

1 WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 VOLUME I

7  
8 Aniak, Alaska  
9 October 6, 2009  
10 9:00 o'clock a.m.  
11

12  
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14  
15 Jack Reakoff, Chairman  
16 Ray Collins  
17 Timothy Gervais  
18 Donald Honea  
19 Carl Morgan  
20 Jenny Pelkola  
21 James Walker  
22 Robert Walker  
23 Eleanor Yatlin

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25  
26  
27 Regional Council Coordinator, Vince Mathews  
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Aniak, Alaska - 10/6/2009)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to bring this meeting to order. So I've got about 20 after 9:00 and this is the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council to the Federal Subsistence Board meeting for our fall meeting. I'm Jack Reakoff, I'll be chairing the meeting. I live in Wiseman, up in the Brooks Range and I've been on the Western Interior Regional Council since 1993 when the Councils were set up under the Federal Board process.

And so do we have an elder for invocation, Vince?

MR. MATHEWS: Angie was looking into that, I don't know if Angie's.....

MR. MORGAN: Yeah, she said she'd come right over.

MR. MATHEWS: Oh, okay, so the elder's on the way?

MR. MORGAN: Not really, she said she'd look.....

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So maybe we'll call roll and establish a quorum.

MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Let me get my recording sheet.

James Walker.

MR. J. WALKER: Present.

MR. MATHEWS: Jenny Pelkola.

MS. PELKOLA: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Carl Morgan.

MR. MORGAN: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Timothy Gervais.

1 MR. GERVAIS: Present.  
2  
3 MR. MATHEWS: Eleanor Yatlin.  
4  
5 MS. YATLIN: Here.  
6  
7 MR. MATHEWS: Mickey Stickman had a  
8 scheduling conflict so he's not going to make it.  
9  
10 Robert Walker.  
11  
12 MR. R. WALKER: Here.  
13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: Donald Honea, Jr.  
15  
16 MR. HONEA: Here.  
17  
18 MR. MATHEWS: Ray Collins.  
19  
20 MR. COLLINS: Here.  
21  
22 MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Here.  
25  
26 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair, you have nine  
27 of your 10 members so you definitely have a quorum.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We'll  
30 introduce the agency Staff and our guests so we'll  
31 start on my far right here. Bo, you want to introduce  
32 yourself, we'll go across the room in this direction.  
33 Go ahead.  
34  
35 MR. SLOAN: Yes, I'm Bo Sloan the  
36 Refuge manager at Innoko headquartered out of McGrath.  
37  
38 MR. WENTWORTH: Kevin Wentworth, deputy  
39 manager for the Innoko Refuge out of McGrath.  
40  
41 MS. WILLIAMS: Liz Williams.  
42 Anthropologist at Office of Subsistence Management in  
43 Anchorage with Fish and Wildlife.  
44  
45 MR. MASCHMANN: I'm Gerald Maschmann  
46 with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.  
47  
48 MR. R. WALKER: Bob say your name.  
49  
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: I didn't know I was a

1 guest.

2

3

(Laughter)

4

5 MR. ALOYSIUS: My name is Bob Aloysius.  
6 I'm with the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society  
7 Education Training Grant. I'm also a member of the  
8 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group with  
9 Ray. I'm the Chair of the Central Kuskokwim Fish and  
10 Game Advisory Committee. And also secretary for the YK  
11 RAC.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Go  
14 ahead, Gerald, again.

15

16 MR. MASCHMANN: I'm Gerald Maschmann  
17 with Fish and Wildlife Service, I'm with Subsistence  
18 Fisheries.

19

20 MR. BYERSDORF: Geoff Byersdorf with  
21 the Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage and I'm a  
22 subsistence biologist there.

23

24 MR. CRAIG: I'm Tim Craig, I'm a  
25 wildlife biologist with BLM in Fairbanks.

26

27 MR. BUKLIS: My name is Larry Buklis.  
28 I'm the Fisheries Division Chief for the Subsistence  
29 Management Office in Anchorage.

30

31 MR. SPINDLER: Mike Spindler. I'm the  
32 Refuge manager for Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge.

33

34 MS. BERKBIGLER: Brandy Berkbigler with  
35 Tanana Chiefs Conference. I'm the Partners Fisheries  
36 biologist.

37

38 MR. OVIATT: George Oviatt. I'm with  
39 Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office.

40

41 MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard. Fishery  
42 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.

43

44 MS. MINERVA: Jetta Minerva.  
45 Subsistence coordinator, Koyukuk Refuge.

46

47 MS. EVENSON: I'm Dani Evenson. I work  
48 for the Department of Fish and Game in the Commercial  
49 Fisheries Division. I supervise research activities in  
50 the Arctic, Yukon and the Kuskokwim.

1 MR. HALE: I'm Jason Hale with the  
2 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

3  
4 MR. MOOS: Kenton Moos. I'm the Refuge  
5 manager of Koyukuk Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge in  
6 Galena.

7  
8 MS. SMITH: Rosa (ph) Smith, fisheries  
9 biologist Kuskokwim Native Association.

10  
11 MR. THALHAUSER: Mike Thalhauser.  
12 Fisheries director at the Kuskokwim Native Association  
13 here in Aniak. I'd like to welcome everyone and thanks  
14 for meeting in Aniak.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So did we miss  
17 anybody. Lisa.

18  
19 (Laughter)

20  
21 MS. KANGAS: Yeah, my name is Lisa  
22 Kangas. I work for Tanana Chiefs Conference in the  
23 fisheries department.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I think  
26 that's everybody.

27  
28 So we're going to go through Regional  
29 Council members concerns and topics, and so we'll start  
30 with Eleanor over here. If you have any concerns or  
31 topics you would like to discuss.

32  
33 MS. YATLIN: My name is Eleanor Yatlin  
34 and I'm from Huslia and I'm on the -- I have been on  
35 this Council for -- since last winter. And one of the  
36 concerns I did have was prior to coming to this meeting  
37 last, maybe on the 24th, 25th of September, I contacted  
38 Hughes and see if they had any concerns, I contacted  
39 Allakaket, their tribal council, and Alatna and I  
40 didn't get anything written. I got on the VHS in  
41 Huslia and I told them I was coming to this meeting and  
42 I had one response back over the VHS and that was from  
43 Catherine Atla, and she stated that she wanted to thank  
44 the agencies, you know, for their restrictions on the  
45 Yukon last summer, that way us, in the Koyukuk River,  
46 got a few fish. And George Atla, Sr., made a few  
47 comments -- well, actually he called me up on the phone  
48 and he had a few comments. And I don't know if this is  
49 the appropriate time to bring it up or when it's on the  
50 agenda, because I have his written comments. And the

1 response I did get back from Allakaket was they were  
2 really having hard time getting moose this year. Well,  
3 it's been historically this last 10 years or so, but  
4 this year was a hard time. I don't know what they're  
5 going to do. One of the residents stated that they do  
6 not have caribou up in that area and I don't know what  
7 they're going to do without, you know, how they're  
8 going to, you know, survive because of the cost of --  
9 you know, in the villages we don't buy meat, we don't  
10 have -- it's not stocked in the stores or nothing like  
11 that, but they're going to have a hard time.

12

13                   What I heard, I don't know what the  
14 statistics was with the Refuge manager, but what I  
15 heard was two families did get moose, that was around  
16 by the 24th or 25th when I talked to them. So -- and  
17 that's hard times.

18

19                   And so I just wanted to bring that up.  
20 And they also stated that they -- it sounds like they  
21 did pretty good in fishing, the ones that did go  
22 fishing. Because like in Huslia, we're the only ones  
23 that do stay in fish camp and fish, Al and I -- my  
24 husband and I. So other than that I know they did get  
25 some king salmons in Huslia this summer to help  
26 supplement with the moose. But in the winter time we  
27 do get caribou.

28

29                   So I didn't get no response back from  
30 Hughes. Or the tribal admin who I talked with, she did  
31 state that she -- they really didn't like, you know,  
32 like the guide hunters around the area, and that's  
33 around Hog River down and Huslia. And I could write up  
34 Butch's comments.

35

36                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, well, those  
37 are good comments on how people did fishing.

38

39                   MS. YATLIN: Uh-huh.

40

41                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so you're  
42 representing that Lower Koyukuk country and good  
43 research, appreciate that.

44

45                   You got comments, Tim.

46

47                   MR. GERVAIS: Yes, good morning. My  
48 name is Tim Gervais from Ruby. This will be my second  
49 meeting with this Council.

50

1                   The moose harvest in the Ruby and  
2 Nowitna area for local hunters seem to be reasonably  
3 successful. Not everybody was able to harvest moose  
4 but there was a reasonable amount of moose that came  
5 out of that up river side of Ruby so for -- as a  
6 community we seem pretty okay with what's going on with  
7 that in that area.

8  
9                   The biggest issue that's affecting the  
10 villages was the poor king salmon run. And I was able  
11 to attend a North Pacific Council meeting in April  
12 regarding the Bering Sea bycatch and was extremely  
13 disappointed in the attitude and performance, in  
14 particular, of State Fish and Game Commissioner Denby  
15 Lloyd and regional director for National Marine  
16 Fisheries Service, Doug Meekins and National Marine  
17 Fisheries staff. It seemed like they were subverting  
18 the public process by not having a good attitude about  
19 listening to an almost unanimous message that they were  
20 getting from subsistence users, not only on the Yukon,  
21 but many of the river systems of Western Alaska that  
22 harvest king salmon. There's steps I would like this  
23 Council to address in the appropriate time of the  
24 meeting regarding the recertification of the pollock  
25 fishery as sustainable through the Marine Stewardship  
26 Council. Perhaps we could have some dialogue, written  
27 dialogue on the Federal level with the Secretary of  
28 State, Secretary of Commerce and Secretary of the  
29 Interior. Secretary Salazar with the Department of the  
30 Interior seems to be developing a pretty good  
31 relationship with rural Alaska, and he was able to take  
32 a trip to Dillingham earlier this year and got good  
33 comments there regarding oil and gas leasing and had  
34 good response to it, so I think that's one avenue that  
35 we should maintain good communications with. I'd also  
36 like for the Western Interior to perhaps support this  
37 amendment that's put forth by the Southern Norton Sound  
38 Fish and Game Advisory Committee trying to amend the  
39 Magnuson-Stevens Act so that there's included on the  
40 Council seats four more voting positions for Federally-  
41 recognized tribes and/or Alaska Native organizations  
42 from the AYK regions.

43  
44                   And then not really from our specific  
45 area, but we talked about it in the last meeting, the  
46 commercial whitefish fishery down at the mouth of the  
47 river, not saying any comments pro or con on that, I  
48 just was reporting that I heard on the Alaska Fisheries  
49 report last week that they were conducting that fishery  
50 and Kwik'pak was reporting that they were having above

1 expected harvest, not levels, but the ease of catching  
2 the fish so they had abundance in that commercial  
3 fishery down there.

4

5 And that's all I have for right now.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks. Don.

8

9 MR. HONEA: Good morning. I'm Don  
10 Honea, Jr., I'm from Ruby. I guess I could pretty much  
11 echo what Tim here said.

12

13 Our moose was, I think, pretty  
14 consistent across the board. We've had, I think, the  
15 numbers, I don't really know what the numbers are  
16 coming out of the Nowitna, but I think it's been pretty  
17 consistent the last few years. I've seen a decrease in  
18 the size of the moose, of course, and that's always  
19 been a concern, but just within the last day or so  
20 listening to other regions, I was really shocked at the  
21 lack of numbers coming out of the Allakaket area and,  
22 you know, we have a concern for the whole Western  
23 Interior region, you know, as we sit on this board and  
24 so I'm just, you know, Ronnie -- Ron's always been --  
25 he was kind of like a mentor to myself and was able to  
26 come up with those things, but Jack's on top of it and,  
27 you know, I would just like to see the numbers -- I  
28 mean something more justifiable coming out of there  
29 than just the weather and whatever it is because it's  
30 been consistently kind of low the last few years, and  
31 that's just a concern, not particularly in my region, I  
32 got to emphasize that, but for that region.

33

34 Also I'm just concerned about the  
35 Middle Yukon as a whole, when some villages down stream  
36 near the mouth or whatever, early in the season or  
37 toward the middle of the season have a 65 percent  
38 harvest or 65 percent of their harvest already caught,  
39 subsistence harvest, and we don't have anything, there  
40 is something wrong with this picture. I think that  
41 we've been not vocal enough, whatever it is, but I  
42 think the Middle Yukon has got to come up with a more  
43 consistent working with the State and to come up with  
44 something that's a happy compromise for all. I mean I  
45 can't see how the fall chum fishery was able to, at  
46 least have a -- have some kind of a commercial catch  
47 without first letting a certain number of fish go by  
48 the sonar. I mean I just don't see the justification  
49 in there and it was supposed to be a really good  
50 fishing season and, you know, as it turned out it

1 wasn't. I'd like to see the numbers, I'd like to be  
2 able to see how that -- how you justify a commercial  
3 season with just by -- how do you predict that number  
4 and then people are suffering up stream from that. So,  
5 you know, there's some issues that got to be worked  
6 out.

7  
8 And, you know, when we met at TCC with  
9 the -- all the villages up and down the Yukon and  
10 Canada, you know, I think that when we exhausted -- we  
11 come up with a 33,000 number and North Pacific comes up  
12 with close to 70, there's something wrong and I think  
13 we have to take it -- whether it's on a more global  
14 position that we have to take or I think it's going to  
15 take a unified effort by everyone on the Yukon and I  
16 just, you know, if there was a way to do that. I think  
17 the biggest issue for me is fishing and I'd like to see  
18 the numbers, what is predicted for next year.

19  
20 Thank you.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks Don. I  
23 appreciate those comments. I think our Council is also  
24 very concerned as you are on some of those same issues.

25  
26 Go ahead, Ray.

27  
28 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Ray Collins. I  
29 reside in McGrath.

30  
31 REPORTER: Ray. Ray.

32  
33 MR. COLLINS: I've been on the Council  
34 since -- oh, yeah. Ray Collins. I live in McGrath.  
35 I've been on the Council since its formation and  
36 represent that area. I'm also on State Fish and Game  
37 Advisory and on the Denali Park SRC. So I've been  
38 involved in these issues from both sides.

39  
40 I represented the Council at that North  
41 Pacific Fisheries meeting, and as Tim reported we were  
42 very disappointed in them rejecting all the testimony.  
43 Not only from Alaska, but there was a Canadian  
44 delegation, too, from Old Crow over there and they all  
45 spoke for the lower cap. And the cap they put in place  
46 of around 70,000 is way above the historic average on  
47 that catch so -- and it doesn't go into effect until  
48 '12, so I don't think we're going to get any relief out  
49 of that in terms of the Bering Sea fishery bycatch. So  
50 as was mentioned, we need to discuss that further and

1 see what action we might take.

2

3 In terms of moose hunting and most of  
4 the hunting around McGrath is on the State lands around  
5 there, but we had reasonable success this year and the  
6 predator management control program in the area did  
7 give us the relief we needed. We've got a better  
8 population of breeding cows out there now and the last  
9 -- we opened it for the first time, the closed area  
10 last year and, again, this year for a short period of  
11 time, and the harvest was reasonable. Not everybody  
12 got the moose they needed but most people got some  
13 moose meat, at least, from the area. And, yet, that  
14 State program is under fire and that's the only  
15 successful program has been the State predator  
16 management control, because there's nothing going on on  
17 Federal lands so it concerns me that they're  
18 continually under fire as it being inadequate or  
19 inappropriate and so on when actually I believe it was  
20 successful. And there'll be a wrap up meeting in  
21 McGrath later in October now that will go through what  
22 they've learned so far from that program.

23

24 So that's all I have to report right  
25 now. Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One question Ray.  
28 Does that predator control program have a sunset, are  
29 they going to be continuing that, or are they going  
30 to.....

31

32 MR. COLLINS: They still are allowing  
33 the harvest of wolves for awhile and I hope they will  
34 during the winter. There's no specific measures on  
35 bears, and the bear population is on the way up again,  
36 and that's a tough one to deal with because the State  
37 has attempted to liberalize the bear season and allow  
38 baiting and other things, but the harvest of bear is  
39 very low for the area. And so they're starting to make  
40 some in-roads again into the calves.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

43

44 MR. COLLINS: And I guess that's a  
45 concern throughout Alaska. I don't think our harvest  
46 of bears is anywhere near what it used to be and they  
47 are one of the main predators on the calves.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I'm  
50 concerned that there's not enough bear harvest and I've

1 tried to encourage local people to take bears if an  
2 opportunity arises and it -- I don't think local people  
3 quite understand the detriment that bears have to the  
4 moose population. They kill, up where I'm at, around  
5 45 to 65 percent of the moose calves. They kill a  
6 whole bunch of the moose calves. Then we have wolves.  
7 And so then the bottom line is local people need to  
8 start doing more to harvest bears and so I try to  
9 encourage that as much as I can.

10

11 So, Carl.

12

13 MR. MORGAN: Good morning. The name is  
14 Carl Morgan, and welcome to Aniak.

15

16 You know all your concerns are what I  
17 hear. I think it should not only be unified voice,  
18 just from the Yukon River, it should be a unified voice  
19 from the AYK, the whole AYK district, and I think that  
20 will -- you know, it's also the Kuskokwim and the  
21 Arctic and it's affecting all three areas, so it should  
22 be a unified voice and that's where we should start  
23 working towards. And I think if we do work toward that  
24 that will be a pretty big voice. But I think like  
25 everybody else, we should not lax or reduce or efforts  
26 in trying to get that cap down and having -- we've  
27 always been that way -- the Western Interior's always  
28 been trying to conserve on the Bering Sea bycatch.  
29 We've been very voiceful. We've wrote some letters so  
30 I think we should still continue and be more forceful.

31

32 As far as the moose here, most -- it  
33 was better -- a lot of people got moose, not too many,  
34 but it was more successful, basically because they had  
35 that opening down at the 18, the State opened up some  
36 State land at Unit 18. And it relieved some pressure  
37 up here and we did notice that. We did notice the  
38 pressure of some people, not as many people -- there  
39 was still people coming up from down below, from the  
40 Lower Kuskokwim, but not as, you know, when only 19A,  
41 and we're only open from Kalskag to Georgetown and  
42 that's not a very big stretch, this year it was low  
43 water so most of the people concentrate on the main  
44 river unless you had a jet unit, then you can go up  
45 some of these sloughs. A lot of these sloughs you  
46 couldn't go in. For example, the Aniak Slough, they  
47 couldn't use a jet boat down there, they had to use --  
48 they were hunting with fourwheelers so, you know, we  
49 had low water this year. But thank god that Unit 18  
50 did open and relieve some pressure but it's still --

1 we're still under the restricted permit only.

2

3 Another thing that I've heard and still  
4 hear, our caribou has never come back, you know, and  
5 what efforts we do in the AYK -- I mean the Western  
6 Interior seem like nobody's listening. We're still  
7 getting guided hunts for our Mulchatna and the caribou,  
8 you know, we -- it was a very big herd at one time but  
9 I don't know, I haven't heard the numbers lately of how  
10 big that herd is now.

11

12 And like Ray, we're concerned about the  
13 wolves. We support aerial wolf hunt but we, you know,  
14 and there's some -- but I think there's some restraints  
15 on that. I think bear is the biggest -- I agree bear  
16 is the biggest -- we get a lot of bear here. I think  
17 that's -- they're the biggest predator. Plus we get  
18 the human. You know we got three factors in this  
19 that's affecting the moose population. But, you know,  
20 which one is catching the most, man, wolf or bear, and  
21 I think maybe probably the bear is.

22

23 And fish, there's always concern, every  
24 year, are we going to be restricted, are we not going  
25 to be restricted. Are we going to have an opening.  
26 I'm just glad that we did have openings this year and  
27 we weren't restricted on the Kuskokwim unlike the  
28 Yukon.

29

30 And that's all I've got. Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks Carl. I've  
33 got a question for you on this local drawing and Tier  
34 II hunting here for moose. How are people feeling  
35 about how that's working? Do the people feel that it's  
36 equitable or is there have's and have's-nots or what's  
37 your feeling on that one?

38

39 MR. MORGAN: My feeling, and, of  
40 course, this is my personal feeling and my personal  
41 experience with some other people, that when you do  
42 fill the -- a lot of the people that do fill the  
43 applications and apply for an application has been  
44 getting them. It's the younger people that may not be  
45 qualified, they might not have enough points because  
46 they haven't been hunting that long and one of the  
47 bigger points is how long have you been hunting in the  
48 area.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

1 MR. MORGAN: So I think that's -- plus,  
2 the younger people, if they're staying -- got the same  
3 post office number they're not going to get a ticket.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Okay,  
6 Robert.

7  
8 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Jack, Mr.  
9 Chairman. Robert Walker from Anvik.

10  
11 The concerns we have from Anvik,  
12 Grayling, Jim could discuss Holy Cross, but one of the  
13 things we followed, the window, to the T, with the  
14 fishing, with our salmon. We have regulations set our  
15 fishermen to 150 foot driftnet in Y4 versus Y3, which  
16 they have a 300 foot driftnet, which makes a big  
17 difference for us for getting subsistence salmon. I  
18 have a setnet. I let my place go to some other people  
19 so they can get more fish. Anvik, we did, the  
20 community only caught about maybe 500 to 550 kings,  
21 that's all we got, and divide that up among 30  
22 households is pretty hard to go. The only thing that  
23 we kind of like encourage people to do is not to throw  
24 their backbones away without first scraping the meat  
25 off, actually out of 15 backbones you can get 36 pints  
26 of jarred salmon out of it, we found that out. And we  
27 kind of like passed information on to other people, in  
28 Grayling, where we, you know, kind of like didn't get a  
29 lot either.

30  
31 So one of the things that we really  
32 found out that a lot more fish escape into Canada than  
33 was said to have been done here through fish counting  
34 down at Pilot Station. Now, we feel that maybe, are we  
35 going to declare an emergency Anvik and Grayling, it's  
36 still part of 21E, Holy Cross and Shageluk, they're  
37 going to discuss that in an economic meeting back in  
38 Anvik and Holy Cross, I think, today, it's going to be  
39 discussed.

40  
41 And one other thing, too, that we  
42 brought up, our chiefs, we talked about, one of the  
43 things that we noticed, Anvik and Grayling and  
44 Shageluk, I don't know Holy Cross, too, that we have  
45 more grizzly bears that are coming into our communities  
46 and swimming the Yukon. We had 12 people noted bears  
47 swimming across the Yukon, very unusual. One of the  
48 guys said the bears was swimming across the river  
49 actually dove like 40 feet and came up right along side  
50 the shore like an otter or something, couldn't get over

1 it. It was something, it jumped up a 12 foot bank in  
2 two bounds it was such a big bear. And it was acting  
3 kind of like a polar bear, he said it dove, about 40  
4 feet, they couldn't get over it. But we are seeing a  
5 lot of bears, we have bears living right in Anvik right  
6 now. I don't know if it's due to no fish up the Anvik  
7 River, up the Bonsila River, but every place you stop  
8 around Anvik, Grayling there is brown and grizzly bear  
9 tracks. Maybe they want to become brown bears that  
10 come from the west side that go to the east side, west  
11 side are grizzly, on the east side of the Yukon they're  
12 brown bears, so I don't know if they're changing their  
13 status or what.

14

15                   Moose hunting, we did pretty good in  
16 Anvik. Grayling had a hard time because of low water.  
17 We had kind of a confrontation with them last year  
18 about shooting cow moose in the Bonsila and this was a  
19 big issue here between our two tribes, it caused a lot  
20 of hard feelings. One of the people did come down and  
21 put a tent up in the Bonsila River and some of the  
22 local people from Anvik kind of like went down and told  
23 them, what are you guys doing here, they took their  
24 tent down and moved out, and right now we're not hardly  
25 talking to the Grayling people and Grayling people are  
26 not hardly talking to us so it's kind of an issue here  
27 where -- the moose here, I don't know, we're going to  
28 have to try to figure out something here between our  
29 villages.

30

31                   And like I said everybody just about  
32 got their moose in Anvik, but Grayling I'm kind of like  
33 feeling kind of sad for them because they didn't get a  
34 lot of moose up there either. According to Gabe, they  
35 heard there was moose up around Blackburn, Eagle  
36 Island.

37

38                   So, thank you very much.

39

40                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Robert.

41 Good comments. James.

42

43                   MR. J. WALKER: Thank you, Jack. My  
44 name's James Walker from Holy Cross. I agree with  
45 Robert's comments and I can relate to those also with  
46 the way some of the people are having to deal with the  
47 closures on the fishery and also the moose. But  
48 there's got to be a reason that's causing the migration  
49 of moose out of the Innoko Wildlife Refuge and putting  
50 pressure on villages to go to other areas to subsist.

1 There's got to be some reason for that migration.

2

3 But I also note that there is a lot of  
4 predator kills in our area that never used to be  
5 before, brown bear, grizzly bear.

6

7 In years past when there was a good run  
8 of fish most of the people would be in fish camps and  
9 so they got rid of a lot of bears, we didn't have the  
10 problem as we do today. So I think there needs to be  
11 more predator control regarding bear, brown bear,  
12 grizzly bear, and there needs to be continued  
13 monitoring of wolf predator ratio toward calves.

14

15 That's what I have, Jack. Thanks.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Jenny.

18

19 MS. PELKOLA: Good morning, my name is  
20 Jenny Pelkola, and I'm from Galena. I missed the last  
21 meeting in Galena due to my son getting hurt in the  
22 Iron Dog, he broke his back then and he's doing well  
23 now and I just want to thank the people that were there  
24 that donated money to him and also for all your  
25 prayers. He's doing well now. The doctor told him  
26 that he's a walking miracle. So I just want to thank  
27 you for, you know, your donation and your prayers.

28

29 This year I noticed the concerns we  
30 have on the Yukon was said by many of the people here  
31 but I noticed people were talking about that, you know,  
32 it was warm in the beginning of the moose season and a  
33 lot of meat went to waste. And it's, you know, very  
34 sad when that happens. And I'm sure some of it  
35 couldn't be helped but a lot of times, you know, I  
36 figure there's got to be a way that they can get that  
37 moose -- if they can't use it try to get it to somebody  
38 as soon as they could to distribute it to people that  
39 didn't get any moose.

40

41 The Galena area, Koyukuk, Nulato, Ruby,  
42 I think they did pretty well in moose -- in getting  
43 their moose. A lot of people shared -- if they had  
44 over abundance they would share with another family or  
45 like two families would share a moose so I think  
46 everybody in Galena and Koyukuk, I know, got their  
47 moose -- got moose meat for the year.

48

49 As I was listening to my peers talk  
50 here, with some people -- the villages not getting

1 along. I remember my mom used to tell me years ago  
2 that, if there was going to be a meeting in, let's say,  
3 Minto, and then they would send a message -- they'd  
4 have this messenger that would go all the way down,  
5 let's say the Yukon River, and tell every village we're  
6 going to have a meeting in Minto so the people would go  
7 to Minto and they'd all have a meeting. I'm just using  
8 Minto as an example. And they used to communicate and  
9 get along and discuss what they're going to plan in the  
10 future, you know, and I never -- you know, growing up,  
11 I never heard any shortage of this or shortage of that.  
12 When I was a little girl I used to go down from Koyukuk  
13 all the way down to Piamuit with this trader, my mom  
14 was the clerk on the boat and I was just a little tiny  
15 girl, and go all the way down the river and he would go  
16 down and he'd have a floating store, he'd go all the  
17 way down, sell and then he would buy fish, dog fish,  
18 and eating fish and bring it back and then he would  
19 sell that if -- for the people that couldn't get their  
20 fish and there was, you know, there was no problem with  
21 that, I didn't see any problem with that, people got  
22 their fish, they got their dog food. And it seems like  
23 when we started getting all these regulations I felt  
24 that we were so overregulated on fishing, I didn't know  
25 if I was coming or going. I moved into camp on June  
26 11th and I finally moved back to town on September  
27 23rd, but it was so confusing and especially -- like  
28 I'm getting up in age now, I'm not getting any younger,  
29 you know, still working that fish net, still cutting  
30 fish, doing all the things and it -- this year they  
31 said that -- people that live in the city couldn't  
32 help, you know, well, it -- my nieces just sit on the  
33 bank and watch my brother and I work, he's 75 years old  
34 and I'm in my 60s and they said this is not right, you  
35 know, watching us work and they're just sitting there  
36 watching us so something's got to be done about that  
37 too for the elders, or, you know, somebody that can't  
38 get fish and thank god I still could.

39

40                   Somebody mentioned meeting of the  
41 minds. I don't know if somebody said it, but I think  
42 we need a meeting of the minds here, the villages need  
43 to get together and try to work this fishing stuff out,  
44 this subsistence. You know we got to survive,  
45 everybody has to survive. And sometimes we have to  
46 sacrifice. I felt like I sacrificed this year, my  
47 fishing, you know, and I'm sure some other people feel  
48 the same way. I'm glad that the people up Koyukuk  
49 River were able to get more fish but there's got to be  
50 something. Somebody's got to know what's going on

1 because too many agencies come into the village and  
2 they said one people -- one person will say this and  
3 another one will say that, well, you don't know, you  
4 know, if you're obeying the law at not. Like, for  
5 instance, somebody say well you can't fish on this date  
6 well somebody else had their fish net in and I said,  
7 well, how come they're fishing and it was just so  
8 confusing. So I think whoever sets the rules you need  
9 to be more clear and let us know, you know, what the  
10 heck's going on.

11  
12 I think we need to respect our land.  
13 That's what we're losing is respect for our land. It's  
14 sad, you know, it's very sad that our ancestors really  
15 respected the land and the water. So I think we need  
16 to get back to that, take care of our fish and take  
17 care of our land, you know, and it takes care of us.

18  
19 So I guess that's all I would like to  
20 say.

21  
22 I just want to thank everybody who was  
23 able to come here.

24  
25 Thank you.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny. The  
28 Chair's report. I went to the YRDFA meeting this  
29 spring in Fairbanks and stressed the points that our  
30 Council had mandated that I take to that meeting. And  
31 many of the points that we stressed were actually  
32 adopted by the managers this year. There was some  
33 glitches, you know, in the enumeration at Pilot  
34 Station, a few more fish got through, some things  
35 happened but I mean the bottom line is there was fish  
36 made escapement into Canada and we're going to see fish  
37 return from that and so that's taking care of the land  
38 and the resources.

39  
40 I was unhappy with Canada when they  
41 fished commercially. They should not have fished  
42 commercially when we had commercial restrictions on  
43 chinook salmon and there was no sale of chinook salmon  
44 on the Yukon River. I was unhappy with Canada when  
45 they had a limited commercial harvest. Those fish, the  
46 additional needed beyond their subsistence needs should  
47 have been put into escapement since they've been two  
48 years short on escapement. And so I would like this  
49 Council to transmit a letter at some point to the Yukon  
50 Panel or whoever is the discussions with Canada, at our

1 displeasure for that commercial harvest when there has  
2 been such sacrifice on the Yukon River by people here  
3 on the Alaskan side to try and get fish into Canada.

4  
5 I'm very unhappy with the North Pacific  
6 Fisheries Management Council ruling for 68,000-  
7 something chinook bycatch, basically no bycatch limit,  
8 that's a very high bycatch limit. And it's been only  
9 exceeded just once or twice that I know of, ever, and  
10 so the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council has  
11 shown that they're derelict in the concern for what the  
12 objectives are for maintaining the pollock fishery and  
13 mitigating this bycatch issue, which they're under a  
14 mandate to do that. So I think that our Council should  
15 explore every means of trying to get the North Pacific  
16 Fisheries Management Council or any interest or  
17 certification or any way that our Council can work  
18 towards voicing our displeasure.

19  
20 I've been working quite a bit on these  
21 Upper Koyukuk moose proposals. I had teleconferences  
22 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game area  
23 biologists this spring right after meeting regarding  
24 Unit 24B around Allakaket/Alatna for discussing a  
25 winter State hunt, the Board of Game is coming up, and  
26 so we've been writing a proposal, which our Council  
27 will see here. The Federal Subsistence Board is  
28 reviewing wildlife proposals and so we'll have a  
29 proposal for that also and some other proposals should  
30 be promulgated during this meeting. We'll be reviewing  
31 those.

32  
33 There's a lot of stuff that happens, as  
34 a Chair, when I wasn't the Chair, Ron was like, oh,  
35 it's a lot of work, a lot of work, well, yeah, there's  
36 a lot of stuff going on, Vince is emailing me, his  
37 little computer's fan is running all the time, Vince is  
38 like working real hard on communicating with the Chair  
39 and there's quite a bit of stuff that's going on that  
40 the Chair has to do and I mind doing it, it's just I  
41 want the Council to be aware that there's quite a bit  
42 of activity that happens in the off-season. So Ray has  
43 always been Chair of this Council, he knows.

44  
45 I've tracked the chinook run on the  
46 Yukon River and as I listen to the YRDFA  
47 teleconferences, which are very important for people to  
48 get information, if you have availability of a  
49 telephone to just get on that YRDFA teleconference.  
50 There was lots of complaining by the lower river of not

1 being able to sell the chinook and salmon and bycatch,  
2 I was -- I am still concerned that when there's a  
3 directed chum fishery that -- as I voiced to the  
4 Department, that there's these incidental mortalities,  
5 basically larger chinook are getting caught in six inch  
6 gear and falling out of the net, and anybody's that's  
7 fished small mesh gear will see fish falling out of the  
8 gear, that's just the way it is; I feel that the number  
9 that the Department takes, you know, is -- and there's  
10 kind of a rough estimate as to what that bycatch was,  
11 because it wasn't being sold, it was being brought home  
12 for basically use in the communities. A lot of people  
13 in the lower river were complaining about what are they  
14 going to do with all this fish, well, they should have  
15 thought about that before they made their subsistence  
16 needs before -- because they knew they were going to  
17 fish chum and they knew they were not going to be able  
18 to sell fish and they knew that they were going to have  
19 to absorb those, so I don't have a lot of compassion  
20 for what I read in the newspaper because I know that  
21 there was a lot of fish harvested as bycatch in the  
22 directed chum fishery. I'm concerned about the numbers  
23 that the -- the lack of data, and so I think that that  
24 should be a point in our annual report that there is a  
25 data lack, there is no study, there is no documentation  
26 of what using small mesh gear, much smaller than the  
27 targeted directed fish of target, like chum, and what  
28 that's doing to chinook salmon.

29  
30 I feel that OSM and the Federal  
31 Subsistence Board should look at that because these six  
32 inch gear restrictions are going to become more and  
33 more common if we have lower return rates on chinook  
34 salmon. And there's proposals that we will review that  
35 are actually asking for six inch gear restriction,  
36 period, riverwide.

37  
38 I'm also very concerned about the local  
39 hire issue with the Federal government, local people,  
40 under ANILCA have a priority. the Office of Personnel  
41 Management, is publishing nationwide, and I think that  
42 there should be an assistance program for local people  
43 and a lobbying effort by the Interior Department and  
44 the Forest Service to stress to the OPM that there is  
45 -- is an ANILCA law that says that local people with  
46 knowledges should have a priority in the hiring in  
47 rural places. And so I'm concerned that now we're  
48 publishing nationwide, it's a very hard application to  
49 get local hires and we have this huge turnover. And so  
50 I'm concerned that are coming up from the outside, they

1 don't have any idea about local needs and subsistence  
2 uses or anything, and so it's a losing situation, and  
3 so I think that our Council should, again, highlight,  
4 and try and push the Interior Department to provide a  
5 working relationship with OPM, Office of Personnel  
6 Management to push more towards what ANILCA intended,  
7 which was local people with knowledges to be hired.

8

9                   And so those are some of my concerns at  
10 this point.

11

12                   And so at this point, did we have our  
13 local elder for invocation arrive -- okay, Angie, do  
14 you have an elder for invocation?

15

16                   MS. MORGAN: No, I wasn't able to get  
17 one. The one that I did want to get was unavailable.  
18 I'm Angie Morgan, I'm the Federal administrator for the  
19 Aniak Traditional Council. Our Chief is not here, he's  
20 gone and will be gone for a couple of weeks, so he  
21 wanted me to apologize to you for him not being here.  
22 And also our second Chief, he's also not here, and the  
23 others are either at work, out of town or are at work  
24 here in Aniak. So I want to apologize for not having  
25 anything.

26

27                   But we recently just had really bad  
28 news from our local 911 person, Pete Brown, you know,  
29 he's the one that started the 911 program here in Aniak  
30 and he started the Dragon Slayers and, you know, he's  
31 been all over helping other villages with their 911  
32 program. We just found out that he has cancer. He has  
33 cancer. And he went to Anchorage and he's not doing  
34 very good and so the whole community and the  
35 appreciation to show him how much he's done, not only  
36 for Aniak, but the whole state, Alaska, he doesn't have  
37 much time, so we've been having fundraisers for him and  
38 potlucks and there's going to be one for him again this  
39 coming Saturday. So that's the reason why we didn't  
40 have anything ready for you guys, we're all just  
41 concentrating on him and his family, trying to get them  
42 all to Aniak before -- he doesn't have that much time.  
43 He held it for a long time, he didn't tell anybody for  
44 a long time, now that he can't do anything anymore,  
45 he's finally gotten -- he let all of us know, and so  
46 this is just recent.

47

48                   So what I would like to do is if you  
49 would stand I can go ahead and do a prayer.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, appreciate  
2 that Angie.

3  
4 ANGIE: (INVOCATION)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Angie,  
7 really appreciate that.

8  
9 So we're into approval of the minutes  
10 from our -- oh, review and adoption of the agenda. The  
11 agenda that we have before us, this agenda we can make  
12 insertions if you see some item that you would like to  
13 discuss.

14  
15 Vince, you got a comment.

16  
17 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I heard three topics  
18 as you guys were giving your concerns.

19  
20 One is the caribou situation in 19A. I  
21 haven't had a chance to talk to Staff back there, there  
22 was going to be a State biologist coming in. I'm not  
23 sure if he's made it but we could get him on by  
24 teleconference so we need to explore that.

25  
26 We need to, and I apologize to Tim, I  
27 didn't catch the name of it, but I called it the  
28 sustainable fisheries certificate. We'll need to weave  
29 that in there under fishery issues and I would guess it  
30 would be Letter F but we'll have to see.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim's got a point in  
33 the agenda to set that particular discussion.

34  
35 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And then hopefully  
36 Staff will help, on the record, as well as one on one,  
37 the confusion over the restriction to rural residents  
38 during the fishing season. That needs to be clarified  
39 to Jenny and the Council members but we also need to  
40 get it on the record that was discussed because there  
41 was confusion on that.

42  
43 So those were three things that came  
44 up.

45  
46 And then we were trying to manage the  
47 agenda -- I suppose another way of quickly getting to  
48 the bottom line would be to make sure that the agenda  
49 remains flexible enough because there was some topics  
50 you wanted to discuss when the Regional Director was

1 here, and I'm not sure it's reflected in the current  
2 agenda. So we may have to be a little bit flexible on  
3 that.

4  
5 This is a different type of meeting  
6 because of some changes in our schedule, so I think  
7 Staff and the Council members need to be flexible as  
8 you move around on this and we'll try to keep everybody  
9 up to speed.

10  
11 And then the last thing I usually cover  
12 is safety issues. You know how you got in and out of  
13 here, there's doors that go that way if we have a fire  
14 or whatever. Washrooms are that way. If you have any  
15 lodging concerns or any concerns like that, get a hold  
16 of myself or any other Staff from OSM and we can  
17 address that. And then for all the public that's here,  
18 I know it's kind of like well, why do you need to fill  
19 up the sign in sheet. Well, it really helps with  
20 spelling and it helps to know who's all here so please  
21 fill out that sign in sheet. I have not had a chance  
22 to get all the materials that are the public copies  
23 over there, but they will be there. We do have extra  
24 books and stuff like that, but if there's something  
25 that the Council's discussing or relates to a topic  
26 that you think we might have get a hold of myself or  
27 Liz or Don or Larry and we'll try and find a copy. If  
28 we don't have a copy then we'll mail you a copy at some  
29 future date because there's going to be a lot of  
30 material flowing through this meeting and we would like  
31 those that are interested in it to have a copy.

32  
33 And then we need to work, when you work  
34 through the agenda, ichthyophonus is a topic, and we  
35 need to work that into the schedule for the presenter.  
36 I think we can talk on that on break but it needs to  
37 happen before 3:00 p.m., so we need to work that in  
38 there. And then obviously at some point this morning  
39 we need a break and I need to talk to local Staff, how  
40 they normally set up the screen here for PowerPoint  
41 presentations because those windows are beautiful for  
42 letting in the sunlight but projection sometimes gets  
43 challenged.

44  
45 So that's all I had, Mr. Chair.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Vince.  
48 Yeah, good point on that Mulchatna. The Mulchatna has  
49 always been a concern of mine and the Councils and I  
50 would like to know what some of the parameters of that

1 herd are. The decline of the Mulchatna Herd has been  
2 one of the exacerbating problems in this lower Unit 19,  
3 is the loss of that herd is a loss of red meat protein  
4 to our region.

5  
6 And my personal opinion is that the  
7 derelict overharvest of the Board of Game of that herd  
8 to knocking that bull/cow ratio down so low caused --  
9 is causatory of that herd. It weakened the herd  
10 without a breeding capacity to where that herd  
11 completely crashed and will continue to crash. The  
12 last numbers I heard were below 30,000, and so I would  
13 like to see that Mulchatna discussed here. There's  
14 nothing really we can do at this point to recover that,  
15 it'll take a long time to recover the Mulchatna Herd.  
16 I'm not going to be old enough to see the return of the  
17 Mulchatna Herd.

18  
19 And Timothy's got a point in our agenda  
20 to insert your certification. Go ahead, Timothy.

21  
22 MR. GERVAIS: Yes under fisheries  
23 issues, Item D, North Pacific Fishery Management  
24 Council and the chinook and chum salmon bycatch, I'd  
25 like this Council to consider becoming -- providing  
26 some information to the Marine Stewardship Council,  
27 which is in the process of recertifying that fishery as  
28 sustainable and as we're finding out due to -- we feel  
29 that -- I feel that that fishery contributes a  
30 significant part of our escapement and abundance issues  
31 and I'd like us to cover that and also like us to look  
32 at some other options that the Council can take  
33 regarding communications with various Federal  
34 Secretaries regarding -- because they still need to  
35 approve the North Pacific Council action. I'm not  
36 positive on that but I think it's the Secretary of  
37 Commerce and.....

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Secretary of State.

40  
41 MR. GERVAIS: .....Secretary of State.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

44  
45 MR. GERVAIS: And also discuss this  
46 issue with the -- try to change the composition of the  
47 North Pacific Management Council that includes some  
48 tribal or rural Alaska membership as voting members and  
49 that's coming from Arthur Ivanof with Southern Norton  
50 Sound Fish and Game RAC.

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, yeah, those  
2 are good points that this Council could work on to  
3 hopefully make a change, the butterfly effect, could  
4 actually make a change in how that North Pacific  
5 Fisheries Management Council -- if we could get the  
6 Secretary of State Hillary to tell the North Pacific  
7 Fisheries Management Council this is not an adequate  
8 alleviation of this issue, they say how high do you  
9 want to jump and she says jump, and so I think that  
10 this Council should, it's incumbent upon this Council  
11 to make these kind of recommendations. It'll have to  
12 go through the review process, I want the Council to --  
13 the Western Interior Council to understand, that any of  
14 these letters that we write go through a review process  
15 at OSM, but we're not lobbying for funding, we're  
16 lobbying for resource, and so I think that our letters  
17 can be transmitted.

18

19                   And so any agenda items that the  
20 Council members would like to see inserted into this  
21 agenda and this agenda will float -- if we have people  
22 that have time constraints and so forth we can move it  
23 around, just tweak it a little bit. And so any other  
24 agenda items by the Council members.

25

(No comments)

26

27                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a motion  
28 to adopt the agenda.

29

30                   MR. MORGAN: I make a motion to adopt  
31 the agenda as amended.

32

33                   MS. PELKOLA: Second.

34

35                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded. Those in  
36 favor of the agenda as amended signify by saying aye.

37

38                   IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Approval of the  
41 minutes from our February 18th and 19th meeting we had  
42 down in Galena, I reviewed the minutes, I don't see any  
43 corrections myself.

44

45                   Any Council members see any corrections  
46 that may be necessary.

47

48                   (No comments)

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion.  
2  
3 MR. HONEA: I so move.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Move to adopt the  
6 minutes as they are.  
7  
8 MR. COLLINS: Second.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.  
11 Any discussion.  
12  
13 (No comments)  
14  
15 MR. R. WALKER: Question.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's been  
18 called on the motion. Those in favor of adopting the  
19 minutes from February 18th and 19th, Galena meeting,  
20 signify by saying aye.  
21  
22 IN UNISON: Aye.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All in favor. And  
25 so we'll go to break now, Vince, so you can have  
26 discussions on various things, we'll come back in about  
27 15 minutes.  
28  
29 (Off record)  
30  
31 (On record)  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to bring  
34 this meeting back to order again. So we had about a 20  
35 minute break there.  
36  
37 Let's see, we're at the Fisheries  
38 Resource Monitoring Program, and I guess we're going to  
39 have Don Rivard and Liz Williams. Liz. Liz, you're on  
40 the floor, with Don, okay, go ahead, Don.  
41  
42 MR. RIVARD: Thank you Mr. Chair. Good  
43 morning to you and to the other Council members. My  
44 name is Don Rivard. I'm with the Office of Subsistence  
45 Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in  
46 Anchorage. It's a pleasure to be back with you again  
47 after not being at your meetings for about a year and a  
48 half now.  
49  
50 We're going to do the 2010 Fisheries

1 Resource Monitoring Plan, that starts on Page 22 in  
2 your book.

3

4 For the new Council members, this is  
5 part of the Office of Subsistence Management, it's the  
6 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan, and what that means  
7 is that the Federal Government, through the U.S. Fish  
8 and Wildlife Service, Federal Subsistence Program,  
9 funds fisheries monitoring projects throughout the  
10 state. Your Council deals with both the Yukon and the  
11 Kuskokwim River drainages and so we're going to  
12 concentrate on those.

13

14 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
15 Program was initiated in 2000 so we're now in 2009,  
16 we've completed the first decade. To-date the Office  
17 of Subsistence Management has funded statewide 322  
18 proposals, 15 ongoing in 2010. Projects fall into one  
19 of two categories and these are not hard fast, because  
20 there is some overlap on these two categories; one is  
21 stock, status and trend studies. These projects  
22 address abundance, composition, timing, behavior or  
23 status of fish populations that sustain subsistence  
24 fisheries with linkage to Federal public lands. The  
25 budget guideline for this category is two-thirds of  
26 available funding. The other category is called  
27 harvest monitoring and traditional ecological  
28 knowledge. These projects address assessment of  
29 subsistence fisheries, including harvest and effort and  
30 description assessment of fishing and use patterns.  
31 The budget guideline for this category is one-third of  
32 available funding.

33

34 Projects go through an extensive  
35 evaluation process which includes review by and  
36 recommendations from an Inter-Agency Technical Review  
37 Committee and affected Regional Advisory Councils  
38 following policy and funding guidelines as described on  
39 Pages 23 and 24 in your book.

40

41 The Federal Subsistence Board is the  
42 decision-making body and they'll make their final  
43 funding decisions on the 2010 Fisheries Resource  
44 Monitoring Plan at their public meeting in January of  
45 2010.

46

47 Now statewide a total of 44  
48 investigation plans are under consideration for funding  
49 that include 35 stock, status and trend studies and  
50 nine harvest monitoring and traditional ecological

1 knowledge studies. These projects are listed on Table  
2 1 on Page 25 in your book. The general outline of  
3 those.

4

5 The Technical Review Committee  
6 recommends funding 41 of these 44 investigation plans.  
7 The 2010 Draft Monitoring Plan recommended by the  
8 Technical Review Committee would provide 34 percent of  
9 the funding to Alaska Native Organizations, 29 percent  
10 to State agencies, 27 percent to Federal agencies and  
11 10 percent to non-government organizations.

12

13 Our purpose here today, again, is to  
14 discuss the Monitoring Plan as it relates to your  
15 Council and to provide your Council an opportunity to  
16 make recommendations on these projects.

17

18 So we're going to go to the Yukon  
19 region first, and starting on Page 28 you'll see the  
20 projects listed there.

21

22 Since 2000 84 projects have been funded  
23 in the Yukon region, five will still be operating in  
24 2010. Again, these are Tables 1 and 2 on Pages 28  
25 through 30. The 2010 request for proposals for the  
26 Yukon region identified seven issues and information  
27 needs listed on Page 27. For the 2010 requests for  
28 proposals, 11 proposals were initially submitted to the  
29 Office of Subsistence Management, one was later  
30 withdrawn by the investigator. In March 2009 Technical  
31 Review Committee reviewed the 10 proposals and  
32 recommended nine for investigation plan development.  
33 One proposal was withdrawn by the investigator prior to  
34 submittal of the investigation plans. In July 2009 the  
35 Technical Review Committee, again, met and reviewed  
36 eight investigation plans and recommended funding seven  
37 of the eight projects and prioritized them as shown on  
38 Page 30 in your book.

39

40 Project summaries are on Pages 32  
41 through 33 with fuller descriptions of each found on  
42 Pages 35 through 50.

43

44 Three of the seven are continuation  
45 projects; that's the Gisasa and Andrafsky weirs and  
46 in-season stock analysis of chum salmon, which for 2010  
47 would add summer chum salmon to the ongoing fall chum  
48 stock analysis.

49

50 The new projects being proposed are a

1 total run reconstruction for chinook salmon to provide  
2 estimates of total run size and stock structure for the  
3 years 1976 to 2011.

4  
5                   The second one is a study of the stock  
6 origin of Yukon Delta bering cisco.

7  
8                   The third is a feasibility study for  
9 installing a salmon counting weir on the Nulato River.

10  
11                   The fourth is an assessment of impacts  
12 of climate change on subsistence fisheries.

13  
14                   So that's a summary, and before moving  
15 on to the Kuskokwim region we can stop here and if you  
16 have any questions or maybe you might want to consider  
17 your recommendation now on the Yukon portion of this  
18 plan.

19  
20                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At this point we  
21 should review the Yukon projects. Does any Council  
22 members have questions on the projects that the  
23 Technical Review Committee is laying out here?

24  
25                   Go ahead, Ray.

26  
27                   MR. COLLINS: Don, on that climate  
28 change impact, how are they going to -- what are they  
29 going to look at to make an assessment on that? What's  
30 the project?

31  
32                   MS. WILLIAMS: Ray and the Council,  
33 this is Liz Williams with OSM. This was a really  
34 interesting project for us. It's from Dave Andersen  
35 who used to be with Subsistence Division and now is an  
36 independent contractor and Caroline Brown, who is  
37 currently with Subsistence Division. And what they  
38 proposed was really unique.

39  
40                   Subsistence Division researchers go out  
41 and do a lot of surveys, and what I learned in my time  
42 there is that when you do a survey you ask questions,  
43 how many of this did you get but normally you get  
44 almost a life history interview when you ask these  
45 questions and you get answers about all species, not  
46 just one, and what they propose is to take a lot of  
47 their notes from past research that they've done over  
48 the years with comments that people have given them  
49 without being asked about climate change. And that's  
50 their point of departure. And we were really impressed

1 with that sort of idea because it comes straight from  
2 Section .812 of ANILCA, the ideas and the issues that  
3 people from the community bring up and so they are  
4 reviewing their old notes. We asked them to look at  
5 Council transcripts, because as you know, a lot of  
6 information is provided at Council meetings about  
7 climate changes and then they're also doing just a  
8 short survey because they don't want to just talk to  
9 the people they've talked to for years, they want to  
10 talk to younger people as well.

11  
12 And so it's really a unique project,  
13 and it's answers that have already been given without  
14 the question being asked, which is really the best  
15 information you can get.

16  
17 So they're starting with that, they're  
18 doing a really short survey and then they're going to  
19 sort of put all that information together and see what  
20 they come up with and make a catalog, they hope, so  
21 that managers can see the information that members of  
22 communities have provided in a cohesive whole.  
23 Sometimes the information we gather is said to be  
24 anecdotal but in this way it will be in a catalog that  
25 people can refer to the index, look it up and see  
26 things that scientists would never think to ask.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Liz.  
29 Eleanor.

30  
31 MS. YATLIN: The question I was going  
32 to ask was related to what Ray had concerns about,  
33 concerns about the climate change. I know Caroline  
34 Brown and you were just saying that she does the  
35 surveys and I know the area she represents and I would  
36 like to see maybe some of the elders, you know, that  
37 lived through it and we're losing our elders, so -- and  
38 I know a few people that would probably give you a good  
39 idea of what the climate change has been in their 80  
40 years or what not, or, you know, what I hear. And I do  
41 live in camp from May to October literally so I could  
42 see it, you know, I note the changes. The loss of the  
43 robin in the '60s, their songs, they just sing part of  
44 their songs anymore since the '60s and if they sing in  
45 our language we hear it for thousands of years and it's  
46 been passed down, we know that they lost part of their  
47 songs and why that happened was due to climate change,  
48 you know, and the stories that goes back from a long  
49 time ago, in the '80s -- if this 80 year old elder knew  
50 stories from her grandparents, her parents who lived in

1 1880, 1890, so they know what happened in that era.  
2 And my father comes from 1898, I have the knowledge --  
3 that's where my traditional knowledge comes from, so we  
4 got to look into those. That's one idea.

5  
6 And the other one, I guess it's sort of  
7 related and the question I had was about where do you  
8 get your TEK from?

9  
10 MS. WILLIAMS: Thanks, Eleanor, that's  
11 really interesting.

12  
13 They get it from the people. You know  
14 Dave worked out there, do you know him, he worked out  
15 in a lot of the communities for years and years and  
16 like I said, he'd go out and do a survey maybe about  
17 fish but people tell him lots more things than how many  
18 fish they got and he wrote all that down even though it  
19 wasn't part of his report. So he's starting from that,  
20 but he also wants to build with new people. So the TEK  
21 that he got came straight from the community, I mean  
22 that's the only place you can get it, but he listened  
23 to more than just numbers. So that's where -- but the  
24 more you could give them suggestions, the better, that  
25 would be great. And if you could let the community  
26 know about the project and what it's for and why that  
27 would really help.

28  
29 Thank you.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Timothy.

32  
33 MR. GERVAIS: Don and Liz. In regards  
34 to the Yukon River chinook salmon run reconstruction, I  
35 was wondering if it could be incorporated that they  
36 include some kind of -- get some kind of numeration on  
37 the difference between actual bycatch and reported  
38 bycatch. This whole chinook issue is revolving around  
39 bycatch and the only number that comes up very much in  
40 deliberations and regulation is reported bycatch. And  
41 in preparation for the North Pacific Council meeting  
42 I'd spoken with about 12 members of the trawl fleet  
43 down in Kodiak and Dutch Harbor and out of those 12  
44 people, two of them wouldn't comment about the bycatch  
45 because they thought they might get thrown in jail or  
46 something because unreporting bycatch is a violation of  
47 Federal law, but of the 10 responses I got they're  
48 estimations ranged anywhere from 25 to 75 percent  
49 underreporting of the bycatch. So the average came out  
50 to about 40 percent in the number -- or percentage of

1 bycatch that was underreported so that's a really huge  
2 amount of fish here that I believe is part of the run  
3 or initially was part of the run even if it's  
4 intercepted in the High Seas or Bering Sea, so I would  
5 hope that that study could put some effort into  
6 speaking with a lot of the crew members in the trawl  
7 fleet, a lot of the fleets are based out of Seattle for  
8 the at-sea processors and then the shore-based fleet, a  
9 lot of those boats are based out of Kodiak. And if  
10 they could figure out some way to get a number on  
11 underreporting, the current observer program, which the  
12 National Marine Fisheries is pretty proud of the  
13 observer program but it has a lot of inadequacies in  
14 it. And if you could develop some numbers that show  
15 the failings of that system then it could make these  
16 bycatch impacts even more significant, at least on  
17 numbers that could be brought forth to the various  
18 agencies.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

21

22 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
23 Tim, if I'm understanding you correctly, you would like  
24 to see some component of that study that looks at the  
25 bycatch throughout the years?

26

27 MR. GERVAIS: That's correct. But also  
28 there's this underreported bycatch issue where, when  
29 the trawlers are hauled back their nets, and you get it  
30 out on deck they have these observers that work for  
31 private companies and their job is to count all the  
32 bycatch that comes out but depending on the size of the  
33 boat, they may or may not have observer coverage, and  
34 then those observers that work there they are -- they  
35 work -- if the weather condition, I don't know exactly  
36 what it is but if it's blowing like over 20 or 25 or 30  
37 knots they're not required to be on deck because it's  
38 considered hazardous conditions but certainly the  
39 trawlers are going to be fishing through that so  
40 they're only going to be on deck during a percentage of  
41 the fishing trip so there's a lot of opportunity for  
42 the fishing crews to take bycatch and throw it  
43 overboard before it gets reported. And that -- that's  
44 certainly in probably every boat owner's interest, the  
45 trawl fleet's interest to have this bycatch not be  
46 counted and so they have a -- so it shows up that they  
47 have a lesser impact on the salmon fisheries. And I  
48 think a fair amount of the trawl fleet would talk about  
49 it if you could guarantee them, whatever they call  
50 that, guarantee freedom of persecution or something,

1 prosecution.

2

3                   But it's huge, it's a huge number, and  
4 it's being forgotten when they're coming up with these  
5 bycatch limits.

6

7                   I mean even though we were pushing for  
8 this 29,000 bycatch number, you add in the unreported  
9 bycatch into that then that would push the actual  
10 bycatch numbers closer up into the almost 60,000, even  
11 if they would have adopted our number, and now that  
12 they adopted the 60,000 number, that puts the actual  
13 bycatch near 100,000 kings. So I think that there  
14 needs to be -- it would be really valuable to have some  
15 kind of evaluation, even if you don't come up with  
16 exact numbers, some kind of evaluation that the amount  
17 of difference between real bycatch and reported bycatch  
18 because it's definitely a real situation and it's  
19 definitely a significant amount of fish.

20

21                   And the people talked to me about it,  
22 I'm sure they would talk to whoever was working on this  
23 project about it if they just went about it in the  
24 right manner.

25

26                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don, you  
27 got a response.

28

29                   MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair. Tim I  
30 know it's a very important issue and it's one that I've  
31 been following very closely as well, the salmon  
32 bycatch. I don't think it would be appropriate to try  
33 to incorporate it into this project. It's a completely  
34 different aspect what you're looking at there, plus  
35 we're pretty late into the process with these projects.  
36 They've already been -- their investigation plans have  
37 already been submitted, it might be a project that can  
38 be submitted to our program in the future. Our next  
39 call for proposals will be in November of this year,  
40 for 2012, beginning 2012.

41

42                   Just a personal observation I think if  
43 this has all been illegally done, that there's probably  
44 not going to be a lot of people that are going to be  
45 forthcoming no matter how you kind of couch it, I would  
46 think, so it might be difficult to get to those numbers  
47 that you're looking for.

48

49                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks Don. Once  
2 these projects are at this point the contractors have  
3 set their costs and so forth and they don't think that  
4 they can change the project. We can request that -- or  
5 highlight this issue in our annual report, or at some  
6 point, as a concern of this Council, that the North  
7 Pacific Fisheries Management Council is not looking at  
8 clean data, that they were looking at underreported  
9 data. And so if you have personal knowledge of a  
10 member of our Western Interior Council, we can request  
11 that -- or state that we feel there's an underreporting  
12 of the bycatch and that it's a real problem on the  
13 allowance of the pollock fishery to continue at these  
14 high catch levels, being underreported, that it's a  
15 real problem with our returns, in-river returns for our  
16 subsistence users and our escapement and resource and  
17 our users within our region. And so we could  
18 incorporate that into our annual report.

19  
20                   Wouldn't you say so, Vince.

21  
22                   MR. MATHEWS: Well, I appreciate Larry  
23 getting up here because I was just going to ask him  
24 about.....

25  
26                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

27  
28                   MR. MATHEWS: .....what's the best  
29 approach of doing that.

30  
31                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Larry, sounds  
32 good.

33  
34                   MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
35 Larry Buklis, Office of Subsistence Management.

36  
37                   I would just like to supplement the  
38 response you've gotten to this point on that question  
39 by saying, if you look on Page 45 of your meeting  
40 booklet, this is the expanded treatment of this  
41 project. As Don said there's a little thumbnail sketch  
42 of each project in a listing, but then each of the  
43 projects has, what we call, an executive summary, in  
44 your book, that goes into more detail. And for this  
45 chinook salmon run reconstruction on the Yukon you'll  
46 notice under the issue statement there's two  
47 paragraphs. The second paragraph gets into what if's  
48 and relating the run sizes to other issues, and it  
49 mentions the Bering Sea bycatch issue. And I think the  
50 context there, I do not believe the investigators, as

1 Don and others have said, I don't think they plan to  
2 get into the Bering Sea bycatch data, groundtruth it  
3 and examine ways to expand it if it's a low ball  
4 estimate. I think that does go beyond what they're  
5 working with. But I think the intent to look at the  
6 in-river run reconstructions they develop and relate it  
7 to other issues, like the bycatch issue, and that's an  
8 arena where they could in a subjective way, say that if  
9 you take the bycatch estimates as they are how does  
10 that relate to the in-river run reconstructions that  
11 they are going to do. Then they could perhaps take the  
12 kind of testimony you're giving and say what if -- what  
13 if the bycatch estimates were low by X percent, what  
14 would the relationship be then. And so I think they  
15 can do some of that sort of modeling or examination in  
16 that way. But I think Don's right, I don't think they  
17 plan to get into the bycatch data and pursue  
18 alternative estimation methods, but I think they can  
19 relate what's reported there to their in-river work and  
20 then maybe do some what if's from there.

21

22 MR. GERVAIS: Okay.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Maybe I could ask Larry,  
27 the Chair was indicating, how would it be best for him  
28 to have that as a research topic for future projects;  
29 would it be in the annual report or would it be best to  
30 OSM direct when they do the develop for call for  
31 proposals?

32

33 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. The action  
34 vehicle would be when we develop the call for  
35 proposals, or request for proposals, as Don said, for  
36 2012, in the summer and fall of 2010, we will be  
37 developing that call, and if you put it in your annual  
38 report that would be sort of a reminder to us, for the  
39 record, that this is a concern to you, but we will also  
40 be developing the call and consulting with Councils at  
41 that time. So I think both are legitimate approaches,  
42 and the annual report would be a way to keep the issue  
43 in front of us.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks Larry.

46 That's the direction I would like to see the Council go  
47 is to highlight this issue and make notation on our  
48 Resource Monitoring Plan discussion, that we discussed  
49 this Yukon chinook salmon reconstruction and commented  
50 on that as a comment in our deliberations on this

1 packet.

2

3

4 And then also incorporate that into our  
5 annual report that we have concerns about the bycatch  
6 numbers. And I was talking to the ADF&G resource  
7 biologist in the back of the room there and she says  
8 that, you know, the bycatch doesn't compute as to what  
9 the number of fish lacking is -- has to be greater than  
10 what the bycatch is for the Yukon because we're under  
11 esc -- our returns are so low. Reality is the  
12 underreporting seems to be one of the key factors  
13 that's not really discussed. It's sort of a sacred cow  
14 that the system is working. It's my opinion -- I've  
15 talked to various people -- I used to be around those  
16 -- I used to deliver to those draggers in Bristol Bay  
17 and I used to talk to those guys about -- and people  
18 that worked on processing vessels, I've talked to  
19 people who told me they were grinding lots of  
20 additional bycatch off of processing vessels any time  
21 the observer's not watching, the bycatch is something  
22 you want to get rid of. And so I feel, personally  
23 feel, as Timothy does, that the bycatch is vastly  
24 underreported. And it's an issue with what we're going  
25 to have to deal with on managing the restrictions that  
26 our constituents are going to have to endure.

26

27 So you got a comment, there, Timothy.

28

29 MR. GERVAIS: Just one more quick one,  
30 when you're talking about the grinding, there's a lot  
31 of the drag fleet that has specific deck modifications  
32 designed so they can scuttle bycatch quickly without it  
33 being in the eye of the observer.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, James.

36

37 MR. J. WALKER: Thank you, Mr.  
38 Chairman. Don, in regards to the technician on board  
39 monitoring this bycatch, is there any other means that  
40 they could use, mainly electronic monitoring?

41

42 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. James. At the  
43 last meeting that I attended for the North Pacific  
44 Fisheries Management Council there were -- there was at  
45 least one boat captain that I heard that they have a  
46 way of doing that with photography, with videotaping.  
47 And he stated something to the fact that they could  
48 basically account for all bycatch that way but it  
49 wasn't discussed that much. And so there are probably  
50 means to do that but it's not been incorporated in

1 anything officially yet.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Larry.

4

5 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 I would also like to follow up on my own earlier  
7 response by noting that, of course, the primary area  
8 for this to be pursued is the North Pacific Fisheries  
9 Management Council since they manage this fishery of  
10 concern to you. So that is the primary vehicle for  
11 getting at these bycatch numbers. And certainly it is  
12 an issue with them that's been a challenge. And the  
13 linkage to our program that a proponent would need to  
14 make for the next call for studies, would be to  
15 management of subsistence fisheries on Federal public  
16 lands. I know there's a linkage, all I'm saying is the  
17 North Pacific Council is really the primary authority  
18 and jurisdiction and body that would be pursuing these  
19 kinds of questions. And so you'd have to come off the  
20 kind of study we're talking about in the next call and  
21 say, that this in-river run reconstruction is very  
22 interesting and important and whatever they do with  
23 their what if's on the bycatch they do, and then the  
24 next call you'd have to say that this remains an issue  
25 and you want to gather further information about the  
26 numbers of fish caught there and the consequences for  
27 in-river subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands  
28 because that is what we are about.

29

30 But your primary authority for this  
31 question you're pursuing is the North Pacific Council.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks Larry.

34 That's true. It would behoove this Council to write a  
35 letter to the North Pacific Fisheries Management  
36 Council requesting video observer footage, continuous  
37 video observer footage for the fleet. We feel that the  
38 current observer program is underreporting the bycatch.  
39 And so we feel that -- and we should also reiterate  
40 that the bycatch level set at 68,000 is far too high.

41

42 So the Chair will entertain a motion to  
43 write a letter to the North Pacific Fisheries  
44 Management Council to that effect.

45

46 MR. GERVAIS: I'll make a motion to  
47 that.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got a motion  
50 to transmit a letter to the North Pacific Fisheries

1 Management Council.

2

3 MR. J. WALKER: Second.

4

5 MR. R. WALKER: Question.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question called on  
8 the motion. Those in favor of the motion to transmit a  
9 letter to the North Pacific Fisheries Management  
10 Council to state that the Federal Western Interior  
11 Regional Advisory Council is concerned about the  
12 management issues that are incurred on the Yukon River  
13 drainage with the excessive bycatch level set by the  
14 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and calls  
15 into concern as to the continuous observation and so  
16 the requesting of video -- continuous video monitoring  
17 observership in conjunction with the observers and  
18 requesting a reduction in the bycatch level from  
19 68,000.

20

21 Those in favor of the motion signify by  
22 saying aye.

23

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So going back to the  
27 Resource Monitoring Program. Does any Council members  
28 have further questions on the Yukon River projects  
29 before us on Page 30.

30

31 Don.

32

33 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don  
34 and Liz, getting back to the projects here, I think  
35 it's kind of important in myself to -- maybe this is  
36 the wrong forum, maybe TCC would address that, if they  
37 have anything going, studies and that, but I was just  
38 thinking, because of the problems with low numbers and  
39 what with the chinooks, I was just wondering if there  
40 was other studies in the future having to do with maybe  
41 whitefish studies other than chinook?

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

44

45 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair. There's  
46 not in this particular call for proposals this year,  
47 2010. We anticipate there will be for the next call in  
48 2012 because right now there's an ongoing strategic  
49 plan that's being done for both the Kuskokwim and the  
50 Yukon, to look at whitefish specifically and to

1 identify the needs and also prioritize any research  
2 that may be needed on them so we anticipate we're going  
3 to see those come up in the next call, this coming  
4 fall.

5  
6 Thank you.

7  
8 A year from now, basically.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

11  
12 MR. COLLINS: Question about the Yukon.  
13 I was surprised to hear in process of the testimony  
14 that originally about 50 percent of the run came from  
15 Canada they figured, of the run, of the total, and  
16 thinking of this reconstruction, but, do we have any  
17 studies that have gone on over there that identify what  
18 the contribution of the various tributaries are. I  
19 know they did this on the Yukon and we had some -- or  
20 on the Kuskokwim and we had some surprises of how  
21 important the Holitna River is to the total, in fact,  
22 in relation to red salmon they were -- over half of the  
23 red salmon were coming out of the Holitna and they  
24 didn't expect that, they thought it was going to be up  
25 in the Stony River where there were lakes and so on.  
26 But has that kind of data been provided on the Yukon so  
27 that -- I think it would help in the future for  
28 monitoring if you knew what the various Koyukuk  
29 contribution was, the Tanana and so on, all the way up,  
30 as well as the Canadian one.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Larry.

33  
34 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. The  
35 Canadian agency, Department of Fisheries and Oceans,  
36 quite a few years ago, did do some telemetry work  
37 tracking chinook in the Canadian Yukon. For many years  
38 they ran a fishwheel mark recovery program and in  
39 coordination with that they did do some telemetry in  
40 the Canadian Yukon, yes. So they were looking at  
41 distribution.

42  
43 MR. COLLINS: But we don't have a  
44 picture of the whole river, of the various systems; is  
45 there anything like that?

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Dani.

48  
49 MS. EVENSON: Yes, thank you. For the  
50 record my name is Dani Evenson, and I'm the AYK

1 regional research supervisor for the Alaska Department  
2 of Fish and Game. And to respond to your question, the  
3 Department did a radio telemetry study and it was in  
4 combination with DFO and those fish were tagged at  
5 Russian Mission and so we have some proportions from  
6 the various tributaries we were able to track from, and  
7 most of those data are from 2000 to 2004.

8

9 And the other thing that we have that  
10 is indicative of those proportions is we have a fairly  
11 aggressive genetics program at this point in time. We  
12 get data, we collect tissue samples from Pilot Station  
13 sonar, we also collect them from commercial fisheries  
14 and we have them in subsistence fisheries and so we're  
15 able to see coarser scale, but we're able to see some  
16 proportions from the stop groupings to get an idea of  
17 that.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Another  
20 question there, Ray.

21

22 MR. COLLINS: No.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other  
25 discussion on that issue.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any discussion on  
30 the projects, and whether the Western Interior Regional  
31 Council agrees with the Technical Review Committee on  
32 these projects prioritization.

33

34 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chairman.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

37

38 MR. RIVARD: Just wanted to let you  
39 know that the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory  
40 Council met this past week.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

43

44 MR. RIVARD: And they voted 11-1 to  
45 accept the Yukon Fisheries Resource Management  
46 proposals for 2010.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you for  
49 that information. Does the Council feel that these  
50 projects that are portrayed would be of the most

1 benefit to the Western Interior Regional Council's  
2 resource information needs, or if there's another  
3 project that any Council member would like to see  
4 included, that was not included, would be one of the  
5 questions before this Council.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the Chair will  
14 entertain a motion to adopt the priority as portrayed  
15 before the Council for the Yukon River fisheries  
16 projects.

17

18 MR. HONEA: I so move.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got a motion  
21 to adopt.

22

23 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded. Any  
26 further discussion.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MR. R. WALKER: Question.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's been  
33 called. Those in favor of adopting this priority,  
34 signify by saying aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous approval  
39 of the priority. We'll go to the Kuskokwim now, Don,  
40 go ahead.

41

42 MR. COLLINS: You might want to ask for  
43 any opposed before you say it's unanimous just to see  
44 if.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, okay.

47

48 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Excuse me. Any

1 opposed to that list.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none, it's  
6 unanimous consent.

7

8 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Go  
11 ahead, Don.

12

13 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
14 We're now going to do the Kuskokwim region, and that  
15 starts on Page 51 in your book.

16

17 Since 2000 66 projects have been funded  
18 in the Kuskokwim region, four of which will still be  
19 operating in 2010 under previous requests for  
20 proposals. The 2010 request for proposals for the  
21 Kuskokwim region identified two issues and information  
22 needs and those are listed on Page 51. For the 2010  
23 requests for proposals 13 proposals were submitted to  
24 the Office of Subsistence Management. In March 2009  
25 the Technical Review Committee reviewed the proposals  
26 and recommended nine for investigation plan  
27 development. In July 2009 the Technical Review  
28 Committee met again and reviewed the investigation  
29 plans and recommended funding all nine projects and  
30 prioritized them as shown on Page 57 in your book.

31

32 These include six stock, status and  
33 trends projects and three harvest monitoring and  
34 traditional ecological knowledge projects.

35

36 The project summaries are on Pages 57  
37 to 59 with further descriptions of each found on Pages  
38 60 to 77. Most of the projects are long-term  
39 continuation projects.

40

41 Including salmon assessment projects  
42 utilizing weirs, in-season and post-season harvest  
43 monitoring and support for the Kuskokwim River Salmon  
44 Management Working Group.

45

46 That is all I have for that. Thank  
47 you, Mr. Chair.

48

49 Any questions.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. Do  
2 Council members have questions regarding these nine  
3 projects.

4  
5 Eleanor.

6  
7 MS. YATLIN: Thank you, Jack -- Mr.  
8 Chairman. I just had a question, I see on the prior or  
9 previous assistant -- or whatever you call it, the  
10 report that you did on the Yukon, the Koyukuk and you  
11 don't have any on here that pertains to other species  
12 of fish?

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

15  
16 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair. Eleanor.  
17 That's correct. It all was focused on salmon this  
18 year. There was some whitefish projects that came in,  
19 some proposals came in, but we held off on those until  
20 the strategic plan, which OSM funded in 2008, until  
21 that plan is completed, and we anticipate seeing some  
22 projects on whitefish for the Kuskokwim in the near  
23 future.

24  
25 MS. YATLIN: Okay. Another comment, I  
26 guess I have, is they -- I know they are doing studies  
27 on whitefish and there's sheefish and the reason why I  
28 bring this up, I guess, us, as the Council, this  
29 Western Interior, and different agencies to -- well, I  
30 guess it would be a concern because in doing these  
31 studies and knowing that those fish, different species  
32 of fish are there, and we have to -- you know what  
33 happened to the salmon so my concern is, in the future,  
34 you know, if we just have to go to look for either the  
35 sheefish or whitefish we'd have to be careful on not  
36 overharvesting.

37  
38 So that's just a comment, I just wanted  
39 to state that.

40  
41 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks Eleanor.  
44 Those are good comments.

45  
46 Go ahead, Liz.

47  
48 MS. WILLIAMS: This is Liz again from  
49 OSM. There's several Council members from different  
50 Councils are on the whitefish strategic planning

1 meeting and that has come up a lot, especially with  
2 commercial fisheries on cisco and just like you said,  
3 the declining salmon runs, some people are depending  
4 much more heavily on whitefish and then there are some  
5 places that don't have salmon so that's a big part of  
6 it.

7

8 Thanks for adding that.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we have some  
11 completed projects on whitefish and so forth.

12

13 Any other questions -- go ahead, Vince.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Just so the audience  
16 understands, that when they're going through the  
17 projects the Chair and the Council is open if you have  
18 any comments on these or any questions, you should come  
19 up and get the Chair's attention before they make their  
20 motion so they have your input. I don't know if there  
21 is any interest but the Council gets rolling on this  
22 and some people go, well, I didn't get a chance to  
23 speak, it's always open, the mic.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. That's a  
26 good point, Vince. We are on the Kuskokwim River, and  
27 if people in the room, local people have comments on  
28 these projects I welcome those comments. This is a  
29 public meeting and any time that any public member  
30 wants to make a comment on anything we're saying I'm  
31 open to that discussion, the floor is open.

32

33 So any other discussion from the public  
34 or the Council on these projects.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

39

40 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. The Yukon  
41 Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council took up these  
42 projects and they voted 11-4 and one abstained to  
43 accept these.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks. It's  
46 always good to know what the adjacent Council's  
47 position is on various issues where we have overlap in  
48 management on the Yukon and Kuskokwim River.

49

50 Any further discussion from the Council

1 on these projects, the nine projects before us for the  
2 Kuskokwim.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see no further  
7 discussion. The Chair will entertain a motion to adopt  
8 the priority list for the Kuskokwim River by the  
9 Technical Review Committee.

10

11 MR. COLLINS: I moved to adopt the  
12 recommendations for the projects.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved.

15

16 MR. MORGAN: Second.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.  
19 Further discussion.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, those  
24 in favor of this priority list for the Kuskokwim River  
25 as portrayed by the Technical Review Committee signify  
26 by saying aye.

27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.

31

32 (No opposing votes)

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous approval  
35 of these projects. So let's see here, Vince.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, now, we're at the  
38 stage where the Partners, and I apologize in the agenda  
39 because I'm looking at a different agenda, it's both  
40 the Partners for the Yukon and Kuskokwim. If the  
41 agenda you have in front of you just says Yukon that  
42 was an oversight. So that would be, I would assume --  
43 Brandy's ready to go and I'm pretty sure that Kuskokwim  
44 Native Association may be also.

45

46 While they're coming up here I'm going  
47 to pass around the menu for the Hound House, you need  
48 to circle what you would like to order for lunch and  
49 how much money you're going to put in so we know what  
50 change to give you and then get it back to me, we need

1 to turn in the lunch order by noon if at all possible.  
2 So I'll pass it around for the -- the ones in the  
3 crowd, we'll pass that around, too, if you want to jump  
4 on this bandwagon to get lunch through the Hound House.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you're pretty  
7 much ready to go, Brandy.

8  
9 MS. BERKBIGLER: Just one second.

10  
11 (Pause)

12  
13 MS. BERKBIGLER: Okay.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead,  
16 Brandy.

17  
18 MS. BERKBIGLER: Good afternoon, Mr.  
19 Chair and Council members. This is Brandy Berkbigler  
20 with Tanana Chiefs Conference and I'm the Partners  
21 Fisheries biologist for TCC.

22  
23 So, next slide, Lisa.

24  
25 So this year -- or the summer, I should  
26 say, is a regional map of TCC's region, stretching from  
27 Holy Cross to Arctic Village and Eagle and all the way  
28 south to some villages on the Kuskokwim, which we  
29 haven't done any projects on in a long time.

30  
31 So highlighted in the yellow circles,  
32 which is kind of hard to see on the screen, are the  
33 areas where the three Staff members for TCC -- or  
34 actually four, Mike Smith did a project too as well,  
35 we're kind of located -- I was primarily on the Yukon  
36 and in Ruby and then Paige was all along the Yukon in  
37 different communities with her project, and then Mike  
38 was on the Goodpasture which is up the Tanana River,  
39 and Lisa was down further on the Yukon.

40  
41 So to start off, Henshaw Creek weir has  
42 been funded by OSM since 2000. It was taken over in  
43 2008 by TCC solely. Prior to that, the three years,  
44 TCC and Fish and Wildlife Service, out of the Fairbanks  
45 field office worked together so that TCC would no how  
46 to -- and operate the weir. This year the crew arrived  
47 in camp on June 24th and we found that the water was  
48 pretty high so we had some weir panel repair to do so  
49 it took us until July 5th to get the weir set up and  
50 running and that's when the first fish was counted.

1 The last day of counting was August 7th, due to, not  
2 only the run starting to drop off but also we have a  
3 Partners intern day which I need to take the interns to  
4 and so they had to get back and clean up gear and get  
5 their presentations ready.

6

7

So, next slide.

8

9

Right now the preliminary escapement  
10 counts are 1,607 for chinook and chum salmon was  
11 156,000. On the graph, as well as previous years,  
12 since 2000, that the weirs been in operation. In 2006  
13 you'll notice big holes since the weir was flooded the  
14 entire season. So we're getting an idea of the  
15 escapement that's coming into Henshaw.

16

17

Next slide.

18

19

And this just shows the run escapement  
20 over the month time period that we operate the weir so  
21 each of those lines is one year and you can see some  
22 years the run spikes early and then in later years it  
23 spikes a little bit later, depending on the run timing.  
24 This is for chinook, and then here is for chum salmon  
25 over the last nine years, minus 2006.

26

27

Okay, next slide.

28

29

So in cooperation with Henshaw Creek  
30 weir we also rate for a challenge cost share grant,  
31 which we worked with Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge  
32 and we offer a science traditional knowledge camp to  
33 the students, primarily in the communities of  
34 Allakaket, Alatna, Hughes and Evansville. Most of our  
35 students come from Allakaket. And this year due to  
36 competition with a bible camp we had primarily middle  
37 school students as opposed to the high school students  
38 which we've had in the past, which was kind of a neat  
39 experience and different since we had to curtail the  
40 curriculum a little bit we offered a lot of different  
41 activities and one of the partners interns that we have  
42 funded through OSM, I had her as an education intern,  
43 so she actually developed a little bit more into the  
44 curriculum since that's not my area of expertise so it  
45 was a really camp. So this year we had the camp from  
46 July 20th to the 24th and most of the objectives of the  
47 science camp are to kind of blend the traditional  
48 knowledge by having elders there as well as bringing  
49 the scientists and educators in to blend in the Western  
50 ways of teaching. And then also for the students to

1 get an idea of what Henshaw Creek weir is all about and  
2 actually get out on the weir and do some of the  
3 sampling of taking scales and lengths and just  
4 hopefully getting them interested in natural resources  
5 and maybe one day applying to work at the weir as  
6 technicians if they're going to still be in the  
7 communities.

8

9 Next slide.

10

11 So this year we had some of the elders.  
12 We also had an SCA volunteer, which was through Kanuti;  
13 we had the Friends of Refuges volunteer one retired  
14 teacher; and we also had the instructors, myself and  
15 Laura, who is my education intern and Kristin Reakoff  
16 and then Lisa and Mike Spindler were also there with  
17 the Refuge. So this year we added a couple other  
18 activities. We did a listen on understanding topo maps  
19 in addition to the previous two years where we -- you  
20 guys have probably seen the slides about mostly the  
21 fish and wildlife stuff.

22

23 Next slide.

24

25 We had a new elder, Polluck Simon in  
26 camp this year, Sr., and he taught the kids how to make  
27 a spruce paddle, which for -- he was mostly curtailed  
28 for older students and not such a young generation  
29 since they needed help with the chainsaw so the elders  
30 kind of ran the chainsaw and the students did most of  
31 the finishing work.

32

33 Next slide.

34

35 We had Lisa Saperstein come and do a  
36 lesson on dragonflies and the kids tried to catch  
37 dragonflies and identify them and she had a little  
38 catalog so they could see which ones they were looking  
39 at.

