

1 WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6  
7 VOLUME I

8  
9 McGrath, Alaska  
10 October 28, 2014  
11 8:30 a.m.

12  
13  
14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

15  
16 Jack Reakoff, Chairman  
17 Ray Collins  
18 Timothy Gervais  
19 Don Honea  
20 Jenny Pelkola  
21 Eleanor Yatlin

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25  
26 Regional Council Coordinator, Melinda Burke

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(McGrath, Alaska - 10/28/2014)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to call the Western Interior Regional Council to order for our fall meeting and so we're going to call roll and we have one Council member on the phone so go ahead Melinda -- or Jenny.

MS. PELKOLA: Okay. Robert is not here, excused, due to weather.

Pollock, not here, excused.

Tim.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You on the phone Tim.

MR. GERVAIS: Yes, I'm here.

MS. PELKOLA: Tim's here. James is excused. Carl is excused. Eleanor.

MS. YATLIN: Here.

MS. PELKOLA: Ray.

MR. COLLINS: Here.

MS. PELKOLA: Jack.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Here.

MS. PELKOLA: Don.

MR. HONEA: Here.

MS. PELKOLA: Quorum.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Jenny. So we're at invocation, do you want to give an invocation Ray.

MR. COLLINS: Yes, I would.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

1 (Invocation)  
2 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks Ray. And so  
3 we'll introduce the people in the room here, we'll go  
4 around the room and we'll start with Erin over here.  
5  
6 MS. JULIANUS: Erin Julianus. Wildlife  
7 biologist for the BLM Central Yukon Field Office.  
8  
9 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli. BIA  
10 subsistence anthropologist out of Anchorage.  
11  
12 MS. MCBURNEY: Mary McBurney.  
13 Subsistence Program Lead for the National Park Service  
14 and member of the InterAgency Staff Committee.  
15  
16 MR. STEVENS: Good morning. My name is  
17 Ben Stevens, I'm from Stevens Village. I'm working  
18 with the Tanana Chiefs helping them implement the  
19 strategies of the hunting and fishing task force.  
20  
21 MR. MILLER: Good morning. I'm Frank  
22 Miller, First Chief of McGrath, president of MTMT,  
23 McGrath.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Welcome. And, so,  
26 Vince.  
27  
28 MR. MATHEWS: I'm Vince Mathews. Right  
29 now I'm acting Deputy for Kanuti National Wildlife  
30 Refuge.  
31  
32 MR. FOX: Good morning. Trevor Fox,  
33 Regional Subsistence Coordinator for the Fish and  
34 Wildlife Service and a new InterAgency Staff Committee  
35 member.  
36  
37 MR. LIEBICH: Good morning. I'm Trent  
38 Liebich. I work with the Office of Subsistence  
39 Management in Anchorage and I'm a fish biologist.  
40  
41 MR. MCKEE: Good morning. My name is  
42 Chris McKee. I'm the Wildlife Division Chief at OSM,  
43 Anchorage.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
46  
47 MS. BURKE: Good morning. Melinda  
48 Burke. I'm the Council coordinator for the Western  
49 Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. And I  
50 think we've got everybody here in the room, let's do a

1 quick review on the phone.  
2  
3 So far on the line I've got Jennifer  
4 Yuhas, ADF&G.  
5  
6 Palma Ingles from OSM.  
7  
8 George Pappas from OSM.  
9  
10 Dan Sharp from the BLM.  
11  
12 Aaron Teirnan from ADF&G.  
13  
14 We've got Tim Gervais, Council member.  
15  
16 Pippa Kenner.  
17  
18 And do we have anybody brand new who's  
19 joined us on the teleconference this morning whose name  
20 I've yet to call.  
21  
22 MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard, OSM.  
23  
24 MS. BURKE: Good morning, Don.  
25  
26 (Pause)  
27  
28 MS. BURKE: All right, I think that's  
29 everyone Mr. Chair.  
30  
31 MS. OKADA: Melinda.  
32  
33 MS. BURKE: Yes.  
34  
35 MS. OKADA: This is Marcy Okada with  
36 the National Park Service.  
37  
38 MS. BURKE: Hey, Marcy, good to hear  
39 your voice, good morning.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And would you like  
42 to introduce our court recorder.  
43  
44 MS. BURKE: Oh, yes. We've got  
45 Meredith here recording for us this week, very happy to  
46 have her along. Meredith's joining us, I think, for  
47 the first time I've been Council coordinator so great  
48 to have her along on the trip.  
49  
50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. And so  
2 we'll review and adopt the agenda. Have any Council  
3 members looked the agenda over and would like to insert  
4 anything into the agenda.

5  
6 (No comments)

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to put  
9 under new business, a review of dall sheep and caribou  
10 populations since we've had drastic decline of the  
11 Western Arctic Caribou Herd, Teshekpuk and dall sheep  
12 populations in the Brooks Range. I'd like the Council  
13 to review some of that real quick because we're going  
14 to be making proposals here in the next meeting.

15  
16 Any other Council members additions to  
17 the agenda.

18  
19 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Melinda.

22  
23 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. We've got under  
24 ADF&G, we have Jeff Park, who I believe will be giving  
25 us a research update. And under US Fish and Wildlife  
26 Service we have Tracy McDonald, who's going to be  
27 joining us from Refuges, I believe she's flying in this  
28 afternoon. And we'll add YRDFA in there, that was my  
29 mistake, YRDFA usually has a placeholder on our agenda.

30  
31 I just want to remind everybody on the  
32 phone, please, star six to mute yourself and star six  
33 to unmute yourself when you'd like to speak. And  
34 please feel free to jump in at any time, we'd like to  
35 treat you as if you were here in the room.

36  
37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. One thing I  
40 would like to do is combine the Park Service proposed  
41 rule and the US Fish and Wildlife proposed rule and  
42 review those simultaneously.

43  
44 We have a question in the back room, go  
45 ahead. Can you come up to the mic there because they  
46 want to get this on the recording.

47  
48 MR. MILLER: Mr. Chair. I'd like to  
49 add Innoko Wildlife Refuge into your agenda.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have that, it's  
2 in our agenda here and we're going to get a review of  
3 the Innoko shift in administration so we'll have quite  
4 a bit on that issue in this agenda.

5  
6 MR. MILLER: Thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I also will take  
9 any public comments -- I've told local people through  
10 the internet that I would take comments around 9:30, so  
11 if we get call in comments I want to take those and I  
12 would take any comments you would have at -- we have  
13 non-agenda item comments before each day's meeting, so  
14 just letting you know.

15  
16 MR. MILLER: Thank you.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. So any  
19 other Council member agenda additions.

20  
21 (No comments)

22  
23 MS. PELKOLA: I move to adopt the  
24 agenda with the additions.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We got a motion to  
27 adopt, have a second.

28  
29 MR. COLLINS: I'll second it.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion and seconded.  
32 Those in favor of adopting the agenda as amended  
33 signify by saying aye.

34  
35 IN UNISON: Aye.

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

39  
40 (No opposing votes)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So a review of the  
43 previous minutes meeting -- meeting minutes, on Page 5  
44 of our booklet.

45  
46 I found in the .805 portion of that --  
47 is that in the -- no, that's a different issue.

48  
49 Okay, so the minutes look pretty good,  
50 you got a comment, Don.

1 MR. HONEA: No, Mr. Chair, I just have  
2 a motion to adopt.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other Council  
5 member.....

6  
7 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any comments on the  
10 minutes.

11  
12 MR. HONEA: Okay, under comments I'd  
13 just like to -- for the record I'd like to add that I  
14 was -- my name should have been under there as excused  
15 or is this actually the one where I had called in on  
16 some of the action items.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is the February  
19 25 and 26 meeting and you were not appointed and that's  
20 why you're not on the roster even, and so we were very  
21 annoyed not to have you at the meeting but that's an  
22 appointment issue and we're going to be covering the  
23 appointment problem at this meeting also. So that's  
24 why you're not actually recognized in those minutes.

25  
26 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further  
29 discussion on the minutes. You got any comments, Tim.

30  
31 MR. GERVAIS: No, it's fine.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. No further  
34 discussion.

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of  
39 adopting the minutes signify by saying aye.

40  
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same  
44 sign.

45  
46 (No opposing votes)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council member  
49 reports is the first so we'll go around the table here  
50 and then usually people give -- point out concerns and

1 observations, et cetera. And so I'll start with Don --  
2 Eleanor will be first on the list, lady's first.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MS. YATLIN: Good morning.

7

8 One concern -- I always bring this to  
9 the Council is the moose population around Huslia and I  
10 got a lot of reports this past moose hunt from around  
11 Huslia and one of the things -- and this is a fact we  
12 noticed that the last couple of years, people are  
13 starting to get smaller and smaller bull moose around  
14 home. And then this past summer -- this past fall my  
15 sister and her husband were -- they went all the way  
16 down to Koyukuk from Huslia, they were out moose  
17 hunting for a couple weeks and they really saw a lot of  
18 hunters, especially around ThreeDay Slough area and  
19 below Dalbi. And this one camp, she said they saw --  
20 they passed, there were four moose hanging when they  
21 went -- when they were going down to Koyukuk and when  
22 they came back up to Huslia they still see that four  
23 moose hanging there. And there was other complaints  
24 about this, too, that -- because -- it could be  
25 because, you know, people go kind of a long ways to try  
26 to get moose and, you know, everybody had their luck  
27 this past fall but, you know, we heard the same  
28 complaints about how the hunters are taking all the  
29 moose out of there. You know when I lived in Galena in  
30 '03 to '05, the local hunters were already shooting the  
31 small bulls and they called them bambis and because  
32 there's no more those -- no more of those big bulls  
33 around, and so I think it's critical that we have this  
34 as an issue that we try to maybe monitor or enforce  
35 the.....

36

37 (Phone interruption)

38

39 MS. BURKE: Hey, Tim, could you push  
40 star six.

41

42 Tim, can you hear me, can you push star  
43 six to mute yourself we can hear a little bit of  
44 background noise.

45

46 MS. YATLIN: And -- oops, I lost my  
47 train of thought.

48

49 The other thing I wanted to bring up,  
50 the same issue, is my brother-in-law got a Native

1 allotment about, I'd say about 30 miles -- no, not  
2 quite, maybe 25 miles down below Huslia and he said --  
3 he checked -- when he came to Huslia -- he don't live  
4 in Huslia but he is from there and when he checked his  
5 Native allotment and he said right across from there  
6 there was this big camp, really big hunter's camp, and  
7 so he asked Al and I if that was legal for those  
8 hunters, outside hunters to have a big camp there.

9  
10                   And there is -- and another thing that  
11 I wanted to bring up is I really don't know the effects  
12 that it would have on our fishing and that's shutting  
13 us down in the Koyukuk where, you know, you have to be  
14 really lucky to get king salmon and everybody got their  
15 brand new nets, we got a brand new one, 7.5 mesh one  
16 year, the next year it went down to 6 and then we can't  
17 go fishing. And what really, I guess, irks me, is we  
18 really need enforcement -- we do need enforcement as  
19 far as the moose hunting goes and maybe even the  
20 fishing, but seriously, you know, we're the only ones  
21 that do live in camp around home and to have the  
22 Trooper fly around our camp and, you know, we could see  
23 where -- what else could it be, we heard the plane  
24 landing and then by the time we got out to the main  
25 river from where our camp is, by the time we got to our  
26 fish net, we could see it was moved. So we knew that  
27 plane landed out there but we couldn't see it from our  
28 camp, and we saw that plane fly in -- we see a plane,  
29 that Trooper flying over all the time, and I don't know  
30 why they, you know, like bother us and check our nets,  
31 what would -- why would they check our nets, see if  
32 it's the mesh size probably but they don't have to drag  
33 it way out there, you know, and then bothering the  
34 local hunters about -- you know, because that's our  
35 survival; the moose and the fish. And really, you  
36 know, checking to see if they have the license number  
37 on their boats, all the local hunters are, you know,  
38 being bugged but then they're not enforcing it to the  
39 people that come all the way from Washington, D.C., or  
40 wherever and then -- I mean the state of Washington and  
41 come up to go to -- getting their boats and then come  
42 up all the way to Koyukuk River and they're not enfor  
43 -- there's no enforcement, you know. So that's one of  
44 the -- and I saw what happened in -- we lived in  
45 Bettles for a number of years, almost 10 years in the  
46 early '90s to '98 and I saw the depletion of moose  
47 there. I saw what happened, I could see what's -- and  
48 I lived down there and I could see what was happening  
49 there and when we moved to Huslia in '98 then there was  
50 -- it was pretty good, you know, it has been good all

1 this time, you know, hunting and I don't think that --  
2 you know, even the gas station manager tried not to  
3 sell them gas and stuff like that, just to stop all  
4 these boats, big boats from coming up the Koyukuk  
5 River.

6  
7 I'm sure it will be an issue in the  
8 future.

9  
10 I would like to see enforcement on  
11 this.

12  
13 What I would really like to see is  
14 management from the people that live in the villages  
15 and -- because you know the Native people managed the  
16 lands and the animals and everything for thousands of  
17 years, you know, there was always food there for  
18 people, and I don't like to see it -- I wouldn't want  
19 to see what happened in Bettles area and Allakaket area  
20 happen down around Huslia. It's just an issue that I  
21 think will be always on the table here for the Federal  
22 Subsistence Advisory Board to look at and try to do  
23 something about trying to get some of these -- all  
24 these hunters -- not to have too many because my sister  
25 said they see camps all along the Koyukuk River going  
26 all the way from Koyukuk to Huslia and that's a lot of  
27 hunters and with our own people not even having luck.  
28 My sister-in-law got some moose from the guide hunters  
29 in Huslia and I don't know what it is but I saw it, she  
30 was cutting up that meat on her table and everywhere on  
31 that meat there was little shots of blood all over that  
32 moose meat and she cut them off. They're just like,  
33 you know, just a drop of blood everywhere, just  
34 everywhere on that meat and she cut them off, cut them  
35 off and then she'd take a slice like that and then  
36 after she cut all these spots off, and she made dry  
37 meat or put them away for steaks or whatever, and she  
38 said do you think it -- and, you know, we smelled the  
39 meat and everything, it was okay but then, you know, it  
40 just looked really funny. And when she cut that first  
41 layer off she said look at this Eleanor, and I looked  
42 and underneath there there's still those little shots  
43 of blood and we don't know if it's good for human  
44 consumption or what, you know. But that's the only  
45 meat she got so she made dry meat and put that away.

46  
47 But I was just really curious, you  
48 know, if anybody know what would cause that, you know,  
49 cause the -- biologists or whoever, you know, could --  
50 you know, I asked Al what would cause that and, you

1 know, what would cause these little -- you know, is the  
2 meat ruined or we don't know and, you know, we have to  
3 take those issues into consideration. Because you know  
4 we are the ones that lives in the village so we need to  
5 have some kind of input from the village and every --  
6 every step of the way, you know.

7  
8 I still have -- and I really don't know  
9 how to put it because I don't know if the issue is --  
10 on fishing, you know, why they shut us down and, you  
11 know, we don't -- me and Al -- you know, to go get king  
12 salmon or any kind of fish or meat you have to have  
13 luck, so we don't usually have luck in getting kings,  
14 and the people that live -- fish a couple miles below  
15 us, you know, they're lucky, they're always lucky, they  
16 always get the kings. So we know there's luck  
17 involved. But, you know, for us, if we get every other  
18 year, if we get one or two kings it's a lot for us.  
19 That's what we get one or two and this past summer we  
20 didn't get any. So we stay in camp for quite a bit but  
21 it rained too much and it was really high water and we  
22 couldn't put net in anywhere, it was high water all  
23 summer.

24  
25 And I could get into another subject  
26 and that's probably climate change, but I won't go  
27 there, and that's what I believe anyway, because why --  
28 why we had this kind -- you know, the year before, one  
29 year ago it froze and it rained two months before it  
30 froze so the ground is already saturated from the  
31 water, you know, so by the time we -- it -- the ice  
32 went out this spring and the river came up and it just  
33 stayed high all summer so we just got like 25  
34 whitefish, little whitefish and that was our catch for  
35 the summer.

36  
37 And I think my two minutes are up, so,  
38 thank you.

39  
40 (Laughter)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot,  
43 Eleanor. That meat thing, another thing that I've seen  
44 that, those bloodshot points, if you shoot a moose in  
45 the head and you stop its heart it'll make that blood  
46 pool up in the meat like that.

47  
48 MS. YATLIN: I never saw that before.  
49 I thought it was different kind of shell or something.  
50 I don't know, I just didn't -- I never saw that before.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If it lays too long,  
2 too hot.....  
3  
4 MS. YATLIN: Yeah.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....after being  
7 shot in the head it could probably make it worse.  
8  
9 MS. YATLIN: Well, I don't know how  
10 it.....  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Was it real dark  
13 meat, real dark color?  
14  
15 MS. YATLIN: Yeah.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that's usually  
20 a head shot.  
21  
22 MS. YATLIN: That's why I said I wonder  
23 if it's good for human consumption, you know.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, it's okay, it  
26 just pools the blood up.  
27  
28 MS. YATLIN: Yeah.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's not bleeding  
31 out inside if you shoot them in the chest.  
32  
33 So I'm getting some green slips here,  
34 but I'll get to those. I'll take one more Council,  
35 Jenny, and then I'll -- I heard the phone, did somebody  
36 else join the call.  
37  
38  
39 (No comments)  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anybody else come on  
42 the call or did we lose one.  
43  
44 (No comments)  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I'll have  
47 Jenny give her report.  
48  
49 MS. PELKOLA: Okay, thank you. As you  
50 read the minutes from last year you'll see that I was

1 thanking people for the flood, for their help and  
2 everything, and I just want to give a little report on  
3 Galena.

4  
5 We're still building and still trying  
6 to get out of the flood thing that we went through a  
7 couple years ago. Some people got new homes, houses  
8 are being elevated but it'll take a long time before  
9 Galena is recovered so we're still working on that.

10  
11 But back to the moose, along with  
12 Eleanor, I'd just like to say that the moose are  
13 declining. We all know that. But still -- we still  
14 have a lot of hunters coming in. The local people do  
15 depend on the moose. One thing that came to my mind as  
16 I was flying from Anchorage to Galena the other day,  
17 why don't we control the vegetables in the stores for  
18 all the people that eat vegetables and say we're not  
19 going to have any vegetables anymore. Why don't we cut  
20 off the meat in the stores and let's see what happens,  
21 you know, they'll probably protest. But that's the way  
22 I feel. That's the way I compare our way of life, is  
23 people are -- they have the stores right there, they  
24 can go to the stores and buy all this stuff and all of  
25 a sudden if they were cut off let's see what would  
26 happen, I think they would react the same way we are,  
27 people that do live in the Bush and depend on our moose  
28 and our fish.

29  
30 There was a lot of -- in our area there  
31 was a lot of harassment going on. We have all these  
32 hunters that come in and for thousands of years our  
33 ancestors told us to respect the land, respect the  
34 animals, respect. I saw a lot of disrespect -- I heard  
35 about a lot of disrespect of how they treated the  
36 moose, how they dressed it, and there was a lot of  
37 wanton waste, there's a lot of that going on, whole  
38 moose being thrown out or just wasted. I know they  
39 have a checkpoint that they have to go through in the  
40 Koyukuk River and after that, you know, you don't know  
41 what they do with the meat. So I was thinking from the  
42 time that they get the moose to wherever they bring it,  
43 I don't know, it's a lot of enforcement, but there's  
44 got to be something, some way to stop this wanton  
45 waste. All they're looking for would be the horns and  
46 what are you going to do with the horns, hang it in  
47 your house, you can't eat horns.

48  
49 There's still a lot of spotting going  
50 on. Planes flying around, right over where you're

1 hunting. It's -- something's got to be done with that.

2

3                   There's a report of one village that  
4 half of the village didn't get their moose. So, you  
5 know, that has to be looked at.

6

7                   When the meat is turned in -- in Galena  
8 we do have a boarding school there and when they turn  
9 in the meat to the boarding school to give to the  
10 community or anybody that needs meat, most of it is  
11 spoiled. And I just feel that there has to be -- if  
12 there's going to be enforcement to enforce the meat --  
13 you know, make sure it's, you know, not spoiled, fit  
14 for human consumption.

15

16                   The fishing was very poor this year as  
17 we all know. We had to sacrifice our king salmon. I  
18 don't have one king salmon to my name. But I got -- I  
19 did manage to get some silvers. And hopefully our  
20 fishing will get better.

21

22                   With the trapping, we do have  
23 complaints now from some people about Fed workers  
24 trapping on their area of trapping, where they've  
25 trapped for years. So I would just like to bring that  
26 to your attention, that this is not the first time it's  
27 happened but it's happened a lot. And I think we need  
28 to look into that also.

29

30                   And with that I would just like to say  
31 thank you to the village of McGrath for letting us use  
32 your place for our meeting.

33

34                   Thank you.

35

36                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny.

37

38                   And I keep hearing the phone bleeping,  
39 who's joined the call.

40

41                   (No comments)

42

43                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We may be losing  
44 people is what that could also mean.

45

46                   (Laughter)

47

48                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So at this time if  
49 there's anybody on the call that would like to make any  
50 non-agenda comments, it's 9:30 and I want to give the

1 public as much opportunity to comment as we can.

2

3                   So is anybody on the call from any  
4 community that has issues that they would like to bring  
5 up to the Council, this is the time to do that. So  
6 just state your name.

7

8                   MS. BURKE: I just want to remind  
9 folks, star six to unmute yourself and then star six to  
10 mute yourself again. I had heard from Ed Sartin from  
11 Ruby, he might be calling in this morning, or if any  
12 other members of the public.

13

14                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you on the  
15 phone, Ed.

16

17

18                   (No comments)

19

20                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So if there's nobody  
21 on the phone that would like to make comment, I have  
22 three green slips here. So Frank Miller wanted to talk  
23 to us about fly-in hunting. Come on up to the mic  
24 there Frank.

25

26                   MR. MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
27 Again, I'm Frank Miller, First Chief of McGrath Native  
28 Village Council.

29

30                   On the issue of fly-in hunting, we have  
31 one group that brings people in and they hunt on the  
32 Innoko River. They do not hunt around the area of  
33 McGrath, only on the Innoko River. I believe that's  
34 the only river. But this summer -- this fall we had a  
35 very warm hunting season and these hunters were  
36 shooting their moose down there bringing back spoiled  
37 meat, and there was not one or two but maybe nine or 10  
38 spoiled moose that came into McGrath. And they were  
39 made to haul that meat into Anchorage where they  
40 probably took it to the dump and got rid of it because  
41 it was spoiled. And it was a big insult to the  
42 community. They tried to give spoiled meat to the  
43 residents of McGrath and we can't have that. You know  
44 if they can't take care of their meat in a proper way  
45 out there on the river hunting we can't allow the fly-  
46 in hunters to do this anymore.

47

48                   In the past they've been pretty good.  
49 And like I said this fall it was exceptionally warm,  
50 but still they got to find a way to take care of their

1 meat. It's an insult to the residents, like I said,  
2 and we can't have that. If they can't do that proper  
3 we've got to somehow stop this fly-in hunting.

4  
5                   There was a lot of meat going to waste  
6 like these two ladies said, we can't have that. That  
7 meat is -- we need that meat for our residents in these  
8 areas, such as Galena, Huslia and McGrath, Takotna,  
9 Nikolai, all these areas.

10  
11                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One question there  
12 for you Frank, is that meat boned out? Is that coming  
13 in boned meat that's all stuck together and soured and  
14 green or what?

15  
16                   MR. MILLER: No, sir, it was coming in  
17 in quarters and they're not boned out or nothing.  
18 Wrapped in cheesecloth and spoiled.

19  
20                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh.

21  
22                   MR. MILLER: I will not tolerate other  
23 people trying to give moose meat to -- we have unwed  
24 mothers with children around here and elders and we  
25 can't tolerate trying to give rotten meat to these  
26 families, that's a huge insult.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, you would  
29 think if they got airplanes they'd be able to get that  
30 moose removed from the field within a day or so, they  
31 should be able to fly that out if that's what their  
32 intention is. If they had to ship it off to Fairbanks,  
33 whatever the freight rate is back to Anchorage, they're  
34 probably going to think twice about spoiling moose  
35 because it's going to cost them a lot of money to ship  
36 the moose out of McGrath. You actually did the right  
37 thing if it's rotten. I really hate to see that. I've  
38 seen guys hang moose in the sun for days, you can't  
39 hang a moose in the sun for any amount of time, let  
40 alone days, it'll be rotten. It's like Eleanor's  
41 talking about, these moose hanging out on these bars,  
42 hanging out on a meat pole right in the sun, out in the  
43 rain and then it gets sunny and hot, of course it's  
44 going to be rotten, and then try to bring it into a  
45 community and give it away, pass it out, that's not  
46 going to work out. So penalizing them with the high  
47 freight rate back to Anchorage was the right thing to  
48 do.

49  
50                   You want to give a short overview of

1 the Innoko Refuge also.

2

3 MR. MILLER: Yes. I'd like to know  
4 what they got going in Galena with the Innoko Wildlife  
5 Refuge. Again, we were distraught in the Federal  
6 people from Washington D.C., moving Innoko Wildlife  
7 Refuge to Galena, nothing intended for Galena people,  
8 you're our neighbors and we talk with you guys back and  
9 forth, but there was a need to keep Innoko Wildlife  
10 Refuge in McGrath. McGrath is a dying hurting town and  
11 to take the employees out of this town was uncalled  
12 for. We had a good working relationship with these  
13 guys and girls, men and ladies, I should say, they  
14 treated us good, we treated them good, we had a good  
15 relationship with them. And to me, and to the village,  
16 and surrounding villages such as Takotna and Nikolai,  
17 Telida, there was a need to keep them here. We weren't  
18 able to do that so we have a skeleton crew right now, I  
19 think there's three, is that right Claire, here in  
20 McGrath. Three. There's three people here in McGrath.  
21 There is a need to -- if they're going to move them --  
22 if they're going to keep them in Galena, we feel that  
23 there is a need to bring at least two of them back to  
24 help count and monitor the moose, fish, the caribou,  
25 black bear, all the animals in this area. There is a  
26 need for that. And I'd like to see you guys try to  
27 make it -- we talked to everybody. We talked to  
28 Senators, we talked to everybody. I would like this  
29 Board to see and make it happen that if they're going  
30 to take everybody out, at least send a couple of  
31 persons -- a couple of people back to McGrath to help  
32 count these animals, fish and birds.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to have  
35 Fish and Wildlife reports towards the end of this  
36 meeting and we'll have Kenton Moos from Koyukuk/Nowitna  
37 and Innoko now and he'll be here for the Council to  
38 discuss this issue and so hopefully you'll be able to  
39 come back -- that'll be probably at tomorrow's meeting  
40 and we'll be talking about this Innoko closure.  
41 Because it's quite an agenda item and there's a lot of  
42 documents here that the Council was provided on the  
43 Innoko closure. We were concerned also. We've taken  
44 your point and so we intend to try and push the Refuge  
45 system to have proper biological Staff and proper law  
46 enforcement here for these -- for this wanton waste and  
47 orientation of these fly-in hunters. That was another  
48 issue that we were concerned about by taking the LE out  
49 of here and take the -- law enforcement, had taken that  
50 contact of these fly-in hunters, we were concerned

1 about that. So we'll be talking about that with the  
2 Refuge system tomorrow.

3

4 Hit your button there.

5

6 MR. MILLER: Yes. We do have an  
7 officer here by the name of Mr. Dubens (ph), he's our  
8 game warden/Trooper and nothing was done about this  
9 wanton waste but he's a very busy man. At the time of  
10 these bad meats coming into town he was also flying up  
11 the Alaska Range monitoring the hunters up there for  
12 brown bear, moose, caribou, dall sheep and he's just  
13 one person. He was gone most of the time. I mean in  
14 the past Innoko Wildlife Refuge personnel helped over  
15 here with the fly-in hunters coming into McGrath. This  
16 year we did not have them.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, these are  
19 issues that, you know, after one hunting season without  
20 Refuge Staff here, low presence, at least, these are  
21 the kind of issues that we're going to bring up at this  
22 meeting tomorrow.

23

24 So, thank you.

25

26 I got Ben Stevens back here.....

27

28 MR. MILLER: Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Frank. Ben  
31 Stevens wants to make a few comments also.

32

33 MR. STEVENS: Good morning. Again, my  
34 name is Ben Stevens, and I am Koyukon from Stevens  
35 Village.

36

37 I live and work out of Fairbanks these  
38 days. I want to thank the Chief and the Council of  
39 McGrath and the people for letting me come to their  
40 country and giving me the opportunity to talk, Mr.  
41 Chairman.

42

43 I am working with the Tanana Chiefs  
44 Conference like I mentioned to -- I'm helping them  
45 implement the strategies that they have developed with  
46 the hunting and fishing task force. For those of you  
47 who may not know, the task force, is a result of many  
48 of the challenges that our comments have heard this  
49 morning. It seems to me like comments from rural  
50 Alaska are coming to the various boards and they're

1 received with, you know, with sincerity and so forth  
2 but unfortunately we're still coming to the table in  
3 2014 with a lot of the same concerns and now we are  
4 faced with, I believe, a different world.

5  
6           You know a few years ago some of the  
7 State and Feds would stand around and we'd say, well,  
8 there's no fish, and they're like well, yeah, yeah, ,  
9 yeah, yeah, the over-dramatic Alaska Native person,  
10 well, I'm here to tell you there's no fish. And so  
11 we're looking at a drastically different world and I  
12 think one of the things that the task force, the people  
13 of the Interior region of Alaska, I think, is looking  
14 at, is trying to find a different way to impact their  
15 day. Because what we have is a quagmire of -- Vince,  
16 no offense, but it's a quagmire of rules, regulations  
17 and it's awesome stuff because these rules and  
18 regulations were developed by good folks with good  
19 intentions, it just somehow all got into a muck. And  
20 what I think needs to happen is we need to have some  
21 common -- well, not some common sense, but we need to  
22 have a different injection of ideas and maybe a  
23 different way to spin the bottle. There's got to be a  
24 little bit of a different approach to this awesome  
25 regulatory regime that we're looking at; the regimes.

26  
27           And so that's one of the things that I  
28 have been charged with, is trying to find a way to help  
29 the State and the Feds make some advances in the  
30 resources that our people rely on. And I'm not just  
31 saying Alaska Native people, I'm definitely not. I do  
32 the war dance in our part of the country and I look  
33 pretty pale, my dad's white, and my little blonde hair  
34 blue-eyed son stands in the circle with me, so I'm not  
35 just talking about Alaska Natives, I'm talking about  
36 all of us. When there are no fish in the river, not  
37 just the brown-skin folks suffer. When there are no  
38 moose we're the ones that are going to suffer because  
39 we're the ones out there standing on the bank of the  
40 river with no meat. So it's not just brown, white,  
41 it's just those of us that are living out there trying  
42 to enjoy the heaven that our creator bestowed upon us.

43  
44           So that is my comment.

45  
46           I have some cards here that I will, if  
47 Mr. Chairman, if you would allow me to pass out, I will  
48 provide you with my contact information and I welcome  
49 your comments. I really, really, really, really with  
50 pain hear your comments because you mentioned it was

1 happening over on Allakaket, it happened, and you said  
2 you don't want to see it happen around Huslia, well,  
3 darlin, it's already happening and right now is the  
4 time to tie the knot at the end of the rope and hang  
5 on, better yet, start pulling ourselves back into the  
6 game. And so, Mr. Chairman, if you -- I would be  
7 willing, with your patience, answer any questions.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, please do, any  
10 Council members have questions for Ben, and please pass  
11 out your card also.

12

13 Ray.

14

15 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I just had a  
16 question. How was this task force put together, who  
17 sponsored it and what authority will you have on input,  
18 are you just advising the Federal agencies or what --  
19 speak a little bit more about the task force and your  
20 charge.

21

22 MR. STEVENS: The task force was borne  
23 out of concern such as what we're hearing now, across  
24 the region, over time they've become more and more and  
25 more pointed, more painful. And I think the major  
26 resource crises that we're seeing across the region  
27 right now has prompted folks to, not just voice their  
28 concerns but start screaming, and start to get overly  
29 passionate and emotional, a dangerous, a dangerous  
30 situation.

31

32 This type of sentiment has found its  
33 way to the various regional entities. For example, the  
34 Tanana Chiefs Conference, Doyon passed resolutions to  
35 this effect; we have been for the longest time, quiet,  
36 bring up comments knowing that someone, somewhere is  
37 going to be addressing our issues and that hasn't been  
38 the case. Those issues come to a forum and everybody's  
39 like, oh, my god, that's horrible and then they walk  
40 out the door, we'll address it, we'll get back to you.  
41 Well, that hasn't happened. And I say that with all  
42 due respect to the incredible professionals that we  
43 have working in resource management here in Alaska.

44

45 In terms of authority I truly, truly  
46 believe that, not just rural, but more Alaska Native  
47 folks have a tremendous amount of authority and we have  
48 stepped back and let -- let others, you know, take what  
49 they need and basically do what they want. That was a  
50 mistake. Because over the last 100 years, especially

1 since statehood, but over the last 100, maybe 150 years  
2 the Native people have been crouched into a box, rural  
3 people, and now the box is so small that you can go  
4 outside here and you can do what your ancestors did,  
5 live your life and be a criminal. You can go to jail.  
6 you can lose your boat, your gun. I mean we're  
7 criminals now. And so this necessitates us to take a  
8 stand. Take a stand and start pushing back a little  
9 bit, start making sure that some of those comments grab  
10 something, some traction, have some teeth to where  
11 these guys or whomever is charged with the technical  
12 aspect of your input, it has traction, it goes  
13 someplace. That, I think, is where, I think we need to  
14 be. Because right now we have -- like I said, we have  
15 a tremendous management systems, it's just a matter of  
16 figuring out how to make it work. Because almost  
17 everyone I have spoken to, from my son who is six years  
18 old asking me, why, daddy, can't we go fish, or why  
19 daddy can't we go get that moose, well, son it's on the  
20 wrong side of the river, well what do you mean dad.  
21 See all this stuff is -- I'm trying not to say crazy  
22 but all of this stuff is very interesting and I think  
23 that what we need to do is just tweak it a little bit  
24 to make it work and work well.

