

1 WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
3 PUBLIC MEETING
4

5 VOLUME I
6

7 Anvik, Alaska
8 October 10, 2004
9 11:59 o'clock a.m.
10

11
12 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
13

14 Ronald Sam, Chair
15 Ray Collins
16 Benedict Jones
17 Tom Kriska
18 Carl Morgan
19 Emmitt Peters
20 Jack Reakoff
21 George Siavelis
22 Robert Walker
23
24 Regional Council Coordinator; Vince Mathews
25

26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45 RECORDED AND TRANSCRIBED BY:
46 COMPUTER MATRIX COURT REPORTERS, LLC
47 3522 West 27th Avenue
48 Anchorage, Alaska 99517
49 907-243-0668
50 jpk@gci.net

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anvik, Alaska - 10/10/2004)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SAM: It is now 11:59, we're half a day late so at this time I would like to call the meeting to order. I understand that food is on its way and it will be here at 12:30. So at this time I would like to turn the floor over to our host, Robert Walker, one of our Council members, do you have any announcements to make or anything.

MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome everybody here, welcome to Anvik. We're kind of like a day late here, but I guess better late than never. We're going to have leftovers today, that was scheduled for yesterday but I don't think nobody's going to complain about that. 12:30 they'll bring the dinner down, so I think, Mr. Chairman, we'll recess until after the lunch here. Again, like I say, welcome. People are going to have to realize that we're starting a day late and I did call Grayling to let them know so if anybody wanted to come down and testify later on, they could come down also.

Thank you, very much.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert. I would just like to get some things taken care of, roll call and all that small stuff until the food comes in. But before I call the meeting to order, I would like Benedict Jones, would you give us a little invocation.

MR. JONES: Thank you. Lord bless us for this meeting and guide us through the next two days, and I want to thank you for welcoming us here to Anvik for the subsistence meeting and for all the travel, a day late but you have guided us here. So God watch over us through the next two days of meetings and guide us through all the issues for our foods from the lands and from the river.

With that, I want to thank you God.

CHAIRMAN SAM: It is now 12:01. I would like to call the meeting to order and at this time I'll ask Vince to take a roll call to establish a quorum.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Robert
2 Walker.
3
4 MR. WALKER: Yes.
5
6 MR. MATHEWS: Emmitt Peters.
7
8 MR. PETERS: Here.
9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Tom Kriska.
11
12 MR. KRISKA: Here.
13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Micky Stickman called.
15 He's in Florida for a tribal conference, so he has an
16 excused absence. Ron Sam.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Here.
19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Ray Collins.
21
22 MR. COLLINS: Here.
23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff.
25
26 MR. REAKOFF: Here.
27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones.
29
30 MR. JONES: Here.
31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Carl Morgan.
33
34 MR. MORGAN: Here.
35
36 MR. MATHEWS: George Siavelis.
37
38 MR. SIAVELIS: Here.
39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you have nine
41 of the 10 members so you have a quorum.
42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mr. Mathews.
44 At this time I would like to have you introduce all our
45 guests and Staff.
46
47 Again, for the Staff present here I sure
48 appreciate all your efforts on our behalf, you're the
49 only Staff that we have so I really appreciate your
50 traveling with us. So at this time, Vince, could you

1 recognize everybody else.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Sure. For the record, we
4 have Dave Wiswar who's from the Fairbanks, Fish and
5 Wildlife Office. I forgot Dave's name, I apologize for
6 that, he's the partner biologist with KNA, so maybe he
7 could come up to the mic and give his name.

8

9 MR. ORGBUTT: It's David Orgbutt.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. He's one of your
12 partner biologists with the Kuskokwim Native Association.
13 We have Tracy Lingnau with the Alaska Department of Fish
14 and Game. Next to him is Fred Andersen with National
15 Park Service. Next to Fred is Polly Wheeler with the
16 Office of Subsistence Management Fisheries Information
17 Service. Next to her is Caroline Brown with Alaska
18 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence.
19 Then Rod Campbell who is your Board Liaison between the
20 Federal Subsistence Program and the Board of Fisheries.
21 And then Steve Lewis with the Fish and Wildlife Service,
22 Fish and Wildlife Office out of Fairbanks. And then Rich
23 Uberuaga is your fishery biologist on your team of OSM.
24 Tom Kron who is with OSM office here also. Dan LaPlant
25 is your liaison with OSM between the Board of Game. It's
26 important to remember these people when we move into that
27 arena, that's why I'm making sure you have that.

28

29 In front of him is Jeff Denton, the area
30 biologist for BLM for this area. Glenn Chen who is the
31 BIA InterAgency Staff Committee person. And then Salena
32 or Tina, you guys know her by both names, Hile, is your
33 court recorder. There are some other people we're
34 missing, I think, but anyways, when they come up to the
35 microphone they'll introduce themselves. And I'm Vince
36 Mathews, your coordinator.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

41

42 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 Vince, I believe there's some more at the school yet that
44 haven't come down yet and is there any more coming in
45 from Aniak?

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: There are more coming in
48 from Aniak?

49

50 MR. KRON: Robert Sundown is going to

1 come in from Aniak.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, that's right. I'm
4 sorry, that's why I was hesitating, no, there's no more
5 up at the school, we were just up there. Robert Sundown
6 is the Staff that's coming in from Yukon-Delta Refuge, he
7 was going to give a presentation on the post-season on
8 the Kuskokwim, so Robert Sundown from Yukon-Delta.

9

10 MR. KRON: Bill Schaff.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: And then Bill Schaff and
13 Clara Demientieff, I think, are coming in from Innoko.
14 We called them last night and told them to delay, so they
15 should be coming in.

16

17 MS. WHEELER: And John Burr and Dave
18 Anderson, too.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, wow, John Burr with the
21 Sportfish Division, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
22 And then Dave Anderson, with what's the name of his
23 company?

24

25 MS. WHEELER: Research North.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Research North. You all
28 know him as he worked for Fish and Game, but now he has
29 his own company as independent. And that's all of them.
30 So believe it or not that's a lot of people for this
31 meeting.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Vince.
34 Again, you all are more than welcome, I'm glad that you
35 are here and we do have a quorum. I just wanted to get
36 started so that we can go into business. As usual
37 tonight we will go into evening session and that is
38 mostly to listen to the local people, local concerns on
39 subsistence issues, and if there aren't too many, I do
40 not plan to stay until 10:00 or 11:00 like we did at
41 Huslia, that was too much. I took a look at the agenda,
42 and it seems like we should be finished tomorrow so we
43 should handle everything.

44

45 I just got a brief Chair's report. I've
46 been working nine to 10 hours a day, six days a week at
47 home on the new washeteria, mostly doing some dirt work,
48 so I haven't been doing much as far as the subsistence
49 issues are concerned. There was one major concern with
50 the Allakaket/Alatna region. We had low water, all kinds

1 of fires, and I did call Vince to request an extension
2 for the moose season within the Kanuti Controlled Use
3 area. That was granted right away through OSM, from the
4 Office of Subsistence Management, again, I would like to
5 thank all of you that helped me get that through, while
6 we got that extra week of hunting time, there was no
7 water -- still no water, it was hard to get out anywhere,
8 and there was only about two or three moose that was
9 harvested after -- even with that one week extension, so
10 it didn't hurt no herd, it didn't hurt the harvest, it
11 didn't increase the harvest, we're still well below our
12 harvest traditions. But, again, thank you for granting
13 us that opportunity.

14
15 I have been traveling for Western
16 Interior as much as I usually do. Again, I'd like to
17 thank Robert for pretty much taking over the Kuskokwim
18 moose issue, he sits on this Council, which addresses
19 moose concerns from this area. Again, I know how hard it
20 is to host our Advisory Council meetings, I would like to
21 thank Robert for inviting us here and setting everything
22 up.

23
24 Just for your information, I did talk
25 with the Chief of Allakaket before I came down here,
26 talked about setting up the March meeting, he told me
27 that we are more than welcome to have our next meeting in
28 Allakaket if that is the Council's request. All he needs
29 is about one or two month's advance notice and then he's
30 already beginning to work on setting it up. I told him
31 that it'd be March, the March meeting is one of our, as
32 far as Interior is concerned, one of our major meetings
33 because it deals mostly with game, and our moose is one
34 of our most important issues within the Interior.

35
36 That is just for your information, you
37 are more welcome to come to Allakaket.

38
39 Again, while I was working, Vince calls
40 me every so often with some issues that have to be dealt
41 with immediately, if not sooner, half the times I tell
42 him, hang up Vince, go call Jack Reakoff. I would like
43 to thank Jack Reakoff for filling in for me again because
44 he knows our area concerns in the Upper Middle Koyukuk
45 River.

46
47 Again, that's pretty much all I have in
48 my Chair's report. Vince.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I don't know

1 if you want to talk about it now or not, but did you get
2 the letter from the Alaska Board of Game on your
3 emergency order request because I do have copies of that
4 because you did put in an EO to extend that season by a
5 week on the State side.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: I did get a copy of it but
8 I didn't pay that much attention to it because we were
9 granted one week by the Federal system, and this was only
10 within the Kanuti Controlled Use area which met our
11 concerns and our needs. And just for your information,
12 too, because we got that one week extension and I was
13 working I had to take training so I lost that whole week
14 of extension taking training down at Anchorage, so that
15 didn't do my any good either, but that one week extension
16 is what we're all about, providing for subsistence
17 opportunities and subsistence harvest. And this is our
18 main job and our main purpose sitting on this Council.

19
20 That pretty much concludes, Vince, my
21 report.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Ron, I think what I'll do
24 is I'll pass out copies of that letter just so the other
25 Council members know the reasoning why the Board did not
26 -- the Board of Game did not grant, so you would have
27 that knowledge of that because I think it's going to
28 relate to some of your topics when you do talk about
29 moose in Unit 24.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I would like to go
32 ahead and have you pass out a copy to each Council
33 member. And, go ahead, just briefly cover it if you want
34 to, because like you said, it may have impact on some
35 other actions that we have or have to undertake.

36
37 (Pause)

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: I can't find it right now
40 but I know I brought it with me.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, that's fine, we can
43 do that later. But by this evening, maybe we should make
44 copies for everyone, that would be fine, Vince.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions. Like I
49 said, I'm just pretty much trying to pay off my bills.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: If there are no questions,
4 I will open the floor for Council member concerns and
5 topics, if you want to bring up anything else off the
6 agenda. So Benedict, do you have anything, we'll start
7 at that end.

8

9 MR. JONES: No, I don't have much
10 concern, but I'll report we did have a little hard time
11 getting our moose, but all the residents got their needs
12 for moose meat and the fish was really good this summer,
13 we had a lot of kings and fall chums and the coho is
14 still running right now.

15

16 My only concern about this winter, local
17 species of whitefish and pikes this year are 175 percent
18 down from last year due to the water drop so fast and the
19 leaves didn't fall until a couple of weeks ago and that
20 warns the whitefish and sheefish and pikes to get out of
21 the smaller streams and back into the main body of water,
22 so they didn't return to the main river. So that's why
23 the local species of fish -- I used to catch 200
24 whitefish a day at Bishop Mountain, but now I'm only
25 catching about 25 to 40 fish per day.

26

27 And that's all I have to report.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict.

32 Robert.

33

34 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We
35 have pretty much the same concerns that Benedict has, the
36 low water for moose hunting. A lot of people had to
37 compete in one area to hunt moose. The Anvik River was
38 so low here that nobody couldn't hardly get up there.

39

40 Another concern that was brought up to me
41 was we have Anvik River Lodge up there that drives 200
42 horsepower jet boats up there, and the water's so low in
43 between here and their camp is 90 miles, so they're
44 roughly running on 70 miles of spawning area. What is it
45 doing to the eggs that have been laid there? Is it
46 tearing up the gravel, is it tearing out the eggs? I
47 talked to the owner there, he said he talked to the State
48 biologist and they said that it was pretty much okay.
49 But, again, four years, five years down the road we will
50 find out.

1 That's all I had, thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert. Jack.

4

5 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 We had a hot summer. The moose were real high and people
7 got moose but we had to work real hard and hunt for a
8 longer periods of times to get moose but people got moose
9 where I live. And the dry summer and hot weather seemed
10 to affect where the moose were habitating.

11

12 I did go to the Area M meeting in April,
13 to the Federal Subsistence Board listening to all that
14 review of our petition to extend the extra-territorial
15 jurisdiction to curtail the Area M Fishery. What the
16 upshot was that there's not a lot of data about which
17 chum salmon are moving through there and it was very
18 apparent to me for an apportionment, a genetic
19 apportionment for the chum salmon that are passing
20 through in the False Pass fishery that are caught
21 incidental to the sockeye harvest. And so I would like
22 this Council to realize that there's some data lacks down
23 there about what chum salmon they are catching. They
24 anticipated 600,000 incidental harvest of chum salmon,
25 which is a lot of chum salmon, now, they only caught
26 400,000-something chum salmon, which is a lot of chum
27 salmon and I would like to know whose fish those are, and
28 I would like this Council to know that that was something
29 that I seen at that meeting. And that's a concern of
30 mine.

31

32 Otherwise I don't have anything else
33 right now.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Again,
36 thanks for stepping in for me whenever I step out. Do we
37 have anybody from Koyukuk/Nowitna coming or anything?

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, yes, that's who we're
40 missing. Geoff Beyersdorf, I didn't see him here, so he
41 must be.....

42

43 MR. KRON: They're coming on Frontier.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, they're coming on
46 Frontier in the afternoon, sorry, yes, Geoff will be here
47 later. And Orville Huntington is here.

48

49 REPORTER: And Patrick is with Geoff
50 also.

1 MR. MATHEWS: And Patrick Madros, yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: I think they're going to
6 start bringing in the food so I don't know how you want
7 to address that.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I'll just keep going
10 right now. But the reason I ask about Koyukuk/Nowitna,
11 is I got a bunch of phone calls back home from Huslia,
12 Koyukuk/Nowitna and the State enforcement people, they
13 were doing their job but they were really pushing people
14 around back home. If you were out on the river hunting
15 moose, they wanted your boat number, license and every
16 darn thing else there was. So there was quite a bit of
17 concern and complaints to me about this issue. They were
18 stopping people out in the middle of the river just
19 because they didn't have that registration number on
20 their boat, and that was one way that they were
21 curtailing hunting activities there, but I think again
22 they were doing it wrong. I think they should have
23 publicized well beforehand that they were going to do
24 this. So let me go on record saying that I would like to
25 sit down with them at some time during this meeting on
26 this issue.

27

28 Carl, you have anything.

29

30 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, thank you, Ron. And
31 good morning -- good afternoon, excuse me.

32

33 I think what everybody has said from
34 Benedict down to Ron, and I think you'll probably hear it
35 through most of the Council members, like everybody else
36 the big concern is no water, hot summer, dry, and moose
37 weren't coming out early enough, you know, first time in
38 30 or 40 -- or 30 years, that they're going down the --
39 there's a slough around Aniak, going down there and
40 hunting moose on a 4-wheeler where we used to go with a
41 boat, you know, during the summer. But like everybody
42 else we're very concerned about, well, the temperature's
43 changing. Not only that I hear it from the Interior, but
44 also, you know, I've got a statewide race that I do so I
45 go all the way down to Southeast, Metlakatla and Prince
46 of Wales, even those people down there were saying it's
47 an awfully warm, really low water in a country where
48 there's a lot of rain, low water and some of the fish
49 weren't making it up the streams to spawn, they were
50 dying out there because it was too low and the water was

1 too warm.

2

3 And I've got a concern like Benedict
4 about the whitefish, you know, our lakes are very low.
5 You know, I've heard -- my brother just went out last
6 week and he went out to what we call Whitefish Lake and
7 he said he caught whitefish but they weren't the big
8 broods, most of them were not very big.

9

10 And I've got a concern, watching this,
11 you know, like they had at the Huslia, in our meeting in
12 March in Huslia, a big issue about the Department and
13 U.S. Fish and Wildlife going after people for not cutting
14 off the horns and stuff, and I had to step in and do some
15 damage control, and I hope I don't run into it in 19(A)
16 because of our limited entry. We had a limited permit.
17 You needed to have a special permit to hunt moose in
18 19(A), and you had to get it from the area, you couldn't
19 apply by mail and I'm trying to get the word out that
20 they've got to mail that permit in, whether they caught a
21 moose or not, you know, I think is more important.
22 Handing in the permit, whether they caught a moose or
23 not, because it was only open to residents only, it
24 wasn't opened to guides, or big game hunters or
25 outfitters, it was just resident's only, and that
26 resident's only throughout the state. But, you know, you
27 had to physically come to the area, to 19(A) to pick up a
28 permit. It didn't cost anything, but you had to
29 physically go get it.

30

31 But that's one thing I'm trying to -- and
32 I think with KNA is probably going to work on trying to
33 get information out, please turn in your permit whether
34 you caught or not, and that's to get a better, accurate
35 count of how successful the moose hunt was.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. George.

40

41 MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
42 I would like to reiterate the same as other Council
43 members that we've heard so far about the low water and
44 warm weather.

45

46 Also another concern of mine I'm
47 concerned going into this winter and the next Legislative
48 session about the Big Game Commercial Services Board,
49 that will be in the Legislature. I'd like to see that
50 get more support from all over rural Alaska, it's a good

1 bill, it has the potential of reducing guides, reducing
2 outfitters, reducing non-resident hunters, non-local
3 hunters, and reduce conflict and impact with all
4 subsistence use. Last year it failed, it won in the
5 Senate -- it passed in the Senate unanimous, it never got
6 to the House floor for a vote because the House Resources
7 Committee wouldn't move it out of the committee. And I'm
8 just concerned of that, again, and I'd like to see
9 awareness throughout rural Alaska and more support.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, George. Ray.