40

41 Next slide.

42

43 So for Paige's project, TCC has an  
44 AYKSSI funded biologist.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Brandy, can I stop  
47 you there for a second?

48

49 MS. BERKBIGLER: Yes.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: On the Henshaw, your  
2 data set started on July 5th, how many fish were you  
3 catching at that time and how much of that run  
4 component do you think you lost by installing the weir  
5 a little bit late?

6  
7 MS. BERKBIGLER: That was actually --  
8 the whole time we were installing the weir we really  
9 didn't see any fish so we pretty much caught the  
10 beginning of the run, July fish.....

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

13  
14 MS. BERKBIGLER: .....that's usually  
15 normally when they'll show up and because I monitor  
16 what happens at the mouth and try to see the numbers we  
17 were pretty much right on time.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

20  
21 MS. BERKBIGLER: Okay.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

24  
25 MS. BERKBIGLER: So Paige is funded  
26 through AYKSSI funding and she's another biologist at  
27 TCC, she has a project set up on the Yukon to take  
28 subsistence chinook samples from the subsistence  
29 fishermen so these fish are caught in their nets or  
30 their fishwheels and we take genetic fin clips, we take  
31 the scales for aging, we sex the fish and usually by  
32 cutting open to verify that there are eggs or milt in  
33 there and then we also write down what type of gear and  
34 mesh size that they're fishing and their location, not  
35 to point, but usually north or south bank and an area  
36 in the river, and then also girth and weight to try to  
37 address some of these size decreases -- decreasing size  
38 that people have been talking about in the river.

39  
40 Next slide.

41  
42 So she had seven areas starting down in  
43 Holy Cross and there's 239 samples collected and out of  
44 that was five households, or five fishermen  
45 participated and Lisa was down there on that. Nulato  
46 there was 387 samples collected where she had six  
47 families participating there. Bishop Rock, Lisa was  
48 there with 191 samples and two fishermen. Galena was  
49 353 with six. And Ruby 144 and then we also had a  
50 location above Hess Creek, just one subsistence fisher

1 family and they got 190 samples, and then Ft. Yukon we  
2 had three participants and 152 samples collected there.  
3 And this was the first year of this project, so we're  
4 hoping to increase that next year and we're trying to  
5 write for more funding as well.

6  
7                   So then we move on to the Ruby  
8 subsistence chinook salmon data collection and this is  
9 actually a project that's funded through the R&E  
10 funding source through the Yukon River Panel funds and  
11 we'll be -- we worked with Ed Sarten who pretty much  
12 takes the lead on the project and then I go out there  
13 to help and he hires the technicians in Ruby who go  
14 around to the different fish households. Most people  
15 fish and then they come back and bring their fish back  
16 so he runs around to see who's got fish and they go and  
17 sample those fish.

18  
19                   So, next slide.

20  
21                   And they're taking the same data as  
22 Paige, the ASL, genetics, girth, weight and length.

23  
24                   So with 144 samples, due to the  
25 restrictions, we were kind of get more but we didn't  
26 have enough sampling supplies out there in time for the  
27 start and then we had 99 males and 41 females. And  
28 this has been the third year of this project and we've  
29 had Maureen start entering data this year so we're  
30 trying to progressive increase Ruby's participation  
31 into the project.

32  
33                   Next slide.

34  
35                   So current and future proposals that  
36 we're working on. You guys voted on the OSM proposals  
37 which one of them is TCC's Nulato weir. We'd like to  
38 try to put a weir back into Nulato River to try to find  
39 out if the escapement numbers of chinook salmon are  
40 going into there and we're working with the Nulato  
41 Tribal Council, specifically Robin George, so we have  
42 one more RAC meeting to go and then we'll kind of have  
43 a good idea if that's going to be funded or not. This  
44 first year in 2010 will be a pilot study. There was a  
45 weir there in 2002, 2003 that was operated by the State  
46 in a cooperative agreement with the Nulato Tribal  
47 Council and some materials were left there but we have  
48 no idea what condition those are in and we also don't  
49 know if the river has changed since then so whether or  
50 not we're going to be able to lay a weir in there so

1 this first year will be just a pilot study to see what  
2 we have and the conditions of that river, and if it's  
3 going to be feasible to really put a weir back in  
4 there.

5  
6 We also did in the mean time get --  
7 secure the Tozitna weir. It's going to be barged down  
8 this next spring so that there will be a full weir  
9 minus the trap that will be ready, in a sense, to go  
10 except for getting funding for a trap, a new trap to be  
11 made.

12  
13 We also are submitting proposals to the  
14 R&M and R&E for this, it's actually due on Friday, for  
15 the Ruby subsistence chinook data collection again.  
16 And then I'd like to look into that for the Nulato  
17 River weir since the OSM proposal call will not go out  
18 until this fall which means it won't get really funded  
19 until 2012, spring of 2012.

20  
21 Then we're going to submit the proposal  
22 again for the challenge cost share grant to hold the  
23 science camp up at Henshaw again. And we also have a  
24 section in the TCC Council newspaper that should be  
25 coming out, we all submitted our articles by the end of  
26 September so this October issue -- I was hoping it was  
27 going to be done by this meeting but it wasn't in print  
28 yet, so look for our whole fisheries section on that,  
29 which will have articles on our projects.

30  
31 Next slide.

32  
33 With that, are there any questions.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does Council members  
36 have questions -- yeah, go ahead Bob.

37  
38 MR. ALOYSIUS: How do you.....

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to come  
41 up to the mic there, Bob.

42  
43 MR. ALOYSIUS: I'm loud enough, I  
44 can.....

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can't hear you on  
47 the mic. You got to be in our transcripts.

48  
49 (Laughter)

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We want to know what  
2 you're saying there.

3

4                   (Laughter)

5

6                   MR. ALOYSIUS: What happens, I mean how  
7 do you obtain the samples and what happens to the  
8 samples after you're done taking your samples, I mean  
9 the fish, what happens to them afterwards?

10

11                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

12

13                   MR. BERKBIGLER: Okay, to answer your  
14 question, Bob. All the samples -- well, the samples  
15 that are taken, is we take one clip off of the fin of  
16 the chinook salmon and we take three scales off of the  
17 chinook salmon and the rest of it is pretty non-  
18 invasive, and so the fishermen keep all their fish. So  
19 really we're right there when they're cutting their  
20 fish and we're taking the samples and then the fish get  
21 harvested like they normally would. And then as soon  
22 as we're done taking the samples we send the scale  
23 cards off to the State since they have the aging lab.  
24 The genetic samples go to the State or the Fish and  
25 Wildlife Genetics Lab, depending on who is requesting  
26 -- who has given us the money for the funding, but  
27 primarily it's been the State and the rest of the data,  
28 then, once we get those scale data ages back then we  
29 pretty much assess it and kind of write the reports  
30 from that.

31

32                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good question, Bob.  
33 And I was wondering, do you take a blood sample from  
34 those fish?

35

36                   MS. BERKBIGLER: No, we haven't taken  
37 any blood samples. And some of that is probably just  
38 methodologies. I know in the past, before I started  
39 working with TCC, Kim, the previous biologist, tried to  
40 do heart tissue samples and trying to have dry ice in a  
41 remote community and get samples shipped back; we kind  
42 of are starting slow and just working our way up and  
43 getting even fishermen in participating in collecting  
44 these samples, some of them just don't even want to  
45 deal with it.

46

47                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well,  
48 there's these chirologies for ichthyophonous and so I was  
49 wondering if you were collecting those.

50

1 MS. BERKBIGLER: Yeah, we'd like to and  
2 I think heart tissues are primarily what they want to  
3 collect but that's a little bit more involved of a  
4 process so it would take a lot more training, a lot  
5 more materials and more experience.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Okay, any  
8 other questions.

9  
10 Don.

11  
12 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
13 guess, Brandy, I guess maybe I should have posed this  
14 question to you. In coming up with less chinook, less  
15 kings and stuff, I mean we had a hard time even, you  
16 know, coming up with fish to sample in certain areas.  
17 I guess is your program looking at any other species of  
18 fish that can be as an alternative, maybe whitefish or  
19 something like that, studies to carry on -- I like the  
20 way the program is going, I mean I like to see, you  
21 know, the grants that you guys are bringing in to  
22 provide what little employment some villages have  
23 throughout the region, I'm not just talking about, you  
24 know, within the Middle Yukon, but, you know,  
25 throughout the area and so any studies or things like  
26 that that would bring employment or something is a  
27 plus.

28  
29 Thank you.

30  
31 MS. BERKBIGLER: I think there was kind  
32 of a question in there.

33  
34 (Laughter)

35  
36 MS. BERKBIGLER: As far as I was  
37 attending those whitefish strategic planning meetings  
38 in the spring and last fall and so once that plan comes  
39 out we will, TCC, will be looking at doing some  
40 whitefish studies it's just we were told not to really  
41 probably write for whitefish until that plan comes out  
42 because they're not going to fund anything until this  
43 next fall so we are looking into the whitefish, you  
44 know, proposals as well, so you should see some of that  
45 coming.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

48  
49 MR. J. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, James.  
2  
3 MR. J. WALKER: Mr. Chair. In regards  
4 to the chinook on the Yukon River, have you noted any  
5 increase in farm raised fish that's migrating up the  
6 Yukon?  
7  
8 MS. BERKBIGLER: As far as I know, I  
9 haven't gotten all the details from Paige, but she  
10 hasn't seen anything. I know that there was one fish  
11 that was a hatchery fish from Canada that they were  
12 going to return the head to but I'm not sure if they've  
13 seen any of the other hatchery fish.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other  
16 questions for TCC Partnership Program.  
17  
18 Go ahead, Tim.  
19  
20 MR. GERVAIS: Brandy, was that an  
21 Atlantic salmon or a king salmon?  
22  
23 MS. BERKBIGLER: It was a king salmon,  
24 the Whitefish Hatchery in Canada has coded wire-tagged  
25 salmon so if you see -- if you catch a chinook salmon  
26 in your nets or your fishwheels and it has no adipose  
27 fin, usually there's a little coded wire tag in its  
28 nose and so if you just cut off the head and send it to  
29 the DFO lab they'll be able to get the information from  
30 it, when it was released from the hatchery.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other questions.  
33  
34 (No comments)  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, thanks  
37 a lot Brandy, did a great job. Appreciate your  
38 partnership with the OSM.  
39  
40 And so we have the KNA report.  
41  
42 MR. THALHAUSER: Thank you, Mr. Chair  
43 and Council. My name's Mike Thalhauser with the  
44 Kuskokwim Native Association. First, again, just  
45 thanks for coming to Aniak. It's nice to have the  
46 meeting here. This is the first time I've been in this  
47 position where we've had the meeting here and thanks a  
48 lot for coming.  
49  
50 We just pretty much finished up our

1 field season about a week and a half ago. So just to  
2 get you started, I think you guys should have a packet  
3 that we have handed out and I just have some sort of a  
4 brief list of our projects there, I guess not so brief,  
5 but a list of the projects that we have going on right  
6 now and future projects. And my plan was kind of just  
7 to give you a briefing of sort of how the field season  
8 went this year and then maybe to get some feedback so  
9 if you all could look through the projects and maybe  
10 give me an idea of what you'd like covered a little  
11 more comprehensively during the winter meeting where  
12 I'll have a little bit more as far as results from some  
13 of our projects, specifically with the coho salmon  
14 investigations which we'll have a lot more information  
15 on over the next couple months as we look through the  
16 data. And also I'm going to have, if it's okay with  
17 you guys, Kari Hackett, our fisheries educator, come up  
18 and just sort of speak about this last year. That's a  
19 project that always seems to get really positive  
20 feedback and really good information, I think both to  
21 and from the Council. And so with her being here and  
22 this being the time of the year that she's visiting the  
23 schools I thought it would be a good opportunity for  
24 her to maybe come up after I talk and get some feedback  
25 and to talk to the Council.

26

27                   So as far as current projects that we  
28 had last year, as we have in the past, involved with  
29 the George and the Tatlawiksuk River weirs, which with  
30 the low water this year ended up, you know, it's not  
31 great for propellers and sometimes fishing but it's  
32 pretty good for weir operations, so those were pretty  
33 much in on their target operational dates and ran  
34 consistently to the end and we actually had them in  
35 several days later with a few late coho that were  
36 tagged and just kind of waiting for fish to get --  
37 tagged fish to get past the weir, so we just ended up  
38 pulling those out the last couple days of September.  
39 And so just got finished pulling those out.

40

41                   And just right now getting geared up  
42 for our post-season harvest monitoring surveys. This  
43 year's going to be a little bit  
44 different as far as the whole project, not so much with  
45 KNA because we actually started doing this last year  
46 but last year we started incorporating more questions  
47 about whitefish and actually looking into -- previously  
48 the post-season surveys on the Kuskokwim were just -- I  
49 believe it was the whitefish questions were small and  
50 large whitefish, which as you know with the number of

1 species that we get here, really doesn't give you a  
2 whole lot of much information. So last year KNA, who  
3 do the surveys in Aniak, went to the surveys with  
4 actual piece of paper with the pictures of the fish and  
5 really tried to get a little more speciation as far as  
6 the whitefish being caught and I'm glad to see that's  
7 being incorporated into the entire river as post-season  
8 surveys that we work with ADF&G on. And so I'm really  
9 excited for how that's going to go this year with the  
10 added information that we'll get from that.

11  
12                   And our whitefish project that we  
13 operate with U.S. Fish and Wildlife, that project is  
14 pretty much complete as far as funding goes -- or is,  
15 and it's in the report writing stage, but with the tags  
16 that we have out and the life span of some of the tags  
17 extending a little past where they usually extend, and  
18 with the sheefish project that we're also working on  
19 with Lisa Stubey (ph) utilizing the same tracking  
20 stations and doing flights, radiotracking flights up  
21 and down the river, we're going to be able to get at  
22 least an extra year of data out of those tags and so  
23 that's been a real help as far as having all the  
24 stations, the two projects with the sheefish and the  
25 humpback whitefish and broad whitefish projects, sort  
26 of overlapping a little bit, so we're going to get a --  
27 we're still collecting some data even though the  
28 funding for that has reached the end.

29  
30                   The Partners biologist program and  
31 educator program.....

32  
33                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One question there.

34  
35                   MR. THALHAUSER: Yes.

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Who is paying for  
38 that additional telemetry work?

39  
40                   MR. THALHAUSER: Well, no one's really  
41 paying for the additional telemetry work but the  
42 receivers that we use for the whitefish project are  
43 being sued by Lisa Stubey in the sheefish project and  
44 so we can basically just keep those frequencies in  
45 there for that.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see.

48  
49                   MR. THALHAUSER: Go ahead, Don, did you  
50 want to.....

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

2

3 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. One of the  
4 projects that you just approved for the Kuskokwim is a  
5 two year extension of Lisa Stubey's sheefish project so  
6 that will be continuing. And the main reason, of  
7 course, is because those radio devices are able to  
8 continue going, radiotags for another couple years, so  
9 we want to utilize that fully.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I didn't  
12 realize the whitefish would overlap into that project,  
13 so, thank you.

14

15 MR. THALHAUSER: Yeah, the sheefish  
16 project started, this last year was the second year of  
17 information we got from that, so it's sort of -- it's  
18 definitely moving on and that's -- as far as bang for  
19 your buck on projects like this, it's really worthwhile  
20 and so -- so does that answer.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Continue.

23

24 MR. THALHAUSER; Okay. As far as the  
25 Partners biologist program, something worth adding on  
26 that, and it's something that I think at the last  
27 meeting I hadn't hired anyone yet but we just hired on  
28 Moses Smith as a fishery biologist and so that's been  
29 great to have her around and she's here today and I  
30 think she's met most of the people here but I encourage  
31 you to chat with her before you take off and she had  
32 worked with ADF&G in the past and specifically on  
33 cooperative projects with KNA so she was a real good  
34 find, to have someone that sort of knew what our  
35 mission was and who has worked with us from a State  
36 standpoint.

37

38 And like I said, Kari will talk a  
39 little bit more about the Partners educator program,  
40 which we did put in a proposal to continue that  
41 program, and that was -- that will be funded and be  
42 continued.

43

44 Our rainbow trout telemetry project.  
45 This is the second year of this project and right now  
46 it's basically flying surveys to find out the seasonal  
47 distribution and migratory patterns of rainbow trout  
48 and so we're still collecting data on that. Right now  
49 the rainbow trout are getting ready to sort of move to  
50 their overwintering grounds so we'll be flying those

1 surveys a little more tightly over the next couple  
2 months and then they're usually spaced out at about a  
3 month or so throughout the winter and then a little  
4 tightly grouped -- more tightly grouped when they're  
5 moved back to their feeding and spawning areas. And  
6 that's something that I think I'll have a lot more  
7 information to show you at the next meeting and  
8 something I plan to bring some more information on.

9  
10                   The coho salmon investigation plan, and  
11 this actually also includes a separate weir that's not  
12 included on this list -- on the list I provided and  
13 over the next couple of pages, was just a list of  
14 escapement projects that we have, but that one also  
15 includes the salmon river weir up the Aniak that KNA  
16 operates and that project went really well. This was  
17 the second and final year for that, not the best year  
18 for fishwheels with the water as low as it was and as  
19 clear as it was, but did get out all the tags we wanted  
20 to and the one thing that's kind of nice about not  
21 catching that many fish is your proportions on tagging  
22 fish when you're pretty much putting out as many tags  
23 as you're catching seems to work out pretty well so  
24 that project was real good. And that's something also  
25 that I'll have a lot more information as we get more  
26 information from the fixed receivers and from  
27 radiotelemetry flights that are still kind of ongoing  
28 with coho running so late.

29  
30                   Future projects. And I guess something  
31 worth mentioning, something that, I think, KNA's really  
32 proud of is, you know, with the projects that Don  
33 mentioned on the Yukon side, one of those projects is  
34 directly related with and that we're going to be doing  
35 some sampling, pretty far up the Kuskokwim River past  
36 the forks and sampling some bering cisco up there, the  
37 fall of next year, and then involved in very directly  
38 in tow of the projects on the Kuskokwim there, and  
39 indirectly with about four of them, so it's something  
40 that I think we're doing a good job of being involved  
41 in the monitoring research that's going on and in the  
42 management that's going on in the Kuskokwim. And like  
43 I mentioned there, the Yukon bering cisco with genetic  
44 project, it's the second listed, future project and  
45 like I said that's the samples we'll be collecting next  
46 year.

47  
48                   And another project that was funded was  
49 the sockeye salmon investigations which will start next  
50 year and that will include an extra weir that Fish and

1 Game will be operating on the -- it's alluding me now,  
2 the -- I can't remember what river it is, but in Lake  
3 Clark National Park -- I'll think of it, but anyway  
4 that's another project that we're working on next year.

5  
6 And I guess something else that I  
7 wanted to mention here was just as far as our crew, we  
8 had a great crew this year, pretty much all returning  
9 employees and very local for technicians that we had  
10 working at the weir. We had one from Bethel, one from  
11 St. Mary's and one from Crooked Creek and it was great  
12 to have them back it's great to keep having them back  
13 because it really makes for much less eventful seasons  
14 as far as problems coming up. And college technicians,  
15 we had another very good year for partners college  
16 technicians. We had one from Nanwalek, one from  
17 Kwethluk who were -- both of those students are ANCEP  
18 students and one from Crooked Creek, and so they  
19 presented the experiences they had at the -- in a town  
20 meeting here in Aniak and then again at the Partners  
21 intern day in Anchorage, and so that worked out really  
22 well.

23  
24 And like I said, I just -- I also --  
25 this is one thing where I actually did have some real  
26 data as far as what we had over this last season, was  
27 the chinook, chum, sockeye and coho salmon escapement  
28 numbers and like I said we're very involved as far as  
29 having a technician in the running of the George and  
30 Tatlawiksuk River weirs.

31  
32 And so if anyone has any questions I  
33 can answer those. And like I said if there's something  
34 you'd like to see more comprehensively in the next  
35 meeting, I've kind of been trying to off and on do a  
36 shorter briefing and then something more comprehensive  
37 at the next one when we have some more results rather  
38 than showing the same things over and over again.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

41  
42 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. On  
43 the rainbow study, what have you learned thus far, is  
44 there much movement of those trout during the summer?  
45

46 MR. THALHAUSER: The big movement that  
47 basically we do see is in the winter. They're really  
48 coming out of the three tributaries. I think there's  
49 one little pocket of a couple fish up the -- man,  
50 nothing's coming to mind today, the Kipchuk River,

1 there is a little pocket of fish, they kind of stay up  
2 there, but for the most part they all moved pretty much  
3 to the forks, sort of where the salmon are in the  
4 Kipchuk River, branch off the Aniak, and then basically  
5 right back to where we tagged them in the summer and  
6 they sort of mull around during the summer when they're  
7 feeding and right now -- and it's really like -- just  
8 the section that I did the tagging on of the main stem  
9 Aniak towards the lake, it's pretty amazing where that  
10 last fish -- or the first fish we tagged coming down,  
11 it seems to be, you know, every time we fly the survey  
12 we can almost, you know, there's the fish that we  
13 tagged, you know, it's pretty much the distribution  
14 where we ended up tagging them. It seems to me like  
15 they pretty much go right back to where they were so it  
16 gets sort of localized populations in there, definitely  
17 moving out of the tributaries in the winter. And so  
18 we'll get another year of data here to sort of really  
19 lock that down.

20

21 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is there a variation  
24 in their back migration in the spring, is it when the  
25 spring runoff starts, they start moving back to their  
26 summering area or spawning area, as far as a specific  
27 timing?

28

29 MR. THALHAUSER: Yeah, well, we've only  
30 got one year of data for that so as far as variation  
31 and when they do that, not really -- don't really have  
32 anything for that yet but that will be something that  
33 after this spring, that we'll have a little more locked  
34 in on.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you take note of  
37 the break up timing and when they initiated that  
38 movement, like whether the leaves were out or when the  
39 snow melted or the high water events started coming --  
40 those various kinds of environmental conditions?

41

42 MR. THALHAUSER: Yeah, definitely as  
43 far as when the ice was moving out and where the ice  
44 was, there's a few sections where even though the Aniak  
45 pretty much breaks up, the upper tributaries will still  
46 keep their ice for a little while and yeah we did take  
47 notes on that.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Any  
50 other questions.

1 Timothy.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah a couple. The first  
4 one, did you say that you were getting bering cisco  
5 traveling way up into the headwaters by Minchumina and  
6 stuff?

7

8 MR. THALHAUSER: I think the -- we'll  
9 be doing a little -- the surveys we'll be doing is past  
10 Nikolai, yeah.

11

12 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. And then could you  
13 briefly explain how significant the rainbow trout is  
14 for subsistence and sportfishery on the Kuskokwim?

15

16 MR. THALHAUSER: Oh, yeah, definitely.  
17 Well, I know in the past, and probably Carl could even  
18 speak to it more as far as traditional use of rainbow  
19 trout. People have -- there's a significant or has  
20 been a significant winter subsistence fishery in and  
21 around the doe (ph) stock, which is sort of the lower  
22 Aniak River, and certainly the sportfishery on the  
23 Aniak rainbow trout is real significant in this area  
24 and does get a significant amount of pressure. And one  
25 of the reasons behind this project was to find out if  
26 those fish that people have been subsisting on and do  
27 subsist on in the winter are the same fish that are  
28 utilized in the sportfishery, which is typically much,  
29 much farther up.

30

31 MR. GERVAIS: So is there some user  
32 conflict between those two groups for the rainbow?

33

34 MR. THALHAUSER: As far as where we  
35 tagged the fish and saw them, we don't see the fish  
36 that are being harve -- or not harvested, but fished on  
37 by the sportfishery. We don't see them moving down to  
38 where the subsistence fishery is, so we don't see those  
39 fish moving back and forth, which, you know,  
40 preliminary would say that the pressure up river  
41 doesn't affect the fishing down river, but, like I  
42 said, we'll still have another year of data and I would  
43 say as far as my personal opinion, there's more of a --  
44 as far as user conflict it's more traffic on the river  
45 and things of that nature.

46

47 Does that answer your question?

48

49 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, thanks, Mike.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Don, go ahead.

2

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

4 Mike, I had a question, I mean, you know, when we we're  
5 talking about the bycatch and stuff and, you know, I'm  
6 kind of ignorant about the fishing on the Kuskokwim  
7 itself, I mean I don't know whether the bycatch issue  
8 affects you guys or not, whether it's just a Yukon  
9 River matter relegated to the Yukon. What problems do  
10 you foresee in like maybe Bristol Bay fishing or  
11 anything, what has an affect on the fish returning to  
12 the Kuskokwim and is it stable? I mean have you had a  
13 stable population?

14

15 MR. THALHAUSER: Well, I guess we'll  
16 probably end up getting a little more information with  
17 more genetic work being done on that fishery and on  
18 just Kuskokwim fish in general.

19

20 We were, you know, honestly pretty  
21 lucky as far as this year with Bristol Bay, with fish  
22 going down and the Yukon not doing so well but as --  
23 and you can kind of see this in a lot of the escapement  
24 numbers and in the test fishery this year on the  
25 Kuskokwim, it was, you know, not the best year in the  
26 world but definitely I would kind of categorize it as,  
27 you know, average to slightly below average and I think  
28 subsistence needs were pretty well met, at least on the  
29 middle and lower river as far as I could tell, and Ray  
30 could probably talk more about the upper river.

31

32 And so I'm not sure if that really  
33 answers your questions or how it -- I don't think I  
34 could really tell you exactly how it affects it, but I  
35 could tell you that it's something that's a big concern  
36 because, you know, it's not -- even though we still got  
37 fish this year, I think there's a -- it seems to me  
38 there's a general attitude of we, you know, dodged a  
39 bullet that we, you know, are not sure why we dodged  
40 with having such good returns, especially with folks to  
41 the north and the south of us not doing so well. And I  
42 think it's something that -- in another way, sort of  
43 affects people around here and I think this year and  
44 we'll probably learn more after the post-season  
45 subsistence surveys, but it seems to me that there were  
46 probably a few more people from the Yukon possibly  
47 coming and visiting with family on the Kuskokwim and  
48 catching fish here, too, but that's something, like I  
49 said I couldn't be sure of and maybe we'll hopefully  
50 see more after the surveys.

1                           CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:  Vince, you got a  
2 comment?  
3  
4                           MR. MATHEWS:  Well, Don, was your  
5 question about does the Bering Sea bycatch fishery  
6 impact the Kuskokwim River?  
7  
8                           MR. HONEA:  (Nods affirmatively)  
9  
10                          MR. MATHEWS:  I don't have the data in  
11 front of me, I think other Staff do, the actual data,  
12 but there is fish that are caught in that bycatch and  
13 it's percentage breakdown, I don't know if Dani has it  
14 or someone else.  
15  
16                          MR. THALHAUSER:  Yeah, I know we've  
17 seen it before with Becca's.....  
18  
19                          CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:  Right.  
20  
21                          MR. THALHAUSER:  And that's something,  
22 if you'd like, I could probably pull something up and  
23 print something off.  But, yeah, I mean it's definitely  
24 something that affects it here.  I'm not saying at all  
25 that it.....  
26  
27                          CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:  If my memory -- oh,  
28 go ahead.  
29  
30                          MR. HONEA:  Oh, no, I guess I just -- I  
31 mean is it minimal, can you give me a percentage, I  
32 mean, you know, on the Yukon.....  
33  
34                          CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:  Don.  Don.  
35  
36                          MR. HONEA:  Thank you.  
37  
38                          CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:  If my memory serves  
39 me it's approximately 25 to 30 percent of the Bering  
40 Sea trawl bycatch is Kuskokwim fish, 40 percent for the  
41 Yukon, approximately.  
42  
43                          MR. HONEA:  Thank you.  
44  
45                          CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:  Carl.  
46  
47                          MR. MORGAN:  Yeah, I see you got sonar  
48 for the chum but -- and the numbers, do you have any  
49 numbers for the chinook kings up the Aniak River?  
50

1 MR. THALHAUSER: We do have the weir on  
2 the Salmon River and that's something that I could pull  
3 together and show you that. That's something that we  
4 really don't report too much at these kind of meetings  
5 since that project's only been in for a few years and  
6 not to the duration as some of these. But as far as  
7 when they do produce the results, that gets factored  
8 into the abundance estimates, the Salmon River weir.  
9 And that's something that -- actually the funding was  
10 up for on the Salmon River weir, up the Aniak last --  
11 this would have been the last year, but that's  
12 something that'll possibly go in next year. It's sort  
13 of up in the air right now with this end of the year  
14 money.

15  
16 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, the reason I asked  
17 the question is because I used to be on the Salmon  
18 Working Group and at that time they said they -- and I  
19 think that chinook on the Aniak River was a significant  
20 contribution for the number of fish going up the  
21 Kuskokwim.

22  
23 MR. THALHAUSER: And I definitely, you  
24 know, I think it's a pretty significant producer as far  
25 as chinook on the Kuskokwim. And from the years that  
26 we did the chinook reconstruction, we do have  
27 percentages of sort of broken out by tributary and  
28 that's something that I could get for you too.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, thank  
31 you. Any other questions.

32  
33 Tim, go ahead.

34  
35 MR. GERVAIS: Is there any subsistence  
36 fishery down here for lamprey or eels?

37  
38 MR. THALHAUSER: There's definitely not  
39 much of one that I know of, at least, in Aniak. I  
40 talked to some folks in Red Devil, I believe, that said  
41 that have, in the past, harvested them, but I don't  
42 think there's a real -- really significant one, and  
43 that's something, again, that Carl could probably talk  
44 a little more about. But as far as lamprey it's  
45 definitely not utilized as much as it is in the Yukon.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Bob. Yeah, come to  
48 the mic, please.

49  
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. I'd like to

1 acknowledge the Partnership Program for the Kuskokwim  
2 River because to me it's very, very significant because  
3 for one thing we have local talent that is being  
4 utilized. And the most important thing is these guys  
5 go to the villages and explain what their partnership  
6 is to the young people, students, grade school, high  
7 school, and they actually hire high school students to  
8 go up there and take part in the weir projects.

9  
10                   You and I know that we're not going to  
11 be here forever, and it's our responsibility to start  
12 getting our recruits, young people, children, so that  
13 they can understand what's going on with the fisheries,  
14 not only the fisheries, but hunting, fishing, trapping,  
15 gathering of all the subsistence foods that we eat  
16 here. And so I really acknowledge these guys, KNA,  
17 especially, and encourage you to keep the funding going  
18 because it's really important. And the weir projects  
19 are very important to the Kuskokwim River Salmon  
20 Management Working Group, they give us a daily update  
21 on what the salmon are doing up here versus what's  
22 going on down at the mouth where they come in. They  
23 give us information on what's going on in the creeks,  
24 you know, where the spawning is.

25  
26                   And the other thing I'd like to talk  
27 about, I want to talk about tonight, because I see  
28 there's a section in your agenda dealing with the open  
29 forum to share local subsistence issues and knowledge.  
30 So -- but I just wanted to acknowledge these guys,  
31 especially KNA, for doing what they're doing, because  
32 it's really helpful, especially to the young people,  
33 and let them see what they can become later on.

34  
35                   Thank you.

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we really  
38 appreciate those comments, Bob.

39  
40                   The Western Interior Regional Advisory  
41 Council has been a very strong proponent of the  
42 Partnership Program throughout the whole history, long  
43 ago, we were talking about working with the local  
44 Native organizations and we're a very strong proponent  
45 of that and so your preaching to the choir. We highly  
46 appreciate all the work that Tanana Chiefs and KNA has  
47 been doing on the Yukon projects and the Kuskokwim  
48 projects for us. A lot of the informational gathering  
49 is very important to this Council's deliberations on  
50 various proposals, and harvest monitoring, those are

1 very important issues, the run strengths and  
2 assessments, those are information that we've used lots  
3 of various times. And so I do appreciate your comments  
4 to the Council though, I highly appreciate those.

5

6                   Go ahead, Ray.

7

8                   MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I was just going to  
9 pick up on something Bob was saying, too, the working  
10 group I think has made a real difference on the  
11 Kuskokwim, too, because we have good cooperation  
12 between local organizations like was represented here  
13 and the State and the Federal, and so we do have  
14 reports on the whole river of what's going on.

15

16                   And in relation to your question, Don,  
17 through the actions of the working group there,  
18 commercial fishing was cut down earlier, we did see an  
19 increase in the run, especially on the lower river. We  
20 do have some problems in the headwaters, it's kind of  
21 like Canada we get what's left up there, they're fished  
22 all the way up the river so they're not as healthy as  
23 they used to be at the headwaters, but the other  
24 systems are relatively healthy compared to some of the  
25 other rivers in the state right now and I think a lot  
26 of it is the cooperation that we've got in the working  
27 group.

28

29                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Ray.  
30 Yeah, I do appreciate the work of the working group on  
31 the Kuskokwim. I feel that it's one of the major  
32 influences on bringing cohesion to the management on  
33 the Kuskokwim.

34

35                   Any other comments.

36

37                   Don.

38

39                   MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
40 just wanted to thank you Bob also for thanking the  
41 organizations that bring the younger population into  
42 these studies and to be able to, like I mentioned  
43 before, KNA or TCC or any organization that can bring  
44 in these grants and provide some of an income,  
45 especially to youths is commendable.

46

47                   Thank you.

48

49                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: If this is a break  
2 between presentations we just have some housekeeping,  
3 if not, then I'll wait.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions.

6  
7 MR. THALHAUSER: Mr. Chair.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

10  
11 MR. THALHAUSER: Depending on if you  
12 guys do have time, like I said, Kari Hackett, our  
13 educator who runs the high school internship program  
14 and our in-school education program is here and if you  
15 guys did have time I thought maybe I'd give her a  
16 minute or two just to sort of tell you what she's doing  
17 now.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, please.

20  
21 MR. THALHAUSER: Okay, thank you.

22  
23 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, while she's getting  
24 up, the housekeeping things that need to be done is you  
25 need to get your lunch order to Liz or I with your  
26 money and then we'll get your change. And then I don't  
27 want to lose the momentum, it's been -- I'll be honest  
28 it's been real frustrating with me on what to get you  
29 information or how the program gets you information on  
30 these projects, and I think Mike did a good job, so if  
31 there's something that you could give us advice on, you  
32 know, you want a little bit more detail on this project  
33 or that project, please share that but also what format  
34 you would like it, PowerPoints, does that work, do you  
35 want handouts, do you want fliers, whatever. So let  
36 Don or myself or Mike know on that because it is  
37 important, you guys support these projects because  
38 they're going to benefit the resource and the  
39 subsistence users, but I don't always see that linkage  
40 of what the results are from those projects getting to  
41 you. Jack, and others, you guys read the whole  
42 reports, but some of you don't have the time to do  
43 that, so we need to find some common ground, so your  
44 suggestions on that, especially in light of the meeting  
45 that you're going to have in February, so we can  
46 experiment with that, and that way Mike can dedicate  
47 his time to whatever as well as other Staff.

48  
49 So anyway get your lunch order to me  
50 and then we'll go from there.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'd like to kind of  
2 poll the Council on these presentations by the  
3 Partnership Program, would you like to see PowerPoints  
4 on specific things like the whitefish projects or would  
5 you like -- do you like these oral reports with a  
6 bullet paper, how does the Council feel about the  
7 presentations and the information that's accumulated or  
8 does the Council feel that they're receiving all the  
9 information that -- the finished projects, do they feel  
10 that they're receiving all that information. What are  
11 the feelings of the Council?

12  
13 Timothy.

14  
15 MR. GERVAIS: I like -- for the most  
16 part I like to see the whole report.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. And do you  
19 have internet access?

20  
21 MR. GERVAIS: Sometimes.

22  
23 (Laughter)

24  
25 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, within every --  
26 sometimes -- yeah, once a week or something like that,  
27 except during freeze up or break up.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I would like  
30 the Council to receive the finished projects and if  
31 Council members would like to see the completed  
32 projects the OSM can provide hard copies to be sent to  
33 the Council members.

34  
35 You got a comment, Vince.

36  
37 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it's a volume of  
38 material so I don't know if -- I'm focusing on Tim now,  
39 not others, would that be possible, if it's available  
40 on a CD, otherwise without other Staff input, it's  
41 quite a volume of material, and I assume we can put it  
42 on CD, would that work for you and is that comfortable?

43  
44 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, it doesn't even  
45 have to be that much, maybe if I just would -- if I  
46 could contact you and just get links or something or  
47 attachments for specific projects that I wanted to  
48 read, maybe that's a better way to go with it.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don's going to tell

1 you where the website is at OSM.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. RIVARD: Maybe I can hook you up  
6 with a good satellite or something.

7

8 We have lots of projects each year on  
9 the Kuskokwim, we've got almost two dozen usually at  
10 any one time, and most projects have annual reports.  
11 So we get them posted on the website as soon as we can  
12 but those sometimes take a year to get on -- like the  
13 2009 might not get on until about a year from now, the  
14 results.

15

16 If you have specific projects that you  
17 want to see, these annual reports, they sometimes come  
18 out in draft form, that all they have to still go  
19 through the publication process but they're basically  
20 done, I can get those to you, either directly send them  
21 to you or through Vince. So if you have a specific  
22 project -- we could give you everything all the time  
23 and you'd just be inundated so.....

24

25 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I would be.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Eleanor had a  
30 comment there.

31

32 MS. YATLIN: I just wanted to, more or  
33 less the one on the Koyukuk. I see they do that  
34 Henshaw, the weir there, but I just want information if  
35 they do anything on the sheefish and the whitefish and  
36 what's for the future. And that's just basically it.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince can take note  
39 of that and get that information to you. Would you  
40 prefer that in hard copy Eleanor, paper?

41

42 MS. YATLIN: Paper.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Or CD, you got a  
45 computer, probably paper at camp, uh?

46

47 MR. YATLIN: It would work good on CD  
48 too because I have a computer.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.

1 You got a comment there, Ray.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Well two things. One of  
4 them is lunch, nobody picked these orders, how are we  
5 going to get our lunch.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MR. R. WALKER: Priorities Ray.

10

11 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Well, I'm seeing  
12 we're about ready to break for it, and.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

15

16 MR. COLLINS: .....I don't think the  
17 orders have gone anywhere.

18

19 MS. YATLIN: You need the order, yeah.

20

21 MR. COLLINS: The other comment I was  
22 going to make is it seems like we've reached the point  
23 of this data that we ought to be putting some of this  
24 information into a summary manual that's available.  
25 Like we're talking about these statistics on what  
26 percentage of the intercept is Yukon, 40 percent, 25  
27 for Kuskokwim, and then I was talking about what the  
28 various tributaries contribute from that.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

31

32 MR. COLLINS: Once we get together, if  
33 all that was put together and in some kind of a little  
34 handbook we had here, we could flip to it and see it  
35 right there instead of having to remember what was in  
36 all of these reports, and it would be useful to new  
37 members coming on board if they had that, of what have  
38 we learned so far. Just maybe it would be a matter of  
39 identifying what kind of things would go into it, but  
40 then having that put together in one place.

41

42 Is that possible?

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a question  
45 posed to OSM, and Larry's going to try to address that  
46 question, whether basically a synopsis, and their  
47 applicability of the various projects to a handout to  
48 Council members on what various issues that have come  
49 before the Council and what our research projects have  
50 accumulated and knowledge.

1                   Go ahead, Larry.

2

3                   MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I think the  
4 challenge with this discussion is to focus it. Because  
5 the data typically factor into management, that's the  
6 purpose. And so the working group, YRDFA, State Fish  
7 and Game, OSM, the Federal Board, the State Board,  
8 various bodies are working with fisheries information,  
9 some of which is collected by OSM funded projects,  
10 US/Canada funded, State funded, et cetera, so there's a  
11 lot of data out there and it factors into in-season  
12 management and the regulatory processes.

13

14                   There's also, as we've said, formal  
15 reports, annual and final reports. We post those  
16 reports on our website, so anyone with access to the  
17 internet can go to the OSM website and the OSM website  
18 is on the regulation booklets, because we also post  
19 regulatory material, so we've got a large stack of  
20 regulatory booklets there, our website is in it, that  
21 website provides a lot of information on the regulation  
22 and the studies. You can go there and look at all the  
23 annual reports or final reports that have been  
24 completed.

25

26                   If you want us to take the main points  
27 from different research studies and distill them down  
28 to a ready reference document, that's an endeavor. And  
29 we also would need to know what is it you're focused  
30 on.

31

32                   When you asked earlier about Yukon  
33 River chinook salmon I was thinking about the 50  
34 percent that go into Canada, and so I was answering you  
35 with the DFO studies of the past. Dani supplemented  
36 the answer with a larger view of the Yukon River  
37 watershed, and the work that the State and the Federal  
38 Government and Canada did together on the whole Yukon  
39 River, and that's also correct. You talked about  
40 bycatch, and the proportion that's AYK chinook and the  
41 portion of that that's destined for the different AYK  
42 systems, that's of interest to you. So just in chinook  
43 alone we could look at various dimensions.

44

45                   And so that alone would be a project to  
46 integrate these different pieces of information into a  
47 synthesis and so we're not really prepared to do that  
48 on a whole myriad of issues. But if we had a sense of  
49 what is it you want to track, we could try to distill  
50 the main points down for you. We could volunteer to

1 try to do that. In this region, you know, Don and Liz  
2 could work together for us to try to distill main  
3 points on key issues, but we'd have to have better  
4 sense of what it is you want us to track for you.

5  
6 But as I say, in summary, the  
7 management systems and the regulatory systems use the  
8 annual data, and we post on our website the formal  
9 reports. But we can do what we can to help distill it  
10 down for you if we can get really focused on what the  
11 question is. So maybe that's something that can go on  
12 after this meeting, through Vince, your coordinator, if  
13 you can get some main points you want us to track we  
14 can try to come to your annual or twice a year  
15 meetings, with developments on those issues. We can  
16 try to distill it down for you, Mr. Chairman.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good answer, Larry.  
19 It would be a very complex issue to try to distill all  
20 that information.

21  
22 I would encourage our Council members  
23 to review the completed projects and the projects that  
24 are in progress and they're right here in our book.  
25 And if you have specific questions about individual  
26 projects, completed projects, you can ask for specific  
27 questions to our coordinator that can be conveyed to us  
28 and those answers could be researched and conveyed back  
29 to the individual Council members. And so I would  
30 encourage Council members, if you have -- review all  
31 the projects, review the completed projects, if you  
32 have any questions about sheefish and whitefish on the  
33 Koyukuk or these projects that have occurred before you  
34 were on the Council here, Timothy, I think that those  
35 questions can be conveyed to our coordinator and the  
36 OSM can produce those answers. And I would encourage  
37 all the Council members, if you have those kinds of  
38 questions to just -- if you're reviewing those various  
39 projects, have questions you would like to know the  
40 answers to, you can either access the projects on the  
41 internet or you can ask the coordinator to have OSM to  
42 provide the answers that you're requesting.

43  
44 That's the most expeditious way for OSM  
45 to facilitate the Council member information needs.

46  
47 And so on this lunch thing, Vince,  
48 what's the plan here?

49  
50 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you just have to

1 give me your order and your money and then Liz is going  
2 to run and pick up the first order, I think, and then  
3 we'll have the second order go in. So I have Jenny's,  
4 I just need the other ones, what you're planning on  
5 ordering, so if you want to we can just take a slight  
6 break here, and get them to Liz and then go from there.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, let's take a  
9 break, do you want to keep working until the lunch  
10 comes?

11

12 MS. WILLIAMS: It's going to be awhile,  
13 it's a small little place. If everybody would write  
14 their name and how much money they give me on their  
15 order, I put the audience's order in first.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

18

19 Well, whatever you guys want to do. I  
20 am at -- so what's your advisement on how we should  
21 proceed here, Vince?

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Well, she said it's going  
24 to take some time to get the lunch together, so I don't  
25 know if you want to wait for that to -- I think you  
26 want to continue working and then when that comes in  
27 break is one option.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: But I can't tell you what  
32 time specific that will be.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've worked for two  
35 hours right now, we need a little break of about  
36 probably 10 or 15 minutes, and we can come back on line  
37 for a little bit.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: That sounds like a plan.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we'll break  
42 for about 15 minutes and see if these lunches are going  
43 to be produced. It sounds like it's going to be at  
44 least 45 minutes before these lunches get here so we  
45 might work for another half an hour after that.

46

47 (Off record)

48

49 (On record)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Mike.

2

3 MR. THALHAUSER: Kari has done a great  
4 job in the summer and in the schools and has done a  
5 great job at bringing those two projects together and  
6 so I'll let her kind of talk about how this year went  
7 and what's going on with the project.

8

9 Thanks.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

12

13 MS. HACKETT: And the first question I  
14 always get asked is what are you a graduate student in.  
15 I'm working on a Master's degree in outdoor and  
16 environmental education and the next question that  
17 always follows is, so are you getting a teaching  
18 certificate and it's not a teacher training program.  
19 The program is actually specifically designed to train  
20 people to be non-formal educators to work with schools  
21 to develop these kind of programs and to really leave a  
22 focus on helping students in the graduate program learn  
23 to build partnerships between non-profit organizations  
24 and school districts. So I've had a really great  
25 opportunity to do that.

26

27 Like Mike said, we have two main  
28 programs that I work on, our high school internship  
29 program, in which high school interns are eligible to  
30 come -- or high school students from any of the Kuspuk  
31 School District schools, which are the schools from  
32 Kalskag on up to Stony River, and those are the kids we  
33 draw from first and then if we don't have enough kids  
34 from the Kuspuk School District, we take from, you  
35 know, other villages up and down the Kuskokwim River,  
36 and we've also had students from Russian Mission. And  
37 they come out to our weir projects at the George River  
38 weir and the Tatlawiksuk River weir. Their first year  
39 they can only stay for one week and then after their  
40 first year they're eligible to stay for two weeks, if  
41 they want to.

42

43 And I have a reading and writing based  
44 curriculum and then a series of lab exercises that they  
45 do while they're there and those are aligned to Kuspuk  
46 School District standards so they do get high school  
47 credit for being out at the weir for a week or two.  
48 And they also get the opportunity to have on the job  
49 training and to work with the technicians and kind of  
50 get an idea of, you know, what does a job in fisheries

1 look like, what do different types of jobs in fisheries  
2 look like, so they talk with, if we have biologists at  
3 the project, they talk with the biologists, you know,  
4 where did you go to college, how, you know, what did  
5 you do in college, what did you study, and then they  
6 can also have the opportunity to talk with our  
7 technicians and find out about that position.

8

9                   And then the in-school program is  
10 really neat because I work with kids grades  
11 kindergarten through 12th grade, and it really provides  
12 that opportunity to get kids interested in thinking  
13 about possible careers early on and start really  
14 thinking about like what do you need to do to be a  
15 fisheries biologist. And so I go to the schools and I  
16 do a series of 45 minutes lessons everyday for a week.  
17 The lessons are usually very lab focused, and then the  
18 teachers -- I'm hoping in the future to build the  
19 program with materials that the teachers can use before  
20 and after to kind of extend the program, but, again,  
21 really focusing on building some of those foundational  
22 math and science skills as well as the needed kind of  
23 reading and writing skills to get kids thinking about  
24 careers and college and stuff like that. And, again,  
25 the curriculum is aligned to Kuspuk School District  
26 standards so the kids get credit and it goes towards  
27 graduation for the high school students.

28

29                   And, yes, so far the program has been  
30 really successful. The teachers, I think, really  
31 appreciate it because many of them don't have a  
32 background in science or if they have a background in  
33 science they're not from the local area so they don't  
34 understand our local ecosystems and what's going on,  
35 so, you know, being able to provide that kind of  
36 intensely locally focused ecosystems view is really  
37 valuable.

38

39                   We've had really great response from  
40 the students and teachers so far.

41

42                   This year I'm working on an evaluation  
43 program and I will be doing a written report following  
44 this field season on the in-school program and possibly  
45 also on the internship program.

46

47                   So, yeah, that's basically what our  
48 education program is all about.

49

50                   Anybody have any questions.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, thank you,  
2 Kari. Council members have questions.

3  
4 Tim.

5  
6 MR. GERVAIS: Not a question, but I'd  
7 like to say a thank you for going into that kind of  
8 field. I think it's a real big vacuum in the Bush  
9 where kids are -- can develop an attitude if there's a  
10 problem somebody's going to come and fix it, I'd rather  
11 have them think of it that they're part of the solution  
12 and that they're, whatever, commercial or subsistence  
13 harvester, they are an environmental force, too.....

14  
15 MS. HACKETT: Uh-huh.

16  
17 MR. GERVAIS: .....and they need to  
18 think about their actions as they spend a day or a  
19 season on the river or in the forest, that they got to  
20 look at what they can do to help keep this place a  
21 healthy and productive environment.

22  
23 MS. HACKETT: Yeah.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's true. Other  
26 comments.

27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One question, you  
31 talk about fisheries, do you cover the game populations  
32 and so forth in this area?

33  
34 MS. HACKETT: Not as extensively. The  
35 way that our curriculum, for the in-season program is  
36 run, is the first year we talk about salmon and salmon  
37 biology, life cycles, that kind of stuff, and then we  
38 also talk about some of the other resident fish  
39 species. And so then in the following year, so in the  
40 even -- the salmon fisheries biology is the odd number  
41 years, and then in even numbered -- or, no, sorry,  
42 that's even numbered years, and then odd number years,  
43 like this year, we talk more about watershed ecology.  
44 With the high school students we're going into more  
45 depth with the resident fish species like whitefish and  
46 sheefish and lush, and so then we also talk about sort  
47 of ecosystem wide effects, and we do go into a little  
48 bit in terms of -- one of the things that the kids ask  
49 about a lot is a predator control and what role does  
50 that play, and we discuss different things back and

1 forth.

2

3 But, yeah, so we don't have as much of  
4 a game component other than talking about sort of  
5 ecosystem view or the ecology and how there are many  
6 different animals that influence that.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. That's sort  
9 of an important aspect of subsistence use.

10

11 Go ahead, Jenny.

12

13 MS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny. I have a  
14 question I guess.

15

16 MS. HACKETT: Uh-huh.

17

18 MS. PELKOLA: Who covers your pay, I  
19 mean is that through your job?

20

21 MS. HACKETT: Yeah, this is through the  
22 -- the position is funded through the Partners for  
23 Fisheries Monitoring Program from OSM, so that's why  
24 it's so fisheries focused is because it is through the  
25 Fisheries Department at KNA and through the Partners  
26 for Fisheries Monitoring Program.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other questions.  
29 Tim.

30

31 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, you brought up the  
32 predator control and I wanted to make a point that  
33 perhaps in the future, if you get some of these  
34 children to communicate with their peers outside about  
35 predator/prey relationships because we're -- I'm seeing  
36 a lot of pressure on the national scene to -- against  
37 State of Alaska's predator control programs and I just  
38 don't think there's enough understanding in the Lower  
39 48 about why Alaska is doing that stuff and if some of  
40 that information can be communicated among school  
41 children then that would help build better foundations  
42 for that.

43

44 MS. HACKETT: Yeah, that does sound  
45 like a really interesting aspect to add. That would be  
46 a cool program.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other comments by  
49 the Council.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I talk to  
4 thousands of people in the summer time, I do tours in  
5 the summer time, the main -- the primary perception by  
6 the people from the Lower 48 and the world is that the  
7 wolves are an endangered species and about  
8 reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone Park.....

9

10 MS. HACKETT: Uh-huh.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....and so the  
13 hurdle that I have is talking about subsistence use and  
14 harvesting wolves is part of that use and so people are  
15 dumbfounded to find out that wolves are not an  
16 endangered species and are very prolific animal. They  
17 think that, A, they're endangered and that, B, they're  
18 very low productivity and hard to retain.

19

20 MS. HACKETT: Uh-huh.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Dogs are not hard to  
23 retain, everybody hears about spaying or neutering your  
24 dogs and so wolves are a very prolific animal and  
25 so.....

26

27 MS. HACKETT: Yeah.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....if your  
30 students could correspond as part of their curriculum  
31 with various other schools about various lifeways  
32 here.....

33

34 MS. HACKETT: Uh-huh.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....and some of the  
37 issues that people here in rural Alaska face, that  
38 would be kind of a nice component to your project.

39

40 MS. HACKETT: Yeah, and actually that's  
41 something that -- not as much through my program, but I  
42 know with the other -- with the school district  
43 standards that are in place for Kuspuks is the students  
44 do have -- you know, they have -- as part of their  
45 standards, they're supposed to engage in opportunities  
46 to present Native way of life and local subsistence way  
47 of life to outside and then also to learn about  
48 cultural differences with cultures outside, so a lot of  
49 the teachers do already include kind of pen-pal  
50 components and that is part of the cultural arts and

1 expressions standards for the local school district.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, that's cool.  
4  
5 MS. HACKETT: Uh-huh.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions.  
8  
9 (No comments)  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, I  
12 appreciate that.  
13  
14 MS. HACKETT: And thank you for the  
15 opportunity to talk to you guys.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. So,  
18 Vince.  
19  
20 MR. MATHEWS: Sorry I had to leave the  
21 table but I'm trying to figure out your agenda to meet  
22 people's flight schedules so I just was consulting with  
23 Staff and I think if it's willing with the Council to  
24 move into the post-season review, because Fish and Game  
25 Staff has a plane they need to catch.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.  
28  
29 MR. MATHEWS: And then during that  
30 review, or after that review, I should say, then there  
31 would be a discussion on the ichthyophonous.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.  
34  
35 MR. MATHEWS: And I haven't had a  
36 chance to talk to the State on it, so if I got it wrong  
37 I'm sure she'll come up and tap me on the shoulder.  
38  
39 (Laughter)  
40  
41 MR. MATHEWS: But that might work  
42 better on the agenda so we can maximize their time.  
43 And then with the Council's and Staff's indulgence,  
44 maybe it could be a working lunch, but that's up to you  
45 guys because I know that the information that's going  
46 to be discussed is very important to the Council.....  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.  
49  
50 MR. MATHEWS: .....and that's why we're

1 rearranging.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, yes, I would  
4 like to move into that Yukon River post-season review  
5 at this time. And so I'm aware that certain people  
6 have to make certain flights, and so it's a joint  
7 Federal/State presentation.

8

9 MR. MASCHMANN: Yes.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'd like the record  
12 to reflect that James Walker, Robert Walker and Carl  
13 Morgan have not returned from our break, they may have  
14 taken a lunch and so the Council that's here is the  
15 remainder of our quorum.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Gerald.

20

21 MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you, Council. My  
22 name is Gerald Maschmann, and I work for Russ Holder  
23 for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Subsistence  
24 Fisheries Branch out of Fairbanks. Vince is handing  
25 out the 2009 Yukon River salmon season summary, and I'm  
26 not going to read that entire summary into the record,  
27 but I do have a summarized version of the summary if  
28 that's okay, if the Council would prefer that.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, a summary, if  
31 it covers the main points. Carl Morgan has returned  
32 from break. Go ahead, Gerald.

33

34 MR. MASCHMANN: Okay, pre-season, the  
35 chinook salmon run was anticipated to be below average to  
36 poor and likely less than the 2008 run. The summer and  
37 fall chum salmon runs were projected to be near average  
38 while coho salmon were anticipated to be average. In  
39 response to the low chinook salmon run outlook, the  
40 US/Canada panel provided funds in December to  
41 coordinate a special outreach program during the winter  
42 and spring. This special outreach effort was  
43 facilitated by the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries  
44 Association, and involved both teleconferences and in-  
45 person meetings.

46

47 Based on fishermen's recommendations  
48 managers identified five key conservation components.  
49 These key approaches included:

50

- 1 1. Anticipate no directed  
2 commercial fishing on chinook  
3 salmon.
- 4
- 5 2. Begin the regulatory windows  
6 seven days after the Alakanuk  
7 ice out.
- 8
- 9 3. Reduce the regulatory  
10 subsistence fishing windows by  
11 half.
- 12
- 13 4. Eliminate fishing on the first  
14 pulse of chinook salmon by  
15 pulling one or two windowed  
16 periods.
- 17
- 18 5. For the Federal manager to  
19 implement a special action to  
20 limit the harvest of chinook  
21 salmon in Federal public waters  
22 to Federally-qualified rural  
23 subsistence users only.
- 24

25 For the summer season as the run  
26 strength assessment of in-season abundance of chinook  
27 and summer chum salmon was based on the lower river  
28 test fishery, Pilot Station sonar, and subsistence  
29 fishermen catch reports, additionally managers reviewed  
30 the daily catches in the net mesh study staffed by  
31 commercial fishermen. The preliminary end of season  
32 Pilot Station sonar estimate was approximately 122,000  
33 chinook salmon, which is compared to the 2008 passage  
34 of 130,600 chinook salmon. The summer chum salmon run  
35 strength of 1.3 million fish was below average.

36

37 And I'd like to explain kind of how the  
38 summer season went starting with escapement, and then  
39 subsistence and then the commercial fishing.

40

41 For escapement, managers recognized  
42 that assessment indicators were conservative this year  
43 due to challenging water conditions during most of the  
44 season. A post-season evaluation of the chinook salmon  
45 escapement numbers confirmed that most Alaskan  
46 escapement goals, particularly in the Chena and the  
47 Salcha were near the upper end of the desired  
48 escapement goal ranges and with close to 70,000 chinook  
49 salmon passing the Eagle sonar this year, the US met  
50 our treaty obligations for escapement and the Canadian

1 harvest for the first time in three years and the  
2 escapement goal into Canada was for greater than 45,000  
3 and we passed 70,000 past the Eagle sonar.

4  
5                   Most subsistence fishermen delayed  
6 their fishing effort due to high water, high gas prices  
7 and low fish numbers early in the season. The half  
8 time windowed subsistence salmon fishing schedule was  
9 initiated on June 8th in District 1 and was implemented  
10 chronologically up river as the run progressed up  
11 stream. Subsistence salmon in-season harvest  
12 information collected by both U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
13 Service and ADF&G indicated that some fishermen were  
14 able to obtain their subsistence harvest goals if they  
15 had started fishing early. Many fishers did not meet  
16 their goals and reported fishing one or two weeks  
17 longer until suspending their fishing efforts until the  
18 fall season. Consistent with the pre-season management  
19 plan no directed commercial salmon commercial periods  
20 occurred. After about 85 percent of the chinook salmon  
21 run had passed through a fishing district, summer chum  
22 salmon commercial opportunities were pursued if there  
23 was a processor interest. Commercial summer chum  
24 salmon periods occurred in fishing Districts Y1, Y2, Y4  
25 and Y6 with 171,000 summer chum salmon sold.

26  
27                   In 2009 a total of 14 Federal  
28 subsistence drift gillnet permits were issued for  
29 Districts 4B and 4C by the Koyukuk Nowitna National  
30 Wildlife Refuge Complex Staff to Galena, Ruby, and  
31 Tanana rural residents. All 14 permittees either  
32 verbally reported or returned their permit with five  
33 reporting fishing harvesting 58 chinook salmon in 30  
34 hours of fishing. Post-season evaluation of the  
35 summer chum salmon escapement identified lower than  
36 anticipated escapement in the lower portion of the  
37 drainage with higher escapements in the upper portion  
38 of the drainage. Managers have suspected a shift in  
39 the summer chum salmon production within the drainage  
40 and ADF&G flew additional aerial surveys this year to  
41 try to document this shift.

42  
43                   For the fall season managers entered  
44 the 2009 fall season expecting a near average run.  
45 Near the midpoint of the run managers became concerned  
46 that the run would be much weaker than projected. The  
47 in-season run size projection bounced between 200,000  
48 to 400,000 for most of the season, well below the pre-  
49 season projection of 600,000 to 900,000 fish. The coho  
50 salmon run appeared to have average timing and an

1 average to above average run size for the season.  
2 Based on the pre-season outlook, fall chum salmon  
3 commercial fishing occurred during the early portion of  
4 the run and was suspended during the middle portion of  
5 the run due to less than expected run size.  
6 Commercial fishing resumed during the late portion of  
7 the season to target coho salmon under authorization  
8 from the Alaska Board of Fish through an adoption of an  
9 emergency regulation. The Yukon commercial harvest was  
10 about 25,000 fall chum salmon and 8,000 coho salmon.

11  
12 In summary management of both the  
13 summer and fall chum season was very challenging due to  
14 the anticipated low chinook salmon run size and the  
15 unanticipated low fall chum salmon return. Many  
16 subsistence fishermen lowered harvest goals, worked  
17 harder than usual or shifted their harvest to another  
18 species to provide for household subsistence needs this  
19 year. Overall the 2009 was a difficult fishing season  
20 with unprecedented management actions taken to achieve  
21 chinook salmon escapement into Canada and for ADF&G to  
22 provide limited commercial opportunities for summer  
23 chum, fall chum and coho salmon.

24  
25 The outlook for 2010 will be prepared  
26 by ADF&G after escapement information and age  
27 composition analysis are completed over the next  
28 several months.

29  
30 Managers are concerned that should the  
31 trend of poor productivity continue into 2010  
32 conservative management actions will continue to be  
33 necessary to maintain the long-term health of the Yukon  
34 River salmon population.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Gerald.  
37 That was a good rundown on the season. Any questions  
38 for the Federal presentation by any Council members.

39  
40 Tim.

41  
42 MR. GERVAIS: Gerald, I'm looking on  
43 this third page here on the fall season, you say the  
44 fish entered in three pulses on July 30th, August 9th  
45 and August 19th, that's Pilot Station radar or where is  
46 that?

47  
48 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah, that's based upon  
49 both the test net fishery and Pilot Station. We  
50 identified basically three pulses of fall chum.

1 MR. GERVAIS: And what does the State  
2 -- what do you use to differentiate between summer chum  
3 and fall chum, is that just a date and time or what?

4  
5 MS. EVENSON: Yes, again, for the  
6 record, I'm Dani Evenson, Alaska Department of Fish and  
7 Game. And to respond to your question Council member  
8 Gervais, we use -- primarily in-season we use a date, a  
9 set date that's the split in District 1 in Emmonak,  
10 July 15th is the last day we consider them summer chum.  
11 And then at Pilot Station sonar, that day is July 18th.  
12 So on July 19th we consider everything fall chum for  
13 purposes of the management plan.

14  
15 However, we do now have an in-season  
16 genetics program, which you just approved through OSM,  
17 thank you, and with that information we have been  
18 seeing that summer -- we are seeing summer chum,  
19 particularly Tanana stocks well into the month of July  
20 and even in the beginning of August. So that's  
21 something, we're working on integrating that into our  
22 brood table so that we can use that to move forecasts  
23 and tighten management.

24  
25 MR. GERVAIS: So can one figure that  
26 most of the summer chum is Tanana bound and the fall  
27 chum are Canadian bound?

28  
29 MS. EVENSON: Well, there's a --  
30 different stocks come in at different times. So in the  
31 early season we might see Henshaw stocks tend to come  
32 in early, then we see later in June and early July we  
33 see Anvik River stocks and Andreafsky, some of those  
34 lower river stocks, Tanana stocks tend to be  
35 intermediate and they're right in between what we  
36 consider summer season and fall season, and then we see  
37 the same type of stratification in the fall chum run  
38 where we see Delta stocks come in really late, those  
39 stocks in the Tanana that are fall chum, and we see the  
40 Canadian stocks tend to be a little bit earlier.

41  
42 MR. GERVAIS: So being researchers and  
43 management biologists on the Yukon, what do you -- how  
44 do you feel about the position that the State took  
45 regarding the North Pacific Council, where they were  
46 adopting the high bycatch limit.....

47  
48 (Laughter)

49  
50 MR. GERVAIS: .....is that something

1 you discussed with Commissioner Lloyd or how did that  
2 play throughout the Department, there must have been  
3 some consultation between the Yukon managers and the  
4 Commissioner prior to the North Pacific Council  
5 meeting, I would think.

6

7 MS. EVENSON: That's a really good  
8 question and certainly a tricky one for me to answer  
9 politically. We did have the opportunity to provide  
10 input, ultimately it was the Commissioner who did make  
11 that decision. Obviously as somebody who is very, very  
12 involved with the Yukon fisheries it's a really  
13 difficult decision for me to turnaround and explain to  
14 the public.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot.

17

18 MR. GERVAIS: Did you find that the  
19 Commissioner was very interested in what you had to  
20 tell him about the stock strength?

21

22 MS. EVENSON: I didn't have a lot of  
23 direct contact with the Commissioner. I, you know,  
24 wrote position statements, I also helped NOAA Fisheries  
25 with their development of their bycatch EIS, all the  
26 Yukon information was, you know, contributed by us that  
27 I edited and put in there. And I also commented on a  
28 lot of the materials that were submitted to the bycatch  
29 EIS, in particular, a paper by Dr. Regeronie (ph) that  
30 I was uncomfortable with.

31

32 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. You got  
35 one more comment there, Eleanor.

36

37 MS. YATLIN: Actually it's a question,  
38 Pilot Station the sonar being where it's at and how  
39 it's described by the State or the Feds, and the  
40 regulations that was put in place at the beginning, how  
41 did they determine, you know, when there was the Pilots  
42 and how did they -- I mean, you know, where Pilot  
43 Station is at because it sounds like you're going  
44 through the Pilot Station counts, because if you look  
45 at the map it's way up the river.

46

47 MS. EVENSON: That's another really  
48 good question. And fisheries managers look at an  
49 aggregate of data and that includes the test fishery,  
50 we also had the benefit of a mesh size study that

1 provided additional information this year. We look at  
2 the Pilot Station sonar, which you're correct, it's  
3 three days travel time up stream of Emmonak, of the  
4 mouth of the river. We also look at subsistence  
5 harvest catch numbers and we look at age, sex, length  
6 composition information to give us indicators of where  
7 we are in the run. And so we identify the pluses --  
8 this year it was a lot more challenging because we had  
9 high water, and high water really affects our projects.  
10 For sonar, one of the things is we had an increase silt  
11 load, as you all know high water brings a lot of silt  
12 in the river and our sonar was having trouble detecting  
13 fish. The sonar biologists tell me it's like turning  
14 your high beams on in a fog storm. You can turn them  
15 on but you're not going to see any better. So that was  
16 a challenge for us. And the other thing that was a  
17 challenge is that high water, those fish were running  
18 deeper and so we were having trouble getting our hands  
19 on them in the test fishery, just like when you go  
20 subsistence fishing you may notice when the water's  
21 high it can be difficult to catch those fish. But in  
22 any -- in response to your question, we looked at all  
23 those indices, we were hearing these increased catches,  
24 we were seeing an increase in the test fishery CPUE at  
25 Pilot Station sonar and that's how we determine when  
26 the pulse was there.

27

28 Managers were aware of the problems we  
29 were having at Pilot Station sonar and they were taking  
30 that into account when they were making management  
31 decisions. They, you know, were using -- we get a sort  
32 of a margin of error around those estimates, daily  
33 estimates, they're called confidence intervals, and we  
34 were working towards the upper end, you know, assuming  
35 that we were missing some fish at that time.

36

37 And if it interests the Council, I do  
38 have a couple of bullet points here on what the  
39 Department.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like you to  
42 make your presentation, go right ahead, Dani.

43

44 MS. EVENSON: Okay. I just was going  
45 to mention a few things. We have had a lot of public  
46 interest in Pilot Station sonar recently because of the  
47 problems that we've had this year and I just wanted to  
48 take a few moments and let you know what we're going to  
49 be doing in the future to try and address some of those  
50 problems because it is a key project on the river, and,

1 certainly, counting salmon in the Yukon is incredibly  
2 challenging.

3

4                   So a couple of things.

5

6                   The first is we're looking into the  
7 possibility of using a side scan sonar. And we would  
8 use that further off shore so during periods of high  
9 silt to attempt to count fish further out that we might  
10 be missing.

11

12                   We're also looking into testing longer  
13 nets to increase the catchability of chinook. And  
14 hopefully if there's a species specific net avoidance  
15 we can resolve it with that. So that's something we're  
16 looking into.

17

18                   We're also looking at testing out an  
19 alternative fishing location down river of our current  
20 left bank site. So we would keep the sonar in the same  
21 spot but maybe fish a little bit down river.

22

23                   And, lastly, we're exploring  
24 alternative sites for the sonar. We've heard a lot on  
25 the teleconferences about this. We've already  
26 collected information near Pitkas Point, and next  
27 summer we will explore options between Marshall and  
28 Russian Mission. And we're also going to review our  
29 species apportionment model. As you know sonar only  
30 counts numbers of fish, it can't tell you what they  
31 are, so that's why we have the netting program there,  
32 and there's some concerns when you have a lot of chum  
33 coming in the river, that you miss some of the chinook,  
34 because we have -- you know, this year we had 1.3  
35 million summer chum and only 120,000 chinook salmon and  
36 so it's a little bit like a needle in a haystack.

37

38                   So those are some of those things. And  
39 for most of these items we're not sure how they're  
40 going to work out but we're going to try.

41

42                   And, I'm sorry, do you have something.

43

44                   MS. YATLIN: Mr. Chairman.

45

46                   MS. EVENSON: Go.

47

48                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead there,

49 Eleanor.

50

1 MS. YATLIN: I know you're doing it  
2 from a scientific point of view, but did you consider,  
3 because of the Native people that live there for  
4 thousands of years, have they considered doing, you  
5 know, earlier they talked about traditional ecological  
6 knowledge, and have they thought about -- well, I know  
7 for a fact what our elders say that because of the  
8 global climate change, you know, maybe our land and  
9 animals can tell us exactly what's going to be  
10 happening. For example, you know, if there's -- those  
11 elders used to say if there's a lot of fat on the  
12 animals that they killing the fall time they know it's  
13 going to be a really cold winter. And then I know  
14 these things change but I'm just thinking, I wonder if  
15 they could use the traditional knowledge, because that  
16 one comment I heard at the beginning of the YRDFA  
17 conference, teleconference, they said that the -- the  
18 elders said that there was those geese flying towards  
19 the mouth of the Yukon, they knew the salmon was  
20 behind. That's thousands of years of knowledge. So I  
21 was thinking maybe that could be taken into  
22 consideration.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MS. EVENSON: Yes, and that information  
27 is always appreciated. And I also do want to point out  
28 that in these projects, most of the test fishers are  
29 local, so we are hiring local people to get on the  
30 boats and do the fishing, who better to run nets than  
31 local than us folks who live in Anchorage. So we do  
32 have a lot of local involvement in these projects.

33

34 So, anyway, we'll be looking at  
35 alternate sites for the sonar. The Pitkas Point, which  
36 was.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At that point, can  
39 you run a simultaneous sonar project, your Pilot  
40 Station and Pitkas Point, for sort of a test?

41

42 MS. EVENSON: The problem with doing  
43 that is just really great expense and engineering. The  
44 units themselves run close to \$100,000 plus deploying  
45 it, plus the camp infrastructure and then you want to  
46 run a test fishing program, so they are incredibly  
47 expensive to do side by side. And at Pitkas Point it's  
48 sort of -- they had determined that the site's really  
49 no better than where we are now because there's some  
50 sand bars there and at high water that's going to be a

1 problem. So they're looking into Marshall and Russian  
2 Mission, but the problem with moving up stream is you  
3 decrease the timeliness of that data, you're now that  
4 much further from the mouth of the river, and so you  
5 don't get the information in the same amount of time,  
6 it's going to be now like a five or six day delay  
7 before we have that information.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Do you  
12 have additional information in your summary here, did  
13 you want to go through yours?

14

15 MS. EVENSON: What I handed out was the  
16 draft and I apologize that it's still in draft stage,  
17 summer season summary, and it's just a reference  
18 material for you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

21

22 MS. EVENSON: I'm happy to answer any  
23 additional questions that you might have.

24

25 The one thing that I did want to point  
26 out is, as most of you know, the Alaska Board of  
27 Fisheries is going to meet in Fairbanks at the Princess  
28 Hotel from January 26th to the 31st, 2010. And during  
29 this meeting the Board will act upon proposals  
30 submitted to change the regulations governing the  
31 fisheries of the Arctic, Yukon and Kuskokwim areas.  
32 This involves setting seasons, bag limits, methods and  
33 means for the State subsistence, commercial, sport,  
34 guided sport and personal use fisheries. And it also  
35 involves setting policy and direction for the  
36 management of the State fisheries resources.

37

38 And, I guess, you know, we just really  
39 want to encourage public to attend this meeting. We  
40 really rely on your testimonies and encourage that  
41 participation by anybody in the region, really. And  
42 the Board really does depend on those testimonies to  
43 make informed decisions. So just wanted to let folks  
44 know that that was happening.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince, you got a  
47 comment.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And, Donald, if I  
50 get it wrong, I don't think I answered your question

1 when you called me the other day and you brought it up  
2 in your comments this morning, the justification for  
3 the two commercial openings on the fall chum, and this  
4 may be a time to bring that up because I don't think I  
5 did a thorough enough job to explain that. So people  
6 would understand why those two commercial fisheries  
7 were prosecuted.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

10

11 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
12 Thank you, Vince. Also I wanted them to -- surely  
13 you're not going to leave without giving us some kind  
14 of a guesstimate for the projection for next year for  
15 numbers. I mean I just heard it said that maybe in a  
16 couple months you'll compile something. But you know I  
17 just wanted to reiterate that on the justification for  
18 opening the commercial and then I also wanted to know  
19 the projection for next year because, I mean according  
20 to the numbers it looked like these were six year olds  
21 and a smattering of four or five year olds, and if  
22 we're going to go by those projections for year; I mean  
23 looking at those numbers it seems even it might be  
24 bleaker in the past season. Your take on it.

25

26 MS. EVENSON: Okay. Well,  
27 unfortunately, we don't have projections available at  
28 this time. In order to do projections we use what's  
29 called a brood table, and that requires having  
30 escapement information and the fish are still running  
31 right now, we need the escapement information, we need  
32 the age composition and we also look at the genetic  
33 composition of the harvest. So we need all three of  
34 those components. And that takes time, we don't have  
35 all the data in yet because the fisheries are still  
36 happening and then we need to process them through our  
37 lab and do the analysis.

38

39 Typically we have that out by the fall  
40 US/Canada Joint Technical Committee -- by the third  
41 week in February, and we can release that information  
42 to you shortly thereafter.

43

44 And with respect to the fall season  
45 fisheries, the -- I think you're referring to the first  
46 fall chum fisheries that happened right after we  
47 switched over to fall season, somewhere around July  
48 16th. And what we do is we develop a pre-season  
49 management plan that's based on the projection of the  
50 run and then we move into in-season management as our

1 projects assessment -- as our assessment projects come  
2 on line and feed us data. And so at the time we  
3 thought that there was going to be a harvestable  
4 surplus of fall chum and we did open those fisheries.  
5 Those fisheries actually turned out to be predominately  
6 summer chum, genetically speaking. And then in early  
7 September when most of the fall chum had gone over 85  
8 percent, were through the lower river and there was  
9 very few remaining, we found what we believe was a  
10 loophole, there was a problem with our fall chum  
11 management plan as written that didn't cover the  
12 situation we were in and that is that we had an above  
13 average abundance of coho salmon, so we were able to  
14 allow a small test fishery on coho. We believed that  
15 there were so few fall chum out there that it wouldn't  
16 have any impact or a minimal impact on the fall chum  
17 run and the Board of Fish passed a special action to  
18 allow those coho directed fisheries. Unfortunately it  
19 was so late in the run that very few coho were actually  
20 caught and even -- and very, very few fall chum were  
21 caught.

22

23 The total run size this year is  
24 estimated at about 400,000 for fall chum.

25

26 MR. HONEA: Excuse me. But shouldn't  
27 you, in trying to justify a commercial season, don't  
28 you wait until you get a certain number by Pilot  
29 Station before you do that so that escapement would be  
30 okay for Middle Yukon, Upper Yukon, before you do the  
31 -- am I getting something wrong here? I mean I'm just  
32 trying to figure out.....

33

34 MS. EVENSON: No, it.....

35

36 MR. HONEA: .....the.....

37

38 MS. EVENSON: Well, there's a couple of  
39 things. In the summer season, the way that management  
40 plan is written we wait until we have -- we do in-  
41 season projections only and we wait until we have a  
42 projection of about one million, that doesn't mean we  
43 have one million past Pilot Station, we wait until we  
44 have a projection of one million before we consider  
45 commercial fisheries.

46

47 Fall season, also, you know, we tend to  
48 see the fall chum and the summer chum linked in  
49 abundance, so when we see good summer chum years we  
50 also expect to see good fall chum years, and we had a

1 harvestable surplus of summer chum so we allowed that  
2 fishery as consistent with our pre-season management  
3 plan. And unfortunately there weren't enough fall chum  
4 to go around.

5  
6 But the other thing to keep in mind is  
7 you also want to spread out your harvest because when  
8 you open up a commercial fleet you could be hitting one  
9 stock very hard so as -- you know, when I explain this  
10 to lay people, people say well why don't you wait until  
11 you get this number of fish past and then go commercial  
12 fishing and then the problem with that is that you're  
13 just hitting certain stocks. Like you could just be  
14 wiping out the Tanana by doing that and having no  
15 harvest on other stocks. So it's also an attempt to  
16 spread that out throughout the run.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question is the  
19 summer chum commercial harvest was 171,000, is that an  
20 adjusted figure for the genetic sampling that was taken  
21 during the fall chum season, or is the 25,000 fall chum  
22 this mixed summer and fall stocks?

23  
24 MS. EVENSON: The 171,000 does not  
25 include the fall chum -- the harvest during the fall  
26 chum season so that 25,000 does include some summer  
27 chum.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And do you have an  
30 idea what the component of that summer chum in that  
31 fall harvest was, roughly?

32  
33 MS. EVENSON: I don't know off the top  
34 of my head but I can get that figure to you.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Robert.

37  
38 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
39 Numerous times here during the audio conference that we  
40 had during the summer with the communities along the  
41 river discussed the CPUE, it differs from year to year  
42 and this year when we looked at the CPUE it was a lot  
43 lower than what was really moved up the river with the  
44 Canadian fish that went into Canada and the other  
45 spawning grounds; do you have an answer for that?

46  
47 MS. EVENSON: So the question is why  
48 was the CPUE different in the Lower Yukon test fishery?

49  
50 MR. R. WALKER: (Nods affirmatively)

1 MS. EVENSON: The answer is that we  
2 just had a lot of problems with high water. They're  
3 set net fisheries in the Yukon Delta and we had such  
4 high water that we had -- the eddies were shifting and  
5 we had a really low catchability of those fish and so  
6 it probably won't be used in the future for historical  
7 comparison because this is the lowest we've seen on  
8 record and it's clear that we were missing fish. So it  
9 can't even be used for run timing. It's just one of  
10 those projects that failed, and it's one of the  
11 challenges of working in a large river.

12  
13 MR. R. WALKER: One of the things that  
14 really caught my attention is when Francis Beans, from  
15 St. Mary's, kept bringing this up to Russ and Russ kept  
16 saying, well, you know, I don't know and we don't know  
17 yet but like you say it had to do with the silt, the  
18 water and everything, I mean I'm kind of like  
19 questioning this myself now because all of a sudden we  
20 end up with an extra 55,000 fish up in Canada; there is  
21 something here that has to be either improved, it has  
22 to be moved or something has to be done.

23  
24 MS. EVENSON: I can appreciate your  
25 point of view. It's very frustrating. It's  
26 frustrating for the people on the river and it's  
27 certainly frustrating for us. Working in a large  
28 river, none of these projects are ever going to be  
29 perfect. And even if we can adjust some of these  
30 things so that we're better in high water, then the  
31 next year we'll probably get low water or it'll be  
32 something else that we'll have to deal with.

33  
34 And just for the record it wasn't an  
35 extra 55,000 fish into Canada. About 69,000 were  
36 counted at Eagle sonar, but we do have subsistence  
37 harvest in the community of Eagle, which is up stream  
38 of that, so probably roughly 68,000 crossed the border,  
39 and then we have a minimum goal, it's a threshold value  
40 of 45,000 minimum to put on the spawning grounds and  
41 then by treaty we provide for a harvest share into  
42 Canada. So the way that works, it's a little bit  
43 complicated to explain, I'll do my best. But out of  
44 all the Canadian fish that come in the river, which get  
45 harvested throughout our fisheries as I believe Council  
46 member Collins mentioned earlier, about 50 percent of  
47 the fish that come in the river are from Canada, so it  
48 is important we put those fish on the spawning grounds,  
49 but that also represents 50 percent or more of our  
50 harvest is Canadian fish. And so let's say if we had

1 100,000 Canadian fish come in the river, 45,000 has to  
2 go for spawning, at a minimum, that means 55,000 is  
3 available for harvest. That's what they call an  
4 allowable catch. And out of that the Canadians get 20  
5 to 26 percent of that. So we not only have to provide  
6 45,000 across the border, we have to provide that 20 to  
7 26 percent of the allowable catch. And the tricky part  
8 is we don't know completely what came into the river  
9 until post-season when we look at genetics and rebuild  
10 the run.

11  
12 I think this year, since we did put,  
13 you know, close to 68,000 across the border we can  
14 safely conclude that for the first time in three years  
15 we did fulfill our treaty obligation.

16  
17 MR. R. WALKER: One more question.  
18 When we look at next summer's projecting of the run,  
19 which you'll probably not do it just yet, but what is  
20 the proposed to put across the border into Canada again  
21 next year; any idea, are you going to do the same,  
22 less, more or what?

23  
24 MS. EVENSON: So if I understand you  
25 correctly you're asking about what the management plan  
26 will be or what our target will be?

27  
28 MR. R. WALKER: Target for.....

29  
30 MS. EVENSON: Well, you know, some  
31 things -- this is a learning year for us. This is the  
32 first time we formalized a public input process. We  
33 learned a lot from talking to people along the river,  
34 what would work and what won't work and we tried a lot  
35 of new things this year. Some things were very, very  
36 successful, some things were very, very frustrating for  
37 a lot of people on the river. And what we're going to  
38 do is go back to the drawing board. Jason Hale will  
39 probably be speaking later on this, but YRDFA is  
40 applying for more money to do a similar process this  
41 year to get input from people and, you know, fine-tune  
42 it a little bit. So we'll be revisiting those plans.

43  
44 The other thing is the State will be at  
45 the Joint Technical Committee and Yukon River Panel  
46 meetings. And there is some interest in lowering the  
47 escapement goal for years in which we do not have a  
48 directed commercial fishery. So in the past the panel  
49 has had what they call a rebuilding escapement goal,  
50 which is slightly less, and if there is no directed

1 commercial fishery you can say -- you know, say the  
2 goal would be 40 to 50,000 instead of 45,000 or  
3 something along those lines. That's something that  
4 we're looking into working out because it's really hard  
5 to penalize people, you know, to restrict subsistence,  
6 it's not something that we take lightly and so we're  
7 trying to make it just a little bit easier.

8

9 MR. R. WALKER: Yes, I would just hope  
10 that this would be ongoing thing here because it seems  
11 like every five or six to 10 years we have a new set of  
12 biologists here who has a new -- that has to start all  
13 over and do everything, maybe we can get something done  
14 here and put it down and use that forever.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other comments by  
17 the Council.

