

1 WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME I

7
8 McGrath, Alaska
9 October 4, 2005
10 9:00 o'clock a.m.

11
12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14
15 Ronald Sam, Chair
16 Ray Collins
17 Donald Honea
18 Benedict Jones
19 Carl Morgan
20 Jack Reakoff
21 Mickey Stickman
22 Robert Walker
23
24 Regional Council Coordinator; Vince Mathews

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(McGrath, Alaska - 10/4/2005)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to call the Western Interior to order. Vince, roll call.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Robert Walker.

MR. WALKER: Yeah.

MR. MATHEWS: Donald Honea.

MR. HONEA: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Tom Kriska, I called, he wasn't able to make it due to conflict with his family. His wife was out of town and he had to take care of the kids.

Mickey Stickman.

MR. STICKMAN: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Ron Sam.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Yo.

MR. MATHEWS: Ray Collins.

MR. COLLINS: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff.

MR. REAKOFF: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones. He's here. Carl Morgan.

MR. MORGAN: Yo.

MR. MATHEWS: And as you know you have a vacant seat with the resignation of George Siavelis. So you have eight of your nine standing members so you have a quorum.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, do we have that

1 declaration and all that, and that workshop to begin
2 with?

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: No, we don't have to do
5 disclaimers anymore. I did ask and got that confirmed,
6 we are not doing disclaimers at this time. But that does
7 not mean that if you know of a conflict you have to
8 acknowledge it, okay. So it doesn't leave you off the
9 hook but if you know that taking discussion or a position
10 on an issue that you're going to be financially gained on
11 you need to acknowledge that. So you don't have to go
12 through that but you're required to share that if you
13 have a personal conflict of interest.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Vince, this is the
16 first time I seen a work session right off at the
17 beginning, what does that tell us now?

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: The work session, last time
20 we did it kind of as a training session. We're not doing
21 training, it's just to get everybody a little bit up to
22 speed on what's there. I think you guys are all fairly
23 comfortable on how the book is arranged so I would cover
24 that, arrangement of the booklet.

25
26 Draft agenda and how topics will be
27 presented. That's also for the audience. When the plane
28 arrives this room will fill up, but it's a dual purpose
29 on that, of how it'd be presented, so they understand to
30 get up to the mic, stay up at the mic, et cetera.

31
32 Anyway, so that's what that session is.

33
34 And then you guys asked early on, I
35 think, two meetings ago and possibly the last meeting
36 just to have an open discussion about how C&T, customary
37 and traditional use determinations, how that process is,
38 and Polly has a presentation or wants to discuss that
39 with you because it's a major concern.

40
41 And then very quickly I'll talk about
42 streamlining travel forms. So that's what we have for
43 the work session.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, where does that put
46 us right off the bat then?

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I can start off with
49 just going over the booklet and the agenda, if you'd
50 like.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right, go ahead.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The booklet, as you
4 know, there's a table of contents on the yellow page.
5 And the proposal numbers are over there but we'll help
6 you find those proposal analysis if you don't remember
7 FP06-03 is whatever proposal, so that's how that is.

8

9 We'll have periodic handouts. I was
10 hoping to get here a little earlier to give you packets
11 on each but we'll just pass those out. For example, we
12 have copies of the age, sex and length report that's
13 coming in and then we have copies of open sea salmon
14 saving areas and that. And there's some other handouts
15 so we'll acknowledge those as they are needed, and
16 hopefully during a break get some of those out to you
17 earlier.

18

19 The draft agenda is in front of you.
20 Pretty standard draft agenda. We experimented last
21 meeting and it's on the back of your name tag, and that
22 was from your meeting in Anvik, we experimented with kind
23 of making sure you have a good administrative record, and
24 on the back of your name thing it goes how we recommend,
25 you can diverge from it on doing proposals. So one would
26 be introduction of proposal, which could be myself, and
27 then there would be the presentation of analysis, which
28 would be Laura or Polly or other Staff, and then we would
29 ask for agency comments, Fish and Game, other agencies,
30 tribal councils, et cetera, Advisory Group comments, if
31 we have some and then any written comments I would give
32 and then the mic is open for public testimony. And then
33 this number 6 is what we developed in Anvik, and it's to
34 help you when you get to your recommendation stage to
35 decide to answer those questions that are there.

36

37 Is there a conservation concern, yes or
38 no. And how would your recommendation address that
39 concern. And then the next question is, is your
40 recommendation supported by substantial evidence,
41 including traditional ecological knowledge.

42

43 Please remember it doesn't mean you have
44 to bring up statistical information, it's just that you
45 need to give what evidence you have on that, which could
46 be traditional knowledge, your understanding of being in
47 the area, et cetera. And then how the recommendation
48 addresses subsistence needs. And will it be detrimental
49 to subsistence users. And then will the recommendation
50 unnecessarily restrict other uses involved.

1 It's easier on the record if you
2 acknowledge that your recommendation may impact other
3 uses so the Board knows and your Chair, when he goes to
4 the Board, can confidently say, when the Board says,
5 well, did you guys discuss how this would impact
6 commercial fisheries or guided hunts or sporthunting or
7 whatever it happens to be. And then you do your vote.

8
9 So these questions came pretty much out
10 of the three requirements in ANILCA. So if you could
11 follow that.

12
13 The only other addition to your agenda
14 that is different is at the end I put a section on there,
15 meeting and coordination evaluation surveys. We'll have
16 to do that verbally. We're now required on survey and
17 other materials that we request from you that they have
18 to go through approval with OPM [sic] so I wasn't able to
19 pull that off. But that's the only different thing from
20 your normal -- oh, actually there is one more difference.
21 But that's one major addition to your thing, and we'll
22 just talk about that at the end of the meeting.

23
24 The other change was requested from the
25 Federal and State in-season managers for fisheries. They
26 would like to do a summary of the season, that's just --
27 well, it's still going now, but pretty much towards the
28 end of it, before you got into proposals, so we moved
29 that before your proposals. And that way they can share
30 what went on so when you take up a proposal that might
31 affect next season you understand how this season went.

32
33 Other than that, that's it. Randy's not
34 here, but my understanding is there's going to be another
35 meeting following this so you may have people in the
36 community here getting confused on which meeting. But I
37 believe, Ray, that Randy is scheduling a meeting to deal
38 with the Unit 19 issues.

39
40 MR. COLLINS: Right. Right.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: So I've already been
43 approached by people in town saying, well, is there one
44 or two meetings, so there's actually two meetings but
45 it's after yours.

46
47 So that's how the agenda is laid out.

48
49 How topics would be presented. Pretty
50 much you know that pattern. I already went over part of

1 it, but I would encourage you, if you need someone at the
2 table, to invite them up to the table and if you feel
3 that they should stay at the table for the discussion
4 then ask them to stay. Most of them, all of them are
5 willing to do that. That saves a lot of time instead of
6 them going back and forth, back and forth, back and
7 forth. But that's your call on that.

8
9 Presentations. We've gone over this in
10 training. If you don't understand it, please ask
11 questions and ask them as many times as you need to to
12 get clarification because that's why Staff's here, that's
13 why we have them physically here to do that.

14
15 Meeting time schedule. This Council
16 pretty much is fine on scheduling time. You know how to
17 balance the times out so I won't go into that. That was
18 mainly for Eastern Interior that that was carried over,
19 that I would give the Chair a general idea of when these
20 topics would come up. You guys generally are very
21 conscious of time and are able to monitor your own time.
22 And Eastern can, too, but they've suggested that we give
23 them a general idea.

24
25 That's pretty much it for my session
26 unless Staff have anything else on the overview of the
27 program.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: And, again, these books are
32 put together, if there's anything missing or that, don't
33 be afraid to say I don't have that page, we should be
34 able to create or find a copy for it because it's going
35 to -- on some of these it's going to be critical to have
36 some of that information, if that was to be missing.

37
38 So with that, that's all I have for the
39 work session unless you guys have any travel needs or
40 lodging needs.

41
42 There is one need that the Hotel McGrath
43 was wondering, if you guys are going to eat lunch there.
44 So we asked that they talk to you, Ron, I don't know if
45 their staff did.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, they talked to me.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: So you will be going there
50 for lunch?

1 MR. WALKER: We need the vehicle, Vince.
2
3 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. So what time did
4 they.....
5
6 MR. COLLINS: There isn't lunch at the
7 school today?
8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Not to my knowledge, no one
10 contacted me on that, and Clara left the room. There was
11 talk about a fundraiser but no one ever got back to me.
12
13 MR. COLLINS: Okay. You better check
14 with Clara again when she gets back to see.
15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. So did they give a
17 time at the Hotel McGrath on lunch?
18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.
20
21 MR. WALKER: Vehicle, Vince.
22
23 MR. REAKOFF: They were just wondering
24 whether we wanted lunch.
25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, and Ron says you do
27 and Robert says, we do.
28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's five of us.
30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah.
32
33 MR. WALKER: Yeah, there's five of us.
34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. We'll have to ask
36 Clara on the fundraiser and then on that. Ray, has
37 invited everybody to his house tonight.
38
39 MR. COLLINS: Yes, over to my house
40 tonight.
41
42 MR. MATHEWS: And I've told all the
43 restaurants to shut down so you kind of have to go to
44 Ray's.
45
46 (Laughter)
47
48 MR. MATHEWS: No, seriously I told the
49 hotels don't plan on meals because.....
50

1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.
2
3 MR. MATHEWS:they're kind of going
4 into their off season.
5
6 Any other travel concerns with Council
7 members at all.
8
9 The charter worked well, I thought.
10
11 Okay, with that if there's nothing else
12 for me then Polly will give you.....
13
14 MR. WALKER: Vince.
15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. You need to turn on
17 the mic if you can.
18
19 MR. WALKER: Is there any other Staff
20 going to show up here other than what we have here?
21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, there's a whole bunch
23 of other Staff going to show up. I probably can't go
24 down the full list but there will be a commercial fishery
25 biologist here from -- well, from Fish and Game there'll
26 be Steve Hays and Dan Bergstrom as far as I know. From
27 the Wildlife Division there'll be Randy Rogers, Roy
28 Nowlin, and I heard Beth Lenart and Caroline Brown, but
29 she's not with wildlife, she's with Subsistence Division.
30
31 From OSM, Office of Subsistence
32 Management. Tom Boyd, Assistant Regional Director will
33 be here along with Carl Jack, the Native Liaison. Greg
34 Bos, Rod Campbell, Maureen Clark. And Maureen may be
35 tapping you guys to go on radio, so we were going to try
36 to plug you guys into the radio station.
37
38 For BLM there'll be Ingrid McSweeney and
39 then Wennona Brown. So there's a whole bunch of people
40 coming in on a charter that they set up and then the
41 commercial flight. And then Fred Andersen will be here.
42
43 MS. WHEELER: Look what the cat dragged
44 in.
45
46 MR. ANDERSEN: Hello.
47
48 (Laughter)
49
50 MR. MATHEWS: So anyway there'll be

1 various Staff coming and going. We do have, and I'm
2 getting nervous here, Officer Sears here and we have
3 Officer Gibbens, I think Brett's here, well, he was
4 earlier, he will be, I think. And then the VPSO talked
5 to me yesterday and would like to attend this so he may
6 be in and out. His name is Ken.

7
8 Refuge Staff. Well, I can go on and on,
9 there's just -- Kanuti's got representatives here through
10 Wenona and Lisa. Koyukuk's got Geoff. And then Innoko
11 will have Staff in and out throughout the day, I believe.

12
13 And then let's see, who else am I leaving
14 out. Yukon-Delta will, to my knowledge, will not have
15 anybody here, there's not an overlap issue.

16
17 And then Tim Craig is here from BLM. So
18 they're all going to be here.

19
20 Back to my original thing, please
21 communicate to them if you want them to stay up to the
22 table when you have an issue. That makes them more
23 comfortable to know that they don't have to go back and
24 forth and get your attention to get back up and stuff.

25
26 And any other -- Don Rivard's here and
27 there's others with OSM. Glenn Stout is here, the area
28 biologist. He's going to do a PowerPoint presentation,
29 might as well cover that now. We will move, Tina and I
30 will either get smaller or do something and we'll be
31 projecting material on the wall. It's going to be
32 important the stuff that needs to be projected because
33 you need to have an idea where the lines are or whatever
34 is being projected. So we'll maybe just have to
35 rearrange the room a little bit.

36
37 Back to safety concerns, washrooms are up
38 that way, everyone knows how to get out of here, through
39 the doors to your right, or left. Phone. We will be
40 teleconferencing in Pete DeMatteo on some issues. Again,
41 do not hesitate to say, Pete, I didn't hear you, I don't
42 understand or whatever, because he is in the same
43 situation as you, he can't really tell what you're doing.
44 So if we can help him out on that, that will make his
45 life easier.

46
47 So that's -- anybody else on Staff or
48 other Staff have some safety or logistics that needs to
49 be covered.

50

1 MR. COLLINS: You weren't implying that
2 we didn't know what we're doing, did you?
3
4 (Laughter)
5
6 MR. MATHEWS: And then I'll have to check
7 with Staff on the coffee. There will be snacks later,
8 once I get a chance to unpack them, but coffee might be a
9 little bit of a challenge. I think they said there'd be
10 a coffee pot available and I took that to be coffee, but
11 we'll work on it.
12
13 MR. WALKER: No rolls.
14
15 MR. MATHEWS: There's stores here.
16
17 MR. WALKER: No rolls.
18
19 MR. MATHEWS: What?
20
21 MR. WALKER: Rolls.
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Rolls. Now, it's my wife's
26 birthday tomorrow and she helped me shop.
27
28 (Laughter)
29
30 MR. MATHEWS: And so it is 50 percent
31 healthy and 50 percent whatever. You can guess where the
32 50 percent whatever came from.
33
34 (Laughter)
35
36 MR. MATHEWS: No, she thought you guys
37 should be eating some more health stuff. So we
38 incorporated some more healthy stuff but it's going to
39 take me a while to unpack it and we'll work on coffee.
40
41 That's all I have. And no other Staff is
42 indicating any logistical stuff. And Ray will have to
43 give us a time of when we need to kind of shut down here
44 or recess for the dinner.
45
46 MR. COLLINS: Well, if we have to be back
47 here at 7:00, we'll have to eat at 6:00.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Shut down about 5:00 or
50 5:30.

1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, 5:30 is when I
2 planned for you coming, at 5:30.
3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Well, do you know if we're
5 going to have people testifying?
6
7 MR. COLLINS: We may not. We may not.
8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.
10
11 MR. COLLINS: And I don't know how we'd
12 find about that because there isn't a lot of Federal land
13 right around local so the issues here are mostly with the
14 State managing the moose recovery project here.
15
16 MR. MATHEWS: And on that, the way we've
17 done it in the past, we just need to have one or two
18 members here, myself and the court recorder here.
19
20 MR. COLLINS: Okay.
21
22 MR. MATHEWS: If we want to go that
23 route, and then you would summarize the next day, the
24 testimony that you received. It would be best if the
25 whole Council came here but if that doesn't work with our
26 plans.
27
28 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.
29
30 MR. MATHEWS: We did post it on the
31 McGrath web page and on the McGrath chat line, I don't
32 know what it's called. It's the first time I've ever
33 done that and I have gotten replies from that. So people
34 do read the message board so it's possible others would
35 show up. But, again, Ray's right, there's not much
36 Federal land in this area that they might have interest
37 in coming here.
38
39 Okay, with that, it'd be Polly. And does
40 Polly need any AV?
41
42 MS. WHEELER: (Shakes head negatively)
43
44 MR. MATHEWS: No, okay.
45
46 MS. WHEELER: Thank you. Mr. Chair.
47 Vince had asked me to give an overview of the C&T
48 process. He said earlier that I wanted to do this, and I
49 think that's an overstatement, I was asked to do it and I
50 complied with the request, Mr. Chair.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MS. WHEELER: So just for the record,
4 just to make a little correction there.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MS. WHEELER: I don't have a formal
9 presentation. Part of the reason why I don't have a form
10 presentation is that C&T analysis have been an issue of
11 litigation between the State and Federal programs and
12 some other things, too.

13

14 Currently there's an RFR that the State
15 filed at the end of August on the moose in Unit 12. So
16 it suffices to say it's somewhat of a contentious issue.
17 So I'll speak to the process that as, analysts, that we
18 go by. And I guess probably the most useful thing for
19 you would be that if you have questions or things that we
20 should think about when we're doing the C&T analysis that
21 you can raise them. And it might also be something that
22 you want to just kind of think about and when we talk
23 about Proposal 2, which is the nonsalmon fish for
24 Chistochina and Mentasta, some of these issues might come
25 up. So sometimes it's kind of hard to talk about it in
26 the abstract so, you know, you kind of think of these
27 things when you've got an issue before you.

28

29 But I'll just give you a little bit of
30 background on the C&T analysis. And I'll say up front
31 I've got a cold and I've got a cherry cough drop in my
32 mouth so if my voice sounds funny that's the reason, or
33 maybe it just sounds funny.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MS. WHEELER: The history of the
38 customary and traditional use analysis is basically when
39 the Federal Program started it took on all of the C&T
40 determinations that the State had. The idea way back
41 when, what 15 years ago, 16 years ago, was that the
42 Federal program was temporary, that it was in everybody's
43 best interest to keep the programs as similar as possible
44 so that when the State got management authority back,
45 nothing would be too changed. So the Federal Program
46 took on all of the State customary and traditional use
47 determinations.

48

49 Through time, you know, because, I guess
50 some people might think 16 years is temporary, but I

1 don't know it's verging on not being temporary. Through
2 time -- uh-huh, the map fell down, maybe that was a sign
3 from above -- through time, our program has changed some
4 of the C&T determinations.

5
6 The way that C&T determinations change,
7 is if we have a proposal, we don't do it in and of
8 itself, the proposal has to come from the public. So the
9 proposal comes from the public for a C&T determination.
10 If they want a C&T determination to be expanded, if they
11 want it to be shrunk. The one that's come before you the
12 most probably is moose in 21(E), that's been a regular
13 one on the Western Interior front, I would say.

14
15 As a general rule and, this is, again,
16 background, when there's no C&T determination, it means
17 that all rural residents can hunt under Federal
18 subsistence regulations. All the C&T determinations do
19 is narrow that pool of people that are qualified to hunt
20 under Federal regulations.

21
22 One could say and it has been brought up
23 before is why do we even do them, because under ANILCA,
24 it doesn't specifically call for them, but we do them
25 because we basically borrowed them from the State program
26 way back when. And I think, now, some people view the
27 C&T determination sort of as a validation of their use to
28 a certain extent.

29
30 When we do the analysis we look at the
31 eight factors, with which you're all familiar, the State
32 calls them criteria, we call them factors. There's not a
33 lot of difference between the two of them, quite frankly.
34 The main thing is it's looking to a long-term consistent
35 pattern of use. One of the criticisms of our program is
36 that we don't treat the eight factors as a checklist, in
37 other words, we don't tend to have a discussion about
38 each factor but if you read ANILCA, again, it doesn't
39 call for the C&T determinations. And the point of doing
40 the analysis is that the eight factors, together, give
41 you a pattern of use, it's not, oh, we don't have data
42 for one of the factors, therefore, there is no C&T use.
43 We look at the eight factors together to look at or
44 illuminating a long-term consistent pattern of use.

45
46 Now, you've all been around long enough
47 that you know that a lot of the sources of data, I mean
48 from some of the communities we don't have data, at least
49 written down data, some of the data that we have is old,
50 some of the data that we have is pretty sketchy. We do

1 the best we can. We rely on the Councils a lot to bring
2 up use patterns. I know when we did the rainbow trout
3 C&T determination a couple years ago, Carl, you were
4 talking about some people that you know in Chuathbaluk
5 and Crooked Creek that were fishing for rainbows down in
6 the Aniak. I mean that's the kind of information that we
7 look to the Councils for, to fill in the gaps. Because
8 we recognize that a lot of the information that we have
9 available to us is pretty limited.

10

11 We don't look to archeological data.
12 Some people say, well, you should go way back when into
13 the archeological record. But ANILCA is really looking
14 at, you know, kind of generational use and kind of going
15 back to the archeological record is stretching things a
16 little bit.

17

18 We do do C&T analysis for introduced
19 species, for example, muskox. And that's, again, when we
20 look to the pattern of use in a community. Some of the
21 criticisms have been, well, we don't have an absolute
22 standard for how many people in a community makes a use.
23 But that's sort of subjective, too, because it can be
24 that a couple of people in a community have consistently
25 used a resource in one area or it may be that the use has
26 been really intermittent. But those are all the things
27 that we consider, we, being the anthropologists, that
28 develop the analysis and we look to the Councils and the
29 public to fill in those gaps.

30

31 I would say as a general rule we tend to
32 be inclusive rather than exclusive. In other words, we
33 tend to make the C&T findings, recommendations tend to be
34 as broad as possible. But I think the thing to remember
35 with all of them is that if you feel like a community has
36 been excluded that should be included, there's always the
37 proposal process. And just because we have a C&T
38 determination, just because the Board makes a C&T
39 determination, they can go back and change that based on
40 new or different information.

41

42 So, Mr. Chair, I guess that's sort of my
43 broad summary. And I'm here for the duration and
44 probably will be in these meetings, and I will actually
45 be talking about a C&T analysis here a little bit later
46 today. So if you have any questions I'm happy to answer
47 them but they may, again, come up when you have the
48 analysis before you.

49

50 Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. And we'll be using
2 that form throughout. So we're pretty much covered and
3 done with the work session.
4
5 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I had a
6 question.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.
9
10 MR. COLLINS: Polly, the issue that
11 seemed to have come up and I'm wondering if the Board has
12 moved forward at all on it, is the number of people that
13 develop a pattern. Because what we had on the moose
14 issue, you had maybe two or three people in a community
15 that had hunted moose up there in part of the area
16 consistently, but making a determination on the whole
17 community means all of a sudden you got two or 300
18 hunters that now have C&T up there and that looks like
19 it's going to be a growing conflict in terms of the
20 numbers.
21
22 MS. WHEELER: Right.
23
24 MR. COLLINS: Because you can't make
25 individual or family determinations.
26
27 MS. WHEELER: Right.
28
29 MR. COLLINS: I guess that's what they've
30 decided.
31
32 So that's not resolved and each issue is
33 just going to have to be debated by the Councils, I
34 guess, is that it?
35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Polly.
37
38 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. Member Collins.
39 I would say that, no, it has not been -- I personally
40 think it would be a mistake to say, well, it has to be
41 five people in a community using that resource or else
42 forget it.
43
44 MR. COLLINS: Right.
45
46 MS. WHEELER: Because we're talking about
47 human use patterns, you know, human uses change.
48
49 MR. COLLINS: Right.
50

1 MS. WHEELER: But I recognize the
2 frustration when you only have -- you know, how many
3 people make a use, or how many people make a pattern of
4 use.

5
6 MR. COLLINS: Right.

7
8 MS. WHEELER: And I think that it will --
9 I mean I think you're right, I mean I think it's going to
10 be -- this not the only place that this issue is going to
11 come up. And we've got to remember, too, when we do C&T
12 analysis, we're thinking about the status of whatever the
13 stock or population is that the analysis is being done
14 on, you know, so you can't say, well, there's not enough
15 moose so therefore we have to have a smaller C&T
16 determination, or a more restrictive C&T determination.
17 You're supposed to look at the pattern of use.

18
19 I guess I would say, you know, if you
20 have intermittent harvest tickets, and there's a couple
21 of people in a community of 500 that maybe use that or
22 maybe don't, you know, to me that's not really
23 constituting a pattern of use.

24
25 There was a study that was done in the
26 late '80s by the Bob Wolf, with the Division of
27 Subsistence, and he came up with this rule called the
28 70/30 rule, where basically like 30 percent of the people
29 in a community take about 70 percent of the resources,
30 and that speaks to the sharing that goes on within a
31 community. To me, that's something to think about. You
32 know, if you have 30 percent of a community -- and I'm
33 not saying we should use that as a guideline, but I'm
34 just saying, you know, those are the kinds of things that
35 we look at when we look at this pattern of use.

36
37 And, again, ANILCA is mute on a lot of
38 these issues so we are trying to look at the eight
39 factors, we're looking at this pattern of use, what
40 reasonably constitutes a pattern of use. But you're
41 right, Member Collins, in that, it can be subjective but
42 I think it would be a mistake to go to absolute firm
43 guidelines because we're talking about people here.

44
45 Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: Just a couple comments.
50 That's my primary concern about this Unit 21(E) is

1 opening the floodgate. And if the population declines,
2 you know, then we have to sort out this 804 thing, and
3 then we got -- our constituents are put in a bind under
4 that. And that's what my primary concern with that
5 21(E).

6
7 You know, I don't know why the Board
8 hasn't looked at a community bag limit, you know, to stay
9 within those parameters of use. That would be one way to
10 give those communities a C&T but still they have to stay
11 within their parameters of customary and traditional
12 uses.

13
14 I have been a proponent in the upper
15 portion of the Western Interior of getting on the record
16 with C&Ts on caribou and so forth and I feel that it's
17 necessary to be on record as a customary and traditional
18 use. Those caribou populations have dramatic declines
19 and, you know, we have road accessibility, we have no
20 determination on caribou, for all rural residents and so
21 I think that customary and traditional determinations
22 have their place.

23
24 I think there's some fine tweaking that
25 could be done by the Board on some of these issues that
26 we've had on community bag limit C&Ts, and I feel that we
27 should explore that.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

30
31 MS. WHEELER: That's a good point.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: This is a work session,
34 right, we're not just -- we're just.....

35
36 MS. WHEELER: We're just talking.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM:talking, it's
39 informal, okay. Go ahead, Polly.

40
41 MS. WHEELER: Yes, I was going to say Mr.
42 Chair, Member Reakoff, I think that's a good point.
43 Because you have a program where you do these C&T
44 analysis and then what, you know, and there ought to be
45 some segue into -- from the C&T analysis, the C&T
46 determinations into methods and means because that is
47 part of the overall pattern. Methods and means and that
48 sort of thing.

49
50 I mean the State has done that in several

1 examples, there's the Chalkyitsik community harvest
2 program, and I think that there's some unexplored avenues
3 or some under-utilized avenues that the Federal Program
4 could go in with regard to that.

5
6 So, yeah, that's my comment, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Polly.

9
10 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

13
14 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Polly, you mentioned something about C&Ts being -- some
16 of it may be in State court being questioned or testify
17 -- or could you explain that a little more on what's
18 happening with the State court on C&T?

19
20 MS. WHEELER: Well, I'm not going to
21 speak to the State court even though I'm probably a
22 frustrated lawyer in many respects, I guess I'm not going
23 to speak to what's going on in the State court. But what
24 I can say is that we currently have -- the Board made a
25 decision at their May meeting dealing with moose in Unit
26 12 for the community of Chistochina and they put
27 Chistochina -- or gave Chistochina a positive C&T for
28 moose in Unit 12, the State appealed that. You know, we
29 have the RFR process. The.....

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Request for
32 reconsideration.

33
34 MS. WHEELER: Thank you. The request for
35 reconsideration and they appealed that decision. And,
36 you know, they have a formula where they're saying giving
37 Chistochina all of Unit 12 means that there's 10,000
38 extra square miles of a C&T and their calculation is that
39 a reasonable determination would be 2,500 square miles or
40 something like that. But that's -- and I don't know, my
41 understanding is and maybe somebody who probably knows
42 more than I do, but that RFR, in our program, the RFR
43 goes through what they call a threshold analysis to see
44 if it actually meets the standard for introducing new
45 information, that sort of thing, and I believe that's
46 where that is right now. And as far as the overall C&T
47 thing goes, you know, it has been a point of contention,
48 I would say, in some of the criticism of our program.

49
50 So that's all I can really say.

1 MR. WALKER: Okay.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further for
4 Polly.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, does that conclude
9 our work sessions?
10
11 MR. MATHEWS: No, I just have to go
12 through streamlining travel forms. Someone brought
13 those forms from Anchorage but I -- you guys have gone
14 through this before, it's a form where you say you left
15 on this day and all that.
16
17 We now have a new person doing travel
18 arrangements, as well as we only have one person doing it
19 so I met with him, Ed, and we worked out some way to
20 streamline this. So if you're willing, and it works with
21 your travel, when you get that form, you would just sign
22 it, I am going to travel as set up by the Office of
23 Subsistence Management and sign it, then you don't have
24 to mail that thing in. We don't have to wait to process
25 it.
26
27 That's the streamline part.
28
29 The cost part of it is, well, if you do
30 taxi's or cabs or other expenses, then you would probably
31 be best to keep that form and fill it out and stuff the
32 envelope and send it.
33
34 I got a report from Ed yesterday that
35 this worked out very well in Kodiak/Aleutians.
36 Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Council is similar to yours, in
37 that, they meet more in rural communities, generally
38 speaking, and it worked really well. So when you get
39 your form you just sign it off, and then that way I'll
40 just give it to Anchorage Staff and then Ed can start
41 processing them.
42
43 Now, weather can change. It's just the
44 way it is. If weather changes and you get stuck, we have
45 800 numbers in Anchorage and Fairbanks and you say that,
46 then we'll note it and say, oh, he was supposed to get
47 back on the 6th but who knows when he's going to get
48 back, so you would just call and say, yeah, it's changed
49 and, of course, we could make arrangements for you but,
50 in addition, if arrangements aren't needed please tell us

1 because then you're still on our nickel until you make it
2 back home because you were weather delayed.

3
4 So that's the streamlined thing, and
5 we'll be handing those forms out later, but you just sign
6 it and then that should cut off three weeks in travel
7 production. Because he can't do anything until he gets
8 that form back. So that's the whole streamline thing and
9 if you have any suggestions on streamlining your travel,
10 this might be a good time to talk about travel. Right
11 now we've been able to get charters which has,
12 personally, made my life a lot easier even though I'm
13 doing a lot of phone calls because I know immediately
14 when we have a quorum. This Council's never been a
15 quorum problem, but we have to look at the past few years
16 we've had great weather for these meetings. So with a
17 charter, I can pull the plug when I don't see a quorum
18 but if everybody's flying in from all different
19 directions, you pull the plug and people are still in the
20 air.

21
22 So anyways, anything on travel this would
23 be a good time to discuss, but that's the streamlining
24 part.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything for Vince.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: It always kind of struck
31 me funny that when we call the meeting, and we have a
32 quorum, we still have to fill out this paper saying that
33 we were at this meeting when we already established a
34 quorum, you know, it's just got to be streamlined. I
35 mean it's just -- they know we're here, they know we're
36 conducting business, why all the paperwork in
37 triplicates. That's always bothered me.

38
39 So anything else for Vince.

40
41 MR. WALKER: Yeah, Ron.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Robert.

44
45 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You
46 know, Vince, I'm only 144 air miles from Anvik and I got
47 to travel 600 miles to get home, I mean, be realistic and
48 I could just fly home from here, I and Carl, it'd be
49 quicker.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, we can work on that.
6 We were trying to pool the Council members in a major hub
7 and then fly out from there. Your travel arrangements
8 out of here would be through a charter, would it not, it
9 wouldn't be commercial.

10

11 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: We'll try to remember that
14 the next time we come back here. That possibly would
15 help, it would help you and possibly the program. But
16 the charter now we've done it now, what, two years, and
17 hopefully we can maintain that for the reasons already
18 given.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince.