25

26                   And I think the way that we can do it,  
27 is just basic common sense. We can start putting the  
28 right words to that concern. Because what I have found  
29 in my dealings with the Alaska Outdoor Council --  
30 Alaska Outdoor Council, right there on the tip of my  
31 tongue, the advisory councils of the State Fish and  
32 Game, a tremendous tool for local input but our people  
33 don't know how to talk that verbiage, they don't know  
34 how to use the right words that's going to grab their  
35 attention, see. But once we use the right words, then  
36 these guys will catch on. They will catch on to what  
37 the meaning is, and they'll be able to work with that.  
38 And not only that but put those words into a form that  
39 can be an effective proposal that can go from the  
40 advisory councils up to the Board of Game and so forth.  
41 Those are the things that I think that we're lacking  
42 right now. And I think that we've got a team of folks  
43 in the region right now that can do that. We can help  
44 the State and the Feds make for a better day for our  
45 people, not just today but our kids. My little blue  
46 eyed blonde hair, he needs to know what dad went  
47 through. He needs to know where he comes from, his  
48 ancestors are staring at me saying, come on, Ben, get  
49 it together. We've got the ability right now to do it.  
50

1                   What's even more encouraging is that  
2 people across the state are starting to sit down.  
3 There's guys like me down in Southcentral, they're out  
4 in Southwest, they're up north and we're all getting  
5 together. There's folks from the Canadian side that  
6 are talking fish. you see we're catching on. And,  
7 ultimately, we hope to help the State and Fed  
8 professionals do what's right for the resources.

9  
10                   Sorry, I'm verbose and I mean no  
11 respect but did I answer the questions about.

12  
13                   MR. COLLINS: Yeah. What I was  
14 thinking of.....

15  
16                   MS. BURKE: Ray, your mic.

17  
18                   MR. COLLINS: Yeah, what I had in mind  
19 you were formed basically by TCC, the Native  
20 organizations that have put the task force together and  
21 you'll be commenting to the Federal agencies. They  
22 weren't involved in seeing a task force set up or did  
23 they ask for the task force. That's what I was saying,  
24 I was wondering what the connection was between you.

25  
26                   MR. STEVENS: Okay. Pretty much I think  
27 we did this kind of on our own, that's my understanding  
28 of it.

29  
30                   MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

31  
32                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Other  
33 questions, Eleanor.

34  
35                   MR. GERVAIS: Jack, I had a comment to  
36 make.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll take you next,  
39 Tim. Go ahead, Eleanor.

40  
41                   MS. YATLIN: Just a comment. I like  
42 this idea that the task force thing being formed and  
43 where it's coming from. And you are right because I  
44 was on the Koyukuk River Advisory for all the 10 years  
45 I was up in Bettles and a number of years down in  
46 Huslia and that's starting from the bottom, it goes up  
47 to the -- all the way up to where we're sitting right  
48 now and then it goes to the Board of Game and Board of  
49 Fish and those proposals and what not that we do  
50 address, and make at those meetings, I often wonder

1 what happens to them because the same issue Jack must  
2 have been hearing me say since 1990 and you are right  
3 about that, that's what I wanted to comment on, it's  
4 just -- I just could say the same thing over -- I'll  
5 get your card and I'll write everything out and it's a  
6 fact, you know, what happened in Bettles and Allakaket  
7 and what's happening on the Koyukuk River, I could see  
8 it. I saw this how many years ago. I saw it in Galena.  
9

10 So I'm glad this forum was established  
11 so at least maybe we have one more way of trying to get  
12 to management of the Federal and State and the --  
13 especially the Federal because it's really hard living  
14 in our camp and being dictated from Washington, D.C.  
15 The way they just put on us, we're moving this Innoko,  
16 we're going to save money or whatever, we're going to  
17 cut this budget, you know, we're going to cut the  
18 budget by \$17 million in Alaska -- that's just a  
19 generic number -- but anyway -- and you know what it  
20 affects us. It affects us drastically. Because we  
21 don't have -- just like we don't have no say so, you  
22 know, and it's frustrating being -- you know, having  
23 Washington, D.C., they don't know how we live. They  
24 don't know how we live off the land and are just  
25 totally, totally dependent on the land and in order to  
26 live there you have to respect it.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Eleanor.

31

32 Tim, you wanted to make a comment, go  
33 ahead, Tim.

34

35 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Jack. Yeah, I  
36 got cut off earlier when you were doing Council member  
37 reports but the fellow from Stevens Village had a  
38 comment.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well.....

41

42 MR. GERVAIS: .....brought up the point  
43 that most of the Councils.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hey, Tim.

46

47 MR. GERVAIS: .....have good intentions  
48 when they're creating these laws but I'd say in regard  
49 to the North Pacific Management Council there's a lot  
50 of folks on that Council that don't have good

1 intentions, they're focused on maximizing the profits  
2 of the trawl fleets and because of the composition of  
3 the Councils they're not going to get a fair and  
4 unbiased regulatory scheme set up. They feel that when  
5 they created Amendment 91 that was the same as king  
6 salmon conservation measure and they feel like they've  
7 done their job and we've seen that was too late in  
8 passing and ineffective in their substance and now we  
9 have a situation where none of the people in Western  
10 Alaska are allowed to be harvesting king salmon but  
11 we're still allowing prohibited species bycatch in the  
12 Bering Sea.

13

14                   So I think this Council and various  
15 tribal entities around the state and Advisory Councils  
16 need to realize that there is, especially when it comes  
17 to the Federal fisheries policies, there's a lot of  
18 people with a lot of good intentions and these Councils  
19 need to act accordingly and step up their game on how  
20 they're going to effect their communications and I feel  
21 that this Western Interior Council needs to start  
22 addressing the Secretary of the Interior and the  
23 Secretary of Commerce directly and not rely on  
24 communications with the North Pacific Fisheries  
25 Management Council because they're really not  
26 interested in helping us out, they're interested in  
27 maintaining the best profit they can for the trawl  
28 fleet.

29

30                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim.

31

32                   That is a big issue and this Council  
33 can work through a correspondence process to transmit  
34 letters and so forth but we do -- we are under  
35 constraints through the Federal Subsistence Board on  
36 communications like that so we do need to stay within  
37 our rules.

38

39                   So you want to mute out, Tim, I can  
40 hear background there.

41

42                   You got a comment Don, go ahead.

43

44                   MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
45 want to be a little specific here. I don't know if  
46 you're -- if you adequately answered Ray's question.  
47 My question is, I guess, the composite of your board  
48 here, maybe it's two-fold here, my question.

49

50                   My question is, like, is this a new

1 board, are you accessible to villages and stuff like  
2 that. Hey, I've been sitting on this board for a  
3 number of years and I don't, even, myself, draw up  
4 proposals or make them, I let somebody else that knows  
5 how to do that do that. And so, I mean, if you're  
6 sitting in TCC we have questions like there's a lot of  
7 elementary questions out there in the village and I'm  
8 sure if you're willing to travel, are you accessible to  
9 come out to Ruby, Takotna, McGrath, anywhere that we  
10 reside in and give a presentation. Or, I guess what  
11 I'm asking for is your function, what's your duties,  
12 what's the goals here. Because I realize -- I mean,  
13 you know, like -- like I've attended fisheries meetings  
14 in Fairbanks before and it's always, you know, complex,  
15 the idea of this fishing board and that board and the  
16 Western Interior, who the heck is the voice for all of  
17 us, collectively, you know, YRDFA and everything else  
18 along the Yukon collectively, we have a big voice,  
19 right, but -- okay, but it -- when you -- when we start  
20 breaking up into boards, you know, task force, and  
21 stuff like that it's kind of confusing. So I was just  
22 wondering, you know, who do you make your  
23 recommendations to, do you come to the RACs or are you  
24 accessible to the villages.

25  
26                   Because we were talking about -- a  
27 little bit -- expounding on the, you know, the Koyukuk,  
28 Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge, we just -- you know,  
29 this is my feeling that maybe there was something lost  
30 here. Maybe there's a relationship lost, whether or  
31 not coming to the villages and doing what we would like  
32 them to do, informing us of this and giving us numbers  
33 and stuff like that. And, you know, I feel comfortable  
34 in addressing the Refuge manager and their personnel in  
35 doing so but I hope you understood my question there.

36  
37                   MR. STEVENS: I do. And that actually  
38 is a very, very good question. I hate when people say  
39 that because they're often BS'ing you, but that really  
40 is a good question and it helps me clarify and Mr.  
41 Collins, I'm sorry I was verbose with you.

42  
43                   Part of what I do is combining the task  
44 force's, their core methods, which involves advocacy,  
45 public education, the vote, and strengthening  
46 relationships. And how the action steps comes out of  
47 that is things such as advocacy of various types of  
48 positions. Developing those regulations. We also talk  
49 quite a bit about research and helping the data  
50 collection because a lot of times huge resource

1 decisions are made upon shoddy data. And what's even  
2 worse is this huge management information -- I mean  
3 huge bits of management information are developed upon  
4 that shoddy data and then we have to live by all that  
5 stuff. Well, what we're finding is that sometimes the  
6 end is the way that it is because somebody said so back  
7 here, well, this is the result that we want so let's  
8 make sure that it ends up there. Those days are gone.

9  
10 We have to make sure that what we put  
11 into place is good, good policy based upon good  
12 information, good science. If you -- I heard this  
13 elder once come up to the table at a meeting and he  
14 said, you know what we sent you -- you guys asked us  
15 for information on how to make the world better, we  
16 sent you that proposal and you sent it back saying it  
17 didn't -- it wasn't right so you threw it out. He goes  
18 what do you want. And he got up and walked out in  
19 defeat. And the system didn't change. What happened  
20 -- let me tell you what happened.

21  
22 This basic -- very, very basic  
23 regulation was put forth, it was the right thing to do,  
24 but because it was restricting outsiders from the  
25 resource, the authorized regulatory management body put  
26 forth about 50 pages of reason as to why that proposal  
27 should be kicked out. Well, part of what we want to do  
28 is balance that out a little bit. So we put together a  
29 team that's comprised of biologists, fisheries and  
30 wildlife, we've got professionals from local to  
31 international. We've got a legal team that's taking a  
32 look at things. And so we want to balance that out  
33 just a little bit. And so utilizing some of those core  
34 methodologies and that strategy we want to make sure  
35 that the local folks are heard and they're heard right.  
36 Because what I'm finding is that all of the information  
37 that comes out of these meetings, it's like  
38 translation, Alaska Native into English, it doesn't  
39 work. It doesn't work because most Alaska Native  
40 languages have concepts like this. English, with all  
41 due respect is this. So you can't put a lot of Alaska  
42 Native thought into this. And that's why we have our  
43 valued anthropologists, so they can take a look at that  
44 Native person over there and say, okay, I think this is  
45 what they're thinking and then they turn to these guys  
46 and say, I think that's what they're thinking and then  
47 these guys make decisions or not based upon that.

48  
49 You see where we're going here.  
50

1                   We want to clear out a little bit, we  
2 want to make it effective. We want to make it to where  
3 folks in Galena can live a decent life. The folks in  
4 Nulato, that half of their population didn't get a  
5 moose, yet, there were more moose going by their  
6 village than I have fingers and toes in some incredible  
7 rigs, you know. And so we want to balance that out  
8 just a little bit.

9  
10                   So good question. And as I flesh this  
11 out it's going to get more interesting, it's going to  
12 get better. The team that I have, not my team, but the  
13 team that I'm working for is a very talented group of  
14 folks that want to make the system better and we're  
15 going to try. Part of this strategy involves building  
16 relationships. And so, Vince, every time he sees me  
17 coming he circles the wagons, I -- you'll have to  
18 excuse me, I've got a weird sense of humor and I like  
19 to harass Vince.

20  
21                   (Laughter)

22  
23                   MR. STEVENS: But see the thing is.....

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Everybody does that  
26 to Vince, don't worry.

27  
28                   (Laughter)

29  
30                   MR. STEVENS: But the point is that we  
31 all have a tremendous amount of value and we think that  
32 the generations of resource management knowledge that  
33 have been passed down to us from our ancestors, we  
34 think is a valuable piece of resource management minds,  
35 thought that can be injected into the State and the  
36 Federal regimes. And so we want to make sure that that  
37 is received and received favorably. So part of it is  
38 creating relationships and not necessarily requiring  
39 Vince to circle the wagons because we're not a threat.  
40 We're not a threat. We want to help. And that's what  
41 I want to expound upon.

42  
43                   Sir, you mentioned -- you asked me if I  
44 will travel, if I can travel. The answer is yes, with  
45 -- my ancestors watching me and my kid staring at me, I  
46 can't fail here and I will do what it takes, so, yes, I  
47 will travel and if I can't travel our team will make  
48 it. But we are going to hit the regions and that is  
49 going to be critical that we hit the regions and that  
50 it's going to be critical that we hit the regions and

1 we're going to connect them up so we're all talking  
2 with one voice.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

5

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

7

8 Yeah, because I guess somebody of his  
9 questions were kind of aimed at that and because I sit  
10 on the Migratory Bird Council and I realize that the  
11 fishing -- you know, when we go in there and we meet  
12 down there and there's a skeleton crew. There's --  
13 Orville is gone and it's kind of interesting that  
14 there's a task force and I was just wondering how they  
15 get -- are you accessible to questions or to coming out  
16 to villages or to helping, something like that.  
17 Because right now we go down there and, you know, it's  
18 -- all they have is one person in the office and so I  
19 was just more like.....

20

21 MR. STEVENS: Uh-huh.

22

23 MR. HONEA: .....wondering the  
24 composite of your board or something.

25

26 MR. STEVENS: Uh-huh.

27

28 MR. HONEA: But I thank you for that.

29

30 MR. STEVENS: So if I may just tap on  
31 that.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ben.

34

35 MR. STEVENS: I was actually supposed  
36 to be in Nulato here to talk about their situation  
37 where they came up way, way short in terms of meat for  
38 the winter and they wanted a little bit of flexibility  
39 with their hunting schedule and so this perplexed me  
40 and I say this with all due respect, but they asked for  
41 permission to put meat on their tables and they got  
42 refused, and so they said, oh, and the management  
43 regime said thank you very much for asking though, and  
44 they collected their paychecks and went back to  
45 Safeway. And I say that with all due respect.

46

47 Mr. Chairman. Tim, on line mentioned  
48 the Council, the North Pacific Fisheries Management  
49 Council, very, very incredible opportunity for us to  
50 impact the fish, the king salmon. And in their lat

1 meeting up in Nome, we made some breakthrough progress  
2 in getting them to move toward very substantive  
3 discussions and action on bycatch. And so Tim's right  
4 on it, whoever Tim is, I look forward to chatting with  
5 him because that is one of the elements in the system  
6 that we're working with. It's not as important because  
7 bycatch is not the -- it's not the cause of the  
8 problem, what I'm finding, what I'm hearing from the  
9 professionals, it's not the cause, but it's one of  
10 them.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I will interject.  
13 There's the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act  
14 and Begich was writing language in there for a  
15 subsistence seat on the North Pacific Fisheries  
16 Management Council and leaning towards recognizing  
17 subsistence use as part of that Council's business.  
18 The House version doesn't show that, but your entity,  
19 we're under constraints of the Hatch Act, this Council  
20 can't just write to the Senators, we can't do that, but  
21 you can. And so I would encourage your task force to  
22 write lengthy comment on the reauthorization of the  
23 Magnuson-Stevens Act to include a subsistence seat. I  
24 would write to AVCP and all the other Native  
25 organizations to do that same thing.

26  
27 Another comment that I was going to  
28 make for your task force, if you look at this colored  
29 map right here, all those white areas around those  
30 villages is Native Corp lands. Those are Doyon, those  
31 are Native Corp lands, those are managed by the state  
32 of Alaska and we proposed at one point a hunt for the  
33 corp lands, which are closed to the general public,  
34 those are not open to the general public and the Board  
35 of Game refused to allow a subsistence hunt on the corp  
36 lands. And so I would encourage you, your entity, your  
37 task force, to explore legislation in the Alaska State  
38 Legislature to require the Board of Game to implement  
39 -- demand that the Board of Game implement hunting  
40 regulations that reflect subsistence priority on the  
41 Native Corp lands. They want to have management of  
42 these Native Corp lands but they're not open to the  
43 common use of the general public, the Board of Game  
44 can't say that this -- well, we have to worry about  
45 every Alaska resident, no, those are private  
46 properties, and they have specific closures to certain  
47 individuals and are primarily are only open to Native  
48 Corp members. And so the Legislature has to get it  
49 through their thick skull that those are not open to  
50 the common use public, those are Native lands and they

1 should have a priority use for the Native -- and so  
2 that's what the problem is.

3

4 Don here wants to go hunt right next to  
5 Ruby, he can't go on his own corp lands, those are  
6 closed after September 25 for moose. The corp lands  
7 down there by Nulato, they should be open until the 1st  
8 of October, whatever they're requesting, no, they can't  
9 because the Board of Game refuses to open those lands  
10 for a priority subsistence use.

11

12 So I suggest, as Chairman of the  
13 Western Interior Council, that you explore how to get  
14 those lands open because I have requested that the  
15 Federal Subsistence Program take those lands and under  
16 .801 of ANILCA, it's clear that ANILCA -- they don't  
17 have to write new legislation, it's already in there.  
18 It says the public lands and the Native lands are for  
19 subsistence, Congress recognized the Native lands as  
20 part of the subsistence land base, but the solicitors,  
21 they don't want to go there and they've denied that.

22

23 So what this task force has to  
24 understand is these Native Corp lands, Doyon lands, all  
25 these corp lands, they need to be explored. Look at  
26 the huge white areas around every village, those are  
27 the closest to the community, those should be open  
28 first for subsistence opportunities. And so I suggest  
29 that exploring an avenue with the state of Alaska,  
30 because we're at an impasse on the Federal Program.....

31

32 MR. STEVENS: Uh-huh.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....to be the most  
35 advantageous for the task force would be to get  
36 legislation, to require the Board of Fish, Board of  
37 Game to pass subsistence regulations because they're  
38 closed already, they're not going to have non-subs --  
39 they're not going to have non-local urban people  
40 coming, they're going to be corp members, they're going  
41 to be local Native people that are going to have the  
42 only access anyways because they're private properties,  
43 they're not open to the general public.

44

45 And that's what I told the Federal  
46 Board on the Paradise Controlled Use Area expansion, a  
47 proposal we had last spring. I says, the State was  
48 going like, no, those are all -- those are under State  
49 control, I says no those are Doyon lands and those are  
50 closed and so nobody can hunt there anyways, so

1 expanding the controlled use area is advantageous for  
2 the people. The Board passed that proposal just like  
3 that. Those corp lands are -- should be open to  
4 subsistence uses and that's what the problem is. A lot  
5 of the lands closest to the community, to Huslia, I  
6 don't care where it is, look at it, and those are all  
7 corp lands, right next to the communities, those should  
8 have a subsistence priority, those are never going to  
9 have non-trespass -- they're never going to have  
10 trespass of other users, those are private properties,  
11 like my yard here, I'm in McGrath, you can't come into  
12 my yard and like build a shed on my property, those are  
13 private properties. And the state of Alaska has got to  
14 get it through their head that those are not common use  
15 lands, that's the problem. That's one of the huge --  
16 biggest problems that this Council has had, is trying  
17 to get a subsistence priority closest to the community.

18  
19 And so I'll get off my chopping block  
20 right there.

21  
22 MR. STEVENS: They did say my horizons  
23 were going to be expanded here.

24  
25 (Laughter)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Frank's raising his  
28 hand back there, you want to come up to this mic here,  
29 Frank. Come on up.

30  
31 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32  
33 A couple of minutes ago you stated,  
34 your Council can't write letters to the legislators, is  
35 that correct?

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. We're under  
38 constraints under what's called the Hatch Act, and we  
39 can't write directly to -- we can't influence political  
40 entities.

41  
42 MR. MILLER: My question is, then, sir,  
43 you have this meeting going on, who do you answer to?

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're an arm of the  
46 Federal Subsistence Board process and we work through  
47 the Federal Subsistence Board.

48  
49 MR. MILLER: Through.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Federal  
2 Subsistence Board is -- the Chair, who is Tim Towarak.  
3 There's two new -- they've reconfigured the Board to  
4 include two rural members, which is Tony Christianson  
5 from Southeast and Charlie Brower from Barrow. The  
6 other Board members would be the National Park Service,  
7 US Fish and Wildlife, the Forest Service, BLM, and US  
8 Fish and Wildlife. And so the eight member Board is --  
9 did I miss anybody?

10

11 MS. PETRIVELLI: BIA.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: BIA. BIA. So the  
14 eight member Board takes the proposals from the  
15 Councils, through the review process, and so the  
16 Councils have -- they're supposed to defer to the  
17 Councils. If we don't violate recognized scientific  
18 principles and exclude subsistence uses, they pretty  
19 much have to take the proposal. And so that's what  
20 this Council does, is deal with Federal public lands,  
21 all these colored places on this map are the Federal  
22 public lands. And so we're trying to get subsistence  
23 priority on the Federal public lands. But what has  
24 been a real problem for -- for me, is some of the  
25 closest lands to the communities are the corp lands,  
26 and, I, for many years -- Ron Sam, our previous Chair,  
27 tried to get those corp lands opened -- or reconfigured  
28 on -- because the State fell out of compliance, and so  
29 they should have shifted when the whole program, the  
30 compliance by the State does not give a subsistence  
31 prior -- rural subsistence priority and refuses,  
32 absolutely refuses to ever, even though they're closed  
33 to the general public. And so this has been an ongoing  
34 issue for this Council for over, probably 15 years, out  
35 of a 21 year system so far.

36

37 And so that's what this Council does is  
38 give a subsistence priority on the Federal public  
39 lands.

40

41 Does that answer your question?

42

43 MR. MILLER: Sort of. Then I just find  
44 it -- I did come here to ask our people -- ask us to  
45 ask questions about subsistence fishing, hunting and  
46 things of that nature, you were here a few months ago  
47 with your Board, Mr. Collins was here and we discussed,  
48 for instance, Innoko Wildlife Refuge and other issues,  
49 but, yet, we never hear nothing back from you folks of  
50 what's been accomplished or not. So I guess that's the

1 question I'd like to ask, is, what do you guys -- we  
2 ask for help and we don't hear no answers.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got a comment,  
7 Ray, go ahead.

8

9 MR. COLLINS: Well, yeah, Frank. Just  
10 to clarify, what we can't do is go to Stevens or Begich  
11 or others and write to them. That's a political thing.  
12 But we can write comments to the Secretary of Interior  
13 and the Federal Board, we do advise them, and we do  
14 take positions on all of the proposals that come  
15 forward to them. But we face the same issues, that it  
16 comes back to us and sometimes it's not what we wanted.  
17 But we do have some authority, as was mentioned in  
18 there, they're supposed to follow our advice as long as  
19 it doesn't violate the Federal regulations and so on.  
20 So we're supposed to have authority in supporting  
21 proposals and things. But, again, the answers are made  
22 by the Boards somewhere else and we get letters back  
23 from them, we -- every year we write a letter of  
24 concern to the Secretary of Interior and we get a  
25 letter back from them too, but we're like you, we're  
26 just part of the process. We don't have the authority  
27 to say this will happen.

28

29 Yeah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I.....

32

33 MS. PELKOLA: I have a comment.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

36

37 MS. PELKOLA: I just have a comment.  
38 As you look at the map there, all these white areas, my  
39 fish camp, my camp where I go all the time sits -- is  
40 our private allotment, but, yet, I can't hunt on it, I  
41 can just look at the moose in the lake, the nice bull  
42 moose and I can take pictures and look at it but I  
43 can't shoot it because I have to go all the way up  
44 Koyukuk River to get whatever I have to get, it's  
45 probably an 80 mile, you know, round trip, and all that  
46 gas, gas is so expensive, to go get that little paper  
47 saying I could shoot that moose and then after I shoot  
48 the moose I have to go back up there again and tell  
49 them, oh, I got the moose. So there's something wrong  
50 with this picture.

1                   And my camp is -- and, also I'd like to  
2 respond a little bit to what Frank said. Last fall or  
3 whenever they started talking about moving the Innoko  
4 to Galena, our Council wrote a letter to someone,  
5 whoever, and said that they did not consult Galena,  
6 government to government relationship we're supposed to  
7 have, right, well, they didn't. We wrote them a letter  
8 and we opposed that because they didn't deal with our  
9 Council first. I don't know if they dealt with the  
10 McGrath Council and have a government to government  
11 relationship and say this is what's going to happen,  
12 and we're still waiting for a response. We never got a  
13 response yet.

14  
15                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's a Native  
16 liaison position that's been open at the Office of  
17 Subsistence Management so the report backs to these  
18 communities has been a little bit lax right now and so  
19 hopefully we'll get that Native liaison position back  
20 again in Anchorage so the report backs to the village  
21 councils is not exactly as good as I would like. And  
22 so I would like -- I feel that the IT people, the RITs,  
23 the subsistence coordinators can help the Native  
24 liaison position to disseminate this information flow  
25 back into the communities, and so that's what I've been  
26 pushing for on the tribal consultation process, is  
27 making sure that the information -- there's an  
28 information flow, a report back to what happened, too,  
29 you know, like if proposals pass, then the communities  
30 should realize that, okay, that proposal's passed, the  
31 Paradise Controlled Use Area has been expanded, or  
32 whatever the proposal is. And so there needs -- there  
33 is -- but there's a little bit of a glitch at Office of  
34 Subsistence Management and primarily because of  
35 Staffing issues, they've only got basically half the  
36 Staff that they really need down there and so they're  
37 in the process of hiring more people. But they get one  
38 and then they lose two. And so there's some problems  
39 there.

40  
41                   But we do need to move along in this  
42 agenda. I do appreciate your comments. If you have a  
43 final closing comment I'll take that.

44  
45                   MR. STEVENS: I just want to, again,  
46 thank the folks here in McGrath and if my comments were  
47 a little too pointed, I meant no offense.

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No offense taken.  
50

1 MR. STEVENS: To anyone. You know,  
2 because part of the future success of resources is  
3 going to necessitate us working together, and I don't  
4 say that too lightly. I mean arm and arm, you know,  
5 the State and the Feds are going to have to make  
6 another spot at the table and by me pissing them all  
7 off right now is probably not the best way to create a  
8 good solid trusting working relationship. And so I  
9 want to say to our friends over there, I mean no  
10 offense to anyone, I really, really truly honestly  
11 don't.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I hope that -- you  
14 know, like our past Chair used to say, we're all  
15 professionals, we don't take this stuff home, we state  
16 our position but we don't hold animosities. Ron Sam,  
17 who's deceased now.

18  
19 MR. MILLER: As me, I don't wish no  
20 animosity towards anybody. We welcome you guys here.

21  
22 My final statement is that the reason  
23 Innoko Wildlife Refuge was to save money. I would like  
24 to hear from the Feds what it did cost and how much  
25 money did they save. I don't think they saved a dime.  
26 I think they spent a lot of money. I would like to  
27 find out what the final cost was from somebody and let  
28 it be known to the good people of McGrath, they deserve  
29 that answer.

30  
31 Thank you.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, there's an  
34 analysis of the costs -- cost analysis in this book --  
35 do we have copies of that back in the back of the room  
36 -- there's also copies in the back of the room there,  
37 Frank, on that table there, of the cost analysis.  
38 There's pie charts, all this stuff, on Page 29 of the  
39 book there.

40  
41 But we do need to move down. We're  
42 moving -- we're still in the Council comments. And so  
43 are you still on the line there, Tim.

44  
45 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, I am, Jack.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You didn't get  
48 skipped over, I was just taking public comments in  
49 between the Council reports, and so your report and  
50 then I'm going to keep moving down the table here with

1 Ray. Go ahead.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: All right, thank you,  
4 Jack. This is Tim Gervais from Ruby.

5

6 I got dropped out a couple times, I  
7 didn't know where you were on the agenda.

8

9 Anyways, the first thing I did want to  
10 bring up was some of my earlier comments and that we  
11 need -- the Council is (indiscernible) what's  
12 acceptable bycatch to have some kind of phrase system  
13 they call national standards and I'm finding their  
14 interpretation to that is not matching up with the  
15 intent of the law. The law is written kind of broad  
16 and I feel when we have most of Western Alaska shut  
17 down on king salmon fishing, why they are able to  
18 operate the trawl fisheries that are still having  
19 predator species bycatch that they still operate at a  
20 normal level, I find that unacceptable. I'd like the  
21 Council to communicate that to the Secretary of  
22 Interior and Secretary of Commerce.

23

24 The National Marine Fisheries Service  
25 is estimating a pollock hard school biomass to go up  
26 about 75 percent this year, so in their early winter  
27 meeting in December the North Pacific Council is going  
28 to reissue the total allowable catch for pollock and I  
29 feel like we should try to either have a representative  
30 or send a letter to the Council asking that they not  
31 increase their total allowable catch unless they can  
32 incorporate some additional king salmon protection  
33 salmon protections in there.

34

35 Regarding Jenny and Eleanor's earlier  
36 comments about the wanton waste, perhaps Fish and  
37 Wildlife Service and Department of Fish and Game can,  
38 in their educational efforts, can notify hunters  
39 through their Handy-Dandy or whatever other  
40 communications they have when they give permits, that  
41 these fly-in hunters or float hunters, if they're in a  
42 situation where their meat is susceptible to damage  
43 from carrying it too long or transporting it in wet  
44 conditions, not getting air, so I would like to see  
45 something on wanton waste and if it's not addressed  
46 adequately that Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife  
47 Service make sure they communicate to hunters that are  
48 getting these permits for the hunts that are going to  
49 be -- a lot of travel time or, you know, doing float  
50 trips for extended days, that they need to get educated

1 on how to preserve their meat and realize that they  
2 need to change their float plan or their flying plan if  
3 they do harvest animals and that the hunts, if they  
4 meat in camp they need to have that be the priority,  
5 not to let that meat go to waste rather than trying to  
6 fill out the rest of their harvest tickets at that  
7 time.

8

9                   Also one final comment -- intention --  
10 when we had the North Pacific Management Council come  
11 to Galena, I believe it was two years ago to testify  
12 and hearing a Council member -- a North Pacific Council  
13 member stating that the pollock harvest was  
14 sustainable, I think what he was doing was trying to  
15 paint a better picture of the industry because it's  
16 such an economic benefit to that state to have a fleet  
17 of very large ships buying all their supplies and  
18 bringing all their product, not all their product but a  
19 lot of the product back to Washington in cold storage  
20 (ph) and stuff, so they -- there's people that are in  
21 the regulatory system but they just have a different  
22 agenda that's not matching up. So I encourage this  
23 Council and the local RACs, Fish and Game RACs and  
24 tribes when they do communicate these issues are real  
25 important to subsistence lifestyle, that the message is  
26 very clear, effective and prominent and it needs to be  
27 more prominent because we're running into all these  
28 different issues where we see where you feel like  
29 you're not getting heard, or you're not getting the  
30 regulations you want so we need to focus on is the  
31 message we're sending, is the communication we're  
32 sending good enough to get the job done.

33

34                   And that's all I have for now.

35

36                   Thank you.

37

38                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim. Have  
39 you drafted any language for these communications to  
40 the Secretary of Interior and Secretary of Commerce?

41

42                   MR. GERVAIS: I'll email them over this  
43 evening.

44

45                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, at some point  
46 during this -- if you could transmit those  
47 electronically to Melinda then we'll print them out,  
48 take a look at them and we will transmit those.

49

50                   So, okay, thanks for your comments Tim.

1 You got -- what about a break here Melinda, we should  
2 go to break for a little bit. So we'll be off for --  
3 until -- I got 10:35 on my watch, how about 10:50 or  
4 so. So we're standing down.

5  
6 MS. BURKE: And just before the break  
7 real quick, do we have anybody brand new on the  
8 teleconference.

9  
10 (No comments)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we'll stand  
13 down.

14  
15 (Off record)

16  
17 (On record)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll bring the  
20 meeting back to order.

21  
22 We're in Council reports and we did  
23 Tim, and so Ray.

24  
25 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I represent the  
26 Council on the Kuskokwim River Fish Management Working  
27 Group.

28  
29 As you know we had severe closures on  
30 kings this year but it paid off in terms of escapement.  
31 One of the things we did is we had them close the  
32 season. The season used to stay open down there until  
33 June when there was a number of fish in. Well, the  
34 fish heading for the headwaters come in earlier, so  
35 they were taking a heavy hit on the ones that were  
36 coming up here, and so we had a closure and that really  
37 made a difference in what we saw in the spawning  
38 grounds up here. We got more big fish up the river.  
39 So hopefully in the future it's going to work out but  
40 it was a hardship for the ones down below because they  
41 had to forego that.

42  
43 But the other thing I've found, even  
44 with the closures, they went to a 4 inch net that they  
45 were allowing people to catch whitefish and so on,  
46 well, subsistence users are pretty inventive, they  
47 found ways to make that catch kings. One of them, I  
48 guess, is they took the lead lines off and leave them  
49 hang loose and so when they get in there they get  
50 wrapped up in the net so some people did well on kings

1 down there in spite of the closures in trying to allow  
2 them to catch whitefish so there really has to be buy-  
3 in by the villages if you're trying to accomplish  
4 something. So we're trying to get the information out  
5 that it was important that we allow those fish to reach  
6 the spawning areas. And then they did have later  
7 openings that allowed them to catch some kings down  
8 there with six inch nets.

9  
10 The other thing I was involved in is  
11 Nikolai village asked me to go in to the pipeline  
12 hearings for Donlin and as you know they're proposing a  
13 gas pipeline all the way from Cook Inlet down and most  
14 of the testimony in Anchorage was in favor of that  
15 line, even from the villages down below because the  
16 alternative for them bringing gas in to power the  
17 project is to haul diesel up the river and there would  
18 be tremendous barge traffic on the lower river down  
19 there which could impact fish because you got the  
20 smolts going out and you have constant barge traffic so  
21 the pipeline will serve that purpose. But the problem  
22 is that the pipeline is going right along the edge of  
23 the hills from Farewell over, and when they're done  
24 there won't be a road there but there'll be a  
25 fourwheeler trail all the way along the foothills and  
26 every one of those drainages is going to be hit.  
27 They're already gearing up big time at Farewell with  
28 the fourwheeler hunting. They fly in and charter in  
29 fourwheelers and hunt in the area now and now they're  
30 going to have one now all along the hills. And it was  
31 interesting because the prime big game country is that  
32 transitional forest between the black spruce and the  
33 hills and that's where the pipeline's going, right  
34 through that. And one of the reasons -- I suggested  
35 that they move it away down in the black spruce, which  
36 is much lower wildlife habitat, but Federally black  
37 spruce is considered wetlands.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh.

40  
41 MR. COLLINS: All black spruce is  
42 wetlands.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh.

45  
46 MR. COLLINS: Which doesn't make any  
47 sense because there's hardly any water there and  
48 there's no waterfowl production and so on. But they  
49 would have to overcome that. But still we're trying to  
50 get them to move it away from the hills to protect that

1 prime habitat right along the foothills there. And  
2 also then to eliminate -- make it a little more  
3 difficult for fourwheelers out of Farewell to be  
4 accessing all those drainages between there and Big  
5 River.

