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1 WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 Nulato Tribal Hall
5 Nulato, Alaska
6 October 5 2000
7 8:30 o'clock a.m.

8
9
10 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

11
12 Ronald Sam, Chairman
13 Henry Deacon
14 Angela Demientieff
15 Samson Henry
16 Benedict Jones
17 Jack Reakoff
18 Michael Stickman
19
20 Coordinator: Vince Mathews, Donald Mike

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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CHAIRMAN SAM: We'll reconvene the meeting,
it is 9:06. I would ask Vince Mathews to take the roll.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Ron Sam.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff.

MR. REAKOFF: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Carl Morgan.

MR. MORGAN: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Angela Demientieff, not here
yet. Benedict Jones, not here yet. Henry Deacon.

MR. DEACON: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Micki Stickman.

MR. STICKMAN: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Sam Henry.

MR. HENRY: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, you have a
quorum. Angela will probably be here shortly as well as
Benedict.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince.
Yesterday, I called for a recess before we recognized the
Regional Councils and local advisory and the local people,
period, so working with Pete Demoski, Tribal Administrator
for Nulato, we have the first thing on the agenda is
Crispen Esmailka, one of our revered and respected elders
and right after he makes his presentation, I would like to
recognize Colleen Stickman and her students. So Crispen
Esmailka.

MR. ESMAILKA: My name is Crispen Esmailka.
I have lived here all my life for 74 years I was raised
right here in this village and we talk a little bit about
fishing. Ever since I was a small boy, big enough to
remember the salmon was running on this river and people
were living off of the salmon off of this river. But I

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1 started to remember, I see fish camps all the way between
2 here and Kaltag, between here and Koyukuk and Galena, there
3 must have been maybe about 10 camps between here and Kaltag
4 and between here and Koyukuk, too, all the people used to
5 live off the salmon and there was always plenty of salmon
6 and all these families had fish wheels. They was never
7 short of salmon. They all had dogs and they all -- they'd
8 get enough fish for their dogs and for their own use. And
9 when you think you have enough you quit. Even though the
10 salmon is still running you quit fishing for the summer.

11
12 So it's been going like that for years.
13 And it was going fine. Until this commercial fishing
14 started. When the commercial fishing started we couldn't
15 fish for ourself anymore. The best time of the fishing, we
16 had to be cut off, you couldn't fish subsistence. They
17 tell us you got to pull out your nets, you got to stop your
18 wheels because the commercial fishermens would be fishing,
19 so we did. And these commercial fishermens they never save
20 all the fish they catch. They throw away the fish, the
21 salmon and say we couldn't use that. I can remember that
22 ever since this commercial fishing started, the salmon
23 started slowing down, started going down, every year it
24 started going down.

25
26 And then they open up for subsistence but
27 there's no more fish, the best part already went by, but we
28 get along. This is how the salmon run, slowing down all
29 the salmon every year, ever since this commercial started
30 and not everybody fishes commercial. Not even half of
31 these people around here fish commercial, maybe just a few.
32 Because of these people sometimes we'll be going hungry.
33 They don't save the salmon.

34
35 One time when the game wardens were working
36 down here, they said there was no fish go up the Nulato
37 river, it was quite a while back. So this guy came over to
38 my house and told me, George his name, this guy, said,
39 let's go up to the Nulato River, we go up there every
40 summer for bear hunting and we see salmon go up there every
41 summer, ever since I was big enough to hunt, that river,
42 you see salmon go up there. This guys, you don't know what
43 you're talking about, let's go up and see how far those
44 salmon go, so we start poling up that river in canoe, we
45 use pole, poling all the way up there, it took us six days
46 to where we can't pole no more, just dragging, pulling our
47 canoe and the salmon up, they were still going, king salmon
48 was still going half out of the water, they was still going
49 upstream, and a lot of these chums flowing up, they was
50 still going up yet. why don't you turn back, six days was

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1 enough, a lot of work. So all this and the game warden
2 said no salmon go up there. I don't think they ever went
3 up there, they were just talking or something, they didn't
4 know what they were talking about anyway. But then this
5 last few years, there's a lot of salmon go up that river,
6 you start counting the salmon and I don't think all the
7 salmon that go out there make it back. There was small
8 ones make it back, I know. This last few years we have too
9 much rain, the water gets pretty high up there for the last
10 six, seven years, and how many times this summer it
11 happened, the whole creek will wash out, keep washing out,
12 too much rain and I don't think that all the salmon that go
13 out there, no young ones come back, a lot of them come down
14 and they're washed out and they get killed and all that's
15 what's shortening the salmon, too, I know that.

16
17 All the fish that spawn, that go up there
18 and spawn, the young ones get washed out of the creeks and
19 this is not only one creek, it's all the creeks along this
20 river here. The salmon that come up at the mouth, past the
21 mouth, how many creeks on this river, they all have to get
22 off the Yukon, they don't only run on the Yukon, they run
23 up these creeks, that's where they spawn. They don't spawn
24 out here on the river, they go up one of the side creeks
25 and that's where they spawn. And they say, we catch all
26 the fish down here and they have to cut us off, we don't
27 catch that much fish down here. This summer we didn't get
28 no fish, we didn't catch any fish, but they had to shut us
29 off. Now, a lot of these people here don't have any fish,
30 I don't have any -- put away some pink salmon this spring
31 so to eat a little salmon this winter. That's not even
32 enough for the winter. A long time ago we used to have
33 enough all the time before the commercials started. We had
34 enough for our dogs, nobody have no more dogs around here,
35 couldn't get enough fish for the dogs this summer because
36 we got cut off too many times. The best part of the
37 fishing was when we were cut off due to the commercial
38 fishing.

39
40 So people holler at us when we go up the
41 river, we're catching all the fish down here, we're not
42 catching all the fish. The fish are out there on the
43 river, we don't catch them, we're cut off and we do
44 nothing, our nets are just on the beach and that's the
45 reason.

46
47 So I know, the salmons are really going
48 down all the time, now it's down where you can't even fish,
49 even in commercial couldn't fish no more around here. All
50 summer -- it was pretty much closed all summer the whole

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1 summer long, we couldn't fish. I don't know what we're
2 going to do, go hungry for the winter, I guess.

3
4 Well, that's all I got to tell you about
5 the fishing, so that much I know about fishing.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Crispen. It's
8 our policy that we recognize our host villages and host
9 people and I really appreciate your comments and I'm glad
10 you spoke to us this morning. Thank you.

11
12 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you, Crispen.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micki, would you handle this
15 next introduction. I believe we have some students and
16 teacher. I see Pete Demoski's up there so I would like to
17 recognize a teacher and some senior students from high
18 school. These are our future leaders. Again, out of
19 deference and respect to the community that hosts our
20 meeting, I would like to give them special recognition for
21 coming in and participating. Micki.

22
23 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, up there in the
24 bleachers there we have Peter Demoski, our tribal
25 administrator. He helped set up all your travel and
26 arrangements for the hall and for where you're staying.
27 And directly on his left is Colleen Stickman, she's the
28 math and science teacher at the high school here. And then
29 we have Janelle. Janelle is a high school student here in
30 Nulato. Next to her we have Michelle. Tonya. And I
31 forget the other girl's name, she has too many sisters, I
32 don't know if that's Maureen, is that right? Okay, that's
33 Maureen. And next to her is Darren Hildebrand. Sorry.
34 Sorry, Maureen. But these are our high school students and
35 their math and science teacher.

36
37 Up there in the audience we got Franklin
38 George, he's a citizen of Nulato. And over in the corner
39 there, we have George just standing up. And that's about
40 all the people from Nulato that I can see here today.
41 Thanks, Ron.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. Again,
44 our travel and dates and time and place for our next
45 meeting will be discussed later but I know we put quite a
46 burden on local communities, especially the small ones that
47 don't have taxis and hotels so I'd really like to recognize
48 Village of Nulato for putting up with us and putting us up
49 and giving us all this good food.

50

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1 Thank you.

2
3 I would like to go right into the agenda
4 under Chair's report. Like I told most of the people here,
5 my report is short and brief. I haven't been traveling
6 very much. Everything pretty much was handled by
7 teleconference and that, in itself, ties you up for two
8 days and takes about two days to untie your phone, speaker
9 phone and it takes about two days to get the material in
10 before the teleconference so that you can really testify,
11 not only on your feelings but on every agenda item that is
12 brought on the teleconference agenda. Again, I haven't
13 been traveling very much, this is the first time I've
14 traveled since April or May, I think and that pretty much
15 concludes the Chairman's report.

16
17 Vince.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday
20 you kind of tabled looking at writing proposals. You one
21 that Micki was talking about and then there was the one on
22 some kind of proposal
23 of evidence of sex and then there was proposals submitted
24 by the Koyukuk River Comanagement Team, and then your Staff
25 has put together kind of a list of potential proposals to
26 align with State seasons. I don't know when you want to
27 take those up or if you still want to take them up, but
28 it's something that we didn't complete yesterday.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think all I was looking
31 for was to get these proposals before us so we can
32 introduce them, the ones that we will introduce to the
33 Federal Subsistence Board under our names, are those the
34 only ones that we will probably discuss in our November
35 meeting if our November meeting is still on. All I want
36 out of these proposals is the introductions and I want to
37 find out which ones people want to introduce under our name
38 and under subsistence period. Because some of these
39 proposals will not go very far no matter how far we want to
40 take them under subsistence, you still have the prerogative
41 of introducing your own proposals to the Federal
42 Subsistence Board and the State Board of Game. And if you
43 remember the first couple hours of the first day we
44 deferred some proposals to keep them on the record, they
45 won't die, they will be re-introduced under one form or the
46 other out of all of our village councils and tribal
47 offices, we'll keep them alive until there's action one way
48 or the other.

49
50 (Angela Demientieff - present)

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there anything else,
2 Vince?

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: No. Other than maybe Pete or
5 George would want to introduce the proposals for the
6 Regional Council like they've done in the past for
7 alignment where the State season is a bit more liberal or
8 assist with management or whatever. They have a handout on
9 that and I don't know if representatives of the co-
10 management team want to brief the Council on their
11 proposals or not. We had the proposal from the Huslia
12 Tribal Council also.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, we would like to get
15 them all introduced and accepted, I mean the concept of
16 accepting them and pushing them further.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Well, maybe the easiest step
19 right now would be to have Pete or George introduce those
20 and then the others can follow suit.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, go ahead.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: They have a handout of
25 several proposals that the Council might be interested in
26 submitting.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are we talking Pete DeMatteo
29 and George Sherrod?

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Could you take the
34 table please and go ahead and do it.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: They're right here if you
37 want them to introduce those proposals.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

40
41 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, I'll try to keep
42 this brief. The handout you have in front of you is the
43 ongoing -- the results of the ongoing request of the
44 Council for Staff to annually look at how our regulations
45 are different than the State. The State Board of game
46 meeting last March made some of these State regulations
47 more liberal than the Federal regulations. So in keeping
48 with your request, we identified which ones those are for
49 your review.

50

1 On the first page is three definitions that
2 exist in the State regulations but do not exist in Federal
3 regulations and that is simply the definition for bait, a
4 definition for drainage and a definition for salvage. What
5 I put before you is is you have to decide whether you want
6 to see these in Federal definitions -- regulations so they
7 align with the State.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pete. If you
10 don't know how we handle this, we do have another meeting
11 in early February or March to really go through these
12 proposals and then as Chair I appear before the Federal
13 Subsistence Board to deal with these proposals. So all I'm
14 asking for right now is just the introduction so make it
15 brief.

16
17 MR. DeMATTEO: Okay, I'll go through them
18 all then. The second one deals with wolf hunting in Unit
19 19, the State regulation is more liberal than Federal
20 regulations, the seasons are the same but the State, Unit
21 19(D) as in Delta, allows for 10 bulls per day, ours -- the
22 Federal regulation is five per day.

23
24 The next one deals with baiting for black
25 bears in Units 21 and 24 within the Koyukuk controlled use
26 area. The recent Board of Game action provided for baiting
27 of black bears between April 15th and June 30th within
28 those units within the Koyukuk controlled use area. This
29 does not exist within the Federal regulations at this time.
30 And also the recent Board of Game action would allow for
31 the baiting of black bears within that same area during
32 September 1 through the 25th.

33
34 The next one deals with beaver hunting in
35 Unit 21(E). This would create a Federal beaver hunting
36 season in 21(E). The harvest limit would be no limit, the
37 season would be November 1 through January 10.

38
39 The next one deals with brown bear, Unit
40 19. Unit 19(A) and (B) under the State regulations, they
41 don't divvy it up as the Federal regulations do. But
42 simply this would provide a longer season and the existing
43 State season is September 1st through May 31 and portions
44 of the Federal regulations within that same area, the
45 season stops on May 25th. So this proposal would align
46 Federal regulations with the State and provide a longer
47 season.

48
49 The last one is brown bear Unit 24.
50 Currently the State regulation is September 1st through

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1 June 15th, the Federal regulation is September 1st through
2 May 31, the State season is an extra 15 days. An alignment
3 with that would provide an extra 15 days opportunity under
4 Federal regulations.

5
6 That's it.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pete. Any
9 questions for Pete. Does the Council want to take any kind
10 of action to put in a special request to align the harvest
11 of wolf to match the State's liberal -- what do you call
12 that, liberal harvest?

13
14 MR. DeMATTEO: Alignment with the State
15 regulations.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

18
19 MR. REAKOFF: Basically what you're
20 requesting is whether the Council would like these
21 submitted to the proposal packet and I make a motion that
22 the Staff submit these for into the Federal Subsistence
23 proposal packet to be reviewed at our next meeting.

24
25 MR. STICKMAN: I second that motion.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion to
28 introduce these proposals on our behalf, that is the
29 Western Interior, right?

30
31 MR. REAKOFF: (Nods affirmatively)

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions or
34 comments.

35
36 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called for.
39 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

44
45 (No opposing votes)

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries. Okay, these
48 proposals, again, for your information, will be introduced
49 on our behalf and they will be pretty much dealt with and
50 taken care of in our May meeting of the Chairs and the

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1 Federal Subsistence Board. We do have until March 2002 to
2 take into consideration any further changes under the State
3 proposals, am I right Pete?

4
5 MR. DeMATTEO: We'd have to check into
6 that, I'm not sure of the date.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: For the State part I don't
9 know the dates. Someone can speak on that, of 2002, I'm
10 not up to speed on when the board of Game takes care of
11 Interior proposals.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think unless it's an
14 emergency proposal, I think they can take those up at any
15 time, but regionwide area wide, I think our next appearance
16 before the State Board of Game is March 2002.

17
18 MR. ROGERS: That's correct, Ron. The
19 deadline for submission of proposals will probably be in
20 early December, though, so you'll want to get them
21 generated by them but they'd be considered by the Board in
22 March.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: December of 2001.

25
26 MR. ROGERS: Correct.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Randy. I think
29 that's pretty much what we're looking for at this time is
30 introduction of these proposals. And at this time, the
31 Chair will recognize Darryl Vent to address the Council
32 under the tribal task force resolution.

33
34 MR. VENT: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. We
35 have three proposals that we want to put before the Board
36 to see if we can get approval for the March meeting. It
37 wouldn't be under special action, it will be under regular
38 action. And these proposals could be explained more by
39 Mike concerning the areas of 21(D) and 24. The last time
40 we went before the Federal Subsistence Board, we didn't go
41 through the approval of the Western Advisory Council and so
42 we're trying to go through the proper procedures to present
43 some of these proposals. So I thank you for your time and
44 Mike will come up and explain the proposals in a little
45 more detail if you need them, the introduction.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Darryl for that
48 clarification. The Chair will recognize Mike Walleri for
49 proposal introduction. Thank you. Again, before we go any
50 further, this is an introductory period. Like I said,

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1 anything that deals with directly with subsistence will be
2 taken care of by the Federal Subsistence Board and the 10
3 Chairs participation in May. Is that right Willie?

4
5 MR. GOODWIN: (Nods affirmatively)

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Mike Walleri.

8
9 MR. WALLERI: Thank you, Chairman, members
10 of the Board. As Darryl indicated, he's, of course, the
11 acting chairman right now of the comanagement team, Roy is
12 the standing chair and is not here right now.

13
14 By way of background, the comanagement team
15 had made a request at the last Federal Subsistence Board
16 for either a closure or a limitation on the harvest of
17 moose by non-subsistence users in the Koyukuk controlled
18 use area that also is within the Koyukuk National Wildlife
19 Refuge. That proposal was rejected by the Federal Board as
20 a special action request and in response to that we're
21 coming back to make three more defined proposals. And I
22 want to emphasize that this kind of a continuing process.
23 As we are moving along, I think all of the -- or the
24 comanagement team is getting more and more information,
25 getting more and more data and understanding the data,
26 trying to sift through all of this stuff, and we expect
27 there will be further refinement of these proposals that we
28 are submitting when it comes before you again in March.

29
30 However, the thrust of the proposals, the
31 first two proposals which are noted as Proposals A and B
32 relate to the Koyukuk controlled use area, they're
33 separated because as many of you know the Koyukuk
34 controlled use area is separated between GMU21(D) and 24,
35 so the two proposals are intended, however, to be
36 coordinated. What they're requesting is a roll back on the
37 harvest limit or on the harvest rate, which has been the
38 guts of the controversy between the user groups on the
39 Koyukuk controlled use area. The hunters task force report
40 indicated that the maximum sustained harvest yield in the
41 GMU 21(B) was approximately somewhere between 6.5 and 7
42 percent harvest rate. The Board of Game, when it -- the
43 plan as it was amended and there's some controversy as to
44 how it was amended and what the members of the different
45 groups that participated in the hunters group agreed to.
46 It's our understanding that the local members of the
47 hunters group agreed to the 6.5 to 7 percent harvest rate
48 and that it was changed -- the plan was changed when it
49 went to the Board of Game in March to provide for a 7.5
50 percent harvest rate, which is higher than the maximum

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1 sustained yield harvest in the area. The original position
2 of the villages in this area was that the harvest rate
3 should be around four to five percent to allow rebuilding
4 and maintenance of the moose population in the Koyukuk
5 controlled use area.

6
7 These are big differences, although they're
8 small percentages, they're big differences in the total
9 harvest. And what we're recommending at this time given
10 the kind of unilateral change in the plan by ADF&G when it
11 went to the Board of Game, to increase the harvest rate
12 above what was agreed to by the local participants in the
13 hunters plan, we would like to see it rolled back to the
14 five percent harvest rate. That.....

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mike.

17
18 MR. WALLERI: Sure.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: We are not discussing these
21 proposals in totality, we do not expect to review these
22 proposals until later on before we meet with the Federal
23 Subsistence Boards. And these proposals in all actuality
24 unless there is a declared emergency, it won't come before
25 the State Board of Game until March 2002, so just give us
26 the concept and we will further these proposals. I do not
27 want to discuss these proposals in totality at this time.

28
29 MR. WALLERI: That's right, that's pretty
30 much what I was -- I pretty much had all I was going to
31 say, is that the goal here is to roll back -- in terms of
32 the first two proposals, is to roll back the harvest rate
33 to the five percent level.

34
35 Our calculations are that that means 45
36 permits, general harvest permits in the Koyukuk controlled
37 use area, that may have to be refined, based upon the
38 difference between the -- the difference in definition of
39 subsistence between the Federal and the State systems, and
40 we're going to be taking a look at that between now and
41 March.

42
43 The third proposal is.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: This is March 2002.

46
47 MR. WALLERI: March 2002.

48
49 MR. STICKMAN: No, Mr. Chair, I think.....

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micki.

2

3 MR. STICKMAN: I think their basic idea was
4 to have their proposals passed in this arena before it goes
5 to the Federal Subsistence Board because the last time they
6 had these proposals before the Federal Board, they did it
7 without going through the Regional Council, so they want to
8 follow through the process.

9

10 MR. WALLERI: That is correct. We would
11 like to see this go through the Board before -- through the
12 normal cycle which would be March 2001.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, let me go over what
17 we're trying to do here. Basically the cycle is up through
18 October 27th on the Federal side, people submit proposals.
19 Walleri, who is representing the group is submitting the
20 proposals and introducing it to the group here, they'll be
21 put in the book, which will be mailed out November,
22 December, something like that, during the closure of
23 October 27th through your meeting in late February or
24 March, Pete, George and others analyze those proposals,
25 call around and talk to different people and they come up
26 with a Staff recommendation, preliminary, that is before
27 you in February or March. At that meeting, you go yea or
28 nea or neutral, whatever you want to do with those
29 proposals, that is what Ron or whoever, goes for the
30 Council, presents that to the Federal Subsistence Board in
31 May. The Board then takes an action. That action then
32 goes into effect July 1. So what we've tried to do here,
33 slowly over the years, is to give you exposure to the
34 proposals now so when you go back to your villages you know
35 this proposal, you can start talking about it and then that
36 way when you get the analysis and come back in February,
37 you're more likely to share the comments of people you've
38 interacted with and then that way we can kind of get
39 everybody talking about the issue from the first step and
40 then that way when it comes before the Board, the Board
41 then has a full understanding that these communities have
42 concerns about it this way and these communities have
43 concerns or support it this way.

44

45 So that's where we're at. St at this
46 point, Ron is correct, you do not need to pass any
47 recommendations up or down on this proposal or proposals.
48 You can, if you so desire, you can submit a parallel
49 proposal just like you do all the time with the Board of
50 Game, advisory committees do that all the time. One

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1 advisory committee submits a proposal, the adjoining one
2 likes it, they submit a parallel one so then the Board
3 says, there's three groups, four groups, whatever, all
4 talking about the same issue. So you do have that option.

5
6 But as your coordinator, this is not the
7 time to pass any recommendations on these proposals because
8 you have not had analysis, you have not had the benefit of
9 public input. So that's -- I hope that clarifies it.

10
11 MR. WALLERI: We're not asking for action
12 at this time. The only thing we're doing is introducing
13 the concept and looking for action in March of 2001.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, we take action in
16 February.

17
18 MR. WALLERI: Or February then.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: And then it comes before the
21 Federal Subsistence Board in May.

22
23 MR. WALLERI: Right.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: So all I wanted was -- I
26 didn't want the proposal in detail, I just want your
27 introduction and -- a brief introduction.

28
29 MR. WALLERI: Yeah.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: And I think we've gotten
32 that.

33
34 MR. WALLERI: Well, with regards to the
35 first two. With regards to the third one, it's a very
36 simple proposal. And that is, that it would propose the
37 closure of all Federal lands in GMU 24 outside the Koyukuk
38 controlled use area to non-subsistence. And the reason for
39 that is to reduce the -- is to address the impacts of
40 hunters moving out of the controlled use area and into 24
41 that has occurred. And it's merely an expansion of the
42 current closure that exists in portions of the Kanuti
43 Wildlife Refuge.

44
45 So those are the three proposals and we
46 look forward to working with the Board on it. And we hope
47 that we'll have your support in the February meeting.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mike. Just for
50 your information, I honestly believe that these proposals

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1 will be brought before the KRAC in Allakaket and we do have
2 a few other meetings before that so do you want us to
3 introduce these programs or do you just want us to be aware
4 of them?

5
6 MR. WALLERI: We just what you to be aware
7 of them at the current time and deal with them in your
8 normal cycle.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you for your
11 input and your - thanks for coming before the Council.

12
13 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chairman.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micki.

16
17 MR. STICKMAN: Mike, one question, the
18 deadline is October 27th so they've already been filed or
19 not?

20
21 MR. WALLERI: Yes, they were filed on
22 Tuesday at the Federal Office in Fairbanks. So they are
23 formal proposals and will be in the formal proposal book.

24
25 MR. STICKMAN: So when we have our winter
26 meeting, our winter meeting we'll have a chance to vote yes
27 or no on these proposals, right?

28
29 MR. WALLERI: That's my understanding, yes.

30
31 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, I just wanted to be
32 sure.

33
34 MR. WALLERI: Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. Jack
37 Holchese, Huslia, did you have something brief, a question
38 or a comment?

39
40 MR. HOLCHESE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Board
41 members. Mike just brought up these proposals and I guess
42 I brought one up and I introduced it to the Western
43 Interior Advisory Committee and I'd like to introduce it to
44 the Board. Do you want me to read it or, could I read it?

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just for clarification
47 purposes, just introduce it and it will be entered into the
48 record.

49
50 MR. HOLCHESE: I know as a leader, my

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1 people would back up my proposal here. When I get home
2 I'll bring this up. Our elders would back this up. I mean
3 like Crispen said, we grew up off this land and we saw a
4 lot of changes, too. So my proposal is:

- 5
6 No. 1. What regulations do you wish to
7 change, include unit numbers and
8 species and if possible quote the
9 current regulations? Establish
10 Huslia, Dulbi River drainage
11 controlled use area in Game
12 Management 24.
13
14 No. 2. How should the new regulation read?
15 Write the regulation the way you
16 would like to see it written. The
17 Federal Subsistence Board
18 establishes the Huslia, Dulbi River
19 drainage controlled use area which
20 is consistent with the Koyukuk
21 controlled use area and regulations
22 are also the same.
23
24 No. 3. Why should this regulation change
25 be made? Hunters will kill off
26 country where people from Huslia
27 hunt for moose and bear.
28
29 No. 4 What impact will this change have
30 on wildlife population? Conserve
31 the wildlife populations by
32 protecting them from overharvest by
33 non-local hunters.
34
35 No. 5 How will this change affect
36 subsistence users? Make it easier
37 for them to go out and hunt where
38 hunters are being dropped off by
39 airplane.

40
41 I mean all this is pretty well self-
42 explanatory. As Native people on the Board, you probably
43 know what I'm talking about.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: So Jack, my question then
48 is, you want this proposal introduced under the Western
49 Interior's name to establish or extend our controlled use
50 area under Western Interior or did you just want us to be

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1 aware of this?

2

3 MR. HOLCHESE: I think this is probably
4 what Mike and them are working on, too. But we'd like our
5 controlled use area extended out to Huslia and Dulbi Rivers
6 on the lakes where the guides come and drop off hunters and
7 leave them there and as you all know moose travel in the
8 fall and the biggest bulls usually go by the river and the
9 cows, they're just all traveling and so they're all out in
10 the lakes and they're dropping off hunters out in the lakes
11 and killing off all the moose before they even start
12 traveling.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, for everyone's
15 clarification, if I understand the powers vested in us or
16 beyond us, but all we can do on this proposal is make
17 recommendations. I think only the State can establish or
18 extend any kind of controlled use area; am I right, Pete?

19

20 MR. DeMATTEO: Well, that's what's done in
21 the past. The Federal Board has never entertained before
22 creating or extending a controlled use area. It's to my
23 knowledge that those controlled use areas were set forth
24 under State regulation.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: So we may be able to move on
27 into this area then, the controlled use area?

28

29 MR. HOLCHESE: Excuse me, Mr. Chair. Isn't
30 that controlled use area Federal land?

31

32 MR. DeMATTEO: Portions of it, yes.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the question of
37 controlled use areas and et cetera, the cleanest way to get
38 through this since we can't give you a straight yes or no
39 answer is if you so desire, would be to submit a parallel
40 proposal and then let it go through the analysis process
41 and then we'll have an answer on that. Ida may have more
42 to share on that but if you desire to have a controlled use
43 area based on subsistence uses not being maintained, the
44 Board would have to entertain that proposal and determine
45 if it can establish a controlled use area. So maybe Ida
46 has more to share.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Ida.

49

50 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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1 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. The simplest
2 way is actually just to accept this proposal as a proposal
3 from Huslia and in the analysis the question of the
4 controlled use area will be addressed and at that time the
5 Councils can make their recommendations up or down or
6 otherwise add, delete, et cetera and then of course, the
7 Federal Board will be the final decision-makers. So I
8 believe that Darryl is just here to introduce you to the
9 concept that they are proposing from Huslia in a same
10 manner that Mr. Walleri introduced the proposals prior,
11 just for your information and requiring no action at this
12 time.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you, Ida. We
15 keep having a problem with these proposals. I would like
16 to see them introduced and take those through the process.
17 I think I got ahead of myself a little bit by going into
18 the legality of who directs who on establishing these
19 controlled use areas. Did you have anything further to
20 add?

21
22 MR. HOLCHESE: No, Mr. Chairman, but thanks
23 and thank you to Nulato for the great hospitality. We'll
24 be going home this afternoon. It's great that you put us
25 up and fed us and let me go fishing for my subsistence use.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Again, I
30 think Ida put it straightforward pretty bluntly, just go
31 ahead and share these proposals and one way or another they
32 will be introduced before the Federal Subsistence Board and
33 the State Board of Game. Quickly, Darryl.

34
35 MR. VENT: Yeah, Koyukuk River Basin
36 Comanagement Management Board will be looking into this
37 controlled use area expansion. Also these all go hand in
38 hand with wanton waste, transfer of position and one more
39 in there besides the controlled use area, it's some
40 problems that we see in there that's -- also transporters,
41 so we'll be working on these proposals before October 27th.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. And just so
44 you're aware, I'd like to state that we do take action on
45 most of these proposals in our February meeting and then
46 final action, whether they pass or not is before the
47 Federal Subsistence Board in May. Thank you. Just so
48 you're aware of it.

49
50 MR. VENT: Thank you for taking the time to

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1 listen to us.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Now, Pete DeMatteo.

4

5 MR. DeMATTEO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At
6 this time I just want to point out to you that yesterday
7 the Council brought up an issue as a potential proposal to
8 be submitted to the Federal Board, and that issue was the
9 removal of the evidence of sex requirements for moose for
10 the Western Interior region. Does the Council want to
11 submit that as a proposal to the Federal Board at this
12 time?

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: We do want to pursue this
15 issue, this proposal, in one form or another because we
16 have to deal with it. Like I said, we talked about this
17 issue, this one proposal for about four hours with Eastern
18 Interior and we didn't get anywhere. Orville Huntington,
19 do you have anything to add on this?

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. HUNTINGTON: (Nods negatively)

24

25 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chairman.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micki.

28

29 MR. STICKMAN: I guess the question is are
30 we going to put it in our proposal packet for the February
31 meeting?

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would like to deal with
34 this before the -- I mean have it out in the mail to our
35 Council members before our February meeting in one form or
36 another, I mean we have to deal with this issue.

37

38 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. And then there was
39 one other proposal there for the half mile restriction. I
40 would like for the Federal Subsistence Board to be aware of
41 this.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pete.

44

45 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, it'd be best for
46 Michael Stickman to clarify exactly where do you mean that,
47 for the record.