21 Anything more for the work session.

22

23 MR. STICKMAN: Ron.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

26

27 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, Vince, remember I
28 called you after our last meeting at Allakaket that I was
29 getting a bill from OSM, I was wondering what was going
30 on with that, why that happened.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I've been getting a
33 lot of calls on bills lately from Council members. We
34 never found -- we needed to find a copy of that
35 paperwork. What may have been your thing is due --
36 again, back to Ron's statement, to make this work, we
37 have to project your travel in about four months in
38 advance. And I'm speculating on this until you find that
39 sheet of paper, four months in advance we didn't have a
40 charter to Allakaket so you had to travel an additional
41 two days or whatever it was, and that resulted in you
42 getting a larger travel advance. I'm speculating that
43 that notice that you got came out of Denver, I believe.
44 They don't share that with us so we don't know until you
45 find that paper.

46

47 But generally that's what happens is we
48 have to project in advance because the advance checks
49 take four to six weeks to get processed. And so if we
50 project you're going to be five days in travel status and

1 you end up in three then you end up owing the government
2 money.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: I know, but the next
7 statement on that is you owe money that can be taken from
8 your next advance. And that goes back to the basic
9 communication that we have to keep the communication
10 lines open. But we need to find that piece of paper,
11 which you said you were going to look up and go from
12 there. We have a similar situation in Eastern Interior
13 that just got resolved yesterday.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Mickey.

16

17 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, I was just wondering
18 if anybody else from this Council had that. Because,
19 well, it wasn't a huge amount, I mean it was only like 18
20 bucks but still they were sending me -- saying that they
21 overpaid me for the meeting in Allakaket and that I owed
22 them \$18.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: An \$18 bill is about five
25 or \$600 worth of paperwork, isn't that about it.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Well, we now have -- I wish
32 Ed were here because he's been a great help. He's now
33 getting Denver to agree to send us, when they process
34 your payment, so we get a record of that so we can
35 compare it and get an understanding. One, that you've
36 been paid, and, two, how does it match to what was
37 submitted. And he's gotten some movement on that and
38 hopefully he'll get full movement and that way when this
39 issue comes up, like for Eastern Interior, I have to
40 reconstruct something from 2003, it's hard to do. So Ed
41 is trying to get us connected with Denver which may
42 relieve this problem.

43

44 But, again, if we can just keep
45 communicating and keep this working in the background I
46 think it will work fine. But we are bound to keeping the
47 whole system informed, we have to be accountable to the
48 budget and that. I know that's kind of a hollow thing
49 but you have to look at it from their point of view, how
50 was this money spent, where did it go. I don't think

1 anyone else will talk about this but we have to realize
2 that the U.S. Government is under quite a bit of stress
3 right now with disaster relief as well as the Iraq War.
4 I have no indication that it's going to effect our
5 budget, that's not my point, but my point is is there's
6 going to be -- that has to be paid somehow and somehow
7 that's going to come, how do you figure out where it
8 comes from is your accounting, if our accounting is weak,
9 from my past experience working for other states, boy,
10 you're real vulnerable if you can't defend your dollars.
11 You can't say how they're going to be spent or how they
12 were spent, they generally take that away then.

13
14 So, anyways, we'll keep working on it and
15 keep calling on it but that's pretty much the way it is.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

18
19 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You
20 know, Vince, everything is going up, too, the cost of
21 food is going to be going up, everything is going to be
22 going up, are our board rates going to go up too or are
23 they still going to stay the same?

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: The only thing that's gone
26 up, which doesn't affect you guys except maybe one or two
27 of you is they've raised the payment per mile. But what
28 we've done with you guys is we've worked out if you take
29 a snowmachine or a boat we get fuel receipts for you
30 because usually the mileage doesn't cover it.

31
32 But to my knowledge they're not, I don't
33 know of any, maybe Don or others know that they're
34 raising the per diem rate, that's what you get for meals.
35 I'm not privy to that. I know they raised the cent per
36 mile, but I don't know if they raised that instead of \$15
37 for dinner you're going to get 19 or something but I've
38 not been informed of that. I would assume it's in the
39 works because the restaurants are not going to charge
40 less.

41
42 So I don't know if other Staff, other
43 Federal Staff are privy of any of the per diem, but right
44 now to my knowledge none of the per diem rates have
45 changed. But I'm sure there's going to be enough people
46 screaming down the road if prices keep going up that that
47 will have to change.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince.
50 Anything more from the Council on the work session.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, I'd like to get
4 into the agenda. First off I would like to welcome all
5 the Staff, OSM, the Refuges, I see Randy Rogers is here
6 from the State. I see Glenn Stout is here from the
7 State. Welcome. And Caroline Brown is here. So we'll
8 be introducing all our guests shortly but I'd just like
9 to welcome all of you here and I hope we have a good
10 Western Interior session.

11

12 Before I go any further I would like to
13 have Ray do the invocation and ask him to welcome us to
14 McGrath.

15

16 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, on behalf of the
17 community, I want to welcome you all here and as was
18 mentioned you're all invited to my home for supper this
19 evening. We've planned supper for everyone, thank you.

20

21 Heavenly Father we thank you for the rich
22 resources you've provided throughout the
23 years for us. And we ask now that you
24 would guide us as we discuss their use so
25 that we might manage them properly and
26 maintain them for the use of our children
27 and grandchildren.

28

29 We ask for your guidance in this meeting
30 and your blessing upon it in Jesus' name.

31

32 Amen.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Would you remain standing.
35 We'll have a moment of silence for John Hanson, former
36 Board of Fisheries Director and one of the most vocal and
37 outspoken persons that fights for subsistence, so a
38 moment of silence, please.

39

40 (Moment of Silence)

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. We've already
43 had roll call and established a quorum. We'll get into
44 Regional Council member concerns.

45

46 I had some kind of crazy summer, trying
47 to work, I got hurt, lost a month of wages and every time
48 Vince called me, it's Vince I'm busy go call Jack.
49 Again, it's been not only my pleasure but my respect and
50 thankful and greatfulness for Jack to keep filling in for

1 me all year. He's gone to quite a few Federal
2 Subsistence Board meetings and filled in for me there.

3
4 And, again, my Chair's report is kind of
5 brief because I have been traveling but I sure appreciate
6 all the Council member's concerns. When we call we
7 usually stay on the phone until we more or less resolve
8 our issues and our concerns. I do have that Worldcom
9 phone card so they can call me and call me back, I call
10 them back and we do try to resolve the things that
11 bothers our local people whenever we can.

12
13 Early this fall, before moose season we
14 got on line with Vince so Jack and I submitted a request
15 for an emergency order to extend our moose season for one
16 week around the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge. We were turned
17 down by both the Federal system and the State system, but
18 things were working out. We had nothing but rain so we
19 had higher water, our people went more hunting, had more
20 access to more land. At this time I still haven't heard
21 many complaints or anything to ask for any kind of
22 emergency opening so I think we did quite well.

23
24 It's just that what we've been faced with
25 out in the Bush is the global warming. This fall it was
26 so warm that the moose just didn't move. And just for
27 the heck of it one of my nephews and I, we jumped in the
28 boat and took a ride for a good 70 miles and out of that
29 70 miles, we were just looking, out of that 70 miles we
30 just saw one moose track out of that 70 miles because the
31 animals were up in the hills, back in the lakes, so they
32 just weren't moving. So the people that did good were
33 the oldtimers that go out there and stay three or four
34 days out in the country, you know, they know how to do it
35 and that's how a lot of them lucked out, not really
36 lucked out, they worked for it.

37
38 That pretty much covers my concerns.
39 That pretty much covers my Chair's report. And like I
40 said, Jack has been doing most of my work, like I said I
41 had kind of a rough summer.

42
43 With that I would ask Jack to give his
44 report and then go on down the line and then hit on this
45 side.

46
47 Jack.

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50 My comments would revolve also around this climatic

1 change, these warming trends and the deep snowfalls that
2 we're getting off of this stuff and the impacts to the
3 subsistence users. You know, our moose population has
4 fallen off, we've had to reduce our cow opportunities in
5 the fall hunts. And my personal opinion is I would like
6 to see the Western Interior Council submit a proposal to
7 change the bull season, especially this Kanuti Wildlife
8 Refuge to give opportunity for additional time to hunt
9 bull moose in the fall time and increase that season from
10 the 25th of September to the 1st of October. The
11 bull/cow ratio will support that. That was what our
12 special action request revolved around. It needs to go
13 through the Federal process. But we do need, because of
14 the high cost of fuel, this increase in fuel cost, people
15 have to be able to take the precise opportunity to
16 harvest and so we're going to have to -- this is getting
17 down to the fine lines of the economics of subsistence,
18 the economy of time, effort and expense.

19
20 So I would like to see this Council
21 submit a proposal on the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge, we'll
22 have to talk about the other areas also, but this is our
23 upper region that I'm familiar with.

24
25 Another issue that I'm concerned about is
26 this all-terrain vehicle bill, it's still in the Senate
27 in the State Legislature. And those impacts, the extreme
28 impact that that would have on the resource associated
29 with the Dalton Highway, this will impact caribou
30 migration patterns and a lot of things within a wide area
31 around the Dalton Highway. It's going to impact the
32 whole Northern Western Interior. So I'm very, very
33 concerned about that and -- still. That bill has
34 stalled, it's sort of -- we're not sure what's going on
35 with this thing. There was supposed to be some hearings
36 this summer, those haven't come forward. And I hear that
37 the Chair of the Resource Committee was talking about
38 having those meetings but that hasn't come forward.
39 We're not sure what's going to happen here. I hope it
40 doesn't just pop up and go right through the Legislature
41 without comments.

42
43 The North Slope wildlife, it's kind of
44 like their advisory committee came down and they came to
45 Wiseman, they came right to me and they were talking to
46 me about this ATV bill. The people on the North Slope
47 are very concerned about this bill. They know what those
48 impacts are going to be.

49
50 Those are my comments and concerns right

1 now, thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Again,
4 just to reiterate a little bit, because of concerns about
5 low moose density up around the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge
6 and on the Koyukuk River, we pretty much closed all the
7 cow seasons that we had for a good many years so thanks
8 to Jack for bringing that up.

9

10 Benedict.

11

12 MR. JONES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
13 don't have too much concern but the only thing that
14 popped up in my mind a couple days ago, I didn't have the
15 Tribal Council in Koyukuk to draft up the proposal but my
16 idea was for the Elders of Galena, Koyukuk, Nulato and
17 Kaltag to be eligible to hunt cow moose the last three
18 days of the season, the age would be 65 and up. Because
19 it's kind of getting hard for Elders to go out and walk
20 around a couple miles day in the woods. But what I plan
21 on, on my proposal, drawing permit, say 20 permits per
22 season for all four villages and the last three days of
23 season to be open for cow moose. They can hunt bull
24 during the regular season so if the 20 permits goes out
25 to all four villages, if they do get a bull at the end of
26 the season maybe could harvest five to 10 cows per fall
27 season and this would make it easier for the Elders
28 because, you know, you can't go out one mile away from
29 the river and start carrying a moose, that's kind of a
30 hardship for the Elders. I know this fall I was under
31 the -- had pneumonia so I had to walk half a mile back
32 and by the time I got back it was kind of hard for me so
33 I could see where the Elders, you know, a lot of Elders
34 in their late 70s and 80s it's hard for them to get away
35 from the river to hunt.

36

37 So this would give them the opportunity
38 to harvest their meat supply for fall.

39

40 And fishing season was very good this
41 year. We had a lot of king salmon, a lot of fall chum,
42 so everybody did harvest what they needed.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. Don.

47

48 MR. HONEA: Thank you. Mr. Chair. I
49 guess we were one of the areas that was kind of the bulls
50 were kind of moving late and I want to reiterate what Ron

1 says about that. So the Chairman of our Ruby Advisory
2 Committee submitted a request for an emergency order for
3 one week and I think that was -- it may have been granted
4 by the Feds. But I think it's kind of late in the year
5 -- I mean it's kind of late to -- I mean in the future if
6 we had to do this again, I think that there was -- I
7 think it would be good if there was a process where we
8 could kind of speed that up and maybe not wait so late.

9
10 I mean it's kind of a unique situation
11 and I really can't come up with any numbers that was
12 taken on the Nowitna but I think about maybe half the
13 village of Ruby, and he put down 12 moose, you know, I
14 know maybe it's closer to 15 or something like that. But
15 still there's about half the population that did not get
16 a moose this year and I have to agree with him that the
17 season was late, it was warm, it was warm all through the
18 season and they just weren't moving. Because they did
19 get some moose right on the last day, and they were still
20 good, you know, they weren't really into rut and stuff
21 like that.

22
23 And other than that the fishing, my wife
24 was -- we had some health problems so I didn't go out and
25 do any fishing this year but as for the driftnetting, I
26 can say that any fears of other Regional Councils or
27 something, you know, that the harvest would be high, you
28 know, it was really low. I guess being the first year
29 maybe we just didn't know good fishing spots or people
30 just weren't used to it so any fears that would be kind
31 of an overharvest is just unfounded.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Don. Vince.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Honea, I
38 don't want you to -- we have no indication that there's
39 any action been done on your special action request. So
40 you indicated that maybe the Feds might be granting that,
41 or the Federal government. I have no knowledge of that.
42 So I will ask when you get to approving your agenda that
43 we add on the special action discussion. But you said it
44 might be and unless someone in the room knows any
45 different, I don't know where it's at at this moment. I
46 did instruct Ed Sartin yesterday to keep in touch with
47 our Staff in Anchorage that are working on that.

48
49 And the State may have an update on Ed
50 Sartin -- well, the Advisory Committee also submitted an

1 emergency order request. Real quickly, emergency order
2 is the State side, a special action is the Federal side.
3 I don't know the status of the emergency order request to
4 the State other than the State, through third-party, was
5 taking up that issue yesterday.

6
7 So later on if you agree to have it on
8 your agenda maybe we can get updates or whatever on that
9 but I don't want people who are coming in and out of the
10 room to take your statement to be that the Federal
11 government has granted it. We have no idea where it's at
12 at this moment.

13
14 MR. HONEA: In responding to that I
15 didn't really want to put anybody on the spot saying you
16 did or did not and I'm sorry for that.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Don. Mickey.

19
20 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
21 only concern I have for -- well, for my area is like
22 Ben's, it's probably like that throughout the whole
23 Western Interior with the global warming and things like
24 that. It seem like the moose rut is getting later and
25 later. It was warm all throughout the moose hunting
26 season this year. So like Ben said you had to walk a
27 couple miles, you had to go into the lakes if you wanted
28 to get a bull and in our area we have bulls only so --
29 and they only started moving around the last couple days
30 of the moose hunting season so there was a lot of people
31 who didn't get their moose this year in the Nulato and
32 Kaltag area.

33
34 And they were -- they want me to put in a
35 request for like going back to a later season instead of
36 having it August 27th, they wanted to have it stretch out
37 later, but they were also going to ask for a cow season.

38
39 I like Ben's idea of having a three day
40 cow season with 20 drawing permits for the Elders.
41 Because, you know, there's a lot of Elders in our area
42 that still like to go out and hunt but they're unable to
43 walk two or three miles back into the lake to harvest a
44 moose. But if they're able to harvest a cow moose, you
45 know, we've had several years of no cow harvest so that's
46 all you see when you ride around. I mean I burned 100
47 gallons of gas and I saw 18 cows, I didn't see any bulls.

48
49 That's about the only concern I had for
50 my area. Like I'm only 18 miles from Ben and I fish

1 right across from Koyukuk, too, just like other people
2 from Nulato so fishing was super this summer. There was
3 more fish than anybody can handle out there. And the
4 fall season was really a surprise there was so many fall
5 chum, it was incredible.

6

7 That's about all I have.

8

9 The only other concern that I have would
10 be for someone from the Northern Innoko, because there
11 was some guided hunting going on back there in the Kaiyuh
12 Flats and I was just wondering if they had a special use
13 permit or they had a permit or it was their guide area
14 because they were guiding back on the Kaiyuh Flats off
15 the Main Slough.

16

17 That's it.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. Ray.

20

21 MR. COLLINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 My involvement this summer has been mostly with the
23 Kuskokwim Salmon Management group that I represent this
24 body on that and we had a couple face to face meetings
25 and then audio-conference through the summer. And it's
26 working well, there's good cooperation with all the State
27 and Federal agencies involved. And we had good returns,
28 we met the escapement goals on king salmon. There was an
29 abundant run of chums this year so it went well.

30

31 In relation to that it's really good the
32 money that's been available for these various studies and
33 we've been reviewing those and approving some of those
34 and that's starting to pay off.

35

36 One example was that in the Kuskokwim
37 drainage it was thought that most of the sockeye salmon
38 were going up to the Holitna system, up Stoney River, but
39 through the tagging process they found that over half of
40 them are going into the Holitna. So they're behaving
41 differently than sockeye and other systems because
42 they're having to spawn in the rivers and the sloughs and
43 raise their young there. And the reason that's important
44 is now they're proposing coal bed methane development
45 there and that may affect the waters in there and, yet,
46 we're just now determining that half of all the chinook
47 in the Kuskokwim are going into that river so it really
48 pays to pick out these studies and pick the right ones
49 because there's a lot of things we don't know yet about
50 our resources that we need to know in order to make wise

1 decisions.

2

3

4 Part of the outcome of the development
5 proposals on the Kuskokwim with mining and the coal bed
6 methane is that they're talking about forming a watershed
7 council. I think you already have one on the Yukon and I
8 just attended that meeting down in Bethel and we're at
9 the status now where all the various communities sent
10 representatives down there. And because of my
11 involvement with the Kuskokwim Salmon Management, I was
12 asked to attend that, and McGrath sent me down as their
13 representative. And now the people that were there are
14 going back and talking in the communities. They haven't
15 actually taken the step of forming it yet but I think it
16 will happen here and I think it will be a good thing.

16

17

18 Because we realize that we can't deal
19 with these things as individual communities. For
20 instance on the coalbed methane, the State was proposing
21 first that they just hold hearings in the villages right
22 next to them and yet the fish that use that system, it
23 impacts the whole river. And so it's an issue that all
24 the communities need to get involved in. And I know the
25 management group had written and asked and they did have
26 a hearing in Bethel because of our actions there.

26

27

28 So that's the management I was involved
29 in on behalf of this group. I would state also that you
30 know that the State has been involved in the control
31 effort to build up the moose population around McGrath
32 and it works. Predator control pays off. We've gotten
33 better survival of the calves the last two years. As a
34 result of that a lot of the moose that were killed this
35 fall were the little fork horns and so on but that means
36 that they're surviving and if their sisters are out there
37 they should be breeding and we should see an upcoming of
38 calves. What was happening is we were getting very
39 little calf survival and through the hunting of wolves in
40 the immediate area and the bear removal.

40

41

42 The meeting that follows this, what the
43 State wants to talk about is how we can increase bear
44 harvest because we've got to keep up bear harvest, too,
45 they're one of the main predators on calves in the spring
46 and that's something that we all need to think about.

46

47

48 But I think a lot of people are watching
49 what's happening here in this control effort. And I know
50 the issue came up is, is the Federal going to manage when
they have to in their area. So we need to figure out

1 what tools work and so far it seems to be working here.
2 We're getting a turnaround. We'll know in another year
3 or so if we start seeing increased production, but the
4 signs look good.

5
6 So thank you, that's what I have.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Carl.

9
10 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
11 Chairman. My concerns are about the same, I wouldn't
12 repeat what everybody else has said because it's
13 repetitive. It is climate change, bulls couldn't move,
14 they weren't moving and too warm, real wet, September it
15 rained all month.

16
17 And since the last meeting we had in AK,
18 I also put on another hat, I got appointed to the Board
19 of Game. So it's interesting to listen to everybody and
20 what Ray Collins said, and I'd like to thank him for
21 participating in the Salmon Working Group because I am an
22 alternate but I was just too busy and I wasn't able to
23 participate but I kept an open ear for that.

24
25 I'm one with two different hats right
26 now. One with, like I said, this Board of Game, the
27 State Board of Game, and also with this Western Interior.
28 Both are similar, but there's a lot of differences. I've
29 got to really focus myself to focus when I come to these,
30 like this Western Interior, to focus on the Western
31 Interior, and not try to look at is statewide. When I go
32 to a Board of Game meeting I've got to look -- I've got
33 to refocus myself.

34
35 And it's interesting that Ray would say,
36 you know, like coalbed methane and the possible gold
37 mine, Donlin Creek, I also happen to belong to the board
38 of directors that is pushing the mine.

39
40 But I try to stay focused and try to
41 listen to all the material that's being presented to me
42 and make that decision with the information I get. I
43 generally don't want to go into any meeting with a set
44 focus, my mind's made up, I try to be open so I'm fair to
45 everybody, and that's hard to do sometimes.

46
47 But I'd like to say thank you for coming,
48 and I'm glad to be here. And I'm glad the AG, attorney
49 general ruled that there wasn't a conflict with me being
50 involved in with the Western Interior and also the Board

1 of Game. And so I'm able to participate and I'm looking
2 forward to a great two days.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. When we
7 heard that you were being put up for consideration he
8 started burning up the phone lines if it was a conflict
9 of interest for Western Interior.

10

11 Robert.

12

13 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's
14 always an honor to be back in McGrath here. We were here
15 for a number of years here back in the late '60s and
16 early '70s and I'm quite honored.

17

18 One of the concerns we have, it seems
19 like we all have the same concern here, but in 21(E), I
20 believe that the tribal councils, Vince, have asked for a
21 special action through Tanana Chiefs, also, a five day
22 extra hunt with the State, I don't know whatever became
23 of that.

24

25 One of the things that came out of their
26 meeting in Holy Cross was that a lot of people didn't get
27 a moose there and probably Shageluk, too, and one of the
28 things that blew them out is that all these transporters
29 coming back to Holy Cross and throwing their meat in the
30 dump, and this is perfectly legal because -- whatever.
31 And a lot of people didn't get any moose there and
32 they're going down and looking in the dump and here's
33 legs, rib, brisket and, you know, just the choicest parts
34 there being thrown in the dump. And this is kind of like
35 really blowing us away here because, man, there's a lot
36 of people who are spending dollars getting -- just trying
37 to find a moose, you know, at \$4 and \$5 a gallon, and
38 this is just something else.

39

40 But anyway, we'll see what happened with
41 that special action later.

42

43 The other concern I had was I was
44 fortunate to attend -- not fortunate but I attended the
45 funeral of John Hanson down in Alakanuk this spring here,
46 my wife is on the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative
47 Board out of Anchorage and John Hanson was just elected
48 in March so I went down to the funeral. And I was kind
49 of amazed here because when the board from the Lower
50 Yukon came up to me and asked that I was sent by the

1 Western Interior RAC to represent the Western Interior
2 and I just left it at that. I didn't say I was, you
3 know, under charter with AVEC. But they were so happy to
4 see me there to attend and pay final respects. I was
5 kind of surprised that nobody from OSM was there or the
6 State also. There was just local community or the
7 region.

8
9 Concerns. I still have a few more but I
10 know we're taking a lot of time here and I can wait until
11 later on the meeting here.

12
13 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert. Carl,
16 and then Ray. Carl.

17
18 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, like I said I'm also
19 on the Board of Game. We're taking -- I've got to get
20 excused at 11:30, I've got a teleconference and we are
21 taking these EO's up, emergency orders, as part of the
22 agenda and I think we're taking three of them, that's
23 going to be Ruby, Holy Cross and another one out of Port
24 Graham. So they haven't made a decision yet. How that
25 vote's going to go, I'm one of seven, so I don't know.

26
27 But I will give it a lot of
28 consideration.

29
30 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

33
34 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I did want to
35 report also that the windows for subsistence fishing on
36 the lower river remained in place this year and it did
37 help in getting slugs of fish up river here and I know
38 you've had the same issue on the Yukon there. And I've
39 been able to explain to the people why we're doing that.
40 Again, in those tagging they found that the fish that are
41 going to the head of the river enter first and they're
42 earlier and we've got data now to back it up. So it does
43 pay early in the season to have those windows to let some
44 of those fish that are heading further up the system
45 through. I think that's an important thing to note.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for that
48 information, Ray. I think that it should be duly noted
49 that we do keep these windows in place.

50

1 Next on the agenda, let's see, review and
2 adoption of the agenda. We've had this for about a month
3 now, been working on it with Vince. So at this time the
4 Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the agenda.

5
6 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

9
10 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Jack Reakoff
13 for the record. All those in favor of the motion signify
14 by saying aye.

15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

19
20 (No opposing votes)

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Next.
23 Vince.

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, on that
26 motion, generally you guys have a flexible agenda so
27 Staff can add in items as they come up like the special
28 action review and stuff like that, so that's
29 incorporated. So Staff, if you see something not on the
30 agenda that needs to be on the agenda you need to get a
31 hold of Ron and get recognized on that.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Again,
34 like Vince stated we are flexible and we do try to
35 accommodate all the Staff and everybody that wants to
36 testify or bring any kind of topics up to the Western
37 Interior. You're more than welcome, like Carl and Robert
38 noted, we are here to try to do our best job of
39 representing the Western Interior communities, and that's
40 what we'll keep in mind. Again, we are always flexible
41 and open. We try to accommodate everybody, people that
42 have to leave or travel early, so if they want to get on
43 the agenda or make their testimony earlier we can
44 accommodate that, too. And, again, that should be noted
45 for the record, Tina.

46
47 The next item on the agenda is the
48 adoption of the Allakaket meeting minutes.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, they're

1 on Page 7, if you guys want to look them over and you
2 should have received copies in the mail earlier this past
3 summer. So anyways they're on Page 7 of your book.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. At this
6 time the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the
7 minutes.

8
9 MR. JONES: So moved.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved by Benedict.

12
13 MR. STICKMAN: Second.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Mickey. I'll
16 give you time to look over it.

17
18 Just on behalf of the residents of
19 Allakaket and Alatna, for about a month after that
20 meeting, I was more or less molested by the two
21 communities constantly, that, boy, they sure liked the
22 way the Western Interior Council is trying to work things
23 out. That's all I kept hearing.

24
25 (Pause)

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you need more time.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions.

32 Corrections.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we need more time.

37
38 (Council shakes head negatively)

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: No. Okay, call for the
41 question.

42
43 MR. REAKOFF: Question.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called.
46 All those in favor of adopting the Allakaket meeting
47 minutes signify by saying aye.

48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Vince.
6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, now I know
8 why I asked you if you have a flexible agenda. I was
9 just informed by the Refuge manager the plane that was
10 supposed to come in at 9:45 is projected sometime this
11 afternoon. That means we don't have any of the in-season
12 managers nor other Staff that would address the fishery
13 proposals in front of you. They weren't going to
14 actually present them but I think it'd be wise to have
15 them in the room when you do discuss them. We do have
16 one. I apologize. We do have one Federal in-season
17 manager here. But we don't have the other one nor do we
18 have the State.
19
20 So in light of that I'd like to have a
21 break and work with you to see how we would rearrange the
22 agenda to accommodate, you know, that plane coming in
23 later. And I've already consulted with Randy and that,
24 but we need to see what we can actually pull off in their
25 absence because that plane won't be in until late this
26 afternoon, or sometime this afternoon, they don't know
27 when.
28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Vince.
30 So cannot really act on our proposals yet at this time.
31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you can but I
33 think.....
34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.
36
37 MR. MATHEWS:it would not be fair
38 to.
39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.
41
42 MR. MATHEWS: On one or two of them I
43 think the State in-season manager would like to be
44 present when you discuss them. I can't prejudge him but
45 I would guess they would want to. So we can move up to
46 the, which Ray did a great lead into, and hopefully
47 that'll be shared in the regional office, could go into
48 the resource monitoring plans for the Kuskokwim and
49 Yukon, and Polly's agreed to move up on that. And then
50 I've asked Randy if he would be willing to present the

1 wildlife issues that he was going to do tomorrow. And
2 then that would fill our time until this plane possibly
3 arrives. And we may be able to cover other topics.

4
5 But its' your call, Mr. Chair, that's my
6 advice.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think it's more than
9 appropriate to wait. I think at one of our last meetings
10 we went ahead with very few people, not only to present
11 but to argue our proposals and it didn't work out so
12 good. So I will honor Vince's request, again, to be
13 flexible and to wait for Staff to come in and work on the
14 proposals with us.

15
16 At this time, a 10 minute break, get some
17 coffee or some water.

18
19 (Off record)

20
21 (On record)

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Let's find our way back to
24 our chairs and we'll get started shortly.

25
26 (Pause)

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are we finding our way
29 back to our seats, I'd like to get started.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, we do
32 have some updates on lunch. There is not a fundraiser
33 for school so it would be back to where you would get
34 lunch with your lodging.

35
36 The other update is we reviewed the
37 proposals and I was wrong, we can cover some of those
38 proposals because they're more, in lower case,
39 housekeeping proposals. So we can move ahead with
40 Proposal 1, Proposal 2 and 5. Save Proposal 3 and 4 for
41 when the Staff arrive this afternoon.

42
43 So if that's what you wish we have Staff
44 to present those three proposals and the State, I've lost
45 Caroline, oh, she has the State comments. As you know,
46 when these books are published they generally have not
47 yet formulated their comments so I believe they have now
48 formulated them. So she would be presented those so
49 you're not left out on the State's perspectives on
50 Proposals 1, 2 and possibly 5.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. I have
2 a few announcements too. We have both Trooper Sears and
3 Trooper Gibbons here, while they're not on the agenda
4 they approached me during the break and said that they
5 were available for any questions that we may have on law
6 enforcement or anything. So they would be available for
7 any kind of questions and if you want to speak with them
8 later, they're available for that too.

9
10 And the other housekeeping one is Clara
11 said that we'll have some students coming in? Clara,
12 could you take the mic, please.

13
14 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Clara Demientieff,
15 Refuge Information Tech for the Innoko Tech. I did talk
16 to the teachers this past couple weeks and one of the
17 teachers were interested in taking, I think they're
18 combined with the middle school and the high school and
19 there's 16 of them that may be attending one of the
20 sessions, whichever, fish or wildlife, agenda on here
21 either today or tomorrow so, you know, you may be
22 expecting 16, 17 more people here.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Clara.
27 We're covering wildlife issues tomorrow, right?

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Well, depending on the
30 plane, yeah, that's the plan is wildlife issues tomorrow
31 but Randy's been gracious, we can move that up if the
32 plane gets later and later.

33
34 And so when the students come here, we'll
35 usher them around, the way you've handled it in the past,
36 you've encouraged them to ask questions and be involved
37 and maybe give them a moment or two, they are the future
38 leaders and they are the ones that are going to fill your
39 seats down the road here so it's an opportunity for them
40 to understand this. But we'll have to shuffle seats and
41 do whatever's necessary.

42
43 So that leaves us with Proposal 1 if you
44 would like.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, before we go any
47 further I would like to recognize all the people that are
48 here so if you could introduce some of the people we have
49 in the audience.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Sure I'll try.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: For those that haven't been
6 to the meetings, the reason we do this is for an official
7 record but also we encourage you when you do get to the
8 microphone, you're actually speaking to the record so
9 introduce yourself so the court recorder would know down
10 the road that that was Tim Craig and not someone else.
11 If possible introduce yourself when you get to the mic.