14

15 MR. COLLINS: Yes. I was appointed by
16 this group to serve on the Kuskokwim Fish Management Team
17 representing our interests on there, and one of the
18 issues that came up last spring was because of the Area
19 M, the lower villages were reluctant to honor those
20 windows of the closures on subsistence, they wanted seven
21 day a week subsistence, but I was able to successfully
22 argue that there was a conservation issue because that
23 allowed fish to get upstream and it was protecting king
24 salmon, not the chums and so on that were intercepted in
25 Area M. But there is still concern and those things are
26 up next year, and, again, we just had a two day meeting
27 in Bethel and, again, I argued that for the up river
28 residents those windows help in letting slugs of fish
29 through, and I think that may be an issue on the Yukon as
30 well, that they maintain that, but it is restricting
31 subsistence users from seven days a week down at the
32 mouth. So that's going to come up.

33

34 One issue that came up down there was
35 they're issuing C&T findings there on the bill this time
36 for rainbow trout and so on and there's a concern that,
37 let's say, the example of Bethel, where you have 7,000
38 population now, all of those, as soon as they come to
39 Bethel, they're a subsistence user and when you give C&T
40 to a community like that you're giving it to everybody
41 whether they're new to the state or not and it could have
42 an impact on something like rainbow trout, which is a
43 fairly limited resource.

44

45 We had the same kind of issue come up in
46 our area 21(E) when we were looking at C&T on moose over
47 there because some villages down the river have hunted
48 moose for a long time but when you look at it was maybe
49 four or five people, and they're making C&T for the whole
50 village. And I suggested at that meeting and I would

1 suggest it again here that we may need to have a task
2 force to see what are our options under those C&T
3 findings, when we're not looking at individuals, we're
4 looking at whole communities and giving a whole
5 community a right when it may be just a few families that
6 really customarily and traditionally use that. It's not
7 a real problem right now but when you come to restrict
8 it, you've got to deal with a large population of a whole
9 village in the future, and we need to know what kind of
10 management options it's giving us when we find C&T on
11 whole communities that way.

12
13 And so it's coming up not just in the
14 moose, and I think it will come up on other resources if
15 they're in short supply when we're making C&T findings in
16 the future, and maybe we ought to be looking at it ahead
17 of time.

18
19 And, again, I argued that we keep the
20 windows next spring because, again, there is proposals in
21 there that would go seven days a week but in river those
22 windows give subsistence users up river a chance because
23 their fish are fished all the way up the river and by
24 having closures they let some slugs of fish through.

25
26 So that's my concerns and interests that
27 I've been dealing with this summer.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. And thank
32 you for putting that on record as a concern. You know
33 that we wasted a day and a half down at Wasilla
34 addressing this granting of C&T to the entire villages
35 when only two or three people actually use it. We wasted
36 a day and a half but we got our point through and I think
37 that we pretty much -- while we didn't win the issue we
38 got an understanding between two Regional Councils and
39 made the third Council understand that we are concerned
40 about granting C&T determinations to entire villages
41 while only two or three people are actually Federally-
42 subsistence qualified people.

43
44 Again, thank you for bringing up that
45 issue and putting that on record as a concern.

46
47 Emmitt Peters.

48
49 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
50 have a couple of concerns that I want to talk about

1 because my people in Ruby want me to make sure that the
2 Staff members and all the people understand their
3 feelings about the moose kill and the Yuki River.

4
5 There was no checkpoint there, there was
6 no one there to check the hunters out and there was
7 witness of two or three moose kill, spotted in different
8 areas up the river there. They left the neck and ribs
9 and the back bone and the rump, and the moose head. They
10 just took the horns and the hindquarters. But I just
11 want to know how come we didn't have any people -- they
12 want to know how come we don't have a check station there
13 and check them out. We had some people that come from
14 Fairbanks, high powered jet unit boat going up the Yuki
15 River as far as they can go. And then they had the
16 airplanes coming in and flying their gas in and landing
17 at the lake and I happened to be at that lake waiting for
18 a moose because I see a lot of sign -- you know, moose
19 signs, and I figured he'll be coming out sooner or later
20 and here comes the plane, and he was surprised to see me
21 come out of the brush and he was just going to unload the
22 plane with gas, I should have stayed a little longer and
23 waited and took all the gas.

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 MR. PETERS: But then he took off again.

28
29 But anyway there's another issue here
30 this guy, Native local people, the Native hunter he went
31 up to Novi and he was camping out in the evening and
32 heard a bunch of racket across the Yuki River and here
33 the moose was coming towards him, I mean towards where
34 the camp was and slowly coming out and he saw this big
35 bull and he was going to wait, you know, until it came a
36 little closer, get a good shot at him and just when he
37 let the trigger go, and that doggone cow ran in front of
38 the moose and he accidentally shot the cow. So then he
39 turned the -- went down to the check station down at the
40 mouth of the Yuki and he told these guys, well, I
41 accidentally shot a cow, I want to turn myself in, which
42 he did, was very nice of him, and then the guy turned
43 around -- and the judge, I don't know where he got
44 arraigned at, I think he went to trial in Galena, I
45 think, and they fined him a thousand dollars plus a
46 thousand hours of community service, and I thought that
47 was pretty stiff, you know, especially when he turned
48 himself in. They should have at least given him a
49 warning and maybe \$100 fine, but not a thousand dollars.
50 And they took all his meat and I think that was wrong,

1 and I think we better check into that.

2

3 And as far as the fish is concerned, it
4 was a very good run of salmon this year, real -- we got
5 all that we could handle.

6

7 And that's about all I want to bring up
8 but I just want to make sure that we would have to have a
9 check station down at Yuki.

10

11 Thank you, Ron.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Emmitt. You
14 are on record and your concern is recorded so we'll deal
15 with all of our issues, again, at the end of this
16 meeting. I think that we will find ways to deal with
17 these issues.

18

19 Tom.

20

21 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, Tom Kriska here.
22 Anyway, I have some other concerns going back with some
23 of these guys about, I don't know if I should call it
24 harassment or something like that. I have a lot of
25 people always calling me, I mean everywhere I go, I do a
26 lot of traveling, all these villages and a lot of these
27 older people, I mean they're like helpless, I mean not
28 helpless but, you know, they're old and just barely --
29 they're still out there trying to do stuff for themselves
30 and they get, like Ron was stating there, they get
31 stopped and everything, they get these charges and all of
32 this stuff and it kind of upsets me there because they're
33 out there trying, they don't really have a lot of money,
34 I mean probably barely enough money to go out and set a
35 fish net and go hunting and all of this stuff and then by
36 the time they're done doing something like this, somebody
37 might have stopped in there and did some checking in on
38 them and they don't have this, they don't have that and
39 by the time they get home and a couple days down the road
40 then they got all kinds of sightings against them. And
41 it's not only in Huslia and other places, it's all over
42 the Yukon. It kind of gets me pissed me off there a
43 little bit.

44

45 And like Emmitt is saying there, there's
46 moose that are down with no hindquarters, no front
47 quarters, the horns are off, that happened in the Koyukuk
48 River right below the check station there and they got
49 away with that and there's boats coming from the
50 Fairbanks area all over the place and there are strange

1 things happening. And the people from our homes are the
2 ones that look bad about it. I mean I know they won't do
3 it because they're having a hard time getting meat, but
4 this stuff is still going on.
5

6 And then there's other parts where the
7 water was so low this year I don't know how they could
8 ever regulate those jet boats going up these spawning
9 streams late in -- I mean this year it could have been
10 any time of the year because of the low water and what
11 they're doing, you know, in the spawning streams, the big
12 boats go up there, a lot of big boats and going up there
13 and don't realize -- I don't know if they don't realize
14 what's happening but then they're disturbing a lot of the
15 eggs on the bottom. I mean if you ever imagine the
16 thrust of a jet boat going up the stream and what it's
17 kicking up and -- I mean just coming here today, the guy
18 I'm staying with, concerned about the spawning eggs,
19 seeing those floating along the beach, I mean just eggs
20 along the beach right now, I mean during the hunting
21 season, thousands and whatever eggs, I mean just lying on
22 the beach with all those eggs from all these jet boats;
23 that's a big concern of mine.
24

25 What else did I have -- I had a lot of
26 other things that I think will probably coming up in this
27 meeting here and you'll be hearing from me a little more
28 during the meeting here. But anyway, those are some of
29 my concerns.
30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tommy. Again,
32 just like to address that issue of harassment it's
33 happening to blatantly, there should be some tack and
34 discrepancy in handling personal matters or just meeting
35 people on river, just a little courtesy would go a longer
36 way than just outright harassment in stopping people.
37

38 So with that I would, again, like to go
39 on record to thank Anvik, the city of Anvik, the village
40 of Anvik for hosting our Western Interior meeting. And
41 as you can see lunch is here so at this time we'll take
42 -- how long, Vince?
43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, for all the people
45 here our policy has been when, you know, a community
46 turns out meals like this and plus the school doing it, I
47 haven't had a chance to go find a coffee can, but
48 there'll be a coffee can somewhere over where the food is
49 and if you could help contribute to that, and then I'll
50 talk to Robert's wife to see where that donation will go,

1 but there will be a coffee can put out so we can
2 contribute to the community for the meals.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. How much time
7 do we need to eat, what, a half hour.

8
9 MR. COLLINS: Vince, do you have a
10 suggested contribution, what should we make to cover this
11 meal, do you know?

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Geez, my wife usually
14 answers those questions.

15
16 (Laughter)

17
18 MR. WALKER: Call her up.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Five, eight dollars, I
23 don't know, something -- because what I understand and
24 Robert can correct me, the school is doing most of these
25 meals, the students are doing it as part of training and
26 education so this is a win-win across the board, because
27 we do want students to learn about these meetings so they
28 can be better prepared to become Council members or for
29 whatever Advisory group. So anyway, five to \$8 or
30 something like that. I'm not good at estimating that, I
31 did negotiate the meal for the last day, that price is \$8
32 to \$10, but on this, I don't know.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks for bringing
35 that to our attention because I think that any time that
36 you can get students involved in any local concerns and
37 issues, it's more than a valid and incentive to have them
38 learn and partake more in community issues, so remember
39 that when you give your donation.

40
41 Again, if there are no further issues,
42 I'd like to recess until 1:15.

43
44 (Off record)

45
46 (On record)

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: The time is now 1:27 and
49 I'm going to call the meeting back to order.

50

1 The next item on the agenda is review and
2 adoption of the agenda. At this time the Chair will
3 entertain a motion to adopt the agenda.

4
5 MR. WALKER: I'll move, Mr. Chairman.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

8
9 MR. MORGAN: Second.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Carl Morgan
12 for the record.

13
14 Vince.

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'll
17 try to walk you through this as much as I can. There
18 have been some requests for some additions to your
19 agenda. Emmitt has already laid out that he would like
20 to, during the wildlife topics, talk about concerns from
21 the Ruby area on the moose season so that should fall
22 underneath the call for proposals for 2005/2006. There's
23 also been a request and I haven't had a chance to talk to
24 you about the Refuge, this would be the Kanuti Refuge,
25 would like to know if the Council would like to look into
26 a proposal on the moose seasons, the complexity in that
27 area of the Kanuti. So that may be something you want to
28 talk about.

29
30 The State has provided me preliminary
31 materials on the GASH area moose planning. I think that
32 would fall underneath the agency report for Fish and
33 Game. They're not going to make it, Randy is not going
34 to be here.

35
36 Last week I got a request from the
37 Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, if I
38 got it right, and we'll hand this out or you can get it
39 beforehand, they were going to send Staff here to give
40 you guys some background on the EIS, if that's the right
41 term for the proposed road from Holy Cross to Crooked
42 Creek. They will not be here but their booklet is here
43 and we can collect comments from you guys on that. So
44 that's another thing.

45
46 And I think that's all I have unless
47 Staff has some other additions or clarifications to the
48 agenda.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, we've always been
4 pretty flexible on the agenda and on our topics and we
5 recognize that at times our people leave early so we do
6 move them up on the agenda.

7

8

Vince.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: I forgot to mention to you,
11 tomorrow's meeting, which Robert probably needs to know
12 about and others from this area will be teleconferenced,
13 so if communities in the area want to participate by
14 teleconference, we do have a teleconference set up for
15 tomorrow, so we'll be setting up a phone somewhere around
16 here because Staff that weren't able to make the meeting
17 are going to be listening in tomorrow. So if others know
18 of the teleconference, it's an 800 number they would
19 call, that's not a problem. So tomorrow we'll be setting
20 up a teleconference.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions on
23 the agenda.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: We do have a motion on the
28 floor to adopt the agenda as presented, and, again I
29 would note that we are flexible on meeting all the needs
30 that we may have to address.

31

32 Robert Walker moved and Carl Morgan
33 seconded. All those in favor of the motion signify by
34 saying aye.

35

36

IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38

CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

39

40

(No opposing votes)

41

42

CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

43

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings
46 us up to the approval of the minutes from the Huslia
47 meeting, they're found on Page 3 and they were sent to
48 you earlier so I'm not going to cover those. You can
49 decide to look at them on your own and look at them from
50 there.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, these minutes are
2 rather lengthy because we did have a compressed time to
3 meet and we had two pretty late evening sessions on up to
4 11:00 o'clock so at this time the Chair will entertain a
5 motion to approve the minutes as presented.

6

7 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

10

11 MR. MORGAN: I'd like to make a motion to
12 approve the minutes of March 9 through 11th, 2004 meeting
13 in Huslia.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

16

17 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Jack Reakoff.

20 I'll give you about two or three minutes to read it on

21 your own, if you would.

22

23 (Pause)

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: We do have a motion on the

26 floor, seconded by Jack Reakoff to approve the minutes.

27 Any questions or discussion, corrections, changes to the

28 minutes.

29

30 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

33

34 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

35 Page 11 here, the paragraph just before four, discussion,

36 Collins asked when the regional workshop would be held,

37 Wheeler responded in November 2004, Wheeler, is there

38 only one Wheeler we have?

39

40 MS. WHEELER: Come on Robert.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MR. WALKER: Well, Mr. Chairman, it

45 should have been -- Polly's first name should have been

46 there.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

49

50 MR. WALKER: Because if somebody else

1 read it, you know, they needed to understand who is
2 Wheeler.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that noted on the
7 record, Tina.

8
9 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further changes,
12 discussion.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further changes,
17 corrections.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions on
22 the minutes.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not -- go ahead,
27 Robert.

28
29 MR. WALKER: Question.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called
32 for. All those in favor of adopting the minutes as
33 presented or corrected signify by saying aye.

34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

38
39 (No opposing votes)

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Vince.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings
44 us up to the proposals and let's review the procedure we
45 do, and, again, we're not doing this procedure to make it
46 difficult, we're doing this to create a record. So the
47 way we've done it in the past is I'll introduce the
48 proposal and who is presenting the analysis. That will
49 be followed by Alaska Department of Fish and Game
50 comments, and that will be followed by any other Federal,

1 State or Tribal agency comments. And then Glenn Chen who
2 is from the Staff Committee will present comments if they
3 have comments on the proposals. And then if there's
4 representatives of the Fish and Game Committee and then
5 I'll present the written public comments and then the mic
6 is open for public testimony and then you deliberate
7 about them.

8

9 I'll try to keep you on track, it just
10 creates a clean record that's listed on the bottom of
11 Page i, if you're wondering. I do have a little handout
12 if you want to remind you of those steps.

13

14 The other thing is is we now are ramping
15 up, which worked out very well in Eastern Interior,
16 there's a Staff person assigned in the audience, it
17 happens to be Tom Kron, he's going to record what is
18 called the actions of the Councils and then he's going to
19 share that back with the Chair to get concurrence that
20 that's what happened, so when we leave the meeting we
21 know exactly and you know exactly what everyone -- well,
22 what action you took on the Council, by the Council and
23 your justification. So I'll be reading the ones from
24 Eastern Interior that Tom worked on as well as Gerald
25 Nicholia worked on explaining their positions.

26

27 So just so you know, it's nothing
28 different than before, it's just that we're now going to
29 get those two you during the meeting. Tom will come up
30 to the Chair and ask for your initial on them, that he
31 and others had captured it right.

32

33 And finally, some of the Staff we talked
34 about earlier arrived, so for the record, Dave Andersen
35 is here from Research North, if I got that right, and
36 Geoff Beyersdorf is here from Koyukuk/Nowitna and Tim
37 Craig is here from Bureau of Land Management. And for,
38 Geoff, there was quite a bit of issues on.....

39

40 MR. BEYERSDORF: Patrick.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, I introduced Patrick
43 earlier, but Patrick Madros is here.

44

45 Anyways, Geoff, there was quite a bit of
46 discussion about the Nowitna, so you'll need to meet with
47 Emmitt to go over some of the concerns when they start
48 moving along.

49

50 And that's all that I know of -- oh,

1 someone else, oh, there is some, John Trepper.
2
3 MR. BURR: John Burr.
4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Trepper.
6
7 MR. BURR: John Burr.
8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, John, he's got a beard,
10 sorry.
11
12 (Laughter)
13
14 MR. MATHEWS: John Burr, we had
15 introduced earlier but was not present is with Sportfish
16 Division. Anyone else just for the record.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Innoko Refuge, Clara
19 Demientieff.
20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, Clara's here now too,
22 and then Bill Schaff is here, the Refuge Manager, and
23 Pilot Paul.
24
25 That makes the record clear, and when you
26 do come to the mic, please introduce yourself and please
27 sign in on the sign in sheet that will be by the front
28 door, once we get back away from lunch, but there is a
29 sign in sheet for everyone. That helps with the
30 administrative record for the meeting, not only -- that's
31 the reason why we have it. So that will be available
32 there.
33
34 That's all, Mr. Chair.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, proposals start on
37 Page 20, right; is that right, and we would just go right
38 in order?
39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, unless
41 you want to change them, but they do start on Page 20.
42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, do you have that
44 little handout on those procedures?
45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.
47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would like -- I know the
49 Council has one but if you got them handy I would like to
50 have it right in front of us all the way through these

1 proposals.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, we're looking for it.

4

5 (Pause)

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: I did forget another step
8 and that's just because I did. We did it at the last
9 meeting during your training session, we need to have an
10 ethics disclosure before we get into the proposals so I
11 will pass that around, you did it last time and I think
12 it was green the last time too. On the back side it has
13 a series of numbers and it says my name is and I live in
14 X community. Most of you would use the first one and I
15 know George and Tom would use a different one. This is
16 where you declare if there's any financial interests that
17 might benefit from your participation in this meeting.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have to go through
20 this every time?

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: No, we do it once and then
23 just -- just once before we do the proposals.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just once every meeting,
26 that's what I mean?

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Once at every meeting.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, I see Jeff, could
35 you help us out on the reasoning behind that -- give us a
36 reasoning behind that, please, or whoever.....

37

38 MR. DENTON: Yeah, I think Vince would be
39 the best one to cover it but all the other regional
40 meetings I've been to, this is the standard protocol for
41 all the meetings, you go through it at each meeting.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks, Jeff.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, what it is --
46 sorry to be bouncing around, we need to get it on the
47 record so you can start off with Benedict or whoever and
48 they would read into the record which one portrays, you
49 don't need to sign anything, this is not anything like
50 that, it just needs to be read into the record so all

1 those in the audience understands you've disclosed any
2 financial that might deter you from participating in the
3 process.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Vince, if this
6 is necessary I guess we'll have to get it done.

7

8 My name is Ron Sam, I live in Alatna. I
9 subsistence hunt and fish in the areas under
10 consideration at this meeting. I do not hold any
11 commercial permits or conduct any business activities
12 directly affected by any agenda items before the Council.

13

14 MR. MORGAN: My name is Carl Morgan and I
15 live in Aniak. I subsistence hunt, fish and trap in the
16 areas under consideration at this meeting. I do not hold
17 any commercial permits or conduct any business activities
18 directly affected by any agenda items before the Council.

19

20 MR. SIAVELIS: My name is George
21 Siavelis, I live in Aniak. I subsistence hunt and fish
22 in the areas under consideration at this meeting. I do
23 hold a guide license and operate a guide business, but
24 I've reviewed the proposals and I do not believe I have
25 any conflicts of interest on any of the proposals before
26 us today.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MR. COLLINS: My name is Ray Collins, I
31 live in McGrath. I subsistence hunt and fish in the
32 areas under consideration at this meeting. I do not hold
33 any commercial permits or conduct any business activities
34 directly affected by any agenda items before the Council.

35

36 MR. PETERS: My name is Emmitt Peters, I
37 live in Ruby. I subsistence hunt, fish and trap in the
38 areas under consideration at this meeting. I do not hold
39 any commercial permit or conduct any business activities
40 directly affected by any agenda items before the Council.

41

42 MR. KRISKA: My name is Tommy Kriska.....

43

44 REPORTER: Tommy.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mic please.

47

48 MR. KRISKA: I live in Koyukuk. I
49 subsistence hunt, fish and trap in the areas under
50 consideration. I hold a commercial permit for

1 transporting, guiding and stuff, but do not in any of the
2 areas that are under consideration of this meeting.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Benedict.

5

6 MR. JONES: Yeah, my name is Benedict
7 Jones. I live in Koyukuk. I subsistence hunt, fish and
8 trap in the area under consideration at this meeting. I
9 do not hold any commercial permit or conduct any
10 business activities directly affected by any agenda items
11 before the Council.

12

13 MR. WALKER: My name is Robert Walker, I
14 live in Anvik. I subsistence hunt, fish and trap in the
15 area under consideration at this meeting. I also hold a
16 commercial permit, limited entry but not in any of the
17 areas under consideration at this meeting.

18

19 MR. REAKOFF: My name is Jack Reakoff, I
20 live in Wiseman, Alaska. I subsistence hunt, fish and
21 trap in the area under consideration at this meeting, I
22 also hold a commercial fishery permit but not in any of
23 the areas under consideration at this meeting.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, based
26 on our analysis of the proposals, all the members that
27 have just given their disclaimer do not have a
28 significant financial interest directly related to the
29 matters before the Council at this meeting and may fully
30 participate.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. For the
35 Council members, consideration or direction right on the
36 bottom of our first page of our agenda it's a
37 presentation procedure for proposals, so we'll follow
38 that guideline. At this time how do you want to do it,
39 just turn it over for introduction of the proposal.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Sure, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: I'll introduce the
46 proposal. Proposal 2 is found on Page 20, it was
47 submitted by the Association of Village Council
48 Presidents and seven Regional tribal Councils. Basically
49 it is to relax or lift the fishing schedule when the runs
50 permit irrespective of commercial opportunities. And

1 Rich Uberuaga will be presenting the proposal.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

MR. UBERUAGA: Thank you, Vince. Mr.
6 Chair. Members of the Council. First I'd like to say
7 it's really cool to be here, we made it and I'm glad to
8 be here, I've never been in this part of the country and
9 it was absolutely beautiful flying in here and I wish I
10 would have had my camera out. I'll get right to it.
11 Briefly, I'm going to make a brief presentation on the
12 proposal analysis for you today.

13

14 Proposal 2 is on Page 20, as Vince said,
15 and it was submitted by the Association of Village
16 Council Presidents and seven regional tribal Councils.

17

18 The proposal requests that the decision
19 to lift the subsistence windowed fishing schedule not be
20 linked to any consideration of a commercial fishery.

21

22 As you all know the windowed subsistence
23 fishing schedule was put in place by the Alaska Board of
24 Fisheries in 2001.....

25

26 Yes, Ron.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mr. Uberuaga.
29 Before we go any further, the Chair will entertain a
30 motion to adopt Proposal FP05-02.

31

32 MR. WALKER: So moved, Mr. Chairman.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

35

36 MR. PETERS: I second it.

37

38 MR. KRISKA: Second.

39

40 MR. MORGAN: Second.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Second, okay, Tom and Carl
43 and Emmitt.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, sorry for that
48 interruption, I just wanted to get it on the floor for
49 consideration. Go ahead.

50

1 MR. UBERUAGA: Okay. The windowed
2 subsistence schedule began in 2001 with stipulations that
3 the schedule would be relaxed if there were sufficient
4 numbers of fish to allow for a commercial fishery.

5
6 The windowed subsistence fishing schedule
7 has helped provide escapement and river wide subsistence
8 fishing opportunities, however, the linkage of the
9 windowed subsistence fishing schedule to the commercial
10 fishery has been a stumbling block since 2001, in that,
11 it has irritated several groups.

12
13 Management of the fishery is an
14 incremental process. There is little or no need to
15 directly link relaxing the windowed subsistence fishing
16 schedule to the consideration of prosecuting a commercial
17 fisheries.

18
19 The Staff's preliminary conclusion is to
20 support this proposal with modification. And the
21 modifications are for simplification of the language.
22 The proposed modification provides simple and
23 straightforward wording to accomplish the intent of the
24 proposal. The windowed fishing schedule would be removed
25 when there is an assessment that the salmon run strength
26 is sufficient to meet escapement objectives, subsistence
27 and subsistence uses and the US/Canada border passage
28 commitments.

29
30 We look forward to entertaining your
31 comments on this proposal and thank you, Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is it time to question or
34 just keep on going through the procedures.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Now you would ask if Alaska
37 Department of Fish and Game has any comments on this
38 proposal and I think, Mr. Chair, to save time, if it's
39 okay with Tracy, he would just kind of stay up at the
40 table with Rich as this works along.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

43
44 MR. LINGNAU: Mr. Chair, for the record,
45 Tracy Lingnau, and I'll be providing comments from the
46 State of Alaska on the Federal proposals. But before I
47 start, we do have a hand out that I would like to
48 distribute and that way you have in front of you, the
49 State comments and all I'm going to do is just summarize
50 those comments but you'll have the text in front of you.

1 (Pause)

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, on those
4 comments, these are the same comments that were
5 submitted, I believe, at Eastern Interior, right, Tracy.

6

7 MR. LINGNAU: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Mathews,
8 that's mostly correct. There has been some editing. The
9 other thing, I guess, I would like to add is essentially
10 this is kind of work in progress, depending on the
11 comments we hear from the various Councils and also from
12 our Staff in Juneau and Anchorage.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: So I think with that --
15 sorry, Mr. Chair, I think Tracy then would start
16 summarizing the comments. And, again, like your normal
17 meeting, you know, you talk about these things. Once you
18 get a rhythm this will smooth out.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Tracy.

21

22 MR. LINGNAU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On
23 Proposal 05-02 the first thing I'd like to point out is
24 at the bottom of Page 23 on the Federal proposal, at the
25 bottom of the page, under the relevant State regulations,
26 the citation of 5 AAC 01.210, that should include a (c)
27 through (h), that's the critical part that allows the
28 Department to relax the schedule. So that's actually
29 part of the language that lets us get off the schedule.

30

31 As far as comments, the State management
32 regulations are already in place to relax the subsistence
33 salmon fishing schedule if the run strength is strong
34 enough to do so and this proposed regulation is not
35 necessary. Relaxing the schedule is not directly related
36 to commercial fishing as several districts and
37 subdistricts have had not had commercial opportunity in
38 2003 and 2004 but the schedule was relaxed to the pre-
39 2001 subsistence salmon fishing schedule throughout the
40 drainage.

41

42 Fishers understand that the schedule will
43 be relaxed when the in-season run strength is strong
44 enough to do so and that the schedule is relaxed
45 chronologically up river as it was implemented. This
46 proposed wording would not change management actions,
47 however, having different State and Federal regulations
48 may lead to confusion.

49

50 Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tracy.
2 Federal, State.
3
4 MR. MATHEWS: This would be a time if any
5 other Federal agencies or State or tribal agencies have
6 any comments.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know if the Park
11 Service or other branches of Fish and Game have any
12 comments.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seeing none, other
17 agencies.
18
19 REPORTER: Ron. Ron. Your microphone.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right, seeing none
22 InterAgency Staff, I believe Glenn Chen or who?
23
24 MR. CHEN: We don't have any.
25
26 MR. MATHEWS: The Staff Committee doesn't
27 have any comments on this particular proposal.
28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Fish and Game Advisory
30 Committee comments.
31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I haven't
33 received any. We do need to share with you what Eastern
34 Interior did, this may be the spot to do that.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.
37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, the
39 Eastern Interior met last week in Eagle and took up
40 Proposal 02 and they unanimously opposed the proposal.
41 Their justification was this proposal would not make the
42 Federal in-season manager's job any easier. There is not
43 support for doing anything that might lead to weakening
44 of the windowed subsistence fishing schedule. The
45 windowed subsistence fishing schedule is critical to
46 providing river-wide escapement and subsistence. This
47 proposal would cause Federal and State recommendations to
48 be different and cause disruption. Quality escapement
49 lets big fish up river.
50

1 So Eastern Interior, again, opposed
2 Proposal 02.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Summary of written public
5 comment.

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, one
8 gentleman did provide comments on Proposal 02 and most of
9 the other proposals in front of you, that's Mike Moses of
10 Mountain Village, and I do have copies of his full letter
11 if you'd like to see it, this is a summary.

12
13 He supports this proposal. This proposal
14 needs special attention to ensure that subsistence users
15 on the Yukon River are no longer listening for further
16 instructions from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
17 We try to cry out in a sovereign tone of voice to State
18 managers not listening to Alaska Natives. He proposed
19 that this proposal be passed before finding ourselves
20 with a large rebellious crowd.

21
22 And again, the full text of his letter is
23 available here if you'd like to see that. That's the
24 only written comments that I'm aware of.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Public
27 testimony.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seeing none, Regional
32 Council deliberation, comments, questions.

33
34 Benedict Jones.

35
36 MR. JONES: Yeah, this is Benedict Jones.
37 I do like to have the windows scheduling in place every
38 year because it seems like it's increasing our fishing
39 -- subsistence fishing further up the Yukon River, all
40 the way to Testlin Lake, so our fish are improving by
41 keeping the windows schedule in place for more salmon
42 escapement.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. Any
45 further comments.

46
47 Jack.

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: I also feel that the
50 windows allow a distribution of conservation measures

1 throughout the subsistence users. Allowing unlimited
2 harvest at the lower end of the river, if the run is
3 short, the up river users come out bearing the brunt of
4 the conservation so I also feel that the windowed
5 approach is the best at this time for subsistence
6 harvest.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Any
9 further comments. Ray.

10
11 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'll be commenting on
12 the Kuskokwim one, but I think it may apply there too.
13 On the Kuskokwim they found that the earliest fish in the
14 river are usually those going the furthest, so that the
15 ones heading for the head of the Kuskokwim, at least, are
16 the first in the river, I'm wondering if that's true if
17 the Canadian fish are the first in. And without a
18 window, that means that you're hitting hardest -- because
19 everybody's out there for those first fish, they're rich,
20 they're bigger and so on and if there isn't a window,
21 you're hitting that run harder than some of the later
22 ones that aren't traveling as far, so it's not
23 distributing the catch throughout the run, it's
24 concentrating first on those big fish that are going the
25 furthest in the river. And I think that's a good point
26 to make.

27
28 I like the idea of not linking it with
29 subsistence and that's what the proposal does, but will
30 it keep windows in place, because I think there is strong
31 reason to keep windows in place and we should state what
32 that is.

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

36
37 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
38 I'm going to have to support the windows here because if
39 we do take the windows out now and then we do have to go
40 back to the windows in the future, I'm afraid that
41 they're going to be probably smaller than what they are
42 now. So I guess I'd like to go with the windows.

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

45
46 MR. REAKOFF: I got a question for Rich.
47 Is it a matter of language with the Federal regulation as
48 to aligning with the State? Is the Federal language now
49 at discrepancy with the current Board of Fish
50 interpretation of the window elimination?

1 MR. UBERUAGA: Thank you, Mr. Reakoff.
2 Yeah, I believe that's correct. This has little to do
3 with whether or not there will be a windows put into
4 place but rather simply the language that is used. This
5 proposal is mostly symbolic in nature and does not change
6 the authority of the in-season managers to recommend
7 windows or not recommend windows.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Kron, I will recognize
10 you.

11
12 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, I guess for
13 clarification here, the proposal does not take away the
14 windowed schedule, the windowed schedule would still be
15 in place. The proposal addresses a situation where
16 you've got a good run of fish and it's clear that there's
17 going to be plenty for subsistence, plenty for
18 escapement, in that kind of situation it would basically
19 make it clear that the Federal manager then could open
20 things up and say okay we don't need the schedules
21 anymore, there's plenty for escapement, there's plenty
22 for subsistence, there's no problem with border passage.
23 The concern has been that there's been a linkage with
24 having a commercial fishery before you could make that
25 decision to start opening things up in a big run.

26
27 But, again, this does not take away the
28 windowed schedule which again people have supported
29 because it's good for subsistence, good for escapement.
30 All this addresses is a situation where you've got a big
31 run, the managers feel there's going to be plenty for
32 escapement and subsistence and then at that point
33 essentially they could open up the subsistence fishery,
34 wouldn't have to be looking at the commercial connection
35 at all.

36
37 So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tom. Thanks
40 for that clarification but I intend to go against this
41 proposal anyway because of the concerns already shared.
42 As Mr. Collins stated, the first big run is the one that
43 people want to target, but that's the first run is the
44 one that goes the farthest, we noticed that up the
45 Koyukuk because we get them last from all the people
46 around here.

47
48 Any further discussion. Ray.

49
50 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair, I'm wondering if

1 we could support the modification of this. I like the
2 idea of taking that link from commercial out of there, I
3 don't have a problem with that, as long as we're sure
4 that they keep a window in place, you see what I mean, or
5 should there be kept a link?

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Personally I think that
8 there should always be a link, because you can't have one
9 without the other or vice versa. And I think that we
10 have enough power invested in our in-season managers
11 already, so I don't think that this proposal is really
12 needed because these in-season managers are already
13 meeting or trying to meet all the needs -- or address
14 issues already, that's my feeling. I don't think this
15 proposal addresses anything, emergency, anything that's
16 really needed.

17
18 Any further comments.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not all those in favor
23 of supporting FP05-02 signify by saying aye.

24
25 (No aye votes)

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed, same sign.

28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion fails.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings
34 us up to the next proposal which is found on Page 30
35 which is 03, it was submitted by Eastern Interior and
36 it's to limit the gillnet.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair will entertain a
39 motion to adopt FP05-03.

40
41 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I move to
42 adopt Proposal FP05-03.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

45
46 MR. KRISKA: Second.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Emmitt Peter
49 for the record.

50

1 REPORTER: Tommy.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tom -- okay, Tom Kriska,
4 sorry.
5
6 MR. KRISKA: (Nods affirmatively)
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Vince, introduction
9 -- oh, Rich.
10
11 MR. UBERUAGA: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
12 Chair. Members of the Council. Proposal 3 is discussed
13 beginning on Page 30 of your Council book. This proposal
14 was submitted by the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
15 Council and requests that in the Yukon River drainage all
16 gillnets with greater than six inch mesh may not be more
17 than 35 meshes deep in depth, and this would apply to
18 gillnets used in either the subsistence or commercial
19 fishing.
20
21 There's currently no restriction in
22 either Federal or State law concerning gillnet mesh depth
23 for subsistence fishermen in the Yukon River. Mesh depth
24 may, however, be restricted in-season for conservation
25 reasons. State commercial fishing regulations specify
26 that gillnets with greater than six inch mesh may not be
27 more than 60 meshes deep in Yukon subdistricts 4 through
28 6, and no more than 45 meshes deep in Yukon subdistricts
29 1 through 3.
30
31 Local knowledge supports the contention
32 that larger older female chinook salmon have a tendency
33 to run deeper in the river. Deeper nets usually catch
34 more chinook salmon, usually in the bottom half of the
35 net. But there is little conclusive scientific evidence
36 that female chinook salmon are disproportionately
37 harvested over males.
38
39 I'd like to expound a little bit on the
40 female issue here. This is a big concern to many users
41 on the river about large female chinook salmon and many
42 of you believe that they are being disproportionately
43 harvested and are decreasing and disappearing. Some
44 enumeration projects in the drainage have found
45 imbalanced sex ratio, low percentages of female
46 appearing. In February 1998, the US/Canada Joint
47 Technical Committee looked at the available age, sex,
48 length information for Yukon River salmon seeking trying
49 to address whether there had been a decrease in size and
50 yet they couldn't conclude that there was any sustained

1 substantial change in fish size.

2

3 The Office of Subsistence Management
4 Fisheries Information Services is also concerned about
5 this and has been requested to conduct an analysis of the
6 available information out there and they're currently
7 trying to gather that information and prepare a report
8 for the Councils. They've been after this for about a
9 year and they're looking for this report to be available
10 this winter. This age, sex, length issue. This analysis
11 that they're doing is looking at the spawning escapement
12 data, trends over time, and to focus on all age groups,
13 information -- escapement information among the
14 tributaries and between tributaries. Thrown on top of
15 this issue is the question of Ichthyophonus, another
16 issue, a parasitic issue that is affecting female --
17 larger female chinook salmon perhaps disproportionately
18 according to some studies. And into this is YRDFA who is
19 also concerned and has began a comprehensive study about
20 this issue and the various impacts along the river of
21 different fishing gear sizes and so I think we have a
22 report that will be available and be presented to you
23 this winter by our FIS Division.

24

25 So adopting this particular proposal will
26 create a divergence between State and Federal
27 regulations, making Federal subsistence regulations more
28 restrictive than the State regulations. Management and
29 enforcement of such a fishery with different regulations
30 throughout the different districts would be
31 problematical, it would be -- and require extensive
32 outreach and education.

33

34 This proposal would require some
35 subsistence fishermen to shorten their gillnets, perhaps
36 fish longer to get the fish they need for their family.
37 It could result in different harvest rates and different
38 efficiencies among subdistricts.

39

40 But to make the Federal subsistence
41 regulations more restrictive than the State subsistence
42 regulations does seem inconsistent with the Federal
43 subsistence priority provided by ANILCA.

44

45 And given that, the preliminary Staff
46 conclusion at this time is to not support this proposal,
47 to oppose this proposal.

48

49 We look forward to your comments, as
50 always.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Tracy.

4

5 MR. LINGNAU: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6 Currently the State is working with the Yukon River
7 Drainage Fishermen's Association. We're trying to
8 collect some information on the gear types used
9 throughout the drainage with gillnet sizes, depth of nets
10 that are being used. We do realize that different
11 places, people use different mesh sizes, sometimes it's
12 only by like an eighth or a quarter inch but we do
13 realize that. And, again, as Mr. Uberuaga pointed out,
14 that there is some analysis undergoing through the Office
15 of Subsistence Management right now and that report is
16 due out this winter.

17

18 And also if it was determined that a gear
19 change was necessary for the future, the State would want
20 to take a drainage-wide approach and not just a patchwork
21 approach which this would do with the differing State and
22 Federal regulations.

23

24 The other thing, too, is this does not
25 affect just Alaska fishermen, it affects the fishermen in
26 Canada as well. And as noted, talking to some of the
27 Panel members, nine inch gear used to be used in Canada,
28 so instead of having also just a state-wide issue, we'd
29 like to concur with the Canadian fishers as well and if
30 we do something make sure that it benefits both sides and
31 not have Alaska fishers make sacrifices only for those
32 fish to get to Canada and be harvested.

33

34 The last comment I have is the discussion
35 of concerns about fishing with large mesh gillnets is
36 also inconsistent with the Federal Staff analysis of
37 FP05-04 which is supportive of allowing a new gear type
38 consisting of large mesh drift gillnets.

39

40 Mr. Chair, those are my comments.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. InterAgency.
43 Glenn.

44

45 MR. CHEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
46 Glenn Chen from the Bureau of Indian Affairs representing
47 the InterAgency Staff Committee. At this time we have no
48 comments on this proposal.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Fish and Game

1 or Eastern.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The
4 Eastern Interior Regional Council took up this proposal.
5 It was their proposal and they unanimously favored it.
6 Their justification is there's concerns about the decline
7 in the quality of the Yukon River chinook salmon
8 escapements and the loss of the large seven and eight
9 years chinook salmon. Their elders tell them that there
10 are not as many fish in the population as there were
11 historically. The Council has concerns that there have
12 been long-term negative impacts on the genetics of the
13 Yukon River chinook salmon as the result of the long-term
14 use of large mesh gillnets. In addition to being
15 susceptible to large mesh gillnets, the large old female
16 chinook salmon are very susceptible to Ichthyophonous
17 infection. This proposal would spread fishing time out
18 and would help increase the positive effects of the
19 windowed subsistence fishing schedule. something has to
20 be done now before it's too late, this is the first step.

21

22 In addition to their recommendation on
23 this proposal, they passed a motion to modify this
24 proposal to include commercial fishing gear, it was
25 already in there but there was confusion at that time, to
26 include commercial fishing gear and send it to the Alaska
27 Board of Fisheries as a petition. That passed
28 unanimously. The petition seeks to make the Federal and
29 State regulations consistent. This petition would
30 address the concerns that Proposal 03 would make Federal
31 regulations more restrictive than the State subsistence
32 and commercial fishing regulations.

33

34 So they will be submitting a petition as
35 soon as I get back in the office and able to pull that
36 together.

37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks, Vince. Written
41 public comments.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Mike Moses,
44 again, of Mountain Village submitted a public comment.
45 He opposes the proposal. A large majority of the large
46 Yukon king salmon swim well below the current 45 mesh
47 depth nets. The Lower Yukon River has a very deep
48 channel and with the changing environment the kings are
49 staying in cool waters of the deep channels. He
50 recommended paying attention to what is happening in the

1 shallow waters further up the river.

2

3 And, again, we have the full text of his
4 letter here if people would like to see it.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Public testimony.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, we do have a
11 motion to adopt on the floor. Any further discussion,
12 Regional Council discussion, deliberation, questions.

13

14 Benedict.

15

16 MR. JONES: Yeah, Tracy, on the
17 commercial activities this past summer in District 1 and
18 2, what size mesh and what depth and how much of the
19 eight year old have been harvested in the commercial this
20 past summer?

21

22 MR. LINGNAU: Mr. Chair. Mr. Jones, most
23 of the commercial gear in the lower river, from what we
24 understand, tends to be eight and a half inch. There are
25 some people switching over to eight and a quarter and
26 also on the coast the gear tends to be bigger to account
27 for the tides. The tides tend to stretch the nets out
28 and they feel that they need to have a little bit larger
29 mesh size there to compensate for the tighter nets that
30 they have instead of the looser nets they have when they
31 drift.

32

33 As far as the age composition in the
34 commercial harvest, most of the fish that they catch are
35 six year olds. That's what is the most in the river and
36 that's what they target commercially. And this year was
37 no different. I think our age composition this year was
38 65 percent six year olds, roughly.

39

40 You had one other part there, too, as far
41 as the depth, the commercial gear nets are regulated and
42 if I remember right in the lower districts it's no more
43 than 45 meshes and in the up river it's 60 mesh deep for
44 large mesh gear.

45

46 MR. JONES: Yeah, I have one other
47 question. What's the percentage of the female versus the
48 male commercial caught this past summer?

49

50 MR. LINGNAU: This summer typically your

1 females in the six year old component tends to be 50
2 percent males 50 percent females. The younger age
3 classes tend to be more males. This year we saw an
4 increase in the percentage of females and it just was not
5 because there were more older fish, we actually went back
6 and looked at historical percents of females in the six
7 year old component and for some reason this year the
8 females -- the percent of female six year olds this year
9 were higher than the percent of females in six year olds
10 in the past. And we actually did see this on the
11 spawning grounds, too, as well, with a substantial
12 increase in the percent of females in some tributaries.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions,
15 deliberations or discussion.

16
17 Ray.

18
19 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I think it would be
20 important if the State is doing a study on what people
21 are using that they get some historical perspective
22 because I think we need that information. I would --
23 what I'm wondering is, and I don't know if it's true or
24 not, is that before the commercial fishing down there,
25 people probably use smaller nets if they were just
26 subsistence fishing because of the cost and so on, but
27 the commercial allowed them to buy bigger nets and as a
28 result they may be having more impact on the bigger fish,
29 you know. So is it changing over time or is it -- not
30 just what they're using now but is it changing over time?
31 And if that's true that would give a rationale for even
32 restricting subsistence fishermen if they're having more
33 of an impact than they had historically, those who are at
34 the lower river and having the first chance at the fish,
35 do you see what I mean, but without data we would just be
36 guessing on that. So it would be good to try to get that
37 factor, if we could, to see if it's changing over time.

38
39 MR. LINGNAU: Mr. Chair. That's correct,
40 it would be nice to have and there was a study, I
41 believe, done in the late '70s or early '80s collecting
42 gear types, what people used, where at, what size, what
43 depth, beyond that, I don't know. I don't have the
44 history to know what was used. Looking at that
45 information, the information we have now it doesn't look
46 like gear has changed that much. But again, we're in the
47 middle of this right now and it's going to take us
48 probably another summer to collect information, here's
49 what was then, here's what's now and where at, the type
50 of gear used.

1 As far as early in the season, they do
2 use smaller mesh gear but they're usually targeting
3 whitefish and actually use chum gear to target sheefish
4 right after the ice breaks up and actually sometimes
5 through the ice, and then as the kings start moving in
6 they'll switch to larger mesh gear.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.
9 Jack.

10
11 MR. REAKOFF: Are the archival tags used
12 in this assessment where these salmon, these large fish
13 swim in the water column or when you implant those
14 archival tags into large females, are you tracking at
15 what portions of the river they -- I seen some of that
16 archival stuff, those fish were up and down, is that
17 weather related or is that the depth of the river at that
18 point of movement or are you assessing those?

19
20 MR. LINGNAU: Mr. Chair. Mr. Reakoff, we
21 do have a study, as he knows, put out archival tags and
22 these tags were placed in the stomach of salmon and as
23 the fish move up river it measures the water depth and
24 the temperature as they move up river. And you're
25 correct, it does fluctuate significantly and I don't know
26 if it's a -- it could be a day time, evening time, and
27 that's one thing that we're trying to look at. They're
28 very expensive tags and not only that but they're a lot
29 more expensive to recover the tags because we have to
30 have those tags actually in hand to get the information
31 from.

32
33 And the channels in the lower river are
34 deep, they're up to 120 feet deep, but, again, as you
35 say, sometimes they come up and, you know, there's a lot
36 of fluctuation as they move up river. And to be honest,
37 I don't think we have a handle on it at this time, we're
38 still looking at it.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, all those in favor
45 of adopting Proposal FP05-03 signify by saying aye.

46
47 (No aye votes)_

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed, same sign.

50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion fails. I mean
4 Proposal 03 fails. Proposal 04, Vince.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's
7 found on Page -- this is your proposal and it's found on
8 Page 40, I believe, and Rich will be presenting that.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Rich.

13

14 MR. UBERUAGA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Members of the Council. I'll provide you with a brief
16 presentation of this analysis and some of the associated
17 issues.

18

19 This begins on Page 40 and as you know
20 was submitted by your Council. This proposal would
21 expand the use of drift gillnets in Yukon Subdistricts
22 4(B), 4(C) and 5. The proposal specifies that drift
23 gillnet fishing time would be no more than is allowed in
24 the Lower Yukon River.

25

26 Drift gillnetting would be allowed two 36
27 hour periods within the current subsistence fishing
28 schedule. Drift gillnets in these areas would be no more
29 than 35 meshes deep and no more than 150 feet in length.
30 There is some documentation of historic subsistence drift
31 gillnetting in some areas of the Upper Yukon River.

32

33 Legislative background on the
34 Congressional intent of ANILCA does describe how changes
35 in technology and techniques for subsistence use of
36 resources could be allowed.

37

38 Subsistence users were allowed to
39 continue to use drift gillnets throughout the Yukon
40 drainage until 1977. In December 1976, the Alaska Board
41 of Fisheries prohibited the use of drift gillnets for
42 subsistence fishing in Yukon Districts 4 through 6.
43 Based on the actions by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in
44 1981 and 1995, subsistence drift gillnets were allowed
45 back into the Yukon Subdistrict 4(A). Over the years
46 there have been numerous proposals to reopen subsistence
47 drift gillnetting in the Upper Yukon.

48

49 The current proposal is different than
50 prior proposals. Fairness in the subsistence drift

1 gillnet fishing time in the Yukon drainage is a feature
2 of this proposal, in that, it would allow middle Yukon
3 users to use a gear type that has been used for decades
4 elsewhere. This proposal provide the same amount of
5 drift gillnet fishing time to the Upper Yukon as is
6 already provided for subsistence drift gillnet fishermen
7 in the Lower Yukon River. This proposal would restrict
8 both the length and depth of the drift gillnets in these
9 Upper Yukon subdistricts.

10
11 Allowing drift gillnetting in these areas
12 would not likely increase the overall harvest
13 substantially. It's expected that a limited number of
14 good snag-free fishing sites would further limit their
15 use.

16
17 Upper Yukon users have voiced concerns
18 for many years that they're either having a hard time
19 getting their subsistence needs met or that they're not
20 meeting their subsistence needs. This prescribed use of
21 drift gillnets may alleviate some of these concerns.

22
23 Very briefly I would like to mention some
24 of the concerns identified with this proposal.

25
26 This proposal would require land managers
27 to maintain seven pairs of regulatory markers, would also
28 require separate in-season Federal news releases and
29 announcements. Administratively implementing a Federal
30 permit would require additional effort. This proposal
31 would produce mixed blocks of Federal, non-Federal waters
32 with different gear regulations. Residents of some
33 communities would have to commute to participate in this
34 drift fishery. Confusion for some fishers would occur
35 and likely create extensive law enforcement issues and
36 concerns. And finally the potential for the increase in
37 harvest could create reallocation among the existing
38 fisheries in the Yukon River.

39
40 With that, the Staff's preliminary
41 conclusion is to support this proposal with modification.
42 Dates for the drift gillnetting are suggested. It's
43 suggested that the drift gillnetting provided in 4(B),
44 4(C) and 5(D).

45
46 We look forward to your comments, and
47 thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Rich.

50

1 MR. WALKER: Do you have a motion.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'm slipping. At this
4 time the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt Proposal
5 04.
6
7 MR. WALKER: I'll move, Mr. Chairman.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.
10
11 MR. REAKOFF: Second.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Jack Reakoff.
14 Tracy.
15
16 MR. LINGNAU: Mr. Chair, thank you. On
17 the State comments concerning Federal Proposal 05-04.
18 the Federal Subsistence Board and the Board of Fish in
19 the last couple of years have looked at similar proposals
20 and opposed them.
21
22 The current regulations now are based on
23 traditional fishing patterns and gear types and the
24 subsistence fishing time is based on historical fishing
25 types and the gear types that are utilized and does
26 provide for reasonable opportunity. The reason
27 subsistence needs were not met in the poor years of 1998
28 to 2002 was that for some species was that there just
29 wasn't enough, particularly for fall chum salmon, which
30 now in the last couple of years are starting to come back
31 a little bit. When salmon abundance is too low fishing
32 time is decreased to meet escapement and also to our
33 obligations to Canada.
34
35 Concerning chinook salmon, a large
36 abundance has been available for harvest the last couple
37 of years with some of the largest runs to Canada since
38 1981 documented in the last several years.
39
40 Again, the analysis for this proposal is
41 at odds with the analysis presented in FP05-03 where
42 there is an extension discussion of the concerns
43 associated with the use of large mesh gillnets.
44
45 In summary the State is concerned about
46 potential changes in stock composition of the harvests
47 that are taken by a new gear type potential of user
48 conflicts with a regulation that is only applicable to a
49 patchwork of the river, and possible increased harvest
50 with potential negative impacts to the existing fisheries

1 and also to meeting our commitments to the US/Canada
2 Treaty. Changing allowable gear types can result in many
3 unforeseen impacts.

4

5 Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tracy.
8 InterAgency Staff.

9

10 MR. CHEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the
11 record my name is Glenn Chen with the Bureau of Indian
12 Affairs. I would like to present the InterAgency Staff
13 Committee's comments on this proposal, and I would like
14 to clarify that these are viewpoints and comments, they
15 don't represent any recommendation from the InterAgency
16 Staff Committee.

17

18 There's a couple areas that I'd like to
19 focus these comments on and one is to describe to you
20 some of the discussions that we had at a prior meeting of
21 the InterAgency Staff Committee with regard to
22 contrasting viewpoints on this proposal. And the second
23 thing I'd like to also talk about is some recommendations
24 or some suggestions, excuse me, to the Council with
25 regards to how you frame your justification for your
26 recommendation of this proposal.

27

28 This proposal generated a lot of
29 interesting discussion among the Staff Committee and we
30 did not arrive at a consensus viewpoint on this proposal.
31 Some members expressed that this proposal does adopt --
32 or adoption of this proposal would provide for more
33 equitable gear use and allowance on the Yukon River. We
34 felt that this would perhaps result in a modest increase
35 in harvest , but that this increase could be limited by
36 the amount of areas that this gear type could be
37 efficiently used in. We recognize that there are
38 concerns expressed by some of the users on the river with
39 regards to the cost and expense associated with traveling
40 to areas where this gear type is currently allowed. And
41 also we wanted to point out that adjustments in
42 allocation should recognize a Federal subsistence
43 priority.

44

45 Some other comments raised by the Staff
46 Committee include other items, some of them stated by Mr.
47 Uberuaga prior to me. Those referred to concerns about
48 differences in State and Federal regulations. Some of
49 the administrative difficulties with regards to
50 implementing these regulations. Some of the Staff

1 Committee indicated that the success of the current
2 management scheme on the Yukon River with the windows has
3 been a good thing. And that there were problems in 2000
4 when the State program tried to implement different
5 regulations for managing subsistence fisheries on the
6 Yukon.

7
8 Other Staff Committee members wanted to
9 point out that should driftnetting become popular within
10 some of these discreet fishing areas, it could lead to
11 dispute and impact harvest efficiencies of traditional
12 set net and fishwheel sites. And that these concerns
13 were expressed in public testimony to the Board last
14 December with regards to a similar proposal submitted by
15 this Council.

16
17 With regards to the suggestions to the
18 Council about how you should frame your recommendations
19 to the Board. The Board is really interested in finding
20 out how the Council feels on certain points and those are
21 points such as issues having to do with conservation
22 concerns. Does this proposal present a conservation
23 concern. If not, the Council should put on the record
24 why it does not present a conservation concern. How
25 would this proposal provide for subsistence uses. This
26 is something that the Board would also like to hear. And
27 thirdly, how does this proposal affect other users of
28 this resource.

29
30 Mr. Chairman, that concludes my comments.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn.
33 Advisory Councils.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think we
40 may have stepped over the Federal, State and tribal
41 agency comments. I don't know if there was a chance for
42 others to speak on that, I don't know if you announced
43 that or not.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: I didn't because we
46 haven't been using it, so I was just trying to streamline
47 it.

48
49 Federal, State and tribal agency
50 comments.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, we're streamlined,
4 I'm just going to go over it.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, well, just in case
9 they walked in or whatever.

10

11 I don't know of any local Advisory
12 Committees that have met officially on this proposal.

13

14 The Eastern Interior did take up this
15 proposal and let me get to their recommendation on it.
16 They opposed the proposal by a vote of one in favor to
17 adopt it and five against adopting the proposal. They
18 opposed the proposal because compared to fishwheels,
19 drift gillnets can be very effective for catching salmon.
20 There was concern that the salmon resource could not
21 handle the expansion of this gear type. There is nothing
22 to assure the quality of escapement. This proposal could
23 have a significant biological and sociological impact on
24 the Yukon River. State and Federal in-season managers do
25 not feel this proposal would be beneficial to the Yukon
26 River salmon resource. This is the wrong direction when
27 trying to rebuild stocks of the Yukon management --
28 stocks of the Yukon.

29

30 So they opposed the proposal, one in
31 favor of adopting, five against.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Summary of written public
34 comments.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Mike Moses
37 also opposed this proposal. He feels that drifting the
38 shallow channels of the upper river do not give the king
39 salmon a fair chance to make it to the spawning grounds.
40 He also thought about the dry fish and smoked strip
41 market that enables someone to make more money than the
42 commercial king salmon market on the lower Yukon Delta.
43 Again, the full text of his letter is available if you
44 would like to see that.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Public testimony.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seeing none, Regional

1 Council deliberation. All we asked at the beginning of
2 this proposal was a slight increase or recognition of
3 utilizing some Federal waters and lands right above
4 Koyukuk, and that's all we asked. Because some of the
5 stuff that was mentioned on both the State and the
6 Federal introduction of the proposal, we were trying to
7 alleviate that because of the overcrowding of that one
8 area, that's all we were doing to do away with all that
9 overcrowding and possible overharvest of the fishing
10 stocks that may be heading toward Canada. And the way it
11 is right now I think that it is still overcrowding and
12 maybe just putting more pressure on our people to
13 subsistence gather.

14

15 And I still feel the same way. We tried
16 to alleviate some of these other Regional Council's
17 concerns by expanding the area of use, and I still feel
18 that we should go ahead and pass this proposal,
19 reintroduce it, where it goes before the Federal
20 Subsistence Board and/or the State Board of Fisheries is
21 a different matter. But I still feel that we have a
22 valid concern here.

23

24 Again, we are here for one purpose and
25 one purpose only and that is to provide for subsistence
26 opportunities, harvesting, and that's still my feelings
27 and I intend to support this proposal.

28

29 Any further deliberation.

30

31 Tommy.

32

33 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, to me I thought this
34 proposal was pretty good and then you know to extend the
35 use of the river and like he said to get most of the
36 people away from one area, I mean a lot of people don't
37 get their fish because there's so many people in there
38 and to me the amount of people that's going to go out
39 there fishing if they extend the area, they're still
40 going to get the -- I mean whatever they need, that's
41 what they're going to get and if they're all crowded in
42 this one area and -- because fishing over each other, I
43 mean there's a lot of people out there, I don't know if
44 you guys ever -- anybody ever go out there, but I mean if
45 you go out there right in front of your home town and you
46 want to go fishing you're going to have to wait until the
47 people are done, there's a lot of boats out there. And
48 there's other areas from there to Ruby or, you know, that
49 could be fished, I mean I'm pretty sure Emmitt know about
50 where they go seining and some other people along the

1 river, so I was kind of for this proposal here and
2 hopefully they do something about it.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tommy. Any
7 further. Benedict.

8

9 MR. JONES: Yeah, I'm Benedict Jones.
10 I'm the one that wrote up this proposal several years ago
11 and I'd just like to add an amendment to it, maybe it
12 does cause -- like overcrowding this past summer for the
13 Galena residents, they have to spend \$100 to maybe only
14 just catch one king, and by expanding it it would cost
15 less if they're just going to a local area.

16

17 But the amendment I'd like to add is that
18 for 4(B) and (C) and 5 area with -- you have two 36 hour
19 periods, if you open the last 18 hour periods for --
20 allow drift gillnetting in the area, I think it would
21 benefit more escapement to the Upper Yukon, instead of
22 two 36 hour period opening for the gillnet. So I'd like
23 to see it open to the last 18 hours, allow drift
24 gillnetting.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, to clarify that
29 request, what would be the correct procedure to add that
30 in?

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, the
33 motion on the floor is to adopt the proposal, and Rich
34 will correct me if I get it wrong, which has a 36 hour
35 window, so this would be amending that to 18, so there
36 would need to be a second to that motion and then you
37 would vote it up or down on that.

38

39 I don't know if there's any other
40 amendments that other Council members may be interested
41 in but there would need to be a second to that proposed
42 amendment.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Is there a second
45 to Benedict's amendment. Robert.

46

47 MR. WALKER: I'll second it.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Robert. Okay,
50 any further discussion. Jack.

1 MR. REAKOFF: I'm a little bit confused
2 by some of the reasons that the Eastern Interior used
3 against adopting this proposal. The primary objective is
4 to meet subsistence needs and we are.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Jack, could you --
7 we do have an amendment, a motion.

8
9 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, there may be
10 some additional amendment language that I want to.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, that's
13 what you're leading up to.

14
15 MR. REAKOFF: So I just wanted to
16 comment.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

19
20 MR. REAKOFF: Some of the amendment
21 language that I would like to see inserted here is under
22 the Staff's primary conclusion, in their highlighted
23 area, I would like -- if the Eastern Interior doesn't
24 want it in their region then we could strike 5(D) from
25 this proposal. I would like to see in the second
26 sentence, fishing with drift gillnets for king salmon is
27 allowed during the last 36 hours, and the amendment that
28 currently on the table is this 18 hour period, of each
29 windowed opening, or fishing period for Subdistricts 4(B)
30 and (C) from June 10th through July 14th. And for chum
31 salmon by drift gillnet after August 2nd. That's
32 amendment language I would like -- I would like to see
33 the use for chum salmon also for drift gillnet after
34 August 2nd. And then striking that whole -- and the 5(D)
35 district, that whole last sentence, just striking that.

36
37 I feel that if the Eastern Interior
38 doesn't want it, I felt that we were being fair with them
39 proposing a drift gillnet for their district, they don't
40 want it, let's strike it from our proposal and still
41 maintain 4(B) and (C) and so the amendment language I
42 would like to see is eliminating 5(D), I'll go along with
43 Benedict's 18 hour of the last portion of the window and
44 for king salmon through June 10th through July 14th, and
45 chum salmon with drift gillnet after August 2nd. And
46 that's my amendment language.

47
48 MR. COLLINS: Point of order, Mr.
49 Chairman. I don't know if we can have two amendments on
50 the floor at the same time.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's what I was going to
2 call anyway, and what's the correct procedure now, we've
3 got two amendments to address here.
4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, if the
6 original amendment, you could vote it up or down or if
7 the original mover of the motion and the second agree to
8 friendly changes to their amendment we can go that route.
9 So you can either vote up or down the one amendment or
10 friendly amendment, friendly changes.
11
12 MR. REAKOFF: We could just vote that one
13 and.....
14
15 MR. MATHEWS: It might be easier.....
16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think it would be easier
18 if we just asked the maker of that first amendment to
19 withdraw and see if he's in favor of Jack's amendment.
20
21 MR. JONES: Yeah, I'd withdraw the
22 motion.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Second.
25
26 MR. WALKER: Second.
27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: The first amendment has
29 been withdrawn. Jack proposed a new amendment, is there
30 a second.
31
32 MR. KRISKA: Second.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Second by Tom Kriska for
35 the record.
36
37 Now, further discussions. Any questions
38 for Jack, I think he made it very clear on what he wanted
39 -- Emmitt.
40
41 MR. PETERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm a
42 little confused here. Are you saying we are trying to
43 rewrite the rule of the amendment, I mean or are we going
44 to extend it up to 5(C), 5(B) or what's this?
45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, what Jack is trying to
47 do is eliminate 5(D) area completely and only address
48 areas in 4(B) and (C) -- 4(B) and 4(C), that's the only
49 areas we would be addressing, that's all we can address
50 within our district, within our region. And the other

1 amendment was to cut down to allow drift gillnet usage in
2 the last 18 hours of every window, only the last 18 hours
3 of windows.

4

5 Okay.

6

7 MR. PETERS: Okay, well, I'm well
8 satisfied with that now, so, okay, that was just a
9 clarification that I wanted to hear.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that's what I was
12 trying to do.

13

14 MR. PETERS: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Emmitt.
17 Was there any more questions like Emmitt's because we
18 want to be clear on what we are proposing.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, Tom Kron.

23

24 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, just for
25 clarification, the original Western Interior proposal
26 talked about District 5, the preliminary Staff conclusion
27 focused in on 5(D) because that's where the Federal land
28 is. Your amendment, again, talks about 5(D), and again I
29 just wanted to make sure there was clarity there. My
30 understanding was that you wanted to pull the portion
31 related to District 5.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

34

35 MR. KRON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that's what we're
38 trying to do, clarify this amendment, and from what I
39 understand we are totally doing away with any language
40 dealing with 5, area 5, right, District 5?

41

42 MR. REAKOFF: Right.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any further
45 discussion.

46

47 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

50

1 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, Glenn asked
2 for justification for this proposal, and I would like to
3 address those justifications.

4
5 We're still fishing within the windows.
6 The windows recognize a conservation measure to allow
7 subsistence users and protect certain passage during
8 closures. We're still maintaining that with this
9 proposal. The shifted gear type to efficiency, that's
10 soft of a moot subject. There's some highly competitive
11 uses going on right now for set net sites. There's
12 highly competitive -- people are traveling to 4(A) to
13 compete and burning very expensive fuel. I've heard no
14 discussion in the economy -- of the eight criteria, in
15 the economy of time, effort and expense. Right now we
16 have people in our region that are expending a lot of
17 time, effort and expense. This would give some reprieve
18 to our users in our region and give them quicker times to
19 go home with their harvest to process and we still are
20 staying within the windows. We are even making more
21 concession here, we're cutting the fishing time down to
22 18 hours of the last portion of the period.

23
24 The set nets and the wheel gear will have
25 the first opportunity for harvest. The drift gear will
26 be in the last portion of the period. So I think we're
27 being more than fair. We've tried to accommodate the
28 Eastern Interior, they don't want to go along with this,
29 but we still feel that in 4(C) and 4(B) that this is an
30 equitable remedy to our subsistence needs.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. I'm
33 really slipping, we do have an amendment and a second
34 motion on the floor.

35
36 Any further questions on that amendment.

37
38 Benedict, and then Robert.

39
40 MR. JONES: Yeah, I just want to -- on
41 Tanana area, that's all State water, according to this
42 map and 4(B) has a lot of Federal waters, land in that
43 area on 4(B).

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

46
47 MR. WALKER: I'll call for the question.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called on
50 the amendment. All those in favor of the amendment

1 signify by saying aye.
2
3 IN UNISON: Aye.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.
6
7 (No opposing votes)
8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Amendment
10 carried. Now, we're back to the main motion to adopt
11 Proposal 04. Any further discussion.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, all those in favor
16 of adopting Proposal FP05-04 signify by saying aye.
17
18 IN UNISON: Aye.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.
21
22 (No opposing votes)
23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank
25 you.
26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings
28 us up to Proposal 5.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Hold on, Mr. Chen, you had
31 a question.
32
33 MR. CHEN: Yes.
34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.
36
37 MR. CHEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
38 appreciate Mr. Reakoff's enunciation of some of your
39 justifications regarding this recommendation. I would
40 ask that the Council also, if possible, address the third
41 item that I mentioned, that is having to do with does
42 this proposal unnecessarily restrict other subsistence
43 users. You've addressed the issues about conservation,
44 the points about how this would then provide for
45 subsistence users to more efficiently and effectively do
46 their harvest. But if you could also address in your
47 justification how this would affect other users.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.
50

1 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I don't feel
2 this is an unnecessary impact on other users up river
3 when subsistence users throughout the drainage are
4 supposed to be meeting their subsistence needs as the
5 fish pass. The conservation measures that we have
6 adopted on our amendment to fish the last 18 hours should
7 have little impact on the overall harvest of all
8 subsistence users drainage-wide, including Canadian
9 components. So, no, I personally don't feel that we will
10 have an impact on other users above Districts 4(B) and
11 4(C).

12
13 MR. CHEN: And I appreciate that, Mr.
14 Reakoff, this is, as you know, a controversial proposal
15 and if the Board then has clear reasoning from this
16 Council as to those three points that would definitely
17 help the Board.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn. Vince.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, that brings us up to
24 Proposal 5 which was submitted by Eastern Interior to
25 establish a six day fall chum salmon opening within
26 Subdistrict 5(D), and it starts on Page 58.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. The
31 Chair will entertain a motion to adopt Proposal 05.
32 Robert.

33
34 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, do you think
35 we should take some action on this here, this is out of
36 our district or should we just table it or leave it,
37 whatever.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Point of order,
40 what we have tried to do in the past with both Eastern
41 and the YK-Delta proposals, for the most part, Western
42 Interior has always deferred to the home region. I think
43 that's how we started everything. But I don't know if
44 this is a drainage-wide issue or not. Vince.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the reason
47 this proposal is before you is because you have a
48 positive customary and traditional use determination for
49 salmon in the Yukon River. So any proposal that's taken
50 up on the Yukon River, you are to be appraised of them

1 and have the opportunity to discuss them because it's the
2 same salmon that's going through your region that's going
3 to be going to 5(D), and that's why the Yukon-Delta takes
4 up these same proposals because those salmon that pass
5 through their area go to Eastern Interior. You can defer
6 to the home region if you so desire, but it's mainly
7 because of the positive C&T and the unified management
8 approach by the agencies.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any direction from the
11 Council.

12
13 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to hear the
14 proposal.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, at this time the
17 Chair will entertain a motion to adopt Proposal FP05-05.

18
19 MR. REAKOFF: I move to adopt.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

22
23 MR. PETERS: I second it.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Emmitt Peters
26 for the record. Rich.

27
28 MR. UBERUAGA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 Members of the Council. Proposal 5 is discussed on Page
30 58 of your Council book.

31
32 This proposal was submitted by the
33 Eastern Interior Council and seeks to establish a six day
34 fall chum salmon opening for Federally-qualified
35 subsistence users only in Subdistrict 5(D), from
36 September 15th through the 20th.

37
38 The Council submitted this proposal
39 because of the history of fall chum salmon subsistence
40 closures in Subdistrict 5(D) while other subdistricts had
41 harvest opportunities on those same fish. The Council
42 stated that the proposal would ensure that remote
43 families dependent upon subsistence resources and unable
44 to participate in the existing assistance programs would
45 be given a reasonable opportunity to harvest fall chum
46 salmon for personal consumption and use.

47
48 The Council did not that this proposal
49 would preclude the in-season manager's ability to
50 restrict the fishery during that six day period.

1 As many of you know, the fall chum runs
2 have been very poor in some years such as 1993 and 1998
3 through 2002 and subsistence fishing restrictions
4 resulted. Subsistence harvest of Yukon fall chum salmon
5 has been below the State's amounts necessary for
6 subsistence numbers in those years. Subsistence fishing
7 is managed again according to the subsistence fishing
8 schedule established by the Alaska Board of Fisheries and
9 that schedule in Subdistrict 5(D) allows fishing seven
10 days a week 24 hours a day.

11
12 As I mentioned, this proposal seeks a
13 guaranteed opportunity to fish for fall chum without
14 regard to in-season indicators of run strength. Adopting
15 this proposal would take away the Federal in-season
16 manager's authority to manage the subsistence fishery
17 during this period.

18
19 During years of low fall chum salmon runs
20 which might below escapement requirements fish could be
21 harvested thereby hampering stock recovery efforts.
22 There is a concern with this proposal being inconsistent
23 with the existing US/Canada border agreements for border
24 passage.

25
26 The preliminary Staff conclusion was to
27 oppose this proposal.

28
29 We look forward to your comments. Thank
30 you, Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Rich. Tracy.

33
34 MR. LINGNAU: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35
36 During years of low fall chum salmon
37 returns, subsistence harvest during this six day period
38 could result in reducing escapements or not meeting
39 escapements and also hampering stock recovery. It would
40 also be inconsistent with the US/Canada agreement that we
41 now have in place for the fall chum salmon border
42 passage.

43
44 Currently right now in Subdistrict 5(D)
45 subsistence fishing is open seven days a week. And when
46 we restrict subsistence fishing it's to meet escapement
47 needs in our commitments to Canada.

48
49 Also in years of low strength fisheries
50 managers must retain the flexibility to be able to manage

1 these stocks depending on the run strength.

2

3 Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. InterAgency,
6 any comments.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: No comments. Advisory.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the
13 Eastern Interior did take up this proposal, and they
14 unanimously adopted the proposal. Their justification is
15 that the US/Canada agreement provides that whenever
16 possible small scale traditional subsistence fisheries
17 should not be disrupted. Dog teams and the use of fall
18 chum salmon for subsistence have declined in this area.
19 It is becoming harder and harder for people to live out
20 in the Bush. We need to protect Bush subsistence
21 lifestyle. Pressure on fall chum salmon is much reduced
22 now to what it was years ago. As a result of regulatory
23 restrictions and closures in recent years, reasonable
24 opportunity has not been provided to these remote
25 families. ANILCA is designed to protect subsistence.
26 Restrictions and regulations are killing the Bush
27 livelihoods of small rural subsistence users in remote
28 areas of the Yukon River.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Summary
31 of written public comments.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Mike Moses
34 opposes this proposal. The work put out by the Yukon
35 River Panel and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to
36 protect these Canadian bound stocks should remain in
37 effect until such time that they feel protection is no
38 longer needed. Protection of these fall chum salmon
39 should also not end up as dog food. Dogs are able to eat
40 other foods besides salmon. Be grateful you can receive
41 fish without due expense.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Public testimony.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seeing none, Regional
48 Council deliberation. Any questions.

49

50 Benedict.

1 MR. JONES: Yeah, Tracy, I want to ask a
2 question, this past 2004 season what's the percentage of
3 the fall chum going up the Tanana and Upper Yukon River?
4

5 MR. LINGNAU: Mr. Chair. Not being the
6 fall chum salmon season manager I don't know that I could
7 tell you right off hand.
8

9 I do know that the last couple years
10 escapement goals have been met into Canada, our treaty
11 obligations have been met as well as our escapements into
12 Tanana as well. This year, again, we're still counting
13 but it looks like escapements in that area should be met.
14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further. Go ahead, Tom.
16

17 MR. KRISKA: I was just wondering about
18 this opening here, is that both for the Tanana and the
19 Yukon for the six day period?
20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: I mean if I read it right
22 I think it's just with the Yukon River, right, within?
23

24 MR. UBERUAGA: Yes, it's just within 5(D)
25 and Tanana I believe is in 6.
26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, then is that both
28 rivers?
29

30 MR. KRISKA: Is that both rivers?
31

32 MR. UBERUAGA: No, it's just around
33 Eagle, below Eagle a little bit for some people who are
34 remote, who don't get a chance to get into town and take
35 advantage of the assistance being provided by the
36 US/Canada agreement, excess surplus hatchery fish. I'm
37 not sure what they did this year, in terms of if they
38 were able to get fish during their fishing, but I assume
39 they were since there were fish up there and they did
40 have -- they were not restricted this year in fishing.
41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: So then this proposal is
43 just for the benefit of a very few people, a few, one or
44 two people?
45

46 MR. UBERUAGA: It's my understanding that
47 there is one or two family, again, very remote, very --
48 living a true subsistence lifestyle with very few
49 amenities provided by modern, quote/unquote, civilization
50 who live out there, and have very little opportunity to

1 get into town, can't afford it, whatever reasons and it
2 was directed at those one or two families.
3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think Fred Andersen had
5 something to add.
6
7 MR. ANDERSEN: Well.....
8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, use the mic.
10
11 MR. ANDERSEN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
12 Chairman. Only that I think the question about fall chum
13 abundance in the Tanana and Yukon River. I think that
14 the last numbers that I saw indicated that the overall
15 estimate of fall chum abundance was on the order of 620
16 or 630,000. And the fall chum tagging project in the
17 Tanana River is indicating about 70,000 up the Kantishna
18 River and about 115, 120,000 into the Upper Tanana. So
19 it's about one-third into the Tanana drainage and the
20 remaining into the most Upper Yukon.
21
22 Thank you.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
25 deliberation. Again.....
26
27 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.
28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, Robert, and then Ray.
30
31 MR. COLLINS: Okay. Okay.
32
33 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 Rich, when you look at it is says Subdistrict 5(D),
35 that's the whole subdistrict, that's not just these few
36 families, that's everybody that's in this district could
37 fish this fish. I mean it was probably written up for a
38 few people, but you got to treat everybody the same in
39 the district.
40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert. Ray.
42
43 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I had a question, Mr.
44 Chairman. How soon can they determine escapement goals,
45 like if it was amended to close this if it looked like
46 escapement goals weren't going to be met, could they do
47 that or would that be difficult to manage because of the
48 location?
49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Tracy.

1 MR. LINGNAU: Mr. Chair. Concerning that
2 fishery would affect fish going into Canada, that's a
3 project that's actually after this harvest would take
4 place, it's a mark/recapture project at the border.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.
7 The only thing I can add is that I'd rather feed fall
8 chum to dogs than moose meat, that's all I can say to
9 address that written public comment.

10
11 Any further discussion.

12
13 MR. WALKER: Question.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called.
16 Okay, all those in favor of adopting Proposal FP05-05
17 signify by saying aye.

18
19 (No aye votes)

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Proposal FP05-05 failed.
26 I see the coffee is done so we'll take about a 10 minute
27 coffee break, or smoke break.

28
29 (Off record)

30
31 (On record)

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I would like
34 to call the meeting back to order. While we're waiting
35 for a few of our Council members, I would like to know
36 the evening schedule and stuff. Do you have any kind of
37 schedule for tonight?

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I
40 haven't had a chance to talk to Robert, but I know that
41 they're providing us a meal. On the agenda and flier,
42 I'm checking real quick here, I think it says the
43 testimony or evening session is at 7:00 o'clock, so
44 without talking to Robert, I assume dinner would be
45 around 6:00 and then we would come back around 7:00. But
46 again I don't know what the cooks have in mind.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, as soon as Robert
49 gets back we'll get going then, because I want that
50 schedule clear before we break.

1 (Pause)

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: While we're waiting for
4 Robert, it's not a big concern on my part but you guys
5 have a record of always, when you get close to voting
6 kind of explaining why you support oppose a proposal. I
7 would encourage you to get back in that pattern. We're
8 okay with the proposals that were submitted so far, but
9 one or two of you didn't summarize where you were at.

10

11 Why do I say that, on some of the
12 proposals that are quite controversial, the Board, as
13 well as the Staff Committee actually go to the transcript
14 and read the transcript in addition to what we write up.
15 So I just want to encourage you to say why you support or
16 oppose a proposal on the record, it will help.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 (Pause)

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I see Robert's here.
23 Robert, as I understand it, dinner's at 6:00, I think,
24 and then I think the evening session was scheduled for
25 7:00 here.

26

27 MR. WALKER: Don't quote me on that, but
28 I'll have to.....

29

30 REPORTER: Robert.

31

32 MR. WALKER: Don't quote me on this but I
33 think that's correct. But I will call Tammy and Julie
34 and ask them for sure.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. So we can -- how
37 long do you want to keep going, until about 5:30.

38

39 (Council nods affirmatively)

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, 5:30. All right,
42 that's taken care of. Vince.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, this brings
45 us up to the parallel proposal for the Kuskokwim. It was
46 submitted by the Association of Village Council
47 Presidents, Proposal 6, which is similar to your earlier
48 one, to lift or relax the windowed schedules on the
49 Kuskokwim.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time the Chair
2 will entertain a motion to adopt Proposal FP05-06.

3
4 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I move to
5 adopt for discussion purposes.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

8
9 MR. PETERS: I second i.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Emmitt. Go
12 ahead.

13
14 MR. UBERUAGA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Members of the Council. As you know, Proposal 6 is the
16 same as Proposal 2, which your Council entertained a few
17 moments ago, only in that it deals with the Kuskokwim
18 River. The proposal was submitted, again, by AVCP, and
19 the organized village of Kwethluk and Eek Traditional
20 Council.

21
22 This proposal, again, seeks to clarify
23 the language, the existing regulatory language and,
24 again, very similar to the other proposal with a few
25 exceptions, in that, in 2004, the Alaska Board of
26 Fisheries removed any reference to relaxation of the
27 subsistence schedule dependent upon a commercial fishery.
28 They removed that language and in its place now support
29 relaxing the fishing schedule, if in-season assessment
30 indicates the run strength is large enough to provide for
31 a harvestable surplus for subsistence and non-subsistence
32 users. Slight subtle difference, but the reference to
33 allowance of a commercial fishery is now gone.

34
35 The effects of this proposal are very
36 similar to that of Proposal 2. Again, I'll mention that
37 this proposal is symbolic in nature, has very little
38 direct effect on the in-season manager's authority. It
39 does provide clear regulatory direction.

40
41 With that, I will say the in-season
42 fisheries manager would not change the current process,
43 in how they evaluate potential run strength, meeting
44 escapement goals and subsistence uses. That Federal
45 manager has the authority to open and close subsistence
46 fishing and relax the fishing subsistence schedule once
47 escapement objectives and subsistence uses have been
48 estimated to be met.

49
50 Adopting this proposal, again, provides

1 clear regulatory direction when runs -- when the
2 subsistence fishing schedule can be relaxed.

3
4 The preliminary Staff conclusion was to
5 support this with the modification to clearly explain the
6 removal of the windows is not linked to meeting non-
7 subsistence uses. Removal of the windows only needs to
8 be linked to an assessment, escapement goals and
9 subsistence uses will be met.

10
11 With that, Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Tracy.

14
15 MR. LINGNAU: Mr. Chair. These comments
16 are similar to Proposal 2, however, because they concern
17 the Kuskokwim I will read them for the record.

18
19 Currently management tools are already in
20 place to relax the subsistence salmon fishing schedule on
21 the Kuskokwim River if the run strength is strong enough
22 to do so. The Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding
23 Management Plan was interpreted during the 2002 season to
24 require the implementation of a commercial fishery to
25 allow subsistence fishing seven days a week. However,
26 during the 2003 season, the rebuilding management plan
27 was interpreted not to require the implementation of a
28 commercial fishery to allow subsistence fishing seven
29 days a week.

30
31 In the January 2004 Board of Fisheries
32 meeting, in a response to a proposal from AVCP, the
33 Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan was
34 amended to clearly break the link between relaxing the
35 subsistence fishing schedule to seven days a week and
36 implementing a commercial fisheries.

37
38 Fisheries managers and users understand
39 that the schedule will be relaxed when the in-season run
40 strength is strong enough to do so. This proposed
41 wording would not change management actions. However,
42 having differing State and Federal regulations may lead
43 to confusion in the future.

44
45 Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. InterAgency
48 Staff.

49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: No. No comments?
2
3 MR. CHEN: (Nods affirmatively)
4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Advisory Council.
6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the only
8 other Council that would take this up is Yukon-Kuskokwim
9 and they meet next week.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Summary of
12 written public comments.
13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, there were no
15 written comments for this proposal.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Public testimony.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seeing none. We do have a
22 motion on the floor, Regional Council deliberations.
23
24 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.
25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.
27
28 MR. COLLINS: At the meeting last --
29 about a little over a week ago, I guess it was, in
30 Bethel, where we were looking at the management plan, we
31 reached a compromise there for this next year, that it
32 would be open during -- or it would be closed -- the
33 closures would remain in effect through the 20th of June,
34 for the first three weeks of the season. I'm a little
35 leery about adopting this because the in-season
36 indicators are not in place to really assure escapement
37 at the head of the river. They use the test fishery at
38 Bethel where they drift and see what the numbers and that
39 all indications were that this year we were going to
40 exceed escapement goals, but when the final count was
41 done on the Takotna River at the head there, it was only
42 a medium run. They had major escapement in a lot of the
43 other streams, I mean they exceeded previous years but we
44 had a better escapement last year in the Takotna than we
45 did this year and that's with the windows in place.
46
47 And they won't know that until almost the
48 end of June anyhow. And what they want to do is to use
49 the -- some of the lower river communities, they want to
50 use that test fishery and the early escapement numbers

1 that are going into some of the weirs way down the river
2 to relax that if it looks like the numbers are excessive,
3 and they don't have the information they need to
4 determine what escapement's going to be at the head of
5 the river.

6
7 So I'm reluctant to approve this if it's
8 going to take off any pressure to keep the windows in
9 place. I would rather see us arrive at the windows and
10 keep them in place until we're sure what's going to
11 happen at the head of the river.

12
13 In other words, the language in here
14 speaks about them allowing for escapement but they don't
15 have the tools right now to measure what that
16 escapement's going to be at the head of the river.

17
18 And without the windows I think we're
19 going to be hurting. Because even with the windows in
20 place this year all we ended up with at the head was an
21 average escapement whereas it was good all the way down
22 the river.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Any
25 further discussion, comments. Carl.

26
27 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I tend to agree with
28 what Ray is saying. I do believe that, yes, I think the
29 windows is working, although sometimes a lot of people
30 generally are not comfortable with it. But I do believe
31 it is working. I think like Ray says, I mean even the
32 Aniak River, when they target -- the first fish that
33 comes up the Aniak River are usually first that comes up
34 on when they're doing a test fisheries down below and
35 they've shown that by the tagging and escapement and the
36 radio telemetry that they do on the fish. So that's so
37 that the fish -- the first fish, especially the chums are
38 going to the Aniak River, and the Aniak River produces
39 about 30 percent of the whole strength of the Kuskokwim
40 drainage. And I do believe that the schedule should
41 remain in place in the lower part because they will come
42 out if you leave it seven days a week. I mean, you know,
43 some of the people -- ladies down there like it because
44 it gives them days off, it gives them days off from
45 cutting fish, but in the same token I don't know, how
46 much is enough.

47
48 But I think we should have this as a
49 tool, not completely taken away. I don't like the idea
50 of having it not linked to the commercial, because I

1 think it should be directly linked, if you're going to
2 have a commercial opening that you lift the windows, but
3 I oppose the language as written at this time.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. Any
6 further deliberations.

7
8 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, for the
9 record I would like to get another point on there that I
10 didn't make.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

13
14 MR. COLLINS: That even if escapement
15 goals were made, I think we need the river [sic] in place
16 because they've found by studies that those heading the
17 furthest are some of the first in the river, they're the
18 biggest fish and the richest fish, again, because they
19 have the furthest to travel so they are targeted if
20 possible. And if there were no windows in place, they
21 would still be taking a disproportionate number of fish
22 out of those fish that have the furthest to go, it would
23 not be spreading it out. So we need it as a management
24 tool, not just to make escapement but to distribute the
25 catch, the subsistence catch throughout the runs, instead
26 of just targeting the early runs.

27
28 So I would argue even if they were going
29 to meet escapement goals, that they still need windows so
30 that that catch would be spread out. What happens is
31 that some of the -- they're all done fishing by some time
32 -- some of the kings are coming into the river that are
33 spawning closest to them down there, some of those lower
34 tributaries, they come in last but they're already done
35 fishing, so they're not even targeting those later runs
36 when they're the ones closest to home. It's an intercept
37 fishery, is part of the issue, and we need to recognize
38 that.

39
40 If you don't have windows in you're going
41 to have an intercept fishery going on.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Any
46 further discussion.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not all those in favor

1 of adopting Proposal FP05-06 signify by saying aye.
2
3 (No aye votes)
4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed, same sign.
6
7 IN UNISON: Aye.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Proposal FP05-06 fails.
10 At this time the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt
11 Proposal FP -- is this 07/08, Vince?
12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, it would be
14 best, and Polly has talked to me about this, to separate
15 Proposal 07 and 08 so at this time it would be best to
16 bring up Proposal 07.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.
19
20 MR. MATHEWS: She'll explain why it's
21 best to separate them but I think it'd be easier for you
22 to address the concerns of the proposals.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right, thank you,
25 Vince. That's what I just wanted clarified. So at this
26 time the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt Proposal
27 FP05-07.
28
29 MR. REAKOFF: Make a motion to adopt 07.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion to adopt
32 Proposal 07 by Jack Reakoff, is there a second.
33
34 (Pause)
35
36 MR. JONES: I'll second the motion.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Benedict,
39 thank you.
40
41 (Laughter)
42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: I believe you're
44 introducing the proposal, Polly Wheeler.
45
46 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You
47 almost made my job really easy.
48
49 (Laughter)
50

1 MS. WHEELER: For the record, I'm Polly
2 Wheeler, or Wheeler as your earlier minutes from your
3 last meeting referred to me as.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 MS. WHEELER: I'm presenting the analysis
8 for both Proposal 07 and Proposal 08. Proposal 7 was
9 proposed by the YK Council and that proposal asks to
10 expand the existing customary and traditional use
11 determination to include 11 lower Kuskokwim communities.
12 Proposal 8 was put in by this Council, and it also
13 requests to expand the existing C&T determination for
14 rainbow trout to include three middle Kuskokwim
15 communities. I'm going to have to apologize on behalf of
16 the Office of Subsistence Management because for some
17 unknown reason the analysis for Proposal 8 didn't make it
18 into the book, that's your proposal. However, you'll be
19 glad to know that I have about 300 copies here so for
20 your reading pleasure, in case you want to read it, I've
21 got lots of copies and for the Federal people here there
22 are also lots of copies, and I have back ups in my bag
23 back at the school, too, so we've got lots of copies of
24 that analysis.

25
26 MR. REAKOFF: You have analysis' on them,
27 correct.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MS. WHEELER: And again, I apologize for
32 that, it happens.

33
34 Anyway, I developed both analysis for
35 each proposal. And initially there was talk about
36 developing one analysis for both proposals because if you
37 remember back to the Huslia meeting, at that meeting,
38 Jerry Berg, who doesn't work with this region anymore,
39 but he had said that the YK Council had passed a -- or
40 had proposed a proposal to expand the C&T determination
41 for rainbow trout on the lower Kuskokwim and this Council
42 might want to consider doing the same thing for the
43 middle Kuskokwim. So initially we thought, well, we'll
44 just analyze them together but as it turns out after I
45 sort of started doing some of the research, it turned out
46 that there's really different patterns of use between the
47 lower Kuskokwim and the middle Kuskokwim so in my mind,
48 anyway, it made sense to do the analysis separately so
49 that's what I did. And I guess as the author of the
50 analysis, I guess that's my prerogative.

1 But it did make it -- it was confusing in
2 the agenda because it was suggested they were being
3 analyzed together when, in fact, they're being analyzed
4 separately.

5
6 So keeping with going through these
7 proposals numerically I will first go through the
8 proposal analysis for No. 7 and then go through the
9 analysis for No. 8.

10
11 (Phone ringing)

12
13 MS. WHEELER: It must be somebody calling
14 in to hear about No. 7.

15
16 (Laughter)

17
18 MS. WHEELER: And I guess I should say,
19 too, for now you'll notice that I really haven't done
20 that many proposal analysis before, I am going to be
21 doing the Yukon and Kuskokwim proposal analysis so I'll
22 be the social scientist for this region, not only for the
23 Fisheries Information Services component of our program,
24 but also for the regulatory component. And I will be,
25 for Ray -- or somebody had mentioned the 21(E) moose C&T
26 issue, and I will be working on that for OSM, just as a
27 point of information. Some of you may be happy, some of
28 you may be sad but that's how it is at the Office of
29 Subsistence Management.

30
31 Okay, on Page 77 in your book, and in all
32 of my presentations, I'll just refer you to the pages in
33 your book just so if you want to follow along you can,
34 because I'm not going to read this word for word. Pages
35 77 to 91 is the analysis for Proposal 7 and then as I've
36 said, you've got in your hand, the handout for Proposal
37 8.

38
39 Proposal 7 was put in by the Yukon
40 Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council, it asks to
41 expand the existing C&T determination for rainbow trout
42 to include 10 lower Kuskokwim communities, and just for
43 point of information, the communities include
44 Tuntutuliak, Napakiak, Napaskiak, Oscarville, Bethel,
45 Atmautluak, Nun -- and I apologize in advance if I'm
46 mispronouncing any of these, Nunapitchuk, Kasigluk,
47 Tuluksak, Upper Kalskag and Lower Kalskag.

48
49 The regulatory history on rainbow trout
50 is sort of interesting from my perspective. You may note

1 that on Page 79 there's a section on regulatory history,
2 it talks about regulations for rainbow trout under the
3 Federal system going back to 1990, some people when they
4 saw that initially thought I'd made a mistake because the
5 Federal didn't get management authority for fisheries, in
6 general until '99, but actually they did, rainbow trout
7 was an issue right from the get-go in this program.

8
9 In '93 following several requests to the
10 Federal Subsistence Board on behalf of the Association of
11 Village Council Presidents, the Board did, in 1993, make
12 a customary and traditional use determination for rainbow
13 trout to include the communities of Quinhagak, Goodnews
14 Bay, Kwethluk, Eek, Akiachak, Akiak and Platinum, so
15 that's the existing C&T determination for rainbow trout
16 on the Kuskokwim River, and that's been in place since
17 April of 1993. Last winter the Yukon-Kuskokwim Council
18 put in a request to expand that existing C&T
19 determination to include those 11 additional communities.
20 So that sort of gives you a nutshell of the regulatory
21 history. And as I said it's in there in all of its glory
22 in the analysis.

23
24 I'll say right now, rainbow trout are at
25 the northern -- sort of the northern part of their range
26 in the Kuskokwim, there does seem to be some -- I
27 wouldn't say confusion, but it's not, you know, we're
28 pretty sure they're in the Aniak but above there there's
29 some people saying they're catching them in different
30 places, but we know clearly they're in the northern part
31 of their range in this part of the world. After going
32 through a lot of the literature, it's quite clear that
33 people in those -- again, for Proposal 7, people in those
34 11 communities do have a pattern of use and I discuss --
35 I tried to sort of make it as concise as possible, but
36 each of the eight criteria, are in the analysis and uses
37 available information, which I will say is somewhat
38 limited, but it shows a pattern of use that's consistent.
39 For all of those 11 communities, typically in the fall
40 sort of from late June until -- or the summer and early
41 fall and then sometime during the winter, that's sort of
42 the pattern of use in that general area.

43
44 The effect of the proposal, if this
45 proposal were adopted, would basically result in the
46 expansion of a positive determination for rainbow trout
47 in the Kuskokwim area to include residents of those 11
48 communities. In 2000 those 11 communities together
49 contained a little under 2,500 households. Expanding the
50 existing C&T determination for those communities would

1 not be expected to change the pattern of use. IT would
2 just merely acknowledge the pattern of use that exists in
3 those 11 different communities.

4
5 So the preliminary recommendation on the
6 part of Staff is to support the proposal because again
7 it's acknowledging the existing pattern of use for that
8 area.

9
10 And, Mr. Chair, with that.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. ADF&G, would
13 you state your name, please.

14
15 MR. BURR: Hi, I'm John Burr, with Alaska
16 Fish and Game. On the last page of the handout, the
17 State's comments on these proposals are listed, I'm just
18 going to summarize what's on Page 4.

19
20 For Proposal 7, the State feels that the
21 Federal analysis does a fine job of documenting the
22 information on customary and traditional use of rainbow
23 trout by the listed communities, and the State concurs
24 that under Federal and State regulations, subsistence
25 regulations that are in place that we would not expect to
26 see a change in the harvest as effect of the proposed
27 regulation.

28
29 There is, in State regulation, a finding
30 for the Kuskokwim area for customary and traditional use
31 of all finfish, which would include rainbow trout.

32
33 There is, however, relatively little
34 information about rainbow trout stocks in the Kuskokwim
35 and we have very little information about harvest of
36 rainbow trout so the rest of the State's comments
37 basically highlight the need for better harvest
38 information in the drainage and better stock assessment
39 so that we can, at some point in the future, begin to
40 establish what would be a sustainable yield of
41 subsistence and other use of rainbow trout in the
42 drainage.

43
44 That pretty much is it.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. InterAgency
47 Staff.

48
49 MR. CHEN: We have no comments.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: No comments from the
2 InterAgency Staff. Advisory Council.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Yukon-Kuskokwim meets next
5 week, no Advisory Committees to my knowledge have taken
6 this up and there are no written public comments
7 submitted.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Public
10 testimony.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seeing none, Regional
15 Council deliberation, questions.

16
17 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.

20
21 MR. COLLINS: Polly was there any
22 consideration in the C&T findings for specific streams?
23 Like I noticed in your analysis it said, yes, they
24 traditionally use this stream, but the C&T is for the
25 whole area, isn't it, so it means that someone from
26 Bethel could go to any of those streams, or someone from
27 Goodnews Bay or wherever, and it looks to me like we
28 don't have in place the management tool if, in the
29 future, some of those are threatened in a given stream,
30 everybody's going to have to be cut off or -- do you see
31 what I mean, you can't just restrict it, let's say to the
32 village that's on that stream or has used it the most or
33 whatever, so why are we making area-wide determinations
34 when they're a limited resource in just a few streams
35 instead of being more specific, or is that an option?

36
37 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. Member Collins,
38 well, I suppose anything's an option. And you, as the
39 Council are here, because you have the expert -- you
40 know, you have the expert knowledge and the expert
41 opinion to make recommendations.

42
43 I guess our program has -- the Federal
44 program has done analysis typically looking at community
45 use patterns, if they're using a particular resource in a
46 particular -- you know, if they use that particular
47 resource. In this area, because it's the existing C&T
48 determinations for the Kuskokwim area, the proposal just
49 asks to expand that C&T determination.

50

1 One point to keep in mind, however, is
2 that when we do these C&T analysis, we are looking
3 specifically at a pattern of use of the resource, we're
4 not looking at the status of the resource in question, so
5 that's where methods and means come in.

6
7 And then the other issue, of course, is
8 .804. You know, if there's a shortage of the resource,
9 then the program is mandated under Section .804 of ANILCA
10 to look at those -- you know, to restrict the use to
11 those that are most reliant on the resource, similar to
12 the State's Tier II program.

13
14 So I don't know if that helps or hinders,
15 but that's as much as I can give you right now.

16
17 MR. COLLINS: Thank you. Yes, I guess it
18 does, if that's the way it would be administered, I was
19 wondering if it was going to hamper us in the future if
20 you had to do that.

21
22 The issue was raised at the -- again, at
23 the management meeting in Bethel there, where some were
24 concerned because they are a rather limited resource, as
25 you said, and they're afraid that there's no limit under
26 subsistence, you take what you need, well, that can
27 amount to a lot of fish in some cases, and there's --
28 yeah. So if any of them are hurting they're going to
29 have to find it by resource and then I guess they're
30 going to have to go into that findings, like Tier II, I
31 guess, to determine who can use them.

32
33 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. Council
34 members. I would -- I mean everything that you say is
35 right on, Ray, I guess the one caveat that I would put in
36 there is as Mr. Burr pointed out, we don't know -- and I
37 made a lot of effort at talking to John and Charlie
38 Swanton and others at Sportfish when I was starting on
39 this, down the train of this analysis, and we don't know
40 a lot about rainbow trout, I mean, yes, we know they're
41 the northern -- and I'm speaking as a social scientist
42 here, so I'm sure John will correct me if I'm speaking
43 out of -- well, I know I'm speaking out of turn, but at
44 least I can tell you what I know from talking with these
45 gentlemen, and that is that they're at the northern range
46 -- they're at their northern range on the Kuskokwim
47 River, they tend to be slow growing populations but other
48 -- I mean we don't know a lot more than that and
49 certainly Fish and Game -- although I would take issue
50 with some of the specifics of Fish and Game's comments as

1 far as proposals being submitted to FIS and not being
2 funded, I mean that's a separate issue and we'll talk
3 about the FIS stuff later, our proposals go through
4 pretty rigorous review processes so I can only guess if
5 proposals were submitted and not funded they probably
6 didn't pass muster. But in any event, if there were a
7 good proposal submitted to FIS, that were able to pass
8 technical muster as far as finding out more about rainbow
9 trout, I know that that would be considered by the
10 Technical Review Committee. So we clearly need to know
11 more about this resource, both in terms of human patterns
12 of use but also from the biological standpoint.

13

14 But you're correct, in that, you know,
15 certain populations can be hit fairly hard. But again
16 with the C&T determination, we're just looking at
17 patterns of use of that particular resource.

18

19 Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
22 comments.

23

24 MR. SIAVELIS: I have a question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: George.

27

28 MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 Polly, and this is just to clarify my confusion so I make
30 sure I vote right. It seems to be -- in the meeting in
31 Huslia we had a C&T determination issue before us
32 concerning people in one unit, game management unit,
33 hunting in another game management unit, and there's a
34 C&T determination by that game management unit, but here,
35 we're talking about fish, we're talking about the whole
36 region-wide, so that's done different, you're saying
37 there a little bit because there we judge that they
38 shouldn't have a C&T because of the ANILCA -- part of
39 ANILCA that says, you know, that it needs to be
40 economically feasible -- I'm butchering up the words,
41 but, you know, for it to be in compliance with ANILCA,
42 but with the fish here it seems like, you know, it's okay
43 for Bethel people to go to McGrath and harvest rainbow
44 trout and.....

45

46 MR. COLLINS: We don't get rainbow.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 MR. COLLINS: I wish there were.

1 MR. SIAVELIS: Yeah, right, I know there
2 isn't but certainly way up the Aniak, anyway, and, you
3 know, come, what would be 400 miles, you know, by boat to
4 go get rainbows up in the Salmon River or up by Aniak
5 Lake, or up by the Uluga, so that's different with the
6 fish, I mean it's totally huge sections of the state,
7 whereas the hunting is game management units and that
8 economic thing comes into play.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Polly.

11
12 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, I'll jump in
13 here and I'm sure John can clarify if I've muddled things
14 more. It's not different, it's the same. We're looking
15 at the exact same eight criteria. The difference is in
16 how the land status or the water status is divided up. I
17 mean with game -- at that meeting at Huslia, I believe it
18 was moose in 24 and 23.....

19
20 MR. REAKOFF: 21.

21
22 MS. WHEELER:21(D), it was moose in
23 game management units. Here, because it's -- the
24 existing C&T finding is rainbow trout in the Kuskokwim
25 area, you've got -- you just have a larger area, so it's
26 not different in terms of the finding but how the
27 geographic area is divided up is different, and that's
28 where your confusion may be.

29
30 MR. SIAVELIS: That was my point. You do
31 the finding exactly the same but it manifests itself, the
32 end result is different because fish are managed for a
33 whole drainage, hundreds of miles and game management
34 units are not, necessarily, they're done by drainages,
35 too, but it's different.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, John.

38
39 MR. BURR: Yeah, part of the problem is
40 that, you know, just trying to fit a round peg in a
41 square hole. A lot of the fish regulations and findings
42 up to this point are really based on salmon management
43 and it makes sense to have a C&T determination for a
44 drainage like this for salmon because the salmon go by
45 and they're gone and for the residents -- resident
46 species, you know, the model doesn't fit very well. And,
47 you know, there's a whole lot of work to do to make this
48 work better, and right now it doesn't work very well at
49 all. And we're getting away with it because up to this
50 point there's not that many people in rural Alaska that

1 are targeting these fish and wanting them, but as these
2 communities grow it's going to become more and more of a
3 problem, and that again illustrates the problem we have
4 with our stock assessment and the harvest assessment.
5 The harvest information we have is by village and what we
6 need is harvest by location. We need to know how many
7 fish are getting killed in the Aniak River or wherever as
8 opposed to how many people from Bethel are going anywhere
9 to catch a rainbow trout. Those are real different
10 things. And similarly we need site specific stock
11 assessment information for these resident species, and
12 that goes for all of them, not just rainbow trout.

13

MS. WHEELER: Yeah.

14

CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions,
17 comments. Jack.

18

MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I don't think
20 that we could mix apples and oranges with moose demand
21 for the value of a moose compared to the value of this
22 rainbow trout. The uses for the rainbow trout would be
23 more local to home, people aren't going to travel a long
24 ways away to get rainbow trout when they got fat salmon
25 swimming right by their front door. And so I don't think
26 that this is going to be like an expanded use like moose
27 would where there's limited moose resource in the lower
28 river and the moose are in 21(E) and so forth.

29

I feel that these C&T findings are
31 equitable to the users that have been identified as using
32 them and I'm not opposed to this proposal, personally, so
33 I'll vote for the proposal.

34

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. That was
36 my feelings exactly, too, that it seems that if in
37 addressing this proposal, all we're addressing is the C&T
38 findings, that's about it, and I have no problem with
39 that until more is known or more study has been done. So
40 at this time I don't have any opposition to this
41 proposal.

42

Any further comment from the Council.
44 Carl.

45

MR. MORGAN: Yeah, thank you, Ron. You
47 know, your observation that where the rainbow trout, I
48 think you are right on the mark there's some in Aniak
49 River. I've never caught any up above on the Piamute, I
50 don't think I have caught any at Kamakoski, which is

1 about 10 miles above Aniak. And I think it's very seldom
2 I ever caught one at (In Native), which is right up above
3 and I've caught Arctic char, Dolly Varden there, but I
4 don't think I've ever caught rainbow. But in that sense,
5 I know people in Aniak they don't really target -- go
6 after rainbow that much, they'll catch them in the fall
7 or during the winter fishing through the ice, but -- and
8 I know that rainbow is a very delicate fish, you can
9 decimate a rainbow real quick and that almost happened on
10 the Aniak River. They're directly linked to the salmon
11 coming up, if we have a poor salmon year, you're going to
12 have a -- our resident fish hurts.

13

14 And, like George, I'm a little concerned
15 that we're giving and adding all these other communities
16 to that C&T in the Aniak River, or -- I don't go down to
17 Eek, you know, like Jack pointed out, it just costs too
18 much.

19

20 But I got mixed feelings about this, but
21 I think I'll -- I generally support this proposal and I
22 probably will support Proposal No. 8 because that one
23 there just includes Aniak, Chuathbaluk and Crooked Creek.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, all those in favor
30 of adopting Proposal FP05-07 signify by saying aye.

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

35

36 (No opposing votes)

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. At this
39 time the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt FP05-08.

40

41 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl, go ahead.

44

45 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I make the
46 motion that we adopt Proposal FP05-08.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

49

50 MR. COLLINS: I'll second that.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Polly.

2

3 MS. WHEELER: I won't belabor the points
4 that were made in the previous proposal. I think you all
5 have a pretty good understanding of where we're at from a
6 regulatory standpoint. And, again, if you remember back
7 to the Huslia meeting, this proposal was requested by the
8 Council recognizing that the YK Council had put in a
9 proposal to expand the C&T determination for rainbow
10 trout on the Kuskokwim and this Council specifically said
11 that they wanted a proposal to take into account the use
12 of rainbow trout on the Kuskokwim by residents within
13 communities within the jurisdiction of your Council,
14 basically. And the three communities that were listed in
15 the proposal were Aniak, Chuathbaluk and Crooked Creek.

16

17 I was actually happy to see that the
18 Fisheries Information Services had funded a study in 2001
19 to look at the harvest of non-salmon -- well, salmon and
20 non-salmon fish by residents of Aniak. That project
21 proposal is currently in draft form and hopefully I'll
22 have a copy for you at your winter meeting, but the
23 results of that project were really helpful in coming up
24 with some of the more current information, use
25 information for this analysis.

26

27 Again, going through the existing
28 information, which surprisingly was actually -- there was
29 more information for this part of the world than there
30 was for the lower Kuskokwim in terms of human use
31 patterns anyway. After going through the eight factors
32 which, again, the analysis is in the handout that we just
33 gave out earlier, that didn't make it into your book but
34 you have it in your hot little hand, after going through
35 all of the materials that were available to me it seemed
36 pretty clear that residents of Aniak and Chuathbaluk
37 fished for rainbow trout in Federal waters on the
38 Kuskokwim River. I couldn't find any evidence in the
39 written literature, anyway, that residents of Crooked
40 Creek went down that far to fish for rainbow trout.
41 Again, people in Aniak clearly fish on the Aniak, people
42 from Chuathbaluk go down, I mean there's good evidence
43 for people from Chuathbaluk going down to the Aniak to
44 fish but I couldn't find anything to indicate that people
45 from Crooked Creek were doing that.

46

47 So the preliminary conclusion is to
48 support the proposal with modification to include only
49 the communities of Aniak and Chuathbaluk, and again the
50 justification for the preliminary conclusion is that the

1 expanding the existing C&T determination for rainbow
2 trout to include the residents of Aniak and Chuathbaluk
3 would acknowledge the existing use. It wouldn't change
4 harvest patterns because it would just be acknowledging
5 existing use. But I couldn't find any evidence for use
6 by residents of Crooked Creek. So the proposed -- or the
7 preliminary conclusion, again, is to support the proposal
8 with modification to include only the communities of
9 Aniak and Chuathbaluk.

10

11 Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Polly. John.

14

15 MR. BURR: The State's comments for
16 Proposal 08 are essentially the same as they were for 07
17 and rather than going over them all over again, it's the
18 same except for different communities.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

21

22 MR. BURR: And she addressed the
23 differences between the two proposals.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. InterAgency.

26

27 MR. CHEN: We don't have any additional
28 comments, Mr. Chair.

29

30 REPORTER: Ron.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: No additional comments.

33

34 REPORTER: Ron.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Oh, okay, thank you.

37 Advisory.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, no advisory
40 committees have taken this up to my knowledge and Yukon-
41 Kuskokwim meets next week and there were no written
42 public comments.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Public
45 testimony.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seeing none. For my
50 clarification, Carl made the motion and who seconded it,

1 Tina?

2

3

REPORTER: Ray.

4

5

CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

6

7

MR. COLLINS: Ray.

8

9

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Yes, when we made that motion, we made the motion to adopt FP05-08, but Staff is recommending that we adopt a modified one which deleted Crooked Creek, so the maker of the motion, what's your please, do you just want a friendly change or just recognize the change that the -- or do you want to keep Crooked Creek on there, that's what I'm trying to clarify at this time.

16

17

18

Carl.

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. MORGAN: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair. I didn't look at the modification, Staff recommendation, I was just looking at the as written on top. I would like to still have Crooked Creek included because, there again it's going to be the economics of it that's going to drive the fact of them coming down. But when they do come down they do fish through the ice, so I think I would rather have Crooked Creek included for -- one of the main reasons I got cousins up there, too, and I don't think they'd like to have me vote to exclude them.

(Laughter)

MR. MORGAN: So I'd like to keep Crooked Creek on.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Consent of the agenda.

MR. COLLINS: Yes, Carl, you have personal knowledge then of use by residents of Crooked Creek.

MR. MORGAN: Yeah.

MR. COLLINS: So that would support your recommendation, yeah, I'd go along with that.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks for that clarification. I just wanted that clarified because the Staff recommendation was different. Any further discussion on FP05-08.

1 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair, we need to make
2 sure that we add our comments, the reason we support it
3 then is that we have knowledge.....
4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Evidence.
6
7 MR. COLLINS:that residents have
8 used it.....
9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: To justify.
11
12 MR. COLLINS:Crooked Creek has,
13 yeah.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any further
16 discussion.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, all those in favor
21 of adopting Proposal FP05-08 as written signify by saying
22 aye.
23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.
25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.
27
28 (No opposing votes)
29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Proposal 05-08 has passed.
31 Vince, next item on the agenda.
32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. You need to
34 kind of just shift gears a little bit here. You're now
35 going to go into fishery topics in general. Polly's
36 going to be covering the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
37 Program and she'll walk you through those materials.
38 This is the part where you look at different projects
39 that are coming up and how they should be prioritized
40 based on your issues and information needs. So it's a
41 little bit of a shift here but it's good timing.
42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Just
44 for the record, I know that I've seen a lot of local
45 residents in and out, I see them sitting here. Again, I
46 would like the community for Anvik for hosting our
47 meeting, and you are more than welcome and thank you
48 again.
49
50 With that I would like to go ahead and

1 turn it over -- Vince.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, to the public
4 that's here, it's the standing policy of this Council
5 that if you, at any time, need to testify or comment, you
6 just need to raise your hand or if you want to fill out
7 the blue card wherever they are, and the Chair would
8 recognize you and bring you up. And then the other thing
9 is, tonight, at 7:00, that was set aside specifically for
10 local residents and others that are visiting to come here
11 to talk, don't hang on the word, testify, you're not on
12 trial here. But it's basically.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: We aren't either.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, some meetings it's
19 hard to tell.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: But basically for the
24 residents, it's an open forum. I apologize that we get
25 so formal, that it looks like we may be not allowing you
26 to speak, that's not our intent. Our intent is to have a
27 clean record as this moves forward then everyone's clear
28 that everything was heard. So, again, open floor, get
29 recognized and we'll do the best -- the Chair will do the
30 best to incorporate when that would be best to testify.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. I'm
35 glad you brought it up while we have some residents here.
36 It's their time to air all their concerns at 7:00 tonight
37 if that's possible.

38

39 Now, Fisheries Resource Monitoring
40 Program, Polly Wheeler -- the Wheeler.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 Switching gears here a little bit. As I said earlier I'm
46 the anthropologist for the regulatory issues for the
47 Yukon and Kuskokwim River regions but I'm also the lead
48 anthropologist or social-scientist for the Fisheries
49 Information Services. I'm just going to give you a
50 little bit of background on this program -- yes.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have materials on
2 this?

3
4 MS. WHEELER: Absolutely you do, you've
5 got close to 100 pages, I'm happy to say, in your Board
6 books beginning on Page 93 and going to Page 172 for
7 those of you that are counting.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 MS. WHEELER: Never let it be said that
12 we don't give you lots of pages to read.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 MS. WHEELER: And I'm going to try and
17 cut this down to the important stuff, of course, it's all
18 important, my boss would say it's all important, and I
19 agree it's all important but I'll try and cut it down to
20 the material that affects you all directly.

21
22 But I'm going to talk about a couple of
23 different things today. I'm going to talk about the
24 Yukon Fisheries Monitoring Plan, the Kuskokwim Fisheries
25 Monitoring Plan, because again, your regions are the
26 Yukon and the Kuskokwim. I'm also going to talk a little
27 bit about some strategic planning that we're going to be
28 undertaking in the next couple of years. And also talk a
29 little bit about our Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
30 Program which is housed within the Fisheries Information
31 Services. So I'll go through those three things
32 independently.

33
34 A little bit of introduction for the
35 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and for some of you
36 this is going to be review, and for some of you it'll be
37 new information because I know there's a couple Council
38 members that are knew and the first time you heard of
39 this was last winter in Huslia when you got a lot of
40 other new information, and for the public some of it may
41 be new, but I'll try and keep it short and interesting
42 anyway.

43
44 The goal of our program is to fund
45 projects that provide information for Federal subsistence
46 fisheries management. And as we just talked about with
47 the last two proposals clearly getting some sense of
48 what's going on with rainbow trout populations in the
49 Kuskokwim would be a project that might be considered for
50 funding under our program. We fund projects that address

1 high priority subsistence issues, and those issues we
2 look to the Council to come up with. We fund projects
3 also, as I mentioned earlier, our projects go through a
4 fairly rigorous technical review process. Staff,
5 including myself and there's four biologists, go through
6 all the projects, we also have a Technical Review
7 Committee that goes through all the projects, to make
8 sure that they're scientifically sound, that they're
9 going to come up with results that, in fact, are used for
10 Federal subsistence fisheries management.

11
12 The Council does have a list of
13 information needs which I just realized I didn't bring
14 with me, however, all of the projects that we fund, both
15 in the Yukon and Kuskokwim regions, in order to even be
16 considered for funding, the need has to be identified on
17 the issues and information needs that you, as a Council
18 came up with, if you remember, a couple years ago.
19 Again, those lists can be added to and also things can be
20 taken off when we've addressed them.

21
22 I will say that both for the Yukon and
23 the Kuskokwim, a lot of the research that we fund goes to
24 salmon and in fact on the Kuskokwim our program is
25 responsible for funding about 50 percent of the research
26 that's currently ongoing on the Kuskokwim for fisheries.
27 In the last few years we've funded some projects that
28 have addressed non-salmon issues, particularly on the
29 Yukon, and you're fortunate, I think, to have here at the
30 meeting Dave Andersen is going to be talking about a
31 project that was just recently finished by him and
32 Caroline Brown, on the Koyukuk River, and then Caroline's
33 also going to give you an update on a project that she's
34 been working on and is currently under review in the
35 Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, and Holy Cross area. Those
36 are both projects that were funded under our program
37 because we recognize the need for understanding what's
38 going on with non-salmon fish because, again, there's
39 been so much research directed at salmon, and not that we
40 know a lot, but in some places we know next to nothing on
41 what's going on with non-salmon fish. So those two
42 projects have been really critical in terms of
43 documenting what's actually going on with those species.

44
45 So with that introduction I'll get into
46 -- and in your book beginning on Page 93 and going to
47 Page 97, there's sort of an overview. If you remember,
48 one of us from FIS, the Fisheries Information Services,
49 comes to talk to you every fall about projects that have
50 been recommended for funding. Every year we have a

1 certain amount of money, that amount of money is divided
2 up across the state. It's divided up by data type and
3 about two-thirds of the funding, roughly, goes to sort of
4 your conventional biological projects, weirs, towers, ASL
5 sampling, that sort of thing, and a third of the monies
6 goes towards social-science projects, documenting
7 traditional knowledge, doing some harvest assessment,
8 those kinds of projects. And our job, as Staff, is to
9 oversee those projects and distribute the project
10 findings when they come out and sort of walk the projects
11 through all along.

12
13 We also have some Federal Subsistence
14 Board guidelines where our program isn't supposed to fund
15 habitat protection, restoration or enhancement, we don't
16 do contaminant work, there's some other things, hatchery
17 propagation and not that the Federal Subsistence Board
18 doesn't think that those issues are important, but
19 there's simply not enough money to go around, so at some
20 point you have to put up sideboards and hope that you're
21 targeting the most important issues and information
22 needs.

23
24 So that's kind of the background on our
25 program and, again, it's just an overview for those of
26 you that might not remember about what's actually going
27 on with our program.

28
29 I'm going to go through the Yukon
30 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program first to be
31 followed by the Kuskokwim, and not saying that one is
32 more important than the other, those are just how we have
33 them in the book, so it's easier to go through with
34 what's in the book.

35
36 Beginning on Page 98 in your book, you'll
37 have the Yukon River region overview and I'm not going to
38 belabor the point but I will point out a couple of
39 interesting things. On Page 100 and 101, there's a large
40 table, that table lists every project that has been
41 funded through our program since it began four years ago
42 and it even gives you the investigators that are the
43 primary investigators on the projects, the amounts of
44 monies that were obligated to each of those projects.
45 And we have them divided up by salmon projects and non-
46 salmon projects just because -- just because.

47
48 But if you have any questions on any of
49 those projects at any point during the next couple days,
50 feel free to ask me, if I can't answer it I'll get back

1 to you. Also if you see any projects that you'd like the
2 reports on, I'd be happy to get them to you if we have
3 them. Some reports are in draft status and we're working
4 out revisions with the authors. Eventually the plan is
5 to put all of the reports on the web but we're not even
6 close to that yet, and I don't want to make any promises
7 about when we might be there because that's a dangerous
8 thing to do is make promises about when things are going
9 to available on the web.

10

11 But anyway, it shows that there's a lot
12 going on within our program and we like to think we've
13 funded some really good projects, some projects haven't
14 been maybe as promising as we would have thought, but,
15 hey, that's what happens when you fund research.

16

17 This year, you might remember last year
18 we had a projects up for funding consideration. This
19 year you might be glad we don't have quite as many for
20 you to think about or look at. There were seven
21 investigation plans for the Yukon River region that were
22 submitted for funding consideration. A map of those
23 projects can be found on Page 103 in your book.

24

25 On Page 104 there's a list of the
26 biological projects, it says Table 4 at the bottom of the
27 page, a list of the four biological projects that were
28 submitted to the program for funding consideration. The
29 Technical Review Committee reviewed the investigation
30 plans, as I just mentioned, they first go through a Staff
31 review, and then they go through Technical Review
32 Committee review and then the recommendations from the
33 Technical Review Committee go to the Regional Advisory
34 Councils that are affected, and eventually they're going
35 to go to the Federal Board which is now a January
36 meeting, correct, Vince?

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: (Nods affirmatively)

39

40 MS. WHEELER: So the Technical Review
41 Committee reviewed the investigation plans and they
42 recommended funding four stock, status and trends
43 projects, those are the biological projects, and just one
44 harvest monitoring and traditional knowledge project.
45 They came up with a prioritized list of projects and that
46 is on Page 106 and 107, and if you want me to slow down
47 at any point, if I'm losing you, by all means tell me to
48 slow down and stop.

49

50 So there were seven projects submitted

1 for funding consideration, and the Technical Review
2 Committee ended up recommending five of those seven
3 projects for funding. And the prioritized list of those
4 five projects, again, is on Page 106 and 107.
5

6 If you want I can tell you a little bit
7 about each of the projects that were recommended for
8 funding, but a number of these projects are projects that
9 you've seen before. I think probably that you're fairly
10 familiar with them. There's also executive summaries for
11 each of those projects in your Council book between Pages
12 108 and 126, you'll find executive summaries for each of
13 those projects.
14

15 Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Polly, I see 05-253
18 Grayling Anvik, what's this in-season harvest monitoring
19 consist of?
20

21 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, that project was
22 a project submitted by -- or proposed by Yukon River
23 Drainage Fisheries Association, there were some technical
24 issues with the proposal. Also the Technical Review
25 Committee has some concerns over in-season harvest
26 assessment. If you remember, one of the first projects
27 we funded back at the start of the program was a project
28 called statewide harvest assessment program, I can't even
29 remember the full name of it, it was basically looking at
30 what's going on with harvest assessment statewide. In
31 that, there were State members that -- they formed a
32 panel and there were State members of that group, there
33 were Federal members of that group and there was a
34 significant Native representation on this group because
35 there's a concern over there's all these program -- or
36 harvest assessment programs statewide, how do we
37 coordinate them, do we coordinate them, the group came
38 out with a series of recommendations, one of the
39 recommendations was that we need to be very careful about
40 doing in-season harvest assessment and it should only be
41 done in rare circumstances because it can place a
42 tremendous burden on the users. Recognizing that people,
43 their harvest are looked at for fish, they're looked at
44 for big game, they're looked at for migratory birds, and
45 there was a real concern over burdening people with this
46 sort of constant need for more information. And so that
47 project, there wasn't recognition on the part of the
48 investigators for sort of those recommendations that were
49 made early on in the program, and there was a concern
50 that that project proposed assessing -- doing weekly

1 surveys of all fishing households for the duration of the
2 fishing season, and there was a real concern over
3 burdening people with these constant requests for
4 information.

5
6 That was one of the issues. I mean there
7 were other issues, but that was one of the big issues.

8
9 Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you.

12
13 MS. WHEELER: And I will say, Mr.
14 Chairman.....

15
16 MR. PETERS: Mr. Chairman.

17
18 MS. WHEELER: Oh, I'm sorry, Emmitt.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Emmitt.

21
22 MR. PETERS: Yeah, this Yukon River in-
23 season salmon harvest, is that the king salmon or is that
24 -- well, it's on 106, can you hear me?

25
26 MS. WHEELER: (Nods affirmatively)

27
28 MR. PETERS: Okay. And then you go on
29 over to 107 and you get the Yukon River coho genetics, is
30 that fall run or I want to know the difference between
31 these studies here.

32
33 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, I can address
34 those questions.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Polly.

37
38 MS. WHEELER: Project 05-254, the Yukon
39 River in-season salmon harvest assessment project, that
40 was a project that was proposed by the Federal in-season
41 manager and Geoff Beyersdorf is one of the other
42 investigators. They're proposing using RITs in a number
43 of different villages, I don't remember the exact number,
44 I think it's seven villages -- seven villages, along the
45 Yukon to do what they've been doing all along. Patrick
46 Madros was one of the individuals that did it and Clara
47 Demientieff this past summer, where they report on the
48 weekly YRDFA teleconferences about how people are doing
49 with regard to their subsistence salmon fishing, how many
50 people are fishing, what kind of gear they're using,

1 where they are in terms of meeting their needs. And so
2 that project would fund, sort of coordination, of that
3 effort.

4
5 Project 05-203, the Yukon River coho
6 genetics project is -- and I'm looking at my cheatsheet
7 here, Member Peters, so I can speak to you with
8 authority, that project is a pilot study to examine the
9 genetic diversity among nine populations of coho salmon
10 in the Yukon River, so it's a genetics project. It's the
11 Conservation Genetics Lab that's going to be analyzing
12 these different stocks to look at the genetic diversity
13 of these different stocks of coho -- populations, rather,
14 not stocks.

15
16 Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Polly.
19 Jack.

20
21 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, I went through
22 all these projects and like I stated at the beginning of
23 the meeting, my concern was with the Area M genetic make
24 up of those chum salmon stocