a good  
6 contact for -- there's a lot of information what the  
7 Federal Subsistence Board does with proposals and we  
8 can transmit that back. We like to get a contact in  
9 communities. We need to have key people in the  
10 communities to contact with information so we have  
11 information flow back. Thank you.

12

13 MR. PAUL: Thank you.

14

15 MR. PETERS: I'm Leroy Peters. You  
16 know, in this moose population and everything like  
17 that, right after breakup and freeze-up time right now,  
18 I'm pretty sure that we're losing moose out in the  
19 rivers and out in the lakes and everything like that.  
20 In springtime, when the water starts thawing out and  
21 melting, you see some moose crossing and they fall  
22 through the ice and they can't get out. On the Innoko  
23 River, in McGrath, they take those aerial surveys every  
24 so much years, every four years. I was kind of  
25 wondering if they calculate the moose falling through  
26 the ice and drowning. They get so cold they can't come  
27 out, you know. I try to help them out and I just can't  
28 help them out, no matter if you put a rope around their  
29 neck and try to pull them out. They just can't get out  
30 of there for nothing. I feel kind of bad for these  
31 moose because I know the cows are pregnant at the time  
32 and in February and April, you know, and we're probably  
33 losing moose like that too.

34

35 Another thing about fishing, like I  
36 mentioned this morning and yesterday too, about Alaska  
37 Department of Fish and Game, when the fishing open they  
38 put people on restriction. There's people who don't  
39 have the 6-inch gear. How do we go about addressing  
40 this issue to get this 6-inch gear for the people who  
41 don't have it in the district, you know, like Y3, Y1,  
42 Y2, all the way up to the headwaters, you know. Where  
43 do we get the funding from?

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that TCC  
46 researched grant funding for the 7.5-inch net and they  
47 bought a whole bunch of nets. I do think that tribal  
48 communities need to get a hold of TCC and have them  
49 develop another grant for getting -- I can see where 6-  
50 inch net and smaller is going to be the direction of

1 management. If these kings don't keep coming back,  
2 they're going to keep doing that. People need to have  
3 the ability to fish with basically chum or silver gear  
4 if these runs keep dwindling away like this.

5  
6 TCC and AVCP seem to come up with  
7 grants for the 7.5-inch. They most likely would be able  
8 to do the same thing. The Governor put in for disaster  
9 funds. Well, the State of Alaska should be -- this is  
10 part of the disaster, is having to switch nets, so the  
11 TCC should be able to approach the State. AVCP, the  
12 State of Alaska is getting Federal disaster funds and  
13 they should be able to buy nets, smaller mesh gear.

14  
15 Pollock.

16  
17 MR. SIMON: Yeah, when the 7.5-inch  
18 mesh was outlawed, TCC with Fish and Game helped us  
19 out. They pick up all the 7.5-inch mesh and then gave  
20 us 6-inch mesh, so TCC helped us out that time.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There is Federal  
23 disaster funds around. So the GASH tribal councils  
24 could all get together and request TCC to put in for  
25 another grant from the State. The State is getting  
26 Federal money. We know they already applied for it.  
27 So that would be one avenue to get the 6-inch mesh.  
28 That's what the managers are going to start to go to.  
29 They're going to continue to use small mesh gear until  
30 they got the king escapements back. They're getting  
31 pretty concerned about this king run. It keeps going  
32 down and down. I feel that TCC -- if you belong to  
33 TCC, then you should be able to approach them and  
34 request them to apply for grant -- ask for Orville  
35 Huntington to apply for a grant for that.

36  
37 That's what I would do.

38  
39 MR. HONEA: But on the same hand some  
40 of the proposals that are coming out that want us to  
41 reduce the depth mesh, it's burdensome. Okay, say it's  
42 Eagle and I've seen two that were the same thing, the  
43 size or whatever it was -- but those are extra burdens  
44 that we don't want to be out of compliance because  
45 you're maybe one to ten foot too deep or something like  
46 that and expect our organization to pick up the cost  
47 unless they have a regular disaster. The last time  
48 that we did that, we had to send it to Donaldson and  
49 stuff. By the time they came back the kings were over,  
50 they were gone. Some of them came back in mid July to

1 late July. So, I mean, what I'm saying is some of  
2 these things we just have to start rejecting, some of  
3 these proposals.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the managers,  
6 they told us this morning they have the authority to  
7 implement 6-inch gear. Not depth, but 6-inch mesh. I  
8 wouldn't buy any nets until after the Board of Fish has  
9 met on these proposals with these depth restrictions,  
10 which I don't think are going to actually pass, but no  
11 telling what the Board will do. I wouldn't buy any  
12 nets until after -- the book says that they'll go  
13 through these -- I'm not sure when -- do you know when  
14 the Board is going to meet on the Yukon-Kuskokwim  
15 proposals? Yeah, January 15th through the 20th.

16  
17 So you have plenty of time to buy 6-  
18 inch -- TCC has plenty of time to buy a net after  
19 January 15th. They'll know what the gear type is going  
20 to be this year and they could order the net in plenty  
21 of time for summer fishing. But there is disaster  
22 funds. You ask how could we get this net. TCC,  
23 Orville, can try and get some of that money and I would  
24 try to approach it that way. That's not outside of  
25 what this Council does, but that's my suggestion.

26  
27 MR. PETERS: So our best bet is just to  
28 go to Orville to and check if there's any disaster  
29 funds to go out and that's where they can get our nets,  
30 you know. I'm concerned about Russian Mission, you  
31 know. They're in our district in Y3. They're from  
32 AVCP and Calista Region.

33  
34 Maybe they can address that.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, just call  
37 Russian Mission and tell their tribal chief to get a  
38 hold of AVCP. I'm positive AVCP is going to try and  
39 get some of that Federal money also. Everybody is  
40 going to have to start doing this. This is the way  
41 they got the 7.5-inch mesh. I can see that AVCP and  
42 TCC can provide some relief to vector some of this  
43 Federal disaster money towards the communities.

44  
45 Robert.

46  
47 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Jack.  
48 Leroy, CDQ down in the lower mouth is making the people  
49 sign they will not contest against the pollock  
50 fisheries in order to get their net from AVCP. There's

1 kind of a question here where you're going to have to  
2 take a look yourself to talk to these people and say  
3 they don't want to sign their rights away to contest  
4 against the pollock fisheries and that's what they're  
5 doing down there right now. Every time you get a net  
6 they make them sign a paper.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, Orville makes  
9 you sign a paper that you'll contest the pollock  
10 fishery.

11  
12 (Laughter)

13  
14 MR. PETERS: That's about it. That's  
15 all I got.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thanks,  
18 Leroy. Does anybody else want to talk. Rita.

19  
20 MS. PAUL: Yeah.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Come on up.

23  
24 MS. PAUL: Rita Paul. I've been on the  
25 YRDFA board for about five years this year. I was the  
26 interview -- you know, collected data fishing for every  
27 household. We have 35 members in Holy Cross that were  
28 subsistence fishing. Even though they did not fish,  
29 they helped somebody else. Like for me, my family  
30 wasn't on there because it had been like 10 years that  
31 we don't do fishing, but I help other people to cut  
32 fish.

33  
34 This year and last year was a disaster  
35 for us. This year pollock -- APAK and St. Mary's said,  
36 oh, we're going to bring Holy Cross fish. God, we were  
37 happy. Every day. What's her name, Shirley Deacon --  
38 I mean Clark. Pardon me. Gee, I was happy for that  
39 fish. That fish never did come to Holy Cross.

40  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It didn't?