12

13 So what we have in the room right now is
14 we have Randy Rogers with the Alaska Department of Fish
15 and Game. We have Warren Eastland with Bureau of Indian
16 Affairs. We have Ingrid McSweeny with Bureau of Land
17 Management. Glenn Stout, the area biologist for Wildlife
18 Conservation for the State. We have Caroline Brown, with
19 the Division of Subsistence. Don Rivard with the
20 Interior Division for OSM. Tim Craig, Bureau of Land
21 Management. And Officer Sears and Officer Gibbons. We
22 have Clara Demientieff with the Innoko Refuge. Lisa
23 Saperstein the biologist with Kanuti. Fred Andersen
24 with, boy this is a long one, Gates of the Arctic and
25 Yukon Charlie areas. And we have Wennona Brown with the
26 three Refuges of Kanuti, Arctic and Yukon Flats. We have
27 Polly Wheeler, anthropologist for Office of Subsistence
28 Management. And I don't know who else has left. Geoff
29 Beyersdorf who is the acting Refuge Manager for Koyukuk
30 Nowitna. And Laura Greffenius who is your team wildlife
31 biologist. And then I know there was some others in the
32 room that we overlooked but we'll try to introduce them
33 when they come in or when they come to the mic.

34

35 Again, this shows the importance of the
36 Council process within the system that all these Staff
37 are here. And you've done an excellent job of thanking
38 them but also remember, with tighter budgets they may
39 need your support down the road in other ways. That's my
40 own personal comments.

41

42 But that's all, unless I missed somebody,
43 well, Bill Schaff will be in and out, who is the Refuge
44 manager. He's been working behind the scenes on this and
45 done way beyond what he should be doing but is making
46 sure this meeting runs. And anybody else from Innoko
47 that I should.

48

49 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Robin Cochran.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, I don't know Robin
2 Cochran. And then we do have a radio reporter here that
3 I haven't had a chance to talk to from the local radio
4 station, I think she stepped out. So we need that.
5
6 And Randy is raising his hand so he may
7 have someone else -- oh, is Roy here, where is he hiding
8 out, but, anyway, Roy Nowlin.
9
10 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, I just wanted to
11 mention.....
12
13 REPORTER: Randy.
14
15 MR. ROGERS:that Roy Nowlin.....
16
17 REPORTER: Randy.
18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, up here.
20
21 MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Ron. Members of
22 the Council. I just wanted to mention that Roy Nowlin,
23 our management coordinator is here and also Beth Lenart
24 who is the McGrath area acting biologist right now.
25 They'll both plan to be here for some of the wildlife
26 parts of the meeting. They're running around trying to
27 take care of Toby's old house and a few things while
28 we're in town here.
29
30 I also wanted to inquire as to whether
31 you thought you wanted me to be up here soon. I wanted
32 to make sure that Carl gets a ride over to the
33 teleconference for the Board. So if I need to be here on
34 hold I'll find an alternative ride for him. If it looks
35 like these proposals will be a while, then maybe I can do
36 the ride.
37
38 MR. MATHEWS: What time was the
39 conference for the Board of Game?
40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: 11:30.
42
43 MR. ROGERS: 11:30.
44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.
46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I think we're in no
48 rush we can accommodate you this afternoon or something.
49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I don't think it will

1 be conflict because Polly's won't be too long and then
2 the other one, but I'm sure -- well, maybe Polly's will
3 be longer, but anyways I'm sure that we won't be pulling
4 you up to the table before 11:30, before lunch.

5
6 MR. ROGERS: Okay.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: In all probability it will
9 be probably after lunch.

10
11 MR. ROGERS: Okay, thanks.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks. And with
14 that I got quite a few directions from the Council during
15 the break that they would like to go into proposals. And
16 just speaking with Don Rivard, Vince and Polly, it's
17 quite apparent that we can deal with
18 Proposal 1, 2 and 5. And Polly's going to be presenting
19 all three proposals.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Proposal
22 1.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: So.....

25
26 MR. MATHEWS:is on Page 26 which
27 was submitted by OSM, Office of Subsistence Management to
28 permit the sale of handicraft made by rural Alaskans from
29 edible byproducts of subsistence harvested fish or shell
30 fish. It's found on Page 26.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: To get these proposals on
33 the floor, do we need a motion?

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, you've
36 done it both ways.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: And both ways have had its
41 plus and minuses. You've brought it, right now you made
42 a motion to adopt and then seconded and then you went
43 through the amendment process. You've done the -- if
44 needed. You've done it the other way where you go
45 through all the analysis and that and then someone puts
46 forth a motion. For note keeping and for us that can't
47 balance too many things at once, it's easier to kind of
48 do it later than to put a motion on the floor now and
49 then have to go through retraction and amending. But
50 that's your call.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the pleasure of the
2 Council, do we want to just go right into all the
3 information, introductions and then act later.

4
5 (Council nods affirmatively)

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's fine with everyone.

8
9 (Council nods affirmatively)

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Introduction of
12 proposal, start with Polly, right.

13
14 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Council members. My name is Polly Wheeler. I work with
16 the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm going to be
17 presenting the analysis for Proposals 1 and 2. I'll say
18 up front that I didn't write the analysis but we're down
19 to three anthropologists at the Office of Subsistence
20 Management right now so we're pinch-hitting for each
21 other. And speaking of pinch-hitting, I know that there
22 is a Board of Game meeting at 11:30 and there's also a
23 Red Sox game at noon, Mr. Chair.

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 MS. WHEELER: So just to keep that little
28 reminder in your head.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 MS. WHEELER: I'm not a Yankees fan.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 MS. WHEELER: So for the record my name
37 is Polly Wheeler. I'm an anthropologist with OSM. I'm
38 going to be talking about Proposals 1 and 2 today. As
39 Vince said, Proposal 1 starts on Page 26 in your book but
40 the meat of it actually starts on Page 28.

41
42 This is a housekeeping proposal. Just at
43 the outset, this proposal was submitted by OSM and it
44 requests that Federal regulations permit the sale of
45 handicrafts made by rural Alaskans from the nonedible
46 byproducts of subsistence harvested fish or shell fish.
47 And you probably remember in the last couple of years
48 we've had several proposals before this Council dealing
49 with black bear and brown bear handicrafts, and in
50 reviewing our regulations from those proposals it became

1 clear to us that Federal regulations do not provide for
2 the sale of handicraft articles made from fish or shell
3 fish so the intent of this proposal is strictly to
4 provide for that practice and to accommodate existing
5 practices. It's basically a housekeeping proposal. It's
6 to correct an administrative oversight.

7
8 As we talked about, when we talked about
9 the bear proposals, under ANILCA, wildlife and fisheries
10 can be taken for the making, you know, for subsistence
11 and handicraft purposes basically and so this would be,
12 assuming the animal is taken for subsistence purposes,
13 this would allow making something out of the nonedible
14 byproducts.

15
16 The proposed regulation would provide the
17 same opportunities to Federal subsistence users as are
18 being proposed under State regulations. Interestingly
19 enough when we were going through this, the State is
20 actually -- we alerted the State to this and the State is
21 correcting their regulations this winter. Their
22 regulations will most likely be close to what we are
23 proposing. Fish and Game is submitting an agenda change
24 request to the Board of Fisheries with proposed
25 regulatory language to make it lawful to sell handicrafts
26 made out of the nonedible byproducts of fish or shell
27 fish.

28
29 The existing Federal regulation is in
30 your book on Page 28 and the proposed regulation is just
31 underneath that, going over to Page 29.

32
33 And it simply says:

34
35 You may sell handicraft articles made
36 from the nonedible byproducts, including
37 but not limited to skin, shell, fins and
38 bones of subsistence harvested fish or
39 shell fish.

40
41 Again, this applies to all areas of the
42 state because it's a statewide regulation. We have not
43 received, just as background material, we have not
44 received, the Federal program that is, has never received
45 any proposals regarding the sale of handicrafts made from
46 nonedible fish byproducts, but, again, with the wildlife
47 proposals that we had before us this issue was raised.
48 So in reviewing our regulations we realized that there
49 was basically a hole in our regulations and we wanted to
50 clean it up.

1 There's no known conservation concerns
2 regarding the use of nonedible byproducts of subsistence
3 harvested fish or shell fish for making handicrafts.
4 Adopting the regulatory language does not provide for any
5 additional harvest opportunity for subsistence users,
6 because current salvage regulations require that harvest
7 primarily for consumption. So, again, it's the same
8 issue that we brought before you with the bear parts, is
9 the harvest has to be for consumption, and then you can
10 make handicrafts out of the nonedible byproducts.

11
12 So because fish and shell fish cannot be
13 harvested solely for raw parts to be made into
14 handicrafts, it's not inspected that an increase in fish
15 harvest should occur -- would occur should this
16 regulation be adopted.

17
18 As far as the effects of the proposal go,
19 Mr. Chair and Council members, that's on Page 30 in your
20 book. Basically a summary is that adopting the proposal
21 would benefit subsistence users by providing for existing
22 practices allowing the same opportunities to subsistence
23 users under Federal regulations as the ADF&G is proposing
24 under State regulations as well as reducing regulation
25 complexity which we know is an issue. There's no known
26 conservation concerns. And adopting the proposed
27 regulatory language does not provide for any additional
28 harvest opportunity because again we're assuming that the
29 provision under ANILCA is that they have to be taken for
30 consumption primarily.

31
32 So the preliminary conclusion, Mr. Chair
33 and Council members is to support the proposal with the
34 justification that adopting this proposal would provide
35 for existing practices, would allow the same
36 opportunities to subsistence users under Federal
37 regulations as the State is proposing under State
38 regulations. It would basically correct an
39 administrative oversight of a practice described in
40 ANILCA. It would reduce regulation complexity. And,
41 again, adopting the proposal doesn't provide for any
42 additional opportunity, it just accommodates existing
43 practices.

44
45 So with that, Mr. Chair, I'm done.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, I make a motion
50 to adopt Proposal 06-01.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.
2
3 MR. STICKMAN: I second.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Mickey
6 Stickman.
7
8 MR. WALKER: Question.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.
13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.
15
16 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I am in favor
17 of this proposal. I do feel this was an oversight and
18 having a regulatory structure does not provide for what
19 Congress' intention was for making and selling of
20 handcrafts from nonedible byproducts is a good thing to
21 do to address this inequity. And I do feel that at this
22 time of high cost of fuel and so forth, that people are
23 going to be looking for making handicrafts and trying to
24 come up with additional revenues to accommodate these
25 high costs of living in rural Alaska. And so I do feel
26 that this regulatory change is warranted.
27
28 Thank you.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Vince,
31 do we go right down the line on this here.
32
33 MR. MATHEWS: It would be a cleaner
34 record with that and the State has comments on it.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.
37
38 MR. MATHEWS: And then I have written
39 comments from the public.
40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. ADF&G. Okay, use
42 the mic please.
43
44 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
45 Members of the Council. My name is Caroline Brown. I
46 work for Fish and Game, Subsistence Division in
47 Fairbanks.
48
49 The State's comments are as follows.
50

1 The Department has submitted a similar
2 proposal to the Alaska Board of Fisheries
3 to provide for sale of handicrafts made
4 from skin and nonedible byproducts of
5 subsistence harvested fish or shell fish.
6

7 That's it.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Nice and brief.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Federal agencies.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Native, tribal, village.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Interagency Staff.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Advisory groups.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Summary of written
30 comments. Vince.

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. We had
33 three written comments, they're on Page 31.

34
35 The AHTNA Subsistence Committee supports
36 the proposal. The committee supports the sale of
37 handicrafts made by subsistence users. Subsistence users
38 should be allowed to sell these handicrafts.

39
40 The Chilkoot Indian Association. They
41 also support the proposal. This statewide change has
42 potential to help economically deprived regions to
43 generate needed cash. It makes sense to use as much of
44 the harvested fish to minimize waste and this change
45 would also promote cultural skills with the tribes.

46
47 And the last written comment was from
48 Karen Plentikoff of the Aleutian/Pribilof's Association
49 supports the proposal. This proposal would offer more
50 opportunities for subsistence users.

1 That's all the written comments I know
2 of. And I don't know if anybody attended the
3 Kodiak/Aleutians Island Council meeting know what action
4 they took, but if they did that could be shared at this
5 time.

6
7 According to the court recorder they did
8 support the proposal as written. So Kodiak/Aleutian met
9 before you and they do support the proposal.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further public
12 testimony.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Regional Council
17 deliberations.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments.

22
23 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

26
27 MR. COLLINS: We've actually got down in
28 the school district office a pair of fish skin boots made
29 in Lime Village but I don't know if there's any other
30 communities that are actually making any of those things
31 anymore. But I know that's one of the uses they were put
32 to in the past.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Any
35 further comments. Go ahead, Robert.

36
37 MR. WALKER: Yes, we also have a pair of
38 fish skin boots down in Anvik in our display at the
39 school so there is evidence that this has been used.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments.

42
43 MR. STICKMAN: Ron.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

46
47 MR. STICKMAN: About two weeks ago at the
48 culture camp they had a school culture camp 12 miles
49 below Nulato at John and Luana's Summer's camp and one of
50 the activities there was making fish skin boots.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. Any
2 further comments.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, the question was
7 called earlier.
8
9 (Laughter)
10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: But I have to go through
12 the whole conglomeration. All those in favor of the
13 motion signify by saying aye.
14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.
18
19 (No opposing votes)
20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Proposal
22 1 is supported.
23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings
25 you up to Proposal 2 which is on Page 32, and that was
26 submitted by the Cheesh-na Tribal Council, Chistochina.
27 That's to revise the customary and traditional use
28 determination, that's what Polly talked about earlier,
29 C&T determination, of the Tanana River drainage to
30 include the residents of Mentasta Lake and Chistochina.
31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Polly.
33
34 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 Again, Polly Wheeler with the Office of Subsistence
36 Management. Helen Armstrong developed this proposal
37 analysis but she was unable to here at this meeting so
38 you've got me. This is a little more complicated than
39 the last proposal, in that, it's not -- well, I guess to
40 a certain extent it's a housekeeping proposal, but it's a
41 C&T proposal.
42
43 We've got to show, as I talked about
44 earlier, that these communities of Mentasta Lake and
45 Chistochina have a customary and traditional patter of
46 use in this area.
47
48 The proposal, as Vince said was -- and I
49 should say it begins on Page 33 in your books. The
50 proposal was submitted by Cheesh-na Tribal Council of

1 Chistochina. And it requested to add Chistochina and
2 Mentasta Lake to the existing customary and traditional
3 use determination for freshwater fish in the Tanana River
4 drainage.

5
6 The existing customary and traditional
7 use finding for freshwater fish in the Tanana drainage is
8 for all residents of the Yukon Northern area.
9 Chistochina and Mentasta Lake commonly referred to as
10 Mentasta are within the Prince William Sound area which
11 is outside of the Yukon northern area. Freshwater fish
12 taken by these communities include whitefish, grayling,
13 lake trout, Dolly Varden, burbot or ling cod and pike.

14
15 The existing Federal regulation is on
16 Page 33 in your book. That's followed by the proposed
17 Federal regulation which, as you can see basically just
18 adds Tanana River drainage freshwater fish other than
19 salmon, and then residents of the Yukon northern area and
20 residents of Mentasta Lake and Chistochina.

21
22 This proposal applies to all Federal
23 public waters under Federal jurisdiction in the Tanana
24 River drainage. It's on Map 1 on Page 34 in your book.

25
26 As I mentioned earlier when the Federal
27 program began we basically adopted all of the State C&T
28 findings. As you probably remember when the Federal
29 program assumed management authority for fish in 1999 we
30 did the same thing. So in 1990 it was the wildlife C&Ts,
31 in 1999 it was the fisheries C&Ts. And at that time the
32 State regulations, again, that was in 1999, the State
33 regulations listed residents of the Yukon northern area
34 as having a C&T for freshwater fish in the Yukon River
35 drainage which includes the Tanana River drainage. The
36 Federal Board has never considered C&T for Chistochina
37 and Mentasta in the Tanana River drainage. This is the
38 proposal that's come before them asking for that.

39
40 As far as community characteristics go --
41 and I didn't say earlier in my review of the C&T, how we
42 do the C&T analysis, but we usually put in -- we, the
43 analysts usually put in something about community
44 characteristics because that can come into play with use
45 patterns. So as far as community characteristics go,
46 Chistochina and Mentasta Lake are both primarily AHTNA
47 Athabaskan communities.

48
49 As far as the eight factors go and
50 remember when I covered how we do the analysis, the C&T

1 analysis this morning, I said that we don't use a
2 checklist, we don't discuss each factor separately we
3 just kind of talk about them in general terms and we
4 cover elements of each of the eight factors in a
5 discussion. That discussion begins on Page 35 in your
6 book and it goes to Page 39. I'm just going to cover a
7 couple of the highlights here.

8
9 Harvesting of freshwater fish is included
10 in a lot of descriptions of subsistence use for all AHTNA
11 Athabascans. Chistochina and Mentasta households harvest
12 grayling, whitefish, lake trout, burbot, sucker and Dolly
13 Varden. A few Mentasta households reportedly use rainbow
14 trout. And freshwater fish are basically a supplemental
15 but very important subsistence resource.

16
17 And I'm just going to summarize some of
18 the pertinent data here, Mr. Chair. A study was done in
19 Chistochina in 1987. The highest caught species included
20 grayling and whitefish with an estimated total of 450 and
21 425 fish harvested respectively, mean harvest of 1,113
22 edible pounds per households. Trout, burbot, pike and
23 Dolly Varden were also harvested, although in smaller
24 amounts.

25
26 A study was also done in Mentasta, it was
27 actually the same study, in '87, and actually I was part
28 of that study and that study showed that significantly
29 more whitefish than any other freshwater fish were
30 harvested and with a total of 1,300 roughly edible
31 pounds. Grayling was the second highest and then burbot,
32 pike and Dolly Varden were harvested in lower numbers. A
33 similar study was done in 2001 and it found that about
34 600 pounds, edible pounds of whitefish and 327 pounds of
35 grayling were harvested and, again, only a small amount
36 of burbot and Dolly Varden.

37
38 As far as where people harvested these
39 resources, Mr. Chair and Council members, studies were
40 done in 1983 and 1984 which mapped areas for harvesting
41 freshwater fish for the communities of Chistochina and
42 Mentasta. Chistochina harvested them in a number of
43 different lakes. Long Lake, Jack Lake, Copper Lake and
44 Tanada Lakes and those are within the Wrangell-St. Elias
45 National Park and Preserve, but only Jack Lake is in the
46 Tanana River drainage, so it's -- you know, they did
47 harvest them in a broad number of lakes but only Jack
48 Lake is in the Tanana drainage. In '85 Mentasta
49 households took freshwater fish from Pickerel, Virginia,
50 jimmy Brown, Jack and Peggy Lakes within the Wrangell-St.

1 Elias National Park and Preserve and from the headwaters
2 of the Chisana River and the Tetlin Wildlife Refuge.
3 And, again, all of these waters are within the Tanana
4 River drainage, so you do see -- not only do they harvest
5 these fish species but they harvest them in areas that
6 are consideration right now.

7
8 There's other work, and, again, this is
9 covered in the summary from Pages 35 to 38, and we'll
10 take a little nod here, Mr. Chair, I see that Member
11 Morgan is going to do God's work.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 MS. WHEELER: And in a study actually
16 that was recently funded by the Fisheries Information
17 Services, and we'll be talking about that separately,
18 that this study was done and it showed that grayling and
19 rainbow trout were taken from Jack Lake but there's no
20 indication which communities harvested from Jack Lake in
21 the report. So we know that species were taken from this
22 lake which, again, is in the Tanana River drainage.

23
24 Basically, Mr. Chair, the other eight
25 factors are met, or the other six factors I should say.
26 Fish are harvested seasonally, knowledge is handed down
27 from generation to generation, fish are widely shared and
28 each community harvests a wide diversity of resources for
29 subsistence.

30
31 In terms of the effects of the proposal,
32 Mr. Chair and Council members, currently there are no
33 customary and traditional use determinations for
34 freshwater fish for Chistochina and Mentasta in the
35 Tanana River drainage which is within the Yukon area.
36 Adoption of this proposal would recognize that these
37 communities have a customary and traditional use of these
38 resources and would allow them to continue a subsistence
39 use that has been customary and traditionally practiced.

40
41 The proposal analysis in your book does
42 say that there will be no conservation concerns but
43 apparently after this analysis was written and sent to
44 the printer there was some information provided to Ms.
45 Armstrong that there may be some conservation concerns,
46 but, again, as I said earlier we do the C&T analysis, to
47 a certain extent in a vacuum. We're just looking at if
48 there's a customary and traditional pattern of use and
49 then the status of the population is really a separate
50 issue, that's really dealt with under methods and means

1 and so this is if there's a customary and traditional
2 pattern of use.

3

4 So the preliminary conclusion, Mr. Chair,
5 is on Page 39. It says that we recommend supporting the
6 proposal. The justification is that information from the
7 Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence Division
8 household surveys and National Park Service community
9 studies show that freshwater fish provides diversity to
10 the diet in both Chistochina and Mentasta. Freshwater
11 fish harvested from Federally managed public waters on
12 the Tanana River drainage are not extensive but there is
13 documentation of use in the Tanana River drainage from
14 the Twin, Jack, Pickerel, Virginia, Jimmy Brown and Peggy
15 Lakes within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
16 Preserve as well as the headwaters of the Chishana River
17 on the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge. All eight
18 factors are fulfilled for a customary and traditional use
19 for Mentasta and Chistochina freshwater fish, Tanana
20 River and the Yukon area.

21

22 Mr. Chair, that completes my
23 presentation.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Polly.
26 Chistochina and Mentasta aren't they within the Eastern
27 Interior boundaries? Go ahead, Polly.

28

29 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair, good
30 point. I should have said that right off the bat. They
31 are. They're in the Eastern Interior boundaries but the
32 reason why this is before you is because this Council has
33 customary and traditional use in the northern -- for
34 freshwater fish in the Yukon northern area.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

37

38 MS. WHEELER: So it's a very peripheral
39 issue to this Council. But because you have the existing
40 C&T -- or you're included in the existing C&T finding for
41 freshwater fish in the Yukon northern area, which
42 includes the Tanana River drainage, it was put on your
43 agenda.

44

45 Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right, thanks. Vince,
48 do you know if Eastern's met yet?

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: No, they meet next week on

1 this. And Southcentral meets later on. So none of the
2 other Regional Councils that would be affected by this
3 proposal have met. And that's all I know on those
4 Councils.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have ADF&G comments,
7 go ahead.

8
9 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. Polly Wheeler.
10 Ms. Brown handed me the State's comments on the way out
11 the door, I can read them into the record if that.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

14
15 MR. COLLINS: Might as well.

16
17 MS. WHEELER: Okay. Unless somebody from
18 the State wants to step up to the plate here, not to use
19 another baseball analogy here.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 MS. WHEELER: But I don't hear anybody
24 rushing up behind me so I will read the State's comments
25 into the records with the caveat that I don't work for
26 the State, I work for the Office of Subsistence
27 Management, Mr. Chair.

28
29 So Proposal FP06-02.

30
31 The Department agrees with the fact that
32 there is customary and traditional use of
33 freshwater fish by residents of
34 Chistochina and Mentasta in limited
35 portions of the upper reaches of the
36 Tanana River drainage associated with
37 Federal waters, the Tetlin National
38 Wildlife Refuge and Wrangell-St. Elias
39 National Park and Preserve.

40
41 However, the Department does not have any
42 evidence of customary and traditional
43 subsistence use of freshwater fisheries
44 by residents of Chistochina and Mentasta
45 within the ANILCA additions to Denali
46 National Park and Preserve, which are
47 also Federal waters within the Tanana
48 River drainage.

49
50 Therefore, the Department recommends that

1 the customary and traditional use finding
2 be limited to those areas within the
3 Tanana River drainage for which evidence
4 exists of customary and traditional uses
5 of freshwater fish by residents of
6 Chistochina and Mentasta.
7
8 Mr. Chair, that concludes the State's
9 comments.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Polly. Federal
12 agencies.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Native, tribal and
17 village.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Interagency Staff.
22
23 (No comments)
24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any written
26 comments, Vince.
27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. There
29 was one written comment from the AHTNA Subsistence
30 Committee. They support including the residents of
31 Chistochina and Mentasta Lake for freshwater fish of the
32 Tanana River. They have customarily and traditionally
33 used the area to harvest freshwater fish.
34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Regional
36 Council deliberation. Jack.
37
38 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I make a
39 motion to adopt FP06-02.
40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.
42
43 MR. COLLINS: I'll second.
44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by -- Tina.
46
47 REPORTER: Ray.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray Collins. Any further
50 comments. Jack.

1 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. These C&Ts
2 would provide for those people who are customarily and
3 traditionally utilizing those resource. And I feel that
4 those species that they're harvesting are limited to
5 their region, to their area of use, those would be
6 probably round whitefish and grayling and so forth. I
7 don't feel that they're going to conflict with any of the
8 users in the Western Interior region and so therefore I
9 will support this proposal.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Deliberations. Again,
18 just to -- go ahead, Ray.

19
20 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I wonder
21 if we should put on record that we would defer to
22 Eastern Interior if they have any issue with it. Usually
23 we've done that if it's in another area there. I support
24 it. But I think that we would defer to them if they felt
25 otherwise.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: So your feeling would be
28 that we support this proposal with the knowledge that if
29 Eastern Interior or Southcentral Interior [sic]
30 modifies.....

31
32 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM:or make any changes,
35 that we would defer to their changes, right, is that.....

36
37 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM:what you're trying to
40 say?

41
42 MR. COLLINS: Right. That's what I was
43 thinking.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that fine?

46
47 (Council nods affirmatively)

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think it's only
50 appropriate because.....

1 MR. MATHEWS: Well, if I understand the
2 intent of what Ray is saying that you support the
3 customary and traditional uses of these freshwater fish
4 by these communities, but that you acknowledge that the
5 regions that are closest to it would be the ones that
6 would be better to.....
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Address it.
9
10 MR. MATHEWS:address it. So it's a
11 little muddied but I think it's okay.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: But it -- yes, it's.....
14
15 MR. MATHEWS: I don't think Eastern's
16 going to vote against it. I can't predict Southcentral,
17 but the AHTNA is from Southcentral and they support it.
18 But I can't prejudge what either Council will do on that.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: But our concerns and our
21 intent is clearly read into the record then.
22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Right.
24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: So if we support this
26 proposal it's all pending Eastern Interior and
27 Southcentral's final decision.
28
29 Is that understood.
30
31 (Council nods affirmatively)
32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. You had something.
34 Okay there's a motion to adopt -- or support.....
35
36 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chairman.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Don.
39
40 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chairman, are you
41 entertaining a motion then?
42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, Jack already made the
44 motion to adopt it and Ray Collins seconded it.
45
46 MR. HONEA: Okay.
47
48 MR. WALKER: Question.
49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called.

1 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

6

7 (No opposing votes)

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Proposal

10 5.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that
13 brings you up to, I believe, it's the Kuskokwim River,
14 it's Proposal 5 on Page 58. And I'm not going to find it
15 quick enough here, but that was submitted by the Yukon-
16 Kuskokwim River Delta National Wildlife Refuge. It
17 requests changing the current Kuskokwim District Federal
18 subsistence fishing regulations to align State and
19 Federal regulations for the subsistence closure periods
20 before, during and after State commercial.

21

22 Don will be presenting that proposal.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, go ahead, Don.

25

26 MR. RIVARD: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
27 Council members. I'm Don Rivard with the Office of
28 Subsistence Management. This analysis was written by
29 Rich Uberuaga. Well, Rich turned 55 on September 26th,
30 and four days later on September 30th he retired with 30
31 years of Federal service, so he was eligible, he spent
32 four extra days in the Service than what he had to so we
33 wish him well.

34

35 I'll repeat a little bit of what Vince
36 just said. This analysis starts on Page 59. There's an
37 executive summary on 58 but the analysis itself is on 59.

38

39

40 As Vince mentioned it was submitted the
41 Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge, the manager there
42 is Mike Rearden and he is the in-season manager for the
43 Kuskokwim River.

44

45 This particular proposal would align
46 Federal and State regulations for subsistence closure
47 periods before, during and after State commercial fishing
48 periods. You can see the current and proposed
49 regulations on Page 59, about half way down there.

50

1 Until 2004 Federal and State subsistence
2 fishing regulations prevented the subsistence harvest of
3 salmon by net or fishwheel 16 hours before and during and
4 six hours after each State commercial salmon fishing
5 period in District 1, excluding the Kuskokuak Slough -- I
6 hope I'm not slaughtering that word too much there, and
7 in District 2. In January 2004, just about almost two
8 years ago, the Alaska Board of Fisheries changed State
9 regulations to allow the Alaska Department of Fish and
10 Game to establish subsistence fishing closures around
11 commercial fishing periods by emergency order. Also in
12 2004 the ADF&G changed, by emergency order, the time
13 period for the subsistence closure to six hours before
14 instead of 16 and then during the commercial period and
15 then three hours after instead of six, the commercial
16 periods to allow for more subsistence opportunity.

17
18 This action was agreed to by the Federal
19 in-season fishery manager, however the State's new
20 subsistence fishing closure hours were not changed in
21 Federal regulations that you see there on Page 59 under
22 existing, that second paragraph.

23
24 Adoption of this proposal would allow the
25 Federal Subsistence Management Program to be flexible and
26 consistent with the State management program. State
27 management plans and actions would continue to be
28 followed and would provide a regulatory format that could
29 incorporate annual changes through emergency orders as
30 long as they continue to provide for the Federal
31 subsistence priority. And that's the statement, that's
32 the key statement there.

33
34 So on Page 62 you'll see that the
35 preliminary Staff conclusion there then is to support
36 this proposal. The new Federal regulation would allow
37 annual changes through emergency order by the ADF&G to
38 schedule openings, closings and fishing methods without
39 requiring an annual change in Federal regulations as long
40 as the Federal subsistence priority was maintained.

41
42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Don. Any
45 questions. Robert.

46
47 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don,
48 how will this affect the windows, like you say, it's
49 changing from 12 hours to six hours, will that affect the
50 windows here throughout the subsistence season?

1 MR. RIVARD: Well, it's not going to
2 change the window schedule at all. What it does is, if
3 you look on Page 59 you can kind of see, under current --
4 under the current Federal regulation it's still the old
5 State and it shows that salmon cannot be taken 16 hours
6 before or six hours after and the State relaxed those
7 times, they made them less. But we take that out of
8 there and then it's actually allowing less time -- less
9 times of closures around the commercial fishing period,
10 so it's actually a benefit to the subsistence users to
11 have more time to fish. But it doesn't touch the window
12 schedule at all. This particular proposal doesn't.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
15 Don at this time.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: ADF&G.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the notes
22 were passed to me because Fish and Game Staff need to
23 participate in the Board of Game teleconference. And,
24 again, I work, not for the State but for the Office of
25 Subsistence Management.

26
27 On this proposal, if the Federal program
28 has regulations that duplicate those of
29 the State those regulations should align
30 with the State requirements.

31
32 In this case the State regulations
33 provide more subsistence fishing
34 opportunity than Federal regulations. It
35 would promote coordinated management to
36 have the Federal regulation linked to the
37 State's emergency orders so that as
38 management conditions change over time,
39 the State adjusts the closure periods
40 around commercial openings. The Federal
41 regulations will automatically reflect
42 those changes without having to go
43 through the regulatory process again.