18

19 Tim.

20

21 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
22 Chair. So there's a possibility for some of the things  
23 that we may draft this afternoon on the salmon issue,  
24 we would need some information or clarification, how  
25 much time would you guys have available to help us out  
26 with -- to make sure we communicate the correct numbers  
27 to these various agencies and Secretaries that we're  
28 going to probably be communicating with?

29

30 MS. EVENSON: Unfortunately I'm on a  
31 3:30 flight today. My apologies but I have a very  
32 hectic meeting schedule, but Gerald will you be here  
33 to.....

34

35 MR. MASCHMANN: I'll be here.

36

37 MS. EVENSON: And I'm always happy, you  
38 know, if you call me in the office or email me I can  
39 get that information to you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, James.

42

43 MR. J. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
44 In regard to your test fishery at Emmonak in the Big  
45 Eddy area, I know that's been -- in the Emmonak area,  
46 the Big Eddy test fishery area, is that what you're  
47 talking about as far as lengthening the nets in that  
48 area or what were you referring to?

49

50 MS. EVENSON: No. We were referring to

1 the Pilot Station sonar test fishery. So in Emmonak  
2 we'll operate as it has, maybe a few adjustments to  
3 locations to make sure those nets are fishing properly  
4 in eddies, and that test fishery is currently located  
5 in the south, middle and north mouth of the Yukon. We  
6 do have four nets out.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Further questions.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One question I have  
13 for the Pilot Station is lengthening the net for the  
14 width of the river increase with water volume, would  
15 you think about increasing depth of the gear  
16 proportional to the rise in water; you may not be  
17 actually reaching the fish. And so do you feel you're  
18 fishing at an optimum depth to reach the fish that are  
19 passing during high water periods or, you know, if the  
20 water's 100 feet deep and you're fishing 45 meshes,  
21 you're only getting half way to the bottom, if the  
22 water's 75 feet deep you'll reach the fish -- you  
23 should increase the depth of your gear on the high  
24 water years and probably attain more of what your  
25 objective is; have you thought about that part of it?

26

27 MS. EVENSON: Yeah, that's an excellent  
28 point. That's something that I've been trying to  
29 impress upon them and that is something that we will be  
30 looking into.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: More than anything,  
33 you know, fishing chinook, weather has a huge bearing  
34 on where they'll swim in the water column, the rougher  
35 the water is they come to the top, if you got calm  
36 weather they'll be deep in the water column, and so the  
37 depth of the gear is kind of a big deal with chinook  
38 salmon. And so I would advise, myself, to think about  
39 trying to get, on the high water years especially,  
40 having a deeper mesh -- more mesh depth to reach the  
41 fish.

42

43 Other questions by the Council.

44

45 Don.

46

47 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
48 just have one more question. I guess when we -- is  
49 there another sonar or counting, whatever, near Eagle,  
50 you said, we were just -- you know, when we threw ideas

1 around when we met with TCC and the Canadian, the  
2 Natives of Canada with TCC and the Lower Yukon, there  
3 was some, you know, ideas generated out there and one  
4 of them was to put more test fisheries in and I think  
5 the one that makes a difference and the bearing on your  
6 projections is the Pilot Station, but do you have any --  
7 is it cost effective, is that why you don't have more  
8 of these, say the Middle Yukon or the Upper Yukon or --  
9 and in fact if you have one near Eagle or Circle or  
10 wherever it is, I mean is it -- does it have any  
11 bearing on the fishing windows or whatever?

12

13 MS. EVENSON: Okay. We do have a  
14 second sonar at Eagle. And that project's now  
15 considered the gold standard for monitoring border  
16 passage because at Eagle we don't have the same dynamic  
17 channel so we don't have big sand bars forming and  
18 disappearing in a single storm event, it's a lot less  
19 silty, the channel profile looks good for operating a  
20 sonar and we also don't have the species apportionment  
21 issues. So you don't have -- summer chum don't get  
22 that far up so you don't have summer chum, chinook  
23 conflicts and the chinook run tails off right about as  
24 the fall chum starts picking up so the numbers are a  
25 lot better. They're a lot more accurate.

26

27 So we do have that project there.

28

29 And as far as putting it in other  
30 places in the main stem, it has been talked about,  
31 there is interest in doing it at the mouth of the  
32 Tanana but they're so logistically challenging and  
33 they're so expensive, they're very labor intensive,  
34 equipment intensive projects and so there hasn't been a  
35 lot of interest at this time. We are seeing a renewed  
36 interest in having more test fisheries along the river,  
37 particularly some place in the lower river, say  
38 Mountain Village, where you have it between the Lower  
39 Yukon test fishery and right before, one day's travel  
40 time before Pilot Station sonar to give us another  
41 index that we can use to line up to see, you know, are  
42 we missing fish.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny.

45

46 MS. PELKOLA: You keep mentioning that  
47 things are so expensive, you know, which is -- is there  
48 a way that you can have a pilot program that's small, I  
49 mean you got to start somewhere. We can hear this for  
50 the rest of our lives that it's too expensive, it's too

1 expensive. But I think, you know, something's got to  
2 -- it's got to start somewhere even though it's  
3 expensive. You know I have to pay like six, seven  
4 dollars a gallon of gas but if I want to go to my fish  
5 camp, you know, I can't keep saying it's too expensive  
6 and sit in town, I just got to go, you know, I got to  
7 go to fish camp so I got to go. So I think, you know,  
8 instead of saying it's too expensive, too expensive, I  
9 think something's got to be done, something small or  
10 whatever.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MS. EVENSON: Yeah, I appreciate the  
15 comment. And, you know, part of it is just the  
16 logistical challenges of putting something together.  
17 You want to have some sense that it's going to work  
18 well and, you know, right now we are channeling a lot  
19 of efforts into Pilot Station and seeing how can we  
20 improve that. There's also a lot of interest in doing  
21 what they all acoustic tags and seeing where do those  
22 fish move through Pilot Station sonar, you know, are  
23 they running deep, are they running in the center, are  
24 they close to shore, and a number of other things that  
25 I mentioned earlier. So I think we're directing our  
26 efforts at that.

27

28 And then there are a number of other  
29 programs that we are always -- you know, we're always  
30 trying to improve our certainty. This year we tried an  
31 offshore test fishery in Hooper Bay and in Scammon Bay  
32 and didn't really have the results we wanted, but we  
33 made an effort thinking we'd get information before the  
34 fish even come into the river and that would be great  
35 to have as managers, but that didn't work out.

36

37 Other things that we have begun to look  
38 at, a lot more is genetics. We now have an in-season  
39 genetics program where managers are getting the data  
40 within 48 hours of the fishery so we can see a pulse of  
41 salmon come through, let's see at Pilot Station or at  
42 the test fishery, grab all the samples, ship them to  
43 our lab and 48 hours later we know what the proportion  
44 of those fish are that would be going to Canada.  
45 That's an area that's been of concern because we  
46 haven't met our goals until this year. We haven't been  
47 meeting them in the recent past. That's been a weak  
48 stock, and certainly an important stock. And so we're  
49 able to look at that and know in-season now, you know,  
50 will there be enough Canadian fish, maybe we can, you

1 know, relax the subsistence schedule or, you know,  
2 offer earlier fisheries, commercial fisheries.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Gerald.

5

6 MR. MASCHMANN: I just wanted to make  
7 one more comment on, you know, the technology with  
8 particularly the Pilot Station sonar is we're kind of  
9 at our limit. I mean we can only do so much with the  
10 technology we have. The sonars at other projects, like  
11 Eagle and the Chandalar River sonar, the Anvik River  
12 sonar and the Sheenjek sonar, they're smaller rivers,  
13 they work very well on those systems, they do an  
14 excellent job of getting accurate counts but, you know,  
15 the Pilot Station area it's just so wide and so silty,  
16 you know, we're doing the best we can with the  
17 technology that we can until, you know, the technology  
18 improves, you know, we're trying these other things to  
19 get around it or find some other answer. But, you  
20 know, we're really at the limit of technology at Pilot  
21 Station.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other comments.

24 Tim.

25

26 MR. GERVAIS: Yes. Based on available  
27 information, can either of you go on the record stating  
28 that the bycatch amounts in the Bering Sea are  
29 detrimental to you, as managers, trying to get to meet  
30 the -- for getting in the Yukon and perhaps other  
31 western rivers, to meet their escapement, subsistence  
32 and commercial goals?

33

34 MS. EVENSON: You're asking all the  
35 challenging questions.

36

37 You know I've spent a lot of time  
38 working on this issue and I've been really involved  
39 with the salmon bycatch working group from the beginn  
40 -- for a number of years now. And I've been looking at  
41 this -- in the last couple years, and this year I've  
42 been putting together a Western Alaska chinook stock  
43 status memo looking at the stocks in aggregate and  
44 trying to look at the effects, you know, are we seeing  
45 the same things across regions. And it seems like the  
46 Yukon stocks have gone down, Norton Sound stocks,  
47 Unalakleet, Quinhagak, we've also -- I think this year,  
48 the Kuskokwim Bay didn't do as well as Kuskokwim River,  
49 and we've seen decreases in the Nushagak.

50

1 I do think that it has affect on our  
2 fisheries, particularly in low run years, absolutely it  
3 has an effect on management. And if we're not meeting  
4 escapement goals then every fish counts. If we are  
5 restricting subsistence, every fish counts. And if we  
6 are -- if -- if, you know, in some years, when we have  
7 a low run year it also affects the timing of our summer  
8 chum directed fishery because if we had a few more  
9 kings we might be able to provide that economic  
10 opportunity to people who really need it.

11  
12 And certainly having a bycatch  
13 complicates our job as managers. However, I don't  
14 think it is the only thing that explains why our runs  
15 are coming back.

16  
17 When I look at the figures in the  
18 bycatch -- now, they are incomplete, I'm not pleased  
19 with the data that we've been getting, and it's hard to  
20 draw those, you know, hard and fast conclusions, the  
21 study that Kate Myers did and that was '96 to '99, I  
22 believe, looking at scale pattern analysis, she was  
23 determining where the fish in the bycatch came from the  
24 samples. She found 55 percent in the bycatch came from  
25 Western Alaska. Out of that about 40 percent, I  
26 believe, was from the Yukon and about 30 percent from  
27 the Kuskokwim, the rest from Bristol Bay and a small  
28 fraction from Norton Sound. So it does have an effect.

29  
30 Recent data has decreased those figures  
31 but the sampling hasn't been that comprehensive so I  
32 don't put a lot of weight in them.

33  
34 So what that means is, you know, most  
35 years in the Yukon that's about 6,000 fish that would  
36 have returned. But those high bycatch years would have  
37 been 18,000, 20,000 fish and last year, not talking  
38 about 2009, but 2008 we were in a position where we  
39 restricted subsistence, we didn't meet our goal into  
40 Canada, 20,000 fish, would that have made a difference,  
41 absolutely.

42  
43 So it's sort of -- you know, you need  
44 to look at both sides of that. It isn't enough -- it's  
45 not the only reason. Certainly, you know, in a year  
46 like next year -- this year they caught something on  
47 the order of 13,000 fish in the bycatch, how much is  
48 that going to affect the fishery, probably not too  
49 much, but, you know, there are other things we should  
50 be looking into of why these runs are declining.

1 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comment is after  
4 reviewing all of this bycatch data, are you comfortable  
5 with the observer program? I, personally, am not  
6 comfortable with the figures that are provided. I feel  
7 that the figures are skewed, extremely low and could  
8 possibly even be skewed right this minute at 13,000  
9 because of the highlighted issue. And so I feel very  
10 uncomfortable with those figures and if we doubled  
11 those figures we could be looking at 40,000 chinook  
12 lost on certain years, that's a huge amount of fish.

13

14 Are you comfortable with the observer  
15 program that the North Pacific Fisheries Management  
16 Council has in place?

17

18 MS. EVENSON: You know it's hard for me  
19 to comment on that because I -- you know, I don't know.

20

21 But I do know that next year they're  
22 with -- with the Council decision that was made on the  
23 chinook bycatch, that they will be requiring 100  
24 percent observer program coverage, which I think is a  
25 significant improvement.

26

27 What I know -- what I can comment on is  
28 I don't think that the sampling has been very good so  
29 the samples we have to try and determine where would  
30 these fish have been going and what age are these fish  
31 has been spotty and particularly in 2007 where they  
32 hit, what, 120,000 chinook salmon in their bycatch,  
33 they sampled in one little excluder area and that was  
34 it. And so the sampling in the past hasn't been very  
35 good temporarily, you know, through time, and sampling  
36 that fishery or through space, and so that's something  
37 that I'd like to see be more representative so that I  
38 can start to take that into account when I do a  
39 projection for the Yukon, knowing that information, how  
40 many of those fish disappeared at sea that our models  
41 currently cannot take into account.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

44

45 James.

46

47 MR. J. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. In  
48 regards to the other bycatch areas, down along the  
49 Peninsula, namely the False Pass area, I know there's  
50 some interception there with the fishery that comes up

1 in this area. Do you have any numbers on those?

2

3 MS. EVENSON: I don't have the current  
4 numbers. I could look them up for you. I believe that  
5 chum came in around 700,000 so there was quite a bit of  
6 chum interception in the Area M fishery this year.

7

8 And that's another thing the  
9 Department's working on with this WASSIP program, the  
10 Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program, we  
11 have been collecting genetic samples from all the  
12 fisheries. This was born out of the Area M debacle,  
13 and we're going to develop markers so that we have  
14 increased resolution to identify where those fish are  
15 coming from so that we can get a handle of all those at  
16 sea fisheries and, you know, where those fish are being  
17 intercepted; in other words, is Area M picking up Yukon  
18 fish or Norton Sound fish; is Bristol Bay catching  
19 Kuskokwim fish, so that work is slated for 2011, and  
20 we'll start seeing results back on that.

21

22 But there's already been three years of  
23 sample collection from commercial and subsistence  
24 fisheries throughout Western Alaska and Area M.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One comment. Did  
27 you get good samples from that 700,000 that was caught  
28 in Area M this year?

29

30 MS. EVENSON: I don't know, I'd have to  
31 check on that.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. Robert.

34

35 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 One of the questions is just watching the news here  
37 about a week ago they were discussing the Canadians  
38 want to have a fishery up in the north, in the Bering  
39 -- up in the North Pole area here, but I think there  
40 was a conflict with the Alaska government. Do you know  
41 anything about this, what's going to happen or what's  
42 going to be happening in the next couple years up  
43 there?

44

45 MS. EVENSON: Yeah, I don't know  
46 anything about that, I'm sorry. Maybe somebody else in  
47 the room can comment -- no.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 MS. EVENSON: All right. Well, that's  
2 another one I can look up for you.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Timothy.

5

6 MR. GERVAIS: I just had a comment on  
7 Robert's, the North Pacific Council closed the Federal  
8 waters of the Arctic Ocean and Beaufort Sea to  
9 commercial fishing until they get better baseline data,  
10 but it does not affect the subsistence harvest of  
11 whitefish and anything within three miles. Like they  
12 have Colville River -- has some pink salmon stocks, I  
13 believe, and maybe some other -- maybe some coho up  
14 there, too, but anyways they -- I don't know what the  
15 Canadians are trying to do over MacKenzie River or that  
16 way, but I know as far as the Alaska portion of the  
17 Arctic Ocean, Beaufort Sea is going to be closed to  
18 commercial fishing from three miles and out further  
19 until further notice.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Other  
22 comments from the Council on the presentation of the  
23 State Yukon River summer season summary and the Federal  
24 presentation.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't see any  
29 further comments. I really appreciate all of your  
30 information that was brought before the Council, you  
31 both did a great job of answering our questions. Some  
32 of our questions are off the wall but this Council's  
33 delving deep into these various issues and I appreciate  
34 the Council's questions also. So, thank you.

35

36 Vince.

37

38 MS. EVENSON: Thank you for your time  
39 and accommodating my schedule, I appreciate it.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Lunch is here.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The lunch is here,  
46 it's time for lunch, better get it while she's hot. We  
47 could probably break for 45 minutes for lunch, Vince.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: That's fine.

50

1 (Off record)  
2  
3 (On record)  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to  
6 bring this meeting back to order.  
7  
8 (Pause)  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What happened to Tim  
11 -- oh, there he is.  
12  
13 (Laughter)  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we're going to  
16 bring the meeting back to order again.  
17  
18 We covered the Joint Federal/State  
19 presentations and we'll probably move into the status  
20 -- now, wait a minute, deferred Yukon -- do we want to  
21 go into the State proposals first, Vince, or.....  
22  
23 MR. MATHEWS: I'm sorry I missed -- I  
24 think it would be best to go over the status, it's  
25 going to be very quick on the deferred proposals.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
28  
29 MR. MATHEWS: And then go into the  
30 pending Board of Fish proposals.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right,  
33 we'll go into the deferred proposals. Who is making  
34 presentation on those?  
35  
36 MR. MATHEWS: Larry's going to cover  
37 that and it's mainly informational.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,  
40 Larry.  
41  
42 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
43 Larry Buklis, Office of Subsistence Management.  
44  
45 As Vince said this is an informational  
46 item, not for action by the Councils at this time.  
47 There's a briefing on Pages 78 and 79 in your meeting  
48 book and I'll highlight a few points.  
49  
50 Okay, Mr. Chairman, there were two

1 proposals on Yukon River chinook salmon management  
2 regulatory proposals that have been deferred. One  
3 dealt with mesh size, setting the mesh size to a  
4 maximum of 7.5 inch; and the other was the net depth,  
5 setting the depth to 35 meshes maximum for gillnets  
6 greater than six inches mesh size. And those two  
7 proposals were from the Eastern Interior Regional  
8 Advisory Council and they would have come up at the  
9 January 2009 Board meeting, that was the cycle they  
10 were on. They were deferred at one point to allow for  
11 a key study to be completed, and that was completed,  
12 but then there was another request for them to be  
13 deferred further and that request was to allow for the  
14 State Board process, State Board of Fisheries to  
15 address the AYK region regulatory proposals, including  
16 the Yukon at their January 2010 meeting and allow for  
17 the State to act on this area of concern -- or to  
18 consider acting, and then have the Federal process  
19 follow. And our Federal Board considered that request  
20 and concurred. And so our Board further deferred these  
21 proposals, so they will now be scheduled, they are now  
22 scheduled for the spring of 2010 allowing for the State  
23 Board process to conclude in January 2010.

24

25 So, specifically, a meeting has been  
26 set for the Federal Board, April 13 and 14 in Anchorage  
27 to address those two deferred proposals I described.

28

29 So at this meeting, this isn't an  
30 action item, we're just letting you know the track  
31 you're on, and your next regular meeting, which would  
32 be your winter meeting early in 2010 would be the time  
33 we'd come before you with the proposals we're talking  
34 about and with our analysis of those proposals and then  
35 we'd be looking for your recommendation on those  
36 proposals, and that would be leading to the April Board  
37 meeting.

38

39 Because of the timing of that Board  
40 meeting we were going to seek from the relevant  
41 Councils, YK, Western Interior, Eastern Interior and  
42 Seward Penn, because of the C&T connection to the Yukon  
43 fisheries, we were going to ask those Councils to  
44 schedule their winter meetings earlier in the winter  
45 meeting window so that we can follow up and get ready  
46 for the Board meeting later in March and April. And I  
47 think through your coordinator, you've worked on that,  
48 and we appreciate that. And you'll see in the briefing  
49 we've identified some target weeks for the various  
50 Councils to meet which would help us to keep this

1 process on track and we understand that since this was  
2 developed, in fact, the Western Interior Council and  
3 Eastern Interior Council have looked at a joint meeting  
4 for the winter during the week of February 22nd, so  
5 that's great if that's what you're doing. That will  
6 conform nicely with the schedule we're on. And then to  
7 conclude I would just say on Page 79 is a chart, which  
8 lays this out very succinctly, and lays out the  
9 schedule we're talking about.

10

11 And that concludes my briefing, Mr.  
12 Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Larry.  
15 Well, I have two questions. One is I see alternate  
16 proposals before the Board of Fish for six inch gear,  
17 is the Eastern Interior still actually driving these  
18 two proposals or are they -- at least the mesh size  
19 proposal, are they still wanting the Board, Federal  
20 Subsistence Board to meet on that issue or have they  
21 changed their minds now?

22

23 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I'd like to  
24 speak to a process aspect and then maybe Vince Mathews  
25 can speak as coordinator in terms of communications,  
26 but, yes, it came to our attention that there was an  
27 interest in -- I think what they termed at the time,  
28 amending their proposals, to make them six inch mesh  
29 size. And as a point of process, once the proposals  
30 are out for comment, as these were back some months  
31 ago, maybe a year ago, and were under the analysis  
32 process, it isn't really the property of the Council or  
33 some other proponent to amend their proposal, and it  
34 thereby becomes sort of a moving target. It is a  
35 proposal of record and it is what it is. And we will  
36 analyze it and we will come back to you and other  
37 Councils with that analysis at your winter meetings.  
38 If that Council or some other group has a perspective  
39 on that proposal and the analysis they can make  
40 comments, and, of course, Councils can make  
41 recommendations. And so if the Eastern Interior  
42 Council felt strongly about six inch mesh size when  
43 they meet in the winter, they could make a  
44 recommendation, using the proposal of record and  
45 comment further from there. But it's not really that  
46 they have the authority to amend the proposal. It's  
47 out there for you and everyone else to comment on and  
48 make recommendations on when the time comes.

49

50 What they can do is when we meet again

1 in the January to March window, it will be the call for  
2 fisheries proposals time, and just like you're going to  
3 be concluding the call for wildlife here now, this  
4 week, and so that would be a time where they or anyone  
5 else could put in any number of new proposals.

6  
7 So I think there's two avenues on that  
8 issue. They can make comments and recommendations  
9 coming off the proposal we do have, and they can make  
10 new proposals next time they meet. But they don't have  
11 an authority to amend the proposal we're working on.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Okay. Well,  
14 it's my perception that the Eastern Interior will  
15 probably rescind their 7.5 inch proposal, bale it, and  
16 then we'll have to deal with the 35 mesh, and then  
17 they'll go to a proposal for six inch; that's what I  
18 think they're probably going to do by what they're  
19 proposing to the State Board of Fish on six inch gear.

20  
21 And so I don't -- I'm not sure if the  
22 Federal Board is going to be willing to have a meeting,  
23 a special meeting about these deferred proposals if the  
24 Eastern Interior is changing their mind on them. I'm  
25 not sure about all that.

26  
27 What do you think, Vince?

28  
29 (Laughter)

30  
31 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I may have  
32 misunderstood you, Larry laid out they're the property  
33 of the Board.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

36  
37 MR. MATHEWS: And we can't project what  
38 the Board's going to do so.....

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Or if the Eastern  
41 Interior fails their proposal at our joint meeting,  
42 spring meeting for 7.5 inch gear, that's a moot  
43 subject.

44  
45 Go ahead, Larry.

46  
47 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. This  
48 particular issue aside, let me just speak in principle  
49 to what you're saying.

50

1                   A proposing Council a year or two into  
2 a process like this has become, who votes -- I don't  
3 know about rescinding, but votes to oppose, in other  
4 words they vote to oppose their proposal, I would just  
5 comment that that proposal has a life of its own at  
6 some point. The State, the various Federal Councils,  
7 other stakeholders will be commenting and making  
8 recommendations. It may be a fact two years ago the  
9 proponent had an interest and they now oppose it but  
10 there may be other forces supporting it or supporting  
11 it with modification. They don't have any particular  
12 authority to undo the process.

13

14                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see. Well, I know  
15 once it's to the Federal Subsistence Board it's their  
16 possession and they can do with it as they would like  
17 and there may be other proponents of that stance.

18

19                   Any comments on the deferred proposals  
20 by the Council.

21

22                   Don.

23

24                   MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On  
25 the deferred proposals, both of them that was submitted  
26 by the Eastern Interior and specifically the Tanana  
27 Tribal Council, they initially contacted Ruby Advisory  
28 Fish and Game Committee and without giving a definite  
29 whether we advocated it or not, we were put on that  
30 list there so just make a mental note of that, that we  
31 did not endorse that. We did not take a stand on that.

32

33                   Thank you.

34

35                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, that's good  
36 information, Don.

37

38                   Any other questions. Comments.

39

40                   (No comments)

41

42                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks. Oh, Larry,  
43 go ahead.

44

45                   MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I  
46 would say further, I stand by what I said in response  
47 to the questions, but a proponent can request that a  
48 proposal be withdrawn. The originating source can  
49 request withdrawal and the Board would consider that.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.  
2  
3 MR. BUKLIS: But I would not speculate  
4 at this point, two years into this, as large as this  
5 issue is, whether the Board would concur with the  
6 request, but they can ask.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Okay. Good  
9 explanation, thank you.  
10  
11 Vince, we move on to State fisheries  
12 proposals.  
13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And Tim.....  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, Tim, you got a  
17 comment.  
18  
19 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, a question, Larry.  
20  
21 MR. BUKLIS; Yes.  
22  
23 MR. GERVAIS: What's the status of the  
24 study on the mesh size, is it complete or in process?  
25  
26 MR. BUKLIS: The study I mentioned,  
27 which was largely the reason for the initial deferral  
28 that would have pushed it off from January '09 to  
29 spring of '09, that was the first round of deferral,  
30 and that was because the Board wanted a study -- it was  
31 an analytical, not a field study, but an analytical  
32 study led by Dr. Jeff Bromaghin, then with the Fish and  
33 Wildlife Service, with some co-authors, that was  
34 concluded. It was concluded in the fall of '08, but it  
35 wouldn't have been in time for the January '09 meeting,  
36 that was concluded, and it is a central part of the  
37 analytical work we're doing on the proposals. Yes.  
38  
39 MR. GERVAIS: So I could look that up  
40 on your website then?  
41  
42 MR. BUKLIS: It wasn't a study funded  
43 by us that would have been in this website of OSM  
44 funded studies we described this morning, no, but the  
45 Bromaghin report, or paper, I think, may be on the  
46 general Fish and Wildlife Service website. I know  
47 there's a lot of interest in it. What I can do is,  
48 through Vince Mathews, I will make sure that you get  
49 the link or the source to look up that report.  
50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.  
2  
3 MR. BUKLIS: You're welcome.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Yeah,  
6 they're finishing that report and Dani told us that we  
7 would be seeing those results at our spring meeting,  
8 hopefully, the mesh size analysis of their data.  
9  
10 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I was  
11 speaking to the Bromaghin modeling exercise looking at  
12 computer simulations.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.  
15  
16 MR. BUKLIS: That has been done.  
17 That's been published. And then you're speaking about  
18 another report, that was the field study.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.  
21  
22 MR. BUKLIS: Yes.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, the field  
25 study -- the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's field  
26 study for mesh size analysis taking 6.5, 7.5 and eight  
27 inch gear, I think it is, and comparing the catch rates  
28 and size of the fish and so forth, that data's going to  
29 be presented at our spring meeting in February, so  
30 they're working on that one.  
31  
32 Thank you, Larry.  
33  
34 And so we're going to move into the  
35 State fishery proposals, which are very important for  
36 the Kuskokwim and Yukon River, because we're going into  
37 a State Board of Fish meeting. And so are you going to  
38 walk me through these, Vince?  
39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, let me set you guys  
41 up. In your blue notebook you're going to find this  
42 kind of thing and you're going to have these colored  
43 tabs and by accident I picked blue for fish proposals,  
44 I don't know how I did that but I did.  
45  
46 (Laughter)  
47  
48 MR. MATHEWS: And I got some  
49 disclaimers to do there.  
50

1                   The first disclaimer I have to give you  
2 is I was requested by Gene Sandone of the Yukon Delta  
3 Fishery Development Association, he provided for the  
4 Chair an analysis or PowerPoint presentation on these.  
5 I am just following through on that on the record that  
6 that is available if you wanted to look at his  
7 PowerPoint presentation on the pending proposals.  
8

9                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you have other  
10 copies of that or should I pass this copy through the  
11 -- around the Council?  
12

13                   MR. MATHEWS: I do have two or three  
14 other copies. It was quite lengthy.  
15

16                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.  
17

18                   MR. MATHEWS: So I do have two other  
19 copies -- three other copies.  
20

21                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Gene Sandone, what  
22 was his position, Yukon, what?  
23

24                   MR. MATHEWS: It says here he's been  
25 commissioned by the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development  
26 Association and I -- my understanding he's also a  
27 consultant to Kwik'pak, which is a processor on the  
28 Lower Delta.  
29

30                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But he used to be  
31 one of the managers for the Yukon River drainage for  
32 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, he's retired, he's  
33 now lobbying or an advocate for Yukon River down river  
34 commercial fisheries interests and so I was provided  
35 this. He requested Vince Mathews to provide the Chairs  
36 of the Eastern Interior and Western Interior Councils  
37 his PowerPoint presentation that he gave to the YK-  
38 Delta RAC. And I went through this as I was flying  
39 down here and it's got some very nice presentations,  
40 don't agree with some of the things he's presenting,  
41 his position, but he's giving a position on these  
42 various State proposals that will affect the economics  
43 of the Lower Yukon River.  
44

45                   I want the Council to be able to look  
46 at these. I want the Council to not be in the dark on  
47 this issue. I reviewed them. But at this point we'll  
48 pass these around, but I don't want to spend a lot of  
49 time reviewing it, it's a very fine font, it's hard to  
50 read, it takes a while to read that thing, so if you

1 get a chance at some point during this meeting to  
2 review that PowerPoint from Gene Sandone from the Lower  
3 Yukon River Development Association -- sort of YRDFA  
4 but not, and it's got a same -- similar acronym.

5  
6 I do want to go through these State  
7 proposals and these are very important proposals.

8  
9 Vince.

10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, my other disclaimer  
12 is you have it tabbed as blue in your additional  
13 handout here, this -- I reviewed the proposals and  
14 selected these numbers in here that I believe would  
15 capture all that you have jurisdiction over, but in no  
16 way do I intend to limit you to any other proposals  
17 that you may know of that are before the Board of Fish.

18  
19 And so what we'll do for the newer  
20 members, I think you've all been through this, but it  
21 helps everybody understand, on the back of your name  
22 plate is the same procedure that I'd like you to go  
23 through. Now, why do we want you to go through this  
24 procedure. The procedure is to make sure you touch all  
25 basis of looking at a proposal so whoever you send to  
26 the Board of Fish or to the Federal Board, in  
27 confidence, they can say we reviewed the proposal in  
28 its entirety, we had public comments, we had other  
29 agencies involved and et cetera. Because the Board  
30 wants to know that it was done in an open session and  
31 open, so that's the reason for this. It's on the back  
32 of your name plate. And, basically I will introduce  
33 the proposal because the State person had to catch the  
34 plane and that so I'll do the best I can, if I make it  
35 wrong it was just not my intent in any way to make it  
36 wrong. It's just that there's a lot in there. I was  
37 hoping that there would be Staff to assist with it but  
38 we'll do the best we can.

39  
40 Following introduction would be agency  
41 comments. Well, Fish and Game, obviously has not made  
42 its position on any of these proposals, nor have the  
43 Federal agencies. So that should be clear on the  
44 record, there'll be no comments from Fish and Game  
45 unless there is someone here that does have them, and  
46 unless there is an agency, Federal agency, but as far  
47 as an Inter-Agency position on these, those are being  
48 developed as we speak, and they're not near being  
49 completed.

50

1                   And then there's Native, tribal,  
2 village and others. There may be somebody in the crowd  
3 that has a comment on one of these proposals. The  
4 Inter-Agency, again, this was set up on your thing,  
5 this was set up for Federal proposals, the Inter-Agency  
6 doesn't play a role in State proposals, but, again, I  
7 wasn't going to modify your name tag to pull that off.

8  
9                   Advisory Groups, you do have an  
10 Advisory Committee Chair here, I don't know if the GASH  
11 local Advisory Committee has had a chance to look at  
12 these proposals, but obviously your policy has been  
13 he's welcome to get up to the mic and share.

14  
15                   I do have the results from the Yukon-  
16 Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council that did look  
17 at these proposals, and I think we have Staff that  
18 might have been at the meeting there.

19  
20                   The SRCs -- excuse me, an acronym,  
21 Subsistence Resource Commissions for the National Park  
22 Service, when we get through them -- well, maybe Jack  
23 and Ray can say if they've looked at these proposals.

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Gates of the  
26 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission has not seen  
27 these proposals. The Gates of the Arctic Subsistence  
28 Resource Commission will meet on the 4th and 5th of  
29 November in Fairbanks.

30  
31                   MR. COLLINS: We haven't looked at them  
32 either, and we won't meet until November. Denali  
33 didn't look at them either and we won't meet until  
34 November.

35  
36                   MR. MATHEWS: Okay, so that gets on the  
37 record, so you're clear on that.

38  
39                   And then summary of written comments.  
40 You've seen -- if those are considered written  
41 comments, you have access to Gene Sandone representing  
42 that group's comments.

43  
44                   Then it's open to public testimony and  
45 then you go through Council recommendation.

46  
47                   To empower your person before the  
48 Board, it really helps to have a justification on the  
49 record. The Board's going to be probing that person if  
50 it's a controversial proposal as to why did the Council

1 take that action, and then if you don't empower that  
2 person then it's difficult for them to respond, well,  
3 why did you guys support this proposal, so you need to  
4 empower your representative in your justification  
5 through your discussion and then you vote on it and  
6 then we go to the next one, and, et cetera, et cetera.

7

8 So does that make sense. This is going  
9 to be -- there's a lot of proposals here, generally you  
10 don't have this many proposals on the Federal side,  
11 usually, but I'm sure you guys can handle it. Most of  
12 you serve on Advisory Committees and go through a lot  
13 more proposals than this.

14

15 So with that I can start with the first  
16 proposal if you'd like. And, again, this is my guess  
17 that you may want to look at them, you can just say  
18 move on, no action, whatever.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Vince.  
21 That may be Nancy.

22

23 (Someone on the teleconference)

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Standby Nancy, we're  
26 going to turn the mic on so we can hear you. Go ahead,  
27 Nancy.

28

29 MS. SWANTON: Well, I just -- are you  
30 okay?

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can hear you  
33 pretty good.

34

35 MS. SWANTON: Okay. I just wanted to  
36 mention that the Office of Subsistence Management will  
37 be developing some comments on these and perhaps other  
38 proposals prior to that Board of Fish meeting and  
39 individual agencies, such as the National Park Service  
40 may also be developing comments on any of the proposals  
41 before the Board of Fisheries. Just for your  
42 information.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we appreciate  
45 that comment, thank you.

46

47 Go ahead, Vince, on the first proposal.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And then whoever  
50 else is on line including Nancy, I'll make clear the

1 number of the proposal, obviously you don't have this  
2 copy here so you'll have to go through your book.

3  
4                   The first proposal is Proposal 63,  
5 which is on your first page here, on Page 66. It was  
6 submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
7 It is dealing with the Minto Flats Northern Pike  
8 Management Plan. This may not be in your area. I work  
9 for two Councils so, you know, I put together one  
10 package. So I'm not sure you want to take any stand on  
11 this or whatever. But basically they're proposing to  
12 deal with the maximum exploitation rate of northern  
13 pike in the lakes and waters flowing through Minto  
14 Flats so I don't know if that's something you're  
15 interested in. And I didn't have a chance to check on  
16 your C&T determination, if yours applies -- if northern  
17 pike falls within your C&T.

18  
19                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Minto Flats is  
20 outside of our region, and I would feel uncomfortable  
21 about taking a Regional Council stand on an Eastern  
22 Interior, which I don't think we have a C&T  
23 determination in that area in the Tanana drainage.

24  
25                   And so what do other Council members  
26 say.

27  
28                   Timothy.

29  
30                   MR. GERVAIS: Could you explain what a  
31 C&T is?

32  
33                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I could roughly.  
34 It's a determination by the Federal Subsistence Board  
35 on whether certain areas have customary and traditional  
36 use determination. And so some areas, there's no  
37 determination and all rural residents are allowed to  
38 harvest that even under a rural priority.

39  
40                   If there is a customary and traditional  
41 use determination, it usually sets out specific areas  
42 within -- of a population of fish or game, who is  
43 eligible to harvest those. And so even though they may  
44 be rural they may not have a customary and traditional  
45 use determination. So these pikes over there in the  
46 Tanana Valley and especially in the Minto Flats are way  
47 outside of our region and -- I've never seen anything  
48 where we had a customary and traditional use  
49 determination for fish species other than salmons.

50

1                   And so this is outside of our region, I  
2 don't feel that we should be wasting time commenting on  
3 this proposal before the State Board of Fish.

4  
5                   Any other comments.

6  
7                   MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

10  
11                  MR. COLLINS: Well, Mr. Chair, do you  
12 want a motion to that effect then or should we just  
13 move on?

14  
15                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, we'll just.....

16  
17                  MR. COLLINS: Okay.

18  
19                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....it's our  
20 discretion to just move on. And so it seems that there  
21 are two other pike proposals there for the Minto area,  
22 very contentious near Fairbanks, they can deal with it.

23  
24                  (Laughter)

25  
26                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Proposal 66 would be  
27 the next one on this that I think would affect our  
28 region, the Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Plan.  
29 You want to give an overview of that, Vince, or how do  
30 you want to work these.

31  
32                  MR. MATHEWS: Yes, just to get it on  
33 the record. It's from Alaska Department of Fish and  
34 Game. It's going to allow retention of chum salmon in  
35 the Aniak sportfishery as follows, and then you have a  
36 listing down there, and I believe it's dealing with a  
37 combined daily possession of all salmon species. This  
38 is the correction they want:

39  
40                  Combine daily bag and possession limit  
41 of all salmon species, not to exceed  
42 three salmon of which no more than two  
43 fish may be king salmon.

44  
45                  And I'll leave it at that just to get  
46 it on the record, the issue. Again, this is -- you  
47 know, it's up to you if you want to comment or not.  
48 I'm just bringing these up as a potential.

49  
50                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You have any

1 comments on this Carl?

2

3 MR. MORGAN: I really don't but I think  
4 I -- just reading the language, it does say no more --  
5 your annual catch for kings is no more than two, but  
6 it's -- what it's increasing is increasing the chum,  
7 they can keep up to two -- I think -- how much a day --  
8 the way the regulations read now it's chum salmon may  
9 not be retained or possessed, and this is making it to  
10 change so that chum salmon can be possessed or  
11 retained. Right?

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, that's how I'm  
14 reading it and I don't know if Bob Aloysius of the YK  
15 Council reviewed this one -- I do need to pull up their  
16 notes but I'm not sure they reviewed Proposal 66.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I probably stepped  
19 out of our procedure here, excuse me.

20

21 We're supposed to review the agency  
22 comments first before we go into deliberation by the  
23 Council. I do want to know what local people have to  
24 say about this proposal.

25

26 And so I'll poll the Council, do you  
27 want to take this proposal up?

28

29 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair. It is in our  
30 area so I think we probably should take it up.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

33

34 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair. I also agree,  
35 and I think that if we could get local comment on it.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

38

39 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's the consensus  
42 of the Council to take this proposal up so, I guess,  
43 yeah, we'll look at this proposal. So we'll go back  
44 through the procedures to Alaska Department of Fish and  
45 Game would make comment -- we don't have a Department  
46 representative here.

47

48 Is any Federal agency willing to.....

49

50 MR. CHYTHLOOK: I'm with the Sportfish

1 Division and could comment on that.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, if you're with  
4 Sportfish Division, you can comment for the Department.  
5  
6 Thank you.  
7  
8 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Mr. Chair and Board.  
9 This is John Chythlook with Sportfish Division.  
10  
11 MR. R. WALKER: Push the mic please.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, push the  
14 microphone.  
15  
16 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Oh, I got to turn it on.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.  
19  
20 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you. For the  
21 record this is John Chythlook with the Department of  
22 Fish and Game Sportfish Division.  
23  
24 I don't have too much to say about  
25 this, basically this is kind of viewed as a  
26 housekeeping proposal in that at the last Board of Fish  
27 meeting there was chum salmon retention allowed on the  
28 Aniak River in the sportfish and subsistence reg  
29 sections, however at the time it wasn't corrected in  
30 the management plan section. So basically this  
31 proposal is just allowing to correct the discrepancy in  
32 language.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see, thank you. I  
35 didn't realize we had a Department representative here,  
36 sorry I overlooked you.  
37  
38 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Not to worry.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we'll be  
41 going through various other proposals here, are you  
42 willing to speak to some of these other State  
43 proposals?  
44  
45 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Maybe I will speak to  
46 some of them, Mr. Chair, but I'm a sportfish  
47 representative so some of them I may not qualify for.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You've not been  
50 conveyed any information from CommFish or anybody else

1 on these?

2

3 MR. CHYTHLOOK: I certainly have some  
4 information with that may apply but I wasn't allowed to  
5 -- I wasn't vetted to release that so.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.  
8 Thank you.

9

10 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Federal  
13 agencies, how are we going to address this, they have  
14 no analysis of this and so.....

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: No.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....are we going to  
19 have comments from OSM?

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: No. Like I said earlier,  
22 there's an Inter-Agency Federal position that will be  
23 drafted on proposals, I'm not saying this one in  
24 particular, but there's a process to review all the  
25 Board of Fish proposals, and then an Inter-Agency  
26 position comes out and as Nancy said, individual  
27 agencies can submit their own comments.

28

29 Right now I'm not aware of any. I  
30 believe some of this area would be within the Yukon-  
31 Delta National Wildlife Refuge and I don't know if  
32 they've formulated a comment or if they're even going  
33 to.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, we're  
36 giving them opportunity on the record.

37

38 And so we'll go to Item C, Native,  
39 Tribal and village and other entities that may want to  
40 make comment on this.

41

42 Does KNA have any position on this  
43 proposal?

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No position by KNA.  
48 And so we'll continue on down this list; Advisory  
49 Committees, groups, comments.

50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The neighboring  
4 Regional Councils, that'd be -- what did YK-Delta do on  
5 this proposal or did they address this proposal?  
6  
7 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'm going over the  
8 notes that were provided from that meeting. They just  
9 met on the.....  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Bob's here, do you  
12 want to comment on that Bob.  
13  
14 MR. ALOYSIUS: Bob Aloysius with the YK  
15 RAC and also I'm the Chair of the Kuskokwim -- I mean  
16 Central Kuskokwim -- ugh.....  
17  
18 (Teleconference message)  
19  
20 MR. ALOYSIUS: Anyway Central Kuskokwim  
21 Fish and Game Advisory Committee -- the RAC in YK never  
22 -- ugh.....  
23  
24 (Teleconference message)  
25  
26 (Laughter)  
27  
28 (Teleconference message)  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sorry about the.....  
31  
32 MR. ALOYSIUS: The YK RAC.....  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....technicality.  
35  
36 MR. ALOYSIUS: .....never saw or heard  
37 of this proposal.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So did the YK-  
40 Delta.....  
41  
42 MR. ALOYSIUS: And this is the first  
43 time I've heard of it. And like our old people say, me  
44 no (In Yup'ik) you -- we don't know what you're talking  
45 about.  
46  
47 And as far as sportfishing, Native  
48 people don't sportfish, we food fish.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: There's a big  
2 difference. The way we look at it, sportfishermen are  
3 those people who play with their food and then turn it  
4 back into the river, and we don't do that.

5  
6 And just for your information, you  
7 know, whatever, we go out and secure, we keep and we  
8 never have had to have numbers dictated to us where you  
9 can only keep two, which is contrary to our upbringing  
10 and our way of life.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

13  
14 MR. ALOYSIUS: So whenever I'm caught  
15 in a situation where I have to defend my people we  
16 don't sportfish.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The proposal is a  
19 sportfish proposal, this is not a subsistence fish  
20 proposal. We were just wondering if the Yukon-  
21 Kuskokwim Delta RAC had actually looked at this  
22 proposal, 66, and made any position, and if you  
23 haven't, that was our question.

24  
25 MR. ALOYSIUS: Like I said, we never  
26 saw it.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

29  
30 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.  
33 And so we have the local Advisory Committees and so I  
34 assume that you probably haven't met on this proposal  
35 yet either since you said you haven't seen it.

36  
37 MR. ALOYSIUS: We never saw it either  
38 so we haven't acted on it.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When was your last  
41 meeting of the Central Kuskokwim AC?

42  
43 MR. ALOYSIUS: February this year.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

46  
47 MR. ALOYSIUS: And our next one is next  
48 week.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So your AC

1 will review this next week then.

2

3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Has the GASH  
6 Advisory Committee reviewed these proposals, these  
7 fisheries proposals?

8

9 MR. CHASE: No. We'll be meeting  
10 sometime towards the end of the month.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The GASH Committee  
13 will meet towards the end of October and has not  
14 reviewed these proposals as stated by the Chair of the  
15 GASH Committee, Ken Chase, so we won't ask for their  
16 input on these proposals.

17

18 And National Park Service --  
19 Subsistence Resource Commissions have not met. And so  
20 the written summary and comments, I would feel  
21 uncomfortable without Gene Sandone's letter, the  
22 comments that we've received did not address this  
23 proposal. And so that would be the only written  
24 comments that I'm aware of.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chair. And then  
27 the comment due date on this, I'm drawing a blank, but  
28 it hasn't expired, so they're still being submitted to  
29 Fish and Game.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. And so any  
32 public testimony from the public on this proposal -- do  
33 we have any public present?

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see any  
38 public present.

39

40 And so Regional Council recommendations  
41 and motions. Does the Regional Council want to make a  
42 motion to adopt the proposal and then we'll discuss the  
43 proposal and vote it up or down from there. Do I have  
44 a motion to adopt Proposal 66, State Board of Fish  
45 Proposal 66.

46

47 MR. COLLINS: I so move.

48

49 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded.  
2  
3 MR. R. WALKER: Question.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any discussion on  
6 the proposal.  
7  
8 Did you have comments, Carl.  
9  
10 MR. MORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
11 Since this is a sportfishing proposal to keep -- and I  
12 think it's already in the books that you can't keep  
13 more than two kings a day or two kings annually so they  
14 can only catch two kings a year, when it's open from  
15 May 1st to July 25th, after they catch two kings they  
16 can't retain any more kings, that's sportfishing, or  
17 they can catch up to three -- just reading it, they can  
18 catch -- right now they can't retain any chum salmon  
19 the way it's written but if we pass this -- or if the  
20 Board of Fish passed this, then the sportfisherman can  
21 retain up to three chum a day, all right. And for  
22 subsistence fishing on the Aniak River with a rod and  
23 reel, we don't need a sportfishing license. You can go  
24 down right now without a license and sportfish with a  
25 rod and reel, and rod and reel is -- for subsistence  
26 there is no restriction.  
27  
28 But like Bob was saying we have to take  
29 it home and eat it, bring it home and prepare it or put  
30 it away, we can't waste it.  
31  
32 In one way I support this because like  
33 I heard earlier it's just a housekeeping matter. But I  
34 -- since chum salmon are not in a disaster or low, I  
35 think I wouldn't stand in the way of supporting the  
36 Proposal 66.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments  
39 by the Council.  
40  
41 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair. I suggest  
42 maybe we just abstain and the reason for the abstention  
43 would be it does not relate to subsistence that way  
44 we're not for or against, and if it's housekeeping they  
45 can pass it. I wouldn't want to vote against it  
46 because it is clearing up language.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll give my  
49 position on the proposal. I've thought a little bit  
50 about this proposal because I read it on the way down

1 here.

2

3                   It's my personal opinion about this  
4 proposal that if we allow sportsfishermen to take up to  
5 three chum salmon we actually would have the likelihood  
6 of reducing chinook harvest and chinook is the species  
7 of concern here on the Kuskokwim. So allowing  
8 fishermen to get all excited and take three chums they  
9 may negate their bag limit. They're only allowed three  
10 salmon and if they take two chums they would only then  
11 allow one king, if they got all three chums, oh, my  
12 gosh, I got three salmons, they've killed their king  
13 bag limit so I'm in favor of the proposal, myself.

14

15                   That's my reasoning behind why I'm in  
16 favor of this proposal.

17

18                   And it's a housekeeping proposal but I  
19 can see how it would benefit the chinook stocks which  
20 people highly rely on here.

21

22                   Any other comments.

23

24                   Tim -- or Don.

25

26                   MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair. I'm kind of  
27 uncomfortable commenting or making decisions on these  
28 things on a local level situation. I mean is it  
29 imperative that we take these actions now when it's  
30 going to -- can we defer some of them because we're  
31 going to be meeting again -- I mean is this the meeting  
32 now where if we take action on it then that is our  
33 stance?

34

35                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince.

36

37                   MR. MATHEWS: Yes. The Board of Fish  
38 meets, I think, it's January 25th or January 26th, so  
39 the Board of Fish are going to take up this series of  
40 proposals in January so as a Council this is your only  
41 opportunity to comment on these. You don't have to  
42 comment at all, but you do have a motion on the --  
43 well, they don't have a motion.

44

45                   REPORTER: Yes, there's one.

46

47                   MS. PELKOLA: Yes, there is a motion.

48

49                   MR. HONEA: Yes, we do.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, you do have a motion  
2 on the floor.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

5  
6 MR. GERVAIS: I had a comment for Carl.  
7 Is there some reason why there was this chum -- no chum  
8 retention in the past, what was that addressing?

9  
10 MR. MORGAN: I think at one time the  
11 chum salmon was, you know, down low, so they did, but  
12 I'm not -- don't take it to the books and say -- I  
13 really don't know. You know, because this is the first  
14 time I seen it and they said it's a housekeeping, they  
15 said it was already in so I'm like with Ray, I don't  
16 mind deferring since it's a housekeeping issue.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have a proposal  
19 to adopt. We can vote the proposal down and then we  
20 can make a motion to defer if you prefer that. If the  
21 Council prefers to defer the proposal.....

22  
23 MR. COLLINS: Well, we can vote for or  
24 against or you can abstain for a reason.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

27  
28 MR. COLLINS: So we got three choices.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

31  
32 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair. If we deferred  
33 this, do we have to have a reason for deferring or for  
34 abstaining?

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, we don't have to  
37 have a reason.

38  
39 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any further  
42 discussion.

43  
44 (No comments)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Council seems to  
47 be split on the need to adopt this proposal or rescind  
48 this proposal. So at this point I'll call for a vote.  
49 Those in favor of Proposal 66 to allow retention of  
50 chum salmon sportsfishing proposal signify by saying

1 aye.  
2  
3 IN UNISON: Aye.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed to the  
6 proposal signify by same sign.  
7  
8 MR. HONEA: Aye. I abstain.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One -- two  
11 abstentions.  
12  
13 MR. COLLINS: I abstain.  
14  
15 MR. HONEA: I abstain.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And how many votes  
18 did we have -- how many positive votes did we have  
19 then?  
20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: It was hard to tell who  
22 said what.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I voted for the  
25 proposal.  
26  
27 MR. GERVAIS: I was positive.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Only two for, and  
30 how many abstentions, the rest all abstained.  
31  
32 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, abstain to the  
33 majority vote -- you'd go with the majority vote.  
34  
35 MR. R. WALKER: That's not abstaining,  
36 it's something that the Council.....  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What's the procedure  
39 on this, I've never had a vote like this, Vince?  
40  
41 MR. MATHEWS: Well, this is the first  
42 time you've crossed this bridge.  
43  
44 (Laughter)  
45  
46 MR. MATHEWS: The motion failed as far  
47 as an adoption and then the rest abstained so that  
48 would be the thing, it just failed.  
49  
50 MR. R. WALKER: Yeah, if you abstain

1 then the motion fails.  
2  
3 MR. GERVAIS: It just passed, two  
4 nothing.  
5  
6 (Laughter)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.  
9  
10 MR. MATHEWS: Well, the majority  
11 abstained so.....  
12  
13 MR. MORGAN: If the majority abstained,  
14 you go with whatever the.....  
15  
16 MR. COLLINS: It's a negative.  
17  
18 MR. MORGAN: .....most number of votes  
19 either for or against. If there's more for for, by  
20 abstaining you go with.....  
21  
22 MR. MATHEWS: Two. Two.  
23  
24 MR. MORGAN: .....the.....  
25  
26 MR. GERVAIS: If you abstain you're --  
27 it's a no vote really, you're not voting for it and  
28 you're not.....  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we have two  
31 positive votes and the rest abstained.  
32  
33 MR. R. WALKER: No, abstain is only  
34 when you're like a conflict of interest.  
35  
36 (Laughter)  
37  
38 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. I'd like  
39 to have more clarification on this here because I don't  
40 think that we're doing a proper procedure here,  
41 Robert's Rules of Order.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince.  
44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: You're right it would  
46 have passed, correct, because you abstained, so the  
47 majority that voted in the positive would pass because  
48 the others abstained from voting.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

1 MR. MATHEWS: So you can -- it gets  
2 cumbersome. You can do a reconsideration, someone  
3 bring it -- reconsider the vote, it'd have to come from  
4 the majority so it should have to be from those two and  
5 then go that route.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we have a  
8 majority of the Council has abstained, there's been two  
9 positive votes, that's the vote.

10  
11 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so that's the  
14 call on the proposal.

15  
16 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so moving on we  
19 have many proposals to do, it was a housekeeping  
20 proposal.

21  
22 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, the next proposal  
23 is Proposal 67, real quickly, that was submitted by the  
24 Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group.

25  
26 It's dealing with gillnet  
27 specifications and operations, change the maximum mesh  
28 size from eight inch to six inch in the Kuskokwim as  
29 follows:

30  
31 And I think Ray could probably give  
32 more background on this since it came from the working  
33 group. So I'll leave it at that. But I believe it's  
34 addressing that it is allowed to use eight inch in the  
35 Kuskokwim and this is asking, I think, to withdraw  
36 that, but I have to look further.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to go  
39 to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sportfish  
40 Division is here. You have no -- you carry no position  
41 on this proposal -- I want to give the Alaska  
42 Department of Fish and Game as much opportunity, I  
43 don't want to be called that we were not giving  
44 opportunity to the Department so go ahead.

45  
46 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Okay. This is John  
47 Chythlook with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
48 Sportfish and no we do not have -- I don't have a  
49 comment on this proposal.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you, I  
2 want that on the record.

3  
4 And Federal agencies haven't reviewed  
5 these proposals. Any Native corporation, KNA or other  
6 group have a position on this proposal -- does KNA have  
7 a position on this proposal.

8  
9 (No comments)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's been no  
12 meeting or discussion on it.

13  
14 (No comments)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And Inter-  
17 Agency Staff Committee hasn't met on this.

18  
19 Regional Councils. The Yukon-Kuskokwim  
20 RAC, did they meet on that, and make a ruling. Go  
21 ahead, Bob.

22  
23 MR. ALOYSIUS: Bob Aloysius, YK RAC.  
24 The Council reviewed it and passed it -- I mean they  
25 approve of the proposal unanimously.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So YK RAC --  
28 and so the Advisory Committees haven't met, neither has  
29 the SRCs. Do we have any written comments on this  
30 proposal, Vince.

31  
32 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. What about  
33 the working group.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, sorry.

36  
37 MR. COLLINS: We weren't in the list  
38 but it's one.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we'll put them  
41 down on here. The working group, go ahead, Ray.

42  
43 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I guess, either Bob  
44 or I could speak to that. But the regulations, when  
45 they closed the king fishery, or in the past there was  
46 action taken to restrict it to six inch gear and then  
47 the Department passed a regulation that allowed up to  
48 eight inch and didn't approve a season for that but  
49 allowed up to that and the working group wants to go  
50 back to the six inch so that if there is a commercial

1 season, and there was a short one this year, they were  
2 restricted to six inch, and as a result of that, what  
3 they caught was small salmon or mostly males was caught  
4 in that six inch harvest, and so they touched very few  
5 females so we would like it to go back to what it was  
6 since '86 where it read that only -- that since '86  
7 that they're restricted to six inch gear, and that's  
8 what the group had proposed.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And that's in the  
11 directed chum fishery?

12

13 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Six inch gear.

16

17 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. If they have a  
18 directed chum they can only do it for six inch.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right, oh, I see.  
21 Okay. Understand now. Any other comments. Tim.

22

23 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I wanted to clarify  
24 with Ray. So for some period of time you were allowed  
25 to fish for chums with eight inch gear, is that what  
26 the current status is?

27

28 MR. COLLINS: Before '86, I think, when  
29 there was a commercial season.

30

31 MR. GERVAIS: For chum?

32

33 MR. COLLINS: For -- no, for chinook.  
34 Chums have always been the smaller gear, and then  
35 they'd catch incidental kings but if they catch them  
36 they're small but there's also been a directed chum --  
37 king fishery the last couple years but it was  
38 restricted to six inch and we want to keep that on the  
39 regulations, is what the working group wanted to do.  
40 Is that correct, Bob?

41

42 MR. ALOYSIUS: Bob Aloysius, YK RAC.  
43 The history of that six inch goes back to the beginning  
44 of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group,  
45 and because the chinook or king salmon population has  
46 dropped so much and this is -- you got to remember this  
47 is the only geared towards the commercial fisheries,  
48 it's not geared towards the subsistence fishery. And a  
49 couple years ago the Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee  
50 presented the proposal which was passed by the Board to

1 increase the mesh size for commercial fishing of the  
2 area down there below Bethel to include up to eight  
3 inches at the discretion of the fishery biologist in  
4 Bethel. And because of the history of that -- our  
5 chinook salmon haven't recovered at all so based on  
6 that, the biologist in Bethel never allowed anyone to  
7 use up to eight inch gear, and because it was just  
8 sitting there, the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management  
9 Working Group said what's the use of having it on there  
10 because it's no use, if it's not being used, so they  
11 wanted to rescind that and that's what the proposal is.  
12 And the YK RAC unanimously -- unanimously supported  
13 that.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, thank  
16 you. Thanks for your explanation. And so the working  
17 group has made comment.

18

19 The Chair will entertain a motion to  
20 adopt Proposal 67, gillnet specifications for the  
21 Kuskokwim River reducing the gear size allowed down to  
22 six inches for any directed commercial fishery in  
23 Districts 1 and 2. Do we got a motion to that effect.

24

25 MR. J. WALKER: Move to adopt.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Move to adopt.

28

29 MR. COLLINS: Second.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded.

32 Discussion by the Council.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further  
37 discussion on the proposal. You got comment, Carl.

38

39 MR. MORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
40 I'm in favor of this because in the past it was --  
41 supposedly the kings or the chinook was a bycatch when  
42 it used to be eight inch before 1986, it used to be --  
43 chinook was a bycatch, it was a target fishery for  
44 chum, but then the big argument -- because Bob is  
45 right, the chinook went down -- it was a target fish --  
46 both would be -- it's chum salmon fishery but using  
47 eight inch gear was a target for kings, which they  
48 never really had a king opening but it was open for  
49 chums, and that was implemented in 1986, and I agree  
50 with the language not to reimplement eight inch, we're

1 going back to the previous from 1986 to go from six --  
2 from eight inch to six inch in Districts 1 and 2.  
3 That's a commercial fishery. Subsistence fishing,  
4 we're not restricted to six inch, we can use eight  
5 inch.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for your  
8 comments, Carl.

9  
10 MR. J. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. One  
11 question regarding the use or to disallow the use of  
12 eight inch during the commercial fishing period during  
13 the month of July, does that mean you could use it in  
14 June?

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would suppose.  
17 Did the working group discuss that aspect, Ray, whether  
18 six inch gear in June -- or eight inch gear in June is  
19 useable?

20  
21 MR. COLLINS: I don't believe we  
22 discussed that but I don't think we have any commercial  
23 seasons in June, do we?

24  
25 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman. I think  
26 there's -- it's under regulations down there, they can  
27 have an opening, I think, no early than June 21st, if I  
28 can -- it's on the book, regulation, they can't have  
29 any openings before June 21st.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. You got a  
32 comment there, Tim.

33  
34 MR. GERVAIS: Carl, you're saying no --  
35 any kind of opening or no commercial openings?

36  
37 MR. MORGAN: When I was in -- I wish  
38 there was somebody from the State, but I'm pretty sure  
39 there's no commercial openings before June 21st. It's  
40 in regulations, but it's not -- I know it's in the reg.

41  
42 MR. GERVAIS: And that's because on the  
43 Kuskokwim you traditionally don't have commercial  
44 fishing for kings, it's mainly commercial fishing for  
45 chum, is what traditional pattern is?

46  
47 MR. MORGAN: That's my understanding,  
48 it was targeted for the chum.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The discussion's

1 revolving around other solutions considered and so the  
2 eight inch gillnets for commercial would not be allowed  
3 during the month of July, but that's not what the  
4 proposal is. This is to reduce the gear size in  
5 regulation to six inches throughout the whole  
6 commercial season, and so that's the proposal before  
7 us.

8

9 And so any further discussion by the  
10 Council on this proposal.

11

12 MR. MORGAN: Question. Call for the  
13 question.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's being  
16 called on the proposal. Those in favor of the proposal  
17 signify by saying aye.

18

19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same  
22 sign.

23

24 (No opposing votes)

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous consent on  
27 adoption of Proposal 67 the State Board of Fish.  
28 Moving on we move to Proposal 81.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. That  
31 brings you up to Proposal 81 on Page 80 in your handout  
32 there.

33

34 Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
35 submitted it. It's to clarify subsistence fishing  
36 schedule in Subdistricts 4B and 4C, and it clarifies  
37 the subsistence fishing schedule during commercial  
38 fishing closures lasting longer than five days. It  
39 would repeal the current language under D, and replace  
40 it with, as you see there in bold:

41

42 District 4: Excluding the Koyukuk  
43 drainage, salmon may not be taken in  
44 Subdistrict 4A from 6:00 p.m., Sunday  
45 to 6:00 p.m, Tuesday.

46

47 District 4B and 4C, from 6:00 p.m.,  
48 Friday until 6:00 p.m, Sunday.

49

50 And the rest is there for you to look

1 at.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the proponent is  
4 not here to discuss the proposal, and neither do we  
5 have any Federal or Native organizations from the  
6 Middle Yukon, or Inter-Agency Staff Committee, there's  
7 no working group. The Regional Council's position,  
8 what did Yukon-Delta RAC take a position on this  
9 proposal -- I assume that the Yukon -- did any other  
10 Staff members attend that meeting, Yukon-Delta RAC --  
11 YK-Delta RAC, Vince?

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I have their notes  
14 and it doesn't list, they did Proposal 67, which Bob  
15 has explained, and they took up Proposals 88 through  
16 97.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, so 81 was not  
19 reviewed.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: So they didn't take it  
22 up. And I don't know if Gerald remembers -- if my  
23 memory is correct on this, there's seven days --  
24 there's a seven day window -- seven day time period in  
25 the lower part of the river where this would reduce  
26 this to five days if I remember correctly when we  
27 reviewed this proposal internally but that's all I know  
28 on this, was the discussion about that.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the YK-Delta  
31 Council didn't review the proposal, neither has the  
32 Middle Yukon or Ruby Advisory Committee -- have they  
33 met on this proposal, Tim?

34

35 MR. GERVAIS: We haven't met on this  
36 proposal but I remember talking about it when they  
37 changed it and I was -- they had changed it because  
38 some people who had Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 5:00  
39 jobs or whatever, wanted an opportunity to go  
40 subsistence fishing on their days off, and that's why  
41 it got put through the system and adopted.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

44

45 MR. GERVAIS: And we haven't had a Ruby  
46 Advisory Committee meeting this fall, so we haven't  
47 discussed it. I don't remember any conversation with  
48 the State on why they were so opposed. Do you have the  
49 current language?

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I apologize, I  
2 don't have the current language under D1 in the  
3 regulations, which would help.

4  
5 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair. I had a  
6 question. I thought when they're changing languages in  
7 these regulations or proposals that they're supposed to  
8 have in parenthesis the old language.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would be the  
11 normal procedure but this proposal is an anomaly.

12  
13 Basically it's saying here, under the  
14 issue, that the Department, by emergency order, since  
15 2004, has been implementing this schedule and because  
16 comments from local people were that they didn't like  
17 the State Board of Fish adopted schedule, and so  
18 they're wanting to maintain this schedule here, that's  
19 the upshot of this proposal, is to maintain the  
20 schedule that they've been using since 2004.

21  
22 So we haven't had any Advisory  
23 Committees meet on this, this is not affected by  
24 Subsistence Resource Commissions. We have no written  
25 comments on this, Vince. And so we're at a point where  
26 we would make a motion to adopt the proposal.

27  
28 MR. GERVAIS: I'd like to -- I was  
29 commenting earlier about Ruby Advisory Committee's  
30 stance and what not. Before we have a vote I'd like to  
31 comment.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We need to get the  
34 motion on the floor, we need a motion to adopt and a  
35 second so that we can go into discussion, and so you'll  
36 have time to discuss it at that time.

37  
38 MR. GERVAIS: All right.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So does anybody want  
41 to make a motion to adopt the proposal.

42  
43 MR. J. WALKER: So moved.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Move to adopt, do I  
46 have a second.

47  
48 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded.

1 Discussion on the proposal. You want to make comment  
2 there, Tim.

3

4 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I would comment  
5 this -- for you people that are unaware this 4B, 4C  
6 extending up the Middle Yukon area from -- where does  
7 it start, Don?

8

9 MR. HONEA: It starts from.....

10

11 MR. GERVAIS: The Yuki?

12

13 MR. HONEA: .....I think above Galena,  
14 above Galena up to below Tanana.

15

16 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, to Tozitna River.  
17 It basically affects the community of Ruby. I would  
18 not support this proposal because I've not had any  
19 conversation with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
20 Game on why they want to amend the current language and  
21 at this time I don't know what the current language is.  
22 It's not clear in the way the proposal book is. So I  
23 don't want to restrict a fishing opportunity for our  
24 area without any good cause.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This proposal  
27 maintains two 48 hour periods is what -- it still  
28 maintains the same amount of fishing time, it just sets  
29 when that fishing time is going to occur. And what the  
30 proposal is saying is that they've been implementing  
31 this, whatever people have been doing -- is what's been  
32 happening is what they want to go to. They're not  
33 changing, really changing anything. The Board of Fish  
34 changed it but the local people didn't want that change  
35 and they've been by emergency order implementing the  
36 past schedule, and this is the past schedule, according  
37 to what this proposal's saying.

38

39 You got a comment, Don.

40

41 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I'm really kind of  
42 unclear about this. I mean we're not -- it's not  
43 deleting any time of fishing, it's just changing it  
44 from Friday through Sunday; is that the main thing?

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm not -- well, I  
47 think, yes, basically the change would be -- there was  
48 a proposal in '04 to make it 6:00 p.m., Friday to 6:00  
49 p.m., Sunday. The local -- the majority of the local  
50 people have been petitioning the managers to maintain

1 the old language which sets the opening on 6:00 p.m.,  
2 Sunday to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday and so the Department is  
3 asking to maintain what they've been doing historically  
4 there.

5  
6 That's basically what the Department is  
7 asking for with this proposal.

8  
9 And if Council members feel  
10 uncomfortable on voting on this proposal, you can vote  
11 against the proposal.

12  
13 Any other comments -- you got a comment  
14 on this proposal, is this fishing schedule workable for  
15 you Jenny?

16  
17 MS. PELKOLA: You mean this one?

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The schedule that's  
20 here.

21  
22 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah, it'll work for me.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's basically  
25 what you've been doing.

26  
27 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah. Yeah.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And it's been  
30 working.

31  
32 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah, it's been working,  
33 no problem.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's the way it's  
36 always been, hasn't it, this schedule.

37  
38 MS. PELKOLA: Uh-huh.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any other  
41 comments on the proposal?

42  
43 MR. GERVAIS: Standby for the language.

44  
45 MR. HONEA: Can we have a minute, Mr.  
46 Chair.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Council members  
49 are taking one minute to review the language.

50

1 (Pause)

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: This is the opening or  
4 the closing time? May not be taken?

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, there's  
7 certain Council members are concerned about the way the  
8 proposal's written. It has clarity issues itself. It  
9 doesn't state what the previous language was. And so  
10 what's the wishes of the Council.

11

12 You got a comment, Don.

13

14 MR. RIVARD: I do. Kenton Moos just  
15 talked to me a little bit about this, and it's a good  
16 point to bring out, is that, this is talking about  
17 subsistence closure wrapped around a commercial opening  
18 in 4B and 4C, and there hasn't been a commercial  
19 opening in 4B and 4C for many years, I think Jenny you  
20 might probably -- so I don't know if it's all that much  
21 to really get wrapped around the axle on.

22

23 Just a comment.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 (Pause)

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, one  
30 way or another the Department has been implementing  
31 this language and it doesn't matter what this Council's  
32 doing right now, these -- you got a comment there,  
33 Vince.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Well, yes, what you're  
36 struggling with is generally you do not want to get out  
37 ahead of your Advisory Committees and they haven't met,  
38 for one.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: And the other thing is,  
43 is that the proposal may be clear to the one who  
44 presented it but it's not clear to you at this point,  
45 and we don't have a way of clarifying that.

46

47 So you'd have to get a friendly  
48 agreement between the mover of the motion and the  
49 second, withdraw the motion, and then defer to the two  
50 Advisory Committees that are involved to discuss this

1 proposal and then that this Council would support their  
2 actions, would be one way to go or just take no action  
3 on it at all.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Or we could vote the  
6 proposal down and then we can vote to make a motion to  
7 defer the proposal and that would be the most  
8 expeditious way to deal with it.

9  
10 Jenny.

11  
12 MS. PELKOLA: I was going to say I  
13 don't have any problem with this, you know, it's been  
14 in the past, it works.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got a comment  
17 there.

18  
19 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Mr. Chair. This is  
20 John Chythlook with Fish and Game. I'm not a Yukon  
21 person but I do have the reg book in front of me here  
22 that has the old language in that section so I can read  
23 that to you.....

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, that would  
26 help us.

27  
28 MR. CHYTHLOOK: .....and you could  
29 compare it to the new language.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

32  
33 MR. CHYTHLOOK: So that section that's  
34 getting replaced is:

35  
36 During the commercial salmon fishing  
37 season

38  
39 let's see wait a minute, no.

40  
41 Okay, it's:

42  
43 In District 4, excluding Koyukuk River  
44 drainage, salmon may not be taken from  
45 6:00 p.m., Sunday until 6:00 p.m.,  
46 Tuesday.

47  
48 And so in the section that they're  
49 replacing it, it doesn't include either of those  
50 sections, A or B, that's stated in the new language.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh.  
2  
3 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Basically it looks like  
4 they're adding -- okay in District 4, I'll read the old  
5 language first.  
6  
7 In District 4, excluding the Koyukuk  
8 River drainage, salmon may not be taken  
9 from 6:00 p.m., Sunday until 6:00 p.m.,  
10 Tuesday.  
11  
12 And so what the new language does is it  
13 apparently adds the subdistricts in there and then the  
14 difference between the two subdistricts. And that's  
15 all the explanation I can do because I'm not really  
16 familiar with the area I can just read off the  
17 language.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.  
20  
21 MR. HONEA: John. John.  
22  
23 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Yes.  
24  
25 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I'm still really  
26 unclear what the heck this says. I mean this says that  
27 we could fish over the weekend? I mean it's not  
28 deleting amount of time, the windows or anything, it's  
29 just changing them, right?  
30  
31 MR. CHYTHLOOK: From my view, from  
32 looking at the language on there, basically what it's  
33 doing is creating a difference between the  
34 subdistricts. And so it looks like the old language  
35 doesn't -- it just basically says in District 4 you  
36 can't fish -- excluding the Koyukuk River you can't  
37 fish from 6:00 p.m., Sunday to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, and  
38 the new language it breaks it down into Subdistrict 4A  
39 and Subdistrict 4B and 4C, and then creates different  
40 timeframes within that.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So basically  
43 it's -- they're asking to implement what they've been  
44 doing with this proposal. I'm inclined to vote for the  
45 proposal myself. We could vote the proposal down and  
46 defer it, what's the wishes of the Council.  
47  
48 MS. YATLIN: Mr. Chairman.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Eleanor.

1 MS. YATLIN: I believe it should have  
2 went through the, you know, like the different.....  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Local Advisory  
5 Committees.  
6  
7 MS. YATLIN: Yeah, local Advisory  
8 Committees first, then go to the.....  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If the Council feels  
11 uncomfortable without having Advisory Committee input  
12 then we can vote the proposal down and make another  
13 motion to defer the proposal.  
14  
15 MR. HONEA: Well, Mr. Chair, I think  
16 that Eleanor's exactly right. I mean we're just  
17 waiting for Ruby Advisory, I also have to consider  
18 Middle Yukon and their views.  
19  
20 Thank you.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So I don't  
23 want to spend a lot of time on this proposal, it's not  
24 that critical to some of the bigger issues that we need  
25 to get to.  
26  
27 At this time I'd ask for a vote on the  
28 proposal. Those in favor of the proposal signify by  
29 saying aye.  
30  
31 IN UNISON: Aye.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have three votes.  
34 Those opposed to the proposal signify by saying aye.  
35  
36 IN UNISON: Aye.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we got -- Robert.  
39  
40 MR. R. WALKER: Uh?  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You vote?  
43  
44 MR. R. WALKER: Unh-unh.  
45  
46 MR. GERVAIS: I abstain.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, one abstention.  
49 And how many negative votes, hold your hands up? Four  
50 negative votes, two abstentions, and three in favor.

1 Proposal failed. Motion to defer the proposal.  
2  
3 MR. GERVAIS: I would make a motion to  
4 defer the proposal.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A motion to.....  
7  
8 MR. GERVAIS: I would motion to defer  
9 the proposal.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
12  
13 MR. J. WALKER: Second.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second. Vote on  
16 deferral. Those in favor of deferring the proposal  
17 signify by saying aye.  
18  
19 IN UNISON: Aye.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.  
22  
23 (No opposing votes)  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Proposal 81 is  
26 deferred. Primarily because of lack of input from the  
27 Advisory Committees at this time and the Council  
28 feeling uncomfortable. The proposal failed on the  
29 first round for adoption.  
30  
31 We're at Proposal 82.  
32  
33 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman,  
34 Proposal 82 is on Page 81 and 82 submitted by Alaska  
35 Department of Fish and Game. It's to allow subsistence  
36 fishing in Subdistrict 4A to be open 48 hour period  
37 during commercial opening. And I would leave it at  
38 that.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does the Council  
41 even want to review this after reviewing the last  
42 proposal?  
43  
44 (No comments)  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This proposal,  
47 again, addresses fishing times in 4A, is the Council  
48 willing to review this proposal.  
49  
50 Don.

1 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I would like to defer  
2 this also. I mean 4A, I believe, is -- correct me if  
3 I'm wrong, Jenny, is it from Kaltag up to Galena?

4  
5 MS. PELKOLA: Kaltag up to Bishop Rock,  
6 what do you call it, right below Bishop Rock.

7  
8 MR. J. WALKER: Paradise to Bishop  
9 Rock.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Does the  
12 Council want to deliberate this proposal at all?

13  
14 (No comments)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so the Council  
17 doesn't seem willing to deliberate this proposal either  
18 and so we'll basically defer the proposal without  
19 adopting any motion on that.

20  
21 Proposal 83, subsistence fishing  
22 permits. You want to review this one, Vince, this is a  
23 little different.

24  
25 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, this one here you  
26 may have interest in. It was submitted by the  
27 Fairbanks Advisory Committee. It's requiring recording  
28 of subsistence harvest on the catch calendars as  
29 follows and I'll read it into the record:

30  
31 All subsistence users must have a catch  
32 calendar and shall record all harvested  
33 fish on the catch calendar in ink  
34 before concealing the fish from plain  
35 view, transported from the fishing site  
36 or off loaded from the vessel.

37  
38 Fishing site means the location where  
39 the fish is removed from the water. If  
40 fish are shared outside the household  
41 of the catch calendar holder, the  
42 number of fish shared and the name of  
43 the person, persons shared must be  
44 recorded on the catch calendar. The  
45 catch calendar must be available for  
46 inspection by the Department or any law  
47 enforcement officer at any fish camp,  
48 fish location or primary residence of  
49 the catch calendar holder.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the proposal puts  
2 more stringent harvest tracking on the subsistence  
3 users. We don't have the Department here to speak to  
4 this proposal. We don't have any other groups. Do we  
5 have any written comments on the proposal, this  
6 particular proposal. The Advisory Committees have not  
7 met on it.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So is there any  
12 public testimony.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's no public  
17 testimony on this proposal.

18

19 The Chair will entertain a motion to  
20 adopt Proposal 83, I think this is a very important  
21 proposal for our Council to vote on. Is there a motion  
22 to adopt.

23

24 MR. HONEA: So moved.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Move to adopt. I  
27 have a second.

28

29 MR. J. WALKER: Second.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second. Council  
32 discussion.

33

34 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
35 Council discussion, I think this places an undue  
36 hardship on the fishermen itself. It just doesn't make  
37 sense for you to be out there in a boat, in the rough,  
38 in climate weather taking fish out of your net and  
39 having to record that data with you. Is that my take  
40 on that -- I mean is that -- is that what it basically  
41 comes down to, that you have to have it in ink or  
42 something before you even bring it to shore?

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yeah, the  
45 proposal would basically require you to write this all  
46 down even in the rain so it'd be -- it's a very  
47 stringent requirement and it'd be fairly hard to  
48 enforce.

49

50 Any other comments. Eleanor.

1 MS. YATLIN: Mr. Chairman. You know, I  
2 think it's YRDFA that sends out those calendars for the  
3 subsistence users to record their catch and my husband  
4 did that all summer, every fish we caught.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

7  
8 MS. YATLIN: And it rained one day and  
9 got on it and then he did it in ink and the whole thing  
10 got washed out.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh.

13  
14 MS. YATLIN: So he had to.....

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, these  
17 harvest calendars and all the fishing permits are kept  
18 by the subsistence users. Any other comments on this  
19 proposal.

20  
21 MR. MORGAN: Yes, like everybody else  
22 here I think it goes too far, puts too much constraints  
23 on subsistence users. My god it even tells you to  
24 write the names of who you shared a fish with. You  
25 know if you invite somebody for dinner you're going to  
26 have to write it down and share the name of who you  
27 shared this fish with, it's getting a little bit too  
28 far and a little out of hand.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This proposal  
31 bridges transfer of possession, it does a whole bunch  
32 of various things, and so I'm concerned about this  
33 proposal. I personally do not support this stringent  
34 of harvest reporting. And so I'm opposed to the  
35 proposal myself, personally.

36  
37 Any other comments on the proposal.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Let's take a vote on  
42 Proposal 83, subsistence fishing permits, required  
43 calendars. Those in favor of Proposal 83 signify by  
44 saying aye.

45  
46 (No aye votes)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed to the  
49 proposal signify by saying aye.

50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The proposal failed  
4 unanimously.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. That  
7 brings us up to Proposal 84 on Page 83. This was  
8 submitted by the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee, and  
9 this is to reduce fishing pressure. The AC recommends  
10 extending the drift gillnet area up river into State  
11 waters of Subdistricts 4B and 4C to the mouth of the  
12 Yuki River, and you can read the rest of that so it  
13 extends the driftnet fishery into 4B, 4C.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This proposal has  
16 been made by the Middle Yukon several times. The  
17 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council championed  
18 4B, 4C proposal for the Federal waters and there is a  
19 Federal fishery in 4B and 4C for drift gillnet. This  
20 proposal would alleviate a lot of the congestion  
21 problems and other things and so this Council has  
22 historically supported this proposal to spread the  
23 fishing pressure out and allow people the option of  
24 being able to fish in other areas if they want to.

25

26 You got a comment, Don.

27

28 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair, if I may,  
29 I was a part of all that when you guys were going  
30 through it and you initiated getting, at least, a  
31 chinook salmon fishery using drift gillnets in 4B and  
32 4C, and as you know there is -- the Federal waters are  
33 open to this during the chinook salmon season. And I'm  
34 now assigned to the Kuskokwim but because this was an  
35 interest to me I sat in on some of the discussions that  
36 were held as the Federal Subsistence Program was making  
37 their views on these various proposals. And on this  
38 one, it looks -- it's not final yet but it looks like  
39 what our program is going to recommend on this one is  
40 to adopt to modification to include all of 4B and 4C,  
41 because we've already got portions open in the Federal  
42 lands. Now, they're asking for some of the State area  
43 to be open and just to reduce confusion.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

46

47 MR. RIVARD: .....why not just have all  
48 4B and 4C open to drift gillnet fishing. It would also  
49 allow folks up in the Tanana, you know, that come down  
50 a little bit from 5 into 4, the upper part of 4B and 4C

1 to have that opportunity under State regs as well.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

4

5 MR. RIVARD: So just thought you might  
6 want to know that.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a good  
9 clarification Don.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Vince.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Also to follow up with  
16 Don, to help Staff that's going to be reviewing this,  
17 it came up several times and I gave my knowledge of it,  
18 but we have people who live on the river, why is the  
19 Yuki listed? It may help the Staff understand why the  
20 Middle Yukon put that in there because it will help  
21 Staff understand. I portrayed it as a boundary,  
22 geographic boundary as well as a boundary between the  
23 two communities. But is there something else  
24 significant about Yuki so Staff would understand --  
25 well, maybe the Refuge manager knows too, but the Staff  
26 was kind of lost on why the Yuki was selected.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Kenton.

29

30 MR. MOOS: For the record my name is  
31 Kenton Moos, Refuge manager, Koyukuk Nowitna, Mr.  
32 Chair. I sat in on the AC meeting in which this  
33 proposal was brought forth and drafted. The reason the  
34 Yuki was used, the primary proponent for this was  
35 several residents from Galena. Typically above the  
36 Yuki there isn't quality driftnet fishing so that's why  
37 -- and they did not want to infringe on the Ruby AC's  
38 -- their opinion on some things so that's why they  
39 chose the Yuki as the boundary, I guess for some  
40 clarification.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see. And since we  
43 have no other organizations and just our RAC is  
44 basically, I'm not going to go through all these other  
45 Advisory Committees and all this other stuff. I would  
46 like the opinion of this Council on this proposal, and  
47 so I'd like to have a motion to adopt Proposal 84.

48

49 MR. HONEA: So moved.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second.  
2  
3 MS. YATLIN: Second.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so there's Don  
6 and Eleanor who moved this proposal.  
7  
8 Discussion on this proposal. How do  
9 the people in Ruby feel on this, Don.  
10  
11 MR. HONEA: Under discussion, I think  
12 this is a great idea. They've been asking for it for  
13 years -- we have been asking for years, four or five  
14 years before we got the one that starts below Tanana  
15 and down, and the amount of fish that is harvested is  
16 just -- it's minimal. So I believe this here, it's  
17 really congested, I know, below Koyukuk and Nulato so  
18 this would take a lot of pressure off them and if they  
19 could do it it's fine.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question, like  
22 Don brought up, what would you think about the entirety  
23 of 4B and 4C all the way up to the -- the 4B and 4C  
24 boundary up there towards the Tozitna mouth?  
25  
26 MR. HONEA: I think that is fine, too.  
27 I mean I don't believe -- when we first put the  
28 proposal in, Tanana was against it, and, you know, I  
29 guess they didn't realize that it ran up that far, but  
30 like I said it's minimal, I don't even know if they use  
31 it. So it's, you know, to anyone's benefit if they  
32 want to driftnet.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does anybody from  
35 Tanana fish in 4B and 4C  
36  
37 (No comments)  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Would you consider  
40 amending your motion to including all of 4B and 4C?  
41 The entirety from.....  
42  
43 MR. HONEA: Oh, okay, sure.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....all of 4B and  
46 4C -- you got a comment before they make that motion,  
47 go ahead, Kenton.  
48  
49 MR. MOOS: Yeah, to address whether  
50 Tanana uses that, we did have one permit applicant from

1 Tanana for the Federal drift fishing net, John  
2 Huntington, so, yes, they do but very minimally.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Okay. Would  
5 you consider amending your motion?

6  
7 MR. HONEA: Certainly. Certainly. If  
8 you want to change that language.

9  
10 Thank you.

11  
12 MS. YATLIN: Just a comment.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Eleanor.

15  
16 MS. YATLIN: I was just thinking about  
17 the Advisory Committees, wouldn't it be more powerful  
18 if it comes out of the Advisory Committee?

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the problem at  
21 this point is the Regional Council is meeting right now  
22 and we won't have a comment. If we keep deferring to  
23 those Advisories we won't have a comment. So I feel  
24 strongly that 4B and 4C should be open and I've heard  
25 full support from Middle Yukon, this is the Middle  
26 Yukon proposal.

27  
28 MS. YATLIN: Okay. Well, if Don feels  
29 strongly about it and Timothy then I would support it.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: For the amended  
32 proposal for all of 4B and 4C?

33  
34 MS. YATLIN: Yes.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The proponent and  
37 the second have amended the proposal to include all of  
38 4B and 4C. Any further discussion on the proposal, 84.

39  
40 MR. GERVAIS: Question.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is  
43 called. All in favor of Proposal 84 to allow drift  
44 gillnet fishing in 4B and 4C for chinook salmon signify  
45 by saying aye.

46  
47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All opposed.

50

1 (No opposing votes)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any abstentions.  
4  
5 (No comments)  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So unanimous consent  
8 on Proposal 84. Proposal 85, you want to go over this  
9 one Vince.  
10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. It's on Page 84 and  
12 85. It was submitted by the Middle Yukon Advisory  
13 Committee, and hopefully I didn't confuse you on the  
14 last one, but this is to reduce fishing pressure. They  
15 recommend extending the driftnet up into State waters  
16 4B and 4C to the mouth of Yuki. I don't know how this  
17 differs for the.....  
18  
19 MS. YATLIN: One is chum.  
20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: One is chum and this is  
22 -- oh, this is chum salmon, I'm sorry. This is for  
23 chum. The previous one was for chinook. So it's  
24 essentially parallel. I must be missing something here  
25 on these, too. I don't understand the difference. The  
26 one just talks kings, the first one 84, which you took  
27 action on, this one, the language they want just talks  
28 about chum, so I think that's what we would have to  
29 focus on.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So basically  
32 the Middle Yukon is requesting fall chum drift gillnet  
33 in 4B and 4C after August 2nd is what they're  
34 requesting with this proposal.  
35  
36 I'm requesting a motion to adopt  
37 Proposal 85.  
38  
39 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.  
42  
43 MR. HONEA: Second.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Don. I  
46 felt that there's no reason that people should not be  
47 able to take fall chum with drift gillnet gear and it's  
48 done throughout the lower part of the river and I feel  
49 that people should have the opportunity to utilize  
50 harvest methods that they feel appropriate, and so I

1 feel that the Board of Fish should open 4B and 4C to  
2 drift gillnet for fall chum after August 2nd.

3

4 And so any discussion on this proposal.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair. Based on your  
7 previous action I think you would want to have the  
8 mover and the second to a friendly amendment to have it  
9 for all 4B and 4C?

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's where I was  
12 going with this. To get the proposal on the table, the  
13 proponent of the motion, would you like to include all  
14 of 4B and 4C, Jenny?

15

16 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

19

20 MR. HONEA: Yep.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The mover and the  
23 second, a friendly amendment to include all of 4B and  
24 4C for drift gillnet for chum salmon after August 2nd,  
25 king salmon before -- only between June 10th and July  
26 14th. Any further discussion on the proposal.

27

28 MR. J. WALKER: Question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.  
31 Those in favor of Proposal 85 as amended signify by  
32 saying aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous consent.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. That  
43 brings us up to Proposal 86, which was submitted by the  
44 Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council.

45

46 Again, this is your standing in this is  
47 because of the customary and traditional use  
48 determination, just so it's clear to everybody. And  
49 they would request in District Y5D, during fishery  
50 closures, the setnet may be tied up in a manner to

1 render it non-fishing and shall be marked with a black  
2 anchor float. This is dealing with a safety issue of  
3 people having to pull their anchor and putting them  
4 back in and you can read the text down below on that,  
5 but that's for District Y5D, which I believe is up in  
6 the Eagle area. And I apologize, I don't think we have  
7 a fishing district map here but I'm sure we have enough  
8 Staff to put it out.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The district map is  
11 in our chinook preliminary Yukon River summer season  
12 report and it shows the districts on the Yukon River  
13 and 5D is between -- basically between just below --  
14 well, it looks like the Yukon River bridge or something  
15 all the way up to the border is 5D.

16

17 And so I have nothing wrong with this  
18 proposal other than it's a proposal that affects the  
19 Eastern Interior's region. And so how would the  
20 Council like to -- the Chair would request a motion to  
21 adopt for -- if I don't get a motion or a second we'll  
22 forego the proposal.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing no motion to  
27 adopt or second we won't review Proposal 86, primarily  
28 for reasons that occurs within the Eastern Interior  
29 region.

30

31 Proposal 87.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: 87 is a real important  
34 proposal, it's from the Alaska Department of Fish and  
35 Game, the meeting that Don mentioned.

36

37 This basically opens up the Yukon River  
38 king salmon management plan to review the triggers, the  
39 guideline harvest rates, I believe, and fishing  
40 schedule in king salmon management as follows:

41

42 So my understanding this allows the  
43 Board to take up the full Yukon River king salmon  
44 management plan. And not to mislead you, there's  
45 subsequent proposals that are actually going into the  
46 details of that plan on harvest rates, levels and all  
47 that.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This could be a very  
50 wide-reaching proposal. I wish the Department was here

1 to explain their reasons for wanting to get into this  
2 plan to this degree.

3

4 At this point the Chair would like to  
5 state on the record that I'm not pleased with the  
6 Department of Fish and Game for not having an alternate  
7 here for explanation.

8

9 MR. GERVAIS: Or any presentation.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Department's  
12 representative, Dani, did an excellent job while here  
13 but the Department should have an alternate for  
14 reviewing these State proposals. And so at this time I  
15 would like to deliberate this proposal with the  
16 Council, Proposal 87, do we have a motion to adopt the  
17 proposal.

18

19 It's a very important proposal.

20

21 Vince.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Just to get all the  
24 Council members up to speed, on the Board of Fish  
25 meeting, and I did get this confirmed, the Board of  
26 Fish works by subcommittees when they meet. For the  
27 subcommittee on the Yukon, each of the affected  
28 Regional Councils has a standing seat on that  
29 committee. The committee feeds into the Board. The  
30 hard work is done at the committee level at the Board  
31 of Fish. So maybe with this proposal you want to  
32 empower your representative at that committee level to  
33 speak, not only for him or herself but also as what  
34 this Council feels on Yukon River king salmon  
35 management plan. So that gives you an idea how the  
36 Board of Fish, for those that haven't gone to a Board  
37 of Fish, you actually sit with that group, with two  
38 Board Chairs and hammer out the details, that goes back  
39 to the full Board for approval.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: How would the  
42 Council like to proceed with this proposal.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is there a motion to  
47 adopt the proposal for discussion.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have no motion to  
2 adopt or a second.

3  
4                   I will state on the record that I'm  
5 concerned that there'll be significant changes to the  
6 harvest guidelines, the subsistence fishing schedules,  
7 commercial fishing guideline harvest ranges. If  
8 adopted by the Board of Fish this proposal could have  
9 far reaching ramifications as to reducing various  
10 management of commercial, subsistence, personal use and  
11 sportfish so this could have a big impact on  
12 subsistence users.

13  
14                   So even though we didn't take up a  
15 position on this proposal the record should reflect  
16 that we have huge concerns that significant subsistence  
17 restrictions or management regimes would allow  
18 disparent subsistence and commercial harvest.

19  
20                   Would I have agreement with the Council  
21 on those concerns?

22  
23                   MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim, on the record.

26  
27                   MR. GERVAIS: Yes, I would agree with  
28 you on that.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I would -- we're  
31 getting a lot of feedback noise from some kind of  
32 gadget over there -- the fan, I guess, heater.

33  
34                   So the representative that has to  
35 attend the Board of Fish meeting should be empowered to  
36 bring those concerns to the Board of Fish.

37  
38                   Vince.

39  
40                   MR. MATHEWS: Maybe it'd be a good time  
41 to take a break and then we could pull in some key  
42 Staff that have worked on the Board of Fish and how to  
43 position your representative best with that committee  
44 possibly with this proposal and other proposals, and  
45 then come back to the Council. Because I think I know  
46 what you're striving for but I'm not sure the Council  
47 is understanding what you're looking for.

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Right.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, let's take a  
4 break for about 10 minutes.  
5  
6 (Off record)  
7  
8 (On record)  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Let's call the  
11 meeting back to order.  
12  
13 (Pause)  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So there's people  
16 concerned about dinner and so I'm not cooking tonight,  
17 I'll cook at our room tomorrow. But what's the best  
18 plan would be to order dinner and have that brought  
19 over there, Vince, or what do you think.  
20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, that's what we're  
22 working on right now. For those in the room if we  
23 could get everybody's.....  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Could we have your  
26 attention on the -- so Vince, go ahead.  
27  
28 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, if you want to, Liz  
29 or I, you would let us know if you want to put in an  
30 order from the Hound House for tonight's dinner and  
31 then I think it will all end up at the Aniak Air Guides  
32 Lodge, it's part of the overhead.  
33  
34 MR. R. WALKER: Jenny, do you got 10  
35 bucks today?  
36  
37 (Laughter)  
38  
39 MS. PELKOLA: I already gave 10 bucks.  
40  
41 (Laughter)  
42  
43 MR. MATHEWS: So it looks like Liz is  
44 collecting the money so if you want to contribute to  
45 the purchase of pizzas or whatever and that for  
46 tonight, we'll do that and then go from there. So  
47 that's how we're going to do it. For the Staff and  
48 that, originally we had scheduled a 7:00 o'clock  
49 session tonight but plans have changed, there's Bingo  
50 tonight so we'll show up here, a few of us, to make

1 sure if someone does show up to testify that they need  
2 to come tomorrow or something. So we're going to tear  
3 down at about 6:50 -- 6:45, and so if you want to take  
4 your materials with you, it'd be wise to do that or you  
5 can put them up in the room behind me, to the right,  
6 that's where the equipment will be, but to be honest  
7 with you your pile of papers will look like everyone  
8 else's pile of papers so mark them well or take them  
9 with you.

10

(Laughter)

11

12  
13 MR. MATHEWS: So, Mr. Chair, that's it.  
14 So get a hold of Liz if you want to kick into the kitty  
15 for dinner tonight and what you might want to order.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, we got  
18 the dinner dilemma out of the way.

19

20 We're still on Proposal 87. I want the  
21 record to reflect that the Western Interior Regional  
22 Advisory Council has had many concerns in the history  
23 of our Council with the commercial fisheries eroding  
24 into the subsistence harvest and the subsistence  
25 restrictions that our users have had to incur. So  
26 Proposal 87 opens up Pandora's Box of many different  
27 issues. And so whoever the Council empowers to go to  
28 the Board of Fish meeting, which is in late January,  
29 they should be empowered to take the concerns of the  
30 Western Interior Council with protecting our user group  
31 because we do not know what the Board of Fish is going  
32 to do. You almost can't anticipate what the Board is  
33 actually going to do with this Proposal 87.

34

35 So regarding 87, I would like to see a  
36 consensus of the Western Interior Council, that the  
37 person who attends the Board of Fish meeting has the  
38 latitude to convey the concerns of the Council in  
39 regarding to protecting the subsistence resource and  
40 the subsistence users of the Western Interior Region.

41

42 Do I have a consensus on that from the  
43 Council?

44

45 MR. R. WALKER: Yes.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll go throughout  
48 the -- I'll poll the Council.

49

50 Eleanor.

1 MS. YATLIN: Yes.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.  
4  
5 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.  
8  
9 MR. HONEA: Yes.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.  
12  
13 MR. COLLINS: Yes.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Carl.  
16  
17 MR. MORGAN: Yes.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert.  
20  
21 MR. R. WALKER: Yes.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: James.  
24  
25 MR. J. WALKER: Yes.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And Jenny.  
28  
29 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So the whole  
32 Council is in favor of empowering the person who  
33 attends the Board of Fish to address the State Board of  
34 Fish on whatever management issues they may develop  
35 that may be pro -- or detrimental to our Council's  
36 outlook on management of the Yukon River fisheries.  
37  
38 And so at this time -- I'm getting a  
39 little bit tired of these fisheries proposals and I  
40 want to talk about bison and so I'm going to have Randy  
41 Rogers come up because the bison issue is -- Randy's  
42 here for a fairly short period of time, he's got to go  
43 to Holy Cross or somewhere tomorrow. I'd like to have  
44 Randy come forward and give us a little overview of the  
45 bison project, and this is an important project to the  
46 Western Interior region. So welcome Randy.  
47  
48 MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
49 Members of the Council. For the record my name is  
50 Randy Rogers. I'm a wildlife planner for the

1 Department of Fish and Game. And I appreciate the  
2 opportunity to give you just a short update here and  
3 would like to start off by expressing my thanks for the  
4 letter that the Western Interior Council voted to send  
5 at your last meeting. We received that in August  
6 supporting the wood bison project. That's very  
7 helpful.

8

9 Now, today I just wanted to give you a  
10 short update on where we stand with some of the key  
11 issues involving the project so I'm going to keep it to  
12 five minutes or so. And as I mentioned I do have a  
13 detailed PowerPoint presentation if we ever have the  
14 time available and you know I'm always welcome [sic] to  
15 spend more time informing the Council, discussing it as  
16 you guys have time for.

17

18 Basically since last winter we've been  
19 working with the Department of Law, the State  
20 Department of Natural Resources and the Governor's  
21 office to prepare a special regulation for wood bison  
22 under the Endangered Species Act that would designate  
23 wood bison in Alaska as a non-essential experimental  
24 population. We set out a timeline to work  
25 cooperatively with the Fish and Wildlife Service on  
26 this draft rule. We met with the Regional Director,  
27 Geoff Haskett, and the regional ESA Staff, they're  
28 working with the ESA Staff in Washington, D.C., and we  
29 really appreciate that support from the Service. And  
30 that is coming directly from Geoff Haskett, who, I  
31 understand will be here and if you have an opportunity  
32 you might thank him for that because it's really  
33 essential at this point in time.

34

35 You know right after we met with the  
36 Fish and Wildlife Service last January, it was a Friday  
37 afternoon, the Monday after that Doyon submitted two  
38 reports to the Governor and to the Legislature urging  
39 the Governor and Legislature to halt and reverse the  
40 entire wood bison project because of their concerns  
41 about the Endangered Species Act and risk to oil and  
42 gas development. So, you know, we've basically been in  
43 damage control ever since then trying to keep up with  
44 that. Our Department of Law has reviewed the issues  
45 raised by Doyon and we've responded to all of those.  
46 I've got copies of both the Doyon papers and the  
47 response that we put together with our Department of  
48 Law. But the upshot of it is that we feel with this  
49 special regulation that we're working on is a sound  
50 mechanism to move forward with wood bison restoration

1 and make sure that the presence of an endangered  
2 species out there does not limit oil and gas, mining or  
3 other land uses in Alaska. And, you know, this is an  
4 issue that we've taken very seriously, you know, way  
5 before Doyon issues these reports. That, you know,  
6 part of the compatibility of the whole project, I mean  
7 nobody's ever questioned the physical compatibility  
8 between bison and resource development, it's the  
9 regulatory stuff, and then with all the issues  
10 involving polar bears and marine mammals, there's a  
11 pretty high state of concern, if not, paranoia in the  
12 state.

13

14                   Anyhow we're working to overcome that  
15 and we had an extended review period within the State  
16 with our Department of Natural Resources, and it got to  
17 the point where then the Commissioner of DNR and Fish  
18 and Game, both jointly recommended to the Governor's  
19 office to move forward with the draft rule. We have an  
20 initial draft to the Fish and Wildlife Service. We  
21 hope to meet with them in the next few weeks to go  
22 through the draft. Of course, this is going to be a  
23 Federal rule and it has to meet the standards for a  
24 Federal rule, so, again, that's why it's critical to  
25 have the support of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

26

27                   Sometime this winter we'll get to the  
28 point where we have a notice of opportunity for public  
29 comment, there'll be an environmental assessment that  
30 goes with this proposed rule and I'll make sure that we  
31 notify the Council when there's a comment opportunity  
32 and we would definitely like to hear from you at that  
33 time.

34

35                   So, you know, since this controversy  
36 has been raised, as you might recall, in our public  
37 process that we've had before, we did what we called an  
38 environmental review of the wood bison project, where  
39 we went through all of the major issues involved,  
40 compared the three sites that we're looking at which  
41 are the Yukon Flats, the Minto Flats and the Lower  
42 Yukon Innoko, and based on the public review and  
43 comment, we made the decision to go forward initially  
44 at the Minto Flats site. Now, that's a bit up in the  
45 air due to the controversy over oil and gas development  
46 and in the discussions that have taken place, Doyon's  
47 indicated that they don't object to moving forward with  
48 the wood bison restoration program in the Lower Yukon  
49 Innoko as long as their local village shareholders  
50 support it. We have had a lot of support from that

1 area and, again, that's why I'm heading to Holy Cross  
2 tomorrow, is to talk with folks.

3  
4           So there may be a change in the  
5 priorities. I don't know whether that will occur or  
6 not, but I wanted to give you guys a head's up and if  
7 we were to move forward in further consideration of the  
8 Yukon Innoko site, we would want to have the  
9 involvement of the Council, and we would also need to  
10 work with the Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM and all  
11 the agencies. So that's a possibility, and it would be  
12 helpful if maybe the Council designated a  
13 representative in case we do get going sometime this  
14 winter.

15  
16           Right now our target for the first  
17 release, we've basically slipped back a year because of  
18 this controversy over the Endangered Species Act. We  
19 were going to be on a very tight timeline to get it all  
20 done, all that Federal rulemaking within the time we  
21 had anyhow but now it's clear that we won't make spring  
22 so we're shooting for spring in 2011.

23  
24           Again, there's no formal announcement  
25 on that. We've been talking further with -- I've  
26 talked with the Kuskokwim Corporation from this area,  
27 from Calista because it gets over towards their end of  
28 things and the Donlin Creek Mine, and so I've talked  
29 with folks from the Donlin Creek Mine, none of these  
30 organizations have raised a high degree of alarm yet  
31 but they would want to be involved in decision-making  
32 about wood bison down in this area.

33  
34           You know when we had the Wood Bison  
35 Restoration Advisory Group meetings, four days of  
36 public meetings in 2005, where we reviewed all the  
37 scientific information, had input from all the  
38 agencies, that group recommended to us that we continue  
39 to pursue all three sites and then take advantage of  
40 whatever opportunities come up to implement wherever  
41 you can first. So that's kind of where I'm coming  
42 from, is being flexible. You know I think that if it  
43 did turn out -- if we worked first to implement down in  
44 the Innoko area, if we can get a good track record  
45 going and we can demonstrate to Doyon and others that  
46 we don't get all tangled up in Endangered Species Act  
47 issues, we're not stopping other resource development,  
48 then hopefully we build the argument to then continue  
49 with the project on Minto Flats and Yukon Flats.

50

1 I guess I would stress that you guys  
2 are aware that we have wood bison now. We've got a  
3 herd of about 80 animals down southeast of Anchorage in  
4 Portage at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center.  
5 With them breeding over the next few years we have  
6 potentially enough stock to do all three sites. You  
7 know, for years we talked about this project but we  
8 couldn't import bison from Canada because of the USDA  
9 border closure. Well, now we're ready to go and move  
10 forward. You know it's not a done deal that we're  
11 going to have approval from the Governor's office to  
12 implement this project. I mean we have to work this  
13 out so that everybody feels comfortable with the  
14 endangered species situation and continue to have the  
15 public support that we've had in the past. And, you  
16 know, if all that lines up right then we can have bison  
17 on the landscape in the not too distant future.

18  
19 So I guess I'll call that my short  
20 report for right now and if you have any questions I  
21 would be happy to answer them.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Randy.  
24 Does the Council have questions for Randy on this bison  
25 reintroduction project.

26  
27 Ray.

28  
29 MR. COLLINS: How many would you plant  
30 the first time and what kind of growth do you expect,  
31 the rate of growth?

32  
33 MR. ROGERS: Well, the basic plan would  
34 be to put a minimum of 40 in one area to get a herd  
35 started, and that's primarily for genetic diversity.  
36 And we're breeding the ones that we have right now to  
37 maximize genetic diversity.

38  
39 We expect that we would have a growth  
40 rate of 20 to 25 percent, and, so, you know, the bison  
41 herd can grow relatively quickly. It would most likely  
42 be on the order of 10 to 15 years before we have a herd  
43 large enough to sustain any significant harvest.  
44 That's one of the issues we would like to work out with  
45 cooperative planning, is how we would manage harvest  
46 and that could vary depending on whether you're on  
47 State or Federal lands.

48  
49 But our fundamental commitment, which  
50 basically I say the same thing, whether I'm at a rural

1 Advisory Committee, the Subsistence Council or an urban  
2 Advisory Committee, the State's committed to making  
3 sure that we find ways so that local residents where  
4 these bison are put benefit in the harvest and non-  
5 local people will benefit at some point in the future.  
6 And we also are keeping in mind benefits of the non-  
7 consumptive use. So we want to look at all the range  
8 of that and keep in mind that, you know, the  
9 fundamental purpose of the project is bison  
10 conservation, but we do expect that, you know, there's  
11 going to be benefits to people for decades, if not  
12 centuries to come, once we implement this.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other questions of  
15 the Council.

16

17 Don.

18

19 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
20 village -- I mean the ones that you've been -- we've  
21 discussed this in the past, you had about three  
22 different sites, are the villages advocating for this,  
23 I mean I would think -- I mean particularly when I --  
24 you know, we discussed -- I mean what Randy Mao is  
25 doing up in Delta and we purchased some buffalo from  
26 him recently, but there's so many advantages to it and  
27 I just -- you know, whether -- I don't know what's the  
28 deal, I mean right within the -- I don't know what  
29 you'd call it, near Ft. Yukon though, if Doyon was --  
30 and that's controversial, you know, with their land  
31 selection there and stuff and I just -- you know, what  
32 is the Native Village of Ft. Yukon or surrounding  
33 villages, are they in favor of this, you know, what's  
34 their take on that?

35

36 MR. ROGERS: Yes, thank you. You know  
37 the project got started up on Yukon Flats and we've got  
38 an extensive file of resolutions of support passed by,  
39 I think, every village council out there in the late  
40 1990s, '96, '97 range, and then the project was on the  
41 back burner, we weren't talking about it for a long  
42 time. We went back and we've had further discussions,  
43 of course, meanwhile Steven's Village has developed  
44 their own private plains bison herd, which I commend  
45 them for their efforts there, and providing healthy  
46 meat for villages.

47

48 You know, when we did the environmental  
49 review, we initially proposed that we would move  
50 forward simultaneously on Yukon Flats and Minto Flats.

1 When that document was out Doyon was working with the  
2 Fish and Wildlife Service on the proposed land exchange  
3 up on Yukon Flats, Doyon was also holding some public  
4 meetings up there and I'm not trying to be critical of  
5 Doyon or anyone else, they've got, you know, major  
6 interests to defend on behalf of their shareholders.  
7 At any rate they have been putting information out to  
8 indicate that if the wood bison project goes forward it  
9 will end the opportunity for oil and gas development.  
10 Of course there's mixed feelings on Yukon Flats,  
11 whether that's good or bad, and we really don't want to  
12 get involved in the politics. We feel that if the  
13 people up there want it, that we can have wood bison  
14 and oil and gas. But it has thrown a lot of confusion  
15 into this. And so one of the reasons why we ended up,  
16 in addition to public comments supporting going to  
17 Minto Flats first, we didn't hear a whole lot from  
18 villages in Yukon Flats, and there's a lot of  
19 discussion about or confusion as to, you know, the  
20 relationship between oil and gas development and wood  
21 bison, so part of what we said in our Record of  
22 Decision is we want to allow more time for folks on  
23 Yukon Flats to work out and understand how these two  
24 resource projects interrelate. And so at this point in  
25 time, you know, most recently the Yukon Flats Fish and  
26 Game Advisory Committee unanimously passed a resolution  
27 of support, the Eastern Interior Subsistence Council  
28 wrote a second letter of support at their last meeting.  
29 You know, I wouldn't state that there's a clear  
30 indication of unanimity in Yukon Flats right now, I've  
31 been recently talking with folks in all the village  
32 councils and find a pretty high degree of support, but,  
33 again, we would need to have local planning and  
34 reevaluate that, you know, when we get ready to move  
35 forward up there.

36  
37                   You know, I believe that there's strong  
38 grassroots support once we understand how these things  
39 can work out together.

40  
41                   And, again, I think that if we have a  
42 track record to demonstrate how they're working out it  
43 can only help this out.

44  
45                   Now, with regard to Minto, the Minto  
46 Flats area, we've had support from that Advisory  
47 Committee also but this winter Doyon went and had some  
48 meetings there and convinced them that oil and gas  
49 development would be stopped if we had wood bison out  
50 there and so each of their tribal councils passed a

1 resolution opposing the wood bison project.

2

3                   We need to get back in and talk with  
4 the village councils and let them understand further  
5 how we intend to address this in cooperation with the  
6 Fish and Wildlife Service and I've talked with folks  
7 who said that, you know, there's still mixed opinions  
8 there.

9

10                   So I'm just being completely honest and  
11 up front about what folks have said here.

12

13                   I believe there's strong support in all  
14 three areas.

15

16                   You know we haven't heard anything but  
17 positive comments from folks down in the Lower Yukon  
18 Innoko area and so to me it really becomes an  
19 opportunity to perhaps, you know, just adjust our  
20 plans, work there first and build the track record and  
21 move from there.

22

23                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, thanks, Randy.  
24 We have comments, go ahead, Tim.

25

26                   MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
27 Randy, I would just like to say that if you do run into  
28 any kind of conflicts with being able to move those  
29 herds to the Minto Flats or Yukon Flats, I think you  
30 would find good support with the city of Ruby and Ruby  
31 Tribal Council as far as putting some bison in that  
32 region. We're more interested in the meat than the  
33 gas.

34

35                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

36

37                   MR. R. WALKER: Sorry, Tim, they're  
38 already spoken for.

39

40                   (Laughter)

41

42                   MR. J. WALKER: Jack.

43

44                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: James.

45

46                   MR. J. WALKER: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
47 Chairman. And thank you Randy. I've talked to a  
48 number of individuals at least in the Holy Cross area  
49 and they're really encouraged about this if it goes  
50 through in that area. There's been nothing but

1 positive support, and I'd just like to comment on that.

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So lots of positive  
5 support down on the GASH. It's basically a no-brainer,  
6 bring the bison to Shageluk, we accept them with open  
7 arms.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so can't spend a  
12 lot more time on this issue, we've got lots of other  
13 proposals and so forth to go through but really  
14 appreciate your outlay there.

15

16 I would like the Council to designate a  
17 representative, if there was a planning group developed  
18 this winter, as Randy was saying, I would like a  
19 designee from this Regional Council to be able to  
20 attend that. Who would be willing to volunteer for  
21 that.

22

23 MR. R. WALKER: Not me, I said somebody  
24 could volunteer.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Somebody else.

27

28 MR. J. WALKER: I nominate Robert  
29 Walker.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MR. R. WALKER: I name Jenny.

34

35 MS. PELKOLA: No.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It should be  
38 somebody within that region, Council members represent  
39 their home area. You two guys are sitting in that  
40 seat, which one of you want to go, James.

41

42 MR. J. WALKER: Okay.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You'll do it. So  
45 James has accepted nomination to represent the  
46 Council's interest to the Wood Bison Planning Group, if  
47 that was formed, this coming winter.

48

49 I, personally, would like to see these  
50 wood bison included in our annual report, to endorse

1 the draft rule for the EIS, and that the Federal  
2 Subsistence Board is made aware that we're in full  
3 support of reintroduction of wood bison near the Innoko  
4 Wildlife Refuge on Shageluk corp lands.

5  
6 And so how does the Council feel in  
7 regards to including that in our annual report.

8  
9 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

10  
11 MR. J. WALKER: I think it's an  
12 excellent idea.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And basically when  
15 the Regional Director arrives tomorrow we'll also  
16 reiterate that we would like to see this draft rule on  
17 the EIS -- what is it, 14(j) is the number?

18  
19 MR. ROGERS: 10(j) is what it's called.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 10(j). 10(j) ruling  
22 be expedited to the highest degree, and our Regional  
23 Council is in full endorsement of reintroduction.

24  
25 Ray.

26  
27 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. I just had  
28 a comment because I had some experience with this, when  
29 they introduced the Fairwell Herd there, when they  
30 reached 100 animals they allowed the first hunt and I  
31 think it was 10 permits or 10 percent, and I got one of  
32 those first permits and it was a good eating animal.  
33 But -- and I think they've had a harvest every year  
34 since then at around the 10 percent level, they've  
35 allowed permits. It's never -- they've never all been  
36 taken but they allowed about 10 percent permits. So I  
37 hope based on that experience you'd have something  
38 similar to that over there if they reached 100 animals  
39 you might be able to start some kind of harvest.

40  
41 MR. ROGERS: Yes, Mr. Collins. You  
42 know, I think biologically you could do something like  
43 that and what we would like to do ideally is provide  
44 opportunities at the earliest possible time for some of  
45 the local residents to benefit from the animals in  
46 their area.

47  
48 We will need to think out harvest  
49 strategies in cooperative planning and there are, you  
50 know, some constraints on harvest through the

1 Endangered Species Act, too. The special rule we're  
2 developing, you know, I'm confident will end up with a  
3 provision in it, you know, it will essentially  
4 downgrade the status of bison from endangered to  
5 considered threatened on Fish and Wildlife Service or  
6 Park Service lands and proposed for listing on other  
7 lands. And it does enable the possibility of harvest  
8 taking place. But we do have to keep in mind the  
9 commitment towards, you know, recovery of the  
10 population and growth of the herds, but within that  
11 context, I mean we'll certainly be working towards that  
12 and looking for opportunities to get both local and  
13 then eventually non-local folks the benefits.

14

15 So, thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.  
18 That's probably enough discussion on the wood bison  
19 issue. Thanks Randy.

20

21 So, Vince, what time do you think we  
22 should break here?

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you guys should  
25 break around 6:45 so that gives us 15 minutes to.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pack up.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: .....move everything,  
30 pack up.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we should move  
33 back to these State fisheries proposals now that we've  
34 shaken off some of the bad feelings I've had about  
35 these.

36

37 We'll go back to Proposal 88, which is  
38 a -- this is a fairly easy one for me. Gillnet  
39 specifications and restrictions, lawful gear  
40 specifications, prohibit drift gillnet gear for  
41 subsistence and commercial fishing as following:

42

43 Fishing methods and means restrictions,  
44 no subsistence or commercial fish or  
45 commercial driftnet fishing allowed in  
46 the entire Yukon River drainage.

47

48 All up river and down river driftnet  
49 areas would be included in this proposal.

50

1                                   And so the Chair would entertain a  
2 motion to adopt Proposal 88 for discussion.  
3  
4                                   MR. J. WALKER: So moved.  
5  
6                                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by James.  
7  
8                                   MS. PELKOLA: Second.  
9  
10                                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.  
11  
12                                  Discussion on the proposal, the Western  
13 Interior Regional Advisory Council recognizes that  
14 drift gillnet fishing is a very important part of  
15 subsistence harvest and subsistence users should be  
16 able to use legal means of -- that economize time,  
17 effort and expense. Drift gillnet fishing is one of  
18 those methods that's recognized to economize time,  
19 effort and expense and so I'm opposed to this proposal.  
20  
21                                  Other discussion by Council members.  
22  
23                                  MR. J. WALKER: Can I call for the  
24 question.  
25  
26                                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's being  
27 called. Those in favor of Proposal 88 restrict drift  
28 gillnet fishing in the entire Yukon River drainage  
29 signify by saying aye.  
30  
31                                  (No aye votes)  
32  
33                                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed to  
34 Proposal 88 signify by saying aye, same sign.  
35  
36                                  IN UNISON: Aye.  
37  
38                                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The proposal fails  
39 unanimously.  
40  
41                                  Let's see here. Proposal 89. Another  
42 gillnet specification. This proposal is.....  
43  
44                                  MR. HONEA: Move to adopt.  
45  
46                                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to adopt  
47 Proposal 89.  
48  
49                                  MS. PELKOLA: So moved.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don motioned to  
2 adopt, I'll -- Jenny's second.  
3  
4 MS. PELKOLA: (Nods affirmatively)  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is a 36 inch  
7 and 35 mesh or 15 foot and I was called by Stan Zuray  
8 and I says that doesn't calculate right and you need to  
9 calculator Stan, 35 meshes at six inches is 17.5 feet,  
10 not 15 foot.  
11  
12 And so discussion on Proposal 89 by the  
13 Council.  
14  
15 MR. J. WALKER: Question.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No discussion on the  
18 proposal, question's being called. Those in favor of  
19 Proposal 89 signify by saying aye.  
20  
21 (No aye votes)  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed to  
24 Proposal 89, same sign.  
25  
26 IN UNISON: Aye.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Proposal unanimously  
29 failed. The Western Interior Regional Advisory has  
30 reviewed that type of proposal before and has  
31 deliberated that and that's why the reason for the  
32 expeditious vote on that. This Council has not been in  
33 favor of riverwide 35 mesh restrictions.  
34  
35 Proposal 90 is to prohibit subsistence  
36 and commercial gillnets of over six inches in the  
37 entire Yukon River drainage. Motion to adopt Proposal  
38 90.  
39  
40 MR. J. WALKER: So moved.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved to adopt.  
43 Second.  
44  
45 MR. R. WALKER: Second.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Robert.  
48 I'll state that the six inch proposal -- I've stated to  
49 the Department and various managers that six inch gear  
50 in a directed chinook fishery has an excessive bycatch

1 and drop out rate and the high mortality of lost fish,  
2 to require subsistence fishers to use a gear type  
3 that's far too small for the intended species is  
4 detrimental to the subsistence users and the resource.  
5 If there was a chum salmon concern on the Yukon River  
6 and no chinook concern there would be a high incidental  
7 take of chum salmon with six inch net as the only gear  
8 type to be used, whereas if you could use a larger  
9 gillnet size you could let chums get through the net.

10

11 And so I'm distinctly opposed to a six  
12 inch gear restriction on the Yukon River drainage  
13 myself.

14

15 That would be my comment on Proposal  
16 90.

17

18 Any further discussion.

19

20 MR. J. WALKER: Question.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's been  
23 called on Proposal 90, those in favor of the proposal  
24 signify by saying aye.

25

26 (No aye votes)

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same  
29 sign.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Proposal 90 fails  
34 unanimously.

35

36 Proposal 91, limit commercial king  
37 harvest during chum directed fisheries as follows:  
38 This is a fairly long proposal. Would you like to give  
39 an overview of this, Vince.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think you covered  
42 it. It's just basically saying with the directed  
43 commercial chum fishery that there'd be a bycatch cap  
44 of 3,000 chinook, which is the average and you can read  
45 it there for 2004 through 2008, it was 4,600 chinook  
46 were taken as bycatch.

47

48 MR. COLLINS: Just prior to that it was  
49 2,300 average.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.  
2  
3 MR. COLLINS: So it's over what the  
4 historic average was but less than what it was over the  
5 last few years when escapement made.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. This  
8 proposal has merits.  
9  
10 A motion to adopt Proposal 91.  
11  
12 MR. HONEA: So moved.  
13  
14 MR. GERVAIS: Second.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded,  
17 Timothy.  
18  
19 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And discussion on  
22 the proposal. Go ahead, Tim.  
23  
24 MR. GERVAIS: Without going over all  
25 the text I'm supporting it in theory. I think the  
26 situation we are at now with our king escapement, that  
27 we need to provide as much incentive for the commercial  
28 openings that are going to occur in the chum fishery  
29 not be doing any kind of directed king drifts or  
30 anything like that. So I had a -- not conversation but  
31 exchange with a Lower Yukon fishermen during one of the  
32 teleconferences, and he was pretty determined that he  
33 was going to make up for the lack of king openings by  
34 catching them on the chum openings, and that's counter  
35 productive to bringing the stock back where we're at.  
36 So I think until we can get this king issue resolved we  
37 need to consider this as a possible assistance to  
38 helping the king stocks come back.  
39  
40 So I'm going to support it even though  
41 it is -- it's pretty drastic proposal.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It is a disincentive  
44 to exceed a chinook cap, which would be the same line  
45 of thinking with the bycatch in the trawl fleet. One  
46 of the aspects that is not thought into this is that if  
47 the chinook run was strong and they still had a  
48 directed chum fishery then the Board might not want to  
49 limit -- it should have -- the proposal should have  
50 stated that if there's subsistence restrictions for

1 chinook, that there would be a chinook bycatch on a  
2 directed fishery of 3,000 -- that's what it should have  
3 stated.

4  
5 Tim.

6  
7 MR. GERVAIS: Maybe we could bring it  
8 up as an amendment, amend it.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could amend the  
11 language and the mover and the second could amend the  
12 language, that if there was a subsistence restriction  
13 for chinook on the Yukon River, that there would be an  
14 implemented 3,000 fish chinook salmon bycatch limit in  
15 the directed chum fishery.

16  
17 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. This was  
18 aimed at the escapement into Canada and that wouldn't  
19 address that because you could still have no  
20 restrictions on subsistence and not be meeting  
21 escapement into Canada and allowing commercial.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

24  
25 MR. COLLINS: And so they were using  
26 the escapement goal in there, subsistence always has  
27 priority so I think there's two issues involved in  
28 that.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see. That's not  
31 been -- we're still in discussion, there's been no  
32 motion to amend.

33  
34 Any further discussion by the Council  
35 on this proposal and its merits.

36  
37 Robert, any comments on this proposal,  
38 on the chinook cap of 3,000 in the directed chum  
39 fishery.

40  
41 MR. R. WALKER: It doesn't affect us so  
42 it doesn't matter.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I, personally, am  
45 in favor of Proposal 91 as a disincentive to exceed the  
46 number of incidental harvest of chinook during a chum  
47 fishery, directed chum fishery.

48  
49 Any further discussion. Ray.

50

1 MR. COLLINS: I had a discussion with  
2 my son before we came over on some of the issues  
3 involved here and one year he was buying for one of the  
4 buyers on the Lower Yukon over there and he said during  
5 that summer there was one fisherman that consistently  
6 came in with a majority of kings so it is possible  
7 under a chum fishery to target kings. He wasn't sure  
8 whether it was location or gear or what, that's what  
9 it's trying to avoid, is the targeting of kings.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

12

13 MR. COLLINS: It can be done.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I've fished  
16 commercially and I've hung net and you can hang -- you  
17 can get heavy twine, six inch gear and you hang that  
18 gear end where the web is basically very slack and you  
19 can wind kings up in that six inch net. So anybody  
20 that knows anything about nets knows you can catch  
21 kings with chum gear, period.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It depends on the  
26 twine size. And I've seen no proposal to reduce the  
27 twine size down to like 43 or some light twine size  
28 where kings will break that gear. And so I don't think  
29 that the up river guys know a whole lot about hanging  
30 net and stuff. The reality is you can catch a lot of  
31 kings with small mesh gear if you hang it correctly for  
32 your advantage.

33

34 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But we don't want  
37 that incentive when we have a restricted chinook run.

38

39 MR. COLLINS: Right.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So this 3,000 cap is  
42 an instrument in maintaining a closure clause.

43

44 So any further discussion on the  
45 proposal. Robert.

46

47 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
48 Proposal 91, it says limit commercial king harvester in  
49 chum fisheries as follows and 92 proposal says,  
50 prohibit sale of kings during non-king directed

1 fisheries as follows -- I mean we support one and we  
2 throw another one out or how are we going to work this,  
3 because it's just in controversy to what we're doing  
4 with 91.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, when we get to  
7 92 we can discuss its merits. I don't feel that it's  
8 nearly as advantageous as -- 91 puts a cap on the  
9 number of kings caught in the commercial chum --  
10 directed chum fishery. 92 just allocates how those  
11 fish are going to be used and whether they can sell  
12 them or not. That's a completely different issue. For  
13 conservation means, 3,000 fish cap is advantageous.

14  
15 And so on Proposal 91, any further  
16 discussion.

17  
18 (No comments)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll discuss 92  
21 next in line here.

22  
23 MR. R. WALKER: Question.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called on  
26 the proposal, those in favor of Proposal 91 signify by  
27 saying aye.

28  
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed to the  
32 proposal signify by same sign.

33  
34 (No opposing votes)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any abstaining  
37 votes.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The proposal passes  
42 unanimously.

43  
44 Proposal 92 Yukon River chum salmon  
45 management plan prohibit the sale of kings during non-  
46 king directed fisheries as follows:

47  
48 No commercial sales of chinook salmon  
49 caught in non-chinook directed  
50 commercial fisheries in the entire

1 yukon River drainage.  
2  
3 Chinook salmon caught as bycatch will  
4 go into the subsistence fishery only.  
5  
6 That's basically what was implemented  
7 this year except at the very end of the fall chum and  
8 coho directed fisheries.  
9  
10 Does the Council want to deliberate the  
11 proposal in view of our last, we probably should, is  
12 there a motion to adopt Proposal 92.  
13  
14 MR. HONEA: So moved.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved.  
17  
18 MR. GERVAIS: Seconded.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tim.  
21 Deliberation on the proposal. Go ahead, Ray.  
22  
23 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. This might  
24 be the one where you'd put in the restriction about  
25 until such time as all subsistence needs are met or  
26 something like that. Because if subsistence needs are  
27 being met and then there's a fishery, then they should  
28 be able to sell them but not up until that time. That  
29 might be more appropriate for what you had suggested  
30 earlier.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Would the  
33 Council want to prohibit the sale of kings during non-  
34 directed fisheries until subsistence -- as long as  
35 there's no subsistence -- how would it read, the  
36 amended language.  
37  
38 MR. COLLINS: As long as there are  
39 restrictions on subsistence fishing, or something like  
40 that.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that's good  
43 language. As long as subsistence restrictions remain  
44 in place for the entire Yukon River.  
45  
46 MR. GERVAIS: For the entire river?  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: For the entire  
49 Yukon.  
50

1 Do we want to amend that language, the  
2 mover and the second, Don?  
3  
4 MR. HONEA: Yes.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.  
7  
8 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, I will amend it too.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And Eleanor had a  
11 comment. Go ahead, Eleanor.  
12  
13 MS. YATLIN: I was just trying to get  
14 clarification if you were going to put the amended  
15 language in it.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, the  
18 discussion, the amended language would prohibit the  
19 sale of chinook -- of kings during the non-directed  
20 king fishery as long as there was subsistence  
21 restrictions in the entire -- until restrictions -- how  
22 is that again -- say it again, Ray, you say it  
23 because.....  
24  
25 MR. COLLINS; Well, I wasn't really  
26 moving it but I was saying as long as restrictions are  
27 -- for subsistence fishing are in place anywhere on the  
28 river.  
29  
30 MR. ALOYSIUS: Please use your  
31 microphone.  
32  
33 MR. COLLINS: As long as  
34 subsistence.....  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: As long as chinook  
37 subsistence restrictions are on the.....  
38  
39 MR. COLLINS: As long as subsistence  
40 restrictions are in place anywhere on the river.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In the entire Yukon  
43 drainage.  
44  
45 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's the  
48 amendment. Is that clear, Vince.  
49  
50 MR. MATHEWS: yes, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so that's to  
2 clarify the amendment. Any other comments on the  
3 proposal and amended proposal.

4  
5 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair. I had a  
6 comment.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Timothy.

9  
10 MR. GERVAIS: I just wanted to say this  
11 is really going to have a -- has the potential to have  
12 very significant economic impact on the Lower Yukon  
13 drift fishers.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the lower  
16 river fishers have stated that they would like to  
17 harvest chum if available but non-directed chinook  
18 incidental bycatch needs to be addressed with the  
19 suppressed chinook runs so everybody's taking a  
20 significant -- there's been no commercial harvest of  
21 chinook in the entire length and so there should be no  
22 incentive to harvest chinook in the lower river either.  
23 I understand that they will have signifi -- but this  
24 allows for chum harvest, summer chum harvest, without  
25 being detrimental to the chinook run itself, to a large  
26 degree.

27  
28 Any other comments on Proposal 92.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 MR. COLLINS: Question.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called on  
35 the proposal, those in favor of the proposal, as  
36 amended signify by saying aye.

37  
38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed to the  
41 proposal, same sign.

42  
43 (No opposing votes)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The proposal passed  
46 unanimously.

47  
48 Proposal 93, prohibit the retention of  
49 kings during the chum directed main stem fisheries as  
50 follows:

1 In commercial openings on the main stem  
2 of the Yukon River, Districts 1 through  
3 5 for other directed species, chum  
4 salmon, a fisherman or fisherwoman  
5 participating in those directed  
6 fisheries may neither retain nor sell  
7 any king salmon, he or she, bycatches  
8 in those directed fisheries openings.  
9

10 That's the objective of the proposal.  
11 This proposal would be very wasteful.

12  
13 A motion to adopt Proposal 93.

14  
15 MR. J. WALKER: Motion to adopt.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We got a motion to  
18 adopt from James.

19  
20 MR. GERVAIS: Second.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tim.  
23 The proposal basically would require fisheries to throw  
24 fish away, chinook salmon which is a tremendous waste  
25 of resource in a directed fishery. And so I personally  
26 don't agree with this proposal at all.

27  
28 Any other discussion on Proposal 93.

29  
30 MR. R. WALKER: Question.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's  
33 called on 93, those in favor of the proposal signify by  
34 saying aye.

35  
36 (No aye votes)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, the  
39 same sign.

40  
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Proposal 93 fails.  
44 Proposal 94 requires.....

45  
46 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. We're not  
47 stating for the record why we oppose so maybe we should  
48 make sure a statement's included because of -- we're  
49 not stating a reason why and I think they want us to  
50 have some reasoning of why we oppose it so it should

1 state in there that it's because we feel that they  
2 should not be wasted that go into the subsistence  
3 fishery.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. That was my  
6 comment, but let the record reflect that my comment  
7 seemed to have the unanimous agreement of the Council,  
8 that discarding chinook salmon harvested incidentally  
9 during a direct other salmon fishery was extremely  
10 wasteful.

11

12 Proposal 94 require windows schedule  
13 during the lower river commercial fishery as follows:

14

15 Managers must stick to the windows  
16 schedule.

17

18 How do you interpret this, Vince.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: The way this is  
21 interpreted is Virgil felt that when he served on the  
22 Board of Fish, that when the Board of Fish adopted this  
23 windows schedule, it was to stay in effect throughout  
24 the whole fishing season, not when -- not be lifted  
25 when a commercial season is implemented, so that's why  
26 he's saying must stick to a windowed schedule.

27

28 The Department disagrees that the Board  
29 actions were interpreted that way, or actually that was  
30 the Board's actions. So he's saying the windows stay  
31 in the whole time, period, you don't lift the windows  
32 if you have a commercial opening.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Carl.

35

36 MR. MORGAN: That's basically targeting  
37 subsistence users, right?

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it is targeting  
40 subsistence users and speculation is it's targeting the  
41 lower river districts because once they have a  
42 commercial opening they have a wide open subsistence  
43 season following while up river you still have these  
44 rolling closures.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll get Proposal  
47 94 on the table, do we have a motion to adopt 94.

48

49 MR. J. WALKER: So moved.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by James.  
2  
3 MR. GERVAIS: Seconded.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tim.  
6 Discussion of the proposal. Do Council members have  
7 discussion on this proposal.  
8  
9 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.  
12  
13 MR. GERVAIS: Vince, I'd like to  
14 clarify, you're saying any time there's a commercial  
15 opening in Y1 and Y2, then subsistence is open 24/7?  
16  
17 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I don't know about  
18 the 24/7, but any restrictions that were in place  
19 before that would be lifted because now you've said  
20 there's an allowable surplus of fish to allow a  
21 commercial opening. So if you had additional  
22 restrictions on subsistence fishing you would no longer  
23 need it because you've already said there's a  
24 commercial opening.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got a comment,  
27 Don.  
28  
29 MR. MATHEWS: Maybe Don can clarify it.  
30  
31 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, Vince, basically  
32 said what I was just going to say, that a lot of people  
33 think, or they assume that, you know, once there's a  
34 commercial opening then it's been deemed that there's  
35 enough fish for subsistence by default. So why would  
36 there be a need for a windowed schedule if there's  
37 enough fish available for both subsistence and  
38 commercial. That's the thinking. I'm not saying I  
39 agree with it, but that's the argument I've heard.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.  
42 Further discussion by the Council.  
43  
44 MR. R. WALKER: Question.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's been  
47 called on Proposal 94. Those in favor of the proposal  
48 signify by saying aye.  
49  
50 MR. GERVAIS: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think I'll vote  
2 for this proposal. Aye.

3  
4 Those opposed to the proposal signify  
5 with same sign.

6  
7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Two votes for the  
10 proposal, the remainder opposed. Proposal 95 is to  
11 reallocate commercial king salmon harvest as follows  
12 and it's a fairly involved proposal.

13  
14 It reallocates commercial king salmon  
15 harvest downward in the lower river and Y1 and 2 from  
16 60 to 120,000 to zero to 26,000. It causes a setnet  
17 only harvest range of zero to 8,000 in Y3. This is a  
18 fairly involved proposal. And there's -- it's quite an  
19 involved proposal, did you have input for us since this  
20 was written by Eastern Interior, Vince.

21  
22 MR. MATHEWS: Well, basic motivation  
23 behind this proposal was to spread out the commercial  
24 harvest numbers across the drainage, pushing them more  
25 up river if there was enough surplus. The actual  
26 numbers I don't -- I can't remember how they actually  
27 came up with the numbers of zero to 26,700 or whatever;  
28 I think it was based on a percentage, moving the  
29 percentage up river. So that's about all I can really  
30 tell you on it, it's basically an allocation of  
31 commercial.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is a commercial  
34 harvest allocation issue. I don't know that Regional  
35 Councils should be so concerned about commercial  
36 harvest allocations. I know the proponents on the  
37 Eastern Interior are wanting -- but this has no affect  
38 -- should have no affect on subsistence users. I don't  
39 actually feel that subsistence Regional Councils should  
40 be making such allocation proposals -- commercial  
41 harvest about allocations among users, other than there  
42 would be more revenue disseminated throughout the whole  
43 drainage and so that -- I can see where that could have  
44 an influence on the subsistence users abilities to fund  
45 other resource harvesting if they had funding.

46  
47 So does the Council want to take up  
48 this Proposal 95.

49  
50 MR. R. WALKER: No.

1 MS. PELKOLA: No.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Council seems to  
4 -- other Council members interested in looking at  
5 commercial reallocation.  
6  
7 (No comments)  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see no interest by  
10 the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council to take  
11 up commercial allocations on the Yukon River drainage.  
12 Those allocation issues should be between the  
13 commercial permit holders and the Board of Fish is the  
14 way I feel.  
15  
16 Go ahead, Robert.  
17  
18 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
19 I think we should refer back to the AC, and let them  
20 determine what they think would be best for that for  
21 commercial.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we'll rely on  
24 the State Advisory Committees along the Yukon River to  
25 make recommendations on those commercial allocations.  
26 I don't feel that it's appropriate for the Western  
27 Interior Regional Council to make commercial allocation  
28 issues. Our job is to look out for the resource,  
29 escapements and the users and the subsistence uses.  
30 And so Proposal 97 is a reallocation of the fall chum  
31 and it's the same kind of a proposal.....  
32  
33 MR. R. WALKER: You missed 96.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, did I miss 96?  
36  
37 MR. R. WALKER; Yes.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oops.  
40  
41 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.  
44  
45 MS. PELKOLA: 96, 97, 98 and 99 all  
46 deals with commercial issues.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So these  
49 are.....  
50

1 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead,  
4 Robert.  
5  
6 MR. R. WALKER: I make a motion to  
7 defer all 96, 97, 98 to the AC and let them handle  
8 that.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.  
11  
12 MR. R. WALKER: And 99 also.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A motion to defer 96  
15 through 98.....  
16  
17 MR. R. WALKER: 99. 99.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Through 99 to the  
20 affected Advisory Committees, State Advisory Committees  
21 on commercial allocations and commercial interests, do  
22 we have a second on that motion.  
23  
24 MR. J. WALKER: Second.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by James.  
27 Those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.  
28  
29 IN UNISON: Aye.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same  
32 sign.  
33  
34 (No opposing votes)  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those are deferred  
37 to the Advisory Committees, which work as advisement to  
38 the Regional Councils, but the Regional Councils do not  
39 deal specifically with commercial interests.  
40  
41 Vince, do we have any other proposals  
42 here?  
43  
44 MR. MATHEWS: No, I don't -- 100's  
45 dealing with the Tok River drainage, I don't know if  
46 you'd have interest in that and that's a sportfish  
47 closure.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, it's out of  
50 region.

1 MR. MATHEWS: So that's it, the  
2 proposals that I'm aware of.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we've covered  
5 the.....  
6  
7 MR. MATHEWS: Let me flip the page and  
8 see if there's one statewide, if I remember correctly,  
9 there is, 164. You can look at it, I don't know if  
10 you're interested in it.  
11  
12 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.  
15  
16 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. I think  
17 we should just defer this back to the home, Proposal  
18 100, you know, back to the home, wherever it came from,  
19 their RAC and let them deal with it.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That Proposal 100 is  
22 a Alaska Department of Fish and Game proposal.  
23  
24 MR. R. WALKER: Yeah, just defer it  
25 back to their own RAC area and let them deal with that.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll show  
28 disinterest in it and we don't have to comment on it.  
29  
30 MR. R. WALKER: We don't?  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No.  
33  
34 MR. R. WALKER: Okay.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's not a  
37 requirement to comment on them. The statewide  
38 proposal, 164, revise unlawful possession of  
39 subsistence finfish, this is the Fairbanks Advisory  
40 Committee adding paragraph B, where is that:  
41  
42 Subsistence sockeye and chinook salmon  
43 commonly referred to as home packs,  
44 home packs shall have no monetary  
45 value.....  
46  
47 Vince, are you familiar with this  
48 proposal at all?  
49  
50 MR. MATHEWS: No, I am not familiar

1 with it, I think it's referring to -- I don't know,  
2 people fishing and then taking it elsewhere to sell it,  
3 by canned fish or whatever. I'm not familiar with the  
4 term, home packs.

5

6 MR. GERVAIS: Vacuum packing.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This home packed  
11 term used in Bristol Bay is basically commercial  
12 fishers who are involved in commercial fishing all  
13 summer, you take fish home for your own personal use  
14 and, again, this is a commercial fishing proposal.  
15 What do you think, Tim.

16

17 MR. GERVAIS: I don't see where this is  
18 affecting the subsistence fishermen. But it's -- this  
19 definition of home packs is not -- it's not set up.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, they didn't  
22 define what a home pack is, it's sort of a loose term  
23 used in a commercial fishing industry as fish that are  
24 retained for personal use. They usually have to be  
25 reported to the Department on the fish ticket. And,  
26 so, again, this is a commercial fishing proposal and as  
27 the proposals, we can defer those to the Advisory  
28 Committee process, State Advisory Committee process.

29

30 So I think we've covered all the  
31 fisheries, State fisheries proposals.

32

33 Where are we at here on our agenda.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: That would bring you up  
36 to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council,  
37 you've got a couple of updates on that and then  
38 appointment suggestion from an Advisory Committee.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. You got an  
41 update for us, Don, go ahead.

42

43 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don  
44 rivard, with the Office of Subsistence Management.  
45 I'll direct your attention to Page 80 in your book.  
46 This is a good time, I think to discuss this a little  
47 bit. There's been some numbers that have been kicked  
48 around today as to what the North Pacific Fisheries  
49 Management Council's recommendation was to the  
50 Secretary of Commerce, and first of all I'll just start

1 off by saying that I was at the April meeting and heard  
2 the testimony of the five representatives from our  
3 program, the four Council representatives and Chairman  
4 Mike Fleagle and they all did an excellent job of  
5 representing the Council and the Program in general.  
6 You can be real proud of Ray Collins because he was an  
7 exemplary, just an example of how to testify and I  
8 think he did a wonderful job and I think it was very  
9 effective. And then Chairman, Mike Fleagle, was  
10 another star in testifying. He's a Native Alaskan, as  
11 you know, and he brought that into the equation, he's  
12 from McGrath, and he talked about that and the  
13 importance of chinook salmon to Alaskan Natives and was  
14 very effective.

15  
16 So they did their best, and they did a  
17 wonderful job of testifying and should be commended for  
18 how they did that.

19  
20 Unfortunately the results didn't come  
21 out the way, I think this program would like to have  
22 seen it.

23  
24 The North Pacific Fisheries Management  
25 Council did kick around -- they first of all had, as  
26 their preferred alternative the limit of 68,000, and a  
27 couple of you have mentioned that today, but they  
28 lowered it down to 60,000 and that's what they have  
29 recommended now to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. And  
30 a couple of fact sheets came out as we were putting  
31 this material together for your book, and that's on the  
32 next page over, Page 82. The State put this out and  
33 just really discusses all what that recommendation was  
34 by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. And  
35 then Jason may be addressing this later, but, then  
36 YRDFA also put out this salmon bycatch update, there's  
37 something out at the table, I don't know if any of you  
38 got that but it also does a wonderful job of explaining  
39 what happened at that April meeting, the pro's and  
40 con's of that kind of a decision. So our office didn't  
41 develop anything apart from that because those two were  
42 really well done and we didn't feel we needed to add to  
43 it.

44  
45 So you also talked about maybe some  
46 future comments to an organization and where it would  
47 go now for the chinook end of this, your comments now  
48 should be directed to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce.  
49 And there's going to be, sometime between -- well, it's  
50 proposed -- the timeline is such that between maybe

1 December of this year and February there's going to be  
2 a chance for more public comment on the Proposed Rule,  
3 and that would be another opportunity for your Council  
4 and others to, again, comment on where you think this  
5 bycatch could be because this is the U.S. Secretary of  
6 Commerce that's going to make the decision but they're  
7 still going through the rulemaking process. They've  
8 got to put out a proposed rule, it's got to go out for  
9 public comment and then once they get that they'll make  
10 a final rule and also publish that.

11  
12 So that's going to take a little while  
13 yet, and, again this is just on chinook salmon.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: How much time is  
16 there on that, the Department of Commerce, on their  
17 rulemaking?

18  
19 MR. RIVARD: I think it's 60 days that  
20 the public gets -- once the proposed rule comes out, to  
21 comment.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And when would that  
24 -- do you have an idea of when that will be?

25  
26 MR. RIVARD: Well, it could be sometime  
27 between December and February, coming up, and, of  
28 course, I will let everybody know as soon as I hear,  
29 you probably will hear it before I do, sometimes, but  
30 we'll make sure everybody knows and that would be the  
31 time to get a letter into the Secretary of Commerce,  
32 again, through the correspondence policy.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. And the  
35 Council discussed a letter to that effect, the  
36 addressee was unclear to the Council when we talked  
37 about that, transmitting a letter.

38  
39 MR. RIVARD: My recollection earlier  
40 today was that you wanted to send another letter to the  
41 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, kind of  
42 expressing your displeasure at their decision.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

45  
46 MR. RIVARD: But their decision has now  
47 been made. Their recommendation to the Secretary of  
48 Commerce has now been made and they're not going to  
49 revisit that. So your efforts, your energy should go  
50 to the Secretary of Commerce, if you so choose.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So forget the North  
2 Pacific Fisheries Management Council at this point.

3  
4 MR. RIVARD: Well, for chinook, the  
5 process is at that stage now where they're not going to  
6 revisit this. They've made their recommendation. You  
7 still got an opportunity for the chum salmon.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Council is  
10 clear now, as I am, that the Department of Commerce  
11 should be the addressee of our displeasure with the  
12 bycatch limit set at 60,000 with various -- and what is  
13 it 47,000-something, if they hit 60 two years in a row?

14  
15 MR. RIVARD: Yes, it's 47,591.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so our letter  
18 should reflect our displeasure with the North Pacific  
19 Fisheries Management Council. I would like Ray and  
20 Timothy to work with Vince on the formation of that  
21 letter, as having attended -- both having attended that  
22 meeting, but specific points that the letter should  
23 reflect regarding our displeasure and the -- I feel  
24 that there's an underreporting, there's a need for  
25 better improvement in the observer program and that the  
26 bycatch limit should be down at 29,320 or whatever that  
27 number was. And so I would like the Council to empower  
28 Tim and Ray to work with Vince on setting our various  
29 points, having attended that meeting for a letter to  
30 the Secretary of Commerce that will go through our  
31 correspondence review process at OSM. I will also be  
32 reviewing the letter and be the signature on that  
33 letter as the Chair.

34  
35 Is the Council comfortable with that?

36  
37 (Council nods affirmatively)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you comfortable  
40 with working with Vince on that, Ray, and Tim?

41  
42 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

45  
46 MR. GERVAIS: I had a question for Don.  
47 So is there of no use in contacting the Department of  
48 State about this issue because we're not an  
49 international body? Nichole Richie at that North  
50 Pacific Council meeting said that there was a potential

1 avenue through that direction, and this was prior to  
2 the escapement goal -- transboundary escapement goal  
3 being met this summer.

4  
5 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Tim. The  
6 official process now is to make the comments to the  
7 Department of Commerce, the Secretary. The State  
8 Department has their own responsibility. They have to  
9 make sure that the Treaty is met with Canada and I  
10 think independent of what you may or may not do here,  
11 they're going to do that job. So they're going to  
12 weigh in and they're going to make their determination  
13 whether this meets the US/Canada Treaty obligation. So  
14 you heard -- I think you heard Nichole give her  
15 testimony and she didn't think it did, but I don't know  
16 where that's going to go officially. And there has --  
17 I think there has been contact from the government of  
18 Canada to the State Department already. And I think  
19 they're -- they're looking closely at this, but I don't  
20 know what they're -- they're going to wait and see, I  
21 think, would be my opinion of what's going to happen,  
22 but I don't think it'd be worth your while to go that  
23 route, and I'm not sure that this program would -- I  
24 just don't know. I don't think this program would be  
25 contacting the Department of State at this stage.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I think we  
28 have to approach this through the proper channels to  
29 get the correspondence review by OSM to actually  
30 transmit our letter. We don't want to preclude our  
31 letter by having CC'd the State Department. And so at  
32 this point I think that letter can be promulgated  
33 stressing certain points.

34  
35 Vince.

36  
37 MR. MATHEWS: If I understand Don  
38 correctly, it's a 60 day comment period on the proposed  
39 rule, and if it is, if it starts December 1, this  
40 Council may not be able to -- won't have met.

41  
42 MR. RIVARD: Well, it hasn't come out  
43 yet so -- but they think the proposed rule is going to  
44 come out maybe as early as December 2009 and then the  
45 clock would start ticking for 60 day comment period.  
46 But your Council's already deciding what their stance  
47 is, they can -- you can write that letter any time now  
48 after this meeting.

49  
50 MR. MATHEWS: That's where I was going.

1 MR. RIVARD: And then once the comment  
2 period's open then you would submit it.

3  
4 MR. MATHEWS: And is that what the wish  
5 of the Council, that if this has to be turned in before  
6 your next meeting, that you empower the Chair to do  
7 that.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that's the  
10 objective of the Council to meet the comment period, is  
11 to write the letter, have the letter prepared and when  
12 the comments open, the comment period opens, the letter  
13 can be submitted. And so the Council is clear on that  
14 letter of transmittal and the authors of that letter  
15 will be Timothy and Ray. I will oversee that and make  
16 my own comments also, and then the letter will be  
17 prepared to be submitted to the Department of Commerce.

18  
19 Another comment, Don.

20  
21 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, I would just  
22 encourage the Council to wait and review the proposed  
23 rule, you might have some further comments or you might  
24 want -- you might modify a draft letter after you've  
25 actually seen the proposed rule.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, well, we'll  
28 have the letter primarily drafted and then -- that's a  
29 good comment, that we should wait until the rule is  
30 out, review the rule. It might be significantly  
31 different, no telling.

32  
33 So I see that the Council is agreeable  
34 to writing that letter and transmitting it in that  
35 manner. And so, thanks, Don, on that.

36  
37 And then we got YRDFA up next, so,  
38 Jason do you want to come up and speak to us.

39  
40 MR. HALE: Howdy everybody. Well,  
41 Becca was supposed to -- Becca Robbins-Gisclair works  
42 with our office and I think you all know works quite a  
43 bit with bycatch and policy, she sends her regrets for  
44 not being able to be here but there was a Council  
45 meeting at the same time and so she needed to be there  
46 to work for us all.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

49  
50 MR. HALE: So that's where she is. She

1 did give me a list of points she wanted me to make on  
2 the bycatch issue and while I'm up here, if it's okay  
3 I'd like to make a couple other points.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, please.

6

7 MR. HALE: Great. First, just because  
8 it's very relevant to what you were just talking about,  
9 Becca says when you write the letter that you just  
10 agreed to write, make sure that you ask:

11

12 That he reject the Council's approved  
13 chinook salmon management action and  
14 use his emergency regulation authority  
15 to implement a hard cap of, whatever  
16 your number is, effective immediately.

17

18 And also as a tip if possible send the  
19 letters both by snail mail and email, because  
20 apparently it takes, quote, forever, for letters to get  
21 through to D.C. government offices. So if you go by  
22 email also it'll increase the chances of it getting  
23 received and reviewed in time. So she points that out  
24 as well.

25

26 She also provides a review of what  
27 happened at the meeting in April, but I think it seems  
28 that you guys have covered that pretty well and the  
29 information's on the table. If you'd like me to go  
30 over it I'd be happy to read her comments on it, or I  
31 can just continue on.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we are fairly  
34 familiar with what occurred there having had two of our  
35 members attend. But I do feel that this emergency  
36 regulation to be implemented immediately with hard caps  
37 is good advice and should be incorporated into our  
38 letter. So continue.

39

40 MR. HALE: Okay. Next she wanted me to  
41 mention what's coming next in terms of chum salmon  
42 bycatch. And her notes are now that the Council has  
43 taken action on chinook salmon bycatch they will begin  
44 the process of adopting chum salmon management  
45 measures. The Council's salmon bycatch workgroup will  
46 meet October 29th, 2009 in Anchorage to refine the  
47 options that they are considering to reduce chum salmon  
48 bycatch. At their meeting in December of 2009 the  
49 Council will look at the workgroup's recommendations  
50 and further refine this list. They will not take

1 action, final action that is, until 2010 or 2011 and as  
2 we get closer to that point it will be increasingly  
3 important to start sending representatives to those  
4 meetings and testifying at those meetings.

5  
6 In the meantime, like now, a really  
7 good thing to do would be to write a letter to the  
8 Council, include information about the importance of  
9 chum salmon in all of your communities in the region  
10 and the impacts of the low returns and ask the Council  
11 to include a range of hard caps in their alternatives.  
12 And to send the letters by mail or fax to the North  
13 Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And that's.....

16  
17 MS. HALE: That was it from the Becca  
18 bycatch side of things.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And you have  
21 a comment there, Don.

22  
23 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair. Don  
24 Rivard. The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
25 just put out this flier on chum salmon as well. I  
26 think copies were made, did everybody.....

27  
28 MR. HALE: I put about 20 over there.

29  
30 MR. RIVARD: Okay, so there's copies on  
31 the table and I've got some more copies, I think, so we  
32 can -- that's an update as well.

33  
34 And they also plan to do another round  
35 a year from now of meeting with select Regional  
36 Advisory Councils and we made a recommendation that  
37 this be one of them that they come to again to talk  
38 about chum salmon. So if you send a letter you would  
39 encourage them to come again and have them represented  
40 here in front of you.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Thanks, Don.  
43 At this time the Chair would like to have the Council  
44 consider sending a letter to the North Pacific  
45 Fisheries Management Council enumerating how chum  
46 salmon are very important to our region and to our  
47 users and their conservation is -- and the bycatch  
48 conservation issue is very important to this Council  
49 and we want to be involved in their deliberation  
50 process, and we also would like to invite the North

1 Pacific Fisheries Management Council members to attend  
2 our meeting and we highly appreciated their attendance  
3 at our McGrath meeting last year. And so how does the  
4 Council feel in regards to transmitting that letter to  
5 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

6

7 MR. GERVAIS: Sounds great.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are the Council  
10 members agreeable to that.

11

12 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

13

14 (Council nods affirmatively)

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we have sort of a  
17 preliminary letter that we have transmitted about  
18 chinook -- Vince -- we have a preliminary letter that  
19 we've transmitted to the North Pacific Fisheries  
20 Management Council that could be used as sort of a  
21 template of our concerns, the chinook and the chum,  
22 that when they're entering into the chum deliberation  
23 we should reiterate those importances to our region and  
24 so forth. And so that original letter that we had last  
25 year can be used as sort of a template.

26

27 I see that the Council is agreeable to  
28 that letter to be transmitted to the North Pacific  
29 Fisheries Management Council inviting them and also  
30 delineating our use and concern for those stocks that  
31 are intercepted and bycatch in the pollock fisheries.

32

33 Any other comments to be inserted into  
34 that letter by the Council.

35

36 Ray.

37

38 MR. COLLINS: The letter gives us an  
39 opportunity to speak to the issue that they -- because  
40 king numbers remain low, in part, because of the  
41 bycatch and so on, people had to rely more on the chums  
42 and that point should be made that chums have become  
43 more important.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

46

47 MR. COLLINS: Plus the fact that in  
48 order to meet escapement goals into Canada we were  
49 required to put restrictions on subsistence.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.  
2  
3 MR. COLLINS: Somehow it's in direct to  
4 the fact that they didn't deal with the problem, we're  
5 having to deal with it in river and it's putting  
6 problems on our subsistence catch of kings and putting  
7 more importance on the chums.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Reliance on the  
10 chum.  
11  
12 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Those are  
15 good points to add to that letter. Any other  
16 insertions into that letter by the Council members.  
17  
18 (No comments)  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, we will  
21 transmit that letter.  
22  
23 And what would be the timeframe for  
24 transmitting that letter, Jason?  
25  
26 MR. HALE: Well, I'm afraid that it  
27 doesn't seem Becca has listed a specific timeframe,  
28 I'll have to get back to you on that. Their next  
29 meeting is in Anchorage December 9th through the 15th.  
30 It seems like it's a bit of a long process, I'd wager  
31 that there's not a monstrous rush but, you know, good  
32 to get it in for the meeting possibly.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Don.  
35  
36 MR. RIVARD: On the notice I just gave  
37 everybody it says that the letters must be in by  
38 December 5th -- excuse me, December 2nd, 5:00 p.m.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
41  
42 MR. RIVARD: Okay. How to provide  
43 input.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, I see  
46 that now.  
47  
48 MR. RIVARD: Okay, thank you.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, thank

1 you. And so that letter needs to be in, they can be  
2 transmitted electronically and so, okay, we know our  
3 timeframe on that one.

4

5 Any more comments, Jason.

6

7 MR. HALE: I don't know if now is an  
8 appropriate time to give a couple of general YRDFA  
9 project updates or if you'd rather me do that tomorrow.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Since you're here we  
12 might as well finish that off, go ahead.

13

14 MR. HALE: Sure. Sure. Just a quick  
15 update, you guys mentioned the teleconferences a few  
16 times and so I thought I'd let you know how they went  
17 from in terms of a strictly numbers perspective.

18

19 This year the number of lines used per  
20 call, which is a pretty good way to figure out how many  
21 folks are on the line increased by about 28 percent,  
22 that's -- when you look at the compound increase since  
23 2006, it's increased by 97 percent in those four years,  
24 or three years. So it's pretty dramatic how many more  
25 people are dialing in. Also the busiest call of each  
26 year, which normally is more or less around the  
27 midpoint of the run on the lower river boasted a 37  
28 percent increase in number of lines used relative to  
29 last year. More specifically there were 156 lines in  
30 use on the busiest call as opposed to 114 last year and  
31 last year we thought things were pretty darn busy and  
32 the year before was only 72 lines at the max, and the  
33 year before that was only 68 lines at the max. So in  
34 other words it would seem that people are calling in to  
35 get their information more and more. And part of it,  
36 I'm sure, is because we've done some more advertising  
37 pushes, but I think more to the point is, the worse the  
38 fishing is, the more people are interested in finding  
39 out exactly what's going on and having their voice  
40 heard and interacting with management and engaging in  
41 the process.

42

43 That's our speculation on what's going  
44 on. But regardless pretty heavy duty participation.

45

46 And this year, while participation was  
47 up 28 percent, the number -- the amount of total time  
48 on the calls, people were staying on the lines longer  
49 and the calls are going longer because of the increased  
50 input and I mean dramatically longer in terms of just

1 total line minutes used, almost double -- this year it  
2 was almost double what last year showed.

3  
4                   So for better, for worse, it was a very  
5 successful season on the teleconferences and if anybody  
6 has any comments on how we can make those things  
7 better, whether it's changing the format or not having  
8 them be quite so long or making sure we open it up so  
9 there's as much opportunity for comment as possible; we  
10 really would like to hear it so we can know how to  
11 direct the calls next year.

12  
13                   Another little thing we're looking at  
14 doing for next year, we know a lot of people's  
15 schedules don't allow them to necessarily be by a phone  
16 at 1:00 o'clock for one to three hours every Tuesday,  
17 so we're looking at ways we can record the calls and  
18 put them on line as podcasts. We'd probably divide it  
19 into two parts, the first part, all the way through all  
20 the subsistence reports and the management update and  
21 that would be Part I, and then Part II would be the  
22 public comment period, just so that there'd be a more  
23 manageable bytes to download onto whatever you download  
24 things on to, whether it's your iPod or just listen to  
25 it on your computer. But we're just trying to think of  
26 ways to make sure more people can find out what's going  
27 on and get plugged in.

28  
29                   Other few little things.

30  
31                   The YRDFA Board will be getting  
32 together at the end of the month, mainly to talk about  
33 Board of Fish proposals, just like you guys just did.  
34 We'll be reviewing proposals and trying to look for any  
35 kind of consensus we could find. Of course we're a  
36 consensus group riverwide. So we're going to be  
37 looking to see any avenues for that in preparation for  
38 the meeting. Speaking of meetings, I know there's a  
39 lot this winter. The YRDFA annual meeting has been set  
40 for February 15th through the 18th in Nulato, it's our  
41 20th annual meeting, so we'll be doing a little bit of  
42 looking backwards, looking forwards as well as planning  
43 for what's happening right now. But just wanted to get  
44 that date out there a little bit more.

45  
46                   And lastly, because Dani referred to it  
47 earlier, there was a little bit of question about will  
48 YRDFA trying to spearhead another process this winter  
49 looking at how to manage next summer, we have put in a  
50 proposal to the Yukon River Panel who funded last

1 year's effort, we won't know anything about it until  
2 December.

3  
4                   The proposed structure, if you remember  
5 last year, we did a bunch of regional teleconferences,  
6 two each for the Lower.....

7  
8                   (Teleconference message)

9  
10                  MR. HALE: .....for the Lower, Middle  
11 and Upper River, and then we had a meeting.

12  
13                  This year we feel like people, you  
14 know, really in hearing about this issue, they know  
15 what options are out there, they've talked about it  
16 quite a bit, and so we're going to jump right in with  
17 both feet and have a riverwide teleconference, if it's  
18 funded, in March, we'll send out information in advance  
19 and hopefully get people thinking about what they're  
20 going to talk about, but present the projections,  
21 present what people decided last year and kind of how  
22 things went and then open it up to any new ideas on how  
23 to manage, or how not to manage or concerns or what  
24 have you and we'll have one teleconference. If it goes  
25 long we'll just schedule a second date to finish up the  
26 conversation and then we'll have a meeting of 50 or 60  
27 people in Fairbanks in April, just like last year, try  
28 and sort out exactly what the plan should look like.  
29 And at that meeting, invited attendees, who we could  
30 fund some travel for some people, at the very least  
31 would be people including, like last year, RAC  
32 representatives, Yukon River Panel representatives,  
33 Inter-Tribal Consortium representatives, make sure  
34 there's somebody in the room from every fishing  
35 district, the YRDFA Board, that sort of thing.

36  
37                  So anyway that's what we're looking at.  
38 But it's going to be up to the Yukon River Panel as to  
39 whether it gets funded and what the final format's  
40 going to be. But it may be coming so I thought I'd let  
41 you guys know.

42  
43                  And that's all I have.

44  
45                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Jason.  
46 I attended that YRDFA in Fairbanks and the way it was  
47 facilitated with people broken out into various tables  
48 from various parts of the river and with managers and  
49 so forth, it wasn't all faction throughout the room,  
50 everybody was -- you were sitting at tables with

1 various people from the lower river, middle river,  
2 upper river and so you had to look everybody else in  
3 the eye and it kind of lent to sort of a -- more of an  
4 understanding of where people were coming from and to  
5 your group discussion and so forth, and I thought that  
6 -- and the product produced was a very -- I felt as  
7 good as possible product as could have been achieved  
8 with all of those various user groups in that room.  
9 And so I was very pleased with that YRDFA facilitating  
10 that.

11  
12 And the teleconferences are very  
13 instrumental in letting people blow off steam and to  
14 understand what's actually going on with management and  
15 the podcast idea thing is a great idea because  
16 sometimes I'm busy and I would love to be on the  
17 teleconference but I've got something else to do and so  
18 I think that if you could do that, that would be great.  
19 I would like to lock into that one.

20  
21 Any other comments to YRDFA.

22  
23 Tim.

24  
25 MR. GERVAIS: Jason, would YRDFA be  
26 making any comments to the Secretary of Commerce on  
27 this rule coming up, is that within your jurisdiction?  
28

29 MR. HALE: I think it's very fair to  
30 say that we'll be sending a letter and following our  
31 own advice, so to speak. Yes.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So other comments.

34  
35 (No comments)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks a lot,  
38 Jason. We really appreciate it and we always highly  
39 enjoy YRDFA's assistance to the Council on various  
40 issues and thanks for your attendance.

41  
42 MR. HALE: And thank you everybody for  
43 having me and entertaining me and letting me ramble. I  
44 really appreciate it.

45  
46 (Laughter)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So at this time  
49 we're kind of down to the wire there. Vince is  
50 indicating a time out needs to get everything ready for

1 Bingo. You got a comment Eleanor.

2

3 MS. YATLIN: Just on the letter to the  
4 North Pacific.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

7

8 MS. YATLIN: .....and asking -- well,  
9 last year we asked for a cap on, what, 29?

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

12

13 MS. YATLIN: So if fishing is lower  
14 this year, you know, the fish coming into the rivers,  
15 what's the possibility of asking for a lower cap,  
16 that's just what I'm asking.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, according to  
19 Don here, the North Pacific Fisheries Management  
20 Council is finished with chinook, they set it at  
21 60,000, they're not going to think about it anymore.

22

23 The Department of Commerce, what YRDFA  
24 is saying is the Department of Commerce can implement  
25 emergency regulations to implement the reduced bycatch  
26 immediately, not in two years, but immediately. That's  
27 what our letter should be stating to the Department of  
28 Commerce about chinook. And so that letter's going to  
29 the Department of Commerce.

30

31 The North Pacific Fisheries Management  
32 Council isn't going to revisit the chinook issue.

33

34 So we need to have a time out here --  
35 well, you've got one more comment there, Don.

36

37 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, regarding this  
38 emergency order, it's my understanding that even if  
39 there were an emergency order, it would still take  
40 months to implement because NOAA Staff, well they would  
41 have to do an analysis that would take a few months  
42 before any emergency regulation could be put into  
43 place. So it's not like they can just -- an on and off  
44 switch, so just wanted to clarify.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I didn't think that  
47 the wheels of bureaucracy would be like cyberspeed, but  
48 I do think that it would be light years ahead of what  
49 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council's doing.  
50 They're like implementing over a long period of time

1 and so -- yeah, 2012.

2

3 MR. RIVARD: This new regulation for  
4 chinook, the idea is that it would start in 2011, the A  
5 season in January of 2011.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay. Vince.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. The way they  
10 explained it to Eastern Interior is that they don't  
11 really have the same, like emergency authority that  
12 Fish and Game has to act now, like you said, they lay  
13 out a process. I believe they said at Eastern Interior  
14 it'd take a year to a year and a half.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: But don't quote me on  
19 that, I'm not sure but it was a long period of time,  
20 it's not like you're thinking that within a week or  
21 maybe two months there would be emergency action, it  
22 doesn't happen.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jason.

27

28 MR. HALE: Yeah, and I do have some  
29 notes on that timeline. And basically as long as the  
30 bycatch numbers remain as low as they were in 2008, the  
31 requirements for issuing any kind of emergency rules  
32 are just not likely to be met. Only if the bycatch  
33 numbers increase and increase dramatically can we  
34 petition for the emergency rules before the final  
35 regulations would take effect in 2011.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see.

38

39 MR. HALE: Of course, we would  
40 certainly -- YRDFA would be participating if that  
41 happened, but right now it's just -- the trigger's not  
42 going to be hit, so to speak.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Right.  
45 Okay, thanks for the clarification. So, Vince, a  
46 timeout for dinner. We got Bingo coming in here and so  
47 we'll adjourn the meeting until tomorrow.

48

49 What about this evening session, Vince.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: I'll be here in case  
2 anybody comes and then your term wasn't to adjourn, it  
3 was to recess.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Recess. Recess.  
6  
7 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we don't want to get  
8 into adjournment.  
9  
10 (Laughter)  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Recess.  
13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: Recess. Board of Fish  
15 did that once and it caused nightmares.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay.  
18  
19 (Laughter)  
20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: They meant to recess and  
22 they adjourned.  
23  
24 (Laughter)  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Recess until  
27 tomorrow.  
28  
29 (Off record)  
30  
31 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 9/16/10