43  
44 MS. PAUL: So why promise Holy Cross.  
45 Here they send it to down river. So fishing here is a  
46 disaster because long ago the elders said you have to  
47 respect this fish because it's not going to be around  
48 no more and sure enough, you know. Like the wood has  
49 something to do with it. You have to respect. You  
50 can't even throw wood on the river because of the fish,

1 you know what I mean, like chips and stuff. I heard it  
2 from an elder. I was around fish camp. Right today I  
3 see what happened about 20 years ago. They had this  
4 roe salmon up in Anvik and Frank Fox, they had big --  
5 some kind of -- I was little by then, you know. They  
6 didn't respect our fish. All they did was wanting that  
7 roe for the Japanese. I see it now they're just  
8 declining. The elders in those days, they knew what  
9 they were talking about. By golly, it's so poor that  
10 we have to struggle now, you know.

11  
12 So that's only my concern, plus the  
13 moose hunting. I see abundance of moose and all these  
14 big game guides come in from Lower 48 and go up on the  
15 Innoko, they finish that, they go over to Reindeer  
16 Lake, they finish that and they go deer hunting. They  
17 have boats and I see these big game people here, moose  
18 hanging like nothing. They don't give nothing to Holy  
19 Cross, our elders. Where do they ship it? These big  
20 game guides, they're here in Holy Cross. They get  
21 10,000 a head. They're from the Lower 48. It just  
22 burns me up to see how they're just using our land.  
23 It's just sad.

24  
25 Thank God for cultural camp. They gave  
26 us meat. I have grandkids and now I have to buy beef.  
27 That's how struggling we are. I don't even have a poor  
28 fish, not even a salmon, not even a slab this year. My  
29 dry fish, what I did get, I had those Zip-Lock bags. I  
30 helped people cut. It's already half gone because my  
31 grandkids like the dry fish.

32  
33 I appreciate you people here. It's  
34 very interesting. I enjoyed your meeting. I didn't  
35 know that you have so much power and you're all  
36 respected. I don't know where Wiseman is.

37  
38 (Laughter)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't worry, not  
41 many people do.

42  
43 MS. PAUL: That's it. Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We appreciate your  
46 comments. Does anybody have questions for Rita.

47  
48 Don.

49  
50 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Rita. No, I

1 don't have a question, but I was just thinking about  
2 some of the things that we could do. A lot of times  
3 we've been sitting in the village of Ruby and there's  
4 hunters going by. I think -- I don't know how it would  
5 work here, what your idea is on this, but the village  
6 of Tanana they put up a sign either at the store  
7 somewhere or something saying, hey, if you guys got  
8 meat, we'll take it. They put that up at the Nowitna  
9 check station and Tanana in public places.

10

11 I thought maybe sometimes we discussed  
12 this before at the Ruby AC, but it's almost like, hey,  
13 before hunters come out they should have some kind of a  
14 class. Maybe not a class, kind of a -- something that  
15 would show that, hey, this is Native allotment, this is  
16 Native land, this is whatever. So respect that. If  
17 you put up signs and stuff, I think people will be good  
18 enough to see something and not go there just because  
19 somebody might come along and, hey, you're on my land.

20

21

22 Anyway, I mean just getting back to  
23 that thing. I think that we -- maybe some kind of a  
24 class or just a memo to hunters that are going out to  
25 villages and rural areas, hey, respect this, you know.  
26 If you're not going to be able to take all your meat,  
27 give it away before it's half spoiled or something like  
28 that.

29

30 I'm not saying all the hunters are like  
31 that. Just this fall there was -- you know, like on  
32 the Novi, it's a State hunt, you've got to cut the  
33 horns, cut the racks, and there was some hunters that  
34 we know for years and they know that Denakkanaaga is  
35 going to be held in Ruby next year, so my mom told this  
36 hunter give me a moose head, so the guy sent down two  
37 moose heads. They just took off the racks.

38

39 The thing is, I think we have to get  
40 the word out maybe. I think we ought to put up a sign  
41 right in the village of Ruby at the gas station or  
42 whatever to let people know. If we can't stop them, we  
43 might as well just try to work with them or ask them.  
44 It's just a comment. I don't know what you think about  
45 alternatives.

46

47 MS. PAUL: Thank you, Mr. Honea.  
48 Deloycheet, that's our corporation. It means end of  
49 the mountain. They have signs all over, but they  
50 ignore them, you know. You can't hunt because of this,

1 you know. No way, they don't mind. They just go on  
2 past because they think Natives here are dumb. We are  
3 not. We respect our land, our resources, everything.  
4 It just tears me up, these white people -- pardon me.  
5 You know, way over there somewhere.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MS. PAUL: The only other one I wanted  
10 to talk about What are you going to do about these  
11 pikes? God, they just eat up our whitefish. Our good  
12 fish. They're too much. I don't like pikes. They're  
13 no good.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Some people like  
16 them.

17

18 MS. PAUL: They're not good for our  
19 Native ice cream. No way, whitefish is good. They eat  
20 up all our whitefish. You have to do something about  
21 the pikes.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does Council have  
24 any more questions for Rita.

25

26 MS. YATLIN: Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Rita.  
29 Appreciate it.

30

31 MS. PAUL: You're welcome.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I do think that Don  
34 has a good idea. The Refuge manager Bo Sloan said that  
35 Willow Air had the guides, six guided hunters plus was  
36 flying those clients. Holy Cross Tribe should contact  
37 Willow Air and say, hey, you're flying meat all the way  
38 over to McGrath, you might as well fly it over here or  
39 drop it off over here. We'll take any good meat you've  
40 got. We want the fat, the brisket, ribs, we want head  
41 and all that kind of stuff. Maybe they'll start  
42 bringing meat over here. For them it's cheaper to get  
43 rid of it closer than flying it all the way to McGrath  
44 and giving it to Ray.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But I mean it might  
49 be worth a try. Maybe they have a contact number.  
50 They've got satellite phones. They could call you up,

1 I've got a moose, you want it, we'll meet you down at  
2 the field or out on the beach or something with a float  
3 plane. I think maybe you could get some meat that way.  
4 Every moose counts for the elders, especially if it's  
5 fresh. If they don't want to leave it hanging around,  
6 just bring it out. Don.

7  
8 MR. HONEA: The reason I brought that  
9 up and Jenny will probably attest to this, is I think  
10 the school does that in Galena, I'm sure. I know that  
11 in the past that elders were given meat down there.  
12 Maybe she could mention that. I mean I'm just saying  
13 at our check stations and this is something I could do.  
14 I never do it, but we should let the people at the  
15 check station know that, hey, if you've got meat there,  
16 you can't take it, something like that. It's something  
17 people don't know.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When they bring it  
20 in, if it stinks, if it's no good, you don't have to  
21 sign for it. You've got to sign for transfer of  
22 possession. If it's no good, no, that thing is rotten,  
23 just don't take it.

24  
25 MS. PELKOLA: Take pictures.

26  
27 (Laughter)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Get pictures.  
30 Anyway, we're just having a roundtable discussion here.  
31 Anybody else want to talk to the Council. No, don't  
32 want to talk? Anybody here from the public want to  
33 talk to the Council.

34  
35 I slighted Mike at KNA back there and  
36 so Mike actually didn't get to make his presentation  
37 for KNA. My excuse is I only eat once a day and when  
38 it gets 6:00 o'clock, my brain just shorts out.

39  
40 MR. THALHAUSER: I just wanted to  
41 second Jenny's motion to switch around the order of  
42 everything next year and I'll just go first.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Better drink lots of  
45 coffee before one of our meetings.

46  
47 MR. THALHAUSER: Thanks. I do  
48 appreciate the opportunity. My name, for the record,  
49 is Mike Thalhauser from the Kuskokwim Native  
50 Association in Aniak. I don't know if anybody still

1 has their packets, but there was a packet that I put  
2 together, just kind of a brief overview of the projects  
3 that we had going on for 2012 that I wanted to go  
4 quickly through. I know we didn't get much of a  
5 synopsis of the Kuskokwim escapement or commercial  
6 fishery and the outlook for that run this year.