44
45 Again, these were submitted Alaska
46 Department of Fish and Game for Proposal 06-05.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Federal agencies.

49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: So what this does is just
2 make it more flexible and provide more subsistence
3 opportunities then, right.

4
5 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's
6 correct.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. So a lot will be
9 riding on the in-season managers and local.....

10
11 MR. RIVARD: Yes, the in-season manager,
12 he still has to agree to the emergency order and there's
13 a process in place where they're consulting back and
14 forth, the ADF&G in-season manager with the Federal
15 manager. And if for some reason the Federal manager
16 didn't agree he still has the opportunity and the
17 authority to do something different on Federal lands and
18 waters.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Federal agencies,
21 we went through that. Native Councils.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Interagency Staff.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Summary of written
30 comments.

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, there were no
33 written comments on this proposal.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further public
36 testimony.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, Regional Council
41 deliberations. Jack.

42
43 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, I feel that this
44 is a very warranted proposal in alignment with the State.
45 If the commercial harvest is going to occur, I feel that
46 subsistence should have the highest opportunity up to
47 that point and so I feel that this proposal is -- I will
48 support this proposal.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments.

1 Mickey.

2

3 MR. STICKMAN: I'm a little bit confused
4 because it's saying District 1 and District 2, but, you
5 know, the only thing I know is Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, you know,
6 where is District 1 and where is District 2 at?

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, this is on the
9 Kuskokwim River that we're addressing, is this right,
10 Ray?

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: There's a map on Page 61.
13 It's a little hard to read but this is Kuskokwim now, and
14 their districts are obviously defined differently.

15

16 MR. WALKER: Ron.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

19

20 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
21 think on the Kuskokwim, it's not Y, it's W, it's W1, W2,
22 that's the term they use there.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did that answer your
25 question on where it's at, because this is the
26 Kuskokwim's proposal.

27

28 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. I was just, you
29 know, the other thing I was thinking, you know, I know
30 it's an added opportunity for subsistence in those
31 districts but what about in other districts, are the
32 fishermen in other districts going to get the same added
33 opportunity as far as subsistence harvesting?

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Don.

36

37 MR. RIVARD: Well, if you look there's
38 not much Federal land once you get past the Refuge and
39 we're talking about the Federal regulation being changed.
40 So the State already does it for the other districts
41 upstream of the Refuge. And Ray might have some comments
42 on that, too.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

45

46 MR. COLLINS: Well, there is no
47 commercial further up stream, so I think it covers the
48 commercial fishing areas on the Kuskokwim in those two,
49 there's only two remaining.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Any
2 further comments. Questions.
3
4 MR. COLLINS: I'll move to support, Mr.
5 Chairman.
6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.
8
9 MR. REAKOFF: Second.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Jack Reakoff.
12 Comments. Deliberation.
13
14 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.
17
18 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Also,
19 you know, we have to note, too, that this is not inside
20 our Western Interior, it's the Lower Yukon Kuskokwim RAC,
21 too, and how are we going to do this, support it or
22 modify it or what are we going to do here, Mr. Chairman?
23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: I was thinking about doing
25 the same thing as we did on Proposal 2. Let the final
26 determination or deferment or modifications that may be
27 added by YK-Delta. Are we going the same direction then?
28
29 MR. COLLINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't
30 know if that's needed because those fish that are passing
31 through there are coming into our area as opposed to --
32 yeah, so it directly impacts us, what the subsistence
33 fishermen do down there, at least those from Aniak and
34 up.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.
37
38 MR. COLLINS: So we have a more direct
39 interest in this than we did in the other one.
40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Right.
42
43 MR. WALKER: That's a good point, Ray.
44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for that
46 clarification Ray. We do have a motion on the floor and
47 it's seconded.
48
49 MR. WALKER: I call for the question, Mr.
50 Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called
2 for. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying
3 aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.
8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Vince.

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: So Mr. Chairman, then your
14 motion stands not as a deferral to the other region, it
15 just stands as a motion.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, it just stands as a
18 motion.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: All right, thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Ray clarified that
23 and he says because it directly affects this area and
24 that's why.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Then that brings us up to
27 -- we have to make a shift here, Polly, do we want to
28 take up the Resource Monitoring Plan now -- the reason I
29 say that is there's a time deal here that I don't know
30 when we're breaking for lunch, so that's the only thing.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the pleasure of the
33 Council, do you want to keep going for now?

34
35 MR. WALKER: We can keep going.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Fisheries Resource
38 Management. Polly Wheeler.

39
40 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 Council members. My name is Polly Wheeler. I'm an
42 anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence Management
43 and I actually work within the Fisheries Information
44 Services, which is kind of the research arm of OSM.
45 There's the regulatory arm which we've just been
46 experiencing, and there's the resource arm. And ideally
47 the research arm feeds into the regulatory arm or the
48 regulatory arm raises issues that can then be addressed
49 through the Fisheries Research Program.

50

1 I'm going to over the 2006 plan and I
2 will refer you to pages in your book. The handout that I
3 just gave you is just the action items that I will be
4 asking you to think about at the end of the presentation.
5 And it just kind of lists the projects that are up for
6 funding consideration in 2006 with the reviews of the
7 Technical Review Committee -- with the recommendation of
8 the Technical Review Committee.

9
10 But before we get to that, I'd like to
11 give you some background information because I think it's
12 useful because we only get to meet twice a year and only
13 once a year really to talk about the Fisheries Monitoring
14 Program, I think it's useful to provide some background,
15 besides we've got time to kill, right.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 MS. WHEELER: Again, the materials that
20 I'm going to cover here are the draft 2006 Fisheries
21 Monitoring Plan for the Yukon and for the Kuskokwim,
22 because again the Western Interior covers both of those
23 regions. There's also one interregional project which
24 I'll cover briefly and then I'll give you a short update
25 on the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program.

26
27 As far as the introduction to the
28 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and I've told you
29 before the acronym that we use is FRMP, unfortunate or
30 not, but that's what it is. The introduction to the
31 program can be found on Pages 63 to 68 of your book, and
32 a lot of this stuff is review but I think it's worth
33 repeating particularly if some of the people in the
34 audience don't remember or have not heard about this
35 program. And I should say I was down in Southeast last
36 week, all week, meeting with 10 area tribes in trying to
37 generate some proposals, research proposals for the 2007
38 call. And there's really varying levels of knowledge
39 about this program, and I think this Council is pretty
40 aware of this program but it's sometimes surprising in
41 individual communities where there's not that much
42 knowledge of the program.

43
44 Member Collins had talked about the
45 Takotna weir, that is a project that we fund under the
46 Kuskokwim Monitoring Plan and there's a lot of other
47 projects. And we talked earlier, too, about the
48 importance of documenting a lot of this TEK, traditional
49 knowledge, as a way to kind of supplement regulations but
50 also to kind of feed into the whole C&T process and

1 methods and means and that kind of thing. So there's a
2 lot of value in this program.

3
4 The goal of our program is basically to
5 provide funding for projects that provide information for
6 Federal subsistence fisheries management, but we don't
7 fund just any project. We fund projects that are
8 technically sound, that have competent investigators,
9 that address high priority needs within the program.

10
11 For 2006 this was really important
12 because we didn't have a lot of money. In years past
13 we've had millions of dollars, this year we had actually
14 \$1.3 million statewide, which was the lowest year yet as
15 far as funding goes. And so we didn't get as many
16 proposals because the call for proposals was very
17 specific. And hopefully we'll be able to broaden that
18 call for proposals in 2007. We get at important issues,
19 as we've covered before, through the Regional Advisory
20 Councils. You guys are critical in terms of providing
21 the high priority issues. The management process or the
22 regulatory process is critical for getting at some of the
23 high priority issues. I mentioned last time I was
24 talking to you that we are starting a strategic planning
25 process to get at high priority issues on a regional
26 basis. We've so far done Southcentral and Bristol Bay
27 regions. We're actually waiting for a couple of other
28 strategic planning processes in the Yukon and the
29 Kuskokwim to finish up so that we can piggyback on those
30 efforts because there's no point in reinventing the
31 wheel. And when that process does occur, when it starts,
32 you'll all be aware of it because one of the key elements
33 of our planning process is that we have Regional Council
34 members on the strategic planning team.

35
36 As far as the process for project
37 selection, we have a Technical Review Committee that has
38 representatives of each of the Federal agencies as well
39 as members of Fish and Game. FIS Staff, myself, and
40 another anthropologist and four biologists -- the maps
41 are crashing around us -- we provide recommendations to
42 the Technical Review Committee. We review all the
43 proposals. We provide the technical recommendations to
44 the Technical Review Committee and they take it on as
45 their own. They accept those recommendations or not and
46 I can tell you that those meetings can be very, very
47 contentious at times, but I think that it's a good sound
48 process because the projects are all really solidly
49 talked about. But the first line is the Staff, like
50 myself, that review all these proposals, talk to the

1 investigators. If we see problems with the proposals, we
2 try and address them as we can.

3

4 So the Technical Review Committee reviews
5 the proposals and gives their initial recommendation and
6 then it comes before you, which is why we're here today.
7 And then ultimately it goes to the Federal Board at their
8 January meeting.

9

10 Yes.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

13

14 MR. REAKOFF: Do the investigators sit
15 before the review committee with their proposal?

16

17 MS. WHEELER: No, that's not been the
18 practice. And in my mind that's probably a good thing
19 because it, in some ways, gives an unfair advantage that
20 may be living in Anchorage or something like that. So I
21 think as a general rule it's our job, the Staff
22 anthropologist and biologist to raise whatever questions
23 we can raise with the investigator so that when we go in,
24 if there are questions, we can answer those questions.
25 And it's generally worked pretty well. But you've all
26 experienced investigators coming before you and lobbying
27 for their projects so you can imagine what it would be if
28 the investigators then lobbied the Technical Review
29 Committee as well.

30

31 As far as guideline models for funding as
32 I said earlier, the overall amount was about \$1.2, \$1/3
33 million available statewide. The Kuskokwim and the Yukon
34 each got a little over \$300,000, that was sort of the
35 allotment for each of these regions. And, of course, we
36 give some of the funding -- the funding's allotted by
37 data type so we have kind of the standard biological
38 projects and then the standard social science project and
39 that's about a 1/3 - 2/3 split, so we basically had
40 300,000 give or take available for funding in both the
41 Yukon and the Kuskokwim.

42

43 As I said, we had a fairly specific call
44 for proposals this year and it resulted in 20 projects
45 being submitted statewide and there were four for the
46 Yukon and six for the Kuskokwim. So basically between
47 the Yukon and the Kuskokwim that accounted for half of
48 the project proposals submitted statewide. I should say
49 at this point the Fisheries Resources Monitoring Program
50 is funding about 50 percent of the salmon -- or maybe

1 it's 25 -- let's see for the Kuskokwim it's about 60
2 percent of salmon research that's going on in the
3 Kuskokwim, right now, is funded through our program.
4 Almost all of the nonsalmon research that's going on in
5 the Yukon and Kuskokwim is funded through our program.
6 As you probably are all aware, salmon are the sexy
7 species they get the money and these nonsalmon species
8 that are absolutely critical for subsistence haven't
9 always been -- there hasn't been an avenue for funding
10 for those projects and our program has played a critical
11 role and I think the Council has played a critical role
12 in ensuring that projects like the Koyukuk River harvest
13 monitoring TEK project gets funding, the Grayling, Anvik,
14 Shageluk and Holy Cross nonsalmon fisheries project gets
15 funded and we've got a couple of more on the Yukon and
16 one on the Kuskokwim as well. These projects are
17 critical and if this work wasn't done there's no other
18 funding entity that's going to step up to the plate and
19 do them. And as Vince had alluded to earlier, you know,
20 funding realities are what they are and probably if we
21 were all realistic we'd say that funding is going to be
22 shrinking in future years so it's really important that
23 we get the biggest bang for our buck. And, you know,
24 there's the AYK Sustainable Salmon Initiative, that's
25 funding a lot of salmon research and I will defend, while
26 I work for this program, I will always defend the
27 importance of funding these nonsalmon projects because
28 these projects are critical because these are the species
29 that, you know, salmon populations decline, you see
30 people relying on these nonsalmon species more and more.
31 So I'll get off my soapbox for a little bit.

32
33 So as I said we had 20 projects submitted
34 statewide, four for the Yukon, six for the Kuskokwim. In
35 total 15 projects were recommended for funding by the
36 Technical Review Committee and that included three in the
37 Yukon and five in the Kuskokwim.

38
39 Now, if you turn to Pages 71 and 72 in
40 your book, and, again, I'm going through this stuff
41 fairly quickly but I'm here for the duration so if you
42 have any questions while I'm here you can always ask
43 them. Table 1 on Pages 71 and 72 in your book is all the
44 projects that have been funded in the Yukon region since
45 the start of our program. I'll do the counting for you,
46 we've funded 67 project in the Yukon region through 2005.
47 Most of those projects have been directed at salmon.
48 Fourteen of them have been directed at nonsalmon. Again,
49 a small portion of them but don't let the number be your
50 guide for importance. And, again, all of these projects

1 provide information some way, shape or form to Federal
2 subsistence fisheries management.

3

4 On the Yukon region we had four
5 investigation plans submitted for funding consideration.
6 There were two stock, status and trends projects and two
7 harvest monitoring traditional knowledge projects. The
8 Technical Review Committee reviewed the investigation
9 plans and they recommended both of the harvest monitoring
10 traditional knowledge projects for funding and only one
11 of the stock, status and trends project for funding. The
12 prioritized list of projects for the Yukon is on the
13 bottom of Page 75 in your books, and those above the line
14 are recommended for funding. I can talk a little bit
15 about each of the projects and I'll be brief, Mr. Chair,
16 but I think it's useful since you've got this action item
17 before you to actually vote on, or make a recommendation
18 on these projects, I think it's useful to know what they
19 actually are.

20

21 Project 06-205 the application of mixed
22 stock analysis for Yukon River fall chum salmon, that was
23 actually a specific item in the call for proposals. This
24 project addresses the issue of mainstem mixed stock
25 analysis in the Lower Yukon River. The proposal is a
26 continuation of the two year feasibility study conducting
27 mixed stock analysis of fall chum sampled from the Pilot
28 Station test fishery and then reporting the information
29 to the managers in season. The project is technically
30 sound. It addresses the strategic priority as I said
31 earlier. The past performance of the investigators are
32 all high. And the TRC did recommend this project for
33 funding.

34

35 The other two projects recommended for
36 funding are both traditional knowledge projects. One has
37 a biological sampling component and the other has a
38 harvest survey component. Actually both of them have
39 harvest survey components and then there's also a
40 biological sampling component of the 06-252.

41

42 The 06-252 is a project going on in the
43 Yukon Flats region. It's a multi-partnered project. I
44 think this project wins the award for the most number of
45 partners. Ingrid McSweeny and Wennona Brown in the
46 audience are both on this project as is Mike Koskey with
47 Division of Subsistence, he's Caroline Brown's
48 counterpart for the Eastern Interior region. There's
49 tribal involvement. It's going to be an interesting
50 project to write the funding documents for, should it be

1 approved by the Federal Board. But it's proposing to
2 combine social science and biological methods to look at
3 contemporary knowledge of nonsalmon species in the Birch
4 Creek area and you probably remember the Birch Creek area
5 has been a contentious area from a regulatory standpoint
6 for what's going on, and it's looking at the harvest and
7 the knowledge of residents of five Yukon Flats
8 communities, including Ft. Yukon, Circle, Central, Beaver
9 and Birch Creek Village, and those are all communities
10 that use that area. Nonsalmon species are really
11 important for those communities. Again, they don't
12 necessarily constitute a huge part of the annual harvest
13 but they do constitute a consistent part of the annual
14 harvest. The Subsistence Division methodology that we've
15 seen before, both with the Koyukuk project and the GASH
16 project, the investigators are highly qualified to do the
17 work and that project was recommended for funding.

18
19 And, finally, in the Yukon region there's
20 the project, 06-253, TEK and harvest survey of nonsalmon
21 fish in the middle Yukon River region. That project is
22 using the same methodology that we've seen with the
23 Koyukuk River project and the GASH project and it's
24 looking at collecting traditional knowledge and doing
25 harvest assessment on nonsalmon fish in Kaltag, Nulato,
26 Galena, Tanana and Ruby. So it's going to kind of fit,
27 you know, fit the gap, I guess between the GASH project
28 and the Koyukuk project. And you know the investigator,
29 it's Caroline, and it's Louden Tribal Council, and
30 Caroline has just done excellent work under our program.
31 She's a prize investigator and we feel fortunate to have
32 her doing the work, and I know you feel fortunate to have
33 her doing the work. She does excellent work. And that
34 project is also recommended for funding. That project,
35 too, has a strong capacity building component. In Galena
36 they're going to be working with the school district.

37
38 So there's those three projects that have
39 been recommended for funding. There's a fourth project
40 that's on that list that was not recommended for funding,
41 it's the 06-202, the spawning distribution of fall chum
42 salmon in the Tanana River drainage using radio
43 telemetry. This was a pretty contentious project, I
44 would say, in front of the TRC. It's a sound project,
45 technically, but the Federal -- the application to
46 Federal Fisheries Management was weak. And even though
47 the improved assessment of the Tanana River fall chums
48 would be a net benefit of the project the application of
49 the information to Federal subsistence management
50 precluded the TRC from recommending it for funding. So,

1 you know, the investigators were sound, the project was
2 sound but the link to Federal wasn't there, or was weak
3 anyway and that's what the TRC is for, is to make those
4 tough decisions, based on the funding allocations and
5 everything else. And, you know, our program, the
6 specific mandate of the program is to provide information
7 for Federal subsistence fisheries management so that's
8 the kind of projects that we have to fund.

9
10 So with that, Mr. Chair, I'll stop. In
11 that first box on the handout that I gave you is the
12 Yukon projects. And as you can see in that box, and for
13 people in the audience if they're interested, there's
14 more handouts over there, those are the four projects for
15 the Yukon region. And I don't know if you want to
16 address the Yukon region first and then address the
17 Kuskokwim region and then the interregional region or if
18 you want to do it as a whole. It might be easier from an
19 administrative standpoint to deal with each region
20 separately. But that top box is the Yukon projects.
21 It's got the Technical Review Committee recommendations
22 there. As I said, they recommended one out of the two
23 stock, status and trends projects, both of the harvest
24 monitoring traditional knowledge projects, which is
25 probably a first. I don't think we've ever had an
26 example of where we've actually had more social science
27 projects than biological projects, so maybe it will be a
28 trend, but those are the four projects that are before
29 you for the Yukon region.

30
31 Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Polly. What's
34 the wishes of the Council, do you want to go one region
35 at a time, one river?

36
37 (Council nods affirmatively)

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. At this time the
40 Chair will entertain a motion to adopt these proposed
41 projects as recommended.

42
43 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: You have any more
46 questions first -- Jack.

47
48 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'd make a
49 motion to adopt the TRC's recommendations for the Yukon
50 River drainage, and I feel these are prioritized

1 correctly.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

4

5 MR. STICKMAN: I second, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion or
8 questions for Polly while she's here.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: We do have a motion on the
13 floor. All those in favor of the motion signify by
14 saying aye.

15

16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

19

20 (No opposing votes)

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Number 2.

23

24 MR. COLLINS: Are we going to go to
25 lunch.

26

27 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, I was going to
28 say.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Well, we have two more, I
31 think we can get through them.

32

33 MS. WHEELER: Well, this presents a clean
34 break, we can come back after lunch and deal with the
35 Kuskokwim if that would be the Council's preference
36 because it's a clean break right now. I can continue.
37 You know me, I could keep talking.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MR. COLLINS: It gives a little more
42 time, I think for the plane to get in, if they're going
43 to be later anyhow.

44

45 MS. WHEELER: Also Member Morgan.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Carl's not here,
48 too.

49

50 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, lunch break. 1:00,
2 1:30.
3
4 MR. WALKER: 2:00 o'clock.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: 1:30 we'll try for that.
9
10 (Off record)
11
12 (On record)
13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, back to the agenda.
15 We have proposed Kuskokwim River investigation plan.
16 Polly.
17
18 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 Before lunch I reviewed the 2006 -- oh, for the record,
20 it's Polly Wheeler with the Fisheries Resources
21 Monitoring Program, Office of Subsistence Management.
22 Before lunch I reviewed the 2006 Fisheries Resources
23 Monitoring Plan for the Yukon River region. And the
24 Council, just to bring Member Morgan up to speed, the
25 Council voted to support the TRC recommendations for the
26 Yukon River region, and then we broke for lunch and now I
27 will talk about the Kuskokwim River Resources Monitoring
28 Program.
29
30 In your books on Pages 88 and 89 is Table
31 1 for the Kuskokwim region, and that lists all of the
32 projects that have funded through the Monitoring Program
33 since the start of the program for the Kuskokwim region.
34
35 Since the start of the program 54
36 projects have been funded for the Kuskokwim region. As I
37 mentioned before lunch, the Monitoring Program supports
38 about 50 percent of the fisheries monitoring and research
39 conducted in the Kuskokwim region. Member Collins
40 earlier this morning had talked about the Takotna River
41 weir, that's a project that we fund and there's a number
42 of other projects that we fund in the region as well.
43
44 For 2006 six investigation plans were
45 submitted for funding consideration for this region.
46 Five SST projects and one HMTEK. After reviewing all of
47 the investigation plans the Technical Review Committee
48 recommended funding five of the six projects. And in the
49 handout that I gave you, the second chart, the projects
50 are listed there. And I'm realizing I'm missing a

1 project on that. Bear with me here for a minute.

2

3

(Pause)

4

5 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, I just realized
6 there's a mistake on this chart in front of you and I
7 apologize for that. The projects that are listed,
8 there's 06-303, and this is on the second table on this
9 chart. There's 06-303, 06-305 is on that, and the 06-305
10 is incorrectly named on this table. I apologize for this
11 Mr. Chair. The rainbow trout project should be actually
12 06-304 so if you want to, the one, two, three, fourth
13 project down spawning distribution, abundance of rainbow
14 trout in Aniak River, that should be 06-304, and I missed
15 a project here, 06-305 is spawning distribution and
16 migratory timing of Kuskokwim River sheefish using
17 radiotelemetry.

18

19 MR. COLLINS: And what was the
20 recommendation on that one?

21

22 MS. WHEELER: The recommendation on 06-
23 305 was yes. The Technical Review Committee recommended
24 funding that project and the recommendation for 06-304
25 was no for the rainbow trout project. Is that clear, Mr.
26 Chair.

27

28 Just to review on this chart, 06-303 is
29 the migratory behavior broad and humpback whitefish
30 Kuskokwim River and that's a yes.

31

32 06-306 in-season subsistence salmon catch
33 monitoring Kuskokwim River, that's a yes.

34

35 06-307 in-season supportive cooperative
36 management, that's a yes.

37

38 06-304 spawning distribution, spawning
39 abundance of rainbow trout in Aniak River, that's a no.

40

41 06-351 is nonsalmon harvest surveys and
42 local knowledge lower Kuskokwim River, that's a yes.

43

44 06-305 spawning distribution and
45 migratory timing of Kuskokwim River sheefish using
46 radiotelemetry, that's a yes as well.

47

48 I'm sorry for the confusion on that.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: That 305 deals with

1 sheefish, uh?

2

3 MS. WHEELER: Yes.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

6

7 MS. WHEELER: So, Mr. Chair, I'll go
8 through briefly and cover each of these projects and then
9 let the Council make their recommendation.

10

11 Project 06-303 the migratory behavior of
12 broad and humpback whitefish in Kuskokwim River
13 watershed. This project will expand the coverage of
14 radiotelemetry in the Kuskokwim River drainage to
15 identify spawning areas utilized by stocks of broad and
16 humpback whitefish which tend to concentrate in lower
17 river tributaries and lake systems where local
18 subsistence users have voiced concerns about harvest
19 declines. This has been a regular issue at the YK RAC
20 meeting in particular. We've heard regularly about the
21 declining populations of these species. This project
22 will add to our knowledge based on that. Basically track
23 tagged fish to fall spawning areas so that stock groups
24 can be identified for genetic samplings and studies
25 initiated to assess stock abundance and seasonal
26 distribution. It's a strong project, technically sound,
27 investigators are known. And as I said it builds on an
28 existing project.

29

30 06-305 is spawning distribution and
31 migratory timing of Kuskokwim River sheefish using
32 radiotelemetry. Again, that's the project that I
33 inadvertently left out on the second chart. This is a
34 three year telemetry study to track sheefish captured in
35 subsistence fisheries, again, to their spawning locations
36 and we know that sheefish are found throughout the
37 drainage but we don't know much about their distribution
38 and abundance and this would be a way at getting at that.
39 And just for your information, Member Collins, you may be
40 interested, that the first year of tagging will focus on
41 the upper portion of the drainage during the fall
42 migrating past McGrath, and then the second year the
43 focus will shift to fishing areas near Kalskag and Aniak
44 in early spring to capture fish as they move up river to
45 feeding areas. And, again, the project is technically
46 sound as are all the projects that are recommended for
47 funding by the Technical Review Committee, and that
48 project is recommended for funding.

49

50 The in-season catch monitoring and the

1 in-season support for cooperative management of the
2 Kuskokwim River fishery, you're probably both familiar,
3 particularly Member Collins since he sits on the
4 Kuskokwim River Working Group, 06-306 is a continuation
5 project. It's a project that we've funded since the start
6 of this program doing -- it basically focuses on in-
7 season subsistence monitoring. We don't call it a
8 harvest monitoring because it's not really a harvest
9 monitoring because it just talks to a small sub-sample of
10 the fishers so it's trying to get a sense of the
11 abundance and run timing and how people are doing, how a
12 small set of people are doing with regard to their
13 subsistence fishing. But in recent years we've kind of
14 recast that project. It used to be a harvest monitoring,
15 and we've kind of recast it because that wasn't really a
16 true representation of what the project was. But this
17 project is used a lot in the Kuskokwim Working Group in
18 terms of kind of evaluating where people are and how
19 they're doing with fishing. That project is recommended
20 for funding and that's a cooperative project between the
21 Bethel Tribal Council and Fish and Game.

22
23 And then the next project, supporting the
24 Kuskokwim River subsistence fishery, the 06-307,
25 supporting the cooperative management of that fishery,
26 basically provides funding for the Kuskokwim Working
27 Group. And the Fisheries Resources Monitoring Program
28 funded that -- or provided working group support through
29 2004, we didn't provide funds in 2005, and this proposal
30 would reestablish that support.

31
32 And then the one harvest monitoring and
33 traditional knowledge project, 06-351, it's a nonsalmon
34 harvest survey and local knowledge project. It's looking
35 at traditional knowledge and fisheries harvest assessment
36 in the communities of Nunapitchuk, Tuntutuliak and Eek.
37 This was actually a project that was before you last year
38 but it had enough technical issues that it was
39 recommended that the investigator go back to the drawing
40 board and kind of work on some of these technical issues,
41 it's now back before us, they've addressed those issues
42 and it's a solid project and the Technical Review
43 Committee recommended that it go.

44
45 The last project on the list that, again,
46 was not recommended for funding by the TRC is a project
47 looking at distribution and abundance of rainbow trout.
48 And you'll remember last year we did have a C&T, two C&T
49 proposals before us dealing with rainbow trout in the
50 Kuskokwim area. This project, the TRC was kind of in a

1 tough spot because they felt like this project, it was
2 important to know about this resource but the allowable
3 funding didn't provide for that. And actually in a
4 project that we had funded Aniak River subsistence
5 fisheries, it showed that people actually took a lot more
6 sheefish than they did rainbow trout and that was kind of
7 the clincher for the TRC. Because they're like, well, if
8 people are taking a lot more sheefish in these areas than
9 they are rainbow trout then we probably need to focus on
10 the resource that's being harvested in the highest
11 numbers or in the biggest amount. So there's nothing
12 about the technical issues with that proposal, it's just
13 when they measured it up against the other projects that
14 were being considered, it fell to the bottom of the list.

15
16 So, Mr. Chair, that's it for the six
17 projects on the Kuskokwim. On the Kuskokwim, again,
18 there's six projects, five of the six are recommended for
19 funding, four stock, status and trends and one harvest
20 monitoring TEK.

21
22 Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Polly.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: How big is that TRC
29 Committee?

30
31 MS. WHEELER: It's about 10 or 12.
32 There's a representative from each of the five Federal
33 agencies, and then divisions within Fish and Game and
34 then the Chair is Steve Klein, and then there's also some
35 additional social science expertise because most of the
36 agencies send biologists not social scientists.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. That's bigger
39 than I thought. So these proposed projects are pretty
40 well studied then?

41
42 MS. WHEELER: (Nod affirmatively)

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: And then that's why they
45 come up with these recommendations, too, then?

46
47 MS. WHEELER: Yes, Mr. Chair. And,
48 really, by the time they're getting to you they've gone
49 through the Staff have made their recommendations which
50 then go to the Technical Review Committee, they're

1 studied at length and then these are the recommendations
2 of the group.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. At this
5 time the Chair will entertain a motion to accept the TRC
6 recommendations proposed fisheries projects for the
7 Kuskokwim region.

8

9 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I move to
10 adopt the recommendations.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

13

14 MR. MORGAN: Second.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Second by Carl. Any
17 further discussion or questions for Polly.

18

19 MR. COLLINS: I have comments.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, go ahead.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I think it's really
24 good in what we're learning on some of these. Just that
25 03 on broad and humpback whitefish, you know, I used to
26 think that some of those were local, like there's a stock
27 up Telida, they use Telida Lake, I think they're there
28 every year and gone. Well, they thought the same thing
29 down river and they went into Whitefish Lake down by
30 Aniak there and they tagged those fish and then tracked
31 them as they moved around. They found that some of them
32 went up the Holitna to spawn, one of them was caught in a
33 subsistence fishery Medfra up river from here, and some
34 of them are back down at the coast, so they move all over
35 during the season and we don't know much about that.

36

37 And I'm sure the same thing would be true
38 on the Yukon, like they said that there aren't fish up
39 the Koyukuk like there used to be and so on. You
40 probably need to know how those things move around,
41 they're not just local in one area, they really move
42 widely.

43

44 And then a few others, like that in-
45 season monitoring is really important because we need to
46 know how subsistence fishermen are doing in order to
47 approve any commercial activity, so those are good.

48

49 And the one on sheefish, again, we know
50 those are caught throughout the system but they still

1 haven't identified just where they're spawning, and they
2 stop in one area but they don't spawn there, they go on,
3 you know, so some of the places they catch them isn't
4 where they're spawning it's another stream that they're
5 heading for. And there's several streams up here. In
6 fact, Big River, the name of Big River is (In Native) is
7 a sheefish. So Big River was called Sheefish Harvest
8 Place for the people up here. But what their numbers are
9 and whether they're declining or going up, we don't know.

10

11 Yeah, that's just my comments on some of
12 them, I think they're all good and we're learning a lot
13 from these.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: I appreciate your comments
16 and your work with the Kuskokwim Fisheries Coordinating
17 Committee. And the sheefish, we don't know where they're
18 at this fall, they're kind of missing, missing here and
19 there on the river because they always go spawn up the
20 Alatna River, you know, everybody knows that and the
21 numbers are down and nobody knows really where they're
22 all at at this time, maybe because of that high water.
23 But these studies have to go on. These studies are
24 valuable. We need them.