48

49 MR. STICKMAN: When we hunt on our winter
50 moose hunt, the 10 days in February or, you know, it's a 10

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1 day window period, one of the requirements is that we go
2 out a half mile off the river before we shoot a moose. But
3 I think that's ridiculous because people that live in the
4 urban areas, they don't have to walk a half a mile through
5 the woods to get to Safeway or MarketPlace or anything like
6 that.

7

8 MR. DeMATTEO: So for the record, you're
9 saying you'd like to see the half mile restriction for the
10 winter hunt in 21(D) for moose removed?

11

12 MR. STICKMAN: That's correct.

13

14 MR. DeMATTEO: Okay.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that clear enough?

17

18 MR. DeMATTEO: (Nods affirmatively)

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Can we introduce
21 something on his behalf then?

22

23 MR. DeMATTEO: Staff will type these up for
24 the Council.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pete.

27

28 MR. STICKMAN: Thanks, Pete.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything more on proposals.
31 The Chair will recognize Randy Rogers.

32

33 MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Chairman Sam and
34 members of the Council. The Department of Fish and Game
35 will be working with the Council and others to fully
36 evaluate these different proposals before the next meeting
37 comes up. In the proposals just submitted by the Koyukuk
38 River Comanagement group, there's just a couple statements
39 I'd like to bring to the attention of the Council to keep
40 in mind as you evaluate this.

41

42 One, on the first page, there's a statement
43 that local representatives to the Koyukuk Moose Hunter's
44 Working Group agreed to a certain harvest level and then
45 the statement goes on to say that ADF&G Staff unilaterally
46 increased the recommended harvest level in their submission
47 to the State Board of Game. We'll work with Mr. Walleri
48 and folks on the Council to, you know, carefully go through
49 the facts of how things were presented to the Board of
50 Game. But I want to assure you, as people who have been

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1 involved in this working group, that what the Department
2 submitted on behalf of the working group was, in fact, what
3 the working group recommended with members from the Council
4 as well as Middle Yukon and Koyukuk Advisory Committees.
5

6 One other statement that comes at the end
7 of the proposals and it's on what's marked as Page 7
8 towards the back of one of the first ones is it basically
9 says, "given the State's clear efforts to, and it's
10 underlined, reduce moose populations in the basin on State
11 lands," I just find this particular statement completely
12 preposterous. The State is in no way seeking to reduce
13 moose on State lands, Federal lands or anywhere and we've
14 really, you know, tried to maintain our best effort to work
15 cooperatively with all of the users to prevent a decline of
16 the moose population.
17

18 So I'm going to just leave it at that.
19 Those are two statements which are so inaccurate that I
20 felt you needed to know about that before you proceed to
21 consider it. Again, we'll work closely with them to
22 resolve these factual matters so that when it comes before
23 your Council we can have a good factual discussion on the
24 merits of the proposals.
25

26 Thank you.
27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Randy Rogers,
29 ADF&G. Again just for people's understanding, we are not
30 taking up these proposals in totality. I think one way we
31 can deal with these statements is to invite the Koyukuk
32 Tribal task force to working group, Koyukuk River Moose
33 working group, they have been invited in the past and I
34 think we should extend an invitation to them again.
35

36 Thank you, again, Randy. Anything else on
37 proposals. Okay, we're back on the agenda, hopefully we
38 continue this time, we're under Agenda Item XII. I gave a
39 brief report, brief Chair's report, again, I'd just like to
40 reiterate that I haven't been traveling or anywhere or any
41 meetings other than just teleconferences. Any other
42 Regional Council members care to give a brief report on
43 their activities and travels.
44

45 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chairman.
46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micki.
48

49 MR. STICKMAN: Yesterday during the fish
50 proposals, I let the Council know that the three proposals

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1 that we passed when we had our three Regional Council
2 caucus at the January training last year, I presented those
3 three resolutions to the North Pacific Management Council.
4 And most of the proposals that you see today have already
5 passed the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee meeting. And
6 this summer me and Ben were involved in the in-season
7 management of the fish, and we had to -- we were involved
8 in about 18 teleconferences this summer. So it was a
9 pretty busy summer for me and Ben. I missed a few out of
10 the 18 because one day I was fishing when they had one.
11 But it's been a pretty busy summer for me.

12

13 Thanks, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. Again, I
16 would like to thank both Micki and Benedict for taking over
17 the fisheries issues because they were appointed to the
18 Yukon River coordinating committee so the brunt of the
19 fisheries work has been dropped on both Micki and Benedict.
20 Benedict do you have anything to report?

21

22 MR. JONES: Not really. But on those three
23 resolution issues, I think it will go before the AFN
24 meeting in Anchorage at the middle of this month so we'll
25 have support on that, too. That's all I have to say.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. For
28 the public's awareness I would like to introduce Angela
29 Demientieff out of Holy Cross who sits on the YR DFA Board.
30 Do you have anything Angela?

31

32 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: (Nods negatively)

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: If Angela doesn't have
35 anything, we do have Yukon River pretty much covered as far
36 as the Western Interior goes. We do have some conflicts
37 and we always meet with the Yukon, Kuskokwim Delta and the
38 Eastern Interior. Did you have something, Vince.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: The only thing would be that
41 Jack might want to share if there's anything with SRC. But
42 that's the only thing I have -- excuse myself, the
43 Subsistence Resource Commission for Gates of the Arctic and
44 the Subsistence Resource Commission for Denali National
45 Park, that member is Ray Collins who's not here. But Jack
46 may want to share something.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Before we
49 go any further, Angela has a brief statement.

50

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1 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
2 would like to invite the Western Interior Council to the
3 February meeting in Holy Cross for the YRDFA organization.
4 It's going to be held the week of the 17th, I don't know
5 the date but I know the 17th is Saturday, it's in that
6 week. We have a lot of room there so you all are welcome
7 to attend. This way you hear from the downriver and
8 upriver and middle river Yukon fishermen and get a better
9 feel of what the Yukon River is all about. It's an
10 organization that's been there for 10 years.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Angela. As the
15 Council is aware, we did have one or two meetings down at
16 Holy Cross and we're pretty well taken care of again, thank
17 you for the invite for YRDFA. Jack Reakoff.

18
19 MR. REAKOFF: The Gates of the Arctic
20 Subsistence Resource Commission has not had any meetings
21 since our last Regional Council meeting. We had a meeting
22 scheduled in Shungnak in May but for various reasons, one
23 of our members was having a baby and various other reasons
24 we couldn't obtain a quorum. So currently the subsistence
25 resource commission is scheduling a meeting for mid-
26 November and hopefully we'll have a good turn out and then
27 Jeff Maw will be discussing about what's happening with our
28 agenda on that meeting.

29
30 But generally I haven't been going to a lot
31 of meetings myself and I don't have any other reports about
32 any other committees or commission business. Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Do we have
35 any other Regional Council member reports. Henry Deacon
36 from Grayling.

37
38 MR. DEACON: It's not a report but a
39 concern from the village. I've been listening here for a
40 couple days now for how this area for working together for
41 management and I don't see anything much for Innoko Refuge,
42 our area. The impacting for this hunting proposals stuff,
43 and we don't have anything set up for our area. I don't see
44 Innoko River Refuge person here so I really don't know
45 what's going on down there. We need to work together to
46 get your ideas for our area, to help us out, you know.
47 It's very -- I think it's very serious. We should have a
48 subsistence area for our villages to -- make a boundary for
49 our subsistence area for our area, that's with these
50 proposals.

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1 And number 2, is hunting -- or fishing or
2 sporting permit. I didn't really understand this, but
3 anybody can get a license to fish, people from the Lower 48
4 area and it's getting -- kind of getting out of hand in our
5 area. So those are the things that should be looked at
6 pretty seriously by this region.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Henry. Vince,
11 did we have any action needed on our SRCs?

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman. I checked
14 with the Park Service. Your appointment to Gates of the
15 Arctic is not up, that's Pollack Simon, I believe, right,
16 Jack?

17
18 MR. REAKOFF: Right.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Right. And then you have no
21 appointment, I believe to Denali National Park, Eastern
22 Interior has one that's coming up. So, no, you have no
23 appointments needed to the SRCs.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks. So are we
26 done with Item XII from our agenda?

27
28 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micki.

31
32 MR. STICKMAN: The only one I can see on
33 there is the tribal council meetings and we had one tribal
34 resolution 00-31 for an emergency order to open up the
35 moose hunting earlier this year, and it's in our books so I
36 just wanted you guys to be aware of it and when you get a
37 chance to read it, it was just because of the no fishing
38 that we asked for an earlier hunting for moose hunting.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks, Micki.
41 Anybody have anything else under Item XII. If not, again,
42 I would like to thank Nulato residents, plus their
43 students, for coming in and their elders for sharing their
44 concerns. Again, we have Micki as a Council member from
45 Nulato and we felt, like I said, I feel very comfortable
46 that Micki, being on the Council, just sending him out to
47 these meetings. So under Item C, agency reports. We have
48 Native corporations, regional, village and tribal councils,
49 if there are any in attendance. I see one hand up.

50

00181

1 MR. W. MORGAN: Good morning RAC. My name
2 is Wayne Morgan and I represent Kuskokwim Native
3 Association. I'm the natural resource director for over
4 there. I should have stepped up yesterday and gave you
5 some information on some monitoring efforts that we have --
6 monitoring projects that we have in the Kuskokwim region.
7 The middle Kuskokwim on up had another disaster for chum
8 and it's going to be going on, like you heard yesterday,
9 that they're expecting another bad fishing year for chum
10 and this year was the first year for king salmon, chinook,
11 which most of the residents from Aniak on upriver the
12 Kuskokwim had to limit their take of king salmon. And
13 that's the first they ever done and they didn't have enough
14 king salmon to put away for this winter. So they had to
15 put away some coho salmon for the first time for
16 subsistence. Of course, some people use a little of that
17 for subsistence every year but more people had to put it
18 away, and that's a big concern. And it's what the Governor
19 declared a disaster mostly for what I feel like, well, we
20 did get some disaster monies for the energy, you know, for
21 what's it called light heat in our area, for fuel costs and
22 for low income people income, which someone mentioned
23 yesterday that it is for people that are on welfare
24 already. And this 600 plus permit holders that we have on
25 the lower Kuskokwim Delta for commercial fishermen. And in
26 my area we only have four permit holders, four or five.

27
28 But for the people that work, they don't
29 get anything. They get no fish.

30
31 As the General stated yesterday that the
32 AVCP is getting some of that fish that they distribute,
33 that was going out to elders, it was supposed to be going
34 out to elders there in the AVCP region. But I wouldn't
35 want to have someone else, you know, bring in fish for me
36 or for else during the winter, bring in a whole bunch of
37 frozen fish for what, you can't dry them. We freeze some
38 of them but, you know, you can't dry them. That's late.
39 Late in the middle of winter you can't do nothing with
40 them, just put them in the freezer and have them for soup.
41 But most of us, you know, as you know, as subsistence users
42 we dry them, a whole lot of them, we dry them. And because
43 of disaster they have some emergency openings, not in our
44 area, but I see some emergency openings for - which would
45 be okay, for like extending -- like having an early opening
46 for moose hunting or caribou hunting in some areas. I see
47 that as okay, but you know four local hunters for the local
48 residents, yes, but our moose and our -- our moose can't
49 handle that pressure, and caribou, can't handle that much
50 more pressure. Something else has to give. Shorten the

00182

1 non-resident. That's just an idea, shorten non-residents
2 or -- you know, that's a big concern. You got to be
3 careful. What I'm trying to say is you go to be careful in
4 monitoring and go through the process of that emergency
5 order.

6
7 I'm getting away from my -- you know, I'm
8 getting away from my -- you know, I opened up with our fish
9 monitoring projects, I'm just getting way off step, sorry
10 about that. It's just a concern. I'm just letting you
11 know about the emergency openings. Because we do -- we got
12 a very increased number of non-resident hunters going
13 through Aniak. A couple of the Board members know that
14 they go up into our hunting areas, more are going towards
15 the Iditarod area now. And we don't know how many hunters
16 are going through that area, through the whole area of
17 Aniak because they use that as a hub to fly out and do
18 their hunting and come back with their trophy hunting --
19 with their horns.

20
21 And another suggestion to that is instead
22 of having them hunt for -- their antlers got to be 50 or
23 something plus, make it 30 inches or less, maybe you won't
24 get much of those trophy hunters coming back anymore.
25 Again, that's just an idea.

26
27 Okay back to the fish. We just completed
28 our fourth year of cooperative monitoring with fish with two
29 of our weir projects. One of them is funded, they're both
30 going to be coming back next year and operating next year.
31 And this year we put in, let's see there's about 10 or 11
32 proposed projects for next year which I'm sure sportfish
33 might mention later on and commfish. What we wanted mainly
34 around the Kuskokwim and Aniak area is have species
35 apportionment there but it's not going to happen next year
36 because the water is too deep there, too swift for a weir
37 to be put in, it will take a whole new design and a whole
38 new project in itself.

39
40 I appreciate you guys having me on here.
41 I'm just letting you know what the Kuskokwim people are up
42 to over there and they're feeling the same pressures that
43 the people in the Yukon are feeling, not as far as fishing
44 we're just now feeling that pressure now. We're getting to
45 where there's no fish now and it's a big concern. Big
46 concern. As I hear everyone else say here before me but
47 you got to be -- something's got to be done because our
48 lands and waters been supporting us for thousands and
49 thousands of years with big game and fishing but our land
50 is crying for our help. It needs help now or else we won't

00183

1 be getting anything. We'll be getting stuff flown in or
2 money to keep us quiet.

3
4 Something has to be done. Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Wayne. Did you
7 have any resolutions or requests for this Council. It
8 sounds like you just pretty gave a report on what's
9 happening.

10
11 MR. W. MORGAN: It's just a report. And I
12 understand that the resolution deadline is the 27th of
13 October which I will have something sent in before the
14 deadline.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. So this report was
17 pretty much under -- or from Kuskokwim Native Association?

18
19 MR. W. MORGAN: Yes.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again, Wayne for
22 coming up here.

23
24 MR. W. MORGAN: Thank you for having me.
25 And thank you, the people of Nulato, it's great
26 hospitality.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

29
30 MR. JONES: I have a question for you, when
31 you're moose hunting, would it help if you expand the horn
32 size, I don't know what's the regulation down in that area
33 is but if we were to expand it to say, 55 limits and on the
34 Koyukuk it's 58 or bigger so this will give more
35 opportunity for the Native people to harvest their moose
36 and restriction on the non-resident. It would be harder
37 for them to get the bigger moose.

38
39 MR. W. MORGAN: I'm not sure, that's a good
40 question. I'm not sure if that would help, you know. I've
41 hunted there in the Aniak area a lot, and along the rivers.
42 The residents along the river that hunt the river, along
43 the river, that's the only place we hunt and see people
44 catch the big ones, you know, the big racks, but that's not
45 what we're hunting for, we're hunting for meat. Most of
46 the times we catch our -- like a five or six year old ones
47 that's the most that we catch around there. Hardly any big
48 ones but I'm not sure if that would help.

49
50 MR. JONES: Yeah, what I'm targeting is the

00184

1 non -- the sport hunters.

2

3 MR. W. MORGAN: Maybe, yes, that might
4 help. But I wish -- well, within the Aniak area something
5 needs to be done because we got a whole -- it's big
6 business down in Aniak. Aniak is a hub, that's where we
7 get most of our hunters coming through. We have no
8 regulation on those guys, we don't, you know, there's
9 nothing regulating them coming in.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

12

13 MR. MORGAN: The concept or the reason
14 they're going down to maybe 30 inches or less, that's
15 taking the head hunters out of there. It's kind of a
16 reverse what's been happening before, because most of the
17 head hunters are going up to the hills for the big --
18 that's where the big moose and limiting it to sports
19 hunters or non-residents to 30 inches or less. You use a
20 reverse. They're used to coming up there to -- they want
21 the big moose, the breed stock, you know, this way we're
22 trying to say, well, let's go the other direction, save the
23 breed stock, you know, it's another concept.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. Is that
26 the end of your report?

27

28 MR. W. MORGAN: Yes, thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, again,
31 Wayne. Next person to be addressing this group is Micki
32 Stickman but I've had a couple notes for a break, a coffee
33 break. So Micki Stickman will be up next. I still see
34 Tanana Chiefs people here so maybe they want to do a report
35 because after that it will be all Staff reports, I think,
36 pretty much. Five minute break, 10 minutes.

37

38 (Off record)

39

40 (On record)

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: If there are any Native
43 corporations around, I would like to hear their reports, if
44 any. So taking off where we left, I would like to
45 introduce Micki Stickman.

46

47 MR. STICKMAN: Everybody here knows me as
48 Micki Stickman but I'm going to take off my Regional
49 Council hat and put on my corporation hat and speak on
50 behalf of the Gana-A' Yoo Limited Corporation.

00185

1 This fall our CEO, Roger Nogacar and our
2 resource manager Charlie Sinc were patrolling our
3 corporation lands and marking it, the one thing that I
4 would like everyone to know is that there is no hunting
5 allowed on our lands unless you're a shareholder of the
6 corporation. So basically our lands are shut off to non-
7 residents of Alaska and even some Alaska residents that are
8 non-shareholders of the corporation. I just wanted
9 everybody to be aware of that fact. The one thing that I
10 noticed looking through the records and looking at the
11 numbers is that 66 percent of the moose population is on
12 corporation land. So it kind of makes you wonder where all
13 these outside hunters go.

14
15 Thanks, Ron.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. Any
18 questions for Micki. Does that conclude your report?

19
20 MR. STICKMAN: Yes, that concludes my
21 report.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki, for making
24 it brief again. We have agency reports after this but I
25 see Tanana Chiefs is still here, Gabe Sam, the Chair will
26 recognize Gabe Sam, Tanana Chiefs.

27
28 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair, Board members. I'm
29 the director of wildlife and parks for Tanana Chiefs
30 Conference. And I'll try to make my report brief. First
31 of all I would like to thank Henry and Margaret Agness for
32 letting me stay at their place. It was real good to talk
33 with them, they're good friends of my folks.

34
35 First of all I find it disturbing that the
36 Refuge manager for the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge is
37 not present at this meeting considering that all or most of
38 the subjects that we're talking about concern the Refuge.
39 And I also find it disturbing that when Jack Holchese was
40 up here talking about the moose drop-offs by airplanes
41 Trooper Gibbons and Glenn Stout are over there cracking
42 jokes about it and laughing and also Mr. Morgan from Aniak,
43 I was watching them closely when he talked about airplanes
44 and they were also laughing about that also. I don't think
45 that's appropriate behavior for biologists and what not.

46
47 Today I have a list of things, the first
48 one I would like to talk about is the Coalition for Alaska
49 Way of Life. I sit on there as a cochair and it's coming
50 up on the November ballot. It's a very important issue for

00186

1 the Native people in rural Alaska and for the people in the
2 state of Alaska, in general. We're battling these outside
3 animal rights groups that are trying to dictate how we
4 manage our wildlife resources and they're doing that
5 through the initiative process. Now, we got Ballot No. 1,
6 you got to vote yes, which would do away with this process
7 to put wildlife resource management issues on the ballot
8 and so we're in the process of raising money. We need
9 approximately \$500,000 to win this ballot and so far we've
10 raised almost \$200,000. And so we're soliciting monies
11 from corporations, non-profit organizations to try to win
12 this Ballot No. 1.

13
14 I would like to touch on the bear issue
15 that was brought up yesterday. I'm sorry I didn't make it
16 to talk about it. A while back or so we had a meeting with
17 Dan Reed, there was Board of Game, Mike Fleegal, Joe Madde,
18 Dave Andersen, Benedict Jones and Dr. Fred Dean and Trooper
19 Todd Sharp, we discussed this selling of Bear parts that
20 was brought to the Board of Game by petitioner Selena
21 Alexander and we discussed it pretty lengthy. And out of
22 that meeting, we opposed the sale of any bear parts from
23 any kind of species of bear. And at that time I was not
24 speaking in the capacity for Tanana Chiefs Conference
25 because TCC does not have a position on it yet for the fact
26 that in the region there's diverse cultural differences.
27 What happens on the Koyukuk River is different than what
28 happens on the Yukon Flats. So I was representing the
29 Koyukuk River people and our cultural practices. As some
30 of the Board members up there know, on the Koyukuk River,
31 right now in the fall time the people up there are hunting
32 bears in the den and it's been done for as long as I can
33 remember. A lot of it is -- it's kind of a ceremonial
34 thing for men to do. At the end of the hunting season they
35 have bear parties and the backbone of the bear is all cut
36 up and, you know, just men could attend those ceremonial
37 practices. From what I gather, they do not do that as much
38 up in the Yukon Flats. So there's a whole different
39 cultural perspective on what happens when hunting bears.
40 And we tried to get a position from the corporation and the
41 same thing was there, there was not a clear distinction on
42 what position would be taken. So at this point in time we
43 really do not have a position to present. But my personal
44 thing is that I would oppose it.

45
46 And the law enforcement also opposes
47 because it puts a dollar value on the wildlife resource.
48 And what we are heard yesterday, some gall bladders being
49 sold for three or \$4,000, those are what we're hearing but
50 at that working group, Mike Fleegal had some analysis of

00187

1 what Idaho was doing, it was like, I don't know, \$1.15 an
2 ounce or something like that and because other more
3 chemical -- different kind of chemicals came out, like
4 Viagra and stuff like that and that discussion went on for
5 quite some time so we got off of that. And Dan Reed
6 opposed it also and I just don't think this is going to be
7 going anywhere any time soon.

8
9 Another thing that we're working on is fish
10 that's being flown out to the villages and also dogs, dog
11 food. Yesterday while I was at this meeting I got a call
12 from San Diego, California, some people down there heard by
13 reading the paper that -- they heard we're going to start
14 bumping off all our dogs, so they're concerned and, you
15 know, I never did get a call like that before, actually,
16 somebody actually wants to give us money to buy dog food
17 for our dogs. So you know, I will be in contact with these
18 people and we do have a fund set up at Tanana Chiefs for
19 donations to provide dog food for our people out there that
20 use dogs for subsistence purposes, mostly trapping and some
21 people use it to get around, you know, it's been in our
22 people's way of life for generations. This is something
23 that they do.

24
25 Right now we are in negotiations with
26 Canada fisheries. We have a meeting at the end of this
27 month in Canada. I think we're going to be clearly talking
28 about a whole different concept of how the negotiations
29 will go. I'm not exactly sure what's going to happen out
30 of that meeting but I'm pretty sure for one thing that we
31 do not have any more fish to give. And you know with the
32 subsistence issues going on on this side, things I've been
33 hearing, it's going to be a possible lose/lose situation
34 all the way around.

35
36 I heard Mr. Rogers talk about the Koyukuk
37 River Moose Hunter's Working Group doing annual checkups on
38 what's happening on the Koyukuk River. From my
39 understanding and through the March meeting, from what I
40 understood that as soon as this proposal, this plan was
41 passed, the Koyukuk River Moose Hunter's Working Group
42 would dissolve. I have heard nothing about it continuing
43 on on a yearly basis. I have some feelings about that that
44 maybe other, you know, agencies or villages could be
45 included in this plan, to be allowed to put their own input
46 on a more voting level. But I think we'll have to talk
47 about that more.

48
49 And at this time I think that's all I'll
50 have for now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

00188

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Gabe. Do any of
2 our Council members have any questions for Gabe Sam, Tanana
3 Chiefs. Benedict.

4
5 MR. JONES: Yeah, Gabe, on that Canadian
6 and American fisheries that's going to be held this fall,
7 didn't the Canadian break away from the Northern Pacific
8 Fisheries Association because we discussed this in Fort
9 Yukon and we didn't have a representative from the upper
10 Canadian Yukon River fishermens there, there was no
11 representation from Canada, and the Yukon Fishermen
12 Association said that they didn't want any proposals from
13 the Northern Pacific Fisheries Association in British
14 Columbia. Is there any clarification on that?

15
16 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair, Mr. Jones, yes the
17 interim agreement expired December 31st, 1999, it elapsed.
18 We had an offer on the table to extend the agreement until
19 we got a final one but the Canadians didn't want it so it
20 expired. But we're still in contact with them, with their
21 chief negotiator Sexton Tinglman -- well, actually Sexton
22 Tinglman's our chief negotiator and he's in contact with
23 Amos on their side.

24
25 I also sit on the Fortymile Caribou Herd
26 with the same guy that's on the Canadian team, Jerry Kator
27 and we talked extensively with what's going on within their
28 First Nations. They truly want to come to some kind of
29 agreement but I'm not exactly sure, I kind of see, from my
30 perspective that it's a DFO/ADF&G kind of thing going on
31 there. So I'm not exactly sure how we're going to resolve
32 that other than have a stakeholders meeting. And Angie
33 sits on there also as an advisor from our side, Gilbert
34 Huntington, he's on the panel itself. We are definitely
35 are going to have an in-state meeting to discuss this
36 further. We have to come up with a strong position on what
37 we want, on our side. The Canadians are definitely not
38 getting any fish up there and they're doing their best not
39 to fish and this whole king salmon for dog issue is really
40 throwing a wrench into this whole negotiations. It's kind
41 of like we're allowing these people to fish even though
42 there's not many kings going into the Canadian waters to
43 spawn and that's not true, we're doing a lot to try to stop
44 this from happening and hopefully we can come to some kind
45 of agreement at the end of October.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does that conclude your
48 report?

49
50 MR. G. SAM: Yes, Mr. Chair.

00189

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for participating
2 again. And just for your information when we had our last
3 meeting with the Koyukuk River Moose working group meeting,
4 Jack and I sat in as advisors, non-voting, consensus makers
5 or whatever you call that, but it was through our effort
6 that we had to have a meeting after this first year to see
7 and assess the effectiveness of the plan. So that's the
8 reason we're calling for another meeting to see where we
9 take it from there.

10
11 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair, also, you know,
12 with the final draft that Mr. Stout is going to come up
13 with, you know, until we get that, we'll probably analyze
14 what we see up there. And through his initial reports, I
15 haven't heard anything about the wound/loss ratio which
16 I've been hammering all along in this plan. You know
17 people in a moving boat, inexperienced people will not be
18 able to shoot a moose. If they're up there for the first
19 time, they will wound a lot of moose. And a lot of people
20 do not go back and check for it, but, you know, the people
21 that live in the area when they shoot a moose, they check
22 for blood and if they sight blood they're going to hunt it
23 down and that's just what's going to happen. But, you
24 know, I have reason to believe -- and you know after the
25 hunting season is over if you see a lot of crows flying
26 around that's how they find them, the dead, wounded moose.
27 So with that, I'll stop.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did we have any other
30 regional corporations sign up?

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: No, but there may be some
33 present. They're more than welcome to come up but I don't
34 believe there are any unless there's some I've missed.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: If we have no further Native
37 corporations, I would like to go directly into agency
38 reports, Orville Huntington has a plane to catch so I'd
39 like to get a quick report from him.

40
41 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: Good morning. Briefly,
42 I gave away all my Nowitna stuff yesterday or the day
43 before yesterday at the Western -- what do you call that,
44 Middle Yukon Advisory Committee meeting so I don't have it.
45 But basically on the Nowitna River it was pretty much the
46 same, not much change. The only thing I noticed was local
47 harvest was down from 23 percent to -- well, actually I
48 don't even have this years, this table is not even
49 complete. But it was going down but I can't say for sure
50 about this year. Non-local harvest also went down.

00190

1 And I gave you guys my subsistence wolf
2 harvest preliminary report that shows wolf harvest in
3 Huslia, Koyukuk and Nulato -- I mean Galena. That's the
4 core area of wolf hunters in our area. They also hunt
5 here, in Nulato and Hughes, probably a little bit in Kaltag
6 and a little bit Ruby but most of the hunting is done by
7 Koyukuk and Galena and Huslia. And in that report you'll
8 find some preliminary data that shows, that documents what
9 Gabe is after, that we do use wolves for a lot of things.
10 It's tied pretty closely to everything we do. So anyway,
11 I'm going to do one more year of data gathering on that so
12 we'll have a four year data set to look at for
13 documentation for this board and whatever else you guys
14 want to use it for. I'll write a final report on all of
15 it, probably fall 2001, I should have a full report for you
16 guys.

17
18 And the other one was my subsistence fish
19 camp report I gave out. That's the second year I did that
20 now. I did it the year before but there wasn't much
21 interest in it. But it seems like there's more interest
22 with the fish going down, so I'm pretty sure I'll be doing
23 that again this summer. Fish and Game was calling me
24 constantly for information during the in-season run because
25 I was never -- I never had time to attend those
26 teleconferences. But I gave all my information right to
27 the Fairbanks office. I either emailed them or they called
28 me to find out what was going on because I was on the river
29 all the time talking to people at the fish camps, I mean
30 that's what I do in the summer. And that report, it's just
31 a small part of what they told me, there's a lot of other
32 stuff that, you know, that report would have been too long,
33 so you know I'm not going to report everything that Uncle
34 Sidney told me when I'm at his camp, it's just like the
35 high points. So anyway, I put that in my work plan for
36 2001, that I'll do that again and it'll probably be more
37 intensive. I'll try to stop at more camps and spend more
38 time out there. And that's for you guys to look at,
39 people's concerns. I did that mostly for this board.

40
41 And then Innoko, we did a goose survey down
42 there because I was asked to and I don't have any data on
43 that. They're analyzing it at the Anchorage office.

44
45 And the Koyukuk Moose Hunter Working Group,
46 when I take time off of my job, I work with that group, so
47 I just give them -- the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee
48 appointed me to that so that's where I sit, on that, just
49 so you know. I won't be speaking on anything on that except
50 for we do work closely with them, like proposals that come

00191

1 out of here, we try to blend them into what Fish and Game
2 has to make it work better. Because I think there's a lot
3 of good ways to do things where you don't have to do it by
4 regulations.

5
6 Alaska Native Science Commission, like I
7 said, I sit on that board now and that's a statewide board
8 of Alaska Native scientists, and I don't have a report but
9 at AFN you'll get the report.

10
11 Moose surveys. I'll be working closely
12 with Glenn so we can find out exactly where we need to
13 count this fall. I can only speak from Hughes on down, I
14 know where the moose are there and what numbers they're
15 talking about. Once you go beyond where I'm used to
16 counting I don't know what you guys are talking about. So
17 if you talk about above Hughes, you know, I could imagine
18 what it's like but for sure I know what's in our area on
19 the Koyukuk Refuge. And like I said, Glenn and I will be
20 going over stuff and work real close on these moose surveys
21 to get them done right.

22
23 And then any proposals will be dealt with
24 by the folks in the Galena office. I'm kind of sorry
25 they're not here but I can't speak for them, you know, I
26 can only speak for what I was given to present here and I
27 thank Ron Sam for inviting me. That's all I have.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Orville. When
30 you're going in to moose count, you just go as far as
31 Hughes?

32
33 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: Actually for our --
34 Glenn probably goes farther, he goes up to Kanuti. But I
35 was asked once to go up and do a survey up there and for
36 some reason I didn't get to set it up the way I wanted it
37 to so someone else surveyed it. I know Glenn has that
38 data. But I only work with Glenn as far as Hughes down,
39 which is, Matthew Slough trend count area, right below
40 Hughes all the way down here to right across from Kaltag.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Be ready for another request
43 to aid us in getting that moose count established within
44 the Kanuti and above because with the displacement of
45 hunters by Koyukuk River Moose Working Group proposals and
46 five year plan, we will need that because the transporters
47 are just taking a whole bunch of hunters out of Bettles and
48 we just don't know where they're taking them at this time.
49 We know that Harvey and Barry patrolling both the Kanuti
50 and Southfork but be ready for another request to go up

00192

1 there and help them.

2

3 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: Okay, I think for sure
4 Glenn will be working closely with Barry and whoever from
5 Kanuti to get those numbers. Because with the proposals
6 that are coming up, I'm not exactly sure what's going on up
7 there but if they need help I'd be more than happy to help.
8 I put in my work plan that I'd be helping them for two
9 weeks this year but it will probably be more like eight
10 weeks, but, whatever, you know, I'd be glad to help.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Orville. Any
13 questions from the Council members for Orville. Jack.

14

15 MR. REAKOFF: I don't have any questions
16 but I read both of those reports that you did and I want to
17 commend you for all that hard work that you did traveling
18 up and down the river, it sounded like a lot of time and
19 energy. And I think there's some real good information
20 that you're gathering on people's concerns. And it's also
21 pretty interesting to see which communities are utilizing
22 wolves. So I wanted to thank you for doing that work.

23

24 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, I'd be glad to
25 help anybody set something like that up in other villages.
26 But for now I just wanted to -- that's a core area of wolf
27 hunting. The truth is Benedict and Butch and a few others
28 are responsible for that area around Three Day Slough being
29 so good moose country, I mean that's something that nobody
30 ever says but we know, you know, we live up there, so we
31 know.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
34 Orville.

35

36 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chairman.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micki.

39

40 MR. STICKMAN: I have no questions but just
41 like Jack I wanted to thank Orville for all his hard work.
42 The one good thing about Orville's work is that he's out
43 there talking to the elders and he's actually talking to
44 the real subsistence users so as far as traditional
45 knowledge is concerned, he's covering it for this area. So
46 I'd like to thank him for that and keep up the good work.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. Any
49 further Council questions. Orville, just for your
50 information, I'm not sitting on the KRAC but there is a

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1 meeting being set up in Allakaket the 28th, 29th or 30th or
2 somewhere in that area and I may request your presence at
3 that time to establish or getting some -- a good moose
4 count up in that area, too. I may request your presence
5 again.

6
7 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: Okay. You just need to
8 make sure that Glenn gets that to me. Because the only way
9 I found out about that meeting, the one they had here, was
10 I couldn't get a hold of Glenn, he was busy so I got a hold
11 of Vince to borrow his computer to write my report. So I
12 saw it on his desk -- so yeah, I'll block that out for you
13 when you get those dates to me.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Orville. I'm not
16 sure if Glenn knows about this but I've been working with
17 Jim Marcott. He called me but they had already invited
18 Vince and Randy Rogers up there and I wanted somebody out
19 of Monty Millard's office to cover fisheries. Because
20 Allakaket is probably the only place that all the
21 information hasn't hit because all the agencies have never
22 met up there and Randy Rogers, Vince and I, I think we all
23 owe Allakaket a visit and informational meeting. And
24 that's what I'm looking forward to.

25
26 Thank you, again, Orville. Any other
27 agencies that have to catch a flight shortly. If not,
28 we'll go back to the agenda. We covered Native
29 corporations. At this time I'd like to go into ADF&G
30 Subsistence Division, Dave Andersen.

31
32 MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
33 I'm going to be talking about the fourth year of the door
34 to door subsistence survey this morning. And on the break
35 I put in front of all the Council members two handouts,
36 there's a purple one that's a summary of the year four
37 household results and there's five tables on gold paper
38 there that have a little bit more detail on some aspects of
39 the survey that I'll go through. There are a few extra
40 handouts on the back table back there.

41
42 I'm pretty sure that all Council members
43 know that we hire people in 10 villages to do this surveys
44 every year, we've got five survey villages on the Yukon,
45 Kaltag, Nulato, Galena, Ruby and Tanana, and our
46 communities on the Koyukuk are Huslia, Alatna, Allakaket,
47 Evansville and Bettles. This purple one page summary was
48 just mailed out last week to 738 box holders in the -- all
49 the households in the study communities. It's a bit behind
50 schedule from in years past, I usually try and get this out

00194

1 in the middle of summer. But with all the problems that we
2 were having on salmon this year, our office was swamped
3 with stuff towards the end of the summer on other issues,
4 so I'm just now getting around to writing the report and
5 getting this data worked up.

6
7 I should mention at the outset that as you
8 look through this purple sheet and everyone zeros in on
9 their community, I'm not sure if anyone from
10 Bettles/Evansville is here, but there has been some
11 questions about the validity of the data that came out of
12 Bettles this year. And I've been told by some sources that
13 harvest of both moose and black bear by Bettles households
14 went unreported or was somehow missed by the survey. So
15 the big column of zeros there for Bettles is something
16 we're going to be trying to take a closer look at and maybe
17 do a different approach up there next year. What I was
18 told was that Bettles residents had lots of moose, that the
19 percent of households using moose should probably be near
20 100 percent they had so much from guiding operations up
21 there. They weren't all that many harvested but certainly
22 the use of moose should be higher than what was reported on
23 the survey. I'm still not quite sure what wrong there but
24 we're working on that.

25
26 Another thing to keep in mind as I go
27 through the numbers is that these surveys were conducted
28 last April and covered the harvest period April '99 through
29 March 2000. So harvest from the hunting season that just
30 ended won't be covered until the next survey year when we
31 go in this spring. So we're talking about a year ago last
32 fall and animals that were taken through the winter and
33 this spring.

34
35 On the first gold handout table there, we
36 started this year by doing very extensive update of our
37 community household list. Through this process we
38 identified a total of 694 households in the 10 survey
39 communities. And we completed surveys with a record 526
40 households or 76 percent of all area households. This
41 compares with 465 completed surveys the previous year. The
42 way we do this, in the seven smaller communities we go
43 house to house and try and get every household in the
44 community and in the three larger communities of Galena,
45 Tanana and Huslia, we survey a fairly large random sample
46 of households ranging from 52 to 77 percent of the
47 households.

48
49 You can see that this project continues to
50 enjoy a fairly high level of participation. Out of the 555

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1 attempted household contacts, only three households
2 declined survey. A very low refusal rate of about one half
3 of one percent.

4
5 On that second table on the gold handouts,
6 it gives you a snapshot of the four years of data for each
7 of the species that we've collected over the four years and
8 we've got it broken down by the Yukon River communities and
9 the Koyukuk River communities. I'm going to use this to
10 talk a little bit about the caribou and bear data and then
11 the other tables will give some more information on moose.

12
13 On caribou, overall caribou harvest in 1999
14 and 2000 were down from previous years. A total of 116
15 caribou were taken by hunters in six of the 10 survey
16 communities. This compares with 366 caribou that were
17 taken the previous year. For the first time in the four
18 years we've conducted this survey Nulato and Kaltag
19 reported a harvest of zero caribou and Huslia's harvest of
20 78 caribou was just 30 percent of the harvest reported the
21 pervious year. So clearly caribou were less available to
22 hunters this last winter.

23
24 Bear harvest remained really similar. They
25 stayed very stable over the period we've been doing the
26 survey. This years results of 62 black bear taken and two
27 brown bears taken are right in there with the averages that
28 we've seen over the last couple years.

29
30 Overall moose harvest were fairly similar
31 to previous years as well. An estimated total of 412 moose
32 were taken by hunters in the 10 communities. In the
33 previous years, the 10 community total for moose has ranged
34 from 404 to 444. If you want to look at the third table
35 there it's got the detail on moose. Similar to previous
36 years we found very high numbers of households using moose,
37 the overall total there is 88 percent of the households
38 using moose meat, 61 percent of all households attempted to
39 harvest a moose and that was down slightly from the
40 previous year which was 69 percent. And this year 43
41 percent of all households reported harvesting one or more
42 moose and that was down slightly from the previous years as
43 well. I think it's ranged from about -- it's been right in
44 at 47 and 48 percent the last couple years. The fourth
45 table there, the bar graph shows the harvest by month and
46 by sex. You can see by far the primary hunting period is
47 in fall, about 72 percent of the annual harvest is taken in
48 the month of August and September there and there's a
49 preference at that time among hunters for bulls. There's
50 another significant harvest of moose that occurs during the

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1 February and March period and at that time cows are
2 preferred.

3
4 We have information on harvest locations
5 that we collect as well that I'm not going to present here
6 except to say that it appears that the hunting areas used
7 by communities, at least, over the four years that we've
8 been looking at them are remaining very stable. Hunters
9 are reporting going to the same uniformed coding units year
10 after year.

11
12 Our division, Subsistence Division received
13 Federal funding to support this project this year and one
14 of the things your Office of Subsistence Management asked
15 us to add to the survey for 1999 and 2000 was some measure
16 of moose hunting effort and toward this end we added
17 questions to the 2000 survey asking households, how many
18 household members hunted moose and how many days each
19 hunter spent hunting moose? These data provided some
20 really interesting insights into the moose hunting in this
21 region and those are reported on the last table, Table 5.
22 Using these new data, the total number of local residents
23 hunting moose was estimated at almost 700 hunters and
24 that's a full one-third of the total area population.
25 These hunters spent an average of 5.9 days hunting moose
26 for an estimated total of 4,132 hunter days. Both the high
27 number of people involved in hunting and the total number
28 of hunter days underscores the importance placed on use and
29 harvest of moose in this region. And I'll call your
30 attention to the farthest right, the last column there on
31 hunting days per moose harvested. The data also reveals
32 some significant differences between communities. You can
33 see from the table, and this looks just at successful
34 hunting households, that column does anyway. The average
35 number of days required to harvest a moose regionwide was
36 7.7 days, but it ranged from less than four days per moose
37 harvested in Huslia and Kaltag to more than two weeks per
38 moose harvested in Allakaket and Alatna. So you can see,
39 for whatever reason, it is clear that moose are harder to
40 come by in some areas than they are in others.

41
42 We plan to retain these questions on future
43 surveys. Collecting these effort data on an annual basis
44 will allow us to track changes in individual communities
45 over time and may provide useful indicators of moose
46 population status in various areas.

47
48 That's just a real brief overview of the
49 survey this year. If anyone has any questions about the
50 survey in general or information on their community, I'd be

00197

1 glad to answer questions.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Dave. For the
4 Council's information -- are you waiting for any
5 passengers, Frontier? Any of our agencies taking off
6 shortly, too. Okay, getting back as far as for Council
7 members information, quite a few years back I appeared
8 before the State Board of Game and without the numbers that
9 Dave is providing now we lost about four or five proposals
10 because these numbers really generate power behind our
11 proposals. Again, these state what we've been stating
12 before the State Board of Game a good many years is that
13 our harvest is stable and it just differs by one through 10
14 or one through 20 throughout the years. So do we have any
15 questions for Dave. Did you get any further funding?

16

17 MR. ANDERSEN: The funding for year five is
18 up in the air right now. We put in a request for more
19 Federal funding, to do another year. We may be able to
20 find some funding to do it in-house, we're still looking at
21 that right now. But we've got a few months yet, the
22 planning for this usually starts right about after the
23 first of the year, so we have some time left to find money.
24 Darryl, just briefly and just a quick question if you have
25 one?

26

27 MR. VENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
28 noticed on this survey here that you have a lot of
29 communities on there. One community I don't see on there
30 is the Hughes community, there was no survey from the
31 Hughes area?

32

33 MR. ANDERSEN: Right. There's actually a
34 couple communities in the region that we have not surveyed.
35 The first year we did this survey, we approached both
36 Hughes and Koyukuk about being involved in this and for
37 various reasons somebody in each community could not be
38 identified or we did not get community permission four
39 years ago to start the survey. And the second year we got
40 funding to do another year of survey where we had already
41 done them so those communities started to drop off the list
42 and they haven't been included. Now, those communities are
43 not ignored by Fish and Game when it comes time to get
44 estimates for the region as a whole. We use the per capita
45 harvest data that we've collected for communities on either
46 side of them or nearby communities and come up with what we
47 think are reasonable estimates for the communities of
48 Hughes. And Wiseman was not included in the survey either.
49 So there is a number of communities that -- we didn't have
50 the money to do more than 10 communities when we started

00198

1 either. So that's the reason for that.

2

3 MR. VENT: Okay, last question I had for
4 you is you talked about the success rate or the amount of
5 time to get a moose. Under subsistence we don't look at
6 the success rate we look at it -- you know, is there a
7 problem is there more moose, is there this moose -- maybe
8 you could kind of get the information on why is that not
9 included in there, you know, asking on a survey, is there
10 more moose or is there less moose in the area instead of
11 success rate?

12

13 MR. ANDERSEN: Well, I think some of our
14 aerial moose surveys that the Department does, they're
15 going to be a lot more accurate in determining how many
16 moose are in a particular area but we do feel that if we
17 started to see the subsistence harvest in communities
18 either go down or hunters spending a lot more time than
19 they had in the past to get a moose, that that would be an
20 indicator of problems in the moose population. And by and
21 large, looking at the four year data, the subsistence
22 harvest of moose in these communities has remained very
23 stable. I don't know whether that answers the question or
24 not.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does that conclude your
27 report?

28

29 MR. ANDERSEN: Yes, Mr.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

32

33 MR. ANDERSEN:Chairman.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just for your information,
36 under subsistence hunting, again, we had a lot of different
37 counts and different reportings even in the Unit 21(D) and
38 24 because we slammed in a whole bunch of new regulations
39 so people were jumping between one ticket to the other. So
40 that may affect your subsistence count. Thank you, Dave.
41 Wildlife conservation, do we have anyone? Glenn Stout.

42

43 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Glenn
44 Stout, Galena area biologist. Most of the information that
45 I had I've already presented in the earlier portion -- or
46 the harvest results for this season. And what I will
47 briefly restate that I think was talked about in the
48 previous Western Interior meeting, is we did conduct pretty
49 extensive surveys for moose last winter in the northern
50 portion of Unit 24, and that included about an 8,300 square

00199

1 mile portion of Unit 24. And that was done cooperatively
2 with the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge. The results from
3 that survey that we have gave us some information to
4 readjust our population estimate for Unit 24. What we had
5 been working on was a population estimate of about 12,000
6 moose in Unit 24, plus or minus about 1,500 moose. And
7 that since has been adjusted to 9,000 moose plus or minus
8 1,500. And some of the results here were presented earlier
9 as well as numbers we gave to the working group on that.

10
11 We also conducted -- this last March we did
12 a wolf survey up in the southern portion Unit 24, basically
13 from Hughes to Huslia and this added more information for
14 the upper controlled use area portion and that northern
15 portion of the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge. And from
16 that results we were able to compare earlier survey that
17 were done in '94 on wolf numbers and what we are looking at
18 is our population estimate of about 325 wolves in that
19 upper portion -- or in the total portion which was about a
20 17 percent increase in the number of wolves since 1994. So
21 those are the most recent surveys that we've done that have
22 been completed.

23
24 As far as our plans for what we're going to
25 do this year, we'll start our moose survey hopefully in
26 November if we get the snow conditions. We don't plan on
27 doing another extensive population estimation survey up
28 there but we had been doing some trend count area surveys
29 in Matthews Slough, which Orville talked about and we ran
30 those for three years and now we're going to move and
31 change a couple other areas of concern. One, I've been
32 talking with Lisa Saperstein with Kanuti about one on
33 Kanuti Canyon. We used to have a trend count area up in
34 there. We've also talked about areas on the lower Alatna.
35 And then another portion down in 21(D) that we're looking
36 at is down closer to Blackburn, having a trend count area
37 down there and looking at the river down there at the
38 mouth. There's a lot of interest in the number of moose
39 down there as well.

40
41 So that's kind of what we're looking at. I
42 am going to be working with Orville trying to figure out
43 where this year's trend count areas are going to be focused
44 at, and certainly any input that you would have would be
45 helpful, too.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn. I guess
48 you're aware I am kind of pushing that meeting up in
49 Allakaket and you're more than welcome and invited because
50 I think it will be bigger and we do need some information

00200

1 up in that area. I think that -- Jack.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: I know there's -- after the
4 wild river overharvest problem that occurred this last
5 spring I think there's concern about the moose north of
6 Bettles in the wild river drainage with the winter hunt
7 that got out of control and there was quite a few moose
8 killed up to the north of Bettles, and I feel a precursory
9 trend count in that area would be, for comparison, would be
10 warranted this year.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Anymore
13 Council member questions. If not, thank you, Glenn,
14 because I think we covered quite a bit of it the other day,
15 both at the Middle Yukon and our discussion on Koyukuk
16 River moose. Thank you, again, Glenn.

17

18 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Commercial fisheries.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, before
23 commercial fisheries, the record should note that we had
24 input that there would be -- the area biologist from the
25 McGrath area here and I'm not sure if someone's going to
26 speak for him or not and we also had David James on the
27 list. So I'm just pointing this out that there was
28 commitment by Alaska Department of Fish and Game to have
29 the area biologist for the other spots that you cover and I
30 don't know if they have any input on where they are or if
31 there's someone else that's going to present that
32 information.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this dealing only with
35 the McGrath area?

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Basically what has
38 happened, to organize this meeting, because of the need to
39 stay in people's homes we coordinated with the Alaska
40 Department of Fish and Game through the Staff Committee and
41 I was provided a list of all the Fish and Game employees
42 that would be attending this meeting and then I was also
43 provided a list by the State Liaison for the Alaska
44 Department of Fish and Game, and on that list was Dave
45 Andersen, Polly Wheeler, John Burr, David James, Toby
46 Bodreau, Glenn Stout, Randy Rogers, Charlie Burkee, Tom
47 Vania, Tom Khron and Jim Schwarber and Bob Lafferty. And
48 I'm just pointing out that there was quite a bit of effort
49 in trying to coordinate their attendance here as well as
50 their lodging and the Council has requested information

00201

1 over time for the McGrath area from the McGrath area
2 biologist.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did we specifically ask for
5 reports in this area?

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: No, the Council did not
8 specifically but I believe when the Staff Committee met
9 with the representatives of the Alaska Department of Fish
10 and Game at different meetings, that this list was
11 generated, at least that's how it was presented to me. I'm
12 just pointing it out and I don't know if someone's here to
13 carry that information, if anybody has the information from
14 that area it would be great to share it since this Council
15 covers the Kuskokwim drainage.

16
17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there anything else that
19 you wanted to add?

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: No, I just wanted it on the
22 record that there was supposed to be representatives from
23 that area.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Vince.
26 Albert Evans, a committee member from Middle Yukon wants
27 some brief, brief time at the mic and the Chair will
28 recognize him.

29
30 MR. EVANS: My name is Albert Evans and I'm
31 on the advisory board here in Nulato and I'd like to speak
32 on the moose hunt up there in the Koyukuk River concerning
33 the guys that have a license to hunt up there -- big game
34 hunters. How many of these people up there in Galena area
35 have guide license to bring out hunters?

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Glenn, I think if you
38 could.

39
40 MR. STOUT: I'm sorry I didn't hear the
41 question too clear.

42
43 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I'd like to know how much
44 the people that are in Galena that are licensed to bring
45 out big game hunters, to bring out people, you know,
46 clients?

47
48 MR. STOUT: My understanding and maybe
49 Brett or one of the Koyukuk Refuge Staff can help, there's
50 three licensed guides on the Koyukuk National Wildlife

00202

1 Refuge portion of it and there's several transporters
2 working out of Galena. I know of at least four licensed
3 transporters there in Galena. One of the guides up there
4 on the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge portion is from
5 Galena specifically, so one guide and four transporters is
6 approximately what I'm aware of.

7
8 MR. EVANS: I brought -- some people here
9 in the village -- people in the village have brought this
10 up to me saying there's -- I'm not giving any names, but
11 there are some people bringing up hunters on the Koyukuk
12 River and Kaiyuh area that are not licensed to bring people
13 up there.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Report them.

16
17 MR. EVANS: So I'd like something to be
18 done about that, you shouldn't let that go because there's
19 going to bring a problem eventually in years to come. And
20 as an advisory board member I'd like to make a proposal on
21 that on our next meeting.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, could you bring it
24 through your Middle Yukon Advisory meeting. Thank you,
25 Albert.

26
27 MR. EVANS: Yeah. And on the wolf, they
28 were mentioning something about the control of wolves, I
29 know it's a problem in all the surrounding areas around
30 here and up and down the Yukon. And one way I think that
31 would solve the problem is bringing back the bounty -- the
32 \$50 bounty on those wolves or our Native hunters and
33 trappers. That's something to think about and maybe you
34 even might find a decline in the wolves if you did.

35
36 That's all I have to say.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Again, you could
39 do this through the proposal form through the Middle Yukon
40 advisory council, and thanks for your concern. We do like
41 to recognize our local committees. At this time,
42 commercial fisheries.

43
44 MR. BURKEE: Good morning again. I'll
45 introduce myself again, my name is Charlie Burkee. I live
46 in Bethel and I've been involved with the management of
47 Kuskokwim area commercial and subsistence salmon and
48 herring fisheries since 1988. I'll lead off this section
49 of the agency reports, commercial fisheries. I'll talk
50 about my area, the Kuskokwim area and Tom will follow me up

00203

1 with talking about the Yukon, his part of the Yukon there.

2

3 First, I'd like to thank the committee for
4 allowing us the time to talk to them. I'm going to present
5 a little condensed or mini-Board of Fish report, type of
6 thing. And I'd also like to thank the people of Nulato and
7 the community for their food and hospitality. I
8 appreciated it.

9

10 I'll draw your attention to the first
11 handout, one of those handouts I gave you, the one with the
12 cover page here, Pacific Salmon Fisheries, Kuskokwim area,
13 Alaska. It has the text of what I'm going to be talking
14 about and it also has the overheads, copies of most of
15 these overheads so you can follow along in there while I'm
16 going along here.

17

18 In this report, what I'm going to do here
19 is I'm going to first give you a description, geographical
20 description of the Kuskokwim area, a little geography
21 lesson and a quick historical overview of the Kuskokwim
22 area salmon fisheries, and then after that I will review
23 the commercial and subsistence salmon fisheries for the
24 year 2000, this season we've just been through here, and at
25 the end I'll give you a preliminary outlook for what we
26 expect to see next year on the Kuskokwim River in 2001.

27

28 Okay, here's a map of the Kuskokwim
29 drainage here. The Commercial Fisheries Division, Alaska
30 Department of Fish and Game were responsible for management
31 of the commercial and the subsistence fisheries in the
32 Kuskokwim area. And our overall goal is we manage these
33 salmon runs for sustained yield under the policies set
34 forth by the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Subsistence
35 fishing is the number one priority use of the resource,
36 it's the number one, subsistence is given priority for any
37 use of the resource by humans, by people. And therefore,
38 the management of the Kuskokwim area salmon fisheries is a
39 conservative one in which we try to maintain the
40 subsistence priority while we provide the spawning
41 escapements that we need for sustained yield to produce
42 salmon in the resource -- in the future. In the Kuskokwim
43 area, the Staff of Commercial Fisheries in the Kuskokwim
44 area consist of myself, the area biologist and another
45 biologist, research biologist, my counterpart on the
46 research side. I have two assistant biologists who help me
47 out with the management of the fishery and we have a field
48 office, we're all in Bethel and in the season -- seasonally
49 we employ about 25 seasonal employees, primarily in the
50 summer -- spring and summer. They do most of the on ground

00204

1 work for the salmon, run assessment, weirs and things like
2 that.

3
4 Here's a map of the Kuskokwim area. It
5 includes the Kuskokwim River drainage and all waters that
6 flow into the Bering Sea between Cape Newingham in the
7 south and the Naskanat Peninsula in the north. That's just
8 north of Nelson Island, is where the Naskanat is. The
9 commercial fishery takes place in four districts, there's
10 four commercial fishing districts in the area. Two of them
11 on the Kuskokwim River and two of them in Kuskokwim Bay.
12 I'm going to focus just on the Kuskokwim River here but
13 I'll let you know there's two commercial fishing districts
14 in the bay, one near Quinhagak and one in Goodnews Bay that
15 they fish, primarily target local stocks outside the
16 Kuskokwim River.

17
18 This next transparency, I don't think you
19 have a picture of this, this is just a larger picture of
20 the Kuskokwim River commercial fishing districts. There's
21 two districts, District 1, it's located -- goes from the
22 mouth up 146 miles to just above the village of Tuluksak on
23 the Kuskokwim River and then District 2 is located upriver
24 of District 1 and it stretches from just below Lower
25 Kalskag up to the village of Chuathbaluk, it's about 50
26 miles long.

27
28 This picture here is just District Y1, is
29 the main district where most of the commercial fishing
30 takes place and most fishermen partake. As I said before,
31 subsistence has the number one priority use of the
32 resource, that takes precedence over commercial and sports
33 use of the resource and it's one of the largest commercial
34 fisheries -- or excuse me, correction, subsistence
35 fisheries in the state. There's over 1,300 families who
36 participate in this subsistence fishery on the Kuskokwim
37 River.

38
39 The next figure gives you a presentation or
40 show of the catches, the commercial and subsistence
41 harvest, this is in the Kuskokwim River, well, it's the
42 whole Kuskokwim area but most of the harvest does occur in
43 the river. Some of the things I wanted to draw to your
44 attention here, these are the harvests from 1988 to just
45 the year 2000, we don't have the subsistence numbers for
46 2000 yet, that data, they're out there collecting it as we
47 speak. One of the things that I wanted to draw to your
48 attention is the king salmon commercial -- king salmon
49 subsistence harvest, which is the top left graph there on
50 this page, is usually two to three times larger than the

00205

1 commercial harvest of chinook salmon. The other species,
2 the commercial harvest is much larger than the subsistence
3 harvest of those other three species, sockeyes, chums and
4 coho salmon. The commercial fishery on the Kuskokwim, it
5 dates back to about 1913. That's the first reports of
6 commercial harvest for export from the area. The
7 commercial fishery actually started before then but it was
8 a local fishery. The fish were just sold locally for local
9 consumption and for dog food. But the fishery for export
10 started in 1913 and has developed over the years.

11
12 The Kuskokwim River chum salmon fishery,
13 commercial chum salmon fishery began in 1971, prior to that
14 it was primarily a chinook salmon commercial fishery. And
15 that was done when gill net mesh sizes were restricted to
16 six inches or smaller after July -- June the 25th. In
17 1985, the maximum gill net mesh size was reduced to six
18 inches to target primarily chum and coho salmon and smaller
19 salmon. Because of the importance of chinook salmon for
20 subsistence, the directed commercial fishery for chinook
21 salmon was discontinued in 1987. So there -- on the river
22 chum salmon are no longer -- there's no longer a directed
23 chinook -- chum salmon fishery. And what we have -- the
24 management plan we currently operate under, in June and
25 July, the commercial fishery targets chum salmon and they
26 do take some chinook and sockeye bycatch in that fishery
27 but it targets primarily chum salmon and then it uses a
28 smaller mesh gear to do that with. And in August, when the
29 coho salmon are dominate in the river, the management
30 target is coho salmon in the month of August.

31
32 Primarily in Districts 1 and 2, commercial
33 fisheries periods are usually four to six hours long and in
34 Districts 4 and 5, in the bay, they're usually 12 hours in
35 length.

36
37 Because of the vast size of the Kuskokwim
38 River, it's a tremendous challenge for us to assess the run
39 strength, in-season, and to manage the fishery based on
40 that information. I want to go down a quick list of the
41 different run assessment tools that the Department has to
42 monitor the salmon run strength in-season. Tom, go back to
43 the other big map there. The large scale map of the area
44 highlights the different run assessment projects, I'll just
45 run through them real quickly.

46
47 Starting down lower in the river, we have
48 at Bethel, we have a test fishery at Bethel, it's called a
49 Bethel test fishery, it uses gill nets -- goes out twice a
50 day fishes for about an hour, each time, twice a day, it

00207

1 summary -- preliminary summary of the 2000 season. I just
2 want to concentrate on the Kuskokwim River. Basically the
3 Kuskokwim River, like I said is to -- to remind you, in
4 June and July we primarily -- we target is a chum salmon
5 directed commercial fishery and then in August it's a coho
6 salmon directed fishery. During June and July it became
7 evident pretty well based on reports from subsistence
8 fishermen and information from run assessment projects that
9 the king and the chum salmon returns were very poor, very
10 weak returns this year. In response to that, let me step
11 back a second, we -- our in-season management, as I
12 explained to you really quickly yesterday is the Department
13 of Fish and Game works cooperatively with the Kuskokwim
14 River Salmon Management Working Group and also now this
15 year, with the Federal system, we work also with the
16 Federal subsistence management -- it's also been very
17 closely involved, especially in this year.

18
19 So anyway, we -- it became evident that run
20 assessment and subsistence fishermen indicated that the
21 king and the chum runs were relatively poor. Fishermen
22 were having a much harder time than usual catching the fish
23 that they needed. They were fishing harder and longer.
24 And they were catching -- they were getting less for their
25 efforts. So in response to this we basically -- we delayed
26 commercial fishery and delayed commercial fishing -- the
27 start of the commercial fishery and we had one -- we had
28 one four hour period directed in the chum salmon fishery,
29 it was on -- July 5th was the period and basically normally
30 -- our normal starting time or the average starting time
31 over the last 10 or 15 years has been about the 20th or so
32 of June -- June is when the commercial fishery normally
33 starts but this year because of the information we had
34 about the run strength, it was delayed quite -- quite
35 significantly. The results of that period were very
36 disappointing. There was a harvest of about 337 chinook
37 salmon and 10,700 coho salmon -- yeah, excuse me, chum
38 salmon. These were extremely poor disappointing harvests.
39 It sort of drove the last nail in the coffin, if you will,
40 of the commercial fishery, and basically there was no more
41 commercial fishing directed for chum salmon in June or July
42 that year.

43
44 So then in -- we waited. We basically kept
45 monitoring the run and in early August -- or in late July
46 the coho salmon run came in and we started -- we shifted
47 our management to coho salmon. We started fishing for coho
48 salmon on August the 1st. And basically the coho run was
49 about average for this year. We delayed the start of the
50 coho fishery because of the need to protect and conserve

00208

1 chum salmon for spawning because the run was so poor.

2

3

4 I got a little bit ahead of myself there,
5 I'm going to step back. After that commercial fishing
6 period on the 5th of July it became pretty evident to
7 everybody that we had a serious, serious problem with the
8 chinook and chum salmon returns. And in conjunction with
9 the Federal Subsistence managers and the working group and
10 other -- local Native organizations, we issued an appeal,
11 we issued a public appeal jointly for subsistence fishermen
12 to do what they could to conserve king salmon because of
13 the extremely poor -- the poor run that we were
14 experiencing. Then on July 8th the Alaska Board of
15 Fisheries, like I said earlier, yesterday, they met in
16 emergency session, they passed emergency regulations to
17 restrict gill net size -- the gill net mesh size in the
18 subsistence fishery to six inches or less gill nets and
19 also to reduce the bag limit for the subsistence rod and
20 reel fishery to one king salmon per day, and that was done
21 to minimize the harvest of the large.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: How much longer do you have?

23

24 MR. BURKEE: Well, hopefully I'm almost
25 done here. Sorry -- sorry to -- I'll speed it up here.

26

27 So anyway, we issued -- us and the Federal
28 Subsistence people issued these emergency regulations or
29 special actions in conjunction and -- around July 8th. So
30 then the coho fishery is basically we fished about an --
31 about an average coho fishery, about an average coho return
32 but we did -- like I say, we did take measures to conserve
33 chum salmon, that fishery.

34

35 The bottom line for the commercial fishery
36 is shown in this list -- this graph here. It shows the
37 value of the fishery to the fishermen from 1964 to 2000.
38 The average fisherman -- or the fishery was worth 1.9
39 million dollars in the year 2000, which is well below the
40 most recent 10 year average of 3.3 million dollars. This
41 was primarily due to the lack of fishing during the chum
42 salmon fishery and the lower prices of salmon that we've
43 been experiencing on the Kuskokwim River in the last --
44 since 1996.

45

46 The last thing I want to bring before you
47 -- or to talk about here is our preliminary outlook for the
48 2000 season, for next year. This is not a formal forecast
49 but it's a broad expectation of what we feel will come back
50 based on -- primarily based on the parent year escapements

00209

1 and the recent productivity or recent returns in the river
2 here. Now, chinook salmon, we've had in 1998 and 1999 we
3 had extremely poor returns of chinook salmon. Much worse
4 returns than we expected given the parent year escapements.
5 And we expect this trend to continue through 2001, and so
6 we're concerned that -- we're expecting a relatively poor
7 return of chinook salmon to the Kuskokwim River next year.
8 The story is -- the outlook is very similar for chum
9 salmon. On the Kuskokwim River we've experienced extremely
10 poor -- very poor to average chum salmon returns since
11 1997. Based on the poor returns of fish this year and the
12 poor escapement in 1997, we also expect poor returns of
13 chum salmon in 2001 to the river. In fact, our outlook
14 this year for the chinook and chum salmon, based on those
15 outlooks, the Department is expecting a very high
16 probability that there will be little or no commercial
17 fishing in June and July during the chum salmon directed
18 fishery. Also if the returns are poor, we also expect
19 there is a possibility that we may have to look at certain --
20 look at subsistence restrictions as we did this year in
21 order to provide for the escapement that we're mandated to
22 provide for.

23
24 The coho salmon return on the Kuskokwim
25 River next year, we're expecting possibly a below average
26 return for coho salmon next year based on relatively poor
27 parent year escapements and poor -- relatively poor.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: How much more do you have?

30
31 MR. BURKEE:survival the last couple
32 of years. So that -- and sorry-- sorry for taking -- if I
33 took too long but that concludes what I have to present to
34 you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, well, we're pretty
37 well aware that we have a poor run on the Kuskokwim and
38 that's why it was declared a disaster area. Vince, do we
39 need this commercial report at every subsistence meeting?

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: That's up to you, Mr.
42 Chairman. I think it was great that Charlie did come up
43 because we have not had much input on commercial fishing or
44 subsistence fishing on the Kuskokwim in past meetings. So
45 it would only be if the Council needs that input to perform
46 its duties, either reviewing proposals or something like
47 that, if you're talking about the Kuskokwim River. That's
48 why they're here is because they're trying to maintain, as
49 well as Federal Staff, a coordinated effort on these rivers
50 that travel through your jurisdiction. So it's at your

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1 call if you would want people from the fisheries management
2 of the State here at your meetings.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Vince.
5 We'll reassess or reevaluate this. Okay, Ida, did you have
6 something?

7

8 MS. HILDEBRAND: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Ida
9 Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. Perhaps it would
10 be helpful if the Council could have gotten these written
11 reports a little in advance so you'd have had time to
12 reflect on them. But as you go further into fisheries
13 management, yes, these reports are extremely important. It
14 may be more helpful to get the written documents sooner and
15 a briefer summary at this time, but when you go into the
16 protocols and all the other issues that are coming up, this
17 material is extremely important.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for the
20 clarification, Ida. Carl, have you worked with these
21 people?

22

23 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I'm pretty well informed
24 of what's going on. I get most of the reports, I go down
25 to KNA because most of the reports come there and they do
26 cooperate with KNA, so I'm pretty informed on what's
27 happening on the river system on that part of the country.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

30

31 MR. REAKOFF: I just wanted to make one
32 comment, with the consideration that the next year's run is
33 going to be extremely poor and with -- I would caution
34 against having any commercial, not little or no, I mean no
35 commercial harvest until run strength is assured. I also
36 feel that commercial test fishing for strength indices is
37 not warranted. I would rather see the subsistence fishing
38 indices utilized for a test -- for run strength. But to
39 use the statement, little commercial harvest and in the
40 same sentence report also that there's gong to be
41 subsistence restrictions -- there should be no commercial
42 harvest until run strength is assured for a commercial
43 harvest. And that's my position for this next years
44 commercial fishery.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Angela.

47

48 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Charlie, I'd like to
49 thank you for your weekly reports in the newspaper, the
50 Drums, about what's going on on the Kuskokwim. I read it

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1 every time it comes out and you have a little part where
2 I'm from Y1, Y2, Y3, and I'm asking, are you going to do
3 that again next year?

4
5 MR. BURKEE: Y1, Y2, that's -- Tom's the
6 person you need to thank about that. The newspaper
7 basically came to us and asked us, you know, for this
8 information and we passed it on to them. So if the
9 newspapers want to do that next year we'll continue to do
10 that, yes.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you providing Ray
13 Collins of McGrath with this information, too?

14
15 MR. BURKEE: Yes, Ray Collins, he gets
16 basically everything that we distribute, pretty much the
17 same stuff we distribute to Carl and everybody else. He
18 sits in on the working group meetings, in-season management
19 meetings and he's on our distribution list, you bet.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
22 Charlie from the Council. If not, thank you for the
23 report. I think Randy has a brief announcements, Randy
24 Rogers, before we break for lunch, you can go ahead and
25 apologize, uh.

26
27 MR. ROGERS: I didn't really have any
28 specific announcement but just when Vince raised the
29 question of Fish and Game folks that had attended, I just
30 wanted to let you know that David James had intended to be
31 here, was unable to make it and I really don't know exactly
32 what Toby Bodreau's plans were. But if there was some
33 information that the Council needed from Toby that you
34 didn't get, we certainly apologize for that. And if
35 there's some specific points, I'd be willing to follow-up
36 on that and coordinate with Toby to make sure you get it.
37 But that's all I had.

38
39 Thanks, Ron.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you, Randy. If
42 I can come up with some questions during lunch I'll find
43 you. Any further questions for Randy.

44
45 MR. STICKMAN: Let's break for lunch.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that a motion.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: We'll take 45 minutes to one
2 hour break for lunch, thank you.

3
4 (Off record)

5
6 (On record)

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: We'll call this meeting back
9 to order. The next item up is the Yukon River Commercial
10 Fisheries report, Tom Vania.

11
12 MR. VANIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
13 Council members. My name is Tom Vania. I'm the area
14 manager and biologist for the Yukon River summer season
15 commercial fisheries.

16
17 And I'm just going to give you guys a
18 review of the 2000 season and just, again, a brief outlook
19 as to what we're going to anticipate for the 2001 season.
20 I did try to give each member a copy of the 2000 summer
21 season summary as well as in blue, is the fall season
22 summary. I might just touch on a few things for the fall
23 season, the fall season manager Bonnie Borba was unable to
24 attend so I've provided the fall season information for
25 you.

26
27 The 2000 preseason outlook was for a weak
28 to below average chinook and summer chum salmon run that
29 would meet subsistence needs and support a commercial
30 harvest ranging from 25,000 to 65,000 chinook and 25,000 to
31 300,000 summer chum salmon for the Alaska portion of the
32 drainage. The preseason outlook was based on what we saw
33 for returns of five year old chinooks last year. There was
34 a low return of five year old chinooks so we anticipated to
35 see a low return of the six year old siblings and that's
36 why we had a low commercial harvest of 25,000 to 65,000.
37 And we were shooting more for that lower end. And that's
38 what kind of drove us in our in-season management. When we
39 manage in-season, we're basing everything on what we see
40 coming into the river. And we have the outlook to kind of
41 guide us into how are we going to manage? Are we going to
42 manage conservatively or a little more aggressively? Well,
43 with the commercial harvest outlook of about 20,000, that's
44 pretty conservative management that we're looking at.
45 There's some commercial openers down there that in one
46 period they can catch 8,000, 10,000 chinook so we had to be
47 very careful in any commercial periods that we were looking
48 at. We wanted to keep the periods short. We wanted to
49 keep the periods off the large pulses of chinook that would
50 be entering into the river.

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1 It's kind of difficult to tell what's
2 coming into the river for a Y1 opener, so some of that you
3 just have to kind of gage as to what you're anticipating
4 coming in. Some of the subsistence reports that we get, if
5 they're catching chinook down in the mouth of the river, by
6 the time you call an opener you could still be catching
7 those fish or if you delay the opener you can allow those
8 fish to go through the area.

9
10 The Emmonak test fish indices and
11 subsistence harvest reports basically provide the
12 information that we use to assess the run in-season. Pilot
13 Station sonar also provides us preliminary estimates to
14 look at and that gives us about two days, two and a half
15 days behind the Y1 area fishery.

16
17 The commercial fishery opened this year on
18 the latest date since statehood and this was to provide for
19 upriver escapement and subsistence needs. Normally we have
20 seven to 10 day build up is what we look for as chinook
21 passes through the lower river to provide for spawning and
22 escapement and upriver needs. This year we held off on the
23 openings and it was the latest dates since statehood that
24 we had the first commercial period. We had two large
25 pulses of fish enter into the lower river. These large
26 pulses of fish were allowed to move through the lower river
27 districts without any commercial harvest. Subsistence
28 harvest information that we gathered from villages along
29 the drainage indicated as a large pulse of fish was moving
30 past the community, subsistence needs were being met. A
31 lot of the subsistence harvest this year was delayed due to
32 high water and lots of debris in the river, as well as
33 there was problems with fuel in the communities. A lot of
34 the communities were out of fuel and they were unable to
35 begin their subsistence harvest so we were allowing for as
36 long as we could to allow fish upriver to provide for the
37 subsistence and escapement needs.

38
39 The little commercial harvest that we did
40 have was approximately 10 percent of the recent average and
41 this was the lowest commercial harvest since 1937. The
42 harvest, we also tried to spread it out over the latter
43 portion of the run, this was an attempt to focus the
44 harvest on lower river stocks and allow those upriver
45 stocks, which tend to enter the river earlier in the
46 season, all them to pass through the commercial
47 districts.

48
49 The Emmonak test fish and the Pilot Station
50 sonar estimates, they started to lag in the 1998 run. And

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1 as the large --the second large pulse of fish, as that was
2 traveling upriver, we began to get information from the
3 middle river communities that they were not seeing this
4 large pulse of fish, that their subsistence needs weren't
5 being met. And at this time when we fell behind what we
6 were tracking along the 1998 run and we got reports that
7 there was poor subsistence harvest in the middle river
8 area, no additional commercial periods were scheduled after
9 that time.

10
11 We did not have any directed summer chum
12 commercial harvest this year and this was based on
13 subsistence harvest, Pilot Station sonar estimates and
14 escapement counts at the various drainages, the East Fork,
15 Andreafsky, Anvik River Nulato River, Kaltag, Clear, Chena
16 and Salcha Rivers. Commercial sales this year of
17 commercial harvest was 8,518 chinook and 6,624 summer chum
18 salmon, this was for the Alaska portion of the Yukon River
19 drainage. The summer chum salmon harvest was the lowest
20 since the inception of the summer chum salmon directed
21 fishery in 1967.

22
23 The 2000 Yukon River chinook and summer
24 chum salmon runs, they continue to exhibit the decline and
25 productivity that we've observed in the recent years. Five
26 and six year old chinook salmon abundance was much less
27 than expected based on the parent escapement years. We had
28 good escapements and we should have had good returns from
29 those escapements but we didn't. And some of that might be
30 due to there was an extreme flood event in the Koyukuk
31 River drainage in 1994 and there's some low snow cover
32 during the winter of '95 and '96, and that may account for
33 some of the decline in chum salmon abundance, but however
34 the changing climate and the ocean conditions also appear
35 to have impacted salmon survival.

36
37 For escapements this year, of course,
38 chinook salmon abundance assessed was very poor, based on
39 the commercial harvest and the escapement estimates from
40 selected tributaries. The chinook salmon escapements in
41 2000 range anywhere from 29 percent to 71 percent below the
42 recent five year average throughout the drainage with the
43 minimum escapement goals were only achieved in two surveyed
44 tributaries, that was the Anvik River aerial survey and the
45 Salcha River aerial survey.

46
47 The preliminary estimates that we have from
48 the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in Canada from their
49 mark and recapture tagging project at the US/Canada border,
50 that indicates a total spawning escapement for the Canadian

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1 portion of the Upper Yukon River drainage of approximately
2 13,830 chinook, this is 51 percent below the rebuilding
3 step of 28,000 chinook salmon. And further review of the
4 tagging projects and other run size indicators will be
5 completed this winter.

6
7 The outcome for the 2001 season, again, we
8 do not have a formal forecast. The outlooks that we do
9 provide comes out in the springtime, but at this time what
10 we're looking at for return, based on what we saw for five
11 year olds this year, it doesn't indicate that there will be
12 harvestable surplus for commercial activities. It's highly
13 unlikely that there's going to be any commercial fishing
14 going on and there is a chance that there's going to be
15 some subsistence restrictions taking place at the beginning
16 of the season. And the reason why we're looking at
17 subsistence restrictions is based on the run this year, the
18 run just was not large enough to provide for subsistence
19 needs to be met 100 percent throughout the whole river
20 drainage. The commercial harvest of 8,500 chinook, looking
21 on it now, in hindsight, yes, there should have been no
22 commercial harvest. Based on our preseason outlook we had
23 expected to have some commercial harvest and based on our
24 in-season run indicators at the time showed that the run
25 was developing into the 1998 run which should have
26 supported a commercial harvest of about 20,000 so we tried
27 to remain conservative. Once those indicators fell below
28 that level and we started getting subsistence reports then
29 we quit the commercial fishing and as the fish traveled
30 upriver and we started seeing some more escapement projects
31 on-line and we saw that escapements were starting to lag
32 further and further behind and the subsistence reports were
33 indicating that subsistence needs were not being met, at
34 that time we realized that the spawning escapements are
35 also in jeopardy of not being met as well and that's when
36 we started enacting subsistence restrictions. And then
37 based on what we saw this year, what we anticipate for next
38 year, there's a good possibility that the production will
39 again be poor and may not provide for subsistence needs to
40 be met throughout the drainage. So we're looking at how do
41 we restrict subsistence harvest so the harvest can be
42 spread out equitably throughout the whole river drainage.
43 Had we gone into the season knowing that the run would not
44 provide for the needs for everybody, then we would have
45 placed subsistence restrictions right at the beginning of
46 the season so upriver can have their needs met as well as
47 the lower river. In the lower river, they're down at the
48 beginning of the mouth, their needs are always pretty much
49 taken care of. But now anticipating next year that the run
50 might now support the needs of everybody, we can look at

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1 how we want to enact subsistence restrictions so just not
2 the lower river needs are met, that the needs are met
3 throughout the drainage.

4
5 And we look to get input from the RAC
6 members, from members through YRDFA on how we want to
7 anticipate, how we want the season to go for next year.
8 It's not going to be an easy year, there's going to be some
9 tough decisions to be made so we're just looking for input
10 from everybody in the process and we're trying to start
11 now. So it's going to be a long haul and, you know, we
12 don't want to spell doom and gloom, we do have one bright
13 spot, the coho run did come in average to above average.
14 And the coho, they're only out there for one year so that
15 might start to indicate that maybe that ocean environment
16 is starting to come around and maybe in two years, three
17 years, we can see a change in the runs and hopefully we can
18 see some better productivity coming out of the ocean.

19
20 That's all I have for now. I'd be glad to
21 take any questions.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tom. Any
24 questions for Tom from the Council. Benedict.

25
26 MR. JONES: Yeah, Tom, I noticed in the
27 chinook run that the first pulse and the second pulse, we
28 only had three and four year olds but late -- the other
29 part of July we started to see five and six year old, did
30 you notice that at the mouth?

31
32 MR. VANIA: Looking at the age count data,
33 what we had seen right from the start which was unexpected
34 was a high percentage of six year olds, we're talking
35 chinook?

36
37 MR. JONES: Yeah.

38
39 MR. VANIA: Yeah, we started seeing a high
40 percentage of six year olds and that was unexpected. We
41 were hoping that the five year olds were going to help
42 carry the run and help boost up the numbers. Because we
43 didn't anticipate a lot of six year old fish. And then we
44 saw some high percentages of six year olds. And we had
45 small sample sizes and the sizes were also based on gear
46 type. A lot of the gear type that we're using down there
47 is eight and a half inch mesh so it kind of skews what
48 you're looking at for age composition as well. So it's
49 kind of difficult to tell. We probably, in hindsight we
50 should probably have paid more attention to the age

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1 composition. We probably should have raised some more red
2 flags to that, and we didn't.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further questions for Tom.

5

6 MR. STICKMAN: I got one.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micki.

9

10 MR. STICKMAN: With the no subsistence --
11 with the restrictions that you guys are already planning
12 for the Yukon River, are you guys planning to make any
13 recommendations for what happens out at sea, the bycatch
14 cap or chum-chucking or anything like that as far as the
15 salmon before they reach the Yukon River?

16

17 MR. VANIA: Right now we don't have any
18 restriction plans. This is just the initial stage and what
19 we can anticipate for next year, we have nothing planned at
20 this time. What I would like to bring up in answer to that
21 is the work session that occurred last week for the Board
22 of Fisheries, they addressed stock status. And the Board
23 of Fisheries determined that the Yukon River chinook salmon
24 were a yield concern and they determined that the Yukon
25 River summer chum salmon was a management concern. Now, a
26 definition of a yield concern is basically a chronic
27 inability to meet expected harvest levels and a management
28 concern is a chronic inability to reach escapement levels.
29 So the Board of Fish did determine that Yukon River summer
30 chum salmon was a management concern, and what that means
31 is now any actions that they take have to reflect that
32 level of concern. Now, there are some Board of Fisheries
33 issues that -- proposals that are out there that deal with
34 Area M, chum cap issues, so now when the Board of Fisheries
35 deals with these proposals, their actions must reflect this
36 level of concern that they have stated over the Yukon River
37 summer chum salmon.

38

39 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tom, that level of concern,
42 what do you mean on that?

43

44 MR. VANIA: Well, this is all part of the
45 sustainable fish policy that they've adopted. And they
46 have to determine the status of each stock that's there, so
47 when you determine the status level it has to meet certain
48 criteria to become these different levels of concern. And
49 these levels of concern are based on either biological
50 escapement goals or they have new terminology now, as well,

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1 they have optimum escapement goals, they have what they
2 call sustainable escapement threshold, these are all
3 various levels now that they're going to be basing the
4 concern level on. And the Yukon River chinook salmon,
5 Yukon River summer chum salmon and the fall chum salmon
6 were all identified as stocks of concern based on the
7 recent harvest and the recent escapement levels that we've
8 been seeing since 1998. And the Department, looking at the
9 criteria, which is laid out, when they say a chronic
10 inability to meet these levels they're talking about a four
11 to five year period and that's generally a lifecycle of
12 fish. So based on these criteria we went through and we
13 said, okay, do we have a yield concern, which is a chronic
14 inability to meet harvest levels, well you just look at the
15 harvest of Yukon River summer chum salmon and clearly this
16 was a yield concern.

17
18 Then you go to management concern is, do we
19 have a chronic inability to meet escapement goals over a
20 four to five year period because the lifecycle is a five,
21 six year old period. So -- but with summer chum salmon the
22 Department felt that it was still a yield concern. We had
23 met some escapement goals in the Anvik River, which is a
24 big producer. But the Board, with further discussion, felt
25 that it was more of a management concern and that's where
26 they came up with that determination.

27
28 So their actions will have to reflect this
29 level of concern which now they have identified as being a
30 management concern. I don't know if that answered your
31 question.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I think you confused
34 us a little bit more. Any further questions for Tom.

35
36 MR. STICKMAN: Ida has one.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

39
40 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Ida
41 Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. What Tom is
42 referring to is there are triggers of action when he talks
43 about the different levels, that triggers what action the
44 managers have to take based on those, it's just a
45 management -- term of reference, what management will do
46 under these conditions. If this happened, then what.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida. Any further
49 questions. Vince.

50

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1 MR. MATHEWS: This one's more directed at
2 the Council but also to Tom. This past cycle, Jack Reakoff
3 and Davey James were invited to participate in their
4 preseason meeting -- I call it a preseason management
5 meeting for Fish and Game so I'm kind of opening this up to
6 Jack, if he wanted to, if he thought that was worthwhile
7 and will the State be having similar meetings and have
8 Regional Council representatives? We did also send Ray
9 Collins, and I don't remember, maybe if someone else
10 remembers, if there was a Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta
11 representative to that preseason meeting. Both were held
12 in Anchorage on separate weeks. So I wanted to bring that
13 up because now we're starting to look at next year. Did
14 the Council feel that that was worthwhile and are those
15 meetings still going to go on and be open to Council
16 members to sit in.

17
18 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chairman.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micki. Bye Orville. Go
21 ahead.

22
23 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, the one concern I had
24 was on the king salmon run this summer when they had two
25 commercial openers, one in Y1 and one in Y2 and after that
26 when the king salmon went by and when the king salmon
27 reached Nulato, our area, we had subsistence restrictions
28 put on us as far as fishing for king salmon and I believe
29 that was management working backwards.

30
31 MR. VANIA: Well, if I recall, I'm not sure
32 of the exact date that we put in subsistence restrictions,
33 but it was some time in mid-July, July 18th or.....

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: It was July 18th or 19th, I
36 could find it.

37
38 MR. VANIA: I think the 19th.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: But it was around July 18th
41 or 19th.

42
43 MR. VANIA: Yeah.

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: July 19th on the Federal side
46 and I think it was the same day as the State side.

47
48 MR. VANIA: Yeah.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: You have this in your book,

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1 summary of in-season actions and I'd caution you with it,
2 it's basically in-season actions on the Federal side and
3 they pretty much match on the State side.

4
5 MR. VANIA: Right.

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: So you have this in your
8 folder. Rod Simmons put it together but it is July 18th or
9 19th.

10
11 MR. VANIA: And the last commercial period
12 we had was on June 30th. So there was quite a difference
13 between the two time periods.

14
15 MR. STICKMAN: The one other point that I'd
16 like to make is that when we have teleconferences for the
17 in-season management, the lead organization is a commercial
18 entity and there's not enough subsistence users in on the
19 teleconferences so actually it's just a teleconference of
20 commercial fishermen, there's no real subsistence users
21 involved.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. That's
24 one of the issues that I wanted to address, how do we
25 develop some power, give Micki and Benedict, Ray and Carl
26 some piece or bite or power to use their appointments as
27 coordinating committee members? Angela.

28
29 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 Tom, when you talk about the king salmon that they're
31 catching at the lower end of the river and I know you guys
32 are taking scale samples and all this stuff, why are we
33 getting these odd fish this year? We're getting these fish
34 -- well, they're king salmon, they look like a king salmon
35 but the coloring is wrong. They don't have the big black
36 markings on the back, you know, like they normally do.
37 These king salmon are big but they're all grey. They don't
38 have that black stripe down the back.

39
40 And then when you're testing your fish,
41 there's three kinds of king salmon, there's your king
42 salmon, there's your white nose, and there's your blue
43 back, when are you going to give us the figures or tell us
44 when, okay, at this date 40 king salmon were caught, five
45 white nose were caught, three blue backs were caught; when
46 are you going to give us that kind of information? Because
47 we did not get any blue backs this year and we really tried
48 hard to get our kinds this year and we did not see them.
49 We saw only the king salmon and the white nose. So in your
50 reports, let us know where these fish are or if you're even

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1 seeing those fish anymore?

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. VANIA: Mr. Chairman. Yeah, thank you,
6 Angela. I'll make note of that and we'll see what we can
7 do to start recording that information for you guys and
8 passing that information along.

9

10 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: I'm not ignoring your Mr.
15 Chair, that you brought up, that's a difficult question to
16 answer. The motivation or actions this past season, my
17 assessment were to keep the Federal and State system
18 parallel, in total coordination. And so the exiting
19 mechanism for keeping that working across a very long
20 drainage was to use the Yukon River Fisheries Drainage
21 Association channel. You do have authority, if that's the
22 word to use, through your coordinating fisheries committee,
23 and it's in your book but it doesn't need to be pointed out
24 at this moment, that the coordinating fisheries committee
25 met twice at key junctions during this past season where it
26 was potentially where the waters would split between State
27 management and Federal management. So you do have
28 authority in that direction.

29

30 Once the information is clear that there is
31 a need for separation then your channel is to the in-season
32 manager through your coordinating fisheries committee
33 members and as you know very well, Ron, you were called on
34 a lot of those teleconferences because when it really
35 started to heat up we made sure the Chairs were on line.
36 So that's where that authority is. As far as within the
37 Yukon River Fisheries Drainage Association, their meetings
38 are open to -- I mean -- what I mean is they're open, that
39 you -- you are -- invitations are there to go and to discuss
40 these concerns at their meetings. I don't want to end up
41 speaking for them. But at present there is not a diversion
42 between the Federal and State.

43

44 So I don't know if I answered your question
45 or not but you would have to go to YR DFA to get voting
46 membership there or change their structure. The other way
47 is once the management requires a divergent, then this
48 Council then becomes in many ways the YR DFA counterpart on
49 the Federal side. And Ida has her hand up.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

2

3 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. We're getting
5 needlessly confused. Tom is giving his report on
6 commercial fishery and the outlook for next year, and
7 that's fine, we need that information. And the question of
8 in-season management from this Council and this Council's
9 coordinating committee is a completely separate issue.
10 This Council always has the final say over the coordinating
11 committee. You created the coordinating committee, you can
12 extend it, you can exterminate it, it is your call. But it
13 is something that the Federal agencies or the Office of
14 Subsistence Management is asking you to review as part of
15 your evaluations of how in-season went. Are you satisfied
16 with how the coordinating committee worked or didn't work?
17 Do you want to improve it? Do you want to change it? If
18 there's a problem with YRDFA, you don't have to use that
19 system but if you don't use it then what are you going to
20 recommend to use or how can it be improved? We are not
21 asking you to become members of YRDFA, but if you're
22 dissatisfied with how the process is working then we want
23 your input of how to improve it or how to create a process
24 that better meets your subsistence needs.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida.

27
28 MS. HILDEBRAND: And I'm just stating this
29 for point of clarification.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Ida. I
32 think that -- well, it explained a few things to me. But I
33 haven't really evaluated our coordinating committee members
34 and we haven't really met on this yet. We may do it later.
35 Any further questions for Tom. Benedict.

36
37 MR. JONES: Yeah, I was looking to your
38 graph here on summer chum subsistence harvest and I notice
39 since 1994 less harvest subsistence for the -- is that the
40 entire Yukon drainage? Because as a subsistence fisherman,
41 this summer I didn't even fish for summer chum and most of
42 the village people didn't. So people are using less summer
43 chum for dogs because there are less dogs in the villages
44 now.

45
46 MR. VANIA: You're looking at Figure 4?

47
48 MR. JONES: Yeah.

49
50 MR. VANIA: Yeah, at this time we don't

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1 have the data for the year 2000, that's why the year 2000
2 doesn't show there. They're in the middle of conducting
3 subsistence surveys at this time, I believe. They're in
4 the middle river area at this time, working their way
5 upriver, so we don't have the year 2000 information.

6
7 MR. JONES: No, what I'm looking at in the
8 graph is, decrease in subsistence harvest every year from
9 1994 to 1999. So that's -- even that harvest is lower is
10 still summer chum escapement has been higher and we're
11 still getting decrease in summer chum return.

12
13 MR. VANIA: Yeah, I'm not sure on the
14 summer chum escapements. I know in '95, '96 and '97 they
15 were pretty good. And I know that that particular graph,
16 as well, it does not include subsistence use from the
17 commercial-related harvest either. There are some areas
18 that they obtain a lot of their subsistence harvest from
19 commercial-related use from roe fisheries. So that graph
20 there does not reflect those fish which are harvested
21 commercially but used for subsistence.

22
23 MR. JONES: Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Henry, did you have
26 something?

27
28 MR. DEACON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, thank you.
29 I'm kind of mixed up here, we're talking about sport
30 fishing or subsistence here and I got questions on
31 subsistence from my area. I know it's very, very
32 important. And the way it was shut down, I did not agree
33 with it and the people. See the fish passes, they just
34 pass the village at certain time and that's the time you
35 get those fish. After they pass then you don't have
36 anymore fish. I don't see how we can see a closure when
37 there's no fishing -- like this fall when the fishing
38 closed, the silver salmon just started hitting, we just
39 started getting ready to fish it and they said it's closed.
40 Well, by the time it's open it's all gone. So it didn't
41 make no sense. Those are the things that should be
42 analyzed.

43
44 You've got to give us some subsistence.
45 You've got to give fish to those villages. There's no
46 other way. There shouldn't be no fish, there's got to be a
47 little bit of fish. You can't just shut it off that quick.
48 There should be an amount to get the fish, a certain amount
49 should be caught because that fish don't run by the
50 village, they pass the village and after that you can't get

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1 them no more. So those are the things that should be
2 thought into this for next year, not just shut it off.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Henry. Any
7 further questions for Tom. Larry Esmailka.

8
9 MR. ESMAILKA: I'm Larry Esmailka and I'm a
10 commercial fisherman and a subsistence user from here on
11 the Yukon in the Y4 area. The last four years now we
12 haven't been commercial fishing and now they're trying to
13 put restrictions on our commercial fishing. Well, it's
14 true a lot of people didn't get their quota this year and
15 they're going to be hurting this winter, and reading from
16 your assistant here you got from Kaltag a draft test
17 fishery program, I don't think that's right. They don't
18 drift 24 hours a day like the way they run the wheel. They
19 should have a fish wheel down there.

20
21 And another thing, what really gets me mad
22 is what Micki brought up earlier, you had a commercial open
23 in the lower Yukon this summer and we had to pull our fish
24 nets while we were subsistence fishing, because what Micki
25 brought up, we have to do it, I didn't do it one year and I
26 lost my fish net, and I never did get it back from Fish and
27 Game and that fish net cost me pretty near \$600.

28
29 Another thing is you're putting
30 restrictions on the mesh, four inch mesh. I guarantee you
31 if you want everybody to replace their fish nets, you
32 better buy them because their fish nets, they cost money.
33 And I tell you that's a big problem in this area, we don't
34 have the money to buy those kinds of equipment we need.

35
36 Thank you very much.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Larry. Any
39 further questions for Tom. Comments. Vince, did you want
40 to pursue that meeting thing you were asking Jack about?

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: No, that's up to Jack to
43 decide. I just felt that we're kind of closing out the 2000
44 season and looking ahead and I just saw a moment there to
45 discuss that because it was a fair amount of time out of
46 Jack's schedule and Davey's and Ray's to -- if they wanted
47 to share with the Council their feelings about attending
48 the preseason meeting with the Alaska Department of Fish
49 and Game.

50

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1 MR. REAKOFF: I went down to Anchorage n
2 March and attended that preseason meeting and there was
3 primarily commercial fisheries staff discussing the
4 previous year fishery and then projections with
5 teleconference with Sportfish Division on what they were
6 projecting on this 2000 year. The upshot was there was
7 sort of dissention and I was surprised to see there was so
8 much dissention among the various biologists about what the
9 interpretations of data was and so forth. But their
10 consensus, they seemed to go by a consensus, that it was
11 going to be a fairly bleak year. And so with those
12 projections I felt that in-season, there should have been
13 very conservative on commercial fishery and there should
14 have been basically no commercial fishery until there's an
15 assurance up the river that there actually is fish going
16 by.

17
18 I felt -- I made a few comments there that
19 they -- some of their various -- they seem to be a little
20 bit under the impression that there's not very many chum
21 salmon that go up the Koyukuk River, and I commented on
22 that, there's various rivers there that -- and the Henshaw
23 weir showed that there's quite a few chums that actually go
24 up it, they're not actually in the same run timing as the
25 fall chum but they're a chum salmon that basically wasn't
26 accounted for by the Pilot Station weir.

27
28 It seemed to be beneficial to be at that
29 meeting for me. And to have some input from the
30 Subsistence Council. I think that if somebody from the
31 coordinating committee would go to the meeting they would
32 benefit from that as much as I would. I think the
33 Department benefitted from it. I do feel that the
34 coordinating committee should have a voting power for in-
35 season management. I feel that the commercial fleet put so
36 much pressure on the management for in-season management,
37 that it's hard for the managers -- they stated in that
38 meeting, preseason meeting that they were afraid not to
39 have a commercial opening. They were afraid that they were
40 going to have to where flack vests if they didn't have a
41 commercial opening. That's what they stated in that
42 meeting. They seemed to be serious, this wasn't a joke.
43 So I was at that meeting and seeing that there were
44 reservations about not having commercial openings. That's
45 why I feel the coordinating committee members should have a
46 vote during in-season management. The managers are afraid
47 of the commercial fleet, that's basically the upshot of
48 what I seen. And I feel that that shouldn't be put upon
49 them, they should be able to manage the fishery for the
50 best interest of the resource and the subsistence and the

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1 tier is, commercial last. And therefore, I feel that it's
2 worthwhile for somebody from our Council to attend those
3 preseason meetings and they're going to be evaluating how
4 they're going to manage this year and input is necessary as
5 to how they're going to manage.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Any
10 further questions for Tom.

11
12 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, I got one.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micki.

15
16 MR. STICKMAN: The only comment I have is
17 just to say the same thing as Jack, you know, during in-
18 season management, the majority of the fishermen that are
19 on the teleconference are actually commercial fishermen.
20 And on the Lower Yukon, they get all their subsistence fish
21 in one day so, yesterday, you heard the guy say they base
22 their decisions on whether the subsistence needs are being
23 met but on the Lower Yukon they meet their needs all in one
24 day, so they got a bunch of fishermen saying, I got all my
25 subsistence needs and then they make a decision on that.
26 So, you know, we just need to have more subsistence people
27 involved in in-season management.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. Any
30 further comments or questions for Tom. Angela.

31
32 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Mr. Chair. Mine is not a
33 question for Tom but mine is a comment towards, Jack.
34 Jack, I read your report this spring, I was very impressed
35 with what you observed for someone, you know, who has never
36 been on the Yukon but you went there representing our
37 region, you were very observant and thank you for the
38 written report that you sent to all the members after you
39 returned from the preseason management meeting. Thank you.

40
41 MR. REAKOFF: You're welcome.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Angela. Any
44 further -- Larry Esmailka.

45
46 MR. ESMAILKA: Mr. Chairman. Yeah, these
47 numbers, I don't know where you're getting your numbers
48 from but to tell you the truth from just reading your
49 pamphlet here you need to move your sonar. Your sonar is
50 not doing the right job. But I guarantee there was a lot

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1 of king salmon this summer. We got our share but not
2 everybody did.

3
4 And for chum salmon, just to test out to
5 see how much fish was in the river we set a fish net nine
6 miles down the river here and in one hours time we got over
7 200 dog salmon. And they say there's no fish, I don't know
8 where they're getting their count from but to tell you the
9 truth there's a lot of fish in the river. We're averaging
10 80 to 100 king a day for about a week and a half straight
11 and you say there's no fish, I don't think that's true.
12 There's a lot of fish in that river they just need to move
13 their sonar.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Larry, for your
16 comments. Anything further for Tom. Go ahead.

17
18 MR. VANIA: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
19 comment on Jack's comment about the staff meeting, the
20 preseason staff meeting, those meetings, we'll have those
21 every year. And I believe that this year they'll be
22 looking at having participation again with Federal staff as
23 well as Council staff. The instance that you did talk
24 about, I wasn't there at that time, that did occur, that
25 occurred in 1998. And a little bit of background behind
26 that instance was this was a year where they were
27 anticipating a large commercial harvest, you're talking
28 about a harvest of 80,000 to 100,000 chinook salmon and the
29 fish didn't come, and so, yes, there was a lot of pressure
30 in 1998. Now, you compare that with the year, this year,
31 year 2000 where we were only anticipating a harvest of
32 20,000 and all they got was 8,000. Now, in 1998 they
33 harvested almost 50,000 chinook. This year they only
34 harvested 8,000 fish. And there was no threats. There was
35 no -- nobody was in danger. Nobody felt that they were in
36 danger. There were phone calls. There was pressure. But
37 the problem this year was the run was so bad that they knew
38 it. Everybody knew it and they couldn't apply the pressure
39 like they did in 1998. Again, 1998, you know, everybody's
40 geared up for a big harvest and then it didn't materialize
41 and that created a lot of problems. You know, so there was
42 that one time, yes, you're right.

43
44 The other thing I'd like to comment on to
45 Micki is on the representation in YRDFA, is, yes, it is a
46 commercial fisheries venue but the way the teleconferences
47 go is the Department presents their run assessment
48 information, they run through all the projects and all the
49 information they have that describes how the run is
50 progressing. They then have an opportunity where YRDFA

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1 goes from community to community starting at the mouth of
2 the river and they work their way up to the border asking
3 for subsistence information. So that is an avenue that you
4 guys can capitalize on. All the communities are invited to
5 attend. They do ask that everybody meets at a tribal
6 council office so where they can save some money on the
7 teleconference, it does cost a lot of money. But that is
8 an opportunity for you guys to voice your subsistence
9 information and kind of collect that information and give
10 it at community to community. So that is one way for you
11 guys to get in there and represent those subsistence
12 desires.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions. If
17 not, does that conclude your report?

18

19 MR. VANIA: (Nods affirmatively)

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again, I think we
22 still haven't addressed this meeting in totality. Did you
23 want some more input?

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman, you'll have
26 that time in January and at your next meeting in the
27 winter.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, what meeting were we
30 talking about in November, I'm kind of mixed up?

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: The meeting in November that
33 Rod Simmons brought up was to address the protocol that
34 they were going to try to get in two representatives from
35 each of the three Councils, one to two from each of the
36 three Councils to kind of do a post-season review on how
37 well that protocol worked or what didn't work. And I don't
38 know of any dates of when that is, he just said late
39 November or later in November. So it won't be on
40 Thanksgiving but somewhere in that area.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Vince, if they're
43 discussing protocol I'd like to attend that.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, well, we'll have the
46 record note that and I believe you agreed to have the
47 coordinating committee members go and both were polled and
48 said, yes, but we can put in a request that the Chair goes
49 and sees how it all falls out. Most likely it will get
50 approved but we'll have to see.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks, Vince. Back
2 to the agenda, the next item is sport fisheries.

3
4 MR. BURR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
5 promise to be brief. I'd like to call your attention to
6 two reports I put on your desk earlier. There's one that's
7 titled Yukon River sportfishery 2000 and the other one is
8 Middle and Upper Kuskokwim River sportfishery for the Year
9 2000.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Could you speak closer to
12 the mic.

13
14 MR. BURR: I just wanted to call your
15 attention to two reports that were put on your desk
16 earlier. This is going to -- my name is John Burr, I'm
17 with the Alaska Fish and Game Sportfish Division, and I'm
18 the area manager for the Yukon River drainage and for the
19 Upper portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage.

20
21 Fishing effort and harvest by anglers of
22 the Yukon and in the Kuskokwim in 2000 was similar to
23 previous in that it was quite low. Particularly relative
24 to the size of the drainage and with the level of use by
25 both commercial and subsistence users. However, increases
26 in certain areas by sport fishermen is a concern for local
27 users and local residents. The Department has responded
28 to these concerns by staffing a new office in Bethel with
29 Bob Lafferty who is sitting here next to me. His position
30 is going to manage the sport fisheries in the Kuskokwim
31 River drainage, including the Aniak River and the fisheries
32 in Kuskokwim Bay.

33
34 In general, throughout the Yukon and
35 Kuskokwim area, all the resident fisheries populations
36 appear to be in good shape. We have no significant
37 conservation concerns with any of these fisheries or with
38 the fish stocks. The Department does monitor all these
39 fisheries with a statewide harvest survey and then where
40 there are changes in those fisheries, we monitor these
41 areas with on-site censuses or specific stock assessment
42 projects.

43
44 In the Aniak River in 1999, new regulations
45 were adopted by the Board of Fish during the winter
46 meeting. These regulations were intended to be a temporary
47 one year, on trial sort of regulation and we're going to
48 review all of the sport fishing regulations for all of AYK
49 this December at the Board of Fish and that meeting will be
50 occurring in January.

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1 I would ask you to look over these reports,
2 basically we have relatively low levels of fisheries
3 throughout the drainage in the Yukon and over on the
4 Kuskokwim side. If anybody has any questions I'd be happy
5 to answer them. We talked about these same issues during
6 the advisory committee meeting two days ago. I also wanted
7 to take this opportunity, because we're running a little
8 short on time, to give Bob Lafferty, our new area biologist
9 a chance to make a couple remarks. And then I also wanted
10 to introduce another member of our staff. He was at the
11 meeting that we had in Fairbanks, the joint Western
12 Interior and Eastern Interior meeting back in Fairbanks,
13 last spring, Jim Schwarber. He's been hired as a planner
14 with the Department of Fish and Game, Sportfish Division.
15 And it reflects a real desire by the Sportfish Division to
16 do a better job of involving local interests in our
17 decision-making process.

18
19 So I'd be happy to try to answer any
20 questions you might have about sport fisheries in the area.
21 I guess the other thing that I wanted to point out or
22 stress is that we have a number of projects that we're
23 hoping to launch this next spring to look at some of these
24 fisheries that we have, up to this point, not had the
25 resources to do. So with that, I'll quit talking and try
26 to answer any questions you have and then give these other
27 gentlemen a chance to talk.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions from the
30 Council.

31
32 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Benedict.

35
36 MR. JONES: This harvest report, is that
37 data that's catch and release or just harvest?

38
39 MR. BURR: In the case of the first report
40 on the Yukon River drainage, Table 1 is divided up into two
41 sections on the top part and the bottom part of the page.
42 The top reflects harvest levels and the bottom part
43 reflects catch levels. Now, catch includes harvest and
44 those fish that were caught and released. We didn't try to
45 estimate just total catch until starting in 1990, so you'll
46 notice that the catch statistics don't start until '90
47 whereas we have harvest statistics going back to about
48 1977. We have the same sort of information for virtually
49 all of the state.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.
2 Micki.

3
4 MR. STICKMAN: The only one that I have is
5 we have a sport fisherman moving into the Kaiyuh Flats area
6 for northern pike and there's -- they've been trespassing
7 on people's Native allotments and things like that and
8 people are not real happy with the increase in boating
9 activity over in the Kaiyuh Flats because all the moose --
10 they're scaring all the moose away from the Slough while we
11 hunt in the fall time. And it seems to me that they have a
12 high disregard for the local residents here as they go by.
13 They don't stop here and visit anyone here or they don't
14 hire anyone from Nulato, they just go over there and do
15 whatever they wish.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks Micki. Any further
18 questions, if not, would you introduce our next speaking.

19
20 MR. LAFFERTY: First off, my name is Bob
21 Lafferty, I'm the new position in Bethel. I'm here today
22 to just become familiar with the RAC procedure. And I'm
23 also here to notify you that I'm a resource in Bethel. As
24 you become involved with the Aniak River fisheries, you'll
25 find it's a very complicated sport fishery by just taking a
26 look at the regulations. If you have any questions at all,
27 later through your deliberations, or something that you're
28 reading, through a report, just feel free to call me in
29 Bethel, I'm the person to get a hold of.

30
31 And once again, I wanted to thank you and
32 the people of Nulato for sponsoring this and allowing us to
33 participate. Thank you. If you have any questions just
34 feel free to get a hold of me.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Bob.
37 Angela.

38
39 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: I think Henry has a
40 question.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you have any questions,
43 Henry, sport fishing?

44
45 MR. HENRY: Sport fishing, yeah, we're kind
46 of having a problem, I think, starting a problem in our
47 area with sport fishing, six pack stuff and other stuff
48 that's got to be checked into, investigated for our area on
49 the Innoko River and Holy Cross up, you know. That's what
50 I was trying to say since yesterday off and on, but, you

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1 know, I'm not a good -- not good at it but we need help on
2 this so it would be appreciated.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Henry. For your
5 information, we did support one proposal that was submitted
6 to cut down on sport fishing in that area. How far it goes
7 nobody knows and I just don't think that it might go as far
8 as we want but I want you to be aware that we did support a
9 proposal to that effect. Thank you.

10

11 MR. DEACON: Thank you.

12

13 MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jim, what's your line?

16

17 MR. SCHWARBER: I'll be brief, too, thank
18 you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Jim Schwarber. I'm a
19 planner with Alaska Department of Fish and Game in the
20 Sportfish Division. And I wanted to just ask for a couple
21 minutes of your time, just basically to introduce myself
22 and explain why I'm here today but also the kind of work I
23 hope to be doing as a planner with the Sportfish Division.
24 I had a chance -- first I'd actually like to thank the
25 Council for the opportunity to speak and also wanted to
26 take this time to thank the community of Nulato and the
27 tribal council for their hosting our State folks
28 comfortably and the good food we've had.

29

30 On introducing myself, I wanted to mention
31 that I have 20 years of experience living in the Upper
32 Koyukuk and I'm familiar with subsistence hunting and
33 trapping from that experience and I consider that some of
34 my more important background other than what I'm able to
35 learn from the local people themselves. I had a chance to
36 serve on the subsistence resource commission for Gates of
37 the Arctic in the mid-1980s. I worked with Jack's father
38 and probably some relatives of other folks at this table
39 during that time, too. After that I went to school a
40 little bit and then I worked for the Native American Fish
41 and Wildlife Society which is a national non-profit
42 organization composed of wildlife biologists and fisheries
43 biologists. And my job working with them was in Alaska and
44 was promoting the development and concept of co-management
45 and more tribal and Native involvement in resource
46 management, both from the advisory committee level and to
47 Regional Council and other models that might work in marine
48 environments.

49

50 Recently I did start working as a planner

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1 with Fish and Game and that's why I'm here today, as a
2 planner and some of the opportunities I see for working
3 within the Sportfish Division, as John mentioned, is a real
4 big commitment by the Division to work closer with local
5 people, to listen to local people, to communicate with them
6 and to work with them on issues that effect sport fish
7 interests and subsistence's interests. Sportfish Division
8 does recognize and supports the priority for subsistence as
9 being the priority use for resources. Our goal is to
10 preserve wild stocks of fish as conservation is also
11 number one, but, you know, within that frame work, you
12 know, the Sportfish Division does work on sport interests
13 but we also work together in the same confluence and the
14 same issues.

15
16 As a planner I would possibly facilitating
17 meetings or helping people get together to communicate with
18 things. Randy Rogers holds a similar position for wildlife
19 conservation and one of his recent efforts you've learned a
20 lot about and participated in which was the Koyukuk Moose
21 Planning Group, the working group there. There are other
22 options that may come up that would involve fish, maybe
23 involve some local issues here or maybe issues elsewhere in
24 the state that I'll get involved with. But I'm here as a
25 resource also and looking forward to learning more about
26 the local issues and where possible, helping move people
27 from conflict into perhaps some consensus solutions on
28 issues that are very problematic when it comes to sport use
29 and subsistence use.

30
31 I'd like to thank you for your time again
32 and I'll answer your questions if there are any at this
33 point.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jim. It took a
36 while to recognize you, I thought you were still way up the
37 Alatna.

38
39 MR. SCHWARBER: Yeah.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Jim. If
42 not, thank you. Bureau of Land Management.

43
44 MR. DENTON: My name is Jeff Denton. I'm
45 with the Bureau of Land Management, the Anchorage Field
46 Office and beside me is Tim Kreig out of the Northern Field
47 Office, and he'll follow me directly, I guess. First of
48 all, I'd like to thank the community of Nulato for our
49 lodging and good food, I greatly appreciate that.

50

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1 And as far as BLM's work in the western
2 region this last year, one our long old-term business, the
3 Lime Village harvest reporting system is going well.
4 There'll be a six year report probably out in about three
5 months and I'll go ahead and include that and give Vince a
6 copy and for your information purposes it will be included
7 with your February packets probably.

8
9 This past hunting season BLM has
10 intensified quite a bit of on the ground effort in the GASH
11 area. We had our enforcement people there and we were
12 doing quite a bit of compliance with out outfitters down
13 there. Actually it's kind of a preparatory season to see
14 how we want to approach both enforcement and compliance
15 work in the future, see the length and breadth of the
16 transporter business in that country which is increasing
17 considerably and to see the distribution of, you know, all
18 subsistence hunters as well as sport hunters and the
19 distribution of the transporter business throughout that
20 area.

21
22 We're also planning on entertaining another
23 check station with cooperation of Fish and Game at the
24 mouth of the Innoko River and participating more in the
25 Piamuit Slough check station which basically we check most
26 of the down river subsistence harvest in the early season.

27
28 Other old business is our land cover
29 mapping, our vegetation mapping is now completed for the
30 Innoko, Anvik region, actually all the way to Anchorage, so
31 we've got most of Western Alaska covered, and that would
32 include the areas around McGrath, Lime Village, the George
33 River country, basically all the Anchorage Field Office
34 portion of the Western Interior. We'll probably use that
35 data here in the future to do quite a bit of modeling for
36 one thing, moose habitat in these areas that we can't get
37 to on a regular basis for in-depth survey work and
38 population work. We can at least have a good idea of what
39 should be there until we can get more intensive work in
40 those areas.

41
42 I think with that if you have any questions I'll
43 answer them and then I'll go ahead and pass the baton here.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I have one question,
46 we have repeatedly asked for or directed some people to try
47 and form the Innoko moose working group, similar to the one
48 that we established up on the Koyukuk. Have you received
49 any of these letters?

50

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1 MR. DENTON: I personally have not and the
2 BLM has not, to my knowledge. We have asked several people
3 about it and about their interest in it and we're getting
4 kind of a mixed set of opinions about it. There's not a
5 general consensus on it. We talked to Ken Chase at this
6 meeting and I've talked to him last year and on several
7 other occasions in terms of the Fish and Game Advisory
8 Council there, and they are interested in at least looking
9 into it, but that's as far as it's gone at this point
10 because Fish and Game's planner, they're kind of tied up
11 right now with Koyukuk and maybe some other priorities so
12 they might not be ready in time to put a large scale effort
13 into the GASH area.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: So they are looking at it?
16

17 MR. DENTON: Yes. I think it's on
18 everybody's mind. It's just we haven't -- all the agencies
19 are not in a position to make the commitment to it. Tony
20 Bodreau right now is heavily involved with the Governor's
21 Wolf Task Force and he would be a key player in that effort
22 as well, so the timing isn't quite right for all the
23 agencies to line up to give it the effort to get it done.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
26 questions for Jeff. Henry.
27

28 MR. HENRY: You know a few years ago you
29 had a sign -- no trespass signs in our corporation land and
30 stuff like that and you said you had money for it but it
31 was not put up or something. What's the future for those
32 because there's a lot of concern about some of those, you
33 don't know who's trespassing on.

34
35 MR. DENTON: There's two things that are
36 going on right now, Henry, one would be the infamous map we
37 were supposed to have made, hopefully that will be
38 published here in April and will be ready for the next
39 regulatory year that has the BLM and Refuge lands and what
40 are corporation lands and what are State lands and so on on
41 it. So that would be distributed probably through the
42 village corporate offices as well as Fish and Wildlife
43 Service at Bethel and through our office and any other
44 distribution points we can get it out to the public to,
45 that's the first thing. And then secondly, I believe this
46 year Holy Cross has approached BLM to mark the 17(B)
47 easements and those sorts of things. The marking of your
48 lands, the corporation lands, the village corporation lands
49 is still pretty much the burden of the corporations to do
50 that. We will assist with marking 17(B) easements and

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1 where our boundaries are located if you need that
2 assistance between yourselves and us. But that's about as
3 far as we can actually commit Federal dollars and Federal
4 manpower to do.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks. Any further
7 questions. Yeah, just a minute George. Go ahead and take
8 your seat up here. First I would like to formally
9 recognize and thank Pete Demoski and his tribal staff for
10 putting us up again, will you stand up Pete. Yes, thank
11 you. Because this is our last day of meeting and we will
12 recognize the locals.

13
14 MR. DEMOSKI: I know you keep thanking me
15 as a tribal administrator. When Vince Mathews called me a
16 couple of weeks ago, he gave me a list of names and said do
17 this. What I do is I turn it over to my staff and I make
18 sure that they do it. Now, I brought some of them down
19 here so you could meet some of them, they did all the work,
20 not me. The first one is Elizabeth Lawford. Sharon
21 Demoski. Elaine Nicholi. And Angela -- oh, no, not
22 Angela.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 MR. DEMOSKI: There was a couple more but
27 they ran up to get some of your people ready for
28 transportation. Can I tell you something funny from my
29 meeting with General Oates yesterday.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

32
33 MR. DEMOSKI: It will only take a minute.
34 Yesterday afternoon General Oates, Lieutenant Savak from
35 the Army National Guard had a meeting with us tribal staff
36 on the fisheries disaster. It was a pretty good
37 informative meeting. And we got done with it and I'm not
38 making this up, a guy in the outfit really said this, I
39 have a question, if the Army National Guard are responding
40 to fisheries disasters, does that mean the Fish and Game
41 people in the hall will respond in time of war?

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I do want to thank the
46 tribal council and their efforts, for all their efforts.
47 Thank you.

48
49 (Applause)

50

00237

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: George, you had a question
2 for Jeff.

3
4 MR. YASKA: Thank you. George Yaska,
5 Tanana Chief Conferences. I did have a toward BLM's
6 efforts on counting fish and running some of the fish
7 counting towers in our tributaries. I wondered if you had
8 any plans to streamline the operations next year
9 particularly in hiring. We had some problems early on this
10 year with the young people, the youth in our region wanting
11 to count fish like they had been doing over the years. And
12 the procedure for the Bureau of Land Management this year
13 was to turn it over to the Alaska Fire Service and have
14 their personnel office out of Alaska Fire Service in
15 Fairbanks do all of it on the Internet and it was hard to
16 find, no one knew that it was on the Internet, we were all
17 looking out for signs in the villages to do some of this,
18 so I wondered if BLM is changing that or intends to
19 streamline that or make it easier for our fish counters to
20 work next year?

21
22 MR. DENTON: I have to -- I guess the
23 Anchorage Field Office has no counting towers so it must be
24 in the Northern Offices, are you familiar with that?

25
26 MR. KREIG: I'm a wildlife biologist to
27 begin with so I don't know a lot about the fish program
28 there. I can try and find out that information for you
29 thought and notify them that there was some problems.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: You had another question.

32
33 MR. YASKA: Yeah. And I wondered who would
34 be the fisheries biologist in the Alaska Fire Service that
35 would handle some of this?

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Maybe I could answer that.
38 I know we've had a few run by Department of Fish and Game,
39 didn't we, Henshaw and what's the other one?

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Well, the key question here
42 is the ones that are counting towers by BLM. The Henshaw
43 Creek is Fish and Wildlife Service. But he's mainly asking
44 about how the hiring process went on the BLM controlled
45 ones.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, George.

48
49 MR. YASKA: Mr. Chairman, thanks. Yeah,
50 most of my response was, what was Alaska Fire Service doing

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1 counting fish, we have other people that can do that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: I guess it's about the same
4 thing the National Guard was out here -- but for your
5 information we will be discussing the hiring and I'm trying
6 to get it on the agenda for the meeting up in Allakaket and
7 you're more than welcome to attend, George. You got that
8 there -- okay, make sure it's on the agenda. Is that your
9 report, did you have a report, too?

10

11 MR. KREIG: Yeah, I just wanted to comment
12 on that. I may be speaking out of turn here a little bit
13 but I think AFS' participation was that they were just as
14 an administrative thing, they were just handling the
15 hiring. If there are no other questions for Jeff, I was
16 just going to mention that I'm a wildlife biologist and I
17 work on the Dalton Highway, principally, that management
18 unit, and I don't have any new issues to present to the
19 advisory council that relate to wildlife, but I did put, at
20 lunch time I took the liberty of putting out a little
21 handout on Clear Creek summer chum salmon projects that the
22 fish biologists in our office asked me to hand out. It
23 just describes this summer project that our agency
24 participated in with some other groups. And I would draw
25 the Council's attention to the bottom half of this handout
26 where some proposed development for that Clear Creek water
27 shed is described and probably you should just be aware of
28 that, and that it is soon, I think probably in the next
29 year that we're going to be writing an environmental
30 assessment on that project.

31

32 And that's the only issue that I thought
33 the Council should know about. One other thing is the
34 Northern Field Office, if you would look at the top half of
35 these maps, we administer the BLM land at about the top
36 half of the maps up there on the wall, just to orient you.
37 Are there any questions for me?

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions from the Council.
40 Jack.

41

42 MR. REAKOFF: When Glenn Stout was here
43 they said there were planning on doing some trend count
44 work up in that upper part of the Unit 24 to see what kind
45 of -- how the moose population is in relation to the
46 displaced hunters, and I would feel that it would be
47 appropriate for the BLM to -- there is trend counts in that
48 Dalton Highway Corridor area near Coldfoot, and I would
49 feel that it would be appropriate for the BLM to go in with
50 Fish and Game on doing some trend count work there. It's

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1 been several years since any trend count work has been
2 done. They didn't get to that area last year when they did
3 their survey, and I feel that it would be appropriate for
4 BLM to enter in with Fish and Game to assess the moose
5 population. It's my feeling that there's been a
6 significant reduction in the bull/cow ratio lately and I
7 would like to see that occur, if possible.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Your
10 response.

11

12 MR. KREIG: We're interested in
13 participating as far as our budget will allow us with any
14 kind of wildlife inventory that Fish and Game would be
15 doing.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions. Sam.

18

19 MR. HENRY: Yeah, on this environmental
20 assessment for watershed, Aloha Creek Road project, are you
21 going to have a meeting in Hughes and Huslia that you know
22 of?

23

24 MR. KREIG: Again, I'm not a fish
25 biologist, so I don't know, and it's in the Central Yukon
26 planning team and I'm not sure exactly what their schedule
27 is. But I can be sure to relate your interest in having
28 some kind of participation in that environmental analysis.

29

30 MR. HENRY: Yeah, because there's a lot of
31 private land around that area and then the last time the
32 mine operated, the water was so bad, you know, you couldn't
33 do any fishing. We did some fishing but the fish wasn't
34 very good.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Darryl, did you have a
37 comment. Darryl Vent.

38

39 MR. VENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
40 concern here was we did have a, you know, some problems
41 with the animals after this Hog River went in before. A
42 lot of our animals are showing signs of sores, a lot of
43 things happening to our fish and we weren't getting a lot
44 of feedback from this Hog River because, you know, it was
45 approved through not having our input in there. So the
46 only problem we have with putting in this Aloha Creek Road
47 project is, are we going to have any involvement in this or
48 are we going to have any say so on if there's some
49 violations, are they going to listen to us. Because we
50 don't want to create another problem where, you know, it's

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1 going to affect us again and not have any involvement.

2

3 Thanks.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Darryl. I think
6 you do have a valid concern on there especially when it
7 comes to fish. Any further questions for BLM. Is that all
8 you had.

9

10 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 MR. KREIG: Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you for
15 introducing everyone, too. The next item on the agenda is
16 the National Park, Gates of the Arctic.

17

18 MR. MAW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name is
19 Jeff Maw. I'm the new subsistence manager for Gates of the
20 Arctic National Park and PReserve as well as Yukon Charley
21 Rivers National Preserve. I often find myself introducing
22 myself as the person who's sort of taking over Steve Ulvi's
23 place, somebody, I think, maybe of you are familiar with
24 for many years. Though, I'm new to the position, I think
25 many of you from the Upper Koyukuk are familiar with me
26 that I've been with Gates of the Arctic for the last seven
27 years, formally having been duty stationed in Anaktuvuk
28 Pass as well as Bettles and currently I work out of the
29 Fairbanks office.

30

31 I'd also like to introduce next to me,
32 somebody that I work with closely on subsistence issues,
33 is, Fred Anderson, probably somebody who is not unfamiliar
34 to many of you here. Most of you have known him as a
35 sportfish supervisor or as a management biologist on the
36 Yukon River. But Fred will be working with me on
37 subsistence fishery issues both at Gates of Arctic and
38 Yukon Charley, and he'll also be working quite closely with
39 Hollis Twitchell on fisheries issues having to do with
40 Denali National Park and Preserve, Upper Kuskokwim.

41

42 There's a few other staff that I will be
43 working with on subsistence issues. I just might mention
44 Charlie Lean in Nome, who's another former Fish and Game
45 employee, but he'll be assisting me on fisheries issues
46 with Northwest Arctic and North Slope. And then finally
47 assisting me with the administration of the Subsistence
48 Resource Commission for Gates of the Arctic is a woman
49 named Carr Willer in Fairbanks.

50

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1 Our Subsistence Resource Commission is in
2 its 17th year of being in existence. Many members on this
3 Council have been part of that. Jack, of course, Stanley
4 Ned, Jim Schwarber and Polluck Simon who has almost 15
5 years with the Subsistence Resource Commission. At this
6 point in time we do have a subsistence management plan that
7 we are finalizing. We'll finalize this in the next month.
8 Essentially what we need is a signature page and then we'll
9 be ready for distribution. So look for this. I think this
10 is a really great effort on the part of our Subsistence
11 Resource Commission to capture a lot of the administrative
12 history, the recommendations, the actions, the things that
13 the Commission has done over the past 17 years and I just
14 want to make the Council aware that that's forthcoming.

15
16 We'll be having a Subsistence Resource
17 Commission meeting November 14th and 15th in Fairbanks.
18 Some of the items on our agenda will continue to look at
19 user issues, user conflict issues in areas such as the
20 Kobuk, Upper Alatna, Upper Koyukuk areas, the Western
21 Arctic Caribou Herd, air taxi services, items such as that.

22
23 Some general observations from this past
24 season from the Upper Koyukuk, we had patrols both on the
25 Alatna and the John Rivers. We noted that, you know,
26 activity seems to be staying fairly steady, though, I've
27 learned from the past couple of days from Jack we are
28 seeing some increased activity on the Middle Fork area that
29 we probably haven't paid as much attention as we should be.

30
31 Let's see sheep studies, some of the
32 biological work that's been going on at Gates of the
33 Arctic, with concern from local subsistence users we've
34 been doing some sheep studies looking at diseases in dall
35 sheep and I actually put a poster up there on the wall that
36 captures some of the information that we've learned. We
37 continue to monitor muskox as their numbers seem to grow in
38 the park area as well as we're doing cooperative caribou
39 monitoring with both the State and the North Slope Borough.

40
41
42 One other item I want to bring to your
43 attention that we are in the process of updating our
44 general management plan which dates back to 1986. This is
45 where the reincarnation of Steve Ulvi will come back into
46 play because he is heading up that effort for us. And at
47 Gates of the Arctic, we're not only managing -- we manage
48 for healthy populations of fish and wildlife, wilderness
49 recreational opportunities and continued subsistence
50 opportunities. So there's kind of three legs of a stool,

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1 if you would think of it that way, that our management
2 rests on, and I think the success of our general management
3 plan effort will be how we bring together all those
4 interests and incorporate them into a document that's
5 management for the next several years. So expect to see
6 Steve Ulvi back into these forums, such as the Regional
7 Council, to talk about some of those issues, to talk about
8 how we should be moving forward with management at Gates of
9 the Arctic in the next 10 to 20 years.

10
11 The last item I want to bring to your
12 attention is something that will get more attention, it's
13 certainly in the far corner of the Western Interior
14 Regional Council area, the fact that recently the city of
15 Anaktuvuk Pass has come out, in fairly strong opposition,
16 to a proposed State oil and gas lease just north of
17 Anaktuvuk Pass, but it is right on the northern boundary.
18 The State has several tracts just north of Gates of the
19 Arctic National Park and Preserve that they're leasing for --
20 proposing to lease for oil and gas exploration. And the
21 city of Anaktuvuk Pass is opposed to it and, you know, as
22 it develops, they may or may not be looking for support. I
23 mean their loss of subsistence opportunity is one of the
24 issues they brought up. So that's just in the early stages
25 to put on your radar screen, you may hear more about it.

26
27 With that, I know Hollis Twitchell wasn't
28 able to make it here and I'm going to hand it over to Fred
29 to add a few observations from Hollis as well as some
30 observations from the Upper Yukon.

31
32 MR. ANDERSON: I won't take much time.
33 It's just that I was recently hired by the Park Service and
34 I'm part of the subsistence fishery management program.
35 I'm associated with Gates of the Arctic, Denali National
36 Park and the Yukon Charley. I just worked part-time this
37 summer and since, a good deal of that time, somewhat
38 periphery involved with Yukon River in-season management
39 issues and I intend to stay involved with that. I have a
40 long history with Yukon River management, fisheries
41 management and a continuing interest in it, which is
42 largely why I came back to work.

43
44 Hollis, as Jeff said, was not able to be
45 here and he asked me to give you a very brief update on the
46 status of the projects funded through this Federal system
47 last year and that was the Tanana River fall chum salmon
48 assessment project. There's a mark and recapture
49 population estimate going on in the Tanana drainage now or
50 actually it just ended this past weekend where they were

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1 tagging fish in the middle part of the Tanana River, lower
2 part of the Tanana River and in the Kantishna River as
3 well. The Park Service involvement in that was done with
4 funds derived through this Federal system and Hollis
5 contracted with a local fisherman on the upper Kantishna,
6 and that person has been running a wheel and continues to
7 to this day unless he got froze out here in the last couple
8 of days catching chums and cohos up there and recovering
9 tags that will be used in the population estimate. I don't
10 have a final number, a preliminary number even -- either,
11 for the pop estimate except to say that it looked very poor
12 in the Toklat River and the Upper Kantishna. I expect
13 they'll have some preliminary numbers very shortly but the
14 results, early results were not, at all, encouraging about
15 even a slightly below average run, it was a very -- it
16 appears to have been a very poor run into the Tanana
17 drainage.

18
19 So with that, I'll conclude unless there's
20 questions.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Jeff. Go
23 ahead, Sam.

24
25 MR. HENRY: Yeah, Ron, are either of you
26 going to that Koyukuk River Fish and Game Advisory meeting
27 at Allakaket at the end of this month?

28
29 MR. MAW: One of us will probably try to be
30 there. Was there something specific you would like to
31 address that we could prepare for?

32
33 MR. HENRY: There'll be some people there
34 asking questions so I just wanted somebody there to answer
35 the questions.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict, did you have
38 something.

39
40 MR. JONES: Yes. I noticed in the news
41 media last week that the State is planning to oil lease
42 program in Gates of the Arctic and there's some concern
43 about subsistence wildlife in that area, there's sheep and
44 caribou and the second question is what is the population
45 of the mountain sheep, is it decreasing or maintaining its
46 level?

47
48
49 MR. MAW: With respect to the oil and gas
50 lease, all of it that's proposed is north of the actual

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1 Park boundary but it is on Arctic Slope Regional
2 Corporation and State lands to the north. And that we are --
3 you know, we definitely have many concerns about that
4 proposal and we've made it clear to the Department of
5 Natural Resources of our concerns.

6
7 As far as the sheep population in the
8 Central Brooks Range, it seems to be holding fairly steady
9 over the course of the last few years, that's as I
10 understand it.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

13
14 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

17
18 MR. REAKOFF: I wanted to state that the
19 Subsistence Resource Commission is on record as being
20 opposed to those. They were going to lease those lands to
21 the north of the Park a few years ago and the Subsistence
22 Resource Commission was on record as being opposed to those
23 leases as people in Anaktuvuk and also Allakaket, Bettles,
24 Wiseman, it deflects caribou migrations through the pass
25 and people in Anaktuvuk were very reluctant as to being
26 barriered off with roads and pipelines and stuff to the
27 north and that's what the primary concern is about. And I
28 just wanted to state that the Commission is on record and
29 maybe that record should be -- the past history should be
30 drawn up and resubmitted. But it's a very big concern to
31 the people that are immediately to the south of the Brooks
32 Range, it deflects those caribou migrations.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Jack. Any
35 further questions. If not, thank you for your report. Is
36 that all you had?

37
38 MR. MAW: (Nods affirmatively)

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Vince,
41 what's statewide?

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, National Park
44 Service sometimes has staff that comes from their Anchorage
45 office and sometimes they have topics that go beyond the
46 district so I just leave it in there as statewide, if they
47 have something that was, you know, covering the whole
48 state. So there's no one here unless Jeff has something.

49
50 MR. MAW: I'm not sure I can -- well, I

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1 don't have any statewide issues other than if I was to
2 bring up the, similar to what Don Rivard brought up, that
3 we did have seven positions through the fisheries program
4 and all those positions have been filled with persons such
5 as Fred. But otherwise, if you have questions of a
6 statewide nature, I can take those back.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Fish and
9 Wildlife Service.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure,
12 Greg, are you going to cover migratory -- okay, I think
13 that falls upon me, unless there's someone else. Okay,
14 basically you've been tracking this for quite a few years,
15 this is the Migratory Bird Treaty, amendments to it, under
16 Tab G, as in Galena. The first page there and second page
17 and third page deal with the amendments to the Migratory
18 Bird Treaty. So I'll quickly cover that because you played
19 a key role in the review of options to address implementing
20 spring water fowl hunts.

21

22 So basically the treaty was signed in 1916
23 between United States and Canada and a second treaty with
24 Mexico in 1936. There was initiatives for quite a few
25 years to allow for legal spring subsistence hunting, and
26 that was successfully -- meaning the treaty was
27 successfully amended in October of 1997 by the U.S. Senate.
28 The goals of the amendments were to legally recognize
29 traditional spring and summer subsistence hunting of
30 migratory birds in Alaska. It was also to involve
31 subsistence users in the management of those birds, and to
32 improve conservation of North America migratory birds by
33 managing all hunting and then to maintain the current
34 levels of subsistence. The management bodies will include
35 Native, Federal and State representatives as equals and
36 will develop recommendations for and among other things,
37 seasons and harvest limits, law enforcement policies,
38 population and harvest monitoring, educational programs,
39 research and use of traditional knowledge and habitat
40 protection.

41

42 And if Gabe's here, he can fill in on some
43 of this other parts when I get into the Native migratory
44 bird working group because he's a member.

45

46 But anyways, the Treaty was amended and I
47 need to advise you, as in other meetings, that the
48 migratory bird management is separate from ANILCA, so there
49 is not a subsistence priority for the harvest of migratory
50 birds. The key thing you needed to hear about was the

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1 management bodies. Remember, before you had three or four
2 options, one of those was the Regional Council as the body
3 to take up this issue. Another was a different
4 combinations of Native non-profits.

5
6 What they decided on was to have a
7 statewide management body called the Migratory Bird
8 Comanagement Council. And its function will be to work
9 towards consensus on bird issues, to encourage
10 participation in implementing actions, to provide local
11 incentives for sustainable use, and to influence and
12 responsibility for resource management and conservation.
13 What they'll be made of is one management body which will
14 be called the Alaska Migratory Bird Management Council --
15 Comanagement Council and that will have, I believe 12
16 members of it and the Service, meaning the Fish and
17 Wildlife Service will contract with 12 partner
18 organizations to administer seven regional migratory --
19 regional management bodies, each representing a specific
20 area.

21
22 I don't know if Gabe is here or Stan is up
23 to speed on that because they could tell you more what that
24 specific management area for you is. But the 12 partner
25 organizations and how they fit into the seven regional
26 management bodies are as you see there, there's consortium
27 of people for the Cook Inlet area, the Southcentral area,
28 there's one for the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands and the
29 Kodiak, one for the Bristol Bay Native Association, one for
30 Association of Village Council Presidents and Kawerak, and
31 then Maniilaq and then North Slope Borough and Tanana
32 Chiefs.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are we involved other than
35 through Tanana Chiefs?

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: You're not involved directly
38 in it other than if the issue comes before you. You would
39 work through Tanana Chiefs to participate in this
40 structure. Their first meeting for this Alaska Migratory
41 Bird Comanagement Council will be held in November 2000. I
42 don't know any of the dates. Again, if Stan or Gabe were
43 here or someone else knows.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Unless we're invited, I
46 think we'll just say go ahead, I think we're -- do we
47 really want to get a seat on this issue.

48
49 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chairman.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micki.

2

3 MR. STICKMAN: The only thing that concerns
4 me is what about the villages that are not directly
5 involved with Tanana Chiefs, like Nulato, we're 638
6 Contract, Louden Tribe in Galena is a 638 Contract, so
7 they're not -- they're pulled out of Tanana Chiefs
8 Conference?

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Ida may be able to answer
11 that but Tanana Chiefs would be responsible for the area to
12 make sure that there is some type of input from the
13 different entities there. Maybe Ida can shed some more
14 light on this.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

17

18 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. The options
20 that were offered to you last year for your involvement,
21 the final decision was up to the director of the U.S. Fish
22 and Wildlife and he decided to go with these seven
23 statewide organizations. Those organizations are to
24 appoint or select their representatives to this Council and
25 whether or not you're a member of Tanana Chiefs or any of
26 these organizations, the duty is still for them to
27 represent all the people of the region, whether or not
28 they're a member of villages.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for that
31 clarification. So these members will be picked out of the
32 seven regions?

33

34 MS. HILDEBRAND: That's correct, they'll be
35 picked out of the seven regions and they'll have their
36 first meeting. I believe it's in Anchorage in November.
37 But if you wanted more information on it, I suggest you
38 call Tanana Chiefs and see who they've assigned to do the
39 preliminary work of finding these representatives or
40 selecting these representatives. But technically every
41 person should be able to submit a name and say we'd like to
42 be a representative or be involved in it.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks, Ida. Do you
45 have some more Vince?

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: YEAh. The last thing I need
48 to point out for you is that the goal for this management
49 body and process that's being laid out here is to have
50 legal regulations written and published in 2002 and

00248

1 regulations will be in effect for -- I mean excuse me,
2 published in 2001 and regulations will go into effect in
3 2002. So these are going to affect you in 2002, whatever
4 actions this process produces for, spring and summer water
5 fowl harvest.

6
7 So I'm sure that the migratory bird program
8 within Fish and Wildlife Service will keep providing
9 updates to the Regional Council since it's an easy forum to
10 get information back to the villages. And the other
11 concerns would be to address directly to Tanana Chiefs.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

14
15 MR. REAKOFF: So it was my understanding
16 that they were supposed to have regulations for the 2001
17 season, is the program behind schedule or what?

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: I'm just a messenger, I
20 really don't know. I see George Yaska coming up, he might
21 have been a member of this group, too, so I'll stop but I
22 do not know.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. George
25 Yaska.

26
27 MR. YASKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As one
28 of the -- well, I wasn't one of the original Native working
29 group members but I worked there for about 10 years, and
30 with the help of the late Molly Bade, the National Office
31 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, she got the Treaty
32 signed. We weren't able to get many people from the tribes
33 involved. It was years of work and finally got signed and
34 it's finally going forward. In the regions where there a
35 lot of problems with endangered species or certain species
36 and there was a lot of hunting of those birds happening in
37 those areas, they have Regional Council to oversee those
38 problems of hunting regulations and hunting seasons,
39 enforcement issues, Federal Troopers going out to
40 investigate with helicopters and so on. But where we have
41 no endangered or species hunted, we've advocated in the
42 past for no regulation, just keeping track of the harvest.
43 The villages, though, in the past two years have been
44 thinking of their hunting areas, they've been thinking of
45 hunting bag limits and thinking through the issues, at
46 least, the tribes have. But most of the area and -- within
47 the Doyon Region and I'm not sure what the number is we
48 have in the Tanana Chiefs region, don't hunt any of the
49 threatened or endangered species, so we're still continuing
50 to advocate for little to no regulation. We don't want

00249

1 anything to happen. There isn't any enforcement now, there
2 isn't any bag limits now, there isn't any seasons now and
3 there aren't any problems now, and we don't want that to
4 change. We don't want to have spent all this time, roughly
5 22 years in amending the treaty to find that we've created
6 the big problem of enforcement and rules and regulations
7 and we don't want that to happen.

8

9 So so far we don't see any problems, we
10 don't see any regulations coming down at this point.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I don't want to
13 see any bag limits or anything like that either because it
14 will create problems where, like you said, none exist at
15 the time. Do you have anything else?

16

17 MR. YASKA: I'd just add a little bit more,
18 the regional board, though, will serve as the oversight,
19 and if there are problems, they'll catch that right away
20 from the tribes. So they're the group that will stay on
21 top of that. I think Gabe is working with selecting people
22 for the regional board but I'm not familiar with who those
23 are yet.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: So there will be a regional
26 board within the Tanana Chiefs Region then?

27

28 MR. YASKA: (Nods affirmatively)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks for that
31 clarification. Do you have anything else, Vince?

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: No, not with migratory birds.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Next on the agenda is the
36 wildlife refuge, I see we have Kanuti here. Before you
37 begin, we already had Nowitna and Koyukuk under Orville?

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: I believe he and also Glenn
44 Stout.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS:talked about harvest.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right, that was just for

00250

1 my clarification. Kanuti Wildlife Refuge, Harvey and Greg.

2

3 MR. McCLELLAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
4 Council. Again, my name is Greg McClellan, I'm the
5 Subsistence Coordinator for Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge
6 and I'm also a shared position with the Yukon Flats and
7 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge also. I'll let Harvey
8 introduce himself.

9

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I'm Harvey Williams,
11 I'm a park ranger stationed in Bettles for the Kanuti
12 Refuge.

13

14 MR. McCLELLAN: We'd like to thank the
15 Council for their time to present this report and would
16 also like to thank the community of Nulato for hosting and
17 providing everything for this meeting. In your meeting
18 booklet, just past the migratory bird update is a copy of
19 the Refuge report from Kanuti and I'd just like to
20 highlight a few things and then after that, Harvey and I
21 would be happy to try and answer any questions you may
22 have.

23

24 The first thing is Harvey, last year,
25 started and continued this year collecting water fowl
26 harvest information from hunters in Allakaket, Alatna,
27 Evansville and Bettles and he'd be happy to give a short
28 report about that or answer any questions.

29

30 This summer Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge
31 was a major partner with Alaska Department of Fish and
32 Game, National Park Service, BLM, TCC and UAF, among other
33 organizations in putting together an EarthQuest Science
34 Camp that was held from July 25th through August 3 in Chena
35 River State recreation area outside of Fairbanks. Students
36 were from various villages, including Kaltag and Huslia
37 from the Western Interior area. Michelle Reakoff worked
38 for the Refuge this summer and helped with this project and
39 also helped with the Refuge on a small mammal trapping
40 project.

41

42 And then another topic that Mr. Sam
43 mentioned earlier today, an active effort was made by
44 Refuge Staff to contact hunters this fall. On August 31st
45 through September 2nd Staff patrolled the Koyukuk, South
46 Fork Rivers via boat and then other Staff drove the Dalton
47 Highway and distributed maps showing Native allotments,
48 corporation lands and the Kanuti controlled use areas. And
49 then on the 11th 14th Staff again patrolled the Southfork,
50 Koyukuk and Jim Rivers and then on the 20th, Staff

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1 patrolled via airplane and checked hunters at Kanuti Lake.

2

3 The next topic on moose is Glen Stout with
4 ADF&G commented the Kanuti Refuge and Alaska Department of
5 Fish and Game completed and cooperated in a moose survey
6 last fall that included the Kanuti National Wildlife
7 Refuge. There is no plan to do another survey again this
8 fall but I'll pass your interest back to the Refuge as far
9 as seeing more frequent surveys. I talked with Lisa before
10 coming to the meeting and she's interested in trying to
11 have the surveys on a more regular schedule verses these
12 last surveys have been every five years and we'd like to
13 see them on a more quicker cycle also.

14

15 Some work that we have been doing with
16 moose is early March the Staff flew transects to document
17 moose winter distributions and this was the third year he
18 was doing these surveys, and then this winter, the Staff's
19 also planning to collect twigs for moose forage plants to
20 test their nutrient contents and palpability.

21

22 Concerning wolves, the wolf censuses was
23 planned for 2000 but we never got the proper weather
24 conditions, so we, again, hope to conduct a survey this
25 spring in 2001. The radio-collared wolves continue to be
26 tracked on the Refuge every two weeks and the recent
27 information indicates that there's about four packs that
28 are occupying the Refuge most of the time.

29

30 Then the last item I wanted to mention was
31 this past year the Refuge Staff started a cooperative
32 project looking at lakes and the possibility of them drying
33 up. This was something that was talked about at the
34 meeting in Fairbanks last winter. The project is again, a
35 cooperative effort involving TCC, the Allakaket Tribal
36 Council, Alatna Tribal Council and Ducks Unlimited. Refuge
37 biologist, Lisa Saperstein and then Stanley Ned with TCC
38 visited two lakes this past July to collect information on
39 the vegetation and lake depth, and the purpose is to
40 collect baseline information to be able to compare in the
41 future, and then also to take this information and compare
42 it with past aerial photography and satellite imagery.

43

44 So those are kind of the highlights, like I
45 said, the full report's in your booklet and now we'd be
46 happy to try and answer any questions that you might have.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Greg. Any
49 questions for Kanuti. Benedict.

50

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1 MR. JONES: Yeah, you talked about you
2 collared four packs of wolves, are they within the range in
3 the boundary area where they've been tagged?

4
5 MR. McCLELLAN: Okay, Benedict, I'm sorry,
6 I'm not sure the boundary area where you mean specifically.

7
8 MR. JONES: Where you collared the wolves
9 with the radio, is it within their range or out of their
10 range where -- or are they in the same boundary area, the
11 hunting area?

12
13 MR. McCLELLAN: The packs are -- there's
14 some strictly within the Refuge and then there's some,
15 their home range includes portions of the Refuge and then
16 portions outside the Refuge. Is that answering your
17 question or.....

18
19 MR. JONES: Well, not quite What I'm
20 trying to get is usually a pack of wolves they stay within
21 their hunting range, everything they make around in their
22 hunting range. If these wolves that were collared -- or
23 radio-collared, do they stay within their hunting range,
24 between Kanuti and the Dalton Highway, do they stay in the
25 same area?

26
27 MR. McCLELLAN: Okay, I'm afraid I'm not
28 sure I have the information on the extent of how far the
29 different packs have been tracked as far as to the Dalton
30 Highway and then how far, say down river from Kanuti. I
31 don't have that information I'm afraid.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions. Sam.

34
35 MR. HENRY: Let's see on this drying lakes,
36 I asked this question quite a few years ago, about four or
37 five years ago, and then about three or four months ago I
38 was talking with one elder and she told me that the reasons
39 why the lakes were drying up is because there wasn't very
40 much snow in Upper Koyukuk or in that area. And then one
41 of these years when we get enough snow to where all the
42 lakes will be covered up we'll get enough water again. But
43 some of the lakes got so low that the permafrost thawed out
44 and then that's when they washed out. That's what they
45 told me anyway.

46
47 MR. McCLELLAN: Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions.

50

00253

1 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

4
5 MR. REAKOFF: Has there been a new Refuge
6 manager selected for Kanuti?

7
8 MR. McCLELLAN: It's my understanding that
9 the interview process has been done for the people that
10 applied for the job to replace Tom Early but they haven't
11 made a final selection yet but we're hoping by the end of
12 October that there'll be a new manager selected.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I'd forgotten
15 about Tom Early leaving. Any further questions. If not,
16 we'll take a short break. I think we'll take some time
17 with the annual report anyway so why don't we take a 10
18 minute break here.

19
20 (Off record)

21
22 (On record)

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to reconvene the
25 meeting. I see Ida running around quite a bit with her
26 dad's truck, the tribal truck and everything trying to take
27 care of us, thank you, Ida.

28
29 MS. HILDEBRAND: You're welcome.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micki's got a quick
32 announcement. For the people who are staying -- I think
33 it's only you, Don, that slept down there in the cabin,
34 maybe you can move up to the National Guard Armory. For
35 the people who are staying at the Armory, Larry's mom is
36 going to be making burgers for the people who are staying
37 at the National Guard Armory for dinner tonight.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. Again,
40 thank the residents of Nulato for taking care of all of us
41 that are leftover, again. Vince.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: The next item is the updates
44 from Office of Subsistence Management. I'll cover those
45 unless someone else, but I believe they've fallen to me.
46 There's going to be three items there, there's two listed.
47 One is the reorganization of the office and that's just
48 straight informational if that's okay to go ahead with.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Jack has the same

00254

1 concern as I do, is there anyone from Innoko at all?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, to my knowledge
4 there is not. The new Refuge manager, Bill Shraft, if I've
5 pronounced it right, was going to come, he sent me an email
6 on Monday or Tuesday saying he was unable to make it
7 because of other reports and there was difficulty, some
8 kind of annual check up on the plane and that was confirmed
9 by Ray Collins when I talked to him on Monday. So there is
10 no one here from Innoko.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: No one here from Innoko.

13 Jack.

14

15 MR. REAKOFF: In the future, if a Refuge
16 Staff has a problem with making a meeting, if they could
17 even email or fax a report on -- because there's various
18 issues in the Innoko that the Council's been tracking and
19 if they could fax what the transporter numbers were and
20 various issues that we've commonly gotten information on,
21 at least we would be updated as to what the status is of
22 the Innoko.

23

24 I have concerns of the amount of people
25 that are going into the Innoko Refuge that are being
26 displaced from the Koyukuk. I know that over in McGrath,
27 people have had concerns with the numbers of people being
28 transported in and out of that area. So maybe a letter
29 could be written to Innoko, that if in the future they're
30 not able to make meetings, that they can at least send a
31 report to be read by other staff such as our coordinator.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you, Jack. I,
36 too, have a problem with this because Innoko is not here
37 and I will ask that Vince resubmit our letter concerning
38 the GASH area moose working group and try to get that off
39 the ground. Yes.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, for
42 clarification, that letter has never been sent because you
43 were going to review it and sign it, this is from the last
44 meeting, requesting that there be a similar planning
45 process on the GASH sent to Dan Reed to assist -- showing
46 you support for a planning process there as they prioritize
47 their planning efforts.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Then I would direct you,
50 Vince, to go ahead and mail this letter, I've reviewed it

00255

1 and I will sign it. Make sure all the local villages in
2 the GASH area get a copy of it, too.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. It's also
5 being copied to Randy Rogers and -- well, there's a whole
6 list of people there that it will be copied to.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Vince.
9 Angela, you had your hand up?

10

11 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes, Mr. Chair, if the
12 people in the back would go outside or lower their voices,
13 I'm having a hard time hearing when Vince is talking
14 because there's a lot of talking in the back of the room.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict, you had your hand
19 up?

20

21 MR. JONES: Yeah, it was brought to my
22 attention from the Middle Yukon Advisory Chairman this
23 morning, that he brought up the subject of transporters in
24 Unit 21, he doesn't want to see any increase in
25 transporters within our middle Yukon 21(D) area because --
26 he included air transporters and boat transporters. And I
27 don't know who has that authority to permit the license for
28 the transporters in this area.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. I
31 would ask that you bring this up under Council member
32 closing comments and concerns. At this time I'd like to
33 recognize Micki.

34

35 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, Ben, remember last
36 time I brought up the transporter issue to the Refuge
37 Manager, Eugene Williams, he said he was the one who was
38 giving out the permits for the transporters to go into the
39 Refuge and that he had no way of setting limitations or he
40 didn't have the authority to set limitations as far as
41 transporters were concerned in this area.

42

43 And that's one thing I'd like to be noted
44 on record, that our Refuge manager, his office is just only
45 50 miles away and there's no one here from his office.
46 Orville gave his biological report and his report on his
47 activities but there's no one here really from the main
48 office in Galena.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you just want that to

00256

1 reflect on the record?

2

3 MR. STICKMAN: (Nods affirmatively)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: You got that?

6

7 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Randy.

10

11 MR. ROGERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, just as you
12 guys are all aware, the transporter numbers was a major
13 issue in the Koyukuk Moose Hunter Working Group. And there
14 was not a high degree of enthusiasm by the Refuge staff for
15 taking that issue on although they did acknowledge that
16 they could go through a Federal rulemaking process to give
17 them the authority to regulate transporters on Federal
18 land. To me, it was very encouraging to hear Willie
19 Goodwin's comments on their efforts working with the
20 Federal managers up there in Unit 23. And it seems that if
21 all of the users around the State, you know, joined
22 together and pushing for this that the momentum could build
23 up and it seems that maybe we're getting to the point where
24 there's a good possibility of getting Federal authority to
25 deal with that. So I would encourage the Council to
26 follow-up on that.

27

28 Of course, by the same token, I'd have to
29 say the State of Alaska regulation of transporters is
30 really not near what it should be and I would hope to see
31 some efforts on a statewide, all lands basis sometime down
32 the line. But I was really encouraged with what Willie
33 Goodwin had to say.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again, Randy. As
36 you know, we've been looking for every avenue to not only
37 pursue this issue but we'd like to see and make something
38 happen. And I would like to reflect it on our record. Did
39 you have something to add, Vince, or do we have any avenues
40 at this time? Thank you, again, Randy.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: I can go back to the topic
43 that's before you on the agenda if we're ready to move on.
44 The last report, unless I've missed a Federal agency is
45 just several things from the Office of Subsistence
46 Management. Real briefly, we were reorganized. We're
47 basically reorganized geographically. It doesn't mean a
48 lot to you but it may be confusion when you end up talking
49 to Willie or to some other member and they say they're part
50 of the -- they work with the Coastal Division Staff and

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1 then you hear us say we are part of the Interior Division
2 Staff, we are just divided up at the Interior Region of the
3 Yukon, Kuskokwim Regional Council, Eastern Interior and
4 Western Interior is called the Interior Division, which Don
5 Rivard is the supervisor of. The remaining seven regions
6 except for the Forest Service one, well, actually the
7 Forest Service one in Southeast, Don Rivard coordinates
8 with them -- did I get that right -- yeah. So that would
9 give you four, the remaining six are called the Coastal
10 Division. So it's just to give you an idea if there's
11 confusion when we talk divisions, we have reorganized based
12 on geographic where before we were based on kind of
13 disciplines. The anthropologists and biologists and
14 computer scientists were in one division and the
15 coordinators were in another.

16
17 Okay, the next thing is each of you should
18 have in front of you a revised operation manual. And
19 actually I'm not sure if there's a picture of you guys on
20 this or not, there's pictures of all the other -- well, not
21 all the others but many of the other Regional Councils
22 there. But besides the pictures, the main point is this is
23 your operation manual to help you. Any time you have any
24 questions, it's in a question/answer format. You'll
25 probably find the question in there or we can assist you in
26 finding it. This also has a copy of ANILCA, but I will try
27 to remember each time, like I did this time, to bring a
28 copy of Title VIII of ANILCA. But this is your operation
29 manual and it will be periodically updated. There is
30 errors in there as far as phone numbers and that. Angela
31 pointed out the phone numbers in there are no longer
32 current. But other than that, this is the main thing to
33 work off of. So I'll stop there before I go to the next
34 item. But this is your manual. If there's any ways to
35 improve it when you start using it at different times, just
36 give me a call and we'll go ahead and use it for the next
37 time we revise it.

38
39 The last item I have is a letter I'd like
40 to read into the record because it will be one that I'll be
41 reading to the Eastern Interior. And I will summarize it
42 because a lot of this just deals with Eastern Interior.
43 This is a letter that I'm submitting, so it will become
44 evident as I go through it.

45
46 Dear Western and Eastern Regional Council
47 members. I'm writing this letter because I need to share
48 my thoughts so we can face the challenges coming our way.
49 Challenges before us have increased and so has their
50 complexity. In order to face these challenges as a team I

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1 need to open up my heart and share my thoughts. I'm using
2 a formal letter because many of you know I have a strong
3 line between my professional duty and my personal needs.

4
5 I keep my thoughts and positions on issues
6 to myself in order to remain neutral and to remain a
7 neutral conduit of information between the management and
8 users. This has not been easy as the years of working
9 together with the Regional Councils have grown and I've got
10 to know each of you personally. I thank each of you for
11 your insights into the traditional lifestyle. I also thank
12 you for years of patience as we figured out how to work
13 together.

14
15 I personally regret to inform you I will no
16 longer be the Regional Coordinator for the Eastern Interior
17 Region. It was decided to hire an additional Regional
18 Coordinator for the Yukon River because of the increased
19 workload in associated fisheries management. Accepting
20 this change, I must admit has been tough for me. I have
21 grown comfortable, as comfortable as someone can in the
22 politically charged world of subsistence management working
23 with the Eastern Interior Regional Council.

24
25 Many have asked me how I can work with such
26 groups and at times such outspoken groups. I usually laugh
27 and just say they're just drying their wings and are like
28 distance thunder -- distant thunder storm when you've
29 passed and you ain't seen nothing yet. I also quickly say,
30 with mutual respect and open dialogue to agree to disagree,
31 Regional Councils can be your most powerful ally. The old
32 tale of divided we fall, united we stand applies to both
33 Eastern and Western Interior Councils.

34
35 Management cannot manage without the
36 cooperation and support of the users and the users cannot
37 easily continue their subsistence lifestyle without
38 effective resource management.

39
40 Thank you, Eastern Interior for letting me
41 help you along the twisting and sometimes rough path of
42 cooperative management. In my opinion there's no turning
43 back to the time of finger-pointing and isolation between
44 management and subsistence users. Others have asked me
45 what keeps me going when many times I'm in the middle of
46 upset managers and angry subsistence users, it is easy to
47 keep going because of the willingness of rural Alaskans to
48 share their knowledge and working with managers who are
49 truly public servants. Yes, I must admit there have been
50 several Regional Council members who have helped me with

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1 their prayers during very difficult times.

2

3 I make no promise the trail ahead is going
4 to be easy. There will be many times when each of us will
5 want to point fingers and lay blame. I truly believe we
6 have grown beyond finger pointing because of mutual respect
7 and trust. But our mutual respect and trust will be tested
8 with new challenges and will move into disrespect and
9 mistrust if we do not remain committed as working partners
10 who work to find common ground.

11

12 Finally, I need to explain why I selected
13 Western Interior Region when I was asked to return regions.
14 It was a long weekend of little sleep as I pondered the
15 question. I could not decide when I was asked on Monday
16 morning, I did not answer but I laid out the pluses and
17 minuses of selecting one region over the other. Once I
18 heard my reasoning I selected the Western Interior Region
19 because of its location, in the middle between the Eastern
20 and the Yukon Kuskokwim. I will be able to continue to
21 work with Eastern Interior on subsistence fisheries issues
22 and cross regional issues and to help continue to expand
23 the cooperative foundation between Western -- or being laid
24 between Western Interior and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.
25 Despite soul searching and many talks with my supervisors I
26 still feel I am turning my back on Eastern Interior Region.
27 I honestly wish this action never happened but we are here
28 and the challenges are still coming.

29

30 I wish Donald Mike and Eastern Council the
31 best and will do my best to make this transition short so
32 both, meaning Eastern Interior and Donald can move forward.
33 Thank you Eastern Interior Regional Council for the fun
34 we've had walking the path of cooperative management
35 together. I will miss being your Regional Coordinator.
36 For Western Interior Regional Council, it looks like we
37 will continue to work together. I am honored to continue
38 to be your Regional Coordinator. Both Interior Regional
39 Councils have taught me a lot but I have a lot more to
40 learn to help become a more effective conduit or catalyst
41 between the rural subsistence users and resource management
42 in this cooperative management experiment. Let's move
43 ahead on the path of cooperative management.

44

45 That's the letter. I appreciate you
46 allowing me to read that, it's difficult for me to do.
47 With that, I'll stop.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have a copy?

50

00260

1 MR. MATHEWS: No, but Tina's got it in the
2 record.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any action needed?

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman it was just
7 to inform you because of the working relationship between
8 the two Councils. I wanted to get the communication lines
9 clear on the reasons.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Vince.

12
13 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

16
17 MR. REAKOFF: I appreciate your heartfelt
18 letter to the Eastern Interior and Western Interior and
19 have appreciated you work for us and look forward to
20 working with you in the future.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comment.
23 Angela.

24
25 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Vince, not to be mean or
26 anything but I'm glad you chose us over Eastern. We really
27 do like working with you.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further comment. Again,
32 thank you, Vince. It seems that calling you from 8:00
33 o'clock in the morning to about 8:00 o'clock at night, even
34 at home, it seems like you've been serving as a Council
35 member more than a Coordinator, so I'd like to say from us
36 our heartfelt thanks.

37
38 The next item on the agenda. Our next item
39 would be the annual report?

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's
42 under Tab H. And basically, for all the people present,
43 that process basically starts at this meeting where you
44 submit topics, issues, items to be put in the annual
45 report. The annual report is listed in ANILCA as an option
46 and you have, since being established in '93 have submitted
47 an annual report. That annual report, excuse me, the
48 topics that you submit at this meeting, I draft up and put
49 in draft form and then that draft form is before you at
50 your winter meeting, where, at your winter meeting you put

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1 them into final form and then that's submitted to the
2 Federal Subsistence Board and the Federal Subsistence Board
3 meets over summer and then they respond as required in
4 ANILCA to your annual report. So before you under Tab H,
5 the first page is the response from the Federal Subsistence
6 Board. And I'll summarize that and then I think Pete will
7 cover number 3, annual report topic.

8
9 But basically you've had -- your first
10 topic that you submitted has been discussed quite a bit
11 throughout this meeting. That was where you requested a
12 coordinating committee consisting of two representatives
13 from the three affected Regional Councils on the Yukon and
14 then two from the affected Regional Councils on the
15 Kuskokwim. As you know, and as the Board acknowledges in
16 your response letter, they endorse your request for a
17 coordinating committee and they applaud the coordinating
18 fisheries effort -- committee effort this past cycle and
19 we've talked about that. The office will provide necessary
20 support for these important committees to do their
21 important role with cooperative fisheries management. So
22 basically it's already in effect what you've requested.

23
24 Number 2 of your topics for your 1999
25 annual report was give proper attention to resident fish
26 populations. In addition to giving proper to non-salmon
27 fish, which would be like whitefish, pike, grayling, et
28 cetera, you requested that when proper attention is given
29 the Regional Council requests the planners, managers work
30 closely with local elders to learn the traditional
31 environmental knowledge on those populations. The Board's
32 response was the Board has made a commitment to improve the
33 range of available information needed to support effective
34 fisheries management. The Board's intent is not to focus
35 just on salmon stocks but all fish species important to the
36 subsistence lifestyle. When planning the -- well, this
37 goes back to the discussion about the Federal -- the fish
38 information service which is the one that's overseeing the
39 monitoring projects, they'll do that, fisheries
40 investigations in consultation with local subsistence
41 users, rural communities, tribes, regional organizations.
42 And it will be a requirement that partnership and capacity
43 building development within those local groups be a program
44 priority. We already mentioned one yesterday that is a
45 project showing the Board's commitment was the whitefish
46 population study up on the Yukon Flats, which you reviewed
47 and supported in joint effort with the Eastern Interior.
48 So basically the Board is acknowledging your request for
49 resident fish populations and they're programming that into
50 their way of dealing with that.

00262

1 Number 3 -- unless there's questions, I'll
2 just keep going, if that's all right. Number 3 is a
3 request for a report on guiding, outfitting, transporting,
4 and air taxi operations. Your annual report last year was
5 that you wanted to keep this issue before the Board because
6 of its importance and you also, I believe, were
7 appreciative of the annual -- or the report that was given
8 at the last meeting. And I'll read it and then Pete will
9 probably give you an update to where this is at. The Board
10 recognizes the Council's ongoing concern about unethical
11 guiding and unregulated outfitters, transporters and air
12 taxi operations and the potential effects these activities
13 have on resource and subsistence opportunities. The Board
14 remains committed to managing wildlife populations and
15 providing subsistence opportunity on Federal lands. The
16 Board.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, could I interject,
19 we've got a little announcement, Michael and Janene are to
20 call 898-2208, I think that's one of the airlines. Thank
21 you, Vince.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, basically Pete will
24 give an update but the agreed that the report was important
25 and Pete wanted to just share an update of where that's
26 going. This is the report on guide, outfitters,
27 transporters.

28
29 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, a year ago I
30 believe at the Aniak meeting, I presented you a report on
31 guide, outfitter and transporters throughout the Western
32 Interior. And at that time you felt that you didn't need
33 to deal with it then you asked us to keep it on the
34 backburner. I need direction from the Council, do you want
35 me to update that report and have it for the next meeting
36 or do you just want to keep it on the shelf for now?

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: No. I still want some
39 action or some kind of action reflected, both in our annual
40 report and in our minutes because as we all know, the NANA
41 Region Subsistence Council is taking some kind of action
42 and I think we should go ahead and join them in some way or
43 form. Does that answer your question?

44
45 MR. DeMATTEO: Two years ago in Allakaket,
46 at your fall meeting in Allakaket you wanted to identify
47 who were the guide outfitters and transporters in the
48 Western Interior, and that's what preempted that report.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, George, briefly.

00263

1 MR. SHERROD: The plane is waiting for the
2 following people, Bob Lafferty, Tim Kreig, Charles Burkee,
3 Donald Mike, George Sherrod, Jeff Maw and Pete DeMatteo.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Sorry for the interruption.
6 I was talking to Pete and clarifying my question so do you
7 need a motion or anything or just a request?

8
9 MR. DeMATTEO: Nope, I just need sort of a
10 consensus nod from the Council that you'd like to see the
11 report updated by the next meeting.

12
13 IN UNISON: (Nodding affirmatively)

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, it looks obvious. Yes,
16 thank you, Pete, for bringing this up.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: That brings us up to the
19 other topics that you had, support for strengthening wanton
20 waste laws and regulations and appreciation for law
21 enforcement efforts. Basically the Board applauds Council
22 efforts to work with various State agencies and legislative
23 officials to strengthen regulatory language. The Board
24 appreciates the intensified law enforcement efforts in the
25 GASH area. Your concern about wanton waste in your letter
26 of December 14, 1999, which was the one to the Department
27 of Natural Resources requesting the various agencies look
28 at intensive -- in strengthening the wanton waste laws will
29 be forwarded to the various law enforcement sections of the
30 Federal agencies associated with the Federal Subsistence
31 Program. So in a nutshell, they applaud your effort in
32 that area and they also echo your appreciation for
33 intensified law enforcement in the GASH area.

34
35 The next topic, Jack may have more
36 questions on, but it was request for a wound loss rate for
37 caribou, moose and dall sheep by bow hunters within the
38 Dalton Highway Corridor. The Board recognized the concerns
39 but the Board -- while the Board remains committed to
40 protecting the corridor's wildlife resources, administering
41 the requested study and monitoring state certified hunters
42 lies beyond the authority of the Board. The Council's
43 request for a study on wound loss rates would be best
44 addressed to the alaska Department of Fish and Game who
45 administers the bow hunt within the Dalton Highway
46 Corridor. The Board commends the Council's conservation
47 efforts and will provide Staff assistance, if needed, in
48 assisting your request to the Alaska Department of Fish and
49 Game.

50

00264

1 The last one there, unless there's
2 questions or response -- Jack.

3
4 MR. REAKOFF: Well, I've been trying to
5 work with Alaska Department of Fish and Game on this issue
6 requesting wound loss statistics, and there were two
7 Swedish biologists at my house from Sweden, Ph.d's in moose
8 biology in Sweden, requested from the Alaska Department of
9 Fish and Game, they were investigating the possibility of
10 having a bow hunt for moose in Sweden, they told me that
11 Alaska Department of Fish and Game produced wound loss
12 statistics for them, but I have yet -- the Federal Staff
13 and Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff tell me that
14 there is no such thing. So either it's been shredded or
15 lost or nobody knows where they got those so I may have to
16 write to Sweden to get these statistics but, you know,
17 without trend counts in that area, in the Dalton Highway
18 Corridor area, hundreds of hunters hunting there and
19 without proper knowledge of wound loss statistics, with
20 bow, it's very hard to scientifically manage that area. So
21 I am, you know, the Board is stating to work with Fish and
22 Game, I've been trying to work with Fish and Game, they've
23 yet to produce these datas. So I am continuing to work on
24 this issue. I think that I've asked for UCU, that's units
25 of codified harvest for the Dalton Highway Corridor and
26 Federal Staff is working on trying to produce that for me.
27 And so I'm going to continue to work on this issue. I'm
28 not done with this and, this we don't know, I'm not going
29 to take that, I'm going to continue to work on this issue.
30 They are going to manage these moose within the sustained
31 yield principles and I'm going to continue to be working on
32 that. I don't know that the Federal program can assist me
33 as much as the State can, but there are some other avenues
34 that this data may be produced.

35
36 That's my response so far on this issue.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the last topic from
41 your 1999 annual report was growing sport fisheries
42 activities and associated impacts. Again, the Board
43 recognizes your concerns about sport fishing and potential
44 effects on subsistence opportunity in several areas in
45 Western Interior. As the Board is responsible for
46 administering the provisions of Title VIII, regulatory
47 control of the sport fishing activities on State lands and
48 waters lies beyond the authority of the Federal Board. The
49 Board suggests to the Fish and Wildlife Service and the
50 Bureau of Land Management to continue monitoring public

00265

1 uses on Federal lands and waters in the GASH, the Grayling,
2 Anvik, Shageluk, Holy Cross and the Kaiyuh Flats area and
3 to work with the Council and local residents on the issue.

4
5 In addition to your request on fishery
6 activities and associated impacts, you discussed background
7 information on avenues to trigger the Lacey Act on private
8 land with criminal trespass and other criminal violations.
9 The Board's response to that is the Board will also have
10 Staff report back to the Regional Council on how the Lacey
11 Act may be utilized with criminal trespass or other
12 criminal laws on private lands including Native corporation
13 lands and allotments. There's no report back as of this
14 date but you need to realize that the response from the
15 Board came out, I believe it was August 28th, and so it's
16 possible at the next meeting you'll have a report back on
17 what avenues trigger the Lacey Act or how the Lacey Act
18 relates to all this.

19
20 And so anyways, that's all I have in
21 response to the Board. You have your full annual report
22 next to that. I won't go through it since you already
23 covered the topics. But the report that was submitted for
24 your 1999 annual report follows this letter. That's all I
25 have, Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we take action at this
28 time or not?

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Yes and no. The yes part --
31 or the no part is this is done, 1999 is done. This is the
32 closing of the cycle because the Board has responded to
33 you. Yes, if you desire to have action, now, is the time
34 to start generating the issues to go in the annual report
35 for your 2000 report.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: And it can develop off of
40 concerns on the responses or the lack of responses from the
41 Board, however you look at them.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

44
45 MR. MORGAN: I'm sorry, I've got to go back
46 and ask Jack a question on the wound loss ratio on bull
47 hunting. Do they have an estimate wound loss ratio on
48 rifles, hunting with a gun?

49
50 MR. REAKOFF: At the Koyukuk River Moose

00266

1 Hunter Working Group, the Alaska Department of Fish and
2 Game was using 15 percent as the wound loss rate for rifle
3 hunters. And it's been my experience with bow hunters,
4 especially inexperienced bow hunters that are hunting up
5 there and are not really familiar with hunting at all, the
6 wound loss rates are dramatically higher. So I'm not
7 really satisfied with the Board's response. I feel that --
8 well, currently there's no determination as to what the
9 harvest is. Right now the State has failed to produce
10 those harvest rates in the Dalton Highway Corridor. Our
11 Federal Staff is working on trying to produce those but
12 they don't even know how many moose they're killing there.
13 They're getting behind on the trend counts.

14
15 I would like to see in the 2000 annual
16 report a request for trend count information, UCU, units of
17 harvest information for the Dalton Highway Corridor, and
18 also reinvestigation as to where this data for bow hunt
19 wound loss may be. I'd like to see those included in the
20 annual report, requests.

21
22 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, thanks. The reason I
23 asked that question is there is an estimate someplace.
24 Nobody's going to go out and say I shot a moose and maybe I
25 wounded it, maybe I killed it, you know, but there is an
26 estimate on some other hunts.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you Carl and Jack.
29 Did you get that request to resubmit?

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I did. And then
32 obviously if I have any other questions on that I can get a
33 hold of Jack to -- and remember this all comes back before
34 you in February/March, so we have another time to look at
35 it.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, maybe when you get it,
38 could you fax it out to us so we can review it? So are we
39 now into developing 2000 issues, does the Board want to
40 bring this up as we go along, we have until our winter
41 meeting. Any comments. Any other concerns that you want
42 to see in there again? Micki.

43
44 MR. STICKMAN: I just wanted to make sure
45 that the half-mile restrictions are in there and also the
46 evidence of sex issue is addressed.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, it's kind of hard to
49 hear but basically you're saying the whole issue of the
50 evidence of sex and how that may be offensive to a

00267

1 traditional subsistence lifestyle be noted in the annual
2 report and that that be looked at. And I didn't catch the
3 first part.

4
5 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, the other part was the
6 half-mile restriction on the winter moose hunt.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: That will be handled as a
9 proposal. The annual report is generally a vehicle to
10 bring up issues that you can't work out within proposals,
11 like the wound loss, like the non-resident fish
12 populations. You can't really write a proposal to say
13 study -- we can put in your concern about the half-mile in
14 there but it's more effective in the proposals. But I see
15 Ida has some comments.

16
17 MR. STICKMAN: The only other thing that I
18 had that I wanted to see in the annual report was it seems
19 like we're doing a lot of issues on the Koyukuk River and
20 on the Kaiyuh Flats and I've never really hearing anything
21 from the GASH area and I want to do a little bit more work
22 down in that area to help them with their problems.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

25
26 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
27 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. On Micki's
28 request, in last year's annual report for something on the
29 Kaiyuh Flats about the fish, that was kind of dismissed by
30 the Board, you can restate it in the 2000 or you can put
31 forward a proposal for a fisheries information study, and
32 either you can work with ADF&G or with the tribe or with
33 the Federal agencies in that area to put forward a proposal
34 to do a study on what are the sport fishermen taking and
35 what's the condition of the fish there. And the same is
36 true for your concern about the GASH area. I believe
37 there's a proposal in for a study in that area already but
38 if not, the same would apply to sportfish, to study that
39 because of its impact on subsistence fishing.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida. Did you get
42 that Micki?

43
44 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you, Ida. Okay, so
45 the one thing that Ida was talking about was the impact of
46 the sport fishing over in the Kaiyuh area and how it
47 impacts subsistence users over there, I think that should
48 be in our annual report because, you know, they fish where
49 we traditionally hunted and now when they go through there,
50 you know, all the moose and all the bears are scared away

00268

1 from the slough by the time moose hunting season comes
2 around.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. Anything
5 further on 2000 annual report. If not, when you do think
6 of anything just go ahead and call Vince and have him
7 evaluate whether we can incorporate it into our annual
8 report or not. Would this be fine, Vince?

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Just a clarification here,
11 I'm just the middle man. The issues that you give to me
12 will come back to the Chair and to the full Council. I
13 don't decide what is in or out of the annual report.
14 That's never going to be my duty. So I know what you meant
15 to say, Ron, but people will be reading this record and I
16 want it clear that what you're indicating that get them to
17 me, I'll get it in draft form back to you, you guys decide
18 what is in the final report.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that's what all I was
21 asking, just so we have something before us to act on at
22 our winter meeting.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we need to go any further
27 on this? How much time do we want to spend on
28 correspondence received and sent, is that just for
29 informational purposes?

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I help
32 summarize this, this is how we do it in Eastern Interior,
33 so it's all under Tab I. I don't need to go through it,
34 you have a first sheet that summarizes it all and you have
35 copies. So it's all there. I'll just stop there, as an
36 example, the Kodiak/Aleutian Island, we talked about
37 earlier, is in there, et cetera, et cetera. And all I need
38 to know is this how you want to continue to do this? How
39 Eastern Interior does it, any letter that comes in, I
40 automatically make a copy and send it to them, your policy
41 has been I send what comes in to the Chair, then all of you
42 receive a copy at this meeting. So if you'd like to go
43 with the way it's been going now, we'll just continue to
44 provide the copies at this meeting and then I just add a
45 summary because you guys get a lot of mail.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any comments. Would you
48 like a copy of all the correspondence that we get? Any
49 comments.

50

00269

1 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

4
5 MR. MORGAN: I'm perfectly happy the way
6 it's going now. I'm perfectly happy.

7
8 IN UNISON: (Nodding affirmatively)

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: I get a lot of mail is
11 right, but I pass the buck, too, send it to this guy, send
12 it to that guy. So yes I do a lot of -- many of you know
13 that I have a calling card, AT&T calling card issued to me
14 by the Federal Subsistence Board, so that's the one I've
15 been using fairly steadily to get a hold of all of you any
16 time I feel uncomfortable with anything. I know Micki's
17 quite aware of all the calls. So if it's fine with
18 everyone, I think I can handle that if I am elected Chair.
19 Any further comment. If not, our next item on the agenda
20 is elections and appointments. Officer elections, Chair,
21 vice chair and secretary. Right now I'm serving as Chair
22 and I believe you're secretary -- yeah, Ray Collins is vice
23 chair and Jack Reakoff is secretary. Samson.

24
25 MR. HENRY: Mr. Chair, don't we have to go
26 one by one or can we just do the whole thing at one time?

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's your prerogative, it's
29 up to you.

30
31 MR. HENRY: Well, then I would make a
32 motion to keep the same officers that we have right now.

33
34 MR. DEACON: Second.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion on the
37 floor to reappoint the same offices. Henry seconded. Any
38 further discussion. If we follow this motion then we'll
39 just keep all three of us, myself as Chair, Ray Collins as
40 vice chair and Jack Reakoff as secretary.

41
42 MR. DEACON: Question.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, question's been called
45 by Henry. Did you get him down as seconding for that
46 motion?

47
48 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. The question has been

00270

1 called. All in favor of reappointing our officers signify
2 by saying aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed.

7
8 (No opposing votes)

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: I didn't get much response.
11 So at this time the Chair will request a roll call vote
12 because it is, I feel that it is an important issue and
13 position because I do represent you if appointed again
14 before the Federal Subsistence Board and sometimes State
15 agencies. Roll call vote.

16
17 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

20
21 MR. MORGAN: You know, did I hear any other
22 nominations or not? If we didn't hear any, it seems like
23 it was like a unanimous consent almost.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: So where do we stand here,
26 Vince, are we reappointed?

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Well, yeah, because there --
29 like he said, didn't really open up the nominations, if
30 that was the intent, and the intent was the nominations
31 opened and Sam made a motion and put the slate forward and
32 that was passed, there was none others, so you're kind of
33 elected by default. And then when the vote was taken, I
34 took it as unanimous. I believe someone asked for a
35 question on it so.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: So if that's the case, I do
38 want to thank the Council members for your trust in me.
39 Again, like I said, I -- every time I feel uncomfortable I
40 get on the phone, we cover a lot of ground over the phone,
41 and I do address issues region by region. Sometimes I go
42 to, both Benedict and Micki and Jack and Carl at times, Ray
43 and Carl, again, thank you for your confidence and your
44 vote.

45
46 Do we have any appointment to SRC?

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman, but you do
49 have opportunity and John Trent has come in to talk about
50 the -- I don't want to call them seats but the memberships

00271

1 with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, so
2 that's why it's listed here.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Mr. Trent, take the
5 mic. Just for the record I'd like to have on our record
6 and in our minutes that Benedict was appointed -- I mean
7 elected by the Middle Yukon Advisory Council and with Royce
8 as the alternate. So from here, I'd like to go ahead and
9 turn it over to John Trent and then we'll have more
10 discussion on how much we, as the Western Interior
11 Subsistence Council, want to participate. John.

12

13 MR. TRENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
14 name is John Trent and since 1995 I have been working with
15 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to establish this
16 Western Arctic Caribou Working Group. I did want to say
17 that you should be very happy to see me this afternoon
18 because I'm the last government bureaucrat that you have to
19 talk to.

20

21 The working group is a very important issue
22 for those of us who have biologists in the Department of
23 Fish and Game for a long time. The Western Arctic Caribou
24 Herd is the largest herd in the state and as we all know it
25 has reached a large size, has stopped growing or has nearly
26 stopped growing, and we're are not sure what's going to
27 happen next. It's a time to pool our resources, bring our
28 different points of view and knowledge together so that we
29 can really pay attention to this really vital resource in
30 Arctic Northwestern Alaska, that's the whole idea.

31

32 You've, obviously already begun discussions
33 on selecting the two chairs that are empty on the working
34 group at this time.

35

36 I'll be glad to answer general questions
37 about the working group, but I appreciate what you've done.
38 I look forward to working with both Benedict Jones as the
39 voting Chair for Middle Yukon and Royce as the alternate.
40 And that means I guess, that your work may be half done
41 because there needs to be a selection for someone on the
42 working group for the Koyukuk River communities, and I have
43 written a letter to you Ron requesting your assistance in
44 filling these two seats, and asking this Council to work
45 with the two advisory committees, the Middle Yukon, which
46 you've already done, and the Koyukuk, which I assume you
47 will be doing in the future. So that was really my request
48 of you, this kind of puts you in the hot seat, to help
49 select these two individuals who will work with us on the
50 working group and these individuals serve at the pleasure

00272

1 of the appointing bodies and we do look forward to working
2 with them.

3
4 Perhaps I'll stop here and then be glad to
5 answer questions.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, for your information,
8 we are in the process of setting up and finalizing a date
9 for Koyukuk River Advisory Committee meeting, and we're
10 looking at the last two or three days of this month so
11 there hasn't been any action and there won't be until that
12 time as far as KRAC is concerned. But we had some
13 discussion during our last break and again I would like to
14 see if there's any questions or any comments or how does
15 the Council members feel as far as participating on this
16 Western Arctic Caribou Herd. Anybody.

17
18 MR. STICKMAN: Well, actually with Ben
19 being on there, he can cover it for both the Western
20 Interior Region Advisory Council and the Middle Yukon
21 Advisory Council because he's going to be sharing the
22 information on both sides anyway.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki, you had a
25 comment.

26
27 MR. REAKOFF: I'm on the Koyukuk River
28 Advisory Committee and there's many members in the Koyukuk
29 River Advisory Committee that are qualified to sit on the
30 Western Arctic Caribou Herd planning team, and so I think
31 that when we have that meeting, the Koyukuk River Advisory
32 Committee meeting, that the committee -- it would be fair
33 for the committee to select who would have the time to
34 focus on that caribou herd. People in the Upper Koyukuk
35 are expecting the Western Arctic Caribou Herd to return to
36 that eastern portion of the range and it's going to be --
37 and are, to a certain degree, and are -- and it's going to
38 be more and more of an animal that's looked for for
39 subsistence. And so I think that at the Koyukuk River
40 Advisory Committee meeting there will be a selection and
41 it's a very important issue for, at least, the Western
42 Interior Regional Council also. But with Ben being a
43 member of both the Middle Yukon and the Regional Council, I
44 think we got our bases covered there.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks for your comments
47 Jack, I appreciate those. Benedict.

48
49 MR. JONES: Yeah, there was kind of
50 conflict interests on the Middle Yukon, whether they were

00273

1 going to appoint me for this or if I was appointed for this
2 Western Interior, then there was a conflict between the
3 Middle Yukon Advisory, whether I could server both Western
4 Interior and the Middle Yukon, if not -- if I'm just going
5 to represent the Western Interior, then the alternate Royce
6 would have to represent the Middle Yukon Advisory. So I
7 don't know what your comment would be on that.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, John.

10

11 MR. TRENT: Mr. Chair, Benedict, I realize
12 that what I'm asking for is a little confusing because what
13 I have asked you to do and what you've done is to work
14 together, this Council and the Middle Yukon Advisory
15 Committee to produce one representative and that person is
16 you and I guess that's really fine with me. I mean I guess
17 you'll have to sort out in your mind whether you're
18 speaking for the Council or the Advisory Committee. I'd
19 have to say that, and perhaps you have your own rules for
20 that, but I have to say that I'm very comfortable with this
21 overlap. I really think that this is a good thing to do.
22 I agree with my colleague Randy Rogers, that this is the
23 way to go. That the whole concept behind the working group
24 here as a communications platform is to bring people
25 together. So anyway, you'll basically kind of be wearing
26 two hats but I wouldn't worry about it too much. I don't
27 think it's a really big deal.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, John, when you ask for
30 two members, is it possible to make it three?

31

32 MR. TRENT: It's possible, Mr. Chairman,
33 but it's a decision I can't make. It's a decision the
34 working group could make. There's another issue here, the
35 politics of appointment in the Middle Yukon and Koyukuk
36 River is complicated, I think, by the presence and strong
37 interest of the Tanana Chiefs Council. I have been
38 instructed to write a letter of invitation to the Tanana
39 Chiefs to attend the next working group meeting, which
40 incidentally the next working group meeting is tentatively
41 planned for January 17th and 18th and will be most likely
42 in either Anchorage or Fairbanks, I'll know very soon and
43 it will be announced in the next newsletter that will be
44 coming out in mid- to late November.

45

46 So, yes, sir, to answer your question more
47 directly, it is possible. I can't do it. The working
48 group would have to make that decision and that might even
49 be something that you entertain as a request.

50

00274

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, John, both Jack and I
2 are hesitant at this time, I think Sam was, too, to appoint
3 someone at this time pending our meeting, however, I will
4 be in attendance and we will address the importance of this
5 appointment or election. I see Darryl Vent had his hand
6 up. Yeah, we have three or four people in the back there
7 that will be in attendance of that meeting, too.

8
9 MR. VENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I spoke
10 with Mr. Stickman earlier and him and Stanley were
11 discussing this. This area also fits, you know, the local
12 subsistence users, that's us in our area, and the
13 borderline goes from the Huslia, Koyukuk, what it shows on
14 the map, it shows the Koyukuk, Huslia, Hughes, Allakaket,
15 Alatna. And we have our little committee, you know,
16 Koyukuk River Basin that -- it affects our area, too, so if
17 they're going to have it at the border -- you know, through
18 the Board of Game, maybe they should note that we show a
19 little interest in this caribou population and migration
20 that has an effect in our area.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: So which entity are you
23 speaking for?

24
25 MR. VENT: Koyukuk River Basin.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, let that be reflected.
28 Do you understand that because we do have another identity,
29 a separate group that's formed on the Koyukuk River.

30
31 MR. TRENT: Could you explain that to me
32 one more time and make it clear to me, I'm a little slow on
33 some of these things?

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, yeah. Under the State
36 system we have two advisory committees. One Middle Yukon
37 which goes up to Koyukuk where Benedict is from and then
38 from Huslia on up, we have the Koyukuk River Advisory
39 Council. There was another entity formed on their own for
40 the local subsistence -- rural subsistence areas. I think
41 this consists of Koyukuk, Huslia, Hughes, Alatna,
42 Allakaket.

43
44 MR. TRENT: I see.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: So we're looking at four
47 groups that we would like to see participate and how do we
48 handle that, I don't know. I would like to recognize
49 George Yaska.

50

00275

1 MR. YASKA: A short announcement, we need
2 Dave Anderson, John Burr, Greg McClellan, Jim Schwarber,
3 Tom Vania, Gabe Same and George Yaska.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Next flight. Yeah,
6 Benedict.

7
8 MR. JONES: Yeah, John, what they're
9 getting at is there's two different units -- our boundary
10 line for this Middle Yukon Advisory is Dulbi River and from
11 there's Unit 24, which is Allakaket all the way down to
12 Hughes. I think it's including Bettles. So they want a
13 representative from the Koyukuk River Advisory Board for
14 Unit 24 area.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. As far
17 as Unit 24 goes, it goes all the way up to Wiseman, that's
18 where Jack's from.

19
20 MR. TRENT: Perhaps, Mr. Chair, the best
21 way to handle this, this is kind of an embarrassment of the
22 riches, everybody wants to join, one way to deal with this
23 would be for you or the group, the particular group that
24 wants to join to write a letter to the chair of the working
25 group requesting joining. I can't change the nature of the
26 invitation at this point in time. But the working group
27 could consider it at its next meeting.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, give us the address
30 and names and -- a mailing address that we can correspond,
31 even a phone number, I can give them a call. Because I
32 have one more question for Vince at this time then. Do you
33 think we could find funding for one of our members to sit
34 in on this meeting?

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Well, since I'm blessed to
37 have my supervisor here, I'll defer that to my supervisor.
38 But the pattern in the past has been that the Board and the
39 program has been supportive of Regional Council involvement
40 in different planning efforts. I'll let Don answer that
41 one.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Rivard.

44
45 MR. RIVARD: Well, I can't make a
46 commitment here at this time, I'd have to go back to the
47 office and talk to my supervisors as well. Usually one of
48 the criteria for this is that there be a direct connection
49 with your work as the Regional Council. So if you can make
50 that clear connection, it will be easier to justify to

00276

1 funding somebody to attend these meetings.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: One of the reasons -- okay,
4 go ahead, Vince.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: I think the clearest pathway
7 through this and maybe John would agree is to sort this all
8 out at your local advisory committee meeting in Allakaket
9 because the representatives of that task force or co-
10 management team have left. I think they've left. No,
11 Darryl's still here, I'm sorry. But to work that all out
12 at that level and then if, at that time, there seems to be
13 a need for a member from this Council, then we'll draft a
14 request through the Federal process. I didn't want to put
15 a damper on that, it's just that there is a huge amount of
16 Federal lands, et cetera. But we can't just say yes right
17 off the bat, it has to be balanced out with other requests.
18 So at this point it might be better to wait because it
19 sounds like different groups within the Koyukuk River want
20 to join in. I assume that they're going to be at that
21 meeting in Allakaket?

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: As far as I know everybody's
24 planning to come because it's going to be big, including
25 you, I think, I invited you if you remember.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I'll be there probably.
28 But the thing is that might be a better time for the
29 different -- I think it needs to be clearly laid out what
30 really is laying out here and it is late in the day and
31 it's not fair to John to try to do that either. So I think
32 that that meeting might be critical on this to lay this out
33 again and the entities and the Council, et cetera, to
34 figure it out. Ron, you'll be there, Jack will be there, I
35 think that's -- I don't know, Sam, are you on the advisory
36 committee -- so you almost have a quorum but what I'm
37 trying to say is there's enough Regional Council members
38 there to look at it from that perspective. That might be a
39 better form.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think we'll have to
42 because we do want the Koyukuk Basin, the task force
43 involved and I think that we can handle it up there, so at
44 this time the Chair will entertain a motion to defer action
45 and may we accept KRAC's appointment.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: I think you want to defer any
48 type of appointment.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

00277

1 MR. MATHEWS: But that you support Benedict
2 as a representative of the Middle Yukon and leave it at
3 that because there is no appointee from the Koyukuk River
4 before you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

7
8 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to endorse
9 the Middle Yukon's nomination of Benedict as the
10 representative and also as the Western Interior Regional
11 Council's representative to the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
12 planing group and defer action until the Koyukuk River
13 Advisory Committee makes their appointment to that Western
14 Arctic Caribou Herd planning group.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

17
18 MR. STICKMAN: I second the motion.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved and seconded. Any
21 further discussion.

22
23 MR. REAKOFF: Question.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called for.
26 All in favor signify by saying aye.

27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

31
32 (No opposing votes)

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries. Like Vince
35 said it's getting late, is that satisfactory John?

36
37 MR. TRENT: Thank you very much, Mr.
38 Chairman. I really appreciate your support and interest
39 and I'll do anything I can to work with you on this.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again, Mr. Trent.
42 The next item on the agenda is Council member closing
43 comments and concerns. I started over at Sam last time, do
44 you want to go ahead and start again?

45
46 MR. HENRY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First
47 of all I'd like to thank Nulato Council members for putting
48 us up, feeding us and giving us a place to stay and for
49 Eric Mountain to loan me his four-wheeler and give me
50 transportation to ride around and see the village.

00278

1 We covered quite a bit, you know, for
2 Western Interior, you know, see the fish come into the
3 Kuskokwim and mouth of the Yukon, and go all the way up to
4 Canada and go all the way up Koyukuk River, all the way up
5 past Bettles. And I just hope we can keep our heads and
6 talk with each other enough to where we can figure out a
7 way to manage the fish and our food to where we don't
8 destroy one species in order to keep another.

9
10 One thing we have to keep in mind is, in
11 early 1800s there was famine in this country. There was a
12 big famine. Hardly anybody had anything to eat. People,
13 the way the story went where people were eating moose hoofs
14 and caribou hoofs and a lot of people were just scraping
15 hides just to get a little food. We really have to be
16 careful with the way we manage our game.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Sam. Angela.

21
22 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I,
23 too, would like to thank my host who provided a nice warm
24 house and a nice bed and plenty of little refreshments and
25 the community of Nulato for hosting our meeting here and
26 providing us with all the food and the visits with
27 different people.

28
29 My main concern is an agenda concern. In
30 future agendas, you know, in the past we used to have a
31 moment of silence for those who have past on -- who had
32 been at our meetings the prior year in that village or in
33 other villages and communities, and I think we're
34 forgetting to put that on the agenda and I'd like to see it
35 put back on the agenda out of respect for those who are
36 gone.

37
38 And I enjoyed the meeting, it was nice to
39 see everybody again. I'm glad to see everybody got back on
40 again and look forward to seeing you again. Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Angela. Carl
43 Morgan.

44
45 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I, too, echo Samson and
46 Angela. We had very wonderful hospitality here in Nulato,
47 real good food every evening and it's made it a very
48 wonderful stay. I've got a few comments, well, really two
49 comments that I'd like to echo.

50

1 We all know elections are coming up next
2 month. There's two I'd like to bring your attention as
3 Gabe Sam did, bring up Proposition 1, which is the wildlife
4 initiative, I'm not telling you how to vote on that and I
5 hope you vote yes, though. And Proposition 6, which is the
6 same day airborne on predator control, which we've been
7 talking about for the last, I don't know, since I've been
8 in and I think this was a topic before I got in. And I
9 think you should let your vote count and please vote on
10 these two subjects. I think they can have far-reaching
11 applications to all of us in Bush, Alaska.

12
13 I would like to wish you all God's speed
14 home and a safe trip. Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl, for
17 reminding us, I had forgotten about it. Benedict Jones.

18
19 MR. JONES: Thank you. I want to thank,
20 first of all, Nulato Tribal Council and all the cooks that
21 were here to provide us all the food and the hospitality.
22 And then I want to thank the Council members for honoring
23 me to represent them in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and
24 also the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee. And it was a
25 great honor to serve you as an in-season fish management
26 this past summer. I've learned a lot from the
27 teleconferences. There were a lot of arguments but we did
28 get points across at times, and I hope to continue to do
29 that.

30
31 It's really important now that -- like I
32 talked to Crispen this summer and he told me that the
33 people before his generation, that they predicted this was
34 going to happen, that the fish was going to decline. And
35 another thing that he brought up was the peoples that are
36 throwing bear parts into the river is contaminating the
37 fish especially on the Yukon and the Koyukuk, and other
38 drainages. He predicted that old-timers predicted if that
39 happened the fish was going to decline. And I've seen it
40 since I've retired from the State of Alaska, that I've seen
41 some bear carcasses floating down the Yukon River. And
42 it's just really interesting this morning in his open
43 statement that he poled up the Nulato River to see what the
44 salmon were doing and later today I asked him questions
45 about what species of bear he seen when he poled up and he
46 said the further up they went, they ran into eight black
47 bears -- I mean brown bears, but then the lower parts, he
48 said he seen 13 black bears in the spawning grounds. So
49 that is interesting.

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1 And another thing I'd like to see the RAC
2 members, to ask the elders about their traditional
3 knowledge. I know I do, I question what elders I ever meet
4 here and there about subsistence living. How the previous
5 years before the -- in the bow and arrow days, spear
6 hunting, spear fishing, fishing with bow and arrow for
7 pike, whitefish, sheefish and how they made fish nets with
8 other material, what material they had and used and stuff
9 like that, with the bark and all that.

10
11 With that, I want to thank the RAC members
12 for appointing me. Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. Jack.

15
16 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to thank the
17 village of Nulato for the nice meals that we've had here,
18 we've had very good food. I was also happy to see that --
19 I haven't been to Nulato for a long time, it's a beautiful
20 village up in the hills here and got a good view of all the
21 river and the Nulato River.

22
23 I think I voiced my main concerns during
24 this meeting. I think there's many issues on the salmon
25 management that we'll have to be addressing in the January
26 meeting. There were some mistakes made in the management
27 that occurred this last year. And I think that we're
28 learning about what comanagement means and we're going to
29 have to start building some teeth into the Federal program
30 and working with the State on assuring that subsistence
31 needs are met before commercial needs.

32
33 I also wish everybody a good return trip
34 home and was glad to be seated with some very qualified
35 people for making good decisions. I also wanted to thank
36 the Staff, who is mostly gone now, like Ida, Ida does a
37 very good job keeping us informed on some technical things
38 there at the Staff level, but the other Staff does a real
39 good job trying to write up all the analysis and so forth,
40 and I appreciate all that hard work.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Micki.

45
46 MR. STICKMAN: I have a few closing
47 comments and concerns. For one thing, I would like to
48 point out and I thought that we are a subsistence council
49 and it seemed like in this meeting we were kind of
50 reluctant to let the people from Huslia and from TCC speak

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1 out on their issues and concerns, and I thought that that
2 was wrong. I think we should extend our meeting to three
3 whole days so that we can listen to their concerns and show
4 them the proper respect. Because two days, you know, they
5 added on fishing to this program but they kept the meeting
6 days the same, you know, they added on a big pile of issues
7 and still they're trying to squeeze it into two days and I
8 think we're going to fail if we continue to work like this.

9
10 And again, I'd like to thank my own people
11 of Nulato for doing such a good job hosting this meeting.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. Henry
14 Deacon.

15
16 MR. HENRY: Mr. Chair, I'd like to thank
17 the Nulato people for all the two days, it was very nice
18 meals, and nice to be here amongst our people and talk and
19 visit with elders, especially the elders, I like to talk to
20 elders because they got so much interesting stories to tell
21 about what was in the past.

22
23 I do have a lot of concerns about some of
24 these meetings like Micki said. You know, we should have
25 an evening session, we did that in Holy Cross once, we had
26 some kind of meeting in the evening and put that in our
27 agenda for the next meeting if we want a two day meeting. I
28 don't mind a three day meeting but, you know, it's always
29 been, let's get things done right away and go, you know,
30 that's my -- that's my philosophy, you know.

31
32 I didn't feel good about the Innoko Refuge
33 not being here because I want to hear about what moose was
34 taken, what was wolf population area, what are they doing
35 about it, stuff like that that we requested last year. I
36 requested that from the Innoko Refuge. And still nobody
37 shows up. It seems like they're not -- I don't know -- I
38 wouldn't say they're not interested but they're -- they
39 should be here, because we're here to make this Council
40 members here, to advise the agencies, that's my feeling.
41 There's a lot of wolves down there, there's got to be
42 something done about that. And yesterday, Ken Chase
43 approached me and said that we have to do something down in
44 that area now, either have a -- a subsistence area for our
45 village, those are proposals that you want, and a six-pack
46 hunting is getting to be a problem down there.

47
48 There's a lot of things to put on the
49 agenda, but you know, it's really hard for me to be in this
50 place because it's hard for me to read all this stuff but I

00282

1 have a concern, you know, I'm glad I'm on this board
2 because it makes a difference for my people. I'd like to
3 thank Vince and all the Staff here, I think they do a
4 wonderful job setting these meetings up. It's a very hard
5 job to set up a meeting, I know from the village. So I
6 thank the people here again and thank the Staff. It's nice
7 to meet and be together once in awhile.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Henry. I, like a
12 bunch of you, still have a lot of concerns but most of them
13 were addressed. So I would just like to thank Nulato, the
14 community of Nulato and the tribal office of Nulato for
15 hosting our Western Interior Subsistence meeting. I would
16 also like to thank everyone that participated in our
17 meeting, all the locals that testified and made their
18 feelings known.

19
20 Again, I would like to thank Vince for
21 choosing Western Interior and remaining as our coordinator.
22 As I said we would probably have a hard time breaking in a
23 new coordinator. And I'd like to thank, again, the people
24 of Nulato for all the great food they've been putting
25 before us, and thank you for putting us up at their own
26 private homes.

27
28 One of the things that we did discuss, I
29 talked about -- I mean I talked with Vince before our
30 meeting, and that's travel, but I think there's not that
31 much we can do with the diversity of our Region 6, Western
32 Interior, that we have to travel any way we can to come to
33 our meetings. And I hope the minutes reflect that when we
34 invited Orville and Willie Goodwin, both of them showed up,
35 so I'd like to see that reflected in our minutes and a
36 letter sent out thanking them for participating.

37
38 That's about all I have right now. Thank
39 you all for, again, ably stating your concerns and really
40 doing something about it by your actions, your questions
41 and just by being here. Thank you all. Next item on the
42 agenda, future meeting plans. Vince.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, two things.
45 One, I believe the appointments have been signed off so the
46 three members wondering if they were reappointed, you have
47 been reappointed but I don't have the official letter in
48 front of me.

49
50 And also I've been lax in my duties, I

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1 promised I would but I forgot but I think we deserve to
2 recognize Henry Deacon had a very important day yesterday,
3 and I think Salena can pick this up on tape but maybe we
4 want to wish him a happy birthday yesterday, he kind of
5 kept that a little quiet. And if I understood it
6 correctly, I think this is the first time, Henry, that
7 you've not spent your birthday with your wife, so maybe we
8 should wish you a happy birthday.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Belated
11 Happy Birthday.

12
13 Happy Birthday to you
14 Happy Birthday to you
15 Happy Birthday dear Henry
16 Happy Birthday to you

17
18 (Applause)

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks for bringing that to
21 our attention there, Vince.

22
23 MR. DEACON: Thank you.

24
25 MR. STICKMAN: As far as the future meeting
26 plans, I'd still like to discuss adding an extra day for
27 the local subsistence people that we do represent to
28 express their concern and also for the added burden of the
29 fisheries projects, we should add an extra day to our
30 meeting this February.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Was that recorded?

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it is and I don't think
35 there'll be a problem if there's enough topics there. And
36 again, the way the agenda is put together is I draft it up
37 and share it with the Chair and at that time we can look
38 and see if three days is required or two or whatever. So
39 yes we can. And as far as fiscally, again, Don and I will
40 carry it forward but I don't see any reason why it wouldn't
41 be if there's enough subjects to cover it because of the
42 front end cost of getting everybody to a meeting, adding
43 another day is not that much. And let the record reflect I
44 know it is an increase in money but it's the flights in and
45 out.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to thank Micki for
48 that suggestion and we'll take a close look at it and try
49 to do that when we hold our meetings in the villages. Ida
50 and I did discuss this quite extensively during one of our

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1 breaks. And she ably stated to me that this an open forum
2 to gather testimony on subsistence and you all know me,
3 that I have a bad habit of trying to slam through the
4 agenda as fast as I can. Again, I would like to see that
5 Micki's comments were recorded and they will be reflected
6 in our minutes and probably discussed at our next meeting.
7

8 Thank you, Micki. Carl.
9

10 MR. MORGAN: Yes, I think it would be nice
11 to discuss it at our next meeting, when is the Court going
12 to make a decision on the Katie John, does anybody -- is it
13 December or does anybody know? You know, our wonderful
14 Governor filed a lawsuit and they're going to be making a
15 decision here soon.
16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I just have
18 rumors so I don't even want to share that because it's just
19 rumors. So you'll just have to stay tuned unless someone
20 else has some late-breaking news.
21

22 MR. HENRY: You can tell us, we wouldn't
23 tell anybody.
24

25 MR. STICKMAN: You can tell us the rumors.
26

27 MR. MATHEWS: No, it wouldn't be any good
28 because of the sensitivity. Rumor has it will come out in
29 December but, you know, around our office if you listen to
30 the rumors, the world ended yesterday. So it's on there,
31 it's on the court docket, we'll just have to see the
32 implications of it on fisheries, wildlife is still an open
33 question. So I don't think you're going out of business on
34 the wildlife part, it's an open question on the fish but
35 I'm not a lawyer so it will be interesting. So we'll keep
36 you informed of that and obviously the papers are going to
37 cover it very closely.
38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any suggestions for our next
40 meeting date and place?
41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I need to pass
43 out a calendar, it's an updated one to the one in your
44 book. The reason we're passing it out is just to, if at
45 all possible, to accommodate Staff, we try to avoid having
46 three meetings per week. For example, like Ida travels to
47 a high percentage of all the meetings. You know, if
48 several of them meet in one week, it's hard for her and
49 other staff to keep up and also the travel staff to pull
50 that off, but again, there's a window here, it shows you

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1 the ones that have been scheduled so far.

2

3 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

6

7 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. The reason
9 that overlapping meetings is a problem is some of the
10 Regional Councils in other areas share a coordinator as you
11 did with Vince, and not only your coordinator but the
12 staff, your biologist, your anthropologist going to another
13 meeting or are the Refuge people that you're inviting to
14 your meeting already at another meeting. So that's the
15 consideration.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida. I
18 understand, our Court Reporter has been traveling how many
19 weeks? Any preferences.

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, I would suggest
22 that our next meeting be in McGrath, we haven't had a
23 meeting in McGrath and the McGrath area has been having a
24 lot of wolf problems and moose population. I think it
25 would warrant going there to see what local people have to
26 say about user conflicts in that area with transporters.
27 So that would be my suggestion for the next meeting place.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have any dates in
30 mind that you prefer.

31

32 MR. REAKOFF: I see March 6th and 7th is an
33 open week on the schedule, that gets to be in the warmer
34 time and every week that goes by gets to be a little warmer
35 and I prefer to travel later in the winter when it's warmer
36 because you get into those colder weeks in the earlier --
37 you know, like the middle of February can be really cold up
38 north.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: March 6th and 7th at
41 McGrath. Samson.

42

43 MR. HENRY: Yes. Are we going to vote on
44 these, where we're going to be meeting or are these
45 suggestions?

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just suggestions.

48

49 MR. HENRY: Well, I'd like to have the
50 meeting in Fairbanks and have it at the end of February.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jeff.

2

3 MR. DENTON: The only thing I was going to
4 mention is March 5th and 6th might be in direct conflict
5 with the Iditarod, you'll have no place to stay.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks. I forgot about
8 that. Any further suggestions. We have another one, an
9 alternate at Fairbanks.

10

11 (Pause)

12

13 MR. JONES: Mr. Chair, you can call for a
14 roll call for the place and time.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, let's go right down
17 the list and see where there's suggestions. Samson you
18 want it Fairbanks and you want it what dates?

19

20 MR. HENRY: 22nd and 23rd would be fine.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, if you got your
23 calendar the North Slope is meeting the 20th and 21st, I
24 think the Staff probably wouldn't make it then. Fairbanks.

25

26 MR. HENRY: How about on weekends, can we
27 meet on the weekend?

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, weekends are a
32 possibility. The only thing substantial is the fact that
33 flights in and out, not into Fairbanks but in and out of
34 your villages are less, but weekends are available, at
35 least that's what it was last round. So, yes, they're
36 available.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't like weekends
39 either. Fairbanks, any date.

40

41 MR. HENRY: Fairbanks, any date would be
42 fine.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Angela.

45

46 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Well, if we do choose
47 McGrath, I'd like an invitation sent to the school so we'll
48 have attendance by the students. With McGrath, too, I also
49 serve on the School Board, so I might have -- we don't
50 schedule our meetings that far ahead and we usually meet in

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1 McGrath too, if it's the same time it'd be kind of hard to,
2 you know, schedule for -- but the second and third week of
3 March we could meet in McGrath if we're going to do McGrath
4 or a village. We don't usually meet towards the end of the
5 month. And like they said, the Iditarod does run through
6 that second week of March, Iditarod in McGrath and it's
7 real hard to get a place to stay over there because
8 everybody goes to Kuskokwim Bed and Breakfast in McGrath.
9 So I would choose Fairbanks even though I love to go back
10 to McGrath, you know, two or three times a month.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

13

14 MR. MORGAN: I'm open.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

17

18 MR. JONES: Yeah, I think I would go
19 Fairbanks. But another thing I want to advise you that the
20 Middle Yukon Advisory is going to have their meeting in
21 late February, hopefully, if the weather is -- and March --
22 mid-March would be okay for me before the Winter Carnival.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I'm like Carl, I'm
25 open. Jack.

26

27 MR. REAKOFF: McGrath was a suggestion, it
28 doesn't matter to me one way or another really. I mean if
29 people want to meet in Fairbanks that'd be fine with me. I
30 just felt that we haven't been down there for awhile. But
31 mid-March, you know, not seeing where the Carnivals and so
32 forth are, it would be -- sometime in mid-March would be
33 all right with me.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micki.

36

37 MR. STICKMAN: I would like to have it in
38 Fairbanks because maybe we could have our next fall meeting
39 in McGrath.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki, that
42 sounds good. Henry, do you have any preference?

43

44 MR. DEACON: I'd like to see it held in
45 McGrath, in the villages, because they have a lot of
46 concerns in the villages and I think that's pretty
47 important. I don't think the to stay where -- it's like
48 here, we stay with people, you know, there's nice people
49 over there, too. So I support McGrath.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Samson.

2

3 MR. HENRY: Yes, and somebody was talking
4 about that mid-March and then Fur Rondevous is in mid-
5 March.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, that's North American.
8 Where do we meet.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it sounds like -- well,
11 I think the North American is -- and I don't know if Jeff
12 mentioned it or somebody did, I think it's March 23rd and
13 24th, I think that's the North American.

14

15 MR. VENT: (Nodding affirmatively)

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Darryl Vent is shaking
18 his head so that's outside the window for meetings so it
19 doesn't conflict with the North American if you select the
20 week of the 5th through the week of the 12th in Fairbanks
21 or -- well, in Fairbanks. I'm not saying you need to go to
22 Fairbanks, I'm just saying that's how that fits.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Fairbanks, 6th and 7th. Any
25 conflicts or would that be too early for the North American?
26 Micki.

27

28 MR. STICKMAN: The only thing that I have
29 there is the Nulato Tribal Council is having their meeting
30 on the first Wednesday of every month and March 7th would
31 be the first Wednesday of March.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, another dates that you
34 would like.

35

36 MR. STICKMAN: I don't have any problems
37 with the second week.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Somewhere around 13th, 14th,
40 March 13 and 14, Fairbanks. Sam.

41

42 MR. HENRY: Yeah, there's TCC and Doyon
43 meetings someplace around there.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, then all the hotels
46 will be booked around there if we go too close to TCC.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Does anybody know the dates
49 of the Tanana Chiefs Convention?

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's usually the same week
2 of the North American Dog races.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: So you're saying it'd be the
5 19th, 20th, around in there?

6
7 MR. JONES: The TCC meeting starts on
8 Wednesday, the 14th, somewhere in that area, that calendar
9 week.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any objection to the 9th and
12 10th, Fairbanks, that is Friday and Saturday? March 9th
13 and 10th, Fairbanks, yeah, Vince.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: And it's clear everyone
16 understands if it could end up being a three day meeting,
17 which is what you guys are -- Henry's saying no.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: As long as it's not in the
20 village it can stay two, and if we do go to villages then
21 we'll probably request three and I think McGrath has
22 suggested for next fall, we'll probably need three days.
23 Is that fine with everyone?

24
25 MR. DEACON: I suggest evening meeting, any
26 comments from the public, you know, because everybody has
27 to work in the day, you know.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anyway, we'll review this
30 before the next meeting in the village. Because a lot of
31 people said that -- a lot of people, even a few of our
32 people requested evening sessions so I'll let them.

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: And then we can look at an
35 evening session, you're going to be real popular as you
36 move into fisheries so there may be a lot of Fairbanks
37 residents that would like to talk with you. So we'll see
38 how the agenda develops but you may need an evening session
39 in Fairbanks as well, and then in the village it's obvious
40 an additional day and we'll have to set up an evening
41 session if needed. So when you select that place we'll
42 talk to people and find out if an evening session is
43 needed.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: So March 9th and 10th.

46
47 MR. DEACON: If Fairbanks, then McGrath
48 would be next then, in the autumn.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: It looks like it.

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1 MR. DEACON: Okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments? You
4 still like McGrath next fall? Everybody's nodding so let's
5 look at that for the time being. Fairbanks 9th and 10th
6 for now, and we'll reaffirm at our Fairbanks meeting.
7 What's this, topics, issues and subjects?

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: That's the computer repeating
10 itself. It's just that if someone wanted to put something
11 specifically on that agenda. You guys have placed enough
12 on the agenda already but if someone wanted to say, well,
13 we need to discuss at the next meeting, this, this is an
14 opportunity for them to say that.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Angela.

17

18 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: I thought topics, issues,
19 and subjects just means a whole bunch of other things. But
20 since we don't have really much discussion on topics, the
21 only thing I'd like to say is for the record, I really
22 would like to thank our court reporter for sitting through
23 and listening to us, you know, for the last two days and
24 recording everything we said, even though we had a lot of
25 interference with the heat and stuff, thanks so much for
26 coming back again to us.

27

28 REPORTER: You're welcome. Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. And I'd also
31 like to thank Ida. This is her hometown, she's been using
32 her dad's trucks and using a lot of other trucks to haul us
33 around. Thank you, again, too, Ida.

34

35 Any further comments. The Chair will
36 entertain a motion to adjourn, it is now 5:15.

37

38 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion to adjourn.

39

40 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved by Micki and
43 seconded by Angela to adjourn. All those in favor of the
44 motion signify by saying aye.

45

46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

49

50 (No opposing votes)

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2
3
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CHAIRMAN SAM: We are adjourned.

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

* * * * *