7  
8                   On the very back I at least have the  
9 George and the Tatlawiksuk River weir escapements for  
10 this last year for chinook, chum and coho. I think  
11 they're pretty representative of most of the river. We  
12 obviously had a really low chinook escapement this  
13 year, but it was a little bit better than last year. I  
14 think a lot of that was due to a lot of the management  
15 actions that happen and the participation in those  
16 actions that the subsistence users endured this year.

17  
18                   As far as chum and coho go, they were  
19 pretty average years and you can see that with the  
20 George and the Tatlawiksuk River there and maybe next  
21 year. It seems like at a lot of these meetings we  
22 don't have much representation for the escapement for  
23 Kuskokwim and I'll try to put together something more  
24 elaborate. Plus it will get me further ahead on the  
25 schedule. So I'll try to put something together a  
26 little bit more comprehensive of the whole river  
27 instead of just our projects.

28  
29                   I guess as far as all our projects go  
30 we had really high water over on the Kuskokwim River  
31 this year too, so it was problematic working in  
32 fisheries this year unless you're a fish. So the George  
33 and the Tatlawiksuk River weirs were both ran through  
34 the entire season. We actually just pulled them out a  
35 couple days ago. Actually not completely. There's  
36 still some of the parts in there just because the water  
37 has been so high and it's been so difficult to work in  
38 the water.

39  
40                   We also worked on the sockeye tagging  
41 project that was out in Kalskag and then our two main  
42 recovery sites were at the Telquana Lake weir up in the  
43 Stony River drainage and the Kogrukluk River weir in  
44 the Holitna. That was the third year of that project  
45 and the last one. I'll report on that at this next  
46 coming meeting.

47  
48                   We also ran the Salmon River weir  
49 project this year, which is a weir that we've run in  
50 the past cooperatively with the State, but there was

1 about a three-year gap previous to this since we've run  
2 it before. The main reason why this went in again is  
3 because the sonar on the Aniak River was discontinued,  
4 so there was really no escapement monitoring on the  
5 Aniak at all, which is one of the largest producers on  
6 the Kuskokwim. It's really important we get something  
7 in there. That's hopefully going to be a long-term  
8 project.

9  
10 Another big project that we had that  
11 really concerns this Council is KNA's project, the  
12 location, migration timing, description of Kuskokwim  
13 Bering cisco. It was actually in the priority needs  
14 that OSM put out today and I think that was kind of  
15 left over from past ones, but this was the first year  
16 of this project. It's a radiotelemetry project where  
17 we're trying to identify the spawning grounds for  
18 Kuskokwim Bering cisco.

19  
20 The plan was to put about 25 tags out  
21 by Kalskag to find out if any of those Bering cisco  
22 were going anywhere other than the south fork of the  
23 Kuskokwim where is really the only place at this point  
24 that we know they spawn and then to put out 25 closer  
25 to the spawning grounds so that we know they're going  
26 to make it up there so we can get a for sure  
27 distribution.

28  
29 Again, it was a tough year for tagging  
30 and it got sort of cut short by a disagreement I had  
31 with my appendix. I was doing surgery on fish and had  
32 to leave to get a surgery done on me. So I had a  
33 little empathy for the fish. We got a few less tags  
34 out than we hoped. We did manage after a flash flood  
35 above McGrath and Nikolai, another sort of hiccup along  
36 the way, to get the rest of the tags out.

37  
38 I've flown two flights and I think  
39 we're going to get that distribution. I don't think we  
40 got quite enough tags out in the lower river to make  
41 certain that the south fork is the only population, but  
42 there's a second year to tag and hopefully we'll get  
43 that next year.

44  
45 I'll have some maps and more  
46 information at the next meeting after we fly. I still  
47 have two more flights to fly up on the south fork to  
48 get where those fish are moving around to.