25

26 Any further comments or questions.

27

28 MR. HONEA: Yes.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Don.

31

32 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair. In support
33 of -- speaking in support of this proposal for continued
34 management, I believe that Ray is exactly right, and I
35 believe that there was a species that was monitored over
36 here on the Kuskokwim showed up in the Yukon River, so
37 it's kind of interesting, some of this stuff, the fish
38 going to different rivers and I'm in full support.

39

40 MR. COLLINS: Well, I don't know if it
41 was from here but I know in the Innoko they were tracking
42 some whitefish there that left the Innoko and ended up
43 way up the Yukon somewhere so they move around over in
44 the Yukon, too. I don't know if that was the ones. But
45 some of these do go down to saltwater so maybe they
46 wander up to the Yukon, too, I don't know.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments.

49 Questions.

50

1 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.
4
5 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to commend the
6 Technical Review Committee and Polly's work on that
7 committee. I appreciate Polly's presentation, she cuts
8 to the chase, we get the synopsis of what's going on with
9 these and I have confidence in the Technical Review
10 Committee process and so I am in support of the triage of
11 these projects.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Any
14 further deliberations.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions.
19
20 (No comments)
21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, all those in favor
23 of the motion signify by saying aye.
24
25 IN UNISON: Aye.
26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.
28
29 (No opposing votes)
30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Polly.
32 One more.
33
34 MS. WHEELER: One more but it will be
35 really brief.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.
38
39 MS. WHEELER: I know this is a lot of
40 information to go through and I guess I forgot to add
41 earlier, too, there's executive summaries for each of the
42 projects and there's contact information for the
43 principal investigator on each of those projects so I
44 would recommend that if you do have additional questions
45 you can call me or you can call the PI or whatever else,
46 but, you know, read them at your leisure and if you have
47 questions ask.
48
49 The last chart on that handout is for an
50 interregional project. This is a category, it's five

1 percent of the overall funding is put into this
2 interregional category because often times there are
3 projects that don't fit in a particular region or they go
4 across regions and this is one such project. We haven't
5 funded a lot of these projects but examples of projects
6 that we have funded, we funded a statewide harvest
7 compendium so that every year the subsistence fisheries
8 harvest information is put into one book so you don't
9 have to go to 12 different annual management reports, you
10 can go to one report and you can get the subsistence
11 fisheries harvest information for the whole state.
12 That's an example of an interregional project.

13
14 The only project that was submitted this
15 time around was this project that's in front of you, the
16 mixed stock analysis of Dolly Varden in the Togiak
17 National Wildlife Refuge. And the reason why it's before
18 you is because there's actually a portion of it that's in
19 the Kuskokwim Bay area. They're looking in the Togiak,
20 Kanektok and Goodnews Rivers, so it's sort of marginally
21 affected by you. But, again, because it's a small
22 percent of the overall funding that's dedicated to these
23 interregional projects this project will be brought
24 before all 10 Councils because it's an interregional
25 project, it's Fisheries Resources Monitoring Program.

26
27 I'll say up front, I don't know a lot
28 about this project because I'm really out of my element
29 here so I hope you don't have too many questions and if
30 you do I can tell you who to call or I can find out the
31 answer for you and get back to you.

32
33 This is looking at stock composition of
34 Dolly Varden in those three rivers, as I said. And
35 apparently mixed stocks of Dolly Varden enter each of
36 these rivers in large numbers and sustain subsistence
37 fisheries, not surprisingly. At question is the portion
38 of these returns that are comprised of these three stocks
39 and the proposed project directly addresses that
40 question. The project is technically sound,
41 administratively competent and it promotes capacity
42 building and so the TRC does recommend the project for
43 funding.

44
45 Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Polly.
48 Questions.

49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, the Chair will
2 entertain a motion to support the TRC recommendation on
3 Study No. 06-701.
4
5 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'll move to
6 support this proposal.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.
9
10 MR. COLLINS: I'll second that, Mr.
11 Chair, but I'd like that same qualification that we had
12 on the Mentasta there because this is outside of our
13 system. It's one of those things where they refer
14 because we're adjacent, I think, in the Togiak.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Polly.
17
18 MS. WHEELER: I would say thought that
19 the methodology that they're using for this project could
20 fit for other -- I mean it could, you know, so it's sort
21 of the research and the methods that they're working out
22 here so if they can find something out with these mixed
23 stocks, find out where they're going, there could
24 actually be application in other forums.
25
26 Mr. Chair.
27
28 MR. COLLINS: I'll just leave it a
29 straight second then.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Ray. Do
32 we get a lot of interregional proposals, projects?
33
34 MS. WHEELER: (Shakes head negatively)
35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, okay.
37
38 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, actually since
39 the start of the program we've funded 12 interregional
40 projects, and four projects that are approved as part of
41 the 2004/2005 monitoring plans are going on and so
42 there's four of those that will be continuing in 2006.
43 But as I said, they tend to be kind of a catch all
44 category where, I mean we had the Statewide Harvest
45 Assessment Working Group, you probably remember that
46 early on. And then the Statewide Harvest Compendium. So
47 we don't -- there's not a lot, it's a small portion of
48 the funding but there's value in it because, again,
49 you've got these projects that are interregional and
50 sometimes the methods that are developed as part of these

1 projects can be applied to other areas of the state.
2
3 Mr. Chair.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
6 questions of Polly.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: I had something but I
11 can't quite get it out. These interregional, they'll be
12 jumping around, can, right, I mean you study a lot of
13 these stocks that could be of concern then?
14
15 MS. WHEELER: Oh, yeah.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any further
18 questions.
19
20 (No comments)
21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, we have a motion
23 on the floor to support TRC recommendations on Study 06-
24 701. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying
25 aye.
26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.
28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.
30
31 (No opposing votes)
32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank
34 you, Polly.
35
36 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: White Sox 6, Boston 2.
39
40 MS. WHEELER: I know.
41
42 (Laughter)
43
44 MS. WHEELER: It's not funny.
45
46 (Laughter)
47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.
49
50 (Laughter)

1 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I have a
2 general comment to make on studies that I think might
3 have bearing or to keep in mind. I was given an article
4 by Fred Andersen, I believe, who forwarded to me, on
5 genetic studies on fish, looking worldwide at what's
6 happening. All of the commercial fishing and a lot of
7 the other kinds of fishing target the largest fish and a
8 lot of the fish are getting smaller in size world wide
9 and it really has strong implications. Because some
10 specific studies have shown that the smaller fish are not
11 as viable when they spawn, they don't carry as many eggs,
12 and they're not as -- well, they're just not as viable
13 and so on.

14
15 And so once you do reduce the size it's
16 hard to bring the fishery back. Because even if you let
17 them spawn they're just not as successful or viable, and
18 I think we have to keep that in mind in our methods.
19 Because like in king salmon, let's say, we're trying to
20 take the biggest and if everybody's doing that out of the
21 Yukon with net size and so on they're going to decline
22 over time. And we could be doing it by our subsistence
23 activities as well as the others, by our means and
24 methods. And so we need to be paying attention to some
25 of those studies to see that that doesn't happen, here,
26 where we've got a chance, because some of them have
27 collapsed, you know, the cod fishery on the East Coast
28 and some of the others from overharvest and all of these
29 things. And, generally, I guess they're declining in
30 size world wide because the potential of wanting the
31 biggest always.

32
33 But I don't know if others have read
34 that, we could circulate some of those articles maybe if
35 others want to read it.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I brought
40 copies of that article as well as a couple other fishery
41 articles that I talked to Jack and Ron about. So we have
42 that present here and then Fred Andersen's here also.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this coming up on the
45 agenda some place?

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that's what I was
48 working on over here. It's not on the agenda, they're
49 informational items. We don't have Staff here to speak
50 from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's

1 report on saving areas, but we're giving you a copy of
2 it. I don't think there's Kuskokwim Staff coming in for
3 the age, sex and length study on the Kuskokwim that some
4 are indicating shows an indication net size does affect.

5
6 What?

7
8 MS. WHEELER: I was just going to say,
9 Mr. Chairman, my understanding was Dan Bergstrom might be
10 coming in later and he works with the Kuskokwim research.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, he probably could,
13 yes.

14
15 MS. WHEELER: So he might be able to
16 speak to that when he gets here.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: But I do have copies of
19 those and we'll hand them out. And, again, it's kind of
20 like the agenda's are developed so early and then these
21 things come up and then their magnitude or scale is so
22 large that it's hard to tackle them so we're basically
23 giving it to you for information and then from there if
24 questions develop or issues from them then we'd have to
25 program them in to future meetings.

26
27 I'm not saying you need to, I'm just
28 saying that's why we're -- you're going to leave with a
29 whole bunch of paper. But our intent is not the paper
30 it's the intent to get you the information.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again, Vince.
33 I think Ray did have a really valid point because not
34 only a good portion of that study that Vince faxed out to
35 me, I believe I read it in one of those national weeklys
36 addressing the same issue, we're just being overfished
37 throughout the world. Just totally overfished, you know,
38 and some people realize that and I think that -- like
39 Vince said, we don't know how to tackle this issue but at
40 least we can be informed and keep our people informed
41 about this. I think it would be really helpful on down
42 the line.

43
44 Do we have anything else for Polly.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, go ahead, Polly.

49 MS. WHEELER: Yeah, Mr. Chair, just the
50 last item on the agenda, that has my name attached to it,

1 anyway, on the agenda, is Partners For Fisheries
2 Monitoring Program. And rather than go through this, I'm
3 just going to refer you to the page, it's Page 113 and
4 114 in your book. The Partners Program, as you might
5 remember, has professional biologists and social
6 scientists in various Native and regional organizations
7 throughout the state.

8
9 In this region we've got KNA, Kuskokwim
10 Native Association has a partners biologist's position.
11 Tanana Chiefs has a partners biologist's position and Kim
12 Elkin is the partners biologist for Tanana Chiefs. David
13 Orbutt was the partner biologist for KNA although my
14 understanding is that he's recently departed for greener
15 pastures.

16
17 Typically we have those folks come to the
18 meetings. David came to the meeting in Anvik last fall,
19 I guess it was last fall, the Regional Advisory Council
20 meeting in Anvik. And Kim, I think was -- well, I don't
21 think Kim was in Allakaket. But anyway this just gives
22 you an update of their activities and, again, you could
23 read it at your leisure. And I would just say that
24 they're doing some interesting work and we're trying to
25 incorporate them into projects and they're trying to work
26 with various biologists in their regions.

27
28 So with that, Mr. Chair, I'm done for
29 now.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more questions for
34 Polly before she leaves.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to thank you for
39 all your work and your presentations, too, along with
40 Jack, thank you again, and your department.

41
42 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, I will pass that
43 on to Steve Klein.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again, Polly.
46 Where does that leave us, Vince.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, that
49 brings us up to handing out this material on fisheries so
50 you have time to review it. The one that I'll pass

1 around initially, or the first one I'll pass around I
2 should say is from the North Pacific Fishery Management
3 Council. It's the environmental assessment, regulatory
4 impact review and initial -- well, regulatory flexibility
5 analysis for modifying existing chinook and chum salmon
6 savings areas. I will caution you on this. There is a
7 new one that just came out, Don informed me of, but it's
8 325 pages and I couldn't print it before I got here.

9
10 So if you would like a copy of the newer,
11 I shouldn't say that, the more current version I can get
12 you a copy of it.

13
14 And then I wanted to, on the record,
15 thank the Fisheries Staff in Fairbanks, they bound these
16 for me in this way which makes it easier to handle.

17
18 And that's in reference to your
19 discussions about the impact of the fisheries on the open
20 seas and how they impact returning salmon, so that's why
21 we're providing it.

22
23 The next one is, because of your actions,
24 I believe, and I know for Eastern Interior, the concerns
25 about the open sea fisheries and how they're managed,
26 the, and correct me if I'm wrong, Don, it was the North
27 Pacific Fishery Management Council as well as NPFS did a
28 briefing to the Federal Subsistence Board on how they're
29 addressing the bycatch on the open seas. The item that
30 Don is handing out now is -- and, again, for the record
31 it's called BSAI salmon bycatch modifying existing
32 chinook and chum salmon saving areas by Diana Strand with
33 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Don may
34 want to talk about it, but that's the powerpoint program
35 that was presented to the Board. I have more handouts
36 but Don will brief you on this one.

37
38 MR. RIVARD: Just as a follow up, Mr.
39 Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Your
42 name.

43
44 MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard with the Office
45 of Subsistence Management. I attended that briefing that
46 Diana Strand gave to the Federal Subsistence Board on
47 Friday, September 23rd, and it was pretty interesting.
48 You'll see on one of those charts, I think Ray's looking
49 at it now, it shows the bycatch for the last few years
50 for both chinook and chum, and Diana Strand even pointed

1 out, if you look at the chum numbers, they've really been
2 shooting up the last couple of years. And so they're
3 looking at other ways to kind of reduce bycatch as well.

4
5 And they're, right now, the North Pacific
6 Fisheries Management Council, is having their big meeting
7 right now in Anchorage. They started yesterday and they
8 run through the 11th and they're going to be dealing with
9 this issue as well as others and there'll be an update
10 after that meeting as well and at some point, maybe at
11 your next meeting, we'll be able to give you some more
12 information on that as well.

13
14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Don. Just for
17 Council's information, this group, they seem to be pretty
18 good and they'll respond to you. At one of the
19 subsistence Chairman's meeting or something, we had a
20 different meeting, a private meeting with these people
21 and they'll respond to your questions, they're pretty
22 good and it would be worth it to get to know more about
23 them. They'll tell you what they think right off the
24 bat, they don't beat around the bush.

25
26 Anything else on this.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The
29 article that was mentioned earlier that Ray was
30 referencing, I think I sent to most of you guys but I'm
31 not sure and it's the publication called Conservation and
32 Practice, it's called Point of No Return, and I do have
33 copies of it here for those who don't. But besides the
34 issue it's covering, it's a well written article. I read
35 a lot of this and that one was -- it was a good write, it
36 was an easy one to read on a difficult subject.

37
38 The next item, I wish my kids were here,
39 age, sex and length.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: My kids are getting old
44 enough that I have to talk about the middle subject
45 there.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: But anyways, this is on the
50 Kuskokwim. Polly already indicated that Dan Bergstrom

1 will be here if you have questions on this, this is one
2 on the Kuskokwim. And you have been on the periphery on
3 the issue of the age, sex and length for the Yukon River.
4 Now, I'm really straining my memory on this, that is
5 still in a draft situation that hopefully will soon come
6 out of that limbo. So there is not copies of, to my
7 knowledge, of the Yukon age, sex and length.

8
9 Now, why is this all being brought up at
10 this time, this relates to the proposal that you're going
11 to take up later. These are my opinions, when you're
12 dealing with depth net size, is there a relationship
13 between the different depth nets -- so this relates to
14 that question. So Eastern Interior has been strong on
15 this to say we want to know what the age, sex and length
16 is for the Yukon River, and then I did not know that the
17 Kuskokwim was doing a similar study. So if you have
18 questions on this one we better hold off until Dan
19 Bergstrom comes here. I don't believe any of the
20 Kuskokwim Staff will be here other than Dan.

21
22 You already got the salmon bycatch one
23 and I believe that's all the articles that have popped up
24 in the last couple of weeks here that relate to
25 fisheries. And, again, it'd be great if the Staff was
26 here to give you more information on them. I have not
27 read the one on the Kuskokwim River so I can't really
28 even tell you what's in there, on the age, sex and
29 length.

30
31 So that's it. Then that would move us
32 into the wildlife topics since we're on hold on the
33 plane, if that's the wishes, we would move over to
34 wildlife.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray you had a comment.

37
38 MR. COLLINS: (Nods affirmatively)

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: There's Randy. So we're
41 here if you want to move into wildlife.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, before we do Ray,
44 you had a comment.

45
46 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I just had a comment
47 on the composition of the catch and what Doug's been
48 doing a lot of work on is they look at the number of four
49 year olds that come back and it becomes a predictor of
50 the five year olds that are going to return the next

1 year, since those return in multiple years, four, five
2 six, like the chinook. He's been tracking records of
3 those and looking at a given year, you can begin to see
4 what you might expect the following year in the other
5 ones based on that composition. So it's kind of
6 interesting to see. I didn't see that in here but he
7 handed out something that had that in it at a recent
8 meeting down in Bethel.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Any more
11 comments.

12
13 MR. JONES: Ron.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

16
17 MR. JONES: Yeah, I'm getting kind of
18 confused here on the graph there, you're talking about
19 ground fish, what is ground fish?

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, well, is that this
22 one here Benedict. Yes, they bycatch, 2004 chum salmon.

23
24 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Don.

27
28 MR. RIVARD: Benedict, it's mostly
29 pollack, the pollack fisheries that are getting a lot of
30 the bycatch of salmon. There may be other ground fish
31 that they're going for but it's mostly the pollack
32 fishery.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: By the term ground fish,
35 you mean the deep water bottom feeders or what?

36
37 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, basically they're
38 trolling bottom of the ocean where they're fishing at and
39 so they call them ground fish.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does that answer your
42 question Benedict?

43
44 MR. JONES: Yes.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Any
47 further questions.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Comments.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Wildlife issues.
6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does the Council want to
10 go into wildlife issues?
11
12 (Council nods affirmatively)
13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Vince.
15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, before I go into
17 that, I failed to announce for all the Staff here, there
18 is a sign up sheet over there and for those that didn't
19 get a book, there's copies of agendas here, I'll try to
20 get them over there if you need a copy of the agenda.
21 And if any other materials that you didn't get, it's
22 possible we have copies, we just haven't handed them out
23 or they're over there.
24
25 The wildlife issues, the first item, oh,
26 we're really bouncing here -- well, that's the way it
27 goes. We talked earlier about the special actions, so we
28 can either take special actions right now, meaning you
29 just look at them, look at what's been submitted. The
30 Board acts on those in a rapid action. But I thought
31 since we had a public meeting you would be exposed to
32 those special actions, and maybe the State has an update
33 on the Board of Game emergency orders; I don't know. So
34 let me find the handouts on special actions; there was
35 three in your region.
36
37 (Pause)
38
39 Since we're going into special actions,
40 someone will hand out this yellow one. The reason I gave
41 you the yellow one is so you'll understand the
42 regulations that deal with special actions so we can get
43 over saying, well, why was this accepted or rejected or
44 whatever happened, why was that being done and then we'll
45 refer to the yellow sheet if that conversation comes up.
46
47 So I'll wait until those get passed
48 around and then we'll, if need be, talk about special
49 actions.
50

1 Okay, for newer members so we can get the
2 terminology down, special actions are Federal side so we
3 call them -- on the State side they're emergency orders,
4 okay, so if I screw up and say emergency order when I
5 should be saying special action, correct me, and vice
6 versa in the other direction, because these special
7 actions that are being handed out to you parallel
8 emergency orders that were submitted.

9
10 Okay, to get the record straight on this,
11 special actions on the Federal side only apply to Federal
12 lands and waters. That's why you have those maps in
13 front of you. Emergency orders would apply to all lands
14 unless there's some other interfering or different action
15 by the Federal Board. So it's kind of like a camera or
16 your gun site, you're going to have to close it down for
17 the Federal side, open it wider for the State side. I'm
18 not going to talk about the emergency orders because it's
19 not my duty.

20
21 Okay, the handout that you have in front
22 of you starts off with a letter in response to Ron Sam
23 and Jack Reakoff submitted a special action request to
24 extend the moose season in the Kanuti Controlled Use
25 Area. It was rejected as it says here, because there has
26 been no changes in the moose population since the Board
27 deliberated on this in May 2005. The action is not
28 necessary to assure the continued viability of the
29 effected moose population. And to provide -- it's not
30 necessary to provide meaningful priority or to continue
31 subsistence uses or for reasons of public safety or
32 administration.

33
34 Now, that's legal term that's in the
35 yellow, okay. And the way the special actions work,
36 you're going to hear this when we talk about request for
37 reconsiderations and it is a good process to have this.
38 When someone submits a special action it goes through a
39 threshold analysis, is this really a special action.
40 Then if it is it goes for further analysis. If it's not
41 it's rejected on that. So the Board and the program and
42 the Staff Committee don't waste time on issues that
43 aren't really special actions.

44
45 So with that, the analysis that follows
46 the letter explains in more detail why the special action
47 was denied because it didn't meet the special action
48 criteria.

49
50 Does that make sense?

1 And then Ron and Jack you should have
2 received copies of this in the mail as well as fax.
3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I did receive it.
5
6 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: And I was made aware of it
9 very early that it wasn't going to go so I got with some
10 Council members or Fish and Game ticket seller, or
11 license seller, we got on the CB and told all the people
12 of Allakaket and Alatna, moose season is closed, quit
13 hunting, go home. But they accepted it because they
14 didn't expect it to pass either, so it wasn't that bad.
15
16 Robert.
17
18 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 Vince, wasn't Mike Smith from Tanana Chiefs supposed to
20 be here at this meeting to kind of like discuss some of
21 these issues here?
22
23 MR. MATHEWS: The only conversation I had
24 with Mike Smith of TCC is he talked to me over the phone
25 about how to submit a special action request and then he
26 came by and dropped off the special action request from
27 Tanana Chiefs subregional office Holy Cross. And I
28 believe it's in here, but, no, he did not inform me he's
29 coming. Maybe Caroline knows.
30
31 MR. BROWN: He did call me yesterday and
32 said that he wasn't going to be able to make it.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Come up to the mic please.
35
36 MS. BROWN: Through the Chair. Member
37 Walker. This is Caroline Brown. Yeah, he called me
38 yesterday and said that he wasn't going to be able to
39 make it but I just heard from him late in the day. So I
40 think he was intending to but something else came up.
41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Caroline. When
43 we did submit that request I was getting calls from all
44 over the state darn near, Jack and I, and one of our
45 calls was from Caroline Brown. She was probably the most
46 helpful during that time, even though the request was
47 denied.
48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Ray might have a question.
50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, on Page 3 where it's
4 looking in there, what we don't seem to be meeting is the
5 extenuating circumstances but it says extenuating
6 circumstances affecting harvest opportunities. Obviously
7 the harvest opportunity is being affected but the
8 question is it could not reasonably have been
9 anticipated. So usually we can't anticipate the weather
10 that far in advance when the seasons are set and that
11 potentially has significantly adverse affect on the
12 health of them so the health of them -- or subsistence
13 uses. It looks to me like subsistence use is being
14 affected by the weather which could not have been
15 anticipated ahead of time. I think we need to look at
16 maybe getting the regul -- if we're not meeting the
17 criteria, I guess what comes up is, can we change the
18 criteria so that these things fall into that pattern.
19 Because we're saying that there's not enough opportunity
20 to harvest it because of the weather or the fires and
21 they're saying that it doesn't meet the criteria and what
22 am I missing in there, I guess, and what would have to
23 change in order to make these qualify?

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Vince.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, the
28 regulations that you're focusing on on Page 3 are
29 Subparts A and B which are not open up to an annual
30 process so in answer to your question it'd have to be a
31 request to open up A and B to make it clear or to rewrite
32 them. These are fairly recent, May 7th of 2002, were the
33 changes that were made because before we didn't have
34 these qualifiers in there. And earlier than that we were
35 getting a lot of requests that were frivolous so these
36 were put in there.

37

38 But I think your point is or maybe I'm
39 misunderstanding you, Ray, is the wording is there, why
40 didn't that wording.....

41

42 MR. COLLINS: Work.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS:result in a different
45 change -- in a different final action. We might have to
46 ask others to maybe.....

47

48 MR. COLLINS: Specifically harvest
49 opportunity was affected and one of the conditions is to
50 be or subsistence uses and the subsistence use is not

1 being met because of lack of opportunity because of the
2 weather and so on. So I'm guessing -- I'm saying, why
3 were they able to use this to turn them down. Obviously
4 the wildlife population isn't being affected and it isn't
5 affecting the health of that population, but it is
6 affecting subsistence use and why isn't that enough to
7 trigger it?

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't
10 want to put a person on the spot but we can -- Pete
11 DeMatteo was the one that wrote this. He, didn't,
12 obviously, make the final decision on it.

13
14 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: But we can ask him that
17 question as to why didn't that other factor, the human
18 part of the equation there result in that. From my
19 perspective of being in the middle of all these
20 conversations was, is that, when we worked on the wording
21 of that special action request it had like three reasons
22 for it, those reasons disappeared. Smoke disappeared,
23 seasonal employment was not -- they were back from fire
24 crews and you guys, in my opinion, were being gentlemen
25 by submitting it early, Ron and Jack, were also at that
26 time indications were the river levels would be low, that
27 disappeared also.

28
29 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: But this one and then the
32 subsequent ones from Ruby and GASH, and then
33 conversations today indicate there may be a shift in when
34 the moose are moving. I hesitate to use the words,
35 climatic changes, so.....

36
37 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: But I don't know if anybody
40 else wants to talk about, you know, why didn't the
41 wording that Ray said, extenuating circumstances win the
42 day.

43
44 And then your parallel action on this to
45 the State Board of Game, I didn't put a copy in here, I
46 got an email on that, was rejected. And that, I believe,
47 and I hope I get it correct is that it also did not meet
48 the requirements, they have different requirements that I
49 haven't memorized, but they have specific requirements
50 that dictate it being an emergency action or not and it

1 didn't meet those requirements.

2

3

4 It's kind of a chicken or an egg thing.
5 I think where you can get to the chicken is when you're
6 going to be writing proposals coming up. But you guys
7 are flagging the egg, and one of the special actions did
8 not pass.

8

9

CHAIRMAN SAM: I didn't expect it to pass
10 from the State side. I just totally didn't expect that.
11 But I did get a letter stating those reasons exactly,
12 that this wasn't an emergency. But getting back to that
13 climatic change, we have Koyukuk River Advisory Committee
14 meeting in Fairbanks, we had that Koyukuk River Moose
15 Management meeting in Fairbanks all about the 24th of
16 this month and at that time I -- I am going to try and
17 write another proposal to change that moose season up
18 around our area from August 25th to September 5th and
19 then go to October 1st or 2nd, so it will keep pretty
20 much the same amount of days, it's just a little later
21 because they seem to be moving later and later every
22 year.

23

24 So that will be worth addressing at that
25 time, too. Any further questions.

26

27

MR. STICKMAN: Ron.

28

29

CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

30

31

MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, Ron, I like your
32 last comment because, you know, these special action
33 requests, you know, coming from such a broad area, our
34 Western Interior region, it clearly shows that, you know,
35 we need to bump the season back into the fall a little
36 further, you know, maybe 20 years ago the seasons that we
37 have now worked for us but with the way the weather is
38 changing and how warm it is, this fall, you know, the
39 moose just weren't moving around, and, you know, it was
40 the same way in Nulato, Kaltag area, just really, really
41 warm, you know. And just like everywhere else, all the
42 people who got lucky and got moose got it in the last
43 three to four days. But all the guys who went out at the
44 very beginning and in the middle just spent a lot of time
45 out there in the woods not having very much success. You
46 know, the guys who were successful were the guys who were
47 willing to walk a mile or two miles back into the lakes
48 and actually shoot one off the river.

49

50

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey.

1 Robert.

2

3

MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 You know, I was just thinking here, too, after talking
5 with the tribal chiefs from Anvik, Grayling, Shageluk and
6 Holy Cross in 21(E), that, you know, we're going to have
7 a few people that's going to be breaking that law now to
8 go out and get a moose and this is going to be a further
9 hardship when they get caught because there's a fine and
10 surrender the meat on top of that, I mean we have to
11 reconsider here something other than, you know, if the
12 State can't do it, you know, that's what we're here for.
13 I believe that's what we're here for. I think we need to
14 take care of this if we can.

15

16

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

18

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert. I

19 think that if I actually sat down and spent a couple
20 hours on the phone with Jack I think we could change a
21 lot of that wording, that language and we might -- I'm
22 pretty sure we might have gotten it from Kanuti Wildlife
23 Refuge, that extension. But I sure feel sorry now that I
24 didn't spend enough time to totally rewrite that because
25 some of that language that we used for the purpose was
26 from our last year's request and that's what Caroline
27 Brown said, you just should get it because people -- the
28 whole state knows now that up around Alatna Allakaket we
29 hunt a good 10 to 14, 17 days to get a moose or else it
30 doesn't take us long in some other areas.

31

32

So if I worded everything right I think

33

34

35

36

37

MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, we

38 should have included the aspects that the cow harvest has
39 been eliminated and so the densities are lower, the cow
40 harvest have been eliminated so the likelihood of
41 encountering bulls is reduced and so you need more time.
42 The bull/cow ratio is adequate for harvesting bulls but
43 we need more time to harvest these bulls, that's just --
44 and with these climatic changes and moose not moving
45 until later in the season, you know, we should have
46 included those wordings and that was -- I'm at fault for
47 not including some of those points.

48

49

50

The other aspect that we should have

included was this high cost of fuel, you know, how

1 expensive it is to go and hunt these moose.

2

3 And so that's my mistake, I'm sorry. I
4 apologize to this Council for that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. That's
7 pretty much what I thought, too, I should have spent more
8 time on it and worked it a little harder. But then, like
9 I said, I got hurt on the job and I lost a month of work
10 and I was kind of tied up.

11

12 Anything else, Vince.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

15

16 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Don.

19

20 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
21 guess my question or comment is kind of twofold in the
22 fact that the emergency order was issued and we kind of
23 didn't expect it and I was wondering in the future if the
24 same kind of scenario played out where they're moving
25 kind of late and stuff and I realize that Ed, our Ruby
26 Advisory Chairman submitted that after the season had
27 ended and not like these guys beforehand, and I was just
28 wondering if there was a way that in the future that if
29 this came up, this same scenario, that there was a way to
30 kind of speed up the process.

31

32 And also I'd like to know how does this
33 scenario play out? Okay, we submit that to you, an
34 emergency order and, I mean, just does that have to go
35 before the Game Board and did they have a special meeting
36 on that or can somebody clarify that?

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Well, let me go through the
41 Federal process. But let me caution you. When an
42 emergency happens, that's why it's called an emergency,
43 you don't know when it's going to happen. So I don't
44 want you to think, well, if Ed Sartin, who's still
45 pending for the local Advisory Committee special action,
46 he did it at the end of the season is at a disadvantage
47 for, compared to Ron and Jack submitting one before the
48 season even started, no. It's an emergency situation,
49 you guys are out there, you're saying things aren't going
50 right then submit when you know that. So don't think,

1 well, it's too late, well, it's not too late. The
2 reports, for example, for Ed were that people weren't
3 getting their moose, he was tapped because of his
4 leadership on the committee to take action. So that's
5 what he did.

6
7 So on that when it comes into our program
8 they're logged in and all that kind of stuff and then
9 they're put on a fast track to get it. Now, Ron's and
10 Jack's were not on a fast track because it was before the
11 season even started so there was time for Refuge Staff,
12 State Staff, and a whole bunch of other people to talk to
13 Ron and Jack to make sure we understood kind of what was
14 going on.

15
16 But on the one from the city of Ruby
17 signed by Emmitt Peters, that was put on a fast track and
18 was denied because the area he described has no Federal
19 land. So that was kicked out on that.

20
21 So we're trying to turn these around.
22 There's no set goal on this but we would like to turn
23 them around, probably 24, 48 hours because it takes time
24 for you guys to gear up and to respond if it's granted.
25 But also Refuge Staff, State Staff and all the other
26 Staff that are out in the field have to be informed so
27 they don't come in and invest their time and energy, what
28 they think is an illegal activity that is now legal. So
29 we're going to try to turn those around quicker.

30
31 So that's that said. Now, what I was
32 signaling to Carl is, the State has its own process and
33 how emergency orders are addressed and either Carl or
34 State Staff can address how their process works. That's
35 the bigger scope. You're opening up your scope into a
36 wider jurisdictional area, which can be an advantage to
37 you, and they can explain that process.

38
39 Either Carl or State Staff or Randy could
40 probably cover that. Again, we're sharing these, not to
41 confuse these, to just show you got two channels, you got
42 two ways of working on this and Ron and Jack know this
43 well and Donald you're learning it quickly, you got to
44 track these things in both tracks to understand where
45 it's at because the people in the village just want to
46 know, can I go hunting next week or not.

47
48 So I think Randy can address the
49 emergency order process.

50

1 MR. ROGERS: Actually I -- I'm going to
2 dodge out, I'm going to suggest Roy. He's the one that
3 knows this much better than I.
4
5 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.
6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Don.
8
9 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I'd like to ask one
10 more.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.
13
14 MR. HONEA: I don't know if I understand
15 this, I mean, did the State Board, did they meet, okay, I
16 mean it's kind of -- I don't know how I should put it but
17 it, did they just happen to meet.....
18
19 MR. MATHEWS: No.
20
21 MR. HONEA:and bring this up?
22 Okay. I mean you still haven't answered -- I mean who
23 has the authority to issue this special hunt?
24
25 MR. MATHEWS: That's why I wanted Roy
26 because I know I'll get it wrong.
27
28 MR. HONEA: Okay, thank you.
29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Because it's been a while
31 since I've worked with the State system. And then
32 there's the Federal system that Don may share how that
33 process works. Again, they're both geared to respond in
34 a rapid mode. They have different requirements.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, when we submitted
37 this request we automatically file it on the State side
38 too. That was a courtesy call, more of a courtesy call
39 because we have the controlled use area plus the Kanuti
40 Wildlife Refuge, it's covering the whole two villages and
41 that's what we were basing it on, on Federal lands, to be
42 looking for -- all our meetings with the State up in that
43 area, out of respect and courtesy just keep both sides
44 informed along with the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge, so that's
45 how we've been trying to work it. A lot of it's been
46 working.
47
48 Go ahead, Don.
49
50 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Don Rivard with

1 the Office of Subsistence Management. I'll try to give
2 you a little bit more information there, Don. For these
3 special action requests that have come in, and they came
4 in in rapid fire. Of course, the first thing that's
5 being done now is that the threshold analysis, to make
6 sure that these even meet the criteria to be a special
7 action. On a couple of them they were really pretty
8 straightforward, especially the one submitted by Emmitt
9 Peters because of what Vince said, the affected area
10 didn't include any really Federal land, so that could be
11 turned around really quick. And so that process goes
12 fairly quick.

13

14 But then there's some other ones where
15 the wildlife biologist has to contact the Refuge and talk
16 with the Staff there and provide some information, get
17 some information from them as well and that's being done
18 right now. And then that information needs to be
19 incorporated before a decision is made as well.

20

21 There was another part of your question
22 that I was going to address, too, maybe you could
23 rephrase it.

24

25 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chairman.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Don.

28

29 MR. RIVARD: Oh, I know what it was.
30 It's not -- for special actions, the Office of
31 Subsistence Management has the authority to grant them
32 once -- as long as they consult with the Interagency
33 Staff Committee and the Staff Committee agrees to it,
34 then it can just go ahead, it doesn't have to go in front
35 of the Federal Subsistence Board. But if it's just a
36 threshold -- and now we're getting a little technical
37 here but the threshold analysis doesn't even have to go
38 that far, it's just within the Office of Subsistence
39 Management to determine if the special action even meets
40 the criteria to be a special action.

41

42 So there wasn't any meeting of the
43 Federal Subsistence Board to look at any of these on the
44 Federal side. I think that was part of your question.

45

46 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Don.

49

50 MR. HONEA: Thank you. Actually I think

1 it may be kind of confusing because two different people
2 submitted a proposal, Emmitt Peters as, you know, just a
3 tribal member or whatever and then Ed Sartin saying that
4 he represented Ruby Advisory Committee, doing it in that
5 capacity. But I believe Ed Sartin's was 21(B) and then
6 maybe Emmitt's was 21(D) or something, now that's kind of
7 confusing in itself. And I can see where 21(B) you, you
8 know, we have no problem with that because you're
9 requesting of Federal lands. Is it -- am I right here,
10 Vince, it's kind of confusing when you get two different
11 areas, two different proposals for two different areas.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Vince.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Emmitt Peters submitted one
16 for down river of Ruby. In subsequent phone
17 conversations with Emmitt Peters he was talking about
18 21(D) as in Delta and 21(C). The area he described over
19 the phone, there's no Federal lands. He talked about the
20 road to Poorman, he talked about Yuki Slough or River,
21 there's no Federal lands in those areas. Okay, he
22 submitted that. That's all that Emmitt did, so that's
23 21(D).

24

25 Ed Sartin for the Advisory Committee
26 submitted on the Federal a special action request for
27 21(B) as in Boy. If you look at the map behind me and on
28 the other wall that's Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge.
29 That goes back to Don's statement where there needed to
30 be consultation with the Refuge because there's a check
31 station there. We needed to find out, well, is what Ed's
32 seeing and the Advisory Committee seeing reflected in the
33 check station data. So that's where that is.

34

35 So Ed submitted on for 21(B) for the
36 Federal side. Ed, I believe for the Advisory Committee,
37 I've not seen it, so I'm a little on thin ice here
38 submitted one to the Board of Game for 21(D) as in Dog.
39 And I think that's the one the Board of Game took up
40 today in addition to the one for the GASH area, and I
41 don't know, there's a third one.

42

43 So those are the -- there was two Federal
44 ones and one State one for the Ruby area of 21 Boy and
45 21(D) as in Dog.

46

47 And on the Federal side the one from
48 Emmitt Peters was rejected because it didn't meet the
49 criteria, there's no Federal lands. I did talk to our
50 biologist yesterday, Pete DeMatteo on it, and Don Rivard,

1 and analysis is still going on for the one for the
2 Nowitna Refuge. And I didn't get a chance to call to see
3 if there's any outcome on that one for the Nowitna
4 Refuge.

5
6 So I do encourage you to get Roy Nowlin
7 up here to go over the Board of Game side because I think
8 I know you guys well enough, I think we got you confused
9 on two processes and we've not discussed the State
10 process. But I encourage you to get Roy up here since
11 he's the EO expert.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is he here?

14
15 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, yes, thank you.

18
19 MR. NOWLIN: Mr. Chairman. Members of
20 the Council.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

23
24 MR. NOWLIN: The Board of Game did have a
25 teleconference today to consider the 21(E) and the 21(D)
26 emergency requests. And, of course, Carl was there. And
27 I think that it's safe to say that the Board of Game was
28 very sympathetic to the request and understands the
29 subsistence weren't met in those villages. They did turn
30 down the request. The reason they did is because the
31 State has a -- or the Board of Game has a policy that
32 they're obliged to follow in relation to these emergency
33 requests. And there was a good deal of discussion about
34 that.

35
36 And I can read the policy to you is an
37 unforeseen -- let's see the Joint Board policy defines an
38 emergency as an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation
39 where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be
40 precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay
41 would be significantly burdensome to the petitioners
42 because the resource would be unavailable in the future.
43 And that's what was primarily guiding them. And as a
44 result of the discussion that they made, they made a
45 determination in the cases of these petitions that it
46 didn't rise to that level.

47
48 And part of that was that they -- the
49 Board of Game in considering these kinds of actions
50 historically has determined that unusual weather patterns

1 usually don't meet the criteria for an emergency action.
2 And in the discussion during the deliberations on this,
3 it was clear that the Board is certainly sympathetic to
4 the situation and would prefer to see some proposals for
5 changes.

6
7 Mr. Chairman, you had described some
8 proposals that you might want to submit or the Advisory
9 Committee might want to submit for a change in season
10 timing because we recognize and I advised the Board that
11 movement of bulls during -- when weather it warmer, you
12 probably don't get the same level of movement of bulls
13 and so they're not as available to hunters and therefore
14 hunter success is probably going to be lower. And so I
15 think what the Board would like to see is some proposals
16 for consideration next March in Fairbanks.

17
18 And they were also looking at the
19 opportunity, the other opportunities that would exist
20 later on in the year for taking moose under the -- and I
21 know that there's a good deal of disagreement about this
22 December bull season, but that does exist and there's
23 also the potential to be announced Federal subsistence
24 season and they were looking at those factors, too. But
25 I do believe that the primary and perhaps, Carl, can
26 comment on that, that the primary consideration was did
27 it rise to the level of an emergency under the policy
28 that the Board has.

29
30 AIRMAN SAM: Carl.

31
32 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
33 Chairman. And I did bring up, I was very sympathetic to
34 Ruby and Holy Cross EO's and I did say it in the Board, I
35 didn't hold back but my hands are tied and I had to
36 follow what was the criteria to go that route. The
37 biggest pull back was the other opportunities for hunts.

38
39 I think -- but this came up, which is --
40 I'm glad it came up to this level because it did put up a
41 red flag to the Board and it was suggested by one of the
42 Board members to do it as a regulatory change or a
43 proposal from your ACs, that way we'll take it up. If
44 you take it up as an emergency order, it just didn't -- I
45 think there was a lot of concern that we're going to set
46 a precedent and then even though I was very sympathetic
47 to the two proposals and I made that perfectly clear
48 during the meeting that I supported it, but I've got to
49 look at all the criteria to sanction it.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl.

4 Benedict.

5

6 MR. JONES: Yeah, I think to solve all
7 these problems about extending the moose season, we
8 should change the date to the opening season later date,
9 say from 10th of September to October 10th, I think that
10 would solve all your problems. And the moose habitat has
11 been changing for the 10 years that I noticed. I don't
12 know if the biologist do any study on that. But I know
13 for myself in the summertime when I fly from Huslia to
14 Koyukuk or something we used to see moose feeding in the
15 lakes, now you don't see it anymore when I fly over
16 because they're moving to different area for different
17 vegetation, like up the Gisasa River and Kateel River, we
18 noticed this fall that all the moose was away from the
19 river system, they were way up the Kateel River, there
20 were a lot of tracks way up there where it never been
21 before so they're changing their habitat.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict.

26 Mickey Stickman.

27

28 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, Ron, I was just
29 wondering maybe, you know, after this long deliberation
30 here maybe it's a proposal, as far as Federal land could
31 from this Council. Just like Ben said, you know, the
32 moose being way off the river, it was the same way in the
33 Kaiyuh Flats, I mean all the guys who were successful on
34 the Kaiyuh Flats were the guys who went way back into the
35 -- like up American Creek and Camp Creek and up against
36 the hills, those were the guys that were most successful
37 this fall.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. I
40 thought I saw someplace on the agenda that we had a call
41 for proposals.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it's later on the
44 agenda. Obviously we're going to be working on that one.
45 But it is on the agenda to draft proposals both for the
46 Federal Board but also the Board of Game is taking up the
47 Interior in March and that due date is November, I think.

48

49 MR. NOWLIN: December.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: December for proposals. So
2 we can assist, and obviously State Staff can assist also
3 if you want to do any kind of State proposals, so, yes,
4 that's later on the agenda. But we do have the one
5 remaining special action from Tanana Chiefs subregional,
6 the Board rejected it. Our program has not come to
7 conclusion on that.

8

9 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.

12

13 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, another thing this
14 would affect is, Robert was mentioning the waste of meat,
15 because of the warm weather and the rain I think a lot of
16 the nonresidents or other hunters that were out there,
17 they didn't know how to care for their meat and there was
18 a lot of spoilage because it was so warm. So moving it
19 later would help that.

20

21 But I'm also reminded that it wasn't very
22 many years ago that we had an ice run here in mid-
23 September and there were hunters out on the Innoko that
24 they had to take helicopters to get them out and so on
25 and so about the time we move it later the weather may
26 change and then we'll have emergency -- well, you can't
27 do an emergency then you've lost the opportunity. But I
28 think we ought to consider moving it later.

29

30 From the subsistence standpoint what is
31 hard is all the time I lived in Nikolai in the early '60s
32 there, we picked the time that was most appropriate to go
33 hunting. The amount of time we hunted in the fall didn't
34 change, we'd go out for a week or so but we didn't have
35 the freezers then so we'd wait until it started getting
36 cold and then we'd go out, that's the appropriate time.
37 Now, we can't do it because we've got such a short window
38 that when that window's there everybody's got to go out
39 and the other thing that happened is it would be
40 staggered. If we knew somebody had been up the Northfork
41 next week then, well, we'll wait a few days before we go
42 up so we weren't all hunting at the same time. And the
43 seasons are really putting a crimp on traditional
44 subsistence activities of going out when it's
45 appropriate, when the weather, you can take care of the
46 meat and so on.

47

48 The other thing is water levels are
49 really fluctuating so if we move it later that's all
50 right unless it's like last fall when it gets drier and

1 drier and pretty soon there's no water and you can't get
2 out.

3
4 So I guess we have to weigh all those and
5 try to figure out what's the best opportunity, but maybe
6 just delaying it would meet most of those criterion that
7 we're having issue with.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Jack and
12 then Robert.

13
14 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. My intention
15 is not to reduce the season, my intention is to continue
16 at the same start date but extend the season. We've
17 trimmed off these fall cow opportunities and so forth,
18 and so my intention is to give additional harvest
19 opportunity not trim the beginning of the season. So
20 people have the discretion to optimize the use period to
21 meet subsistence needs. That would be my intention with
22 the regulatory change forward, is additional one week
23 September 25th to October 1st to provide for that
24 opportunity to maximize the optimum time for the burn of
25 fuel and so forth and for keeping the meat and if it's
26 raining in the middle of the season, you're not pressured
27 into burning a bunch of fuel up to the 25th of September,
28 you can just push it back. If it's looking warm, you can
29 maximize your opportunity. If people see a moose in a
30 pond on the 25th of August, go ahead, if you got a
31 freezer, slam it in the freezer.

32
33 I feel that the subsistence priority
34 under the State and Federal system should provide a use
35 period when those animals are good to use and meets those
36 needs.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Robert,
41 you had something.

42
43 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We
44 had a moose management meeting in June, right, Beth,
45 correct me here?

46
47 MS. LENART: (Nods affirmatively)

48
49 MR. WALKER: And one of the things that
50 we discussed is moving the dates back from September hunt

1 until the 10th -- September 10th start time.

2

3 MS. LENART: For non-residents.

4

5 MR. WALKER: For non-residents and run
6 it until the 25th or the 30th.

7

8 MS. LENART: It's the same time period.

9

10 MR. WALKER: Well, anyway, we're going to
11 have another moose management in Holy Cross, and one of
12 the things that's really going to affect this final
13 meeting is there's going to be a lot of testimony here
14 about why didn't I -- was the State advertising there's
15 seven to 11,000 moose in Unit 21(E), you know, we don't
16 really know but that's what they came up with their final
17 count when they did their survey for seven to 11,000
18 moose in 21(E), there will be like three or four tied up
19 in everybody's back yard and there wasn't.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. WALKER: And it is kind of hard
24 because when I get calls from not only relatives, but
25 local people, that say that I didn't get a moose and I'm
26 really not happy, when is this meeting going to take
27 place, so it's going to be a hundred questions or more
28 probably, so -- well, Roy's going to be there, too. It's
29 going to be interesting because seven to 11,000 moose
30 didn't happen to be in 21(E) last fall or this last month
31 either.

32

33 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert. Roy.

36

37 MR. NOWLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
38 Chairman. Just one comment that occurs to me, is that,
39 I'm certainly not the expert on this, but I do try to
40 keep track of it, but it does appear that we're getting
41 climate changes. And looking at what the university has
42 done with modeling and what's happening up on the North
43 Slope, the ice and permafrost in the Interior, there's a
44 lot of things that are going on. The challenge is to try
45 to adapt as this -- I'm not blaming anybody for it, but
46 it's just a fact that we're going to all have to deal
47 with, and so that's a challenge, is to try to see ahead
48 and see what kinds of changes. I think it's not just --
49 there's a lot of things, whether it's the oil industry,
50 or subsistence uses of whatever, we're going to all have

1 to do the best we can to try to adapt to this and find
2 our way through it.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Roy. I guess
7 most of you know that they just had a big forum down at
8 Anchorage discussing this. They had people from Russia,
9 Finland, all over the world down there discussing this
10 issue. And the more it's being discussed, the more it
11 should be accepted as a fact sooner that that will
12 enhance our request, you know, so that it could meet our
13 request to finally realize this.

14

15 Anything further, we had one more special
16 action. Go ahead and sit down Roy.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, and that one is the
21 Tanana Chiefs subregional office which is to extend the
22 season by one week, it was rejected by the Board. It is
23 before our program, and I was hoping Mike Smith was here,
24 I didn't review this but he has percentage breakdowns of
25 why this should happen and that's on the second to the
26 last page.

27

28 Again, this is just provided to you for
29 information on it. You can suggest stuff but it's not
30 provided to you for any type of action, just that you've
31 had special actions in your areas. That's apparently
32 going to generate some proposals that you'll want to
33 debate later. I would encourage when you get to
34 developing your proposals, maybe, to float them out today
35 and then we'll schedule time tomorrow and you guys can
36 think them over because I'm hearing two camps here right
37 now and maybe those two camps want to find out if they
38 have one campfire or two. So we'll get you forms and,
39 you know, maybe float out the ideas today and mull over
40 them.

41

42 It's becoming apparent with these changes
43 and I'll accept some responsibility on that and the State
44 will help also, we need to get as clear as possible what
45 you want and get that in there and then somehow put in
46 there that you're available for further clarification or
47 whatever. That might be the other key.

48

49 What we're talking about with proposals,
50 obviously there's going to be a lot of debate, they're

1 going to come back to you, but it makes it easier if we
2 get it clear in the beginning and have an open door if we
3 don't understand what you're asking for, that we can get
4 back to an individual on the Council or whatever for
5 clarification. If the clarification probably is big
6 enough then we can actually explore polling you guys or
7 whatever, if necessary. We've never had to do that.

8

9 MR. WALKER: Ron.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Robert.

12

13 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
14 one will be for Roy after I talk to you, Vince, you know,
15 when you read two campfires right now, one to get this
16 fall season for the two communities or the two areas that
17 put in for the special request. And the other one, the
18 other campfire, Roy, is, you know, we're working on this
19 moose management program right now, the next meeting is
20 in Holy Cross. And one of the good things to look
21 forward to next year is like change that date from
22 September 25th until November 1st, 2nd, you know, that
23 would be a thought, too, Beth, you know, because you're
24 going to be there, too, and Polly is also going to be
25 there and some other people.

26

27 But, yeah, this would be a good time to
28 start thinking for 2006 and, you know, you might tell
29 Randy, is Randy here -- oh, speak of the Devil, there he
30 is.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MR. WALKER: So that's what we will plan
35 for the November meeting then, okay, thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert. Where
38 does that leave us now then Vince.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it leaves us with one
41 thing that I'm sure Randy will bring up but I will seize
42 the moment, you also have a similar planning review
43 that's going to happen on the Koyukuk so, you know, keep
44 that in mind. We got it clarified from Roy that State
45 proposals can be submitted to November sometime --
46 December.

47

48 MR. NOWLIN: December 1st.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: So we're okay on the State

1 side. On the Federal side, our due date's the 21st of
2 October. But anyways, do capitalize on those planning
3 processes because they've been successful in my opinion
4 to work out some of these thorny issues.

5
6 But you also have submitted proposals as
7 place keepers or trial balloons and when they started
8 getting really shot at you withdrew them and that, that's
9 an option with caution. But we can help you with writing
10 proposals.

11
12 So that leaves us now either to continue
13 with wildlife or since all the fish guys swam in here, go
14 back to fish, it's your call. You guys seem to be on a
15 good track with wildlife issues but the fish guys are
16 here too.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: And the ball game is on.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Polly.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

27
28 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. Thank you,
29 Mr. Chairman. Could we take a five minute break here
30 before we get into the fish.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: That was my next request
33 but at this time I see so many new faces back there, I
34 can't recognize them all. I know Dan Bergstrom, Stanley
35 Ned, and of course our Native liaison with the Federal
36 Subsistence Board, Carl Jack will you stand up please.
37 Thank you for coming.

38
39 I would like to get done with the
40 proposals, too, so we'll call a 10 minute break and then
41 go back into fish proposals. We have two left, I
42 believe, right?

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Two left. We welcome all
47 you new people and thank you for coming.

48
49 (Off record)

50

1 (On record)
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Let's start finding our
4 way back to our seats, please.
5
6 (Pause)
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Could we find our way back
9 to our seats so we can get going again.
10
11 (Pause)
12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.
14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, I did
16 already give Dan Bergstrom, you know, how you guys walk
17 through the proposals so he's up to speed on that and
18 that brings us back to fish proposals, which, the first
19 proposal that you're going to take up is Proposal 3, Page
20 41, and that's going to be presented by Don Rivard. I'll
21 let Don cover who it is, I haven't had a chance to get
22 that far along.
23
24 But anyways, to make it clear with you on
25 that, I consulted both with Dan Bergstrom and John with
26 fisheries -- Federal fisheries, they wanted to go through
27 the two proposals and then give you a post-season
28 summary. So they're being gracious to your request. So
29 that's where we're at.
30
31 So Proposal 3 is now before you.
32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Rivard.
34
35 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
36 Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management. This
37 analysis was conducted by Richard Uberuaga and as I
38 mentioned before he has since retired and so I am
39 presenting it to you. This one is going to be a little
40 bit lengthy but worth the while, I think, Rich did a lot
41 of research and a lot of consultation, especially with
42 the in-season manager on this one. The analysis itself
43 starts on Page 42 and there's also the existing Federal
44 regulation listed at the bottom as well as the proposed
45 regulation.
46
47 Proposal 06-03 was submitted by the
48 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council. And it
49 requests that the Federal windowed subsistence fishing
50 schedule in the Yukon River for the harvest of chinook

1 salmon begin on May 15th.

2

3 This proposal was submitted because in
4 some years subsistence harvest occurs on the early part
5 of the chinook salmon run before the windowed subsistence
6 fishing schedule starts.

7

8 The proponent states that starting the
9 windowed schedule on May 15th would ensure that the
10 entire run is protected and the burden to protect the
11 early segment of the chinook runs would be shared more
12 equitably by all fishermen along the river.

13

14 The proponent requests the proposal
15 affect chinook salmon gear only, that is to say nets
16 greater than six inches stretched mesh measure.

17

18 The windowed subsistence fishing schedule
19 provides closed periods during periods which salmon pass
20 through the sections of the river with reduced harvest.
21 The windowed schedule is implemented early in the season
22 to:

23

- 24 1. Limit harvest when there is a
25 much higher level of uncertainty
26 in projecting the total run size;
- 27 2. Distribute the harvest throughout
28 the run by reducing the impact on
29 any particular run component; and
- 30 3. Spread the harvest opportunity
31 among subsistence users.

32

33 The windowed subsistence fishing schedule
34 and start date are not established in regulation but is
35 announced preseason each year by the fishery managers.
36 The windowed subsistence fishing schedule is implemented
37 chronologically consistent with migratory timing as the
38 chinook salmon move up stream. The early break up of the
39 Yukon River in 2004 along with some subsistence chinook
40 salmon being harvested before the windowed fishing
41 schedule went into effect contributed to the proponent's
42 request to include the entire chinook salmon run during
43 the years of early break up.

44

45 Federal and State in-season managers
46 developed the regulatory subsistence fishing schedule
47 including the start date and a preseason management
48 strategy each year prior to the fishing season and that
49
50

1 usually happens in April.

2

3

4 According to the Federal in-season
5 manager the dates chosen to start the fishing schedule
6 provide a reasonable compromise between those fishermen
7 who want to protect the entire run and others who want to
8 harvest some salmon and other fish with larger mesh gear
9 before the windows schedule goes into effect.

9

10

11 For the five years, that is 2001 through
12 2005, that the windowed fishing schedule has been in
13 place, the schedule has been implemented each year in
14 District 1 on the Yukon between May 29th and May 31st.

14

15

16 The first chinook salmon generally arrive
17 at the Yukon River mouth shortly after river ice breaks
18 up and moves out. Most fishermen during the earliest
19 part of the season are trying to harvest a few fresh fish
20 for dinner. Intensive fishing effort usually occurs
21 later after fish camp preparations have been made and the
22 salmon runs are well underway.

22

23

24 Salmon entry timing into the river
25 depends on factors such as run size, water temperature
26 and wind direction. Many subsistence fishermen believe
27 that when river break up is early the chinook run is also
28 early, when break up is late, chinook salmon come in
29 later. The average Yukon River break up at Alakanuk from
30 1983 through 2004 was on May 23rd.

30

31

32 For reference, the 1989 through 2002
33 chinook salmon average run midpoint has been June 21st
34 based on the period when the Alaska Department of Fish
35 and Game test set gillnets are operated.

35

36

37 In 2005, the chinook salmon run appeared
38 to have average run timing. The first reported chinook
39 salmon harvest in 2005 was on May 25th. And as of June
40 5th the subsistence salmon fishing effort in the lower
41 river was light due to the high and fast water
42 conditions. So between May 25th and June 5th there still
43 was pretty light harvesting going on.

43

44

45 Adoption of this proposal could increase
46 the effectiveness of the current windowed fishing
47 schedule if a significant harvest were to occur prior to
48 the start of the windows schedule. However, the extent
49 of chinook salmon harvest in the lower Yukon River during
50 May is likely pretty small. The harvest reduction for
51 moving the schedule approximately two weeks would likely

1 also be small since fishing effort before the first week
2 of June is normally very light and salmon are generally
3 not abundant in the river prior to June 1st.

4
5 The extremely high cost of gasoline is
6 causing many fishermen to wait until the chinook salmon
7 run is fully underway and fishing becomes more efficient
8 and cost effective.

9
10 Fishing early in the season when the
11 water is high and the river is full of debris can result
12 in lost and damaged nets and a lower probability of
13 success.

14
15 This proposal would start the windowed
16 subsistence fishing schedule on May 15th for Federal
17 users only, and I think that's important to note, and
18 make fishing regulations in Federal public waters more
19 restrictive than in State waters. In order for the
20 Secretary to authorize a restriction on the taking of
21 fish and wildlife for nonsubsistence uses on public
22 lands, other than National Parks and Park Monuments, it
23 must be demonstrated that the restriction is necessary
24 for the conservation of healthy populations of fish and
25 wildlife. And that's ANILCA Section .815(3).

26
27 The Board would have to restrict Federal
28 public waters to Federally-qualified subsistence users
29 only through demonstration of a conservation concern to
30 implement this regulation.

31
32 While conservative management is a proper
33 approach, a conservation concern for the health of Yukon
34 River chinook salmon stocks cannot generally be
35 demonstrated at the start of the fishing season based on
36 preseason indicators alone when no in-season indicators
37 or run strength are available. In addition Yukon River
38 chinook salmon runs have recently shown and observed
39 improvement in abundance, and that's especially true this
40 past fishing season, 2005.

41
42 This proposal would reduce the amount of
43 unrestricted subsistence fishing time in the Yukon River
44 only during years of early break up. Implementing an
45 earlier windowed subsistence schedule while the river is
46 still frozen would have little, if any, effect. Since
47 the historic break up date is around May 26th, the
48 overall impact of this regulation would likely be slight
49 since the current windowed schedule set by the managers
50 has historically begun May 29th through May 31st.

1 Adoption of this proposal would also
2 reduce the amount of unrestricted fishing time for
3 nonsalmon species such as sheefish, whitefish and pike
4 during years of early break up. Fishermen would be able
5 to fish during the closed windowed period for nonsalmon
6 species with nets smaller than six inch stretch mesh.
7 Currently fishermen are restricted to nets smaller than
8 four inch stretched mesh during the closed windowed
9 period.

10
11 Little impact to the harvest of nonsalmon
12 species is expected to occur from this proposal.

13
14 So the conclusion, Staff conclusion is to
15 oppose the proposal. And the justification for this
16 recommendation is that establishing the starting date for
17 the Yukon River windowed subsistence fishing schedule in
18 regulations earlier than the date managers have been
19 implementing the schedule would have little effect on the
20 schedule's effectiveness.

21
22 Only a small amount of chinook salmon
23 harvest is thought to occur before the schedule has been
24 implemented in recent years.

25
26 Numerous factors currently combined to
27 keep harvest to a minimum until the fish run is well
28 underway and that includes high gasoline prices, run
29 size, water temperature and wind direction.

30
31 Normally there is not enough information
32 available at the start of the season to accurately assess
33 run strength and justify implementing an earlier Federal
34 windowed subsistence fishing schedule. And the average
35 date of the Yukon River break up over a 40 year period is
36 close to the recent opening dates.

37
38 And that concludes my presentation, Mr.
39 Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. ADF&G. Dan.

42
43 MR. BERGSTROM: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. My
44 name is Dan Bergstrom. I'm the regional management
45 biologist for Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim region. And we just
46 have, I think, Caroline probably explained earlier,
47 they're kind of our draft comments at this point on these
48 proposals and that we wanted to hear what the RACs, you
49 know, this RAC and the other RACs have for comments on it
50 also. So this is just our draft through this time.

1 The Department agrees with the fact that
2 in some years subsistence salmon fishing and harvest
3 occur prior to the opening -- or the start of the
4 subsistence fishing schedule. It was understood when we
5 were developing the time period for initiating the
6 schedule in 2001 that there'd be years when a relatively
7 small portion of the entire chinook salmon run migrating
8 into the river would be there before the schedule went
9 into effect as well as some years where there'd be ice
10 and no fish at all present before the schedule started.

11
12 An important element in setting the
13 timing of the start of the schedule was the desire not to
14 have the schedule in place for a long period of time when
15 there was absolutely no salmon present. One of our ideas
16 with the timing was that subsistence fishers do target
17 other species such as whitefish with large mesh gillnets.

18
19 And conservation measures and providing
20 for a subsistence priority must be balanced is understood
21 that a traditional use pattern exists whereby a number of
22 subsistence fishers harvest fresh fish early in the
23 spring and summer. During early runs these fishers will
24 have an opportunity to harvest some chinook salmon as
25 they have traditionally done. Clearly most subsistence
26 fishers are treated similarly as the schedule is
27 implemented chronologically up river such that fishers
28 along the river will have a similar opportunity based on
29 migratory timing so if there's some fish, king salmon
30 coming into the river in May at the mouth, they'll be
31 coming in earlier up river too and as we set the schedule
32 people will be on about the same time within the run.

33
34 Although poor runs occurred from 1998 to
35 2000, the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks are not
36 classed as either a conservation concern or management
37 concern. In all years except for the very poor chinook
38 salmon run in 2000 there's been reasonable opportunity
39 for subsistence fishers to meet amounts necessary for
40 subsistence. A majority of escapement goals have been
41 met or exceeded since 2000. Specifically the agreed to
42 escapement objective for the Canadian mainstem stock has
43 been met every year since 2000 with 2001, 2003 and 2005
44 being the three highest spawning escapements estimates on
45 record. Escapement goals in the Chena and Salcha Rivers
46 have been met or exceeded annually since 2000 with the
47 upper end of the goals doubled in the Chena River in 2003
48 and doubled in the Salcha River in 2001 and 2003 and
49 2004. These three stocks combine represent a majority of
50 the chinook salmon production.

1 At this time it does not appear necessary
2 to be more conservative in managing the subsistence
3 fishing time in the Yukon River based on chinook salmon
4 stock status the past five years and in order to provide
5 a subsistence priority.

6
7 And that's our comments through now.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Dan. Go ahead,
10 Vince, where are we now?

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you would ask
13 if there is any other agency comments on it.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Federal agencies.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Native tribes, villages.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Interagency Staff
24 Committee.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Summary of written
29 comments.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, there was no
32 written comments and your neighboring Councils have not
33 met so you're the first one to take up this proposal.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further public
36 testimony.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, we'll go into
41 Regional Council deliberation. Jack.

42
43 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. I've sat
44 through these State Board of Fisheries meetings and
45 various meetings and I've heard multiple times that the
46 lower Yukon fishers felt that there was significant
47 passage before the sonar projects were put in place.
48 I've heard multiple people tell me that they've met their
49 subsistence needs before those windows were actually put
50 in place, that's where this proposal comes from.

1 How quickly, after one good season of
2 return, we quickly forget how our subsistence users in
3 the Western Interior have been through some real
4 hardships on fishing through these windows and so forth
5 and that's where this proposal is coming from. The
6 sustainable salmon policy for the State also says that
7 the burden of conservation shall be shared throughout the
8 users. And so this not having any kind of regulatory
9 structure reflects a sharing of that burden is why this
10 proposal was submitted from the Western Interior last
11 spring. And so I still feel that it's equitable to share
12 that burden. At these points of high returns that
13 doesn't seem to be pertinent. But are we assured we're
14 out of the woods yet on this conservation problem. Our
15 subsistence users in the up river Western Interior region
16 have been sharing a disproportionate burden for this
17 conservation. And so that's my point on this proposal.

18
19 I would like to hear deliberation of the
20 rest of the Council on whether this proposal should move
21 forward.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further
24 recommendations. Ray.

25
26 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. I'm
27 surprised that there wasn't mentioned in there that the
28 fish that come in earliest may be heading the furthest.
29 I know they found that on the Kuskokwim with the tagging
30 studies there, like the Takotna River, the bulk of their
31 run passes down in Bethel there early in the season and
32 they actually have a timing because how long it takes to
33 get up and that's not mentioned on the Yukon so it's
34 likely that those first fish in there may be headed for
35 Canada or heading for those up river drainages. And so
36 they may take more of them, especially if they use longer
37 nets and deeper nets.

38
39 In other words, I guess, I didn't see an
40 argument why they should be allowed to use more efficient
41 gear and larger gear early in the season, this is asking
42 to close that off.

43
44 If it's true that most of their fishing
45 takes later then by having closures earlier you're not
46 putting the burden on the subsistence fisher and you may
47 be protecting larger fish -- well, you would be
48 protecting larger fish and you may be protecting fish
49 that are bound further up the river. And that looks like
50 that would be a legitimate reason for having the windows

1 in place. And if that's not the case then I think there
2 needs to be some research with tagging to see on the
3 timing of these things and why not be conservative.
4

5 The other thing is that article on the
6 genetically importance of those larger fish and if we're
7 protecting them then I think we're doing something for
8 the whole chinook run, we're protecting bigger fish that
9 may be more viable and may have a more significant role
10 in the overall health of the fish by having these windows
11 earlier. And if it's not having much effect because the
12 ice is on, that's fine, we're still protecting them.
13

14 So that's my comments, although I'm on
15 the Kuskokwim.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Robert.

18
19 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 Yes, we do see that -- and it is mentioned here that a
21 lot of people don't start until the salmon do really hit
22 like in June 19, 20, 21 and 22. I mean why go out and
23 spend \$300 to catch 10 fish in the early part of the
24 season.
25

26 The six inch mesh, that's not going to
27 work. A lot of people like to fish in five days to catch
28 80 to 100 fish and quit, that's fine instead of dragging
29 it out for two weeks at the price of gas at \$4, \$5 a
30 gallon.
31

32 And another thing that we found out about
33 all the salmon that was caught in Anvik, we didn't have
34 one tag, not one tagged fish that was caught there. I
35 don't know if any were tagged down in the lower portion
36 of the river, that has to be brought up here too.
37

38 And I can't speak for up Koyukuk area
39 but, you know, they probably had the same thing that we
40 do, and they've probably fished the same as we do.
41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert. Any
45 further -- Benedict Jones.
46

47 MR. JONES: Yeah, Dan, I just want to ask
48 a question, this past season have you studied the ocean
49 current changes on the Bering Sea and ground fish
50 movement on the bottom seas, does that have any affect

1 for more fish this year on the Yukon River?

2

3 MR. BERGSTROM: Mr. Chairman. I'm not
4 really sure on, you know, what studies have been done
5 there. There's, you know, the BIAS study out there where
6 they're making catches on transits in the Bering Sea and
7 I'm not sure whether that was even done this year, I
8 think this is the last year. But I haven't really heard
9 much on that, we'll probably hear at the US/Canada Panel
10 meeting. There will probably be a presentation on the
11 status of information from, you know, Bering Sea. And
12 I'm not familiar with the water current thing but it does
13 appear that something's changed with production in the
14 ocean because, you know, we had the poor production years
15 and now we're following with this increase and we're
16 seeing it in the Kuskokwim too.

17

18 So there appears to be, you know, better
19 survival and production from whatever's happening out
20 there.

21

22 As far as catches in the trawl bycatch, I
23 think the chum's starting to go up as high or higher than
24 last year, it's 500,000 plus out there and I think the
25 kings is about 45,000 which is a little less than the
26 total last year but they're coming into the time period
27 where they catch a bunch in October/November. So it
28 seems like bycatch wise it's similar to last year.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
31 questions. Recommendations.

32

33 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

36

37 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
38 One thing about the tagging, how many fish were tagged
39 this summer? Where did you start?

40

41 MR. BERGSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we
42 didn't do the tagging this past year.

43

44 And I did want to comment on one of Mr.
45 Collins' comment on the upper stocks, it is a combination
46 of stocks in Canada but that's probably -- we tend to
47 think they tend to be the earlier ones but what we found
48 is it's probably about half the kings produced in the
49 Yukon are from Canada. And then from the tagging project
50 we did see that they tend to be there from, pretty much

1 the start to almost the end. At the end it's more lower
2 stocks like Anvik and Andreefsky, the lower, but from the
3 start through three-quarters is pretty solid with
4 Canadian fish.

5
6 So overall with that stock it probably
7 isn't bad really -- there could probably be a subset
8 within Canada but we really don't know of that.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

11
12 MR. STICKMAN: Ron.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey Stickman.

15
16 MR. STICKMAN: No questions but, you
17 know, I'm always on the YRDFA teleconferences and I'm
18 always arguing for more -- or 24/7, you know, because
19 like, you know, when the fish run hit Nulato, I know for
20 sure if I go out there every single day for like six days
21 in a row I can be done, you know, and a lot of times it's
22 how well your fish dries, depending on the weather, and
23 then you know gas is four bucks a gallon, to buy a court
24 of oil is five bucks, so you're not going to want to
25 spend time out there fishing when there's no fish but
26 when the fish run do hit, you know, you can finish in a
27 week.

28
29 And, you know, one of the things that I
30 always see is on the lower Yukon, you know, I don't got
31 nothing against those guys, but, you know, why do they
32 have -- they're allowed to get their subsistence amounts
33 just as much as I am but then they get extra fishing time
34 for commercial, you know, I mean -- and I don't have
35 nothing against commercial fishing but, you know, if
36 anybody is going to get extra fishing time well everybody
37 on the Yukon River should get that same amount of extra
38 time also, I mean regardless of if they're fishing
39 commercial or subsistence.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. Any
42 further comments.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, the Chair will

1 entertain a motion to adopt Proposal, which one, FP06-03.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: So if I don't get a motion
6 then it dies for a lack of a motion.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you requested and no
9 one made a motion so I don't know what you do now, but it
10 didn't die for a lack of a second because no one put a
11 motion on, correct. This is your proposal submitted by
12 your Council so the other Councils are waiting and the
13 program and the managers are waiting to see what you want
14 to do.

15

16 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

19

20 MR. REAKOFF: With this current it would
21 seem that this proposal is a moot subject.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh.

24

25 MR. REAKOFF: But in the future I think
26 that this is still a viable problem. When the
27 subsistence users in the lower Yukon have a lot of
28 opportunity, the river clears out in early May and
29 everybody knows they want to harvest early and meet their
30 subsistence needs before the rest of the river people are
31 going to all be put on these windows and fish -- they can
32 fish 24/7 before the windows and meet all their
33 subsistence needs if the conditions are correct, I still
34 feel that this is an inequitable situation.

35

36 And so in the future when these returns,
37 you know, aren't record runs like we've seen this year
38 we're going to come back to the same subject again, we
39 still have a growing population of people on the lower
40 Yukon River. We still have a passage of fish that's not
41 being monitored. We still have subsistence needs being
42 met on a 24/7 scenario and people up river are going to
43 have to go through the windows to meet the conservation
44 burdens. I still feel that the Department and the OSM
45 Staff have to realize that -- the Department has to
46 realize that the Sustainable Salmon Policy states that
47 the conservation burden shall be shared. I don't see a
48 sharing here. And I would like the Department to answer
49 me on that issue.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Robert,
2 you had something.

3
4 MR. WALKER: No.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does anybody have an
7 answer to that for Jack -- go ahead, Dan.

8
9 MR. BERGSTROM: Mr. Chairman, no, or was
10 that a yes.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MR. BERGSTROM: I think one of the key
15 points as far as the May fishery is that from what we've
16 seen with the -- I was taken by a comment earlier by one
17 of the people testifying as kind of the warming trend and
18 if things change, well, I think if it changed where, you
19 know, a lot more of the king salmon came back in May then
20 it'd be something to think about more. But from all
21 we've seen with all these years of 25 years of the test
22 fishery and then with the last 10 sonars that the bulk of
23 the king run comes in and enters the mouth of the river
24 in June. And in 1996 is the earliest by far and we had a
25 quarter of the run through by the 9th of June but it
26 basically started on the 4th of June and it was just a
27 large pulse right then. So from what we've seen is that
28 there isn't a lot of fish then, most of the fish are in
29 June. So that last year in 2004 when you hear, oh,
30 people went out fishing and caught all they needed, well,
31 a lot of the people that I know in the lower river are
32 only taking 20 to 40 kings, so it isn't huge numbers, and
33 it isn't huge numbers fishing. Like Robert said, you
34 know, there's some that like to go early and maybe they
35 can afford to but most people are waiting for when it
36 really picks up and that's when they hit it. So I think
37 that's one of the things.

38
39 And then as far as equity up river and
40 stuff, it would be -- you know, if there was no fish and
41 somebody caught some lower down and somebody else
42 couldn't catch fish because there wasn't enough, well,
43 maybe that would be the case. But the way the schedule
44 goes if there are those fish in May and the schedule
45 starts on the 30th of May, say, as we move it up the
46 river they'll be going by Anvik and other places,
47 there'll be those fish that are in front where people are
48 fishing seven days a week also. So in that sense it's
49 equitable because it started about the same time in the
50 run as you move up the river.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
2 questions or comments. Mickey.

3
4 MR. STICKMAN: You know the last couple
5 of years, I mean this summer and last summer when we
6 asked for the 24/7 we did get it and I was just
7 wondering, off hand, how did that affect the escapement
8 on the spawning grounds and as far as overall escapement
9 because we did ask for it two years in a row and we did
10 get it and people were done earlier, I mean, you know,
11 like I said you can do a week of fishing and be done.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Dan.

14
15 MR. BERGSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
16 Stickman. As I said earlier the escapements have been
17 looking good these last years and I think that's what --
18 part of what goes in with the managers, State and Federal
19 talking about subsistence and, you know, the seven days a
20 week and requests for that is based on that the run looks
21 good enough to be able to do it and so that it won't
22 affect the escapements adversely so I don't think it's
23 had any adverse impact.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Mickey.

26
27 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. My last one is and,
28 even Ben can probably tell you this, but even though the
29 king salmon run was really healthy and everybody met
30 their needs and the fish was probably the best quality
31 for a long time but for the large part there was no
32 really, really large king salmon being caught.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. Any
35 further comment.

36
37 MR. BERGSTROM: I've got one.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Dan.

40
41 MR. BERGSTROM: Yeah, I think one of the
42 things we were looking at going into the season was the
43 age comp and we'll talk about that, I guess, later, but
44 that there weren't that many five year olds or the five
45 year olds were a little lower portion in 2004 so we
46 didn't think there'd be quite as many six year olds this
47 year so we probably didn't have as many of that group
48 that we sometimes have.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right. Any further

1 questions.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, the Chair will
6 entertain a motion to adopt FP06-03.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: FP06-03 dies for a lack of
11 a motion.

12

13 MR. STICKMAN: Well, no, it can't die.
14 It can be tabled.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

17

18 MR. STICKMAN: It can't die but it could
19 be tabled.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Is that a motion to
22 table.

23

24 MR. STICKMAN: Well, actually I wasn't
25 present when this proposal came from the Western Interior
26 so who was the author, the group here?

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

29

30 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, yeah, when we
31 were in Allakaket, you know, we were going through these
32 conservation burden things and it's -- it was the opinion
33 of the Council at that time that, you know, that these
34 sharings need to be put throughout all of the subsistence
35 users, all of the C&T eligible subsistence users on the
36 river.

37

38 At this time after a strong run this
39 proposal looks like it could not hardly pass the Federal
40 Board so I'm not in favor of moving it forward because we
41 would just be wasting our time. And so I just don't
42 think it's worthwhile right now. If we would have went
43 through with what we've been going through, the proposal
44 would have had more of a chance so I'm not in favor of
45 moving the proposal at this time.

46

47 I would make a motion to table the
48 proposal.

49

50 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: There is a motion and
2 seconded to table action on Proposal FP06-03. And just
3 for the Council's information and for the public's
4 information, about four or five years ago both Craig
5 Fleener and I submitted this exact proposal to the
6 Federal Subsistence Board at our Chair's meeting. At
7 that time the request didn't go nowhere, they felt it
8 wasn't needed and the preliminary conclusion on the
9 proposal, it doesn't look like it's going anywhere again
10 so -- but it is not dead.

11
12 There is a motion and seconded to table
13 this issue, Proposal FP06-03. Do we need to do any
14 deliberation on it?

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: No, I don't believe a
17 tabled is deliberated, I don't believe.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: I think you vote it up or
22 down.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. There's.....

25
26 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

29
30 MR. COLLINS: If this is tabled then, as
31 I understand it, it sounds like the windows will be in
32 place but they start on the 30th of May, there isn't any
33 proposal to eliminate windows?

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.

36
37 MR. COLLINS: There's no question that
38 they will remain in?

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.

41
42 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: No. If you remember at one
45 of our last few meetings, too, we voted unanimously to
46 keep the windows schedules in place on both rivers.

47
48 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: On both tributaries, I

1 mean all tributaries, too. So the window schedules are
2 in place. There's no way that this one should affect it.

3
4 There's a motion on the floor, seconded,
5 all those in favor of the motion to table signify by
6 saying aye.

7
8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

11
12 (No opposing votes)

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

15
16 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Jack.

19
20 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to ask the
21 Department, futuristically, if these run strengths
22 continue to come back to these levels again, what's the
23 propensity of, after the quarter point passage, going to
24 24/7 for subsistence harvest like in all of the districts
25 behind the quarter point, if you're looking at a strong
26 run strength, do you feel that it's necessary to maintain
27 the windows after the quarter point?

28
29 MR. BERGSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman. It's
30 kind of getting a little complicated in a sense because
31 what the schedule is we had subsistence fishing times in
32 regulation, in 2000, through that year, and then in 2001
33 the schedule started where, you know, it'd be these
34 scheduled openings and windows during the week. And that
35 was based on kind of like the 1980s what fishers had for
36 openings during that time. And so what we actually are
37 doing typically except for when we have this really good
38 runs and there's no commercial fishing up river and
39 places where we've gone to the seven days a week but
40 generally what we're really doing is reverting back to
41 the pre-2001 regs, which were generally a schedule in
42 District 4 of two 48s starting at a certain time, you
43 know, like it used to be the 15th. And what we did in
44 the past is we actually allowed subsistence fishing seven
45 days a week longer until commercial started. So at about
46 the quarter point, in these type of runs, and we can
47 assess that it's that good we'll be reverting off of the
48 schedule and then it will depend kind of on commercial
49 activities, too, what the time will actually be in each
50 district.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
2 questions.
3
4 MR. STICKMAN: Ron.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.
7
8 MR. STICKMAN: You know, even the windows
9 schedule passed this Advisory Committee here, the
10 Council, but it's important, you know, that everybody
11 here realizes that when they do open it up to 24/7 that
12 they have been meeting all their escapement goals and,
13 you know, and people have been able to fill up their
14 smokehouses quicker and be done sooner, you know, they
15 don't spend a lot of time, they don't waste a lot of gas,
16 you know, and it's just -- you know, it's something that
17 the Council should have full realization if they do open
18 it 24/7 outside and stray away from the windows it hasn't
19 had an affect on the overall population.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks you, Mickey. And
22 that is so far, and I think we all realize it now that in
23 one of our earlier proposals that we can fluctuate here
24 and there with these windows request and all that stuff,
25 I mean we're flexible. I mean we're leaving quite a bit
26 to in-season managers which I think is fine because
27 they're the ones that are actually watching and counting
28 all the activities and the harvest, keeping an eye in the
29 harvest.
30
31 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.
32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.
34
35 MR. COLLINS: I'd like to comment on
36 that. I don't think I would ever like to see the windows
37 go away.
38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh.
40
41 MR. COLLINS: And the reason I say that
42 is we have to recognize that traditional fishing methods
43 are changing through time, and I'm sure it's the same on
44 the Yukon as well as over here. Down at the mouth of the
45 river they used to use setnets only for a short period of
46 time or fish in the side streams to take their king
47 salmon, and that allowed fish to get up river that were
48 unfished. But with the coming in of commercial and the
49 bigger boats and gears and more efficient nets and so on,
50 that's true, they could go out there if it was 24/7 and

1 take it all in a short period, but they would be
2 impacting just one part of the run. They would not be
3 distributing their catch throughout and they would be
4 using something that was not in place historically.
5 Because I wondered, you know, how we were getting fish up
6 here in the Salmon River or Takotna, at the head of the
7 river when there were only a few thousand fish there and
8 they used to use fish fences up here. And they took what
9 they wanted and then they pulled the fence. So they did
10 fish 24/7 up here but they were just dealing with the
11 runs that got up here and those fish had been virtually
12 undisturbed down at the mouth. They were coming through
13 and they weren't being caught with the traditional
14 methods.

15
16 So I think we have to keep in mind the
17 methods and so on that we're using now and their impact
18 on the fish and I would argue that you may never want to
19 do away with the windows if you're going to try to
20 distribute the catch throughout the run. Even though
21 you're going to have to use a little more gas or it's not
22 as efficient, it's still, I think, a sounder practice.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Anything
27 further -- Benedict.

28
29 MR. JONES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30 Dan, this past summer, has ichthyophonous showed up on the
31 upper part of the Yukon River? We didn't see it much on
32 the lower Yukon this year, I think I only caught one
33 with ichthyophonous on it, chinook. And I think due to
34 that the current has changed the last five years, the
35 Yukon River is getting wider because of the erosion and
36 less currents and so the fish have less stress going up
37 to the spawning ground.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MR. BERGSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I
42 really haven't been keeping real good track on what we've
43 collected this year on the ichthyophonous. I believe it's
44 a little less percentage seen in the fish but it's not
45 like it's gone, it's still kind of there but it's more
46 the -- if I've got it right, it's more the clinical but
47 you don't see the bad infection like when you open the
48 fish, but there's some in them. And then -- so we still
49 did that in Emmonak and I think at maybe Tanana. And
50 then we were really concentrating and still looking in

1 the Chena and Salcha in the spawning areas to see if
2 there's an impact or, you know, how much -- how the fish
3 are there with ichthyophonous and I don't think we really
4 have any results there.

5
6 But as far as in the mainstem it's still
7 there but it didn't seem like the infection was as
8 strong, you know, where you see it observed, but it's
9 still in a fair number of the fish.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Jack.

12
13 MR. REAKOFF: Has the Department
14 developed a pathogen test, blood sample from fish?

15
16 MR. BERGSTROM: Mr. Chairman. I don't
17 believe so. I think we were trying to go that way so you
18 wouldn't have to kill the fish because it hurts them when
19 you have to pull their heart but as I understand, I
20 think, when we looked at there's just -- it's too easy
21 just have false negatives or false positives in the blood
22 so we're basically back to just using the lethal methods.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.
25 Mickey.

26
27 MR. STICKMAN: No questions but I just
28 wanted to thank Dan and his Staff for, you know,
29 listening to the subsistence users on the
30 teleconferences.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey.
33 Anything else.

34
35 MR. BERGSTROM: (Shakes head negatively)

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, we'll go into
38 FP06-04. Don.

39
40 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
41 Rivard again. The analysis starts on Page 49 in your
42 booklet. This is another analysis that was conducted by
43 Richard Uberuaga. Proposal FP06-04, submitted by the
44 Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council requests that
45 in the Yukon River drainage, all gillnets with greater
46 than six inch stretch mesh may not be more than 35 meshes
47 in depth. This request applies to both subsistence and
48 commercial fishing gillnets.

49
50 This proposal was previously submitted to

1 the Alaska Board of Fisheries in November 2004 as an
2 emergency petition and was rejected. The Federal
3 Subsistence Board also rejected this proposal which last
4 year was No. 05-03 in January of 2005.

5
6 The Council has submitted this proposal
7 as an agenda change request to the Alaska Board of
8 Fisheries for its October 2005 work session. The Council
9 expressed concerns that the use of deeper nets target
10 larger female chinook salmon thereby reducing the overall
11 size in altering the genetic make up of the fish reaching
12 the spawning grounds and potentially increasing the
13 impacts of ichthyophonosis which has a disproportional
14 higher rate of infection in female chinook salmon.

15
16 The Council also requests that the
17 proposed regulation apply to both subsistence and
18 commercial fishing gillnets.

19
20 The Federal Subsistence Management
21 Program does not directly manage commercial fishing along
22 the Yukon River so this analysis will focus on the
23 proposed regulatory changes to subsistence fishing nets
24 operating under Federal jurisdiction.

25
26 During their January 2005 meeting, the
27 Board approved Proposal 05-04, this is a little bit --
28 this is kind of related a little bit to this proposal,
29 the Proposal 05-04 submitted by the Western Interior
30 Council which requested in Subdistricts 4B and 4C and
31 District 5, residents may subsistence fish for salmon
32 with drift gillnets that are no more than 35 meshes deep
33 and less than 150 feet in length.

34
35 As you all may know the gillnets are
36 highly selected for catching fish with larger mesh sizes
37 more effective for larger chinook and smaller mesh more
38 effective for smaller chinook and other species. Mesh
39 size regulations can significantly alter the sex ratio
40 and age class composition of chinook salmon stocks.

41
42 Traditional ecological knowledge contends
43 that the larger, older, female chinook salmon tend to
44 swim deeper in the river. There is little disagreement
45 that deeper nets catch more chinook salmon but there is
46 no scientific evidence supporting that female chinook
47 salmon are disproportionately harvested over males.

48
49 The reduced numbers of larger, older,
50 female chinook salmon is a concern of many users along

1 the Yukon River and in February 1998 the US/Canada Joint
2 Technical Committee reviewed the availability of age,
3 sex, length information for Yukon chinook salmon trying
4 to determine whether a decrease in size had occurred.
5 Their analysis concluded that the data did not indicate
6 any sustained substantial change in the fish size for the
7 Yukon River chinook salmon.

8

9 In 2004 the National Park Service and the
10 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requested further
11 investigation of age, sex and length trends in Yukon
12 chinook salmon by the Office of Subsistence Management.
13 The recently released age, sex and length report, which
14 -- has that been passed out now?

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: No, there's no copies.

17

18 MR. RIVARD: No copies, okay.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: When I talked to Steve
21 Klein, it wasn't finalized enough.

22

23 MR. RIVARD: Yes, it's been released in
24 draft form, the age, sex, length report that our office,
25 the Office of Subsistence Management's put out. It's
26 identified two trends.

27

28 1. A small decrease in large,
29 greater than 900 millimeters or
30 greater than 36 inches, chinook
31 salmon spawning in most
32 tributaries.

33

34 So, again, I'll go over that. A small
35 decrease in large chinook salmon spawning in most
36 tributaries.

37

38 2. A marginal decrease in the
39 average length of older chinook
40 salmon spawning in several
41 tributaries.

42

43 That analysis concluded that, although
44 studies have shown gillnets or size selected for
45 harvesting chinook salmon, the analysis could not be
46 designed to assign a cause to any identified trends.

47

48 If adopted, this proposal would make the
49 Federal subsistence regulations more restrictive than the
50 State's commercial subsistence regulations and result in

1 a checkerboard of State and Federal regulations creating
2 the potential for management and enforcement challenges.

3
4 This proposal might increase the amount
5 of subsistence fishing effort necessary to harvest
6 available surpluses of chinook salmon since people would
7 have to potentially fish longer with shallower, less
8 efficient nets to harvest their fish.

9
10 The proposed regulation would create an
11 additional hardship on Yukon River subsistence fishers
12 because they would have to cut or rehang the existing
13 nets they have to 35 meshes deep. Subsistence fishers
14 who also hold the CFEC permits may not want to modify the
15 nets that they also use to commercial fish in State
16 waters.

17
18 So the preliminary conclusion is to
19 oppose the proposal.

20
21 The justification is that this proposal
22 would make Federal subsistence fishing regulations more
23 restrictive than the State's commercial and subsistence
24 regulations, establish a checkerboard of regulations that
25 could potentially create management and enforcement
26 challenges and be inconsistent with the Federal
27 subsistence priority provided under Title VIII of ANILCA.
28 In addition, more fishing effort would be required to
29 harvest any surplus chinook salmon since people would
30 have to fish longer with less efficient gear.

31
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Don. Dan.

35
36 MR. BERGSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
37 This is Dan Bergstrom with Fish and Game again.

38
39 And a fair number of comments are kind of
40 similar to the last one, basically going over what the
41 recent stock status has been. Although poor runs
42 occurred from 1998 through 2000, the Yukon River king
43 salmon stocks are not classed as either a conservation
44 concern or a management concern. And in all the years
45 except for the very poor chinook run in 2000, there's
46 been reasonable opportunity for subsistence fishers to
47 meet amounts necessary for subsistence.

48
49 A majority of the escapement goals have
50 been met or exceeded since 2000.

1 And I think one of the things to look at
2 is on Page 54, as far as there's a graph there that shows
3 the border passage into Canada and how it only shows, I
4 think, through 2003 here, but those last three years are
5 some of the highest that we've had. The open bar is the
6 escapement. So we have been doing pretty well with
7 stock, status and escapements for chinook salmon.

8
9 As far as in this proposal, a decline in
10 the proportion of seven year old chinook salmon has been
11 observed in the commercial harvest since the mid-1980s.
12 Through about 1985 we were seeing averages of about 20
13 percent and even up to 25 percent of the harvest being
14 seven year olds, and this has gone down to approximately
15 four or five percent about 10 years ago. And then during
16 the last 10 years it's increased again up to like about
17 nine to 10 percent.

18
19 So we have seen a decrease in the
20 commercial harvest. The decrease may or may not be
21 related to the harvest and mesh size as environmental
22 conditions can play a major role also in age, class
23 composition of the run and return. And studies of the
24 incidents of ichthyophonous in the Yukon River chinook
25 salmon are ongoing presently. While females appear to be
26 infected at a slightly higher rate than males there
27 appears to be no identifiable impact on the spawning
28 grounds that we've seen so far. The fish have gotten
29 there and have successfully spawned. And we will have
30 more information on that study from this year.

31
32 Although this request may relate to
33 conservation of a portion of the returning Yukon River
34 chinook salmon run, the stock is not classified as a
35 conservation concern or management concern, and the depth
36 of gillnets fished in the Yukon River is a major issue
37 and the public will want to thoroughly discuss this
38 issue. And the Alaska Board of Fishery cycle for AYK
39 region will come up after the next fishing season in 2006
40 and 2007. I think we're basically saying that that would
41 be a good time to take up the issue of king salmon sizes
42 and whether there's other -- whether it needs to be
43 addressed and how to address it because there could be
44 various ways of attempting to let larger fish through.

45
46 One of our major data gaps is good age,
47 sex, size information from Canadian escapements. And
48 what we've been trying to do is get Canadians to do more
49 projects in Canada so that we can get that information
50 because that's one of the biggest gaps, we actually don't

1 know what's in the spawning areas in Canada as far as
2 age.

3
4 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Dan. You had a
7 questions.

8
9 MR. BENEDICT: No questions.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right. Federal
12 agencies.

13
14 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

17
18 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I see Fred
19 Andersen there with Yukon Charlie, and I'd like to find
20 out what kind of -- what his comments are and what he's
21 seeing up on the upper part of the drainage in Yukon
22 Charlie.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Fred.

25
26 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman. Fred
27 Andersen with the National Park Service. Most of you
28 know but for the record I managed the middle and upper
29 Yukon commercial and subsistence salmon fisheries for
30 ADF&G for 16 years, I think, in the mid-70s to the late
31 '90s and then for about 10 years after that I was in
32 management of sportfisheries for the Interior including
33 Yukon River salmon fisheries, which is the subject of
34 this discussion, I guess.

35
36 I don't want to put words in the mouths
37 of the proponents, the people that drafted this proposal,
38 but I think that in large part their reason for
39 submitting this was to help address the issue of
40 declining fish size on the upper Yukon. It's a very
41 large and very important issue to many people in the
42 upper part of the river from -- I hear it from Tanana on
43 up stream and I heard someone here today, I think, that
44 they're just not seeing the big fish anymore.

45
46 Just in the time I've spent on the Yukon
47 River, I've noticed, not a disappearance, but a marked
48 decline in the abundance of large fish, 50 pound or
49 better fish. I can't remember the last time I saw a 50
50 pound fish, nor can I remember in the last couple of

1 years a discussion with upper Yukon fishermen where this
2 issue of declining fish size failed to come up. It's on
3 their minds. They talk about it amongst themselves, they
4 talk about it to me, they've brought it to these Regional
5 Councils. So I think that they're relying on traditional
6 knowledge that large fish have a tendency to run deep. I
7 think their intent was to try to shallow up these nets to
8 allow more big fish to escape, not only to the upper
9 river to them, but to the spawning grounds as well.

10

11 There are other ways of doing that, of
12 course, and the obvious one is to reduce mesh size but
13 that's such a potentially inflammatory issue that I think
14 they were trying to get at the same result without
15 putting a mesh size proposal on the table. And I would
16 stand corrected if that turns out not to be their intent.
17 But that is what they're getting at. And I think it's
18 great.

19

20 I think that these last three years, in
21 particular, we've seen large numbers of fish on the
22 spawning grounds especially in Canada, but I don't think
23 it's only an issue of quantity of fish on the spawning
24 grounds, I think there's a quality issue there too. And
25 as Dan said, we're having trouble getting good,
26 comprehensive information from Canadian systems. We
27 don't know, for example, what the sex ratio is on
28 Canadian spawning grounds. We don't know how many males
29 or how many large females, we just don't know what the
30 composition of the run is. Lots of fish is a good thing,
31 but it's not that simple, we need to consider quality of
32 escapement, and I think this proposal is attempting to
33 get at it.

34

35 A lot of you have been, well, most of you
36 have been on these rivers all your lives, I mean, just
37 ask yourselves or elders in your villages, do you see as
38 many big fish as you used to. I think very often the
39 answer is going to be no. They're disappearing on us.
40 And this statistic that Dan put on the table a couple of
41 minutes ago, a decrease in the number of seven year old's
42 in the commercial fishery from 20 or 25 percent some
43 years ago to nine or 10 percent now is significant. And
44 that, in my mind, sort of ratifies what I hear on the
45 river, and these guys aren't making this up and there
46 are, in fact, some data that substantiate that.

47

48 So whether or not adoption of this
49 particular proposal, shallowing up driftnets is the best
50 method of getting at that problem, I don't -- I'll

1 withhold judgment on that, but I think they're very
2 concerned, rightfully concerned, about losing that older
3 age component of the run.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Fred. Robert.

6
7 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 Fred, you know, you discussed here, what is incidental --
9 if you know, what the incidental catch on the high seas
10 of the Yukon or the Kuskokwim chinook salmon and being
11 this 200 mile limit here, when you go back here and look
12 at the map here there's International waters right in the
13 middle called the Donut Hole, if there's any idea what
14 may be caught in there, you know, destined for Canadian
15 waters, Alaska waters, and so forth?

16
17 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman. I would
18 defer to Dan on numbers of bycatch in the fishery. I
19 think it's encouraging to hear him say that the numbers
20 are about as high or looking about the same as they were
21 last year.

22
23 The Donut Hole, I don't think is an issue
24 anymore, since adoption of -- what changed, Dan, to make
25 that no longer an issue?

26
27 MR. BERGSTROM: I'm trying to think. Mr.
28 Chairman, I think there's been some other agreements
29 whereas there really isn't that much of a foreign harvest
30 in there that there used to be in the Donut Hole. I
31 think there's been some agreement to keep that pretty
32 well in check from what it used to be, so it's basically
33 our domestic harvest and the trawl and the bycatch.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Don.

36
37 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. I can partially
38 answer, maybe Robert's question. On your handout you
39 were given for the BSAI salmon bycatch report there,
40 there's a page there that shows the origin of the salmon
41 that are from the bycatch and it shows that 56 percent
42 are coming from Western Alaska stocks. They don't have
43 it identified down to is that the Kuskokwim or the Yukon
44 or other places in Western Alaska, but that's the overall
45 percentage.

46
47 Okay, thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Don. Whenever
50 we start discussing putting restrictions on subsistence,

1 we kept harping on this all day, too, that you've got to
2 put -- you cannot target only subsistence you have to
3 target the commercial interests, too, all the way from
4 the ocean all the way up to Y3, because we're in 4 and we
5 don't have any commercial fishing up on the river. So
6 you'd have to target commercial fishing too, and I think
7 we'd have to pass that on to the State to handle that, I
8 don't know how they would or if they wanted to.

9
10 Jack.

11
12 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. To Don
13 Rivard, is it the intent of this proposal, it says
14 subsistence and commercial, is the Eastern Interior's
15 intent is to close the commercial fishery, also put them
16 under a restriction for a 35 mesh depth?

17
18 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Yes, Jack, that
19 was their intent and I stated earlier that this proposal
20 analysis only dealing with the Federal subsistence
21 fishery, but the intent of the Eastern Interior Council
22 is to have this also apply to commercial fishers and
23 their equipment.

24
25 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, go ahead.

28
29 MR. REAKOFF: Then, therefore, since the
30 Yukon-Kuskokwim Wildlife Refuge encompasses basically all
31 of that lower district, they would be -- the Federal
32 system could require a 35 mesh in the commercial harvest?

33
34 MR. RIVARD: That is one of their options
35 but there would have to be some pretty strong reasonings
36 for doing so. I won't try to guess what the Federal
37 Subsistence Board could do but that is one of the options
38 they could have, they could propose that.

39
40 MR. WALKER: Ron.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

43
44 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don,
45 Fred or Dan here, on Page 55 of our book here, it does
46 show that starting off in -- under Table 1 here that the
47 subsistence versus the commercial and you look at the
48 salmon that was caught commercially versus the
49 subsistence here, doesn't this give you some kind of
50 indication that the commercial is taking three and four

1 times, sometimes more than what the subsistence users
2 are, and then to turn around and tell us that, you know,
3 we have to -- the subsistence people have to go down to a
4 six inch stretch mesh measure with 35 mesh deep, I mean
5 -- I mean it goes for everybody, but still, I mean you
6 look at these numbers here and that just doesn't match up
7 to me. I don't think it would match up to anybody else
8 on this Board.

9
10 You know, I'd like to have an answer here
11 from either one of you, or all three of you, please.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Don.

14
15 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Walker, I guess I would
16 like you to clarify your question. I'm not quite sure
17 what you're asking from my standpoint, maybe the other
18 two could do that.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

21
22 MR. WALKER: Well, I'm not a lawyer here
23 and obviously you're not either, but you can see the
24 number here for 1985 to 2004 that subsistence jumped only
25 maybe not even 20,000 fish over an 18 year period and you
26 look at how much fish was caught commercially from '85 up
27 until 2004, and we wonder why the fishing crashed in the
28 years of -- all these years, if you're looking from '98,
29 '99, 2000, 2001 they didn't have a commercial season, I
30 mean obviously there's got to be some kind of something
31 here that I'd like to hear what happened.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anybody. Go ahead Dan.

34
35 MR. BERGSTROM: I'm always ready to go,
36 Mr. Chairman.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 MR. BERGSTROM: I think it's a good
41 comment from Robert because there's various ways that
42 fishermen might want to input on this because, you know,
43 in the end it comes down to a Federal Board or a State
44 Board deciding how these regs would go into implement
45 some action for a reason and, you know, I think what he's
46 saying is that, do you actually impact subsistence nets
47 or is it only commercial and those are the type of issues
48 that will come up, various scenarios of maybe how to do
49 this and besides that there'll be a lot of people, do you
50 need to do this, I think, is in the discussion you'll

1 hear too.

2

3

It's a big issue.

4

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Jack.

MR. REAKOFF: My main comment on this, I feel that this is a huge issue, this decline in the size of the chinook salmon in the seven year age class. The Department, the OSM, I don't see -- what is highlighted here is that, I, on the Western Interior have a concern with this decline and this size of the fish. I feel that it's the selectivity of the commercial harvest with the large mesh gear. I talked to fishers that are catching net marked fish on the dorsals way up river, the selectivity of these nets have impacted the size of these fish.

And the question is, the management, it's the burden on the management to address this issue. The Eastern Interior's trying to address this issue through this proposal. This may or may not be the correct way to do it. I do feel that there needs to be -- this issue needs to be addressed, and I want to highlight that issue to both managing agencies, that this is a concern of decline, this is not sustained yield management to have a decline in the age class. It's probably more than likely a facet of selectivity in the type of gears that are used on the Yukon River and how are they going to -- is this going to be addressed.

And so that's the question. Hiding your head in the sand and watching these size of these salmon decline over years, you're making genetic inroads into certain size fish and you're going to have to rely on decades of recovery for recessive to come forward again.

And so this is the question and I don't feel that this proposal putting a burden on the subsistence users, and whether the Federal Board is actually going to close the commercial harvest with 35 mesh, I just don't think they're going to do that, but I do feel that this is an issue and I want both the OSM and

1 the Department of Fish and Game to address this issue.
2 And so I would like to see a letter transmitted from this
3 Council, through the OSM to the Federal Subsistence
4 Board, that this being a very grievous concern and attach
5 this to this -- Eastern's going to move this forward,
6 attach this to the deliberations and that letter should
7 be submitted to the Department. The Department has yet
8 to come forward with any kind of a plan of resolving this
9 issue.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Any
14 other agencies.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Villages.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tribes.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Interagency Staff

27 Committee.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Fred. Summary
32 of written comments.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, there were no
35 written comments on this proposal.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: further public testimony.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, the Chair will
42 entertain a motion to adopt Proposal FP06-04.

43

44 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

47

48 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to adopt,
49 but my intent is to vote against the proposal. I don't
50 feel the proposal can pass the Board.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.
2
3 MR. STICKMAN: I second. You know
4 another thing I would like to say before we come to a
5 vote is, you know, I bet if you were to do a correlation
6 and you had the information as far as sex and size and
7 you put a graph of that besides the commercial harvest
8 over the 18 year period you would see that it's the large
9 mesh, deeper nets that the commercial fishermen use that
10 has caused the decline in fish size.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. There
13 is a motion on the floor and seconded to adopt Proposal
14 FP06-04. All those in favor of the motion signify by
15 saying aye.
16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.
18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those opposed.
20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.
22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, roll call.
24
25 (Laughter)
26
27 MR. MATHEWS: The motion on the floor is
28 to adopt the proposal as written.
29
30 Robert Walker.
31
32 MR. WALKER: No.
33
34 MR. MATHEWS: You are.....
35
36 MR. WALKER: I oppose.
37
38 MR. MATHEWS: It's.....
39
40 REPORTER: No.
41
42 MR. MATHEWS: No?
43
44 REPORTER: Oppose. No.
45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Yea or nay or no or.....
47
48 MR. WALKER: Nay. Sorry.
49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Carl Morgan.

1 MR. WALKER: No is no.
2
3 MR. MORGAN: Nay.
4
5 MR. MATHEWS: All right. Ray Collins.
6
7 MR. COLLINS: Nay.
8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Ron Sam.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Nay.
12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Jack.
14
15 MR. REAKOFF: Nay.
16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict.
18
19 MR. JONES: No.
20
21 MR. MATHEWS: No.
22
23 REPORTER: No.
24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Donald Honea.
26
27 MR. HONEA: No.
28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Mickey.
30
31 MR. STICKMAN: No.
32
33 MR. MATHEWS: So then it's unanimous in
34 opposition to the proposal.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.
37
38 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, at this
39 time I'd like to make a motion to transmit a letter
40 attached to this proposal to the Federal Subsistence
41 Board stating our frustration with the managing agencies
42 of not resolving this decline in the size of the salmon
43 on the Yukon River and would like to see the Federal
44 Subsistence board address this issue with management
45 studies that would address this decline. This is a very
46 grievous issue to the Western -- as a Western Interior
47 Council member, I'm very concerned about this issue, and
48 I would like this letter to be transmitted through the
49 Federal Subsistence Board to the Department of Fish and
50 Game.

1 Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: That was a motion, wasn't
4 it?
5
6 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.
9
10 MR. STICKMAN: I second.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.
13
14 MR. COLLINS: Question.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called.
17 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.
18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.
22
23 (No opposing votes)
24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. A little
26 housecleaning -- thank you, Don, Dan and Fred Andersen.
27 Thank you all. A little housecleaning, I understand Ray
28 wanted us to get out of here by about what, 5:00 or 5:30.
29
30 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I have to leave at
31 5:00. But, yeah, 5:30.
32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, that sounds even
34 better to me. I understand you've got dinner over at
35 your house?
36
37 MR. COLLINS: Yes.
38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: At 6:00?
40
41 MR. COLLINS: You're all invited to
42 dinner at our house. We'll eat at 6:00 but you can come
43 by any time after the meeting and visit.
44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.
46
47 MR. WALKER: Is the ball game at your
48 house?
49
50 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, there's television

1 there.

2

3 MR. WALKER: Polly. Polly, you can watch
4 the ball game at Ray's house.

5

6 MS. WHEELER: I think it's over.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. WALKER: Well, there's a second one,
11 I think the Yankees and.....

12

13 MS. WHEELER: I don't care about the
14 Yankees.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: For those that don't know
21 where Ray's house is, please ask one of the Council
22 members or Staff where it's located, it's not far away.
23 It will be easy to find. But you're all welcome to his
24 house. And, Ray, I don't want to put words in your mouth
25 but I believe you're doing this partially as a fundraiser
26 or not?

27

28 MR. COLLINS: We will, yes. Last year we
29 had people bring things. We'll provide everything this
30 time. I'm going to ask for a donation out of your per
31 diem, and then after we take out the costs, you know,
32 what we actually purchased, then we'll donate the rest to
33 the school.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

38

39 MR. COLLINS: And the house is right
40 across from -- just after you go past the school it's on
41 the right, large log home, it's right across the street
42 from the sign that says community church so I think you
43 can find it, it has a lot of windows in the front.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: You want to continue for
50 20 minutes, if we want to continue. As far as I can see

1 we took care of most of today's agenda. What about post-
2 season review.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Well, yes, we do have the
5 post-season review, I'm sorry on that, and Dan assured me
6 that it was going to be short.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: No, I think you do have the
11 opportunity to do this. You've requested this and they
12 more than graciously have come and it just so happens to
13 be this year they had a good return so that might be good
14 to go through post-season. And then for Jack and others,
15 I will get you copies of proposals forms. I apologize I
16 don't have a formal form, I'll give you one out of the
17 book with some spare pages. There is Staff here with
18 computers and that, and we can help if that helps, to
19 draft the proposals on the wildlife issues that we talked
20 about even though you're talking wildlife tomorrow, it
21 would be nice to get some ideas beforehand so you guys
22 can talk about them.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, for my information,
25 what's subsistence fisheries 2006/2007 proposals, what's
26 that?

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, under wildlife or.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS:under fish?

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Right under fisheries.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, you went through all
37 that. That's just.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS:the procedure.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. All right.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS:thing, no, you covered
46 all the proposals.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right. Who do we
49 have, Dan, and who -- okay.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: And this.....
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Post-season review.
4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Right. This was a request
6 by the in-season managers to have this before the
7 proposals, but due to the plane delays and that we
8 weren't able to pull that off. I'd like input for a year
9 from now if that's how you would like it, is to have it
10 before the proposals. The in-season managers had a valid
11 point, that, how can you review these proposals if you
12 didn't know how the season that just was prosecuted went,
13 and that was the reasoning that I used to justify this
14 change.
15
16 So maybe after this, sometime, let me
17 know if that's how you want to do it, a year from now so
18 they can program in their thoughts.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Yes. Ahead of
21 proposal deliberations, right, that's when these reports
22 would come on?
23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.
25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. State
27 your name and agency for Tina, please.
28
29 MR. GERKEN: My name is Jonathan Gerken.
30 I work for Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm a fisheries
31 biologist and assistant manager for Yukon River
32 management. I gave Vince a handout that has an overview
33 of the 2005 Yukon River Fisheries. Also on that handout
34 is a table summarizing the numbers at the escapement
35 projects for the Fish and Wildlife for Federal projects.
36 And then on the very back is a summary of an in-season
37 subsistence harvest interview project that was conducted
38 in Emmonak, Holy Cross, Nulato, Huslia, Galena and
39 Beaver, and then this year we had some volunteer stuff
40 going on in Kaltag.
41
42 I'm not going to read the whole thing,
43 I'll make some bullets here and summarize.
44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, go ahead.
46
47 MR. GERKEN: To summarize, preseason,
48 summer season and then fall season.
49
50 Information from the in-season and post-

1 season assessment projects support that both summer and
2 fall season subsistence fishers were provided a
3 meaningful preference to fish on adequate numbers of
4 fish. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and YRDFA in-
5 season salmon catch interview project and the weekly
6 YRDFA teleconferences indicated that most of the
7 fishermen were able to meet their subsistence salmon
8 needs this year.

9

10 Overall 2005 was a successful fishing
11 season in light of meeting escapement objectives,
12 providing maximal subsistence opportunities and ADF&G
13 providing additional harvest opportunities.

14

15 The outlook for 2006 is going to be
16 prepared by ADF&G after escapement information and age
17 composition analysis are completed over the next several
18 months.

19

20 Just a couple points on preseason, summer
21 and fall. During the preseason U.S. Fish and Wildlife
22 Service Staff worked cooperatively with ADF&G Staff to
23 develop the preseason and in-season management approaches
24 which were distributed in May. This year there was a
25 salmon covered outlook sheet. The sheet was mailed by
26 ADF&G to all Yukon River subsistence households and
27 commercial fishing permit holders. Both Federal and
28 State Yukon River fisheries managers entered the season
29 anticipating that the 2005 chinook salmon run was going
30 to be similar to the below average 2004 run and the
31 summer and fall chum salmon runs were anticipated to be
32 average to below average.

33

34 Summer season. The strength of the in-
35 season run abundance of chinook and summer chum salmon
36 runs were based on lower Yukon River test net fishery,
37 Mountain Village test net fishery, Pilot Station sonar
38 and subsistence fisher catch reports discussed on YRDFA
39 sponsored teleconferences and collected through the Fish
40 and Wildlife Service YRDFA in-season salmon catch
41 interviews. Based on these indices provided by these
42 tools, managers projected that sufficient chinook salmon
43 had entered the river to provide for escapement,
44 including Panel established border passage commitments to
45 Canada, subsistence needs throughout the drainage which
46 included liberalizations to the Board of Fish windowed
47 fishing schedule to seven or five days a week. And a
48 small surplus of chinook salmon appeared available for
49 commercial harvest.

50

1 Summer chum salmon run strength was
2 improved over the abundance experienced in 2003 and 2004
3 with the season Pilot Station passage greater than 2.5
4 million fish.

5
6 The fall season. Preseason ADF&G fall
7 chum salmon outlook was for a run size between 584,000 to
8 776,000 fish. This was updated entering the fall fishing
9 season in mid-July by incorporating this years summer
10 chum salmon run performance resulting in an outlook for
11 return near the upper end of the preseason range which
12 was 776,000.

13
14 Consistent with the above average outlook
15 the windowed subsistence salmon fishing schedule was not
16 reinstated following the summer fishing season. The
17 liberalized subsistence fishing schedule of seven or five
18 days a week, which was in place at the end of the summer
19 season, was continued into the fall fishing season.

20
21 The fall chum salmon Pilot Station
22 passage count was approximately 1.8 million, which is
23 well above average.

24
25 Yukon River coho salmon return this
26 season continued the above average production trend with
27 over 184,000 passing Pilot Station through the end of
28 August. Based on information collected to date, it
29 appears that all fall chum and coho salmon escapement
30 objectives were achieved and at the Yukon River Panel
31 interim fall chum salmon border escapement commitments
32 were exceeded.

33
34 And that's all I've got for the summary
35 of the 2005 fishing season.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any questions
38 for John.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: I have one. When you did
43 this survey or interviews down at Huslia, I mean did you
44 actually do it in the community?

45
46 MR. GERKEN: The interviews are the
47 fundings provided by OSM and then in coordination with
48 Fish and Game we do have local hires in those villages
49 that actually do interviews each week. And so they
50 contact at least five households in each village. In the

1 lower river in Emmonak it could be up to 30. I think
2 Holy Cross could be up to 20. Huslia is up to 10. So,
3 you know, it does vary based on village.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: The reason I asked about
6 Huslia is how many of these permittees were -- or
7 interviewees did their fishing on the Yukon River versus
8 the Koyukuk or did they all fish right on the Koyukuk
9 River?

10
11 MR. GERKEN: I think the majority of them
12 did fish on the Koyukuk River, and there are some, maybe
13 one or two out of the 10 that do go down to the Yukon
14 River.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, that's what I wanted
17 to know. And it is specified in all that report then
18 where they fished?

19
20 MR. GERKEN: On the data form that we do
21 give them, they do specify location so a lot of that has
22 to do with what section of the river, as in north, south,
23 east or west on the Koyukuk but it is specified in the
24 report, yeah.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, that's what I wanted
27 to hear, all the data entered in there. Jack.

28
29 MR. REAKOFF: Were you going to present
30 this driftnet fishery in 4B and 4C?

31
32 MR. GERKEN: Thanks, Jack, I am going to
33 present it.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

36
37 MR. GERKEN: The Federal drift fishery
38 which was pushed by your guy's board, in December 2004
39 the Federal Subsistence Board adopted a regulation that
40 provided Federally-qualified subsistence fishermen the
41 opportunity to use drift gillnets to harvest chinook
42 salmon in subdistricts 4B and 4C for the 2005 fishing
43 season.

44
45 Participants were primarily residents
46 from the villages of Galena and Ruby. A total of 70
47 permits were issued and the permits were available from
48 Refuge Staff in Galena and Huslia and then issue agents,
49 mostly tribal councils in Ruby, Koyukuk and Tanana. Of
50 the 23 permittees who reported their fishing activity, 19

1 people did not fish. Of the four permittees who did
2 fish, a total of 21 chinook salmon and zero chum salmon
3 were harvested.

4
5 It appears that there were considerable
6 interest in the fishing opportunity but the low harvest
7 appears to reflect feedback that the productive drifting
8 spots were not located by fishermen within the Federal
9 waters of subdistricts 4B and 4C. So that might have had
10 a little bit to do with high gas prices, the feedback
11 that I got was that a lot of folks didn't want to go out
12 and actually look for new sites because of, you know,
13 high gas prices, so there wasn't a lot of exploration.
14 But those folks that did fish did catch some fish.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

19
20 MR. JONES: Yeah, the feedback that I got
21 from Galena residents is that sites that they tried but
22 too many snags under water and they were getting their
23 fish nets caught and that's why not very many of them
24 participated in the driftnetting, they couldn't find the
25 spots where there were no snags.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. I
28 think we kind of reiterated what Mr. Honea said earlier,
29 that this is new so they're still experimenting, and like
30 he said exploring and hopefully they'll do better on down
31 the line.

32
33 Any further questions for John or Dan.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have anything else
38 to add.

39
40 MR. GERKEN: No, I didn't.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Dan.

43
44 MR. BERGSTROM: Yeah, I just wanted to
45 add a few things. I think John covered the subsistence
46 portion really well and you have a handout, it's the one
47 that has the logo that doesn't have a buffalo on it.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. BERGSTROM: So you can kind of read
2 through that later, I mean it gives what the commercial
3 harvests were and such.

4
5 But as he's handing it out I can just
6 summarize that because John kind of went through the
7 anticipated, I mean the main reason we thought the
8 chinook run would be a little lower than 2004 is we had a
9 lower proportion of five year olds in 2004 and those
10 would be the six year olds this last summer.

11
12 And we did see in the catch information
13 that the five year olds this year were stronger, the six
14 year olds were a little lower than average on the
15 proportion and so we did see more five year olds so just
16 kind of anticipating ahead that we would be expecting
17 likely that next year will be a good chinook run based on
18 the age composition this year.

19
20 And then I just wanted to kind of go over
21 the chum salmon runs that we anticipated to be average to
22 below average. And we did see in 2003 and 2004 improved
23 runs of chum salmon and we did see a really strong return
24 of three year olds in 2004. And I think that in
25 retrospect we should have really projected a lot stronger
26 run this year of chum salmon from that. Because what we
27 said in our preseason was that we were optimistic
28 regarding the outlook but we weren't optimistic enough
29 because the chum runs were very strong.

30
31 One thing I wanted to cover, too, was in
32 the chinook salmon run. In our in-season assessment we
33 had difficulties, the water was higher than average and
34 we figured it was impacting our test net sites but we
35 didn't know how much, you know, we just figured, yes,
36 there's an impact but it's hard to know to what degree
37 it's impacting them. I think what we'd say after the
38 season is that we basically, in the test nets, really
39 missed that first quarter of the run where there was a
40 pretty good pulse of fish because subsistence fishers did
41 note it going up the river and then Canada jumped up,
42 like it normally does, from that portion of the run in
43 the first half of June. And our test nets basically were
44 missing those.

45
46 So we were conservative, we are managing
47 based on what we see in-season and so we did have a
48 conference call in-season where we started to explain
49 that, you know, it's not looking too good, we have to
50 keep an eye on it here and then shortly after that we

1 heard from the sonar site that they were -- so we were
2 basing a lot of our in-season on the sonar because we
3 knew we had difficulties at the test fishery. And then
4 the sonar did call up and explain that they were missing
5 a portion of the in shore because of the bottom and then
6 they used the new DITSON sonar to go through there and
7 gave us an adjustment. I think some people in the river
8 were concerned that we were being too optimistic using
9 that but I think, you know, as you look back now it was
10 appropriate that they were missing fish and we added into
11 the count and we took it into account and said that there
12 was enough fish to go off the schedule and to start
13 commercial fishing and do other uses and that we had
14 sufficient run for escapement and subsistence and other
15 uses.

16
17 So I think in the end we did well there
18 but we would have liked to have caught that earlier.

19
20 I think basically on the subsistence
21 schedule we did start May 30th and it was about three
22 weeks later that we started going off the schedule and we
23 did come off a little quicker up river compared to down
24 but that's based on the abundance that, you know, we
25 didn't have to let it go quite as long in Districts 4 and
26 5.

27
28 In the commercial harvest we had about
29 32,000 chinook salmon, 41,000 summer chum, 175,000 fall
30 chum and 56,000 coho and there still might be a little
31 commercial harvest at Nenana this week yet.

32
33 That commercial harvest for chinook
34 salmon was the lowest, third lowest since statehood, and
35 most of the other ones were low because the summer chum
36 market is very poor. And fall chum and coho there was
37 kind of a reduced market, there wasn't full on fishing so
38 what it did was there was a lot of commercial fishing
39 opportunity and throughout the river we basically were
40 going to seven days a week most of the fall chum and coho
41 run for subsistence fishing.

42
43 And when you look at fishing effort you
44 can see that the lower river commercial permits was only
45 about 10 percent below average whereas it's probably
46 almost 70 percent below what is normally fished in the
47 upper river and that's primarily District 4 having very
48 little -- well, no commercial fishing harvest this year.
49 I did want to say one thing there that we'll be trying to
50 focus with other fishing groups and with buyers to try

1 and see what we can do there to push for more commercial
2 back in 4A and 4B and C.

3
4 Value was about \$2 million made on
5 chinook and summer chum for the river and almost half a
6 million for fall chum and coho. And then on Page 3 and 4
7 it goes through the escapements. The chinook, aerial
8 surveys, all except Nulato were within the goal or above
9 the goal. In the Chena and Salcha we had problems,
10 particularly in the Chena with high water from rain and
11 couldn't count there at the tower there very often. We
12 only saw 564 by the tower but we did have about 1,600
13 through an aerial survey so there was at least that many
14 there. And in the Salcha River, the tower count was
15 about 6,000 which was near the upper end of the goal of
16 3,300 to 6,500. And there was some indications that
17 maybe it was a little better than that as the aerial
18 survey was about almost 5,500. But I think that it did
19 indicate the goals were met there in the Tanana River.
20 As I said earlier, the Canadian portion was pretty strong
21 with a new sonar project near the border, we had a count
22 of about, I think at this time they were estimating
23 around 70,000. So the escapement was probably 50,000 or
24 more there.

25
26 The summer chum run was almost -- well,
27 2,400,000 so that was well above what we've seen in
28 recent years and getting closer to the mid-1990s. The
29 Anvik sonar was only about 500,000, though, and that's
30 unusual. We would have expected during the '80s and '90s
31 that we would have had like a million fish there. And
32 then the goal wasn't even met, there was only about
33 20,000 fish in the East Fork Andreafsky. And I think
34 what we're seeing is that the production is shifting,
35 that that lower river section, Anvik and Andreafsky
36 aren't producing as many and it appears the Koyukuk was
37 strong and in the Tanana River we had the most summer
38 chum ever at the Salcha tower, so it seemed like
39 production was better further up river and lower down
40 towards the mouth.

41
42 One of the thoughts on that could be that
43 pink salmon seemed to have been increasing in even years,
44 that that could impact, because it is kind of similar to
45 what we see in Norton Sound, the streams closer to the
46 ocean haven't been doing quite as well with chum.

47
48 And you can see with the escapements
49 there that Henshaw had 150,000 just at that little creek,
50 there's a lot of summer chum in there.

1 Fall chum, you know, was one of the best
2 runs we've seen, 1.8 million at Pilot Station. We don't
3 have all the estimates in from projects but Chandler had
4 over 400,000, Sheenjek 266,000. I think the last
5 estimate I heard for fishing branch would be about
6 150,000 they were projecting. So that came off of one of
7 the lower escapements in 2001 and for whatever reason we
8 had a great production off of that brood year.

9
10 And that's it, unless you have any
11 questions.

12
13 Mr. Chairman.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Dan. Questions
16 for Dan. Jack.

17
18 MR. REAKOFF: I'm wondering what the
19 Department's satisfaction level was with the new sonar
20 site up near the border?

21
22 MR. BERGSTROM: Mr. Chairman. I never
23 made it up there myself but other Staff, regional Staff
24 went up and then our sonar main regional biologist was
25 there and said it appears to work pretty well. They have
26 a good profile and it's one of the good things is there's
27 a really good separation between chums and kings there.
28 The kings come through first so when they did test net
29 through that's all they caught, they didn't catch other
30 fish, although they still have to check to see if maybe
31 there's some smaller whitefish or something but they feel
32 it's a pretty good count because there isn't a species
33 apportionment problem or anything like that.

34
35 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-huh, thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I know we had
38 a pretty good summer chum season. Chums up there pretty
39 white meat so a lot of people didn't put their net in,
40 they didn't want to work on chum salmon. They were
41 targeting mostly whitefish, sheefish and the other
42 species. But we did have a good run there and I seen a
43 lot more people fishing than a few years ago.

44
45 Any further questions for Dan or John.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: I just have a housekeeping
2 before you break.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Dan. Thank
5 you, John. Go ahead.

6
7 MR. BERGSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8
9 MR. GERKEN: Thank you.

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: We have it announced and
12 it's also been put on the McGrath message board, their
13 computer message board that at 7:00 o'clock there'll be
14 public testimony so we do need about two Council members
15 at 7:00 to migrate back here with Salena and myself, and
16 then if there's testimony, then we'll capture that
17 testimony and summarize it for the rest of the Council
18 for the morning. So I just want to let you know, two
19 that want to volunteer to come back at 7:00 o'clock.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack and I, and, whoever,
22 you?

23
24 MR. WALKER: I volunteer Carl.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: You got another
29 teleconference.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: If that's all the
34 housekeeping we got, thank you all for coming here, we'll
35 be back here at 7:00 for awhile. And what 8:30 in the
36 morning.

37
38 MR. WALKER: 9:00 o'clock.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it's announced that
41 it's 8:30.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: We can go to 9:00 but.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: We'll shoot for 9:00. We
48 started at 9:00 this morning and it worked out pretty
49 good so I thank you all for coming in and we'll see you
50 here at 7:00. We're in recess until 7:00.

1 MR. STICKMAN: Can we leave our stuff
2 here?
3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, there's a VPSO office
5 right here so I'm fairly certain this is safe.
6
7 (Laughter)
8
9 (Off record)
10
11 (On record)
12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, we're back in
14 session and we've waited until 7:25 and there has been no
15 public to arrive to give testimony. Recess until 9:00
16 a.m., tomorrow morning.
17
18 (Off record)
19
20 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 158 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically by Salena Hile on the 4th day of October 2005, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at McGrath, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 16th day of October 2005.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08