6  
7 The other issue was the protection of  
8 the whitefish spawning area and they have noted where  
9 that is. And they're planning to drill under the river  
10 which shouldn't cause a lot of disruption. And if -- I  
11 know we testified to BLM, and I had testified here that  
12 they need to protect that area. What happens is the  
13 whitefish spawn in Big River, that's the main spawning  
14 area. And they come in late in the fall, just when the  
15 river is clearing up and so then the smolt then are  
16 undisturbed by the silt deposits all through the winter  
17 because -- until it thaws and then the silt starts  
18 coming down the river in the spring there. Well,  
19 they're going to put the pipeline in in the winter and  
20 so there is disruption in the water there that could  
21 end up silting in spawning areas but they're supposed  
22 to be drilling under the river with little impact. So  
23 that needs to be monitored and BLM's been informed, I  
24 guess, may be on top of it.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: How big is that gas  
27 line, 12 inch or what?

28  
29 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, it's a 12 inch and  
30 it's going to be buried and then allowed to go back  
31 natural. They're putting in camps at Big River, in  
32 there, but they're supposed to let the airstrip and so  
33 on go back and then service it by helicopter along the  
34 line, you know, if they have breaks or anything, rather  
35 than having a road along it. But it still does provide  
36 a nice fourwheel corridor there.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

39  
40 MR. COLLINS: So there's good and bad.  
41 As I mentioned there, it does get that fuel hauling off  
42 the river which protects fisheries but it interrupts,  
43 especially the people in Nikolai who have traplines and  
44 they hunt in that area through there, and if we could  
45 get away from the hills -- to pull it away from the  
46 hills a little. I testified. It made the paper in  
47 Anchorage so they heard the testimony but I don't know  
48 if it's going to impact moving -- they did avoid the  
49 Iditarod Trail so there was support from the trail crew  
50 because they -- I guess there's about 10 miles of it

1 and such, but they moved it off the main Iditarod Trail  
2 so they made concessions there.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is the comment  
5 period still open on that?

6

7 MR. COLLINS: It's open until mid-  
8 January, they're still taking comments. This is the  
9 pipeline regulatory group in the state that has to give  
10 an okay to go ahead and that's where it's at right now.  
11 That's what they were receiving testimony for.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I'm a little  
14 skeptical of that black spruce story.

15

16 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see them building  
19 pipelines all over the place through black spruce  
20 forest right and left.....

21

22 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....up around the  
25 TransAlaska Pipeline, it crosses through lots of black  
26 spruce. I think it's advantageous to this Council to  
27 comment on that issue.

28

29 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You brought up an  
32 excellent issue there and I feel that this Council  
33 should comment that the pipeline routing should be  
34 diverted away from the ecotonic -- that's the change in  
35 the forest there.

36

37 MR. COLLINS: Right.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Into the black  
40 spruce forest so that it'll have the least impact to  
41 the subsistence resources.

42

43 MR. COLLINS: Right.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I'll do that  
46 right now. The Chair will entertain a motion to write  
47 a letter -- transmit a comment to -- what is the  
48 entity, it's the Donlin.....

49

50 MR. COLLINS: Not to Donlin, it goes to

1 the -- it's before the pipeline approval authority,  
2 it's a State organization that has to approve it.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The appropriate.....  
5  
6 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....authority  
9 regarding this impact to subsistence use resources, to  
10 have the least adverse impact to the resources if the  
11 project was to continue. And so we feel adamant that  
12 this -- I feel adamant that this will have a deterring  
13 effect on over utilization of resources that utilize --  
14 you get moose and animals, you know, especially moose  
15 will move down to the.....  
16  
17 MR. COLLINS: Right.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....in and out of  
20 the mountain region.....  
21  
22 MR. COLLINS: Right.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....sort of  
25 seasonal movement.  
26  
27 MR. COLLINS: And I testified to that  
28 effect before because in the wintertime they move up  
29 into the willow draws but if there's a storm or  
30 anything they move back into the black spr -- or down  
31 into the forest.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.  
34  
35 MR. COLLINS: So it's very important  
36 habitat for that. Plus they're already -- the sheep  
37 are being heavily utilized up there by fly-in hunters  
38 and to add additional pressure from the fourwheelers.  
39 Part of my -- to continue my report though.....  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to take  
42 a motion to transmit.....  
43  
44 MR. COLLINS: Okay, I'll make that  
45 motion.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we got a  
48 motion.  
49  
50 MR. HONEA: I'll second that motion.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A motion and  
2 seconded to transmit our concerns on the routing of the  
3 Donlin gasline project. We got a motion and second,  
4 any further discussion on the letter, incorporation of  
5 additional factors.

6  
7 (No comments)

8  
9 MR. HONEA: Question.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called,  
12 those in favor of transmitting that letter signify by  
13 saying aye.

14  
15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you there, Tim.

18  
19 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, aye.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.  
22 Okay, continue with your report, Ray.

23  
24 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

25  
26 The other issue was the sheep hunt, the  
27 winter sheep hunt in the hills and it involves Denali  
28 Park, a proposal that had gone to the Board, and that  
29 was approved for a winter sheep hunt for Nikolai and  
30 Telida. And I was able to get it through the State  
31 regulatory process this time, too. They found that  
32 they had customary and traditional use when we brought  
33 it up two years ago but they didn't allow for a winter  
34 season, they said the fall was adequate. Well,  
35 obviously they can't access the hills in the fall  
36 unless they can pay for charters and they wanted to  
37 winter hunt for snowmachine only. And they got that  
38 through and there'll be five permits issued by the Fish  
39 and Game here and they'll only allow five in the field  
40 at a time but it has to be open to any State residents  
41 to apply for those permits but hopefully the people in  
42 Nikolai will be ready and geared up as soon as the  
43 trail is open and be applying for those permits to get  
44 out there.

45  
46 So we'll see how that goes.

47  
48 And the fallback is if there is a part  
49 of Denali Park that there was a Federal season approved  
50 that only goes to Nikolai and Telida, they could use

1 that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

4

5 MR. COLLINS: So traditionally they ran  
6 their traplines out there and in the winter they'd take  
7 a few sheep and bring them back in and share them with  
8 the whole community was the way that hunt was used and  
9 they've been doing that for hundreds if not thousands  
10 of years, hunting in the fall and bringing sheep back  
11 to the winter villages.

12

13 So we did get that through. But as was  
14 mentioned here, the problem with that is like before,  
15 the proposal went through to the State but if you're  
16 not right there on top of it when the State Board is  
17 acting interacting with those Board members and so on,  
18 it's hard to get something through so it's really  
19 important to have followup and that's the only way we  
20 got this through.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I was on the  
23 conference call in 2010 and I listened to that Board of  
24 Game and there was an individual on the Board of Game,  
25 was not confirmed but was on the Board at that time,  
26 that killed that proposal because he -- and it was  
27 every last subsistence proposal.....

28

29 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....that was before  
32 the Board that year.

33

34 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And that Board  
37 member was not confirmed and so the Board make up has  
38 changed now and so that's why it was more successful to  
39 get that proposal through, and the proposal on the  
40 Federal side was in the consensus agenda and so there  
41 was no opposition to that proposal in reality because  
42 it has such a low impact, the low number of permits and  
43 the low impact.

44

45 Continue with your report, Ray.

46

47 MR. COLLINS: Well.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll get to you in a  
50 minute, Frank.

1 MR. COLLINS: Well, the other issue is  
2 the closure of the Innoko Refuge. Which we had  
3 testimony here and they went through the whole process,  
4 they received our testimony, the reasons why it  
5 shouldn't move and one of them has already come up, was  
6 the monitoring.

7  
8 All the hunters in the fall that are  
9 using the Refuge come through McGrath, they don't come  
10 through Galena, they come through McGrath and out  
11 there. And their presence here allowed them to have  
12 wildlife officials here, Fish and -- you know -- and  
13 they work closely with the State biologists, which are  
14 also here and serve the same area and they do their  
15 game counts and so on. And so there was a real good  
16 relationship between the State and the Federal here in  
17 McGrath. That doesn't exist in all the situations.

18  
19 But one of the reasons I found it  
20 ironic was, that they said that one of the reasons they  
21 considered moving McGrath was because of the flooding  
22 issue, and it floods here but the Federal property has  
23 never flooded. They've never had any damage in any of  
24 the Federal property and they're still rebuilding in  
25 Galena where they're moving to over there.

26  
27 And the other thing was the families  
28 that impacted there. When you take -- they were the  
29 second largest employer in McGrath. You take that out  
30 of the community and it has a big impact all the way  
31 through in terms of air traffic and stores and people  
32 here and schools and the whole work there. And the  
33 Refuge Staff that lived here, it's a good -- they were  
34 comfortable in this community, they hated to see it  
35 moved. All those that were here would have stayed  
36 because they like it here and they're part -- well  
37 integrated into the community. So I really hated to  
38 see them make that move.

39  
40 And was mentioned earlier, I think you  
41 mentioned, Jenny, there was no consultation with the  
42 local tribal entities before that decision was made.  
43 They came in and had hearings afterwards but they'd  
44 made the decision already and notified them that it  
45 would move ahead of time. So it was made in Anchorage  
46 based on paper supposedly being able to save money.  
47 And I know there's a lot of statistics in there but  
48 they say statistics don't lie but sometimes liars can  
49 manipulate the statistics, I don't know.

50

1 MR. MILLER: Mr. Collins, I'd like to  
2 add to that.

3  
4 MR. COLLINS: It just doesn't make  
5 sense. Yeah.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Frank, go  
8 right ahead.

9  
10 MR. MILLER: On that issue about the  
11 move up to Galena. I forget the gentleman's name that  
12 was here a year ago when they proposed that move, they  
13 -- if you recall they said that they talked with the  
14 Galena subregion, with the people of Galena, Ruby and  
15 all them, that -- and they stated that everybody was  
16 for the move, now we find out they didn't consult  
17 anybody in any of the Galena subregions; another lie.  
18 Did they confer with you. No.

19  
20 And while I'm here, Mr. Collins, I got  
21 one -- you talked about the gas pipeline, I think I  
22 heard the other day while I was in Anchorage that  
23 they're considering the gas pipeline will run the  
24 generators for down there at Donlin, but I think I  
25 heard something about they're also considering building  
26 a diesel pipeline, have you heard that, to run the  
27 equipment and everything because of too many barges  
28 coming up to Crooked Creek.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It would be possible  
31 to, you know, with pipelines you can put a plug in  
32 there, a pig, and you can put diesel and push it  
33 through and then you can put gas behind it and push it  
34 -- you can push it through the same pipe, they don't  
35 have to build two pipelines. So if they're talking  
36 about two different pipelines, we're opposed to that,  
37 they can just plug -- they can pig it and pump diesel  
38 through the same pipe.

39  
40 MR. MILLER: Well, that was what I  
41 heard in Anchorage, that they were considering two  
42 pipelines, one for diesel.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would be opposed  
45 to that.

46  
47 MR. MILLER; And one for gas.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would be opposed  
50 to any additional pipelines.

1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, no.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, they don't need  
4 that.  
5  
6 MR. MILLER: That's the question I had,  
7 thank you.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They do that all the  
10 time, up there -- up on the oil fields, they put  
11 different kinds of products through those different  
12 pipes. You know, there's -- condensates, these gas  
13 condensates, they'll push those through at specific  
14 times, and so they can plug and, you know, put barriers  
15 in the pipe and push -- like they could push a whole  
16 bunch of diesel through and then push more gas through  
17 behind it. So we don't want to go there.  
18  
19 Are you finished Ray?  
20  
21 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, just in -- another  
22 reason for the moving it brings it a little bit closer  
23 to McGrath and Nikolai and there is excess capacity in  
24 there that you can tap into that, so it could be used  
25 for power generation plus there's a large mining  
26 concession down at the hills here that they've found in  
27 there too that could use power in the future so moving  
28 it a little bit to the north would make it a little bit  
29 more accessible there. But mainly it's the wildlife  
30 impact was the main reason for wanting it to move away  
31 from the hills.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I really  
34 appreciate you bringing that issue up and I'm glad you  
35 attended that meeting.  
36  
37 So, Don, you got comments.  
38  
39 MR. HONEA: Ah, yeah, you mean comments  
40 or my report?  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Your report. Your  
43 report, got it.  
44  
45 (Laughter)  
46  
47 MR. HONEA: Thank you. I'm going to  
48 comment here.  
49  
50 (Laughter)

1 MR. HONEA: Hey, it's good to be here  
2 in McGrath. I enjoy local representation. I enjoy the  
3 lodging that they give us. I always enjoy coming here.  
4 I feel at home. I'm just maybe 100 miles north of here  
5 or something.

6  
7 But I also kind of, like Jenny, and  
8 like Eleanor and all of the rest of us that come from  
9 the area around Galena, that we were not notified. I  
10 mean I sit on the tribal council and I have never seen  
11 anything where it was asked of us or even I think -- I  
12 think the interesting thing is that when Jenny mentions  
13 that on a tribal to tribal consultation with the tribe  
14 they were never consulted, and so I think that's --  
15 that's, to me, I mean when we look at it it's after the  
16 fact. I mean we were discussing this at dinner last  
17 night and it's not like we had an option to choose  
18 either one of the options that were open to us; they  
19 already made that. So -- but, you know, it'd be  
20 interesting to see what comes about and that.

21  
22 I just got news this morning that my  
23 sister-in-law passed away during the night, and even  
24 though, you know, we knew it was going to come it's  
25 pretty hard to hear that so bear with me here.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Our condolences.

28  
29 MR. HONEA: Thank you. I enjoy the  
30 composite of our board. I enjoy these ladies because  
31 they are coming from a village view, a fish camp view,  
32 I like that. I mean I also do the same thing. And I  
33 put away fish here this summer. And I also like the  
34 composite of the board because we have Ray on here  
35 who's knowledgeable in fishing and hunting issues up  
36 here. We have Tim and I do appreciate Tim's comment  
37 this morning about the North -- about the pollock  
38 fisheries; why are they still allowed to fish when we  
39 have to be giving up, whether on the Kuskokwim or on  
40 the Yukon, rights that should be inherent to me.  
41 They're inherent rights. I mean that's -- but anyway  
42 that's -- so I enjoy Carl and Jim and Robert, all of  
43 them, because they're knowledgeable in those fishing  
44 areas where I am really not. I'm more into game type  
45 stuff. I want to see a consistent number. I just  
46 don't agree with the State, with the drawing permit.  
47 Even if they knocked it down to 47 in the Koyukuk  
48 Refuge, that drawing permit, you're taking breeder  
49 bulls out of there. You're taking stock out of there  
50 and that's -- you know, I can see -- you know, I

1 realize right now that we're not going to be discussing  
2 hunting issues but in March or whenever we meet again I  
3 want to question the State on that. I want to question  
4 the State how long are you -- is the Koyukuk/Nowitna  
5 National -- and Innoko, or anywhere that they're  
6 moving, how long are those numbers and what is the  
7 threshold here. What are we talking about, you know,  
8 because all the numbers seem to be going down.

9

10 I live in Ruby and we see that going  
11 by. We see all these little racks going by and these  
12 40, \$50,000 boats and if you are sitting there and you  
13 didn't get a moose that fall or even for a couple  
14 years, you know, the kind of animosity or hurt it  
15 brings us on a local level.

16

17 So that drawing permit, I'd have to ask  
18 Glenn, Mr. Stout there, what is the justification for  
19 that drawing permit. I mean is it mandated or is the  
20 State broke, I mean why do we need -- right now, to me,  
21 anybody could hunt from Homer to Ketchikan all the way  
22 up and come into our areas, they could get a State,  
23 whatever that permit is, I mean everybody is allowed  
24 but I just have trouble with the drawing permit, where  
25 you're taking 50-inch bulls -- 50-inch or better or  
26 four brow-tines, however that goes. And a lot of meat,  
27 like we say, I mean listening to the radio station out  
28 at Galena, they said, I think -- I don't know if the  
29 number is right and I don't want to be quoted on this,  
30 18,000 pounds or something like that. That's a  
31 tremendous amount of meat and, you know, we live 50  
32 miles up from there and none of it gets to us. And I'm  
33 sure I'd like to ask the people in Galena, how much of  
34 that meat that came in there is edible anyway, you  
35 know, so -- anyway, I mean to me, I mean I think.....

36

37 But other than that, I mean the fishing  
38 -- on the fishing issues, sure we had to sacrifice, I  
39 mean, you know, we had to sacrifice but it kind of  
40 irritates me that somebody up river that has a dog team  
41 in Tanana or anything is being made out to be a  
42 criminal because incidental catch, they catch five or  
43 six king salmon in something and they're all of a  
44 sudden a criminal or something. That gets -- that  
45 bothers me when we do that. But the summer chum -- and  
46 I remember telling somebody that -- Ken Chase and I  
47 were on the same agreement years ago, five, six years  
48 ago saying that we have to take advantage of that fall  
49 chum and I was telling Jack this morning, that fall  
50 chum -- or even the summer chum. My wife and I, we put

1 up about -- I don't know how many sticks and it was  
2 rich. I mean I got some right now that I could open a  
3 bag and it's oil. A lot of oil. So -- and even people  
4 that used to fish king salmon back home tell me, you  
5 know, I like these chums better, so, hey, there's  
6 nothing -- I mean if it came down to it our community  
7 -- we have to take advantage of what we have.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. I --  
10 we'll talk about that -- the drawing hunt in the  
11 Koyukuk Controlled Use Area. The 1999-2000 Koyukuk  
12 River Moose Hunter Working Group developed a system to  
13 control the number of hunters and one was the antler  
14 destruction. There was 700-something hunters coming  
15 into the Koyukuk and they were primarily killing all  
16 the big bulls and there was a lot of wanton waste going  
17 on. And so a component that we wrestled with with  
18 this, I mean we had people from Kenai, Wasilla,  
19 Anchorage, they brought all their friends, they had 10,  
20 15 people that liked to hunt with them and they were  
21 real concerned about cutting the antler on moose. They  
22 were like, that was sacrilegious, oh, my gosh, you're  
23 thinking about cutting the antler, but that was a  
24 necessary component. And when we got the Board -- the  
25 first year they just cut the antler off, well, they can  
26 just pin it back on to the skull and so then Glenn  
27 Stout saw that that's not working, we need to cut the  
28 top of the palm off and so we reconfigured and in 2002  
29 we got the top palm taken off and retained by the  
30 Department. That knocked the number of hunters right  
31 down, nobody wants to go all the way up there and shoot  
32 a moose if they can't keep the horns because you know  
33 that's all they're really there for. And so the number  
34 of hunters went way, way down.

35

36 The drawing was a part of it. So we  
37 had a 30 bull per 100 cow threshold, if we were 30  
38 bulls we're fine. If we start to drop below that then  
39 they keep trimming the number of drawing permits off.  
40 And the first thing to get trimmed is the drawing  
41 permits. And so last year it dropped to 29 bulls per  
42 100 cows or 28 something. And so Glenn cut some  
43 permits, drawing permits off. And so the drawing  
44 permits will keep dwindling if these moose numbers keep  
45 going down. And when Koyukuk/Nowitna Staff gets here  
46 we're going to want some moose numbers out of their  
47 report on what they're seeing there, what the age  
48 compositions and so forth are.

49

50 And so that's what that drawing permit

1 is. It's part of the moose hunting plan, and when we  
2 have good numbers of moose around -- but we had some  
3 bad snow years, we had some deep snow years. In 2008  
4 and 2009 that was real deep snow. Two years we had  
5 deep snow again and so we kept losing calves and so  
6 we're not recruiting young -- some younger moose pop --  
7 the younger part is not there.

8  
9 And, so, yeah, at our spring meeting  
10 we're going to want Glenn Stout justify retaining the  
11 drawing permit because we want to know what the --  
12 theoretically they'll have flown surveys right now,  
13 they'll fly it late this month, or early November and  
14 we'll know what the bull/cow ratios are and how many  
15 bulls we got and if there's not enough bulls there then  
16 we really should think about eliminating or, you know,  
17 a short-term elimination of a drawing permit, which  
18 attracts hunters to killing the largest moose.

19  
20 And so that was to answer your  
21 question. I appreciate all your comments.

22  
23 And that's my position on the fishery  
24 thing is that king -- yeah, the king salmon -- if we  
25 don't conserve the king salmon right now we're not  
26 going to have king salmon. And so there's fall chum  
27 and those -- I don't fish on the Yukon but I -- on  
28 FaceBook Stan Zuray's putting pictures on FaceBook of  
29 fall chum that are beautiful fish, they got red meat  
30 just like a sockeye and they're fat and they're going  
31 way to Canada and so nobody's going to tell me -- and  
32 I've had strips from people that have cut, didn't you  
33 have some at our meeting last year, Jenny, those fat  
34 chum are excellent fish, there's nobody going to tell  
35 me that they're bad fish. And so I don't want to hear  
36 this stuff that I have to have a king salmon, king  
37 salmon is not the only salmon in the Yukon or the  
38 Kuskokwim River. And so at this time we need to  
39 conserve. And a lot of people have spent a lot of time  
40 sitting on the beach conserving salmon and there are  
41 salmon to take but it's the fall, you know, after the  
42 middle of July, it's the fall -- late July -- it's the  
43 fall fishing is a nice fish to eat and I wished I had  
44 them at home. I don't have any fish at all. And so  
45 I'm right on board with you with these shifting -- and  
46 that's why I was talking to the managers that we need  
47 to conserve -- not have nearly as much commercial  
48 harvest on the fall chum as they would like because  
49 that's where the fishing is going to shift to is to the  
50 fall coho and fall chum.

1 I'll give my report.

2

3 The Chair's report. I attended the  
4 mid-April Federal Subsistence Board meeting. The make-  
5 up of the Board, as I described earlier has change and  
6 it's a night and day situation down at the Federal  
7 Subsistence Board. There used to be -- you were  
8 talking to Regional Directors and their Staff and some  
9 proposals were real hard -- and the State is there in  
10 full on force and so it's real hard to compete in a  
11 realm like that. Now, we have basically three rural  
12 users on the Board and so the agency Board members are  
13 -- in their deliberations -- those Board members can  
14 make valid comments about what they're -- why they're  
15 going to vote certain ways and what they're going to do  
16 and that makes a big difference in how the Board works.  
17 And so for the Council members who have not attended a  
18 Federal Subsistence Board meeting, the make up -- new  
19 change in the Board make up has made a big difference  
20 in getting what subsistence users really need.

21

22 Basically all of our proposals before  
23 the Federal Board were either on the consent agenda or  
24 the fought proposals, I was successful in talking the  
25 Board into -- giving valid points about why to adopt  
26 these proposals and so it was very important that I was  
27 actually at that meeting.

28

29 So we had an ontime -- last year we had  
30 a real late spring and so up in the northern part of  
31 the region we have moose and dall sheep are a major  
32 part of subsistence use and so grazing animals, late  
33 spring is real hard on grazing animals. The caribou  
34 and the moose took a real beating. It didn't even  
35 start to break up until late May, lambs were born in  
36 snow to the belly of the ewe when it should have been  
37 melted at southfacing slopes. We lost all of our  
38 yearlings, we lost all of our lambs last year and the  
39 caribou were pretty much in real hardship because the  
40 caribou rely on the tundra opening up and blossoming.  
41 There's all these tussock blossoms. And when that  
42 didn't happen the caribou were emaciated condition and  
43 then calving and so they lost all their calves also.

44

45 And so this spring I was watching dall  
46 sheep and there were 37 ewes that I watched all the way  
47 through May, there was not one lamb born in May, not  
48 one single lamb was born in May, and I watched them all  
49 the time because I was hunting up the Valley, I was  
50 hunting ducks up there and I was watching these sheep

1 all the time. Those ewes finally had one lamb in June.  
2 One lamb. Only one. So we have no two year olds, we  
3 have no yearlings, and we have no lambs right now. But  
4 the spring this year was on time and then it rained for  
5 -- all summer long, as everybody knows, well, that's  
6 actually a big deal for the bumble bees and flying  
7 insects, pollinating insects could not pollinate the  
8 flowers and I saw flowers blossoming for about a month  
9 to six weeks longer, which is a big deal because that's  
10 what caribou and sheep eat is flowers, that's protein,  
11 and they're eating all these flowers for a long period  
12 of time. So the health of the animals looks real good.  
13 If we don't get another bad winter I'm hoping we're  
14 going to start to see good lamb and caribou calf  
15 production.

16

17 I want the Council to be aware of that.

18

19 I saw moose that were in excellent  
20 shape. I killed a yearling moose. I thought it was a  
21 two year old. I was faked out. I thought it was a two  
22 year old, it was so huge. It had palms, like great big  
23 palms just like a two year old, but when I killed it I  
24 was like this doesn't look like two year old, it was  
25 narrow, he was tall but he was narrow and when I boiled  
26 the bones -- I cook the bones, and the bulgi pops off  
27 the bone on a yearling and I was like, oh, this is a  
28 yearling, I was dumbfounded at how huge that yearling  
29 bull was. And I see that a lot. And I will be  
30 encouraging the surveys this fall when they're  
31 surveying moose to be very cautious about the comp  
32 counts -- the enumerate yearling bulls, that gives you  
33 how many yearling cows you have and so yearlings are  
34 usually are very small palms and little forks, or  
35 spikes, well, I'm going to caution all the managers  
36 you're going to have to be real careful about what  
37 you're looking at because you're going to start  
38 thinking that there's a lot of two year olds and no  
39 yearling bulls and oh my gosh we don't have recruitment  
40 here, no, actually the moose are in real good shape.  
41 And I'm expecting a real high twining rate next year.  
42 All the cow moose I saw were really fat.

43

44 And so that's all down. I mean we had  
45 a bad year and if we have a good winter, things should  
46 look up a little bit.

47

48 The problem is we have three lamb years  
49 -- or three years of no recruiting sheep and we have  
50 hunting guides just pounding the tar. And there was a

1 hunting guide that's in Wiseman, his airplanes flew 300  
2 percent more than he did last year, which means he's  
3 hunting -- he's having no success but he's going to  
4 kill every last adult ram he can find. The problem is  
5 we're looking at a ram cliff. We have -- they're  
6 killing everything from seven and eight years old when  
7 they become legal at full-curl or eight years old, so  
8 they're killing everything above that and we had bad  
9 winters to reduce the older animals anyways and then we  
10 have three years of gap. So in four years we'll have  
11 no rams. And I want this Council to be aware that  
12 within four years in the Central Brooks Range we're not  
13 going to have any rams. We're not going to have a  
14 breeding component. And I want the managers to start  
15 there. I want Erin to go back to her office and start  
16 talking about that, what are we going to do because  
17 this full-curl restriction is not the cureall when you  
18 have full-on exportation -- extrapation. You're  
19 annihilating the sheep population to the point where we  
20 won't have a breeding component, and I want the  
21 managers -- I want this to be incorporated into our  
22 annual report, that I want the managers to come up with  
23 a management strategy to address this issue. This is  
24 not a little issue, this is a big issue. And the BLM  
25 is one of the major landholders in the Central Brooks  
26 Range. So I want that on the record also.

27

28 We have a caribou population decline in  
29 the Western Arctic and I want to get that on the record  
30 further on in our -- the Western Arctic Herd dropped  
31 from 490,000 to 232,000 and I'm real concerned about  
32 that. I'm real concerned about Teshekpuk caribou. I'm  
33 real concerned about the hunting regulation changes  
34 that occurred on Unit 26B, which is where the Haul Road  
35 goes to Prudhoe Bay where they allowed -- in 2010 they  
36 allowed hunters to take -- a change from not being able  
37 to take cow caribou before October 1 to being able to  
38 take cow caribou on July 1. Well, cow caribou lead  
39 migrations and so when they start killing all the lead  
40 cows en mass, when you give people a five caribou  
41 limit, boat hunters were going outside the Dalton  
42 Highway Corridor in the Ivashak in (Indiscernible)  
43 airboats and jet boats and they pounded the front end  
44 of those caribou herds and I know pilots that tell me  
45 for a fact that major, 7,000, 8,000 caribou herds were  
46 deflected completely off to the east or completely away  
47 from the Dalton Highway Corridor. It's not a little  
48 deal. In Anaktuvuk Pass you cannot culturally go out  
49 in front of the village and shoot any caribou before  
50 they lay down the trail, everybody knows that. But

1 apparently the Board of Game doesn't know that because  
2 they let hunters kill cow caribou before October 1.

3

4                   And I would like this Council to make  
5 comments to the Western Arctic Caribou Working Group  
6 and to the Board of Game to rescind the -- because  
7 Anaktuvuk Pass has no caribou at all and they're like  
8 wondering what in the heck happened to the caribou,  
9 well, I got a telemetry map that shows that the caribou  
10 start to come near the Dalton Highway Corridor and  
11 they're completely deflected off to the east. The  
12 hunting pressure from the Dalton Highway completely  
13 pushed the Central Arctic Herd away from the Central  
14 Brooks Range and away from Anaktuvuk Pass. I haven't  
15 seen a -- since 2010 I've seen very few caribou in the  
16 Dalton Highway Corridor because of this problem.

17

18                   So this Council should transmit letters  
19 on recommendations for hunting changes for especially  
20 -- because people are like, well, those are Arctic  
21 Caribou, no, those feed into Anaktuvuk Pass, Allakaket,  
22 Bettles, those communities high in the Brooks Range  
23 like that are utilizing Central Arctic Caribou because  
24 that herd is still healthy. They didn't get the ice  
25 events that the Western Herds got. The Western Herd  
26 has declined strictly because of deep snow years and  
27 ice on the ground and Jim Dau will tell you all about  
28 that, the biologist over in Kotzebue.

29

30                   And so I am -- I also wanted to bring  
31 up an issue in my report, during all of these closures  
32 on the Yukon River, all of these fishermen sat on the  
33 beach, Don and Jenny and everybody sat on the beach  
34 they were using dipnets, four inch mesh gear, all these  
35 restrictions but when -- as the salmon started to meet  
36 escapement needs into Canada I was on FaceBook and I  
37 see a guy at Manley, who I found out is a cop at North  
38 Pole, fishing with some relatives in Manley holding up  
39 a great big king salmon with net marks way back on the  
40 fish, I was like that's caught in king gear, wait a  
41 minute, what's going on here. Come to find out Fish  
42 and Game opened the Tanana River to 7.5 inch net. I  
43 was -- I am not real happy about that. I got a hold of  
44 the in-season manager and was very unhappy to hear that  
45 they were fishing 7.5 gear in the Tanana River when  
46 everybody else was on restrictions and the Chena River  
47 did not meet escapement needs last year. And this is  
48 happening during the high water event year when the  
49 Chena River was going -- they had to shut the flood  
50 gates a whole bunch of times, well, the spawning

1 stocks, even if they're going to spawn this year are  
2 going to get silted in, it's going to be a bad year for  
3 the spawning for king salmon in the middle of July and  
4 I am very concerned about that.

5  
6 I want to put that on the record to  
7 this Council that I'm very unhappy that the use of what  
8 everybody else on the whole Yukon River, all the way to  
9 the border was on restrictions but Tanana River is  
10 using 7.5 inch king gear which nobody else in the whole  
11 drainage has been able to use that since it's been  
12 implemented.

13  
14 I feel that that was wrong. That those  
15 stocks that go into the Tanana River are also part of  
16 the subsistence stocks that everybody uses all the way  
17 to the mouth and so what's good for the goose is good  
18 for the gander. And so I don't want to -- I would like  
19 this Council further on in our deliberations on various  
20 issues, at some point, to transmit that to the State,  
21 that there should not be disparent management actions  
22 taken if everybody's had severe restrictions. Because  
23 there was -- it was completely unwarranted, they had no  
24 idea if they were going to meet escapement needs on the  
25 Chena or the Salcha River.

26  
27 I was contacted by Orville Huntington  
28 about the people in Nulato not meeting their needs for  
29 moose and he was saying that people down there in  
30 Nulato would like to see a season similar to what they  
31 have in 21B, that the season continues from -- would go  
32 from September 5th to October 1, instead of closing on  
33 the 25th. And the Innoko Flats, or the Kaiyuh Flats is  
34 what everybody calls it, that portion, this Council can  
35 make a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board to  
36 provide an additional five days or six days of hunting  
37 for Nulato and so I would like to see that, if we had a  
38 subsistence priority on community -- on Native  
39 Corporation lands at this time that would -- that we  
40 could make it a blanket opening until October 1, but  
41 that's not going to happen any time soon.

42  
43 That would be my report of concerns and  
44 what I've been up to.

45  
46 So that's the Chair's report.

47  
48 Any questions about my report.

49  
50 Jenny.

1 MS. PELKOLA: I don't have a question  
2 but I have a comment.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure.

5  
6 MS. PELKOLA: Koyukuk also wrote a  
7 letter, it must have been to the State and they  
8 requested the same thing that Nulato did and they got  
9 rejected so I got the letter right here.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. The Innoko  
12 Flats, by composition count has a real high bull/cow  
13 ratio so this proposal's not -- is much easier to sell  
14 to the Federal Subsistence Board for Innoko October 1  
15 closure than it was in 21B in the Novi. And so I feel  
16 that this Council can make that proposal to the Federal  
17 Subsistence Board for Koyukuk, Nulato and Kaltag.

18  
19 Any other questions.

20  
21 Ray.

22  
23 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I had a comment on  
24 the sheep. We're seeing the same thing in the Alaska  
25 Range, that almost every full-curl ram is taken out and  
26 I wonder what the long-term implications are there.  
27 Because as I understand it the rams stay with the ewe's  
28 until they're what, three years old or so, and then  
29 they join those older rams. Well, those older rams  
30 that have several years, they had the experience of  
31 leading those groups. They've had good winters, bad  
32 winters and so on and they're passing their knowledge  
33 on to the younger ones about where to go. When you  
34 take that component out and then you have weather  
35 events and so on there, I'm thinking long-term we may  
36 be damaging the health of the sheep population just by  
37 removing the knowledge that those older rams have and I  
38 don't know if there's any studies done on that or not  
39 but I think it has to be looked at as you manage those,  
40 how you're impacting the sheep by just taking out the  
41 oldest most knowledgeable and who are the main  
42 breeders, too.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, sheep are a  
45 real interesting animal and there's a lot of  
46 documentation about North American sheep and they all  
47 -- it doesn't matter if it's a big horn or whatever  
48 kind of a sub-species we have here, they all basically  
49 think the same way because they're the same animal.  
50 They're just sub-species. So the ram leaves the ewe

1 groups when he's two years old, he goes and he finds  
2 some rams and when he follows those rams around, and  
3 where they go in the springtime, they follow them to  
4 there, they go to the breeding area in the fall, and  
5 then they stay with them through the wintering areas  
6 and those rams -- those old rams know where to go to  
7 get to windblown slopes and there's places where they  
8 know where they can get -- yeah, it's a big deal.