49  
50 As far as education and outreach

1 programs, we had another great year at the George and  
2 the Tatlawiksuk. We started adding the fishwheels into  
3 our high school internship program. Of the 13 high  
4 school interns we had, they worked at all three of  
5 those projects and it was a great year. About half of  
6 them spent a week there working on the weirs and the  
7 other half spent two weeks. We actually had one girl  
8 from Stony River, when a technician had to take  
9 unexpected leave for a week, we just ended up hiring  
10 her on as a technician. So it's not only an extra week  
11 of pay for her and more experience for her, it's an  
12 applicant pull that now we're drawing from. So it's  
13 working out for everyone.

14

15                   Our college interns, we had four this  
16 year. We actually turned one of our technician  
17 positions this year into a college intern as we had a  
18 little bit of scholarship money left over from last  
19 year. Our technician at the fishwheel we just turned  
20 it into a college intern. Two of our interns were  
21 ANSEP students. One of them was from Emmonak, two from  
22 Aniak and one was from Venetie. Two of them actually  
23 have gone through our high school internship program.  
24 So that was something really neat, that we're starting  
25 to see kids moving through the sort of progression that  
26 we were trying to set up. They're doing lessons with  
27 us in school and then doing a high school internship  
28 and then moving on to the college internship program,  
29 so that's been really good to see.

30                   Our Fisheries Science in the School  
31 Program where we -- in the past, it's just been  
32 biologists going to the school, kind of like what  
33 Heather was talking about doing, sort of impromptu  
34 lessons, which got a little bit more formal. We had an  
35 educator that would spend a week to two weeks in each  
36 of our district schools.

37

38                   The funding has run out for that, so  
39 we're kind of going back to the biologist spending time  
40 there, but it's still going really strong and I think  
41 it's actually maybe a little bit better since we didn't  
42 have that great of a continuity with that educator,  
43 like we do with our biologist. So I think it's going  
44 to run great. Actually, LaDonn, our other biologist,  
45 got a grant through AFS, American Fisheries Society, to  
46 get some salmon tanks for a few of the schools that  
47 didn't have them before, so we'll be able to have some  
48 eggs in those schools.

49

50                   Last but not least our post-season

1 subsistence survey. We're just getting started on  
2 those. I just hired a few people about a week ago and  
3 we got them trained in a couple days ago, so we're just  
4 starting to survey Aniak.

5  
6 I think that's about it.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Mike. Does  
9 anybody have questions for KNA's presentation.

10  
11 MR. GERVAIS: I have a question.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead there, Tim.

14  
15 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
16 Mike. This Bering cisco, is it pretty common as a  
17 subsistence food? I believe there's a commercial  
18 fishery for it on the Yukon Delta. Is there any kind  
19 of commercial interest in it down here on the  
20 Kuskokwim?

21  
22 MR. THALHAUSER: As far as the  
23 commercial fishery, yes, at the mouth of the Yukon and  
24 that's where they're concentrated. They're able to be  
25 fished on when they're kind of at their prime for what  
26 the commercial fishery is looking for, which is the oil  
27 and fat content and the good meat. The fish are  
28 actually smoked and sold on a kosher market on the East  
29 Coast. As far as the best place to harvest them is by  
30 the mouth of the Yukon and so it's not so far from real  
31 Kuskokwim fishers that I don't know how that would work  
32 out. I'm sure there would be interest if someone could  
33 harvest Bering cisco and somehow make some money on  
34 that. I'm sure there would be interest.

35  
36 In the Lower River, I'm not sure what  
37 the harvest use is on the Lower River. I know it kind  
38 of increases as you get into fishwheels in the Middle  
39 River. I know there's quite a few dog team mushers  
40 that will harvest them. Not quite a few, but several  
41 that I know of in Aniak. As you move up the river,  
42 right where salmon aren't as good quality, you start  
43 turning into more whitefish use and when you start  
44 getting into McGrath and especially Nikolai the harvest  
45 grows and grows, so Nikolai depends on it quite a bit.

46  
47 I think the Subsistence Division of the  
48 State is actually doing -- I want to say it's more the  
49 Upper River of a harvest survey and trying to document  
50 that use more for Bering cisco on the Kuskokwim. I

1 know in the priority needs I believe there was some  
2 needs for Middle Kuskokwim and maybe lower too as far  
3 as Bering cisco.

4  
5 Karen, maybe you could speak to that,  
6 but I know I saw something on there about that. Did I  
7 miss anything? I think that was pretty much it.

8  
9 MR. COLLINS: That fishery is catching  
10 some Kuskokwim too. Aren't they intermingled at the  
11 mouth of the Yukon or not? Do you know?

12  
13 MR. THALHAUSER: I don't think it's  
14 been identified quite yet. I think so. The woman who  
15 did the work on that is going to be presenting at AFS  
16 this year. There's actually a whole symposium on  
17 Bering cisco and I'll be presenting at that too.  
18 Hopefully I'll be able to figure that out and maybe  
19 bring that as a presentation to the next meeting.

20  
21 About three years ago KNA collected a  
22 bunch of samples above Nikolai and U.S. Fish and  
23 Wildlife collected some on the Yukon where the spawning  
24 population is there. I'm not sure who collected them.  
25 I think maybe it was Fish and Wildlife on the Susitna,  
26 which is a third of their population in the world that  
27 we know of where they spawn. Then the commercial  
28 fishery took genetic samples too, so they'll be able to  
29 hopefully tease those three populations out so that we  
30 can identify through a mixed stock which fish are from  
31 which area and then look at those fish in the commercial  
32 fishery and find out where they're coming from.  
33 But I think the way kind of ocean currents move and  
34 where the fish have been harvested is probably  
35 Kuskokwim and Yukon fish.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other questions.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a great  
42 presentation, Mike. I was just wondering when you're  
43 talking to the students do you give them all that  
44 telemetry work with these whitefish? Do you give them  
45 some data points where they can kind of correlate to  
46 their world?

47  
48 MR. THALHAUSER: Yeah, that's actually  
49 something. One of the more kind of formalized and  
50 neater, I think, projects that we were doing with the

1 students, and actually LaDonn, who I wish was here, our  
2 other biologist, worked a lot with the school district  
3 and our new curriculum coordinator with our district  
4 putting together a whole week-long literacy lesson on  
5 rainbow trout telemetry project that we did.

6  
7 The whole thing was just based on how  
8 to pick apart a scientific paper and just using a local  
9 reference of a project that they know. It's the Aniak  
10 River, so all the kids around there know the fish in  
11 there and know what the Aniak River is, so it's not  
12 just reading a paper about something that's completely  
13 foreign to them. It's something that they can ask  
14 questions about and be kind of knowledgeable about  
15 without even starting to read it.

16  
17 So that was kind of one of the first  
18 steps. With this, I think once I start getting some  
19 data points and finding out where these are -- we've  
20 already done a few lessons here and there talking about  
21 why we're doing the project and we kind of left it at  
22 we'll bring back some of the results. So we'll do that  
23 this winter when we go around and do some of our  
24 community meetings.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's great. Well,  
27 we're winding down to the end of our.....

28  
29 MR. THALHAUSER: Thanks. I just wanted  
30 to say thanks to Holy Cross too. It's been really nice  
31 to be over here. And thanks to the Council.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Mike.  
34 Appreciate your presentation. So we had our closing  
35 comments and I appreciate the public comments from Holy  
36 Cross. I think we had a great meeting, got a lot  
37 accomplished.

38  
39 The Chair will entertain a motion to  
40 adjourn the meeting.

41  
42 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

43  
44 MR. R. WALKER: (Nods affirmatively)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved, seconded by  
47 Robert. Those in favor of adjournment signify by  
48 saying aye.

49  
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 MR. COLLINS: Anybody else could stay.  
2  
3 (Off record)  
4  
5 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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 )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

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