9  
10                   You start wiping out all those -- the  
11 other aspect that they don't think about, they can't  
12 conceive is that those older rams are real good about  
13 staying away from predators. They're very important  
14 about how to stay away. So you need some older rams in  
15 the population, you can't just clear-cut the forest and  
16 have nothing but stumps out there. You need to have  
17 some older rams in the population for predator evasion  
18 and range knowledge and they're a very, very social  
19 animal. As that young ram grows up he'll follow that  
20 exact same pattern and it's actually documented. We  
21 got real biologists out here that can draw up all that  
22 information. It's documented over and over and over,  
23 that those sheep, they have -- and you can train them  
24 to stay away from -- the old timers, they used to wipe  
25 sheep out in certain areas with market hunting, sheep  
26 are terrified -- for decades, they won't go back to  
27 those mountains because they got scared to death, they  
28 kept getting killed off there. And so sheep are very  
29 social animals, unlike a moose, a moose, you know, it  
30 kind of does whatever moose do and they live by  
31 themselves but sheep learn from older animals.

32  
33                   And another problem we've been having  
34 is that the Department of Fish and Game, some of the  
35 guides are sealing sheep that are either right at eight  
36 years old or in question of being eight years old. And  
37 I had Justin Rogers, Srgt. Rogers from Fish and  
38 Wildlife Protection come to my house and talk to me  
39 about this issue. They've had multiple cases where  
40 they've had biologists with the Alaska Department of  
41 Fish and Game say this sheep doesn't really look legal  
42 but I don't really want to go to court with these  
43 hunting guides and so I'm going to let it go. And so  
44 there's sheep that are slipping by that are actually  
45 below legal requirements because counting rings in  
46 horns to count eight years old has a questionable  
47 validity in court.

48  
49                   And so I intend to submit a proposal.  
50 We have documentation that Trent got for me last year

1 that you can cut the front incisor on dall sheep and if  
2 -- it's my intention to submit a State proposal that if  
3 you kill a sheep that's under full-curl, you're going  
4 to bring in the front incisor, it's only this big, it  
5 weighs about three ounces. If the Board thinks that's  
6 the straw that's going to break their back well then  
7 too bad, because it's a lot lighter animal. If he's  
8 that small he's going to be about 25/30 percent lighter  
9 than an adult ram. And so the bottom line is we got a  
10 management problem where I live, big time, and if you  
11 got the same thing down here, it's a -- I'm going to  
12 submit it as a statewide proposal so you'll see it at  
13 the McGrath Advisory also.

14

15                   It's a big problem. We are wiping out  
16 our sheep populations. We've got bad years. We got no  
17 recruitment. This is not a little problem, this is a  
18 big major problem. And the Department, they make  
19 around 2,000 bucks a sheep. How do they make 2,000  
20 bucks a sheep, they sell big game locking tags that are  
21 \$424 or 50 whatever they are and then they got a \$85  
22 non-resident hunting license and for every dollar they  
23 sell in license they get \$3 in Federal excise taxes,  
24 it's called Pittman-Roberts Funds, they're wildlife  
25 restoration funds, so the sheep is worth almost 2,000  
26 bucks apiece. And so the Department being an unfunded  
27 agency is reluctant to cut any kind of sheep hunting  
28 opportunity. And the BLM follows them right down the  
29 chute. That's my problem is the BLM -- oh, the State  
30 says it's fine so it's okay. No, it's not, under  
31 ANILCA, the agencies are required to manage wildlife  
32 using sound recognized scientific principles. Period.  
33 ANILCA's not just a subsistence priority, it's a  
34 management directive from Congress for using recognized  
35 scientific principles. And so I want these agencies to  
36 start looking at this sheep problem on the BLM and  
37 Refuge, primarily Refuge lands and I would like the  
38 State agencies also to do that.

39

40                   Any other comments.

41

42                   MR. HONEA: If I may.

43

44                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

45

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

47

48                   I guess that's why you know Jack is the  
49 Chair, because he's up on a lot of issues. He keeps us  
50 on track on these and I thank him for it.

1 Good morning, Kenton.

2

3 I, too, was kind of surprised -- taking  
4 some of your -- the fishing issues, at the opening on  
5 the Tanana River. I mean I didn't see any  
6 justification for that and I -- you know, to this day  
7 I'm still wondering why. For the record, I mean since  
8 Ben is here, maybe you could take this to the State if  
9 you work with the -- I mean with the TCC and fishing  
10 groups. And one of the things I do not like about the  
11 State imposing on us at the last minute, the 11th hour  
12 or something, the week before fishing, is the four inch  
13 net size or whatever we get, I mean -- I mean if you're  
14 sitting there with a six inch mesh, 6.5, 7, something,  
15 whatever they passed out a few years ago and that's all  
16 you have and they say, well, you know, it's open now  
17 and give you that much time, you don't have the money  
18 or the capacity to get something and I do not like  
19 that. I don't know -- it's a pet-peeve of mine that,  
20 you know, maybe it's echoed throughout the Yukon  
21 drainage or not, but just for the record I would like,  
22 maybe TCC to work in collaboration with the State on  
23 something like that.

24

25 I appreciate your report, Jack.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. And  
28 that covers my report and the Council reports.

29

30 MR. GERVAIS: I just had a comment,  
31 Jack.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

34

35 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, Jack. When you  
36 were speaking of the dollar value of revenue for Fish  
37 and Game on the sheep, it's appropriate to request from  
38 somebody in Fish and Game, I don't know if it's Cora  
39 Campbell or one of the managers that's attending or  
40 listening to our meeting, but I would like some kind of  
41 statement from Fish and Game on how they balance that  
42 issue, whether it's, you know, the \$2,000 for a ram or  
43 it's the one percent fish tax that the State's  
44 receiving for the pollock harvest, I'd like someone  
45 from Fish and Game to state how they put that into  
46 their management analysis on how important is the  
47 revenue compared to how important is the spawning  
48 resource or the amount of rams left or the subsistence  
49 resource or just the resource in general. Obviously it  
50 costs money to run the Department of Fish and game, but

1 I think Fish and Game needs to communicate to us how  
2 they evaluate the economic component of their  
3 management decisions because it is a factor and we need  
4 to be aware of it as the Council.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim.

7

8 Yeah, I -- well, what I see is in the  
9 composition survey for the dall sheep up where I live  
10 is that they used to say full-curl and now they just  
11 say legal, and it was like, yeah, well, they're sealing  
12 all these 7/8 sheep, I guess they're calling them  
13 legal, so it's the definition has changed. And so they  
14 say there's a stable legal population. No, the number  
15 of legal adult full-curl rams has gone way, way down,  
16 but what they're sealing is static and so that's the  
17 problem. Because they don't -- the Department looks at  
18 it as a cash cow. That's what the Department looks at  
19 it as so they sway the Board. When the Board's in  
20 deliberation I can't talk to the Board but the  
21 Department can, they can talk until they're blue in the  
22 face with the Board and so they push a certain line to  
23 the Board of Game, and so I see that all the time at  
24 the Board process. The Department gets their weigh --  
25 has way more weight at the table than the average  
26 Alaskan, or even an Advisory Committee or a Council,  
27 because the Department has free will at the  
28 deliberation process as where we do not. And so that's  
29 kind of a big problem.

30

31 And so they're never going to state for  
32 the record that they're looking at revenue sources,  
33 they're not going to do that. It's a subliminal thing.

34

35 You have another comment there, Tim.

36

37 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, well, I think we  
38 should write them a letter and ask them to state what  
39 the -- what is their analysis of the economic issue  
40 because it's there. It's not like they need to hide it  
41 or anything. We know it cost money to have a  
42 Department of Fish and Game, we know it cost money to  
43 have Fish and Wildlife Protection Troopers, we know it  
44 cost money so just talk to us, explain to us how you  
45 evaluate it and then we could provide some feedback on  
46 -- how we -- how we feel how appropriate it is.

47

48 It doesn't hurt to ask. And I think  
49 we're seeing it in so many issues, whether it's pollock  
50 fishery or big game or sportfishing, it's a major

1 component and it shouldn't be a secret mystical thing,  
2 the Department should say this is how important we  
3 think the revenue is and that's why we manage it this  
4 way or this particular decision in this case was  
5 uneconomic because of such and such, just explain how  
6 they're managing.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, many year ago  
9 when I first got on the Koyukuk River Advisory I was  
10 talking to Tim Osbourne down there in Galena and he  
11 goes -- I was talking about various issues, you know,  
12 about we need to reduce the number of hunters on the  
13 Koyukuk and so the non-residents should be some of the  
14 first to go and he says, well, we have a saying here at  
15 the Department, game must pay and I was like, game must  
16 pay, what are you talking about and he explained to me  
17 what the funding source was for the Alaska Department  
18 of Fish and Game, that's who enlightened me to what  
19 this problem is. Is that the Department is an unfunded  
20 agency, except for small appropriations periodically  
21 from the Legislature, the Department -- Alaska  
22 Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Conservation  
23 relies on license sales and Pittman-Roberts Funds. The  
24 State of Alaska's too cheap to fund fish and wildlife  
25 management. That's the problem.

26

27 And so when we have this kind of drive  
28 for revenue, yeah, we need biologists, we need -- it's  
29 a very -- Alaska Department of Fish -- I feel it's a  
30 travesty that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
31 should be weighing the health of a resource for its  
32 funding source. I think that's an absolute travesty.  
33 I think that the Governor and the Legislator is  
34 absolutely derelict in their Constitutional Mandate for  
35 sustained yield, but I can't do anything about that  
36 politics. The reality is the Department gets a one-  
37 eyed objective of trying to develop revenue sources for  
38 the Department and so this should never be happening.  
39 The State of Alaska -- we used to have \$17 billion in  
40 the bank, they should have been appropriating at least  
41 half of the wildlife conservation's funding source of a  
42 \$30 million, they should have gave them half the money  
43 and let them get the rest from the Federal government,  
44 or at least -- and then they actually would have  
45 attracted the Pittman-Roberts Funds on that  
46 appropriation. And so Alaska's management for rural  
47 Alaskans, we're getting pounded because we need all  
48 this participation and strictly because of a revenue  
49 source.

50

1                   And so the tier is inverted. I don't  
2 care what the State says, the tier is inverted. The  
3 highest priority on the State's system is the revenue  
4 generation. That's the non-resident hunter with the  
5 big tag fees and then the Pittman-Roberts Funds. The  
6 middle tier is the political entities out of the urban  
7 centers, they have the biggest political pull. They  
8 can buy the -- they buy their legislators, they got a  
9 lot of population and they got a big pool with the  
10 Legislature, the Senate, House and the Governor. The  
11 lowest tier is your subsistence hunter and rural Alaska  
12 who buys a \$5 license, he's \$20, they look at him as a  
13 \$20 revenue source. The Department thinks of -- yeah,  
14 they have to -- under subsistence laws they have to --  
15 but that's not the way they think about the money  
16 train. The train is in a tier weighted towards to the  
17 non-resident hunter and so the last -- in their mind  
18 the last one to go is the non-resident hunter. They'll  
19 shoot the populations right to the nubs, 19A moose, six  
20 to eight bulls per 100 cows. The people down there  
21 were screaming but the guides were -- I was at the  
22 Board of Game meeting and the guides were down there  
23 like no, no, don't cut us off, don't cut us off on  
24 Mulchatna, the herd's going over a cliff, they killed  
25 them to 8-14 bulls per 100 cows, nope, we can't cut  
26 them off, we need a revenue source here.

27  
28                   These populations -- some of the worst  
29 places is where they've allowed non-residents to  
30 participate at high levels for way, way too long that's  
31 why we're going to be talking to Glenn about this  
32 drawing permit on the Koyukuk.

33  
34                   So we ought to move off that dime, I  
35 get a little wound up, sorry.

36  
37                   (Laughter)

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we're at our  
40 presentation of service awards -- no -- Melinda.

41  
42                   MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. We still need  
43 to just quickly review the .805(c) report and the  
44 annual report reply. The annual report reply in  
45 particular highlights a lot of issues that have been  
46 hot topics for this Council for quite some time but  
47 let's go ahead with the .805(c) letter. I know you've  
48 already covered some of your observations from the  
49 Board meeting, but we can review that and I believe  
50 we've got a slight correction to make as well.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so the  
2 .805(c) is on Page 13 of our book here.

3

4 MS. BURKE: Yes.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And has the Council  
7 reviewed the .805(c) report. Basically it goes over  
8 other proposals that the Board rejected or adopted or  
9 tabled, no action taken.

10

11 And as I read through the .805(c)  
12 report, I came to Proposal WP14-32, which was submitted  
13 by Robert Walker to modify the Paradise Controlled Use  
14 Area in 21E, that proposal looked bleak at the Federal  
15 Board, and the State was fighting heavily on the  
16 position that those were primarily State managed lands,  
17 et cetera until I enlightened the Board that those were  
18 actually Native Corporation lands that were closed to  
19 the public, those are only open to the shareholders.  
20 When the Board realized that those were Native Corp  
21 lands and not State lands, or BLM, other lands, then  
22 they adopted -- did not reject the proposal, they  
23 adopted the proposal. So the record should -- in our  
24 Board book here, our Council book, should be under  
25 Proposal 14-32 the proposal was adopted, and the  
26 justification was in my testimony, which is on the  
27 record, that those are Native Corporation lands and  
28 that swayed the Board, especially the rural Board  
29 members. They really swayed on that one.

30

31 And so that would be my comment on the  
32 .805(c) report. Any other comments from the Council.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Melinda.

37

38 MS. BURKE: And that correction,  
39 Council, Page 18, it's there under WP14-32, just a  
40 typographic error there on the Board action. Thanks  
41 for catching that, Jack.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was sent this  
44 letter in the summer but I started reading through it  
45 and got distracted and didn't get to that one. My  
46 fault also, I'll take equal responsibility.

47

48 Any other comments on the .805(c)  
49 letter by the Council.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, we'll  
4 move on to our annual report reply.

5

6 MS. BURKE: And that begins on Page 19.

7

8 No. 1 here is the concerns regarding  
9 the Innoko Refuge closure and there is an enclosure --  
10 excuse me -- letter dated May 5th, to Mayor Lyman and  
11 that includes some of the cost analysis that was --  
12 that was brought up earlier.

13

14 And we'll -- I'll just read off the  
15 topics here and then if there's any discussion  
16 here.....

17

18 No. 2. Encouraging the Secretaries to  
19 advocate for Title VIII and subsistence users with  
20 regard to the North Pacific Fisheries Management  
21 Council.

22

23 Our third topic was continued concern  
24 with escapement levels on the Yukon and Kuskokwim  
25 Rivers.

26

27 And the late Secretarial appointments  
28 to the Council was -- was number 4. The Council's  
29 written a lot of correspondence and we do have a  
30 presentation later in the meeting regarding that issue  
31 where we'll be able to make further recommendations,  
32 and there's been some suggestions from our office on  
33 how to start modifying that process.

34

35 And then No. 5 was the weight of  
36 Council comments at the Alaska Board of Game, Board of  
37 Fish.

38

39 Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Melinda.

42

43 Under No. 2 here. I really enjoyed  
44 reading the response. I mean this was a very  
45 enlightening response. It betrays that Senator Mark  
46 Begich, as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oceans and  
47 Atmosphere was incorporating this representation to the  
48 Management Council to add subsistence to the fisheries  
49 categories eligible for representation on the regional  
50 fishery management councils. That's a very important

1 thing. And so I would like to encourage that tribal  
2 councils, each tribal council can transmit letters to  
3 the Senate and House. The House, you know, Mr. Young,  
4 is -- he does not, however, have a subsistence seat on  
5 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, so I feel  
6 that TCC and people who can apply political pressure  
7 should be leveraging the House of Representatives to  
8 incorporate that seat and also leveraging the Senate.  
9 But I can't do that. But I would encourage everybody  
10 who politically can, to do that, to leverage for a  
11 subsistence seat, which is what Tim has been requesting  
12 for a long time now.

13

14 And so I was real happy to read this  
15 response. I really liked this annual report reply. It  
16 was very clear. It was actually enlightening to this  
17 Council and so I was real happy with this annual report  
18 reply and glad that we've made enough noise in this  
19 late Secretarial appointments to the Councils that --  
20 that OSM is looking for avenues and will give us  
21 reports on avenues to give -- alleviate some of the  
22 late appointments, which this Council will get into  
23 that.

24

25 So any other comments from the Council  
26 on the annual report reply.

27

28 MS. PELKOLA: Jack.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead,  
31 Jenny.

32

33 MS. PELKOLA: Yes, is this the place  
34 where we bring in the concerns about when our tribe  
35 wrote a letter regarding the Innoko closure.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That actually could  
38 be in the new annual report, if there was enough -- you  
39 know, if there was a lack of consultation on --  
40 exterior to the Innoko closure. That could be an item  
41 for our next annual report. This is just what we did  
42 last year, this is the response we got from last year.  
43 But we'll get to, in our agenda here, we'll be asking  
44 for annual report topics and we could incorporate that  
45 into next years -- this year's annual report topic.

46

47 MS. PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks.

50

1                   You had a comment, Don.

2

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

4 Yeah, I did if we're open for discussion on Topic No.  
5 3.

6

7                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

8

9                   MR. HONEA: Just listening to the AFN  
10 report by the Kuskokwim Working Group, I believe it  
11 was, maybe Tim Andrews, or something, it was kind of  
12 confusing what happened on the Kuskokwim this summer to  
13 me and he kind of enlightened me on that and just  
14 watching the AFN proceedings on the fish and game. But  
15 the fact that because the Federal takeover or  
16 overseeing of fishing from maybe the mouth up to  
17 Bethel, and then with Federal oversight and then from  
18 there up to McGrath or the headwaters or whatever up  
19 this way, was under State control, and really -- really  
20 very confusing. And I guess I wanted to maybe bring  
21 that up for a point of discussion or something as to  
22 what -- maybe Ray has a comment on this or I -- I think  
23 you reported something like that this summer as -- as  
24 being I don't know, I think it's really unfair to the  
25 people up here for them to have an open season down  
26 here and yet to not have that same opportunity any --  
27 anything on that.

28

29                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: On Page 22 through  
30 23 in this response it gives what the escapement was on  
31 the Kuskokwim River, again, a very enlightening  
32 response.

33

34                   You got a comment, answer to Don,  
35 there, Ray.

36

37                   MR. COLLINS: Well, yeah, they couldn't  
38 impose up here -- actually there were closures imposed  
39 all the way up the river. They were allowed to fish up  
40 here early on and then it closed a little bit later up  
41 here. I'm not concerned -- well, yeah, it's true that  
42 they're not Federal waters up here so the same  
43 regulations -- Federals couldn't step in and control  
44 it, but I think the State did a pretty good job of  
45 managing the closures all the way up the river. And  
46 the main thing that made a difference for escapement up  
47 here was that early closure down below, which they paid  
48 a price down at the lower river because they used to  
49 hit early in the season, they had better drying weather  
50 and they hit the kings pretty hard early in the season

1 and that was closed this year, so they did pay a price  
2 down there. But they always seem to meet their  
3 subsistence needs there because there's alternate fish.  
4 All the fish in the river go right by those villages.

5  
6 And what we did in terms of action to  
7 alleviate the loss of kings is, we got them to hold off  
8 on the commercial for silvers because -- to allow some  
9 more of those to get up river. And that was down in  
10 the Federal waters down there. We were able to push  
11 and get that through so that they delayed the opening  
12 of any harvest of silvers down there to allow more fish  
13 up river to meet the needs up the river -- mid-river  
14 and that made a difference.

15  
16 So we worked pretty well as an Advisory  
17 Group to look at the needs of all the river.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I listened in on a  
20 lot of that Kuskokwim River Salmon Working Group  
21 discussions in the winter and various -- I kept getting  
22 emails and getting a lot of the data, the Kuskokwim  
23 River Working Group was integral on meeting the  
24 escapement needs of chinook salmon on the Kuskokwim  
25 River so I was very, very pleased with your work Ray.

26  
27 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I wanted to  
30 commend you for working real hard on -- because last  
31 year was a bleak year, far, far below the escapement  
32 needs for chinook salmon on the Kuskokwim River.

33  
34 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So did you have any  
37 comments on this annual report, Tim, don't want to  
38 forget you.

39  
40 MR. GERVAIS: No. Just appreciate your  
41 comments.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, okay, that  
44 pretty well covers the annual report.

45  
46 And so we're at what point here,  
47 Melinda.

48  
49 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair, we are back  
50 -- back -- back on the agenda, we've got the

1 presentation of service awards. We've got -- we've got  
2 one award that should have been presented last year.  
3 This Council was one of the Councils that fell victim  
4 to the furlough and our -- and our schedule really got  
5 -- got switched around so -- so this Council member was  
6 not actually in the country when -- when we were hoping  
7 to -- to present this award to him at our followup  
8 meeting, but Ray Collins now has -- it'll be 21 years  
9 this year, but last year marked 20 years of Ray serving  
10 on the Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory  
11 Council so we've got a -- a great plague here to -- to  
12 present to him as -- as well as a gift and I know,  
13 Jack, you've known Ray for a real long time so if  
14 there's anything specific you'd like to throw in there.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I've been on  
17 the Council -- the first meeting we had of the Western  
18 Interior Council was in McGrath, the room was packed,  
19 packed full of agency people, everybody was here to  
20 find out what is this Council stuff going to be, what  
21 is subsistence, everybody was all confused. We were  
22 charged with inventing the wheel. What's an annual  
23 report, we developed the annual report. This Council  
24 pretty much developed the annual report. And so Ray --  
25 when I heard about Ray, there's a Ray Collins that  
26 lives in Minchumina, I was like is that the same Ray,  
27 no, it's a different guy, and I've known Ray now for 21  
28 years, he's been a real hard worker for this Council.  
29 Was Chair -- weren't you the first Chair.

30  
31 MR. COLLINS: Sometime.

32  
33 (Laughter)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I think you  
36 were the first Chair of this Council.

37  
38 MR. COLLINS: I think that's a memory  
39 test.

40  
41 (Laughter)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I think you  
44 were the first Chair. And so Ray's done an excellent  
45 job for this Council and all of his input is always  
46 highly valued by the Western Interior Regional Council.

47  
48 So thanks so much for your 21 years of  
49 service Ray.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MS. BURKE: And presented in the room,  
4 we've got a -- we've got a -- a great knife here for --  
5 for Ray to use, and we also have a framed plaque, which  
6 includes a piece of artwork that a student from the  
7 region has created. Every year we have our art contest  
8 and the kids submit art and some of those pieces make  
9 it into the regulation books, on the cover and  
10 throughout the -- throughout the book, the Federal  
11 Subsistence Board votes on these pieces of art at the  
12 winter meeting and I went back into the archives and  
13 found a really great piece that I -- I thought would --  
14 would be good for Ray -- Jack, as well, received this  
15 same plaque last year so it's a -- it's a little log  
16 cabin up on a hill, there's a fish drawing and it's a  
17 really great -- a great piece of work that I think -- I  
18 think that it was a real appropriate picture for both  
19 Ray and Jack to receive for their 20 year awards.  
20 There -- there's just a few Council members throughout  
21 the 10 regions that have 20 years of service, which  
22 means that they've been on the Regional Advisory  
23 Council since the -- since the start of -- of the  
24 program. So it's a real great accomplishment, it shows  
25 the -- the dedication that Ray has and -- and it's just  
26 really great to -- to be able to present it to him.  
27 We're a year late but we wanted to do it here in his  
28 home community.

29

30 So thank you so much, Ray. I know  
31 personally it's -- it's a great pleasure to -- every  
32 time I come here, every conversation I have with Ray I  
33 -- I learn quite a bit. So always a pleasure and real  
34 happy we could do this here in McGrath.

35

36 The second one we have is for Mr. Don  
37 Honea, 10 years.

38

39 (Applause)

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, yeah, it's been  
42 10 years, Don. Time flies.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And, of course, you  
47 skipped out on our last meeting but that wasn't your  
48 fault.

49

50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we always  
2 have appreciated your presence on the Council. Also  
3 you give a good insight from your area there and  
4 longstanding and respected member of your community.  
5 and so I always appreciate your input into this  
6 Council. This is a big region and we need every last  
7 person present, our Council members at our Council  
8 meetings. And so last spring I was like feeling your  
9 lack and so I'm glad you're back now.

10

11 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And thanks for your  
14 10 years of service.

15

16 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

17

18 (Applause)

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

21

22 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Jack, I would like  
23 to make some comments.

24

25 I thank you very much. I appreciate  
26 the recognition of that service. But for me this whole  
27 endeavor is kind of payback because in 1963 I moved to  
28 Nikolai and the people there took me in and taught me  
29 their language and shared their culture with me and so  
30 my challenge has been to -- and I was able to use that  
31 when I went to work for the University in teaching  
32 courses about Native cultures of Alaska, and they've  
33 given me the information that I've been able to use on  
34 the State Fish and Game Advisory and on the Federal  
35 Advisory so it's kind of payback because it's been a  
36 very rich life. And every time I think about maybe  
37 it's time to step down it seems there's ongoing issues  
38 that are still unresolved and as long as I feel I can  
39 continue to make a difference -- it's really important  
40 that we try to make these systems work for the villages  
41 as has come up here, and I found myself kind of in a  
42 medium position of knowing about the Federal systems  
43 and knowing about village life and to try to bring  
44 those together and make them work. And so that's been  
45 my challenge and what I've tried to do and I hope I've  
46 accomplished something in that.

47

48 So thank you for this recognition.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

1 MS. PELKOLA: I would just like to add  
2 that before I met Ray he was working at the University  
3 of Alaska and he was teaching and he was one of my  
4 teachers in something and he was a good teacher. And,  
5 anyway, when I got on the Board I met him and I said,  
6 are you the same Ray Collins that used to teach and he  
7 said yes and I said, well, you know, I'm one of your  
8 students so, you know, I was one of your students and I  
9 learned a lot from him the short time I've been on the  
10 Board and he's such a good teacher and he's a dedicated  
11 member of this Board and he adds so much and I just  
12 want to thank you Ray.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

15

16 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
17 also would like to reiterate what Jenny says there.  
18 I've learned a lot from Ray personally. I mean I just  
19 think he's a conscientious person. And I'd like to --  
20 like I said, I mean, before, I mean, you know, serving  
21 with these guys, I guess I came aboard when late Ron  
22 Sam was our Chairperson and it seems -- sometimes that  
23 -- you know, in hindsight here, we wonder what the heck  
24 did we do, what are we doing, are we making any  
25 difference. Every time, I mean, you know what I'm  
26 talking about. We're grappling with the same issues.  
27 But I think in a -- in a way that we are. I mean, you  
28 know, when I first came aboard I -- I guess I didn't  
29 know anything, I still don't know very much, I mean as  
30 -- as opposed to some of the guys that's been -- Ray's  
31 been on this for a long time and Jack has been --  
32 that's why one of the Board members, you know, kind of  
33 enlightened me at a meeting here and I mentioned that  
34 on the plane coming over here yesterday that, hey, Don,  
35 you got to realize you're talking for the whole region,  
36 not just for your particular thing. So with that in  
37 mind I -- I appreciate the composite of the Board.  
38 Like Ray knows all about fishing issues, or Jack knows  
39 everything about caribou or the dall sheep, stuff I  
40 know nothing about, and I'm just -- when I said if --  
41 if I can make a difference in something in -- in the  
42 game population I'll try to do that to -- to, at least  
43 keep our game population. I mean some things I just  
44 think is maybe out of my hands, maybe fishing, maybe I  
45 can't do much about it but I -- but I sure appreciate  
46 each one of those and every time -- like we mentioned  
47 yesterday, there's three or four guys -- not with us,  
48 and I -- we sense their loss, we sense their -- what  
49 they bring to the table.

50

1                   So I'm glad that we have good  
2 leadership here.

3  
4                   And I sure appreciate Ray. And like I  
5 said, I've talked with him over the years and I just  
6 love the way he's, you know, direct, you know, he's  
7 knowledgeable and I'm thankful for that.

8  
9                   Thank you, Ray.

10  
11                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got a comment  
12 there, Frank.

13  
14                  MR. MILLER: Yes. I'd like to say a  
15 little about Ray.

16  
17                  I've known him for many, many, many  
18 years. He's been a great asset to McGrath, Nikolai,  
19 Takotna, Telida and I just wanted to thank him for his  
20 services for 21 years on the Board of -- this Board  
21 here.

22  
23                  He's been a great asset to the people  
24 of Nikolai when he lived up there, he learned the  
25 language, he taught the language, he's helped many,  
26 numerous people within the McGrath subregion and I just  
27 wanted to say, thank, Ray, for a good job and we hope  
28 you give us another 21 years of service.

29  
30                  (Laughter)

31  
32                  (Teleconference interruption)

33  
34                  MS. BURKE: If we could remind folks on  
35 the line to please push star six if you're not  
36 speaking, we hear a conversation happening there.

37  
38                  Thank you.

39  
40                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're probably  
41 coming down on lunch right now, Melinda.

42  
43                  MS. BURKE: We're getting close. I  
44 think our stew has just a little bit more time to -- to  
45 go. We're going to -- we're going -- Eleanor has  
46 brought some -- some meat from Huslia and we've got our  
47 assistant back in the kitchen helping out so I think  
48 we've got just a little bit further to go on lunch if  
49 the Council wouldn't mind covering maybe one more item.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure, go ahead.  
2  
3 MS. BURKE: Pippa, are you on the  
4 phone.  
5  
6 MS. KENNER: Pippa's on the phone.  
7  
8 MS. BURKE: Okay, great. And then  
9 really quickly, we've heard some beeps, I just want to  
10 make sure that we're constantly checking in. Is there  
11 anybody who's joined us on the call, public, tribe,  
12 Staff members who have yet to introduce themselves,  
13 we'd really like to acknowledge you.  
14  
15  
16 (No comments)  
17  
18 MS. BURKE: Okay, it doesn't sound like  
19 we have anybody brand new.  
20  
21 Next on the agenda we're -- we're down  
22 to the old business, Mr. Chair, and -- and this is a  
23 subject that this Council has spoken about quite a bit.  
24 Maybe if we can have Pippa go ahead and cover the  
25 customary and traditional use determination update.  
26 We're on Page 42 of the book.  
27  
28 MS. KENNER: Good morning, Mr. Chair  
29 and Council members. My name is Pippa Kenner and I'm  
30 with the Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.  
31 Am I coming across too loud.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, you're coming in  
34 just fine, Pippa.  
35  
36 MS. KENNER: Thank you. Okay, just to  
37 let you know this is not an action item. The  
38 presentation is to tell you where the Board is in its  
39 review on the customary and traditional use  
40 determination process.  
41  
42 For a little bit of history, I want to  
43 remind you that in 2010 the Secretary of the Interior  
44 asked the Federal Subsistence Board to review with  
45 Regional Advisory Council input the customary and  
46 traditional use determination process and present  
47 recommendations for regulatory changes to the  
48 Secretaries. And in 2011 all 10 Regional Advisory  
49 Councils reviewed the process and nine of the 10  
50 Councils recommended no changes. The Southeast Council

1 asked the other nine Councils to review the customary  
2 and traditional use determination process again, which  
3 they did in 2013 and 2014.

4  
5                   The Western Interior Council, at its  
6 fall 2013 meeting, that would have been a year ago  
7 recommended no changes to the existing process.

8  
9                   While bringing you up to the present  
10 time, at its winter, at the last Council meeting of the  
11 Southeast Council, they submitted a proposal to the  
12 Federal Subsistence Board to make changes to the  
13 customary and traditional use determination process and  
14 the letter begins on Page 43 of your Council books.

15  
16                   So in winter 2015, at your next Council  
17 meeting, our Staff are planning to present an analysis  
18 of the Southeast Council's proposal to all 10 Councils  
19 for their review and recommendation to the Federal  
20 Subsistence Board and the Federal Subsistence Board at  
21 that point may decide to make a recommendation to the  
22 Secretary of the Interior and Agriculture.

23  
24                   That's pretty much the end of my  
25 presentation. I'm available for any questions.

26  
27                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does Council members  
28 have questions for Pippa.

29  
30                   (No comments)

31  
32                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So they're currently  
33 -- there's sort of outlying -- are you using the  
34 Southeast Council's proposed language on Page 47, or  
35 are you using the 48 proposed edited form?

36  
37                   (No comments)

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pippa.

40  
41                   (No comments)

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you still there  
44 Pippa?

45  
46                   MS. KENNER: I'm on mute. Could you  
47 ask that again please.

48  
49                   (Laughter)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm asking in 2015,  
2 you're going to submit a proposed language to the  
3 Councils and I'm wondering is -- are you using the  
4 Southeast proposed language on Page 47 or are you --  
5 I'm looking at 48 and there's sort of an edited form,  
6 or are you using a composite of something; clarify that  
7 for me.

8  
9 MS. KENNER: Yes, I am going to be  
10 using the edited language on Page 48.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

13  
14 MS. KENNER: So what we'll do is we'll  
15 analyze what it would look like around the state if  
16 something like this was adopted.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So under your  
19 proposed language, we could maintain the customary and  
20 traditional use determination -- see we have -- one of  
21 my issues with a blanket C&T for all rural residents is  
22 that certain populations -- we're going to be in .804s  
23 constantly and I'm concerned about that. I don't  
24 really want to go to .804s all the time. So in your  
25 proposed language, can we make in the region, the  
26 current C&Ts that are on -- in regulations?

27  
28 MS. KENNER: Yes.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And also there's  
31 overlapping C&Ts from region to region and so like I  
32 live in the northern part of the Western Interior  
33 region and so I have customary and traditional use for  
34 dall sheep and caribou in 26B, that's in Region 10 and  
35 how would those be addressed with your proposal?

36  
37 MS. KENNER: With the Southeast  
38 proposal, I believe that the Southeast proposal does  
39 allow for there to be regional interpretations of the  
40 C&T process. Particularly for C&Ts -- for customary  
41 and traditional use determinations that are in the  
42 regulations now. I believe they could be maintained if  
43 the Southeast Council's proposal was adopted as  
44 written.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So if the Southeast  
47 Council wants the Southeast region to have like an open  
48 C&T for all species, that does not give them the  
49 eligibility in the proposed rule to have a customary  
50 and traditional use in the Western Interior region,

1 that's only specific to their region?

2

3

(No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: See, what my problem  
6 is I'm concerned that somebody in Hydaburg's going to  
7 like get a C&T for the whole state of Alaska and he's  
8 going to come to the Western Interior region and have  
9 -- and hunt on a Federal hunt that has never seen that  
10 area that he's -- that the person is going to. That's  
11 my problem with this blanket C&T. This could open up  
12 massive cans of worms. And so my question -- previous  
13 question was, if there are C&Ts that lap into other  
14 regions, like there may be even communities in  
15 Southeast Alaska that may lap into the Southcentral  
16 region, how is that going to be accommodated and how --  
17 do both Councils have to agree upon those customary and  
18 traditional use agreements.

19

20 These are major questions, Pippa, not  
21 little questions, major questions. They say we don't  
22 like the State eight criteria, well, okay, we -- I  
23 liked them, but nobody else likes them, but the reality  
24 is this could open a massive can of worms and I want to  
25 see a thorough thought process down at OSM, and you in  
26 particular to address these issues of basically giving  
27 a blanket C&T for the whole state of Alaska to rural  
28 residents. You're talking about a large pool of people  
29 to be eligible for some places that have very limited  
30 resources. So we're going to be stuck in massive  
31 .804s. I can see where these Councils might be in  
32 .804s forever. It might be the major part of our  
33 workload is to address .804 criteria or priorities and  
34 certain people are going to get X'd out that utilize  
35 the resource on a yearly basis, I can see they're going  
36 to get X'd out.

37

38 Like 19A, it's a drawing permit for  
39 moose in 19A on Federal lands. Well, there's people  
40 that have been there forever and some school teacher  
41 moves in, just got there that fall, okay, draws a  
42 permit, oh, boy, they've never even seen a moose in  
43 their life, they might have come from Anchorage, they  
44 may have seen one run across the street or something.  
45 The reality is you're talking -- this thing could open  
46 up a massive can of worms and I'll be talking about  
47 this as we progress in this. So I want -- if you're  
48 planning -- if you're going to write this document,  
49 using the edited form here, I want you to start  
50 thinking about the large ramifications that this is

1 actually going to do because this -- the system is not  
2 nearly as broke -- the C&T system that we have right  
3 now is not nearly as broken as Southeast perceives it  
4 is. Maybe for Southeast, basically a closed  
5 population, they got glaciers and stuff there to  
6 exclude them, and they've got borders with other  
7 countries and stuff. We're talking about the whole  
8 state of Alaska. And so I don't think the whole state  
9 of Alaska is broken, and I'm wondering how regional  
10 overlap is going to be incorporated in the C&T process.  
11 And are we really willing to go to a massive -- massive  
12 numbers -- you're going to see massive numbers of .804.  
13 Well, you know what the .804 was on the Kuskokwim last  
14 spring, remember how big that was, that was a huge  
15 deal.

16

17 (Council collectively) Yeah.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, just think  
20 about that all the time.

21

22 Do we have the economic resource in the  
23 Federal Program to reinvent the wheel. I don't think  
24 we do. We see budget declines. I don't think we see  
25 the economic position to implement this change to the  
26 C&T process.

27

28 I think that this is -- and I want our  
29 comments to be transmitted to all Regional Councils,  
30 including the Southeast Council because these are very  
31 valid concerns.

32

33 Any other comments from the Council  
34 members.

35

36 Ray.

37

38 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'm looking at  
39 what's being struck out there and there's a lot of  
40 things in there that really make sense.

41

42 Like No. 6, a pattern of use which  
43 includes the handing down of the knowledge of fishing  
44 and hunting skills, values and lores from generation to  
45 generation. That issue of people moving new to a  
46 community and because the community has a C&T, they can  
47 step into it, but that doesn't apply. And another key  
48 thing, which I'm glad to see they're keeping, is that  
49 determinations made be made on an individual basis.  
50 That came up in Denali Park. Because we had some

1 people there who had been using the area prior for  
2 long-term and they had been following this pattern but  
3 they no longer lived in the community of Cantwell which  
4 was recognized as a C&T community. They may have lived  
5 just outside. So they were able to get an individual  
6 determination. And I think in the future we're going  
7 to have use that more and more if resources are  
8 restricted, that you look to the individual to see  
9 whether meet, unfortunately, the eight criteria that  
10 are being eliminated. If they have that traditional  
11 knowledge, that they've used them and they share --  
12 share with the community and so on.

13

14                   So some of those things that are being  
15 struck out, I think are real key to traditional C&T  
16 findings.

17

18                   We also came up with that in terms of  
19 how do we deal with the Yukon Delta villages there that  
20 were where they wanted to hunt up in the Innoko River,  
21 in the GASH area there, whole communities were  
22 recognized because there were a few individuals in the  
23 community that had hunted up there that either had ties  
24 with the area and so on, but the whole community was  
25 given C&T, and the whole community didn't follow that  
26 pattern of traditionally using those and so on.

27

28                   So I think some of the things that are  
29 being eliminating may be critical in the future,  
30 especially as populations grow and you may have to go  
31 to more and more individual C&Ts to allow some families  
32 that are still living traditionally to be recognized  
33 and be able to follow that pattern. Whether they lived  
34 in the community or not get recognized.

35

36                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're making very  
37 valid points, Ray. That's what I've stated previously  
38 in other meetings that the eight criteria, oh, my gosh,  
39 the State invented those, well, yeah, that's when they  
40 had a Federal priority, that's when they invented the  
41 eight criteria. The eight criteria comes from .804,  
42 just flip the page over here to .804. All's it's doing  
43 is expanding what .804 is saying. The eight criteria  
44 is basically is ANILCA language in a more expanded  
45 version.

46

47                   And so I have no problem with the eight  
48 criteria. Everybody seems to have a problem because  
49 the State developed it. Well, I don't always agree  
50 with the State but on that issue I concur, these eight

1 criteria actually reflect what .804 is. And I feel  
2 that it protected the people who have a direc -- long-  
3 term consistent pattern of use, et cetera, et cetera.

4  
5 In Southeast it's a very rich marine  
6 environment and so that's -- it's a very lush place.  
7 You could stay in the same little bite the rest of your  
8 life and live there, all these fish, all these -- all  
9 this halibut, I mean you don't have to go anywhere, but  
10 not in the Interior of Alaska and not in the Western  
11 Interior country, where we have very limited resources.  
12 We got .1 moose, .2 moose per square mile. We're not  
13 talking about like we can invite everybody in Alaska to  
14 come to hunt these moose, we don't have this kind of  
15 resource. Well, Southeast they have their mind set for  
16 their region. Well, that's all fine and dandy. If  
17 they want to have a blanket C&T, fine, but I don't  
18 think this can be applied statewide and I think we're  
19 asking for lots of problems.

20  
21 Pippa, your comment on that.

22  
23 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa again from  
24 OSM. I've been listening to your comments and I think  
25 they're very informative and I will try to make sure  
26 they're incorporated into the analysis.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that.

29  
30 Any other comments from the Council on  
31 the customary and traditional use proposal.

32  
33 Jenny.

34  
35 MS. PELKOLA: Yes, Jack. Mr. Chair.

36  
37 I would like to also reiterate that I  
38 -- just what you said. I agree with what you said, we  
39 should not start striking all this stuff out of here.  
40 But we need to be very specific when we start thinking  
41 about changing stuff, you know. I was like, wow, it's  
42 like you're going to rewrite a whole thing that's  
43 already in .804 that should not be struck. So I just  
44 want to put that on for the record.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Jenny.

47  
48 Any other comments.

49  
50 Do you have comments, Tim, on line, I

1 don't want to forget you.  
2  
3  
4 (No comments)  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You still there,  
7 Tim.  
8  
9 MS. YATLIN: He went to lunch.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim must be eating.  
12  
13 So any other Council members. You got  
14 any comments Eleanor.  
15  
16 MS. YATLIN: Not right now.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Not right now. So  
19 that looks like it, Melinda and Pippa.  
20  
21 Thanks for your presentation Pippa.  
22  
23 MS. KENNER: You're welcome.  
24  
25 MS. BURKE: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I think  
26 our stew has a couple more minutes to cook but I think  
27 it would be a good breaking point for lunch. I know  
28 that we only have Tim for the day so I think that after  
29 lunch we should make sure we've got Tim on the line and  
30 maybe we should move into some of these fisheries  
31 proposals and I think it would be really important to,  
32 while we have a quorum, for the day, we need to get --  
33 get the votes taken on that so we don't have to do a --  
34 a followup teleconference later. So I'd suggest maybe  
35 an hour, an hour and 15 minutes for lunch so we can  
36 make sure we get Tim back and then perhaps jump right  
37 into the fisheries proposals.  
38  
39 That would be my suggestion, Mr. Chair.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That sounds great,  
42 Melinda. Excellent suggestion. We're breaking for --  
43 we better just break for one hour. One hour, we'll be  
44 back here at 1:35.  
45  
46 (Off record)  
47  
48 (On record)  
49  
50 MS. BURKE: Anybody brand new who has

1 joined us before we get started who has not introduced  
2 themselves this morning or put their name on the  
3 record.

4

5 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah, hi, my name is  
6 Jeff Estensen. I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish  
7 and Game calling from Fairbanks. I'm the fall season  
8 manager on the Yukon.

9

10 MS. BURKE: Great, hi, Jeff.

11

12 MS. GLEASON: And I'm Christy Gleason.  
13 I'm the assistant area manager for fall season and I'm  
14 joining Jeff in Fairbanks at Fish and Game.

15

16 MS. BURKE: I'm sorry, repeat your  
17 first and last name again.

18

19 MS. GLEASON: Christy Gleason.

20

21 MS. BURKE: Oh, great, thank you,  
22 Christy.

23

24 (Pause)

25

26 MS. BURKE: We're getting Ray Collins  
27 here back in the room in just a second folks. Our  
28 first -- we're going to move into the fisheries  
29 proposals while we've got Tim on the line for a quorum.  
30 We'd like to try to get through these this afternoon,  
31 and first up is going to be FP15-01. We'll get started  
32 in about two minutes.

33

34 (Pause)

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to  
37 come back to order here. We've been waiting for Ray  
38 Collins and he might have fallen asleep or something so  
39 we're going to start through the proposal WP15-01 and  
40 so we'll go through the presentation of the proposal  
41 and then hopefully Ray will join us within that so  
42 state your name.

43

44 MR. LIEBICH: Good afternoon, Mr.  
45 Chair, members of the Council. For the record my name  
46 is Trent Liebich and I'm with the Office of Subsistence  
47 Management and I work as a fishery biologist with the  
48 program.

49

50 So I'll give a brief overview on FP15-

1 01 and if there's any questions or you want me to cover  
2 anything in more detail, please, just let me know and I  
3 can get back to whatever it is you need.

4

5                   So Proposal FP15-01 was submitted by  
6 the Southcentral Alaska Regional Advisory Council and  
7 they're requesting that the definition of hook be  
8 described in regulation as a hook with or without a  
9 barb. And this proposed language is intended to  
10 clarify the type of fishing hook that could be used  
11 under Federal subsistence fisheries regulations where  
12 hooks are an authorized methods and means to take fish.

13

14                   The proponent's requesting this change  
15 to the existing Federal regulatory language to  
16 eliminate the potential for adoption of default methods  
17 and means restriction of a Federal subsistence fishery  
18 to the use of barbless hooks. The proposal was  
19 submitted in response to a recent Alaska Board of  
20 Fisheries decision to restrict the Kenai River chinook  
21 salmon sportfishery methods and means to the use of  
22 barbless hooks under certain conditions. So if the  
23 Kenai River chinook salmon sportfishery is restricted  
24 to the use of barbless hooks, the Federal subsistence  
25 rod and reel fishery might also be restricted to the  
26 use of barbless hooks by default.

27

28                   So in many other parts of Alaska stand-  
29 alone Federal subsistence fisheries regulations do not  
30 exist and the Federal subsistence fisheries methods and  
31 means are the same for taking fish under the State of  
32 Alaska sportfishing regulations unless specifically  
33 modified in Federal regulation. So in those areas  
34 where the Federal subsistence fisheries regulations are  
35 absent, the regulations indicate that State fisheries  
36 regulations apply to public lands and are adopted as a  
37 Federal subsistence fisheries regulations to the extent  
38 that they are not inconsistent with or superseded by  
39 Federal subsistence regulations.

40

41                   So in other words, that's just if the  
42 State of Alaska adopts a fisheries regulations, such as  
43 requiring a barbless hook, where Federal subsistence  
44 fishery regulations do not exist or do not address what  
45 type of hook is allowed, then the Federal subsistence  
46 regulations would default to the State regulations, and  
47 that would result in Federal subsistence users being  
48 restricted to the use of barbless hooks.

49

50                   There's a lot of proposals requesting

1 restrictions on sportfishing methods and means to  
2 barbless hooks that are submitted to the Alaska Board  
3 of Fisheries, there's a history of this but, to date,  
4 the Kenai River chinook salmon sportfishery is the  
5 first fishery in Alaska with a barbless hook regulation  
6 and I believe the only fishery in Alaska at this time.

7  
8                   So that regulation of hook that was  
9 being proposed is a hook meaning a single shanked fish  
10 hook with a single eye constructed with one or more  
11 points with or without barbs. And there's also some  
12 discussion about other alternates considered. So that  
13 original definition, that first sentence, there's an  
14 alternate to consider that would be a hook -- and this  
15 first line is the same, meaning a single shanked  
16 fishhook with a single eye constructed with one or more  
17 points with without barbs, and then the alternate  
18 language would add in a second sentence, further  
19 defining, that a hook without a barb means a barb that  
20 is manufactured without a barb, or the barb has been  
21 completely removed or compressed so the barb is in  
22 complete contact with the shaft of the hook.

23  
24                   OSM's conclusion on the proposal as it  
25 was written was to support Proposal 15-01, so that  
26 would be that first sentence of the definition, not the  
27 alternate language. And the justification is pretty  
28 clear, this proposal would add the definition of hook  
29 in Federal regulations because currently subsistence  
30 users must comply with the State's methods and means  
31 when fishing with one or more hooks, even if the  
32 regulation is for barbless hooks which reduces harvest  
33 efficiency.

34  
35                   Restricting subsistence users from the  
36 harvesting -- from harvesting fish with barbed hooks  
37 would be an unnecessary restriction to existing fishing  
38 practices statewide. Adoption of the proposal would  
39 protect Federal subsistence fishermen's choice to use  
40 barbed or barbless hooks, and adoption of the proposal  
41 would not result in any additional impacts to Alaska  
42 fisheries resources by Federal subsistence fishermen.

43  
44                   That is the end of my analysis.

45  
46                   Thank you.

47  
48                   If you have any questions I'll be happy  
49 to answer.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Trent.  
2 Does the Council have any questions on the proposal.  
3 It's fairly straightforward.  
4  
5 You have a question, Eleanor.  
6  
7 MS. YATLIN: Can we discuss -- first we  
8 have to adopt it.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to work  
11 through the adoption -- throughout the proposal  
12 process. I'm giving the Council opportunity to  
13 question the proposal, if they want to clarify in their  
14 mind what the proposal is about.  
15  
16 Next is going to be the Alaska  
17 Department of Fish and Game's going to give comments  
18 and we'll work down through this list, which is on the  
19 back of your name tag right there.  
20  
21 So do you have any questions on the  
22 proposal.  
23  
24 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead,  
27 someone.....  
28  
29 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
30 This is Jennifer Yuhás and the State/Federal  
31 subsistence liaison team leader.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Jennifer.....  
34  
35 MS. YUHAS: And with regards to this  
36 proposal, the Department's comments have been the same  
37 at the other RAC meetings, that, should you choose to  
38 make the definition that it should match the State, and  
39 under 5 AAC 75.995, the following definitions are added  
40 and this is: a single hook is a fishhook with only one  
41 point with or without a barb, a multiple hook is a  
42 fishhook with two or more points with or without a barb  
43 and this modification was also recently adopted by the  
44 Southeast RAC.  
45  
46 Thank you.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Jennifer.  
49 Is that clear to the Council, the State's comments.  
50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That they basically  
4 were aligning the language with the State definition,  
5 with or without barb, which gives the option to the  
6 Federal users to use either.  
7  
8 (No comments)  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that was the only  
11 State comment, Jennifer.  
12  
13 MS. YUHAS: Yes, sir, keeping it concise  
14 for you.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.  
17 Appreciate that.  
18  
19 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Melinda.  
22  
23 MS. BURKE: The number 2 there, the  
24 report on Board consultations. In the future, this  
25 Council has asked for a summary included in the book on  
26 tribal consultations and hopefully when we get our new  
27 Native liaison we will have more thorough summaries in  
28 the future but we did have a consultation opportunity  
29 with tribes back in September and we did have a -- the  
30 Native Village of Barrow, an Inupiat Community called  
31 in and they did speak in support of the proposal. So  
32 just for the record, Mr. Chair, and hopefully in the  
33 future they'll be printed right here below the public  
34 comments as you had requested last year.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.  
37  
38 Other Federal agency comments. Did we  
39 get any of those.  
40  
41 (No comments)  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. And so the  
44 neighboring Regional Councils, Southeast adopted the  
45 State language.  
46  
47 Any other Councils modify the proposal.  
48  
49 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair.  
50

1                   It looks like the North Slope, Eastern  
2 Interior and Kodiak Aleutians also supported the  
3 proposal with the modification by ADF&G.

4  
5                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so we  
6 don't have any SRC or local Advisory Committee  
7 comments.

8  
9                   MR. COLLINS: No.

10  
11                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have a written  
12 comment here on Page 102 of our meeting book from  
13 AHTNA, is supporting the proposal in the written form.

14  
15                   MS. BURKE: Yes, that's correct.

16  
17                   And we also have on Page 100 there's a  
18 comment from the Southeast Alaska Fishermens Alliance  
19 who support defining the fishhook. They state that it  
20 will make it clear that a hook can have barbs in  
21 Federal subsistence fisheries unless otherwise  
22 specified in regulation for a particular conservation  
23 use.

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And this is the  
26 Southcentral's proposal, what did Southcentral --  
27 they've met already, right.

28  
29                   MS. BURKE: Yes.

30  
31                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. And so they've  
32 -- did they.....

33  
34                   MS. BURKE: And Southcentral supported  
35 the -- the -- supported the.....

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The modified?

38  
39                   MS. BURKE: No.

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Their proposal?

42  
43                   MS. BURKE: Uh-huh, the original.

44  
45                   MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair, a question.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

48  
49                   MR. COLLINS: I assume that if we  
50 support the current State wording, it's not -- if the

1 State changes it, does that mean the Fed automatically  
2 changes or the Fed would keep that, because it's  
3 important that in the Fed that they keep the barb part  
4 in there because that's what subsistence users use,  
5 where they're trying to harvest the fish.

6

7 Do you know what I mean?

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. The State  
10 language is with or without barb, which gives the  
11 Federal user the option to use barbed hook, so I'm  
12 inclined to align with the State's line of thinking on  
13 that to maintain continuity.

14

15 Trent.

16

17 MR. LIEBICH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19 The language, I think either of those  
20 languages, Ray, allow the subsistence user the choice.  
21 So I don't think that either definition would affect  
22 the ability to select a hook with or without barb, it  
23 just clarifies -- or better aligns that language  
24 between the State and Federal regulations.

25

26 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I  
27 understand that.

28

29 But what I'm saying is, is if the State  
30 changes it in the future, we aren't tying ourselves to  
31 also change, my guess, the Feds would keep the barb or  
32 barbless, I mean you're putting it actually in your  
33 Federal regulations, right, the current State -- yeah,  
34 okay.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

37

38 MR. COLLINS: So if the State changes  
39 it then we'd still have that fallback.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we'd still  
42 have that option.

43

44 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Okay.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So is there any  
47 public testimony.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see anybody  
2 here that would be commenting.

3  
4 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. This is Don  
5 Rivard.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead, Don.

8  
9 MR. RIVARD: I just wanted to let you  
10 know that the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory  
11 Council, they went with the OSM regulation a couple of  
12 weeks ago.

13  
14 Thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

17  
18 MR. PAPPAS: And Mr. Chair, this is  
19 George Pappas.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, George.

22  
23 MR. PAPPAS: Good afternoon. Yes,  
24 there is a little confusion. We did have a definition  
25 when the proposal was put in by the Southcentral  
26 Regional Advisory Council, that definition offered in  
27 OSM's position there came through the Solicitor's  
28 office, and then literally like a week or two later the  
29 State came out with their finalized regulations from  
30 the Board of Fish meeting, Cook Inlet, so if we would  
31 have had the language from the State initially to  
32 present to the Southcentral RAC, we probably would have  
33 gone with that. But it doesn't matter, the bottom  
34 line, if either of those are adopted, the same effect  
35 is permanent in statewide regulation, you have your  
36 choice -- a Federal subsistence user would have a  
37 choice to use barb or barbless hook.

38  
39 There were three concerns voiced that  
40 were different from different parts of the state.

41  
42 One was on the North Slope regarding  
43 the definition includes the word, manufactured. And a  
44 definition was provided by, I believe, by Drew Crawford  
45 from the State indicating that, you know, manufacture  
46 is going from a raw material to a final product so  
47 folks that do use ivory up north or nails, so be it.

48  
49 Also heard comments from folks in  
50 colder regions prefer barbless hooks in the wintertime

1 because it's easier to unhook fish when it's 25 below  
2 zero when they're jigging.

3

4                   And I can't remember what the third  
5 comment was, but so far all the Regional Advisory  
6 Councils have been in support of some form of  
7 maintaining their ability to keep their choice of  
8 barbless or -- barbed or barbless hooks, and the bottom  
9 line for conservation purposes, we should not see any  
10 additional impacts to the resources in Alaska because  
11 folks will still maintain their current practice.

12

13                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, George.  
16 Appreciate the additional comments on the record.

17

18                   And so I'm inclined to adopt the  
19 proposal and modify it to the State language with or  
20 without barb, and so the Chair will entertain a motion  
21 to adopt the proposal FP15-01 with modified language as  
22 State comment.

23

24                   MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

25

26                   MS. YATLIN: Second.

27

28                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.  
29 Further discussion by the Council.

30

31                   (No comments)

32

33                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have any  
34 comments on this proposal, Tim.

35

36                   MR. GERVAIS: No, I don't have any  
37 comments.

38

39                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any comments  
40 by the Council.

41

42                   (No comments)

43

44                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, those  
45 in favor of Proposal FP15-01 with the modified language  
46 signify by saying aye.

47

48                   IN UNISON: Aye.

49

50                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same

1 sign.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The proposal is

6 adopted.

7

8 So we're on to FP15-02, go ahead,

9 Trent.

10

11 MR. LIEBICH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I

12 will give the analysis for FP15-02.

13

14 So Proposal 15-02 was submitted by the

15 Rampart Village Council and is requesting at least two

16 48-hour fishing periods per week in Yukon River

17 Subdistrict 5C. The proponent states that the

18 community of Rampart, which is situated in Subdistrict

19 5C and there is a map in your book if you would like to

20 look closer at that area.

21

22 So the community of Rampart relies

23 yearround on fish that is harvested for subsistence in

24 the summer. By allowing at least two 48-hour fishing

25 periods per week there will be more food for Rampart

26 families and winter living, it will be easier because

27 of food security.

28

29 The proponent anticipates that every

30 subsistence user would support this proposal -- every

31 subsistence user in the community would support the

32 proposal.

33

34 I also wanted to note there's never a

35 complete closure to all subsistence fishing in the

36 area. State regulations currently allow for two 48-

37 hour fishing periods per week for salmon in Subdistrict

38 5A, 5B and 5C. However, in recent years, the regular

39 salmon fishing schedules consisting of two 48-hour

40 weekly periods have been closed for long periods in

41 June and July in order to protect chinook salmon. The

42 majority of chinook salmon typically move upstream of

43 Subdistrict 5C by late July. And I also wanted to note

44 that the Federal public waters in Subdistrict 5C are

45 limited to about six miles of the Yukon River, and that

46 area is about 60 miles upstream of Rampart.

47

48 I'll give you a brief summary of the

49 past two seasons and some regulatory history. Also --

50 yeah, so since 2001 the subsistence salmon fishery has

1 operated under a schedule established by the Alaska  
2 Board of Fish and implemented by the Alaska Department  
3 of Fish and Game, which is chronologically consistent  
4 with the migratory timing as the run progresses  
5 upstream. Subsistence fishing is open seven days per  
6 week until the schedule is established and the  
7 subsistence salmon fishing schedule is based on current  
8 or past fishing schedules and provides reasonable  
9 opportunity for subsistence salmon fishing during years  
10 of normal to below average runs.

11  
12 The objectives of the schedule are  
13 three parts.

- 14  
15 1. To reduce harvest early in the run  
16 when there is a higher level of  
17 uncertainty.
- 18  
19 2. To spread that harvest throughout  
20 the run to reduce harvest impacts on  
21 any particular component of the run.
- 22  
23 3. Distribute subsistence fishing  
24 opportunity among all users during  
25 years of low salmon runs.

26  
27 By regulation the fall salmon -- the  
28 fall season management begins in District 1 of the  
29 Yukon after July 15th and it moves up stream  
30 subsequent.

31  
32 State regulations currently allow for  
33 two 48-hour fishing periods per week in Subdistricts  
34 5A, 5B and 5C and subsistence fishing schedules are  
35 announced in joint news releases from the Alaska  
36 Department of Fish and Game and the US Fish and  
37 Wildlife Service.

38  
39 So I'm going to go back two years and  
40 do 2013 and 2014 since this proposal came in between  
41 seasons.

42  
43 So as the 2013 chinook salmon run  
44 progressed in-season projections indicated that the run  
45 was very weak and would likely be insufficient to meet  
46 all escapement objectives. Each of the subsequent  
47 three pulses of chinook salmon were protected by  
48 subsistence fishing closures as they migrated through  
49 Districts 1 through 5, a very limited fishing  
50 opportunity was provided in between pluses to allow

1 harvest of chum salmon or other species. During the  
2 open subsistence fishing periods gillnets continued to  
3 be restricted to six inch or smaller mesh size and in  
4 upper river districts the use of fishwheels was allowed  
5 with the stipulation that all chinook salmon were to be  
6 released unharmed. In District 5, where relatively few  
7 summer chum were available subsistence fishing time was  
8 reduced even further to avoid offering opportunity that  
9 would primarily target chinook salmon. During 2013  
10 Subdistricts 5A, 5B and 5C went to a five day per week  
11 schedule effective August 6th and that remained open  
12 through the fall.

13

14 So now I'm going to jump to the 2014,  
15 this past season.

16

17 So during 2014, summer subsistence  
18 fishing for salmon in Subdistrict 5C was closed for the  
19 majority of June and July and on June 7th the  
20 subsistence fishing for salmon in Subdistrict 5C was  
21 closed to gillnets with a mesh size greater than four  
22 inches in order for protection of salmon. On June  
23 30th, use of four inch or smaller mesh size gillnets in  
24 Subdistrict 5C was closed until further notice. And on  
25 June -- on July 7th subsistence fishing for non-salmon  
26 species using four inch or smaller mesh size gillnets  
27 was reopened in Subdistrict 5C. On July 22nd, the  
28 subsistence fishery for salmon returned to the regular  
29 fishing schedule consisting of two 48-hour periods per  
30 week, and on July 29th subsistence fishing using 7.5  
31 inch mesh or less gillnet was reopened in Subdistrict  
32 5C. On August 5th subsistence fishing in Subdistrict  
33 5C was liberalized to five days per week allowing the  
34 use of fishwheels or gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5  
35 inches or smaller.

36

37 I'm going to briefly give a harvest  
38 history for the community of Rampart as well.

39

40 The community of Rampart consists of 68  
41 people in 1990, 45 people in 2000, and 24 people in  
42 2010. And I'm sorry some of these dates are a few  
43 years old in this but it was the most recent  
44 information we had.

45

46 The community of Rampart many of the --  
47 many are of Koyukon/Athabaskan heritage and the  
48 residents of Rampart harvested a 20 year average of  
49 3,075 salmon annually. Overall harvest of salmon has  
50 declined over the past 20 years due in part to

1 decreasing population and the harvest of all species of  
2 salmon have declined.

3

4 The most recent year for which  
5 information is available is 2011.

6

7 So in 2011 four Rampart households  
8 received State subsistence or personal use permits and  
9 reported harvesting 201 chinook, 67 summer chum and 340  
10 fall chum.

11

12 The Rampart area, in 2011, the State  
13 issued a total of 29 subsistence and personal use  
14 permits and people reported harvesting 1,586 chinook,  
15 429 summer chum, 768 fall chum and one coho salmon on  
16 those permits.

17

18 Also of importance the Haul Road Bridge  
19 is located 57 miles up river from the community of  
20 Rampart and approximately five miles down stream of the  
21 Federal waters of Subdistrict 5C. In the Haul Road  
22 Bridge area in 2011, people obtained 74 permits and  
23 reported harvesting 1,552 chinook, 1,139 summer chum,  
24 1,828 fall chum and one coho salmon.

25

26 Residents of Stevens Village obtained  
27 five of the Haul Road bridge permit -- Bridge Area  
28 permits in 2011 and most of the Rampart area and Haul  
29 Road Bridge Area permits were issued to people from  
30 outside of the area.

31

32 OSM's preliminary conclusion on this  
33 proposal is to oppose.

34

35 And the justification for that is for  
36 that is that for the Yukon area the Federal subsistence  
37 fishing schedules openings, closings and fishing  
38 methods are the same as those issued for subsistence  
39 taking of fish under State issued emergency orders  
40 unless superseded by Federal special action or  
41 regulation. State regulations currently allow for two  
42 48-hour fishing periods per week in Subdistricts 5A, 5B  
43 and 5C, and beginning in the first week of August in  
44 both 2013 and 2014 seasons, subsistence fishing  
45 schedules have been liberalized to at least five day  
46 per week schedule allowing the use of fishwheels or  
47 gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.  
48 However, as cited in regulation the Commissioner may  
49 alter fishing periods by emergency order if the  
50 Commissioner determines that the pre-season or in-

1 season run indicators indicate it is necessary for  
2 conservation purposes. Fishery managers have the  
3 ability to manage both time and area and liberalize or  
4 restrict fishing opportunities based on the abundance  
5 of salmon that enter the river.

6  
7 The proposed regulatory change would  
8 likely increase the level of harvest of salmon or other  
9 fish during times of conservation and thereby reduce  
10 the likelihood of meeting spawning needs. Failure to  
11 provide sufficient numbers of salmon and other fish  
12 species for spawning could threaten the continuance of  
13 subsistence uses of salmon or other fishes in the Yukon  
14 River in the future.

15  
16 That is the end of the analysis.

17  
18 If you have any questions I'll be happy  
19 to answer.

20  
21 Thank you.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does the Council  
24 have any questions on the proposal as presented.

25  
26 (No comments)

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Alaska Department of  
29 Fish and Game comments. I've seen.....

30  
31 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
32 For the record again, my name is Jennifer Yuhas with  
33 the State of Alaska.

34  
35 The State is also opposed to this  
36 proposal for the same reasons stated by OSM and as the  
37 Chair well knows and the RAC is going to discuss later  
38 in your agenda when there's not enough flexibility and  
39 it takes time to act, just like with the sheep proposal  
40 this year, the sheep closure, it took the Federal  
41 Program 10 days to act because of what they were bound  
42 to, we don't find this regulation that's proposed in  
43 front of you flexible enough to accommodate for a  
44 significant increase or decrease mid-season.

45  
46 That concludes our comments, Mr.  
47 Chairman.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jennifer.  
50 And any questions to the State's position.

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And do we have any  
4 Native or tribal village comments.  
5  
6 (No comments)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ben was running  
9 around here, I would have thought he would have been on  
10 -- wanting to talk about this one but -- Ben Stevens  
11 from Stevens Village.  
12  
13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'll give him a  
14 call on the phone.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you could, and  
17 then I'll take him.  
18  
19 There's been several people -- while  
20 she is finding Ben I'd like to get any comments he  
21 might have, I've seen several people arrive here, so  
22 those who have just arrived, Tracy and various people,  
23 raise your hand and state who you are.  
24  
25 Go ahead.  
26  
27 MR. MASCHMANN: I'm Gerald Maschmann  
28 with US Fish and Wildlife Service out of Fairbanks. I  
29 deal with Yukon Fisheries.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.  
32  
33 MS. FLEAGLE: I'm Donne Fleagle with  
34 URS and I'm going to give the Donlin EIS update, and I  
35 hope to catch you during a break.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay, sure.  
38  
39 MS. EVANS: Jessica Evans, I'm with URS  
40 as well.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.  
43  
44 MR. JENKINS: Wayne Jenkins, Yukon  
45 River Drainage Fisheries Association.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Wayne.  
48  
49 MS. MCDONNELL: Tracey McDonnell,  
50 Refuge Supervisor with Fish and Wildlife Service in

1 Anchorage, Alaska.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Welcome. And so  
4 we're covering this proposal, FP15-02 and I thought Ben  
5 might -- maybe would like to comment on that proposal,  
6 or may or may not.

7

8 MR. STEVENS: Not at this time.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Not at this time, I  
11 wanted to give you opportunity thought.

12

13 So the neighboring Regional Advisory  
14 Councils, Eastern Interior met previous -- how did they  
15 act on this proposal.

16

17 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. Eastern  
18 Interior Council was opposed to this proposal.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And YK Delta.

21

22 MS. BURKE: Same, for YK Delta as well  
23 as the Seward Peninsula RAC.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we have no  
26 Advisory Committee.

27

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Summary of written  
32 comments. Do we have any written comments on this one.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I don't know  
37 of any public testimony.

38

39

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Regional Council  
42 recommendation.

43

44 The Chair will entertain a motion to  
45 adopt the proposal for discussion.

46

47 MR. HONEA: I so move.

48

49 MR. COLLINS: Second.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.

2

3 You got any comments on the proposal,  
4 Tim.

5

6 MR. GERVAIS: Well, I understand the  
7 folks in Rampart would like some fishing time, I  
8 believe that the fishing regulations that we have in  
9 place are good enough to provide that opportunity in a  
10 way that's equal to all the users on the river and so  
11 I'm going to oppose it.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim. Any  
14 other comments from the Council members.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll concur with Tim  
19 on that.

20

21 Current State regulatory process  
22 provides for two 48-hour periods. There's very little  
23 Federal public waters involved in this proposal and  
24 they're distant from Rampart and probably not even  
25 close to where they're fishing.

26

27 My other concern would be that it's  
28 also in 5C, the Haul Road Bridge. There's lots of  
29 fishing pressure there.

30

31 So I oppose the proposal.

32

33 Any further comment by the Council.

34

35 MS. PELKOLA: So to oppose we vote no,  
36 right.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vote no.

39

40 Any further discussion.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, those  
45 in favor of the proposal signify by saying aye.

46

47 (No aye votes)

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same  
50 sign.

1                   IN UNISON:  Aye.  
2  
3                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:  The proposal fails.  
4  
5                   And so moving on to Proposal WP15-03,  
6 go ahead Trent.  
7  
8                   MR. LIEBICH:  So for Proposals 15-03  
9 and 15-04, they're somewhat similar in the issue  
10 they're attempting to address so I'm going to talk --  
11 I'm going to talk through them individually, though,  
12 but there may -- there may be some questions that are  
13 relevant to both.  
14  
15                   15-03 was submitted by the Eastern  
16 Interior Regional Advisory Council as was 15-04.  
17  
18                   15-03 requests the elimination of the  
19 use of drift gillnet fishing gear for the targeting of  
20 chinook salmon in Yukon River Districts 1-4.  
21  
22                   In Districts 5 and 6 drift gillnets are  
23 already not allowed in regulation.  
24  
25                   So that would essentially be no drift  
26 gillnets in the entire Yukon drainage.  
27  
28                   And in proposed regulatory change is  
29 intended to eliminate the use of drift gillnets for  
30 targeting of chinook salmon in the Yukon River.  The  
31 proponent states that the escapement goals have not  
32 been met for chinook in recent years and this change in  
33 regulation should improve overall chinook salmon  
34 escapement throughout much of the Yukon River drainage.  
35  
36                   The customary and traditional use  
37 determinations are all rural residents of the Yukon  
38 River drainage and the community of Stebbins have  
39 customary and traditional use determination for chinook  
40 salmon in the Yukon River drainage so this would affect  
41 all the users within the Yukon as well as the community  
42 of Stebbins.  
43  
44                   And if this proposal were adopted it  
45 would remove drift gillnets as a gear type for Federal  
46 subsistence harvest of chinook salmon in Yukon River  
47 Districts 1 through 4.  It could reduce the fishing  
48 efficiency for harvesting chinook salmon in the US  
49 portion of the Yukon River in these districts.  
50

1                   Eliminating the use of driftnets for  
2 the targeting of chinook salmon in the Yukon River  
3 Districts 1 through 4 could benefit chinook during  
4 times of conservation concerns if it effectively  
5 reduces harvest efficiency to the extent that it  
6 reduces overall harvest. However, if the elimination  
7 of the gear type occurred, this could also be a  
8 detriment to subsistence users whose harvest of chinook  
9 salmon during years of strong chinook salmon runs may  
10 be more effective with the use of driftnets.

11  
12                   State regulations allow the taking of  
13 salmon with drift gillnets in State waters within  
14 Districts 1 through 4. So there's also the concern or  
15 the potential for Federally-qualified users fishing  
16 under State regulations could still use drift gillnets  
17 in these areas, in the State areas.

18  
19                   So with that information, I know I  
20 skipped over a lot of biological background because I  
21 think we're going to hear that in quite a bit of detail  
22 soon.

23  
24                   OSM's preliminary conclusion on this  
25 proposal as written, is to oppose.

26  
27                   And the justification for that  
28 conclusion is that the proposal would remove a fishing  
29 gear option that's currently relied upon by one segment  
30 of the fishing community but would not affect the  
31 fishing practices of others. Additionally, if the  
32 intention is to reduce the harvest of chinook salmon  
33 during times of conservation need, this could be  
34 achieved through existing regulatory authorities that  
35 allow in-season managers to open or close Federal  
36 subsistence fishing periods or areas provided under the  
37 regulations and to specify the methods and means. And  
38 I cite there, there's appendix A in there, which goes  
39 into a lot of detail about what the in-season managers  
40 have authority to do.

41  
42                   I'm not going to cover that in any  
43 detail now but if you'd like to discuss it we can.

44  
45                   That's the end of the analysis.

46  
47                   Thank you.

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so then on FP15-  
50 04 you're combining the two analysis or we're going to

1 cover that one separately?  
2  
3 MR. LIEBICH: They're a separate  
4 analysis but.....  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pretty much the same  
7 issue?  
8  
9 MR. LIEBICH: I'll read kind of the  
10 opening line what that proposal is and you can decide  
11 if you'd like to discuss individually or combined.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
14  
15 MR. LIEBICH: Proposal -- we have  
16 discussed them separately in the past but a lot of the  
17 questions that.....  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, well we'll  
20 maintain separation.  
21  
22 MR. LIEBICH: Okay, thank you.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're staying  
25 with FP15-03 and 15-04 can be dealt with separately.  
26 So the Council's familiar with the proposal, what's the  
27 Alaska Department of Fish and Game's position.  
28  
29 Jennifer.  
30  
31 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
32 For the record, Jennifer Yuhas, State of Alaska.  
33  
34 The Department is also opposed with the  
35 same reasons OSM has for Districts 1 through 3 and  
36 Subdistrict 4A, but we support it for Subdistricts 4B  
37 and 4C, where we also have it closed. It's also  
38 currently closed in Districts 5 and 6.  
39  
40 So we support just for 4B and 4C to  
41 align with the State's closures, we already have it  
42 closed there.  
43  
44 And if anybody's got any questions, I  
45 think I was pretty straightforward but I'm here.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jennifer.  
48 And so any -- the Council's aware that 4B and 4C are  
49 Federal drift that were under a permit that was  
50 rescinded by the Federal Board over a year ago now.

1 And so that is part of what would be affected by this  
2 Proposal 15-03 also.

3  
4 Clarified on that for the Council.

5  
6 Go ahead, Jenny.

7  
8 MS. PELKOLA: Run it by me again.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The State of Alaska  
11 allows fishing through 4A, above 4A is on Federal  
12 waters, basically up through just below Galena is open  
13 on 4B and 4C so driftnetting also under Federal  
14 regulation. And so this proposal would eliminate all  
15 drift gillnetting, and the State would like the portion  
16 for 4B and 4C to pass. They want the Federal Board to  
17 modify the proposal, which we're not going to go there  
18 in this deliberation.

19  
20 So we have the Alaska Department of  
21 Fish and Game comments.

22  
23 Do we have any Native organization  
24 comments on the driftnet proposal.

25  
26 (No comments)

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And neighboring  
29 Advisory Council positions, YK Delta and Eastern.

30  
31 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. On FP15-03  
32 the Yukon Delta Regional Advisory Council opposed the  
33 proposal.

34  
35 Eastern Interior Council supported it.

36  
37 And it looks like Seward Penn opposed  
38 as well, Mr. Chair.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the  
41 justification of Yukon Delta, did they have  
42 justification or just the opposition?

43  
44 MS. BURKE: If my memory serves me  
45 correctly, I'm -- I believe on FP15-03 it was -- Don,  
46 are you still on the line, I -- I was looking for the  
47 -- for my notes and I think I might have left them on  
48 the shared drive instead of this jump drive. But if I  
49 -- if I remember correctly they -- they wanted to keep  
50 this but I'm drawing a blank as to the justification,

1 sorry.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I just  
4 thought they might have some pertinent information.

5

6 MS. BURKE: Don's on the line, he  
7 might.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you there, Don,  
10 Rivard.

11

12 MR. RIVARD: Yes, I'm here.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What was the  
15 justification for opposition to the proposal by the YK  
16 Delta, did they have any additional information or  
17 justification.

18

19 MR. RIVARD: Which proposal are we  
20 talking about now?

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: FP15-03, the drift  
23 -- elimination of drift gillnet.

24

25 MR. RIVARD: Okay.

26

27 MS. BURKE: I found it, Don, thank you  
28 so much. Sorry, I had the wrong -- the wrong window  
29 open.

30

31 MR. RIVARD: Okay.

32

33 MS. BURKE: There was testimony from  
34 two Council members this is the only method of  
35 harvesting subsistence salmon for many users in certain  
36 parts of the region and they would like to keep the  
37 options open to provide food for families for the  
38 winter.

39

40 Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I like to get  
43 all the information.

44

45 And was there any Eastern Interior  
46 comments in support of their proposal. Was anybody at  
47 that meeting. Trent, were you there?

48

49 MS. KENNER: I have that, Melinda, this  
50 is Pippa.

1 MS. BURKE: Thanks, Pippa. I just  
2 found the email but go ahead.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Pippa.  
5  
6 MS. KENNER: Our summary says the  
7 Council recommends that the Federal Subsistence Board  
8 support the proposal, the Council noting that this was  
9 an Eastern Interior Council proposal. They noted that  
10 the average size and fecundity of chinook salmon have  
11 decreased over time and that this proposal addresses  
12 conservation concerns.  
13  
14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I like to  
17 know what the other Councils were thinking.  
18  
19 And so we don't have any written  
20 comments on this proposal.  
21  
22  
23 (No comments)  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Public testimony.  
26 Do we have any public testimony in this room.  
27  
28 (No comments)  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. Is there  
31 anybody on the phone that would like to testify on  
32 this.  
33  
34 (No comments)  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Regional Council  
37 recommendation. The Chair will entertain a motion to  
38 adopt 15-03 for discussion.  
39  
40 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.  
41  
42 MR. HONEA: Second.  
43  
44 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, so moved.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we have the  
47 proposal on the table for discussion.  
48  
49 Go ahead and speak to the proposal,  
50 Don.

1 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
2 guess I'm with Jenny here.

3  
4 We lie in 4C, I believe, 4B, maybe  
5 Galena and above or below or something and I'm just --  
6 I'm just kind of concerned about that, I guess what you  
7 just said, the driftnetting will be cut out of it.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The proposal is to  
10 eliminate drift gillnet on the Yukon River under  
11 Federal subsistence regulations. It would not affect  
12 the State waters. So basically the people who live  
13 closest to Federal waters would be the most affected  
14 and the State Native Corp lands or BLM lands -- or  
15 correction, the other lands would be -- would still be  
16 able to use drift gillnet. So it doesn't actually  
17 address the entire Yukon River drainage in 4B and C and  
18 all the way to the mouth.

19  
20 So the proposal is flawed in that  
21 respect.

22  
23 The other aspect of this proposal, it  
24 eliminates it under Federal subsistence regulations,  
25 drift gillnet use, which is a tool under good returns  
26 for people to meet their subsistence needs with economy  
27 of time, effort and expense. And so I'm opposed to it  
28 on that issue, that it's detrimental to subsistence  
29 users in the Western Interior Region. And I feel that  
30 it's a tool that subsistence users should be able to  
31 use and the managers can eliminate drift gillnet and I  
32 would -- I could see at some points when these low  
33 return years that beach oriented gear should be used by  
34 the managers, elimination of drift gillnet by the  
35 managers to maintain beach orientation of the gear to  
36 reduce -- what the Eastern Interior wants is to reduce  
37 the impact to mid-stream larger chinook that travel  
38 mid-stream. And so I can see it but it's already in  
39 place. So I feel that elimination of this tool for the  
40 subsistence users is detrimental to subsistence.

41  
42 Any other comments by the Council on  
43 the Proposal FP15-03.

44  
45 Ray.

46  
47 MR. COLLINS: Yes. As you've stated, I  
48 don't think we can restrict subsistence users when it's  
49 allowed under State regs because they'd just fish under  
50 the State regs so it doesn't do what they want it to

1 do. So it doesn't make sense to start with -- if they  
2 want an impact they'd have to go to the State and get  
3 the State to reduce it but it wouldn't have the effect  
4 that they want.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

7

8 MR. COLLINS: I do agree that at some  
9 point that may be need to used. We have the same issue  
10 on the Kuskokwim and I think it's important that we  
11 recognize historically what's happened.

12

13 Historically the salmon head in for the  
14 headwaters, truck up the middle of the river  
15 unharvested down at the mouth, I think both in the  
16 Yukon and the Kuskokwim because they didn't have the  
17 gear or the technology to do it, they had to use  
18 setnets.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

21

22 MR. COLLINS: And the commercial  
23 fishing coming in and allowed boats and motors and  
24 larger nets allowed that fishery and that fishery does  
25 have a big impact on what ends up upstream but this  
26 wouldn't achieve that, it would have to go through the  
27 State first and get it changed there.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Exactly.  
30 Thanks for those comments, Ray.

31

32 You have any comments, Jenny.

33

34 MS. PELKOLA: No.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Eleanor.

37

38 MS. YATLIN: No.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

41

42 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I had a few  
43 comments.

44

45 These -- I agree with the Eastern  
46 Interior that they use the drift gillnets, they're a  
47 size-specific harvesting method which can be  
48 detrimental over the long term for reducing the age,  
49 sex and length quality of the run, genetically. And I  
50 -- I think what might be driving this is the people in

1 those regions are looking for some parity in the  
2 regulations where it's allowed in the lower and middle  
3 Yukon and not in the upper Yukon. So I -- in the  
4 future I would entertain some regulations that would  
5 bring the entire drainage into parity on allowable  
6 gear types. But at this time I think the existing  
7 system with emergency closures is enough to address the  
8 conservation concerns that we have. But I do -- would  
9 like the entire Yukon drainage to be -- to look at  
10 putting some parity into their methods and seasons so  
11 that all user groups have the same opportunities for  
12 harvesting with same gear types. But for now I'll just  
13 rely on existing emergency order closures to maintain  
14 the conservation concerns through emergency order so  
15 I'll oppose this.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those  
18 comments, Tim.

19

20 At one point this Council had made a  
21 proposal for drift gillnet from 4A all the way up the  
22 Yukon River, that proposal failed.

23

24 The Board of Fish, as is stated in the  
25 analysis, eliminated drift gillnet in the upper river,  
26 primarily as the commercial fishery built in the lower  
27 river and so that's -- that was one of the primary  
28 reasons for allocation.

29

30 But I do feel that if we do have a  
31 strong chinook run that subsistence should have the  
32 opportunity to use drift gillnet, but during low  
33 returns when there's subsistence restrictions, severe  
34 subsistence restrictions to protect pulses of chinook  
35 salmon that the in-season managers should really look  
36 to elimination because they have that tool, elimination  
37 of drift gillnet, beach oriented gear to protect  
38 chinook salmon to the highest degree. If everybody's  
39 -- and that would give parity to the conservation  
40 burden and so that would be my position.

41

42 But I intend to oppose the proposal  
43 because it's detrimental to subsistence users and is  
44 disparate to the State allowance for drift gillnet from  
45 4A all the way through Y1.

46

47 Any further discussion on the proposal.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of  
2 Proposal FP15-03 signify by saying aye.

3  
4 (No aye votes)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed to 15-  
7 03 signify by saying sign, opposition to Proposal 15-03  
8 signify by saying aye.

9  
10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so 15-04, sort  
13 of a very similar proposal, go ahead. We've sort of  
14 gotten an overview, it's the same analysis. Do you  
15 have any additional -- go ahead, Trent.

16  
17 MR. LIEBICH: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
18 Chair. I'll go through this one fairly quickly. I  
19 think there was a little confusion when the proposal  
20 was put together and submitted and after doing some  
21 research we found out that the proposal's really not --  
22 really wasn't necessary. I'll read through this  
23 quickly and you'll understand.

24  
25 So 15-04 was also submitted by the  
26 Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council and this is  
27 seeking to allow Federal subsistence Federal  
28 subsistence users to continue using set gillnets to  
29 harvest salmon in the Yukon River Drainage when drift  
30 gillnet salmon fisheries are closed.

31  
32 So this is kind of a variation on the  
33 set versus drift gillnet issue.

34  
35 This time around, this proposal was --  
36 the intention was to give the Federal manager the  
37 authority to independently differentiate between gear  
38 types by allowing set and/or drift gillnets during  
39 fishing periods and in areas targeting summer chum  
40 salmon while at the same time allowing only set  
41 gillnets during fishing periods in areas targeting  
42 chinook or during times of chinook salmon conservation.

43  
44 So it was trying to get at a lot of  
45 these issues that are discussed over the set gillnets  
46 and give that in-season manager that flexibility.

47  
48 As I cited in 15-03 we had that  
49 Appendix A provided in your books and that is a letter  
50 of delegated authority to the in-season manager.

1                   So I'll jump right to the conclusion on  
2 this and the justification and if we have questions we  
3 can go back.

4  
5                   So the conclusion on this one from OSM  
6 was take no action.

7  
8                   The justification is that this proposed  
9 action was not needed as the delegated authorities that  
10 are granted to the Federal in-season managers by the  
11 Board, and this is in that Appendix A, that letter of  
12 delegated authority, those authorities already allow  
13 what the proponent is asking for. It applies to waters  
14 within the Yukon River Drainage and permits the opening  
15 or closing of Federal subsistence fishing periods,  
16 areas, specification of methods and means, permit  
17 requirements and setting of harvest and possession  
18 limits for Federal subsistence fisheries. This  
19 delegation may be exercised only when it's necessary to  
20 conserve fish stocks or to continue subsistence uses.

21  
22                   So after we worked through this  
23 analysis and had a lot of subsequent discussions about  
24 what was allowed with that delegated authority we felt  
25 that it completely covered what was being asked for,  
26 thus the conclusion to take no action.

27  
28                   So that's my analysis.

29  
30                   If you have questions I'll be happy to  
31 answer.

32  
33                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any questions  
34 on that proposal.

35  
36                   (No comments)

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none. The  
39 Department of Fish and Game's position.

40  
41                   Jennifer.

42  
43                   MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
44 Jennifer Yuhas with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
45 Game.

46  
47                   We're neutral on this proposal. We  
48 realize that for it to be effective it would have to be  
49 approved and adopted by the Board of Fisheries.

50

1                                   That's all I have.  
2  
3                                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.  
4  
5                                   Any Native or tribal organization  
6 comments on this.  
7  
8                                   (No comments)  
9  
10                                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any Regional Council  
11 positions.  
12  
13                                  MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I now have  
14 them all open here in front of me.  
15  
16                                  The Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory  
17 Council opposed FP15-04 stating that there is not a  
18 conservation concern caused by using drift gillnets.  
19 Set gillnets also harvest chinook salmon. If there are  
20 problems with conservation the in-season manager  
21 already has the authority to make changes to harvest  
22 methods.  
23  
24                                  The Eastern Interior Council chose to  
25 take no action based on their action for 15-03.  
26 Justification. The Council discussed that since they  
27 had supported FP15-04 and if it passed it would  
28 override FP15-03. The Council referenced discussion on  
29 15-03.  
30  
31                                  And the YK Delta Regional Advisory  
32 Council chose to take no action. They recognized that  
33 sometimes along systems, rivers there's differing  
34 opinions within the Councils and they wanted to just  
35 take no action on this proposal at this time.  
36  
37                                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Any  
38 public testimony.  
39  
40                                  (No comments)  
41  
42                                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Written comments.  
43  
44                                  (No comments)  
45  
46                                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I feel that the  
47 Council should probably oppose the proposal to take a  
48 firm stand that the in-season manager has this  
49 authority and that this proposal is not warranted.  
50

1                   So the Chair will entertain a motion to  
2 adopt Proposal FP15-04.  
3  
4                   MS. PELKOLA: So moved.  
5  
6                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a second.  
7  
8                   MS. YATLIN: Second.  
9  
10                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Eleanor.  
11 Discussion on the proposal.  
12  
13                  (No comments)  
14  
15                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I feel that the in-  
16 season manager already has this authority. No action  
17 would give the Federal Subsistence Board sort of a  
18 neutral feeling, I don't feel that that's -- that it  
19 should be the position of this Council, I feel that we  
20 should be enforcing that the in-season manager has that  
21 authority already and that we would -- we feel that  
22 this proposal is not warranted and should not come back  
23 again.  
24  
25                  And so that would be my position.  
26  
27                  Any further comments.  
28  
29                  (No comments)  
30  
31                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You have any  
32 comments, Tim.  
33  
34                  MR. GERVAIS: No, I'm aligning with  
35 your reasoning on it, Mr. Chair.  
36  
37                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So seeing no further  
38 comments, those in favor of Proposal FP14-04 signify by  
39 saying aye.  
40  
41                  (No aye votes)  
42  
43                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same  
44 sign.  
45  
46                  IN UNISON: Aye.  
47  
48                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The proposal fails.  
49  
50                  So we're in 15-05, go ahead, Trent.

1 MR. LIEBICH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 I'll work through 15-05 and we also -- this is -- the  
3 next proposals are Kuskokwim River, specific proposals,  
4 so if we have questions we also have Don Rivard on line  
5 still so we can answer any questions you have.  
6

7 Proposal 15-05 was submitted by Nick  
8 Carter and he's requesting that the Federal Subsistence  
9 Board allow subsistence fishing for all fish species to  
10 occur without interruption in the lower section of  
11 fishing Subdistrict 1B on the Kuskokwim River during  
12 the month of June.

13  
14 He's making this request because it is  
15 tradition to be able to fish any time for any and all  
16 fish species in the lower section of Subdistrict 1B  
17 during the month of June. And all of Subdistrict 1B is  
18 Federal public waters within and adjacent to the  
19 exterior boundaries of the Yukon Delta National  
20 Wildlife Refuge. There's a map on the next page of  
21 your book that shows what that area looks like.  
22 There's two maps, actually Map 1 and Map 2.

23  
24 The lower section of Subdistrict 1B is  
25 defined as the portion of District 1 from a line  
26 between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
27 regulatory markers located approximately 15 miles  
28 downstream of the Johnson River to the lower boundary  
29 of District 1, which is defined as a line from Apokak  
30 Slough -- hopefully I pronounced that correctly, to the  
31 southern most tip of Eek Island to Popokamiut -- I  
32 think I've got that one wrong -- that's on Map 2, that  
33 shows it in more detail.

34  
35 The implication of this proposal is  
36 that the Federal in-season manager -- fisheries manager  
37 would not have the authority to impose any restriction  
38 during the month of June in the lower section of  
39 Subdistrict 1B regardless of the run size and/or  
40 population estimates of the subsistence fish species  
41 targeted for harvest. So this is just open opportunity  
42 to fish.

43  
44 And this would affect -- through  
45 customary and traditional use determinations, this  
46 would affect the residents of the Kuskokwim Fishery  
47 Management Area except for the persons residing in the  
48 United States Military Installations at Cape Newenham,  
49 Sparrevohn Air Force Base and Tatalina Air Force Base.  
50 All the others would have customary and traditional use

1 determination for all salmon in the affected area,  
2 which is the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge  
3 waters of the lower Kuskokwim River Drainage.

4  
5 OSM's preliminary conclusion on this  
6 proposal is to oppose.

7  
8 And the justification for this is that  
9 fishing restrictions of time, area or gear types are  
10 put in place based on fish population estimates and/or  
11 run strength and they're utilized to insure continued  
12 viability of a species or to address conservation  
13 concerns. Fisheries managers need to be allowed the  
14 flexibility to impose restrictions if and when  
15 necessary, and based on those biological parameters.  
16 To allow unrestricted fishing in the lower section of  
17 Subdistrict 1B during the month of June would likely be  
18 detrimental to the conservation of chinook salmon  
19 stocks throughout the Kuskokwim River Basin.

20  
21 Additionally, it's essential that the  
22 Federal in-season manager retain the authority and  
23 flexibility to manage all sections of Federal public  
24 waters on the Kuskokwim area based on in-season  
25 assessments and run strengths of all subsistence fish  
26 species.

27  
28 That ends my summary of the analysis.

29  
30 If you have questions I'll be happy to  
31 try to answer.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Trent. Any  
36 questions on the proposal.

37  
38 (No comments)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, Alaska  
41 Department of Fish and Game's position.

42  
43 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
44 Jennifer Yuhas for the Alaska Department of Fish and  
45 Game.

46  
47 The Department is also opposed to this  
48 proposal for the same reasons stated by OSM and  
49 concerns for the Kuskokwim River king salmon  
50 conservation.

1 Thank you.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. And so  
4 do we have any tribal comments.  
5  
6 (No comments)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No tribal comments.  
9 From Bethel, really. And the YK Delta would have  
10 reviewed this proposal, go ahead.  
11  
12 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. The YK  
13 Delta opposed the proposal and -- and is in line with  
14 the OSM justification.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Any  
17 written -- there's no written comments either.  
18  
19 (No comments)  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Public testimony.  
22  
23 (No comments)  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Regional Council  
26 recommendation.  
27  
28 The Chair will entertain a motion to  
29 adopt Proposal FP15-05.  
30  
31 MR. COLLINS: I so move.  
32  
33 MS. PELKOLA: Second.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded  
36 for discussion.  
37  
38 Don.  
39  
40 MR. HONEA: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
41  
42 I guess when we adopt this, are we  
43 supporting it then?  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We always make a  
46 positive motion to adopt but if you're opposed, you  
47 vote no against the proposal.  
48  
49 MR. HONEA: Okay.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So right now we're  
2 on Council discussion on the proposal.  
3  
4 Ray, you got a comment.  
5  
6 MR. COLLINS: Yes.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.  
9  
10 MR. COLLINS: Yes, I do. I'm going to  
11 oppose this.  
12  
13 It allows a privilege to people at the  
14 mouth of the river and everybody else has to pay the  
15 price up river. And really if you look at it those  
16 fish are not spawning down there in that area,  
17 especially the kings and on, they're spawning up river  
18 so they're asking to be taking an unlimited amount out  
19 of the run before anybody else has a chance and then  
20 everybody else pays the price. And there is a working  
21 group on the river that works very hard to make it  
22 equitable all the way up the river.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.  
25  
26 MR. COLLINS: So I would oppose this.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did the working  
29 group review the proposal?  
30  
31 MR. COLLINS: They did not. But I  
32 could feel comfortable in saying that they would not  
33 support that because of their previous action of trying  
34 to make equitable, and they've had rolling closures all  
35 the way up the river so that everybody pays the price,  
36 even up to the headwaters this last year, they had  
37 restrictions in place up there, too.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.  
40  
41 MR. COLLINS: So I think that they  
42 would oppose this.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other Council  
45 comments under discussion.  
46  
47 (No comments)  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm opposed to this  
50 proposal.

1                   The majority of the households in the  
2 Kuskokwim River within this district, and so the  
3 harvest capacity is massive in 1B and so this is a  
4 shared resource throughout two regions, the Western  
5 Interior region has to protect the subsistence resource  
6 and the subsistence users and so as Ray stated, the  
7 subsistence users of the upper river would be at a  
8 completely detrimental position in sharing this  
9 resource and so I oppose the proposal.

10

11                   Any further discussion.

12

13                   Don.

14

15                   MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
16 guess I also would oppose this, too, just mainly  
17 because we're not going by the numbers, by bycatch or  
18 something, it leaves it open for a wide range of just I  
19 don't know, maybe just too open for the whole month of  
20 June.

21

22                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so the other  
23 aspect of the proposal is that these are considered  
24 Federal waters and this would have effect, the Federal  
25 in-season manager for the Federal waters down there is  
26 the YK Delta manager, and so this would be extremely  
27 detrimental to the resource and to the subsistence  
28 users above 1B.

29

30                   You have any comment, Tim.

31

32                   MR. GERVAIS: I'm opposed to it based  
33 on all the comments and the other Council members  
34 comments.

35

36                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So those in  
37 favor of FP15-05 signify by saying aye.

38

39                   (No aye votes)

40

41                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same  
42 sign.

43

44                   IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the proposal  
47 fails.

48

49                   So we're in Proposal FP15-06 and 07,  
50 they're going to be a joint analysis.

1                   Go ahead, Trent.

2

3                   MR. LIEBICH: Okay. So Proposal 15-06  
4 was submitted by the Yukon Delta National Wildlife  
5 Refuge and Proposal 15-07 was submitted by Lisa  
6 Feyereisen.

7

8                   They're requesting that dipnets be  
9 authorized as legal gear for the harvest of salmon in  
10 the Kuskokwim River Drainage. That's the request of  
11 06.

12

13                   07 requests the inclusion that all king  
14 or chinook salmon captured with a dipnet must be  
15 immediately released back to the water.

16

17                   So we're combining these two proposals  
18 together.

19

20                   The proponent of 15-06 states that the  
21 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group and the  
22 State of Alaska successfully petitioned the Alaska  
23 Board of Fisheries to implement dipnets as a legal gear  
24 type in the Kuskokwim Management Area for the 2014  
25 salmon fishing season. So this proposal in front of us  
26 today would make permanent the allowance of those  
27 dipnets in the Kuskokwim Management Area. So that was  
28 a special action this past season, it was a temporary  
29 action, this would make that permanent in regulation.

30

31                   For 15-07 the proponent's asking the  
32 dipnets -- or stating that dipnets would likely only be  
33 used when the restrictions for king salmon are  
34 implemented so consequently the harvest of chum and  
35 sockeye salmon with dipnets will be much lower than in  
36 typical years when gillnets are the preferred method  
37 because dipnets are a very inefficient means of  
38 fishing.

39

40                   I'm going to cover a little bit of the  
41 2014, the regulatory history, just to make sure we  
42 understand that special action and the permanence of  
43 this one.

44

45                   So in February of 2014, the Kuskokwim  
46 River Salmon Management Working Group submitted the  
47 special action request to the Federal Subsistence Board  
48 to add dipnets as a legal gear for the harvest of  
49 salmon in the Kuskokwim River Drainage for the 2014  
50 subsistence salmon fishing season with an effective

1 start date of May 24th, 2014. That request included  
2 the following provision.

3  
4                   That all chinook salmon caught with a  
5                   dipnet must be released alive to the  
6                   water.

7  
8                   The Board adopted the special action  
9 request with the modification that all chinook salmon  
10 caught with dipnets must be released immediately to the  
11 water and to leave the effective date to the discretion  
12 of the in-season manager.

13  
14                   Concurrent with the special action  
15 request to the Board, the Working Group also submitted  
16 an emergency petition to the Alaska Board of Fisheries  
17 to add dipnets as a legal gear type for the taking of  
18 salmon other than chinook in the Kuskokwim area during  
19 times of chinook salmon conservation. State of Alaska  
20 regulations only allowed for the use of gillnets,  
21 fishwheels, beach seines and hook and line attached to  
22 a rod or pole for the harvest of salmon in the  
23 Kuskokwim River Drainage. The Board of Fisheries met  
24 in March of 2014 and approved the use of dipnets to  
25 harvest salmon in the Kuskokwim River Drainage during  
26 the 2014 salmon fishing season. In conjunction with  
27 approving that emergency petition, the Alaska Board of  
28 Fisheries also gave the Commissioner of the Alaska  
29 Department of Fish and Game the authority to make this  
30 regulation permanent.

31  
32                   If the proposal was adopted the  
33 Federally-qualified subsistence users would be allowed  
34 to utilize dipnets to harvest salmon within and  
35 adjacent to the boundaries of the Yukon Delta National  
36 Wildlife Refuge. This addition would broaden the  
37 fishers opportunities to provide for their families by  
38 allowing them to attempt to harvest salmon when gillnet  
39 restrictions are in place.

40  
41                   The Federal Subsistence Board and the  
42 Alaska Board of Fisheries authorized the dipnets as a  
43 legal gear type in the Kuskokwim Management Area for  
44 the 2014 subsistence salmon fishing season.

45  
46                   So these proposals, if adopted by the  
47 Board, would add dipnets as a legal gear type for the  
48 harvest of salmon in the Kuskokwim Management Area in  
49 Federal subsistence salmon fishing regulations. So  
50 this would make permanent, dipnets, as a gear type.

1 So OSM's conclusion.

2

3 On 15-06 is to support. So that's to  
4 support the gillnets as a gear type.

5

6 And then on 15-07, which was the  
7 language about releasing the chinook, on 15-7, the  
8 conclusion was to take no action.

9

10 Justifications.

11

12 Dipnets have been utilized historically  
13 to harvest salmon in the Kuskokwim River Drainage and  
14 are currently a legal gear type to harvest non-salmon  
15 species of fish.

16

17 The Federal Subsistence Board, as I  
18 mentioned, they authorized the dipnets to the harvest  
19 of salmon 2014 fishing season under the special action  
20 and the Board of Fish recently authorized the use of  
21 dipnets to harvest salmon in the Kuskokwim River  
22 Drainage under State of Alaska regulations. The  
23 provision requested in 15-07 that all chinook salmon  
24 captured with a dipnet must be immediately released  
25 back to the water is thought to be unnecessary and the  
26 in-season manager has the authority to implement that  
27 provision if necessary during times of chinook salmon  
28 conservation.

29

30 That is the end of the analysis.

31

32 I know I skipped over a lot of  
33 information. If you guys want to get into more details  
34 I'll be happy to help.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One of the questions  
39 I would have on the presentation is, when the 2014  
40 harvest with dipnet, was there any harvest with dipnet  
41 for other species of salmon. Do you have any kind of  
42 -- have household surveys been conducted or anything  
43 like that.

44

45 MS. BURKE: Don, or Pippa, did you.....

46

47 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, this is Don  
48 Rivard.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

1 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. There wasn't  
2 any breakdown of how much was caught, and for the most  
3 part people found it was very difficult to use dipnets,  
4 it wasn't their preferred method. And I think that  
5 some people tried but nobody really had any real good  
6 success with them.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And was there  
9 specification in the Federal regulation as to the size  
10 of -- is it still this four foot size or is there  
11 definition in the Federal regulation for this proposal.

12  
13 MR. RIVARD: Yes. There's a definition  
14 of dipnets and the size in Federal regulation already.  
15 It basically matches what the State has, as far as  
16 maximum size.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other  
19 questions on the proposal as presented by the Council.

20  
21 (No comments)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the State's  
24 position on the proposal.

25  
26 Jennifer.

27  
28 MS. YUHAS: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.  
29 Again, for the record, Jennifer Yuhas with the Alaska  
30 Department of Fish and Game.

31  
32 On this proposal -- you've heard me say  
33 we agree with OSM on so many, we're actually breaking  
34 form on this one and the Department supports the public  
35 proposal, 15-07, in lieu of the Refuge's proposal, 15-  
36 06. Our managers are working very well with the  
37 Refuge, we're getting along very well with them. But  
38 the other RAC also supported the public proposal over  
39 the Refuge's proposal. That's for a couple of reasons.

40  
41 One is for the alignment, but a lot of  
42 that is based on significant deliberation by the other  
43 RAC, that surprisingly there was a lot of opposition to  
44 even wanting to use these dipnets. We thought that  
45 people would really embrace them the way they did on  
46 the Yukon and that wasn't the case. We also understand  
47 there were some high water events and some other things  
48 that -- for those of us who dipnet know that it  
49 provides a complication, but it's too bad that in the  
50 Federal process you don't always have access to the

1 transcripts by the time you meet, we do this twice a  
2 year in rapid succession, and I know that's also been  
3 frustrating to the Chair, but I wish you could have  
4 heard the entire dialogue. Anyway, we went along with  
5 what the YKD RAC did and we supported 15-07 taking no  
6 action on 15-06.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, this is Don  
11 Rivard.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks Don. Or  
14 thanks Jennifer, and go ahead Don.

15

16 MR. RIVARD: I have to chime in here.  
17 The YK Council, they reconsidered their initial action  
18 the following day and they supported 15-06 and they  
19 took no action on 15-07 and Melinda could confirm that.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And why did  
22 they.....

23

24 MS. YUHAS: Thanks, Don. I had got the  
25 opposite report on the reconsideration, when they had  
26 originally denied both of them.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And what was the  
29 reasoning for changing their position on 15-07.

30

31 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. They initially  
32 opposed 15-06, but they were confused. It was the last  
33 proposal of the day, they were pretty tired out, so one  
34 of the Council members asked to have a reconsideration  
35 the first thing the next morning and they went ahead  
36 and supported the -- allowing to have dipnets as an  
37 additional gear type. So they did support 15-06 and  
38 they took no action on 07.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So is there  
41 any Native or tribal comments to that proposal.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got the  
46 comments from the Council. Summary of written  
47 comments, anybody supporting one way or another.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No public testimony.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Regional Council  
6 recommendation and the motion.

7

8 I'm inclined to align with the YK  
9 Delta. I do want to state for the record that I  
10 appreciate the public's proposal but I also feel that  
11 it's good to align with what the other Regional Council  
12 did on this proposal since they spent a lot of time on  
13 deliberation and are in that area.

14

15 So how does the Council feel about  
16 supporting the YK Delta's position of adopting Proposal  
17 FP15-06 and taking no action on 07.

18

19 MR. COLLINS: I so move.

20

21 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

22

23 MR. GERVAIS: I support that.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we have a motion  
26 to adopt 15-06 and take no action on 07.

27

28 Any further discussion by the Council.

29

30 Ray.

31

32 MR. COLLINS: Yes. The working group  
33 on the Kuskokwim talked about this quite a bit and as  
34 was mentioned there were a lot of people reluctant,  
35 didn't feel it would be very useful in the lower river  
36 but we felt that it was important to have it as a tool  
37 in there and people were trying it this year in various  
38 places. I think it becomes more effective as you go up  
39 river where the river narrows more.

40

41 But it just gave another tool in the  
42 tool box and it was used historically, especially in  
43 the upper river, drifting.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

46

47 MR. COLLINS: In fact it's interesting  
48 one of the early reports on the Yukon River gives a  
49 description of watching an Athabascan in the upper  
50 Yukon stalking a particular king salmon because they

1 could it coming over a bar and they purposely moved out  
2 with their canoe and drifted down and intercepted that  
3 salmon and caught that salmon so they actually stopped  
4 salmon with a dipnet.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

7  
8 MR. COLLINS: And there was a  
9 description of that in there. And I know the upper  
10 river they used to use driftnets in the -- where the  
11 water is cloudy, it won't work in clear water, but  
12 it'll work in the main river.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

15  
16 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, so I would support  
17 the motion.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don, you got  
20 comments.

21  
22 MR. HONEA: Well, just a comment.

23  
24 I guess not knowing fully what this  
25 entails on the Kuskokwim here but I guess just in  
26 talking to local people or people from Nikolai or  
27 something further up there, how much take that they  
28 actually use with the dipnetting so I appreciate your  
29 comments, Ray, so that we can make kind of an informed  
30 decision on that.

31  
32 Thank you.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One further question  
35 I have is that would it be legal to build a lead to put  
36 the dipnet off of, under this regulation. Is there any  
37 specification as to implementing a lead to deflect the  
38 fish into the dipnet, has anybody discussed that at  
39 the.....

40  
41 MR. LIEBICH: Mr. Chair. I do not know  
42 the answer to that one but we can try to track that  
43 down in regulations right now.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that's just  
46 supplementary to the discussion but I would like to  
47 know that in the future, though. If you could use a  
48 lead, you know, basically like used for a fishwheel,  
49 you could really increase your chances a lot. And so I  
50 would like to know that.

1 So any further discussion.  
2  
3 (No comments)  
4  
5 MS. PELKOLA: Question.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.  
8 Those in favor of Proposal FP-06.....  
9  
10 MR. GERVAIS: I got.....  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead, Tim,  
13 you got a comment.  
14  
15 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I was wondering if  
16 the Kuskokwim River Salmon Working Group had a position  
17 on this proposal.  
18  
19 MR. COLLINS: Yes, they had actually  
20 proposed it as a means and methods early on, they  
21 support it.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: FP-06 or 07.  
24  
25 MR. COLLINS: Well, I don't think we  
26 read the two.....  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Or concept?  
29  
30 MR. COLLINS: .....but -- yeah, the  
31 concept is what we approved.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any further  
34 comments, Tim.  
35  
36 MR. GERVAIS: No, I couldn't hear Ray  
37 completely, he said they approved it or opposed it.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He said that they  
40 had submitted the concept but the concept of using  
41 dipnet is what the working group -- and they didn't  
42 actually deliberate values of either proposal.  
43  
44 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. I could clarify  
45 this a little bit, this is Don Rivard.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.  
48  
49 MR. RIVARD: The Working Group were the  
50 ones that submitted the proposal for the temporary one

1 for just the 2014 season. So as Ray mentioned in  
2 concept they agree with this.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So that's  
5 clear in the Council's mind. So the question's called,  
6 those in favor of FP15-06 and taking no action on 07  
7 signify by saying aye.

8  
9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

12  
13 (No opposing votes)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And that was an  
16 affirmative vote, Tim.

17  
18 (No comments)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hello, Tim.

21  
22 (No comments)

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, he was there a  
25 minute ago.

26  
27 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, I'm not going to  
28 vote on this particular item because I can't follow the  
29 discussion good enough to get a clear idea of what the  
30 issues are.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So you're  
33 abstaining.

34  
35 MR. COLLINS: Abstaining.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we have five  
38 members voting.....

39  
40 MR. GERVAIS: That's correct.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....for the  
43 proposal; and one abstaining.

44  
45 Should we take a break.

46  
47 MS. BURKE: Yes, we can take a break.  
48 And, Tim, this is Melinda, I just want to say thanks so  
49 much for willing to be on the line today. I -- I know  
50 that scheduling is often difficult but it's really --

1 it really shows your dedication when you're willing to  
2 take time out from your -- you know, the work you're  
3 doing to make sure that we can have a quorum to vote.  
4 So just personally I'd like to throw that out there,  
5 thanks so much for calling in and stay on for as long  
6 as you -- as you can but thanks so much for -- for  
7 helping us out so we can get a vote on the record.

8

9 That's great.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So how is  
12 everybody's doing, do we need a break.

13

14 MR. HONEA: Do we have more, is there  
15 more?

16

17 MS. BURKE: No more proposals.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's no more  
20 proposals. We're at sort of an in between area so it  
21 would be good for about a 15 minute break and we'll be  
22 back here at about 20 after 3:00.

23

24 (Off record)

25

26 (On record)

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll call the  
29 meeting back to order here. So we're going to hear the  
30 Donlin Creek EIS presentation since we -- I guess we  
31 are time certain on that one. And so there's a  
32 PowerPoint presented here and was there a handout also.

33

34 MS. BURKE: Yes, I've got handouts. If  
35 the Council wants to -- it'll probably be easier for  
36 the Council to sit -- I know it's kind of awkward.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

39

40 MS. BURKE: .....or if you want to sit  
41 up here I've got the handouts as well, too, so wherever  
42 you folks feel most comfortable.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So there's a  
45 PowerPoint handout also. And so are you on line again  
46 Tim.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We may have lost Tim

1 but I was appreciative of Tim -- who's all on the  
2 conference call we're going to do -- we've changed  
3 around slightly, we're going to have the Donlin Creek  
4 Environmental Impact Statement presentation because we  
5 had time certain on individuals that needed to travel.  
6 So I don't think Tim is on line now so we'll go right  
7 ahead.

8

9

Go ahead Donne.

10

11 MS. FLEAGLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman  
12 for allowing us to participate in today's meeting. For  
13 the record my name is Donne Fleagle, and with me is  
14 Jessica Evans. We work for URS, and URS works for the  
15 Army Corps of Engineers on this project, and I am the  
16 senior rural community engagement specialist.

17

18 Since late 2012 the Army Corps has been  
19 preparing an environmental impact statement to review  
20 the proposed Donlin gold project. I am here to give a  
21 brief outline of the progress with the Donlin Gold  
22 environmental impact statement, or EIS. The Donlin  
23 Gold project is a proposed gold mine near the village  
24 of Crooked Creek. Donlin Gold is a joint venture of two  
25 international mining companies, Barrick and NovaGold.  
26 However, before they can go ahead they have to obtain  
27 permits from the Corps of Engineers and other agencies.

28

29 The Army Corps Engineers is the lead  
30 agency for development of the EIS. The Army Corps of  
31 Engineers is not a proponent or an opponent of the  
32 proposed mine project, instead The Corps is responsible  
33 to prepare an independent evaluation of the proposed  
34 project through the EIS. The Corps is assisted by a  
35 large technical team from URS Corporation, an  
36 engineering and environmental services company.

37

38 In the last two years the Army Corps of  
39 Engineers has visited many communities and learned a  
40 great deal about the hopes and concerns of residents in  
41 relation to the Donlin Gold environmental impact  
42 statement. I will walk through a quick overview of the  
43 project area and the major project components and then  
44 I'll explain some of the categories of scoping comments  
45 we received and types of alternatives we are looking  
46 at. I'll conclude with the Army Corps contact  
47 information where you can always call, email or write  
48 with any questions.

49

50

Slide 2.

1                   The first box on the left refers to the  
2 16 years of baseline studies and exploration conducted  
3 by Donlin Gold. The middle box highlights the  
4 permitting phase where the agencies evaluate the Donlin  
5 Gold application through the EIS. This will take over  
6 three years. The right box shows that if permits are  
7 approved Donlin Gold will spend three to four years in  
8 construction, they operate for 27 and a half years, and  
9 at the end of the mine life comes closure, reclamation,  
10 and monitoring.

11  
12                   This slide shows the major milestones  
13 in the EIS. The yellow circles refer to the major  
14 milestones for public involvement. We are working on  
15 the draft EIS and will be until mid- to late 2015. We  
16 learned a lot from the scoping meetings and now we are  
17 working to come up with answers to the questions people  
18 asked and develop alternatives in order to respond to  
19 potential impacts. The draft EIS will incorporate  
20 responses to the ideas and concerns raised in scoping.

21  
22                   Following the draft there will be  
23 additional public meetings to tell people about the  
24 conclusions and ask for additional review comments.  
25 These review comments will be addressed in the final  
26 EIS.

27  
28                   The Corps and other agencies will then  
29 use the final EIS along with other applicable laws,  
30 regulations and guidance to make their permit  
31 decisions.

32  
33                   This map gives an orientation to the  
34 project area, which extends from Cook Inlet to the mine  
35 site north of Crooked Creek and down the to lower  
36 Kuskokwim River and the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta. This is  
37 a remote area with little development to date and no  
38 existing roads to the region. The proposed mine would  
39 require all new infrastructure including roads and a  
40 pipeline. It would all be subject to permitting with  
41 different agencies before the project could proceed.

42  
43                   The first large component is a natural  
44 gas pipeline. It would start at Beluga in Cook Inlet,  
45 cross the Alaska Range at Rainy Pass, run west along  
46 the foothills of the Alaska Range, still heading west  
47 into the Kuskokwim River Valley until it reaches the  
48 mine site near Crooked Creek. The pipeline would cross  
49 about 56 percent State lands, 34 percent BLM lands and  
50 10 ANCSA Corporate lands.

1                   The second major component of the  
2 project is the mine site, which includes numerous  
3 facilities. Highlighting three we have:

4  
5                   No. 1.

6  
7                   An open pit that would eventually cover  
8 1,400 acres, it would be 2.2 miles  
9 long, one mile wide, 1,850 feet deep.

10  
11                   No. 2.

12  
13                   Tailings empowerment also known as a  
14 waste treatment facility that would  
15 cover about 2,350 acres, or  
16 approximately three and a half square  
17 miles. Tailings refer to fine powder  
18 like material that is left after the  
19 gold has been removed in the mill.

20  
21                   No. 3.

22  
23                   A wasterock facility that would cover  
24 about 2,300 acres. This is the rock  
25 that's moved to get at the gold bearing  
26 ore.

27  
28                   These major facilities support the mill  
29 which would process 59,000 tons of ore a day.

30  
31                   The third major component of the  
32 project, and there is no slide for this, is the  
33 transportation infrastructure that supports mine  
34 construction and operations, including port facilities  
35 in Bethel. The transportation infrastructure that  
36 supports mine construction operation includes port  
37 facilities in Bethel, a new barge landing near Jungjuk,  
38 a 35 mile road, 5,000 foot air strip and 40 million  
39 gallon diesel storage at the mine site. The cargo that  
40 the barges will be carrying will be about 550 tons,  
41 average will be 110 days a year for the barging season  
42 and three barge toll passings per day with four barges  
43 in two.

44  
45                   Barge traffic were some of the -- these  
46 are some of the public comments that came out, there  
47 was concern with the barge traffic, how it would impact  
48 subsistence and fishing, subsistence traditions. The  
49 water quality, quantity and flow, concerns about  
50 mercury and cyanide, fish, wildlife and birds, people

1 in communities and health.

2

3 We heard concerns about riverbank  
4 erosion from barge wakes, including the erosion of  
5 cultural resource sites along the river. There were  
6 concerns about increased turbidity, water temperature  
7 changes and impacts to spawning grounds. Also about  
8 disturbance of fish migrations, particularly for salmon  
9 runs that are already under stress. Other barging  
10 concerns include displacement of commercial and  
11 subsistence fisheries, risk of accidents or spills and  
12 the potential for barges getting stuck during low water  
13 periods.

14

15 The National Environmental Policy Act  
16 or NEPA, is the law under which we are preparing the  
17 EIS. A very important part of the EIS to analyze  
18 alternative methods for the project.

19

20 In the scoping meetings and in the  
21 letters people had a lot of good ideas about  
22 alternatives that might reduce the environmental  
23 footprint of the proposed mining projects.

24

25 Step one: is to identify scoping  
26 issues.

27

28 Step two: identify screening criteria.

29

30 Step three: identify options to address  
31 concerns.

32

33 Step four: apply screening criteria to  
34 all options, develop options to carry  
35 forward and;

36

37 Step five: package options into action  
38 alternatives.

39

40 Alternatives under development is:

41

42 No Action. The Corps is analyzing a no  
43 action alternative. The no action alternative means  
44 that the project would not be undertaken and the  
45 required permits would not be issued. This alternative  
46 looks at what would happen in the future without the  
47 project.

48

49 Proposed Alternative. The proposed  
50 alternative is the project proposed by Donlin Gold with

1 the components described earlier. Reduced barging  
2 alternatives would reduce the number of barges  
3 traveling on the Kuskokwim River or shorten the  
4 distances the barges would travel. These alternatives  
5 address concerns about barge impacts. Mine site  
6 alternatives, evaluate ways to dispose of the tailings  
7 and manage contact water, or water exposed during  
8 mining to contamination. These alternatives address  
9 concerns that the project would degrade water quality  
10 or generate acid mine drainage.

11

#### 12 Pipeline Route Alternatives.

13

14 These alternatives explore  
15 modifications to the proposed pipeline route, different  
16 pipeline routes could have different impacts to various  
17 resources and these alternatives would analyze the  
18 tradeoffs.

19

20 Reduced -- this map shows the contrast  
21 in barging distances between two alternative up river  
22 port locations. Relocating the up river port to Birch  
23 Tree crossing would shorten the distance of barging and  
24 eliminate some shallow sections between Birch Tree  
25 crossing and the Jungjuk port site and the proposed  
26 action. It would require a 76 mile road, about 46  
27 miles longer than the one that would go to Jungjuk.

28

29 Other ideas to reduce barge traffic  
30 include use of liquid natural gas powered mining  
31 trucks, eliminating most of the 40 million gallons per  
32 year of diesel barging -- reconfiguring the pipeline to  
33 transport diesel fuel eliminating all of the diesel  
34 barging.

35

36 Ideas include route sections with the  
37 intention of reducing impacts to the Iditarod National  
38 Historic Trail. A major alternate route being looked  
39 at is the Dalzell Gorge alternative.

40

41 In the process of identifying and  
42 evaluating alternatives sometimes it's determined that  
43 additional information is needed.

44

45 The large volume of barging associated  
46 with the proposed Donlin Gold project brought special  
47 attention to potential impacts of Kuskokwim River fish  
48 stocks and as a result two studies were planned and  
49 implemented this year. In late May 2014 working with  
50 local experts, fish biologists were able to document a

1 short spawning event of rainbow smelt just up stream  
2 from Upper Kalskag. This study was requested by  
3 cooperators this spring. The study plan was developed  
4 with participation of the cooperators, agency fish  
5 biologists, Donlin Gold and URS.

6  
7 The results found that rainbow smelt  
8 traveled up river about 30 miles per day from Bethel on  
9 May 18th to Kalskag on May 22nd. Spawning was  
10 concentrated about three miles above Upper Kalskag but  
11 extended over four miles of river, eggs were deposited  
12 on gravel and cobble at depths of five to 13 feet on  
13 both sides of the river in a current from two to six  
14 feet per second.

15  
16 The second study was designed to  
17 identify how juvenile salmon use the shallow water  
18 habitats and narrow parts of the river where the fish  
19 might be affected by propeller wash from the barges.  
20 In mid-July the fish biologists took samples from the  
21 shallows in seven locations on the river including a  
22 river bar above Kalskag, Birch Tree crossing near the  
23 mouth of the Halakok and at Nelson Island. The second  
24 sampling period started in late August and based on  
25 previous results focused on locations and also added  
26 some tributaries.

27  
28 Sampling was done by seining and also  
29 minnow trapping, recorded habitat data such as water  
30 depth and velocity, water temperature, type of  
31 substrate, turbidity and cover features.

32  
33 The green dots on this slide show five  
34 July sampling locations for the juvenile salmon study.

35  
36 The July sampling did not find a lot of  
37 salmon in the shallow mainstream habitats but after  
38 adding tributaries from the later samples higher  
39 densities of salmon were found there. Also more salmon  
40 at greater depths.

41  
42 So the July sampling captured over  
43 14,500 fish in 250 seine hauls, however, only one  
44 chinook and five coho salmon were captured. Chinook  
45 and coho were virtually absent from shallow mainstream  
46 habitats in both sampling periods. Chinook and coho  
47 were present at high densities in the tributaries,  
48 Holokok and Aniak, during second sampling. Sockeye and  
49 coho slightly increase at greater depths, sockeye three  
50 times more abundant in tributaries.

1                   The EIS will be considering the effects  
2 of the various alternatives on subsistence. Based on  
3 the traditions of living from the land and the waters,  
4 our elders hold a detailed and dynamic body of wisdom  
5 about the local environment. This information is  
6 referred to as traditional, ecological knowledge, or  
7 TEK. The Corps of Engineers convened two workshops to  
8 listen and learn from our elders. In November of 2013,  
9 13 local experts from Stony River to Tuntutuliak met  
10 with agency representatives in Aniak to share stories  
11 and offer insights and wisdom about subsistence.

12  
13                   Participants included local  
14 representatives, the Army Corps of Engineers,  
15 cooperating agencies, URS subsistence experts and  
16 Donlin.

17  
18                   The second TEK workshop was held in  
19 March 2014 when leaders from 13 communities met with  
20 the EIS team, specifically our specialists in wildlife  
21 and fisheries for a dialogue about the current status  
22 of these resources and potential impacts from the  
23 Donlin Gold project. All of the participants expressed  
24 appreciation for these opportunities to contribute an  
25 Alaska Native perspective to the EIS.

26  
27                   This is another slide from the  
28 Anchorage TEK workshop. The Aniak workshop looked at  
29 data gaps in subsistence information for the EIS. The  
30 Anchorage workshop provided followup opportunities for  
31 scientists and elders to compare notes on the work that  
32 was being done on subsistence for the EIS.

33  
34                   This years informational meetings have  
35 been held in the following communities, and I won't  
36 read all of that to you. We are trying to keep local  
37 communities informed of where we are at in the EIS  
38 process by holding informational meetings in villages  
39 or making presentations at conferences or asking to get  
40 on an agenda, such as yours.

41  
42                   This slide shows many of the meetings  
43 and conferences we have been to. We plan to continue  
44 these updates and add more communities and add more  
45 information as it's developed.

46  
47                   The project seems quiet between the  
48 time of scoping, which started in the winter of 2013  
49 and when the draft EIS document is distributed for  
50 public review in the fall of 2015. That's because the

1 cooperating agencies are finalizing the alternatives  
2 and scientific and traditional knowledge experts are  
3 researching the potential impacts of these  
4 alternatives. During this time you can find  
5 information, like background reports on the project  
6 website, and it's there, and you can contact the Army  
7 Corps of Engineer's project manager, Don Kuhle,  
8 directly. His phone number and his email address are  
9 there. And should you have any concerns on the tribal  
10 level you can contact Amanda Shearer who is the tribal  
11 liaison and her email address and telephone number are  
12 also there.

13

14 We'd like to thank you for giving us  
15 the time to make this presentation to your prestigious  
16 board.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Donne. Does  
19 any Council members have questions on the presentation.

20

21 Ray.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Donne, I attended  
24 the March meeting in Anchorage and gave testimony then  
25 about the impact in the Farewell area and also I was --  
26 Nikolai had me go into the pipeline hearing there.

27

28 The main concern seems to be from  
29 Farewell over towards Big River that there right along  
30 the base of the hills in that transitional forest  
31 between the black spruce and the mountains, and that's  
32 where the pipeline's going, right through there, and  
33 that's the critical big game habitat. I know I talked  
34 to the local biologist here and they identify that as  
35 critical habitat, too, whereas, if they would move  
36 slightly down into the black spruce they would avoid  
37 that -- much of that conflict, because the black spruce  
38 has much lower wildlife value. And I'm wondering if  
39 any of those comments made it to your research and were  
40 looked into by you at all.

41

42 MS. FLEAGLE: I know that my boss,  
43 Taylor Brelsford, is very interested in your comments,  
44 Ray, he's brought that up to me more than once. We'll  
45 take this comment back to him again and let him know  
46 what your recommendations are and that you and the  
47 Nikolai people would recommend that that pipeline move  
48 a little bit to the south?

49

50 MR. COLLINS: Yeah -- well, it would be

1 to the north, actually.....

2

3 MS. FLEAGLE: To the north.

4

5 MR. COLLINS: .....northeast.

6

7 MS. FLEAGLE: To the northeast.

8

9 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, down towards --  
10 instead of -- because part of the problem is not just  
11 now during construction, which is through critical  
12 habitat but when they've left there's going to be a  
13 fourwheeler trail from Farewell all the way to Big  
14 River, basically because there won't be any road but  
15 there's an open corridor through there and they're  
16 already heavily using the Farewell area and that'll  
17 extend it over to those other drainages over there so  
18 that'll really have an impact on sheep hunting and  
19 caribou and moose along the foothills there, whereas if  
20 they move down to the black spruce it wouldn't be quite  
21 as attractive to go over there looking for -- there  
22 isn't as much game down there as there is right  
23 adjacent to the hills.

24

25 And what I heard at the meeting in  
26 Anchorage there by some, was they were saying, well,  
27 the black spruce is all considered wildlife -- or  
28 wetlands by the Federal government, classified as  
29 wetlands, but there's very little utilization of that  
30 black spruce for any waterfowl or anything like that,  
31 there's frozen ground there, but it's not true  
32 wetlands, you know, where it has high wildlife value.  
33 So I think there'd be much less impact if they could  
34 just move it a few miles down from Farewell and not go  
35 right through Farewell.

36

37 MS. FLEAGLE: Right. When I get back  
38 Ray, we'll bring this to Taylor Brelsford attention and  
39 we'll place a call to you and see what we can do.

40

41 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

42

43 MS. FLEAGLE: Because I know it's a  
44 huge concern, we've seen it in your scoping comments  
45 and you've been consistent throughout this process.

46

47 MR. COLLINS: Thank you.

48

49 MS. FLEAGLE: Thank you.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would reiterate  
2 that concern, you know, the transition between the  
3 boreal forest and the tundra usually has quite a bit of  
4 shrubby, and that's a lot -- used a lot by moose,  
5 that's a major transition zone, probably some of the  
6 survey trend counts are in those kinds of habitats.

7  
8                   I'm real concerned about building this  
9 gas line with basically a fourwheeler trail all the way  
10 to the Kuskokwim River. I'm concerned about crews  
11 recreating on that trail. We got a mine with hundreds  
12 of people all wanting to go out and like, oh, I got a  
13 -- in the evening I'm going to go out and shoot me a  
14 moose, it's like we can't support that. How can the  
15 resource support hundreds of additional people moving  
16 into an area and utilizing these road systems. The  
17 more roads they build the more access to moose  
18 populations they have, especially in that kind of  
19 alpine, that's where all the bulls go in the summer for  
20 summertime.

21  
22                   I'm concerned about this monitoring,  
23 the post-mining period. Who's going to -- I was  
24 reading about the Faro mine, there was 900 million  
25 something dollars already spent in the post-mine era of  
26 the last almost 10 years of Faro over in the Yukon  
27 Territory. They got cyanide, they got stuff leaching  
28 out of that thing. Who's -- is this project bonded,  
29 who's going to pay for that, who's doing this  
30 monitoring, you know, oh, yeah, we're watching all this  
31 stuff leach out, is it seismically active, is it going  
32 to breach this embankment, are all these toxins going  
33 to go pouring down into the streams, into the Kuskokwim  
34 River. And so basically you get like all of this  
35 toxicity running down all the drainages into the main  
36 system. The Kuskokwim has these backwaters that are  
37 far below there that would be laying those types of  
38 toxins into those side sloughs and that's where all the  
39 sockeye go, that's where the rearing area for sockeye  
40 and coho. I don't think the scoping is -- is too  
41 defined to the main channel right next to where the  
42 mine is going to go. I think some of the impacts to  
43 the fisheries are going to be far down the drainage  
44 where the flood events, if they get a breachment is  
45 going to push that stuff -- material back into the  
46 flood planes and that's going to affect a whole bunch  
47 of species, like whitefish and various fish that use  
48 the flood plane.

49  
50                   I was wondering is there a Native Corp

1 easement across those Corp lands.

2

3 I'm concerned about this barge traffic.  
4 That's a phenomenal amount of barge traffic and I live  
5 next to the TransAlaska Pipeline and I know full well  
6 that you can pig pipes, pigs, put a plug in there and  
7 they can pump diesel fuel down that thing and then put  
8 gas behind it.

9

10 MS. FLEAGLE: Uh-huh.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's no reason to  
13 have that kind of barge traffic kind of impacts to the  
14 people who live along the river. There's going to be  
15 this wake action from that kind of barge traffic, it's  
16 amazing, the bank erosion is going to be unbelievable  
17 and so you're going to swamp people's boats at their  
18 fish camps. There's going to be all kinds of impacts  
19 from this kind of barge traffic. There's no reason --  
20 they're going to build a 14 inch gas line but they  
21 can't run a pig through it and pump the diesel fuel  
22 through it. I'm highly opposed to that kind of barge  
23 traffic and I'm highly opposed to recreating crews.  
24 I'm concerned about the post-mine era and who's going  
25 to pay for this monitoring and how -- if the Yukon  
26 government -- or the Canadian government spent -- you  
27 can read it in the Yukon newspaper, I read the  
28 Whitehorse newspaper, they spent 993 million Canadian  
29 dollars, which comes out to be 885 million US dollars  
30 so far and it's only been shut down a little while.  
31 We're going to go for hundreds of years of monitoring  
32 and who's going to pay for that.

33

34 I have a lot of concerns with these  
35 kinds of projects.

36

37 I don't think that the resource  
38 inventory for the juvenile stocks of salmon and other  
39 freshwater stocks -- the impact zone is not adjacent to  
40 where the release would be into the main Kuskokwim  
41 because it's going to go into the main flood plane of  
42 the Yukon Delta.

43

44 And so those would be some of my  
45 concerns. And you can get a transcript of everything  
46 I'm saying, verbatim, it's going to come right on to a  
47 transcript and this lady over here will have that  
48 probably within about two weeks of this meeting, so you  
49 don't have to try and remember what I just said.

50

1 MS. FLEAGLE: We're typing as fast as  
2 we can, Mr. Chairman.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I have a lot of  
5 concerns. I have huge concerns about Pebble, but  
6 Donlin is -- fortunately is not going to dump directly  
7 into a lake system that will kill off a giant sockeye  
8 run but I think Donlin has the capacity to highly  
9 affect the coho and sockeye stocks below the possible  
10 release of toxicity.

11  
12 Any other Council member comments on  
13 the Donlin Creek presentation.

14  
15 Ray.

16  
17 MR. COLLINS: Well, I had one other  
18 that I'd forgotten.

19  
20 There is a major fault line that's been  
21 identified right by Farewell, too, and they need to  
22 take a very close look at it to see how close that  
23 construction is to that.

24  
25 MS. FLEAGLE: Okay.

26  
27 MR. COLLINS: And maybe moving it down  
28 we'd also avoid some of that potential conflict as a  
29 result because there's a fault line that runs right  
30 along the base of the mountains there.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

33  
34 Jenny.

35  
36 MS. PELKOLA: A couple years ago I went  
37 to a meeting in Canada and they were -- at one time  
38 they didn't have very many mines up there but now they  
39 have a lot of them and the people that live off the  
40 land and fish and hunt and trap, they're just crying  
41 because they call their waters now, dead waters, and  
42 it's from all this mining and I don't know if that's  
43 almost the same things as what they're -- you know, but  
44 they say, sometimes they look at their waters and they  
45 just call them dead waters now because they see all  
46 this stuff coming out of the ground that ruined their  
47 lands.

48  
49 So I just wanted to make that comment.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments.

2

3 Eleanor.

4

5 MS. YATLIN: I want to make one comment  
6 and that's on the effects that the barges would have on  
7 the fish. And I know this for a fact because when we  
8 were down at the camp, you know, I said we don't have  
9 any luck with one -- one time, I think around 7:00  
10 o'clock in the morning we heard the barge going out  
11 there on the main river, the barge went by and we went  
12 out to our fish net and there was around 11 kings in  
13 there. So it does -- we never did that before.

14

15 So I just wanted to make that comment,  
16 you know, yeah, it just -- yeah, something was going  
17 on. So I just wanted to make that comment, you know,  
18 it does have an affect on the fish and wildlife.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Eleanor. I  
21 guess the positive effect of barge traffic.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MS. FLEAGLE: Yes, we had that comment  
26 from Margaret Bobbied in Sleetmute, she said that when  
27 the barges go by she catches more fish with her net.

28

29 MS. PELKOLA: I would also -- this is  
30 Jenny, I would like to also say that's true because  
31 when it stirs up the water and they get all excited and  
32 they just don't know where to go and they just go in  
33 the nets.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I would like  
40 some of our comments to be transmitted -- we're in your  
41 comment period right now for taking comments from this  
42 Council.

43

44 MS. FLEAGLE: Yes, we'll leave a card  
45 with Melinda and she can email your transcripts.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like a  
48 letter written from this Council to URS, who is taking  
49 the comments, and I would like a letter drafted that  
50 would put all these comments into a form for your

1 analysis.

2

3 I would also like to know what kind of  
4 comments were coming out of some of these communities  
5 that you had all these meetings in down river from  
6 here. Were there other issues that we should be aware  
7 of that they had concerns with?

8

9 MS. FLEAGLE: They're concerned with  
10 barging. They're concerned with the impacts on the  
11 fish and on the subsistence and traditional lifestyles.  
12 They're concerned about cyanide and mercury and any  
13 type of releases that may occur. They're also  
14 concerned about the lake that will be left behind and  
15 will have to be treated in perpetuity.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm wondering is  
18 there a process of drilling deep into the ground and  
19 dissipating that type of toxin waters in below surface  
20 at all. The standing water of all this toxins, is like  
21 -- I wonder about migratory waterfowl landing in that  
22 kind of stuff. That's -- and so I would like -- I  
23 don't have knowledge of that, but it seems like you  
24 should be able to drill deep into the ground and  
25 dissipate -- they reinject water into the oil fields up  
26 north so it would be possible to get rid of this toxic  
27 water.

28

29 And I feel that this company, if they  
30 want to do this they should be paying for all this  
31 mitigation. They should be paying for all this  
32 monitoring. Why should the US Government, why should  
33 the State of Alaska, why should anybody have to pay the  
34 monitoring fees. And so they want to mine all this  
35 gold, make all this money and leave and so some --  
36 somebody, some entity is going to have to monitor this.  
37 I feel that they should have a responsibility to fund,  
38 post bond and fund the monitoring post-mine.

39

40 We have to think of mitigations to this  
41 process.

42

43 But I do want a letter written from the  
44 Council, is that agreeable to the Council.

45

(Council nods affirmatively)

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, thank you. I  
48 appreciate you coming here, Donne, and giving us this  
49 presentation. This is -- and Jessica, because we  
50

1 wanted to more about it last year, it's further along  
2 in the process and so I'm -- I will still continue to  
3 like to have presentation to this Council about this  
4 issue. This is a big deal, not a little deal.

5  
6 And I really want to know what the  
7 constraints are for those crews. Whether they can --  
8 if we got 1,500 people there, are they all going to be  
9 instantaneous subsistence hunters.

10  
11 MS. FLEAGLE: Donlin has a policy that  
12 their workers cannot participate in subsistence when  
13 they're on the job and a lot of their workers are from  
14 various parts of the state, St. Mary's, Crooked Creek,  
15 Anchorage, Wasilla, they've got a very, very small crew  
16 now. When they go into major production they will not  
17 be allowed to use those roads for hunting I'm told.  
18 And either -- and neither will the public be able to  
19 use those roads.

20  
21 At the same time I also can relate to  
22 what Ray is saying about the pipeline and I know that  
23 in my being that that will be accessed.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I mean it makes  
26 perfect sense that some guiding operation could land on  
27 -- have a camp on the Kuskokwim River, move in and  
28 start utilizing those road systems and they got their  
29 own private road systems to hunt off of. So I can see  
30 how this thing can get completely out of control.

31  
32 Huge. Not a little. Not a little bit.

33  
34 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair. That already  
35 happened. Farewell has an airstrip there right by the  
36 mountains and if the pipeline goes right by Farewell,  
37 that just ties into -- they're already doing that and  
38 they're also floating the SouthFork. They're landing  
39 up at Rhone River and some of the others and floating  
40 clear down to Nikolai.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh.

43  
44 MR. COLLINS: So that kind of impact's  
45 already there and this would increase it.

46  
47 But I would say that in deference to  
48 Donlin, that they seem to be making a real effort to do  
49 it right, more than I've seen with a lot of other  
50 corporations around the state because they have been

1 talking to people and holding meetings and so on.

2

3 And let -- an example, you know, they  
4 identified the smelt as an issue and the fingerlings,  
5 we did identify that so they're actually trying to do  
6 some research and paying for that research to answer  
7 some of those questions. So that's a positive side.

8

9 But as you've said they're not going to  
10 be there forever.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don, go ahead.

13

14 MR. HONEA: Yeah, thank you, Donne, for  
15 your presentation.

16

17 I guess Jack brings up something here  
18 that I was just wondering, the fears, I mean of the  
19 surrounding villages, if there's any fears that -- I --  
20 I guess you just brought up something maybe -- maybe  
21 with the barges or something, is the overriding factor  
22 of economic opportunity more than -- makes up for that  
23 or overrides that fact, do you think, I mean I -- I  
24 guess you're coming with this EIS kind of in a neutral  
25 position.

26

27 MS. FLEAGLE: Yes. I have to be in a  
28 neutral position. But I'd sure like to have a -- we  
29 can have a talk later on after work since I'm from the  
30 region.

31

32 The people in the Donlin area seem to  
33 be supportive of this mine. Number 1 there are no  
34 jobs. Fuel costs are high. Food costs are high. And  
35 there is no other economic opportunity out there for  
36 the folks that live close to the mine, especially those  
37 in Crooked Creek. So this mine might last for one  
38 generation but it's the only thing going for these  
39 communities that are on the Central Kuskokwim.

40

41 So they're positive about the mine.  
42 They've got their reservations and concerns just like  
43 we do as ordinary citizens, but by far and large  
44 they're looking at the economic boom to their  
45 communities.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I think we've  
48 covered that. I appreciate you coming here and we'll  
49 see you next time.

50

1 So, Melinda.  
2  
3 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. There's  
4 another Day One time certain presentation that I had --  
5 I had assured Rita St. Louis from ADF&G that she'd be  
6 able to provide her wood bison update today and Rita,  
7 do we have you on the line?  
8  
9 MS. ST.LOUIS: Yes, I'm on the line,  
10 thank you.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Rita, and we  
13 have a -- it's in our informational packet here, I  
14 think.  
15  
16 MS. BURKE: Yeah, there's a wood bison  
17 newsletter in the blue packets on the left-hand side.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.  
20  
21 MS. BURKE: And then, Rita, remind me,  
22 was there any other materials you sent or was that  
23 the.....  
24  
25 MS. ST.LOUIS: I did not send any other  
26 materials, no.  
27  
28 MS. BURKE: Okay, great, just wanted to  
29 make sure I -- I had everything covered, thank you.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,  
32 Rita.  
33  
34 MS. ST.LOUIS: Yes, good afternoon  
35 Chair and members of the Western Advisory Council.  
36 First of all, apologies for not being there. I was  
37 actually going to get on the plane yesterday and got  
38 sick and couldn't.  
39  
40 So, anyway, I'd like to give a short  
41 report, some of this you already know so it'll be very  
42 short.  
43  
44 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
45 is planning to release bison to the Lower Yukon Innoko  
46 area in March or April of 2015. So this long awaited  
47 plan is actually coming to fruition. And the release,  
48 that will be near Shageluk and it's not in the Yukon  
49 Refuge, sometimes people say it's the Yukon Refuge, but  
50 it won't be in there. We have -- the State has

1 authorized two plane loads of bison to be sent out  
2 there but we're trying to get other partners and  
3 actually I have one partner for sure, if not two or  
4 three to help fund other plane loads.

5  
6                   So what that translates to, we'll  
7 probably send 40 to 100 bison out there and the number  
8 is not known for sure because as you all know it'll  
9 take a lot more small bison to fit in a load than a few  
10 big bison so anyway we're hoping -- if we get enough  
11 partners we'll have up to 100 bison sent out to the  
12 area, and they'll be going in a C-130 Hercules cargo  
13 aircraft.

14  
15                   Each additional load costs about  
16 \$92,000 so it's very expensive to get them out there  
17 but as I said we have at least one other partner, if  
18 not two more, to send more bison out there.

19  
20                   So the other information that you all  
21 know I do believe is that they were -- wood bison were  
22 down listed from endangered to threatened in 2012. And  
23 then in 2014 as the wood bison news says that the  
24 famous (indiscernible) rule finally passed making them  
25 a non-essential experimental population so that's how  
26 we can actually legally turn them loose now.

27  
28                   The reason the Lower Yukon Innoko area  
29 was chosen over the other two areas that were  
30 possibilities is that it has high quality habitat,  
31 great support from the local people and lack of land  
32 owners concerns about conflicts with development and  
33 other areas had some of those concerns.

34  
35                   Let's see, I'm trying to go through  
36 this quickly.

37  
38                   When we went out to the GASH villages  
39 to talk to the people they did have -- people do have  
40 concerns about bison. Among them, I'll give you just  
41 two examples.

42  
43                   One is, will they compete with moose.  
44 And we are -- our wood bison biologist, Tom Seton, have  
45 talked a lot with the Canadians and also done a lot of  
46 literature search and, indeed, they do not compete with  
47 moose for forage.

48  
49                   And another one is are they dangerous  
50 and the short answer is, probably not even as dangerous

1 as moose, but if one were -- if one felt it was  
2 cornered they could be dangerous.

3

4                   We did put together a question and  
5 answer sheet for all the people in the GASH villages,  
6 which I will gladly send to you if you'd like, just  
7 some questions and answers of people, what -- you know,  
8 what they wanted to know about bison, it's pretty  
9 interesting that each village pretty much have the same  
10 sort of questions. So I'll gladly share that if anyone  
11 would like it.

12

13                   We're developing a management plan for  
14 bison and the first planning meeting was in the end of  
15 September, beginning of October, the next is going to  
16 be November 12th and 13th. And there's a very  
17 wonderful gentleman, Dr. Allistor (Indiscernible) who's  
18 facilitating these meetings. And I would like to  
19 invite Robert Walker from your Council, he was there at  
20 the meeting and let him kind of give his take on the  
21 planning part of the meeting.

22

23                   And one other thing I would like to say  
24 and then I'll open it for questions.

25

26                   There is an educational program that's  
27 put up by Alaska Wildlife Conservation, it's a  
28 wonderful little thing for grades 7th and 8th.....

29

30                   (Teleconference interference)

31

32                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say, Rita -- say  
33 Rita.

34

35                   MS. ST.LOUIS: Yes. Yes.

36

37                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're getting a  
38 whole bunch of static, are you on a cell phone or.....

39

40                   MS. ST.LOUIS: I am not.

41

42                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It cleared up there.

43

44                   MS. ST.LOUIS: I keep hearing my echo.

45

46                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It cleared up so  
47 continue.

48

49                   MS. ST.LOUIS: Okay, sorry about that.  
50 I can repeat anything that you would like me to.

1                   But the only thing I wanted to say is  
2 that we have a couple of skeletons that are going out  
3 to the school districts so people can take bison  
4 skeletons apart and put them back together and there's  
5 also a good unit for seventh and eighth grade students  
6 on the educational part.

7  
8                   And did you hear my part about inviting  
9 Robert Walker.

10  
11                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, yes we did.

12  
13                   MS. ST.LOUIS: Okay. And so I --  
14 that's the end of my presentation unless you have  
15 questions and once, again, I just want to say I really  
16 like that Council and I like the good work you do and  
17 thank you for all your time.

18  
19                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much Rita.  
20 Any Council questions on the bison release.

21  
22                   (No comments)

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This Council's been  
25 a big proponent of the wood bison release in the core  
26 of the Western Interior. And we feel that it's a real  
27 positive thing for the ecosystem.

28  
29                   I do not feel that they will be  
30 competitive with moose, they're a grazer.

31  
32                   And I also wanted to -- I see --  
33 remembering Randy Rogers, he worked a lot on this wood  
34 bison introduction and unfortunately passed away in  
35 April of 2013, and I wanted to recognize that on the  
36 record that Randy did a lot of work, not only with the  
37 wood bison, but Randy Rogers also was our facilitator  
38 for the Koyukuk River Moose Management Plan, worked  
39 with -- it was a contentious planning process and Randy  
40 was very good at keeping everybody cool and the plan --  
41 I think it's one of the best management plans we have  
42 in Alaska. It's a very big success, the Koyukuk River  
43 Moose Management Plan, and so Randy was a big part of  
44 that. And so I wanted to recognize Randy on the  
45 record.

46  
47                   Any other Council questions or comments  
48 on the bison release at Shageluk.

49  
50                   Ray.

1 MR. COLLINS: Well, I just have a  
2 comment. As you may know they released some plains  
3 bison above -- near below Farewell there, up in that  
4 area, and I got a permit for one of the first hunts,  
5 they went up to about 100 numbers and then when it got  
6 100 they were kind of just stabilized there and they  
7 started hunting them and the population started growing  
8 and then we had a fire that created more range in there  
9 but they haven't -- and as far as conflict with the  
10 moose, they get along very well with the moose in the  
11 area because of that different diet and so on. And  
12 they're very good eating, excellent food. I've had --  
13 my son got a permit later, too, so I've eaten part of  
14 two bison.

15  
16 And I know from knowing the people at  
17 Shageluk there, they've been working closely with them  
18 on that release and they're really interested in having  
19 them over in that area.

20  
21 Unfortunately Robert is not here right  
22 now or he could comment on what he picked up at the  
23 meeting.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, when Rita  
26 transmitted this I was -- I wanted to see James or  
27 Robert on that because it's very close to their  
28 communities and so I'm glad that Robert is engaged with  
29 that management plan.

30  
31 And what was the timeline on the plan,  
32 there, Rita, was that -- that'll be submitted to the  
33 Board of Game at some point.

34  
35 MS. ST. LOUIS: Yes. In fact we have to  
36 have a management plan before the animals are actually  
37 turned loose. But as you know we will take them to the  
38 Shageluk area in March or April and the reason I'm  
39 saying March or April, it depends on snow and winter  
40 and all that stuff.

41  
42 And then once -- before we open the  
43 corrals and turn them loose, loose, we have to have a  
44 management plan. And this -- I'll tell you this, I  
45 thought Robert would be there so he could tell you a  
46 little bit more, but we have a group of people,  
47 probably 20-some people, identified, and people like  
48 members of the villages, and one of your people,  
49 Western Interior people RAC, we have the GASH AC, we  
50 have someone from the Central Kuskokwim AC, and someone

1 from the -- I think it's Yukon Delta, I don't know if  
2 I'm calling that right, RAC, we have several agency  
3 people, Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of  
4 Subsistence Management, the Refuge, Doyon; in other  
5 words we hope that -- oh, and some of the hunting  
6 groups like AOC, Alaska Outdoor Council and so forth,  
7 because we feel it's really important to have everybody  
8 -- everybody at the table who might have a pony in this  
9 race, so to speak.

10

11                   And the first meeting was sort of a  
12 chance for people to lay out kind of some of their  
13 visions for the bison and so forth and get to know one  
14 another and then the next meeting I think people will  
15 be really rolling their sleeves up coming up with a  
16 management plan and among the things that will be  
17 discussed is, like how big a herd do you want, do you  
18 want just a small herd that hangs around Shageluk or do  
19 you want it to go forever, do you want them to spread  
20 as far as they'll spread. All these questions will be  
21 answered and I want to emphasize that Fish and Game  
22 does not have a draft plan that we're hoping that  
23 people will endorse. We are letting this group come up  
24 with a management plan. So that's kind of a whole  
25 different way of doing things but it's working in a  
26 really good way.

27

28                   So as I said we'll have to have a  
29 management plan by next year. With that being said, as  
30 you know hunting allocation is often forefront in  
31 people's minds and so we might not have hunting  
32 allocation -- we probably won't have hunting allocation  
33 laid out before this time. We do hope we'll have some  
34 broad sweeping principles or desires of the people on  
35 allocation and by -- by broad sweeping, something like  
36 do you think everybody in Alaska should have a --  
37 should be able to hunt these one way or another, do you  
38 believe only locals should, do you believe -- so, you  
39 know, some broad sweeping philosophical ground rules,  
40 ground work, I should say, and then if, indeed, the  
41 group comes up with we believe -- I'm making this part  
42 up now, but let's say the group comes up and says, we  
43 believe all Alaskans should have some way of sharing  
44 this resource, if they come up with that, then the  
45 group eventually -- probably not this time, but in the  
46 future, will say, well, this is how we envision that  
47 happening. Or they might have -- I -- I don't know.  
48 There's a hundred different (indiscernible) that come  
49 to my mind right now but I don't want to bring any out  
50 because, you know, my thinking that one is favored over

1 another.

2

3                               So pretty excited about this group and  
4 they all worked very hard and your man, Robert Walker,  
5 worked very hard, and you chose a good person.

6

7                               CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm comfortable with  
8 Robert, he's an outspoken individual and can hold his  
9 own in any kind of group so I have confidence in him  
10 there.

11

12                              MS. ST.LOUIS: Uh-huh.

13

14                              CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, Ray.

15

16                              MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I just had one more  
17 comment.

18

19                              It was interesting when they introduced  
20 them in Farewell that the wolves didn't know what to do  
21 with them for quite a long time because they're a  
22 herding animal and they could protect the young. So  
23 initially there probably won't be much predation on  
24 them over there but eventually they'll figure out how  
25 to isolate some or get some, there is some predation  
26 going on now but at least in the early years -- it'll  
27 be interesting to see if it follows the same pattern as  
28 over there, the wolves just don't know what to do with  
29 this herd animal that gathers around and protects their  
30 young.

31

32                              CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's true.

33

34                              MS. ST.LOUIS: The Canadians have  
35 actually found -- as you've said, takes 25 to 30 years  
36 for them to figure it out.

37

38                              CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, bovines are  
39 very gregarious and protective, look at those cape  
40 buffalo in the plains, they'll beat up lions I mean  
41 they're a tough animal.

42

43                              MS. ST.LOUIS: Right.

44

45                              CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I also feel that the  
46 Shageluk habitat is way better than where the Farewell  
47 herd is, and that that population should expand fairly  
48 rapidly and so I would expect the planning group to  
49 anticipate harvest within a 10 year timeframe fairly  
50 easily.

1 So.....  
2  
3 MS. ST.LOUIS: I'm guessing they might  
4 too, yeah.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, it's got a lot  
7 of certain types of sedges and grasses that would be  
8 real good for them.  
9  
10 So I think we've covered.....  
11  
12 MS. ST.LOUIS: Absolutely.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....that issue.  
15 Thanks so much for being on line there.  
16  
17 MS. ST.LOUIS: Oh, thank you, and I  
18 apologize for not being there in person. I guess  
19 apologizing to myself because I love being at your  
20 meetings. But, anyway, thank you, and continue the  
21 rest of your meeting and good luck.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much,  
24 Rita, and thanks for your good work also.  
25  
26 MS. ST.LOUIS: Bye-bye. Uh-huh, you're  
27 more than welcome, bye-bye.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, bye. And, so,  
30 Melinda.  
31  
32 MS. BURKE: I wanted to just check in,  
33 do we still have Council Member Tim Gervais on the  
34 line.  
35  
36 (No comments)  
37  
38 MS. BURKE: What about Jimmy Walker,  
39 Jimmy was going to try to call in for a little while or  
40 possibly Robert.  
41  
42  
43 (No comments)  
44  
45 MS. BURKE: They might have been on for  
46 a minute during the Donlin. Mr. Chair, I'm not sure  
47 how long we want to go today but I think we've worked  
48 our way through -- through the agenda pretty well.  
49 Heading back to Page 1 we had gotten down to the rural  
50 determination process review and the review of the

1 signed letter to the Secretaries from the Board on the  
2 rural process. If you'd like we can cover that one. I  
3 think Pippa, I believe, is still on the line, and if  
4 we'd like that could possibly be our last item for the  
5 day.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, let's  
8 get this rural determination process review. Are you  
9 there, Pippa.

10  
11 (No comments)

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So she may not be  
14 there. And.....

15  
16 MS. BURKE: All right. Let's -- let's  
17 move down to the.....

18  
19 MS. INGLES: Melinda.

20  
21 MS. BURKE: Yes.

22  
23 MS. INGLES: This is Palma, Pippa's  
24 coming.

25  
26 MS. BURKE: Okay, great, thanks.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

29  
30 MS. INGLES: Yeah, I just told her.

31  
32 MS. BURKE: Okay, we'll give her a  
33 second, no problem.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we'll hold on  
36 here a second.

37  
38 MS. INGLES: She's coming.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that'll be on  
41 Page 50 of our book here. And the rural review  
42 briefing for the Federal Subsistence Regional Councils.

43  
44 (Teleconference interruption - music)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hello, Pippa.

47  
48 MS. KENNER: Hello, this is Pippa.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You want to come a

1 little closer to your speaker or something because we  
2 can't hear you very good plus there's some music  
3 playing on somebody's.....  
4  
5 MS. BURKE: Who has us on hold.  
6  
7 (Teleconference interruption - music)  
8  
9 (Laughter)  
10  
11 MS. BURKE: Pippa.  
12  
13 (No comments)  
14  
15 MS. BURKE: Palma.  
16  
17 (No comments)  
18  
19 MS. KENNER: I am here, this is Pippa  
20 in Anchorage.  
21  
22 MS. BURKE: Do you know if Palma put us  
23 on mute in her office, or on hold.  
24  
25 MS. KENNER: Just a minute, please.  
26  
27 (Teleconference interruption - music)  
28  
29 MR. COLLINS: I guess you could do a  
30 rap for us, maybe.  
31  
32 (Laughter)  
33  
34 MS. KENNER: Hi, this is Pippa.....  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we're getting  
37 background hold music.  
38  
39 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Sorry.  
40  
41 (Laughter)  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So go right ahead,  
44 Pippa, we can hear you now.  
45  
46 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You  
47 guys snuck up on me.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we can hear  
50 you, go right ahead.

1 MS. KENNER: All right. Thank you, Mr.  
2 Chair, members of the Council.

3  
4 Again, this isn't an action item. I'm  
5 just going to update you on the Board's activities  
6 concerning the rural review -- their review of the  
7 rural process.

8  
9 So for a little bit of background, the  
10 -- the briefing is in your book, I believe it begins on  
11 Page 50.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're there.

14  
15 MS. KENNER: And I'm going to read from  
16 it.

17  
18 Okay.

19  
20 Back in 2001, the Secretary of the  
21 Interior announced a review of the Federal Subsistence  
22 Program and that review was intended to insure that the  
23 Program is best serving rural Alaskans and the letter  
24 and spirit of Title VIII of ANILCA are being met. The  
25 Secretaries requested that the Federal Subsistence  
26 Board initiate a number of actions, one of which was to  
27 develop recommendations for regulatory changes to the  
28 process of making the rural/non-rural determinations in  
29 Alaska.

30  
31 At its January 2012 public meeting, the  
32 Federal Subsistence Board elected to conduct a global  
33 review of the rural/non-rural determination process,  
34 starting with the public and the Subsistence Regional  
35 Advisory Council input. Logically, the global review  
36 required the Board to stay its 2007 final rule, whole  
37 rural provisions would otherwise have gone into effect  
38 in May 2012.

39  
40 The Board determined that the 1991  
41 rural/non-rural determinations would remain in place  
42 pending the outcome of its rural review of the rural  
43 determination process. The conclusion of the review  
44 and determination of the rural status must be completed  
45 by March 2017.

46  
47 Two areas of Alaska, the community of  
48 Saxman and the Kenai Peninsula have proven difficult  
49 for the Board to categorize under the current rural  
50 determination process. The Board has gone back and

1 forth on whether these locations should be rural or  
2 non-rural. Based on the Secretary's directive and  
3 these high-profile back and forth changes in rural  
4 status, using the current rural determination process,  
5 the Board decided to engage in a year-long public  
6 review of the current process.

7  
8 On December 31, 2012 the Board  
9 identified five elements in its rural determination  
10 process for public review. Populations thresholds;  
11 rural characteristics; aggregation of communities; time  
12 lines; and information sources.

13  
14 The Board posed eight general questions  
15 for public input concerning these five elements and one  
16 question requesting any different, additional  
17 information. The comment period for this review was  
18 November 2013 through December 2013 because of the  
19 Federal shutdown.

20  
21 The Councils were briefed on the  
22 Federal registered notice during their winter 2013  
23 meetings. At their fall 2013 meetings, that's a year  
24 ago, the Councils provided a public forum to hear the  
25 residents of their regions deliberate on rural  
26 determination process and provide recommendations for  
27 changes to the Board. Testimonies from members of the  
28 public were also recorded during separate hearings held  
29 to solicit comments on the rural determination process.  
30 The Board held hearings in Barrow, Ketchikan, Sitka,  
31 Kodiak, Bethel, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kotzebue, Nome,  
32 and Dillingham.

33  
34 Government to government consultations  
35 on the rural determination process were held between  
36 members of the Board and Tribes. And addition  
37 consultations were held between the members of the  
38 Board and Alaska Native Corporations formed under the  
39 ANCSA.

40  
41 In aggregate, the Board received 475  
42 comments from various sources, including individual  
43 citizens, members of Regional Advisory Councils, and  
44 other organizations such as non-profit Alaska Native  
45 Corporations and borough governments.

46  
47 Based on Council and public comments,  
48 government-to-government, and Alaska Native Corporation  
49 consultations, and briefing materials from the Office  
50 of Subsistence Management, the Board developed a

1 recommendation that simplifies the process of  
2 rural/non-rural determinations, and this is shown  
3 below.

4  
5                   So the Federal Subsistence Board  
6 recommendation to the Secretaries is to make the  
7 following changes:

8  
9                   The Board would strike the -- the  
10 criteria would be removed from the  
11 regulation and instead there would just  
12 be two provisions.

13  
14                   A. The Board shall determine which  
15 areas or communities in Alaska are non-  
16 rural.

17  
18                   And, B.

19  
20                   All other communities and areas are  
21 therefore rural.

22  
23                   The Board also recommended eliminating  
24 from Secretarial Regulation the specific criteria  
25 previously relied upon by the Board in making rural  
26 determinations. So they've eliminated the population  
27 thresholds, they've eliminated the discussion of rural  
28 characteristics, community aggregation and they've  
29 eliminated the 10 year review.

30  
31  
32                   So in this briefing it says, the next  
33 steps are for the Secretaries, if they decide to adopt  
34 the Board's recommendations, a series of steps are  
35 required in order to meet the March 2017 deadline. And  
36 we heard at AFN a couple of days ago that the  
37 Secretaries are planning to adopt the Board's  
38 recommendations and then the bulleted items at the  
39 bottom of the page will go into effect.

40  
41                   The first one being that the  
42 Secretaries may decide to propose a rule to change  
43 Federal regulations and then the whole comment period  
44 would start over again for the public, the Board and  
45 consultations with tribes and corporations.

46  
47                   That's the end of my presentation.

48  
49                   If anyone has a question, I'm  
50 available.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pippa, for  
2 that overview.

3  
4 Does the Council have any questions on  
5 the rural determination process that the Board has  
6 reviewed and now has intentions to change.

7  
8 (No comments)

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was at the Federal  
11 Subsistence Board meeting last spring, the Board was  
12 wrestling with this issue and developed an elimination  
13 of one of the main things, that I never did like, was  
14 the aggregating communities that were dissimilar,  
15 taking Saxman out of context and shoving it all  
16 together with Ketchikan. That was what I was I  
17 commented on over a decade before, is that, I didn't  
18 feel that that process was the proper way to deal with  
19 each individual community that may demonstrate that  
20 they have a customary and traditional use and reliance  
21 on subsistence resources. So I'm glad that the Board  
22 has eliminated the aggregation process.

23  
24 I don't see any problem with the  
25 direction the Board is taking with this right now. I  
26 think this is beneficial to subsistence users  
27 throughout the whole state of Alaska and so I'm  
28 satisfied with what the Board's doing right now.

29  
30 Any comments from the Council.

31  
32 (No comments)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't see any  
35 comments. Thanks so much, Pippa.

36  
37 MS. KENNER: Thank you.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Melinda.

40  
41 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. We've got an  
42 item under new business that we could take care of and  
43 actually I think it would be a good thing to end with  
44 since it was something we possibly wanted them to think  
45 about tonight, is that right, should we finish off with  
46 -- yeah, there's a -- we're going to present the  
47 Partners -- yeah, Partners for Fisheries Research  
48 Monitoring Program -- or, I'm sorry, Partners for  
49 Fishery Monitoring Program briefing, it's right after  
50 all of the -- the proposals and it's something that

1 we're going to have the presentation and then have the  
2 Council kind of think about it tonight and we could  
3 possibly do some modification so I think that'll be a  
4 -- a good item to -- to end off with.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Page 84 in the book  
7 and then there's a handout also.

8  
9 MR. COLLINS: 84.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, no, no, I'm  
12 wrong.

13  
14 MS. PELKOLA: 173.

15  
16 MR. COLLINS: 173 in the book.

17  
18 MS. BURKE: 163.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 163, excuse me.

21  
22 MS. BURKE: No, I'm sorry, you're  
23 right, 173, sorry guys. 173.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 173.

26  
27 MS. BURKE: Yep, yep, yep.

28  
29 MR. COLLINS: You're right.

30  
31 MS. BURKE: You're right, Jenny.  
32 You're right.

33  
34 (Pause)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead.

37  
38 MR. LIEBICH: Good afternoon, Mr.  
39 Chair. For the record, I'm Trent Liebich, I'm with the  
40 Office of Subsistence Management as a fisheries  
41 biologist.

42  
43 What we just passed around to the  
44 Council members and yourself is a series of questions  
45 and some of the -- you know, a sentence or two  
46 summaries on what other Regional Advisory Councils,  
47 kind of some of their thoughts on this strategic plan  
48 for the Partners Program. So I'll take a minute and  
49 describe a little bit about the Partners Program and  
50 where we're at in the strategic planning process. And

1 the reason we handed this out is we've -- we've handled  
2 this directly in some of the meetings and then we've  
3 also taken time to discuss and then think about it and  
4 come back the following day and it seemed like it  
5 worked a little bit better for some of the other  
6 Councils to have time to think about these questions  
7 because there's quite a few of them so we'll follow up  
8 tomorrow on this.

9

10 So I'll just give a brief interview  
11 right now.

12

13 So the Partners Program, as I  
14 mentioned, is going through a strategic planning  
15 exercise and just kind of looking forward into the  
16 coming years to see how they want -- you know, if  
17 there's any potential changes we might want to do. And  
18 this program is called the Partners for Fisheries  
19 Monitoring Program and it provides funding for rural  
20 organizations to hire fish biologists or  
21 anthropologists or educators in rural communities. And  
22 these positions are hired by rural organizations and  
23 the people who fill the positions live and work in the  
24 communities where the organizations are based.

25

26 The mission of the Partners Program is  
27 to expand and strengthen involvement by members of  
28 rural Alaska communities to participate in the  
29 management of the local Federal fisheries resources.  
30 And right now we have five partners that are in the  
31 Partners Program, so five partners are located in rural  
32 communities. One with Kuskokwim Native Association,  
33 another with the Native Village of Eyak, ONC, Tanana  
34 Chiefs Conference and the Bristol Bay Native  
35 Association. So those are the current locations of the  
36 five partners that are hired through this Partners  
37 Program.

38

39 They're participating in several  
40 different projects that are associated with our  
41 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, and these  
42 projects are, you know, things like estimating chinook  
43 salmon in the Copper River or looking potentially at  
44 other things like harvest levels, for example, the  
45 amount of subsistence harvest occurring in the area  
46 around Bethel.

47

48 So we're currently, as I mentioned,  
49 we're going -- evaluating the Partners Program and  
50 determining what sort of changes could be made before

1 the next notice of funding opportunity comes around in  
2 2015. So this is the list of questions that I handed  
3 out. And maybe I'll just -- I'll just read through the  
4 questions and if we want to get into discussion that's  
5 up to you guys. But definitely something to think  
6 about overnight.

7

8 So just some of the general questions  
9 we've been trying to get input from the Councils on is:

10

11 How can our partners facilitate better  
12 communication.

13

14 How can our partners provide outreach  
15 and education so the stakeholders can  
16 better engage in the Federal  
17 Subsistence Program decisionmaking  
18 process.

19

20 How can our partners help strengthen  
21 relationships between stakeholders and  
22 other agencies.

23

24 How can our partners promote  
25 opportunities for youth and elders to  
26 engage in the Federal Subsistence  
27 Management Program.

28

29 An example there is we do like summer  
30 culture camps run by some of the partners.

31

32 Another question.

33

34 How can our partners work to create  
35 opportunities for local individuals to  
36 become involved in subsistence  
37 management.

38

39 And one of the last questions we've  
40 been discussing:

41

42 Should the Partners Program be expanded  
43 to include other resources.

44

45 So those are just some of the general  
46 questions and, you know, I don't know if you guys want  
47 to get into the discussion now on that or look this  
48 over, I'll let you decide.

49

50 So thanks for your time.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Trent.

2

3 Does the Council have any comments on  
4 the Partners Program.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There are -- you  
9 know it has been strictly focused on fishery but there  
10 are times when we have informational needs for wildlife  
11 and so, you know, like community harvest, the  
12 subsistence -- State Subsistence Division is sometimes  
13 not even -- doesn't have any harvest data, household  
14 harvest data for like 20 years, 15 or 20 years and so  
15 there's times when partnering on household surveys for  
16 wildlife -- there's been issues occur with fish and  
17 wildlife and other wild renewable resources. ANILCA  
18 includes other wild renewable resources, like plants  
19 and timber and so forth and so there's times when I  
20 feel that subsistence resources are included in this --  
21 it's my opinion that this Council deals with  
22 subsistence uses of resources under .805 of ANILCA.  
23 And so I feel that if there's an issue with berry  
24 harvest or other wild renewable resources that we may  
25 need to have a partners project under those also.

26

27 I do want to give other Council members  
28 time to comment on this Partners Program.

29

30 Go ahead, Don.

31

32 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
33 also agree. I mean with the -- with the last sentence  
34 there, the last statement, something -- should the  
35 Partner Program be expanded to include other resources  
36 and I think for consistently since I've been on here  
37 it's always had to do with the fisheries and I, you  
38 know, I also sit on the TCC migratory birds committee  
39 and I think that'd be interesting to find the numbers  
40 on, you know, what -- what's thriving out there, you  
41 know, the trumpeter, or swans or -- or other habitat or  
42 other wildlife so to speak. So maybe I guess tomorrow  
43 or whatever, that maybe we have an evening or something  
44 to -- to think about some of these things because it --  
45 it does open up a wide area and I just find it kind of  
46 exciting to maybe include that.

47

48 So, thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.

1 I think we can -- Ray, you got a  
2 comment.

3  
4 MR. COLLINS: Well, I was just thinking  
5 of other resources and we had a fire that was actually  
6 started by a biologist down here that was chasing a  
7 moose away when they were tagging moose collars in the  
8 predator program and it burned right by McGrath out  
9 here. That was one of the best things that could  
10 happen because it burned through the black spruce and  
11 created a huge blueberry patch, which has allowed us to  
12 harvest a tremendous amount of berries, except this  
13 last year when we had a frost that killed the blossoms.  
14 But I have personally harvested over 30 gallons over  
15 the previous two years and fortunately I had some left.  
16 So what I'm thinking of is, in terms of partnerships,  
17 keeping an eye on some of those other things, like  
18 which fires are left to burn and so on. They may  
19 increase habitat or they may help provide more berries  
20 and so on. We don't want to get into what they got in  
21 the Lower 48, where they start putting out every fire  
22 and ended up with an aging ecosystem that really caused  
23 problems.

24  
25 So taking a little broader look might  
26 be important to look at the overall health of the  
27 landscape, how these different species interact and so  
28 on and what happens with our actions, for managing  
29 them.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I think that  
32 some TEK projects on other resources, berries and so  
33 forth. Also on the -- some of this climatic change,  
34 what that's doing, gathering, not just fisheries, but  
35 other -- other resource impacts.

36  
37 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that one of  
40 the main things -- one of the major things that this  
41 Council would like -- probably want to see is specific  
42 household surveys possibly done in conjunction with  
43 fisheries harvest, also game harvest, since Subsistence  
44 Division's data has become, "stale" and so that's real  
45 hard to come before a Board with old harvest  
46 information on moose or caribou or whatever the  
47 resource -- game resource might be.

48  
49 Any other comments from the Council.  
50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I would like  
4 this questionnaire sent out to all of our Council  
5 members that aren't present so that they can think  
6 about this also.  
7  
8 What's the timeframe, can -- on the  
9 Council members that aren't present can send in some  
10 comments like Tim or whoever may?  
11  
12 MS. INGLES: Mr. Chair. This is Palma  
13 Ingles, I'm the coordinator for the Partners Program.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go.....  
16  
17 MS. INGLES: And my.....  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....ahead Palma.  
20  
21 MS. INGLES: Can you hear me?  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can hear you, go  
24 right ahead.  
25  
26 MS. INGLES: Okay. My contact  
27 information should be at the bottom of the sheet and  
28 people can send me any kind of ideas that they have  
29 through December, that would be great -- I mean excuse  
30 me, through the end of November.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, it's not on  
33 the handout here. It's at the end of the presentation  
34 on 178 and so I would like this -- this questionnaire  
35 and your contact information transmitted to the rest of  
36 the Council members that weren't present here and  
37 so.....  
38  
39 MS. INGLES: Okay, we can see that  
40 that's taken care of.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....just -- just  
43 paste that right in there and send that out to the rest  
44 of our Council.  
45  
46 MS. BURKE: And what about with the  
47 timeline.....  
48  
49 MS. INGLES: Okay.  
50

1 MS. BURKE: .....question, Palma.  
2  
3 MS. INGLES: I'm sorry, what was your  
4 question, Melinda.  
5  
6 MS. PELKOLA: End of November.  
7  
8 MS. BURKE: Oh, I didn't hear the end  
9 of November, I just wanted to note that here for my  
10 email.  
11  
12 Thank you.  
13  
14 MS. INGLES: Right. The end of  
15 November, correct.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.  
18  
19 MS. INGLES: Thank you.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other Council  
22 questions, comments on that.  
23  
24 (No comments)  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much.  
27 And, so, Melinda.  
28  
29 MS. BURKE: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I think  
30 we're coming to the end of our day here. I think we've  
31 done some really great work, it -- it was great to have  
32 Tim on the line so we could get through our proposals  
33 with a quorum. The Staff and the Council members are  
34 invited over to the home of Ray Collins, which is just  
35 a stone's throw away here. Ray traditionally hosts a  
36 fundraiser meal at this house to -- to benefit a school  
37 group and this year it's going to be the -- the kids  
38 that are traveling to the Native Youth Olympics, I  
39 believe. Ray, what time did you want us to head over.  
40  
41 MR. COLLINS: You can come over before  
42 -- we'll plan to eat at 6:00 so come over sometime  
43 before that.  
44  
45 MS. BURKE: Okay, great, so we'll head  
46 over to Ray's house this evening for dinner. And then  
47 also wanted to pass along a request from the local  
48 radio station to have some statements from a Council  
49 member and a possible Staff member as well. It's going  
50 to be a tight window for us Thursday morning, but I

1 think we'll be able to get Jack, and maybe Ray down  
2 there for a couple minutes before the charter flight  
3 leaves and we'll see which of our Staff members over  
4 here wants to join them as well.

5  
6                   So that's all I have, Mr. Chair, for  
7 tonight and I -- unless we're going to deviate from our  
8 scheduled time I think we'll start at 8:30 tomorrow.

9  
10                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I think 8:30  
11 is -- I think we're going to have -- there's some  
12 additional information we're going to be covering with  
13 the Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife and so that  
14 might take a little bit and so I -- I think that 8:30  
15 is the appropriate time to start again. So we'll stand  
16 down until 8:30.

17  
18                   Thank you.

19  
20                   (Off record)

21  
22                   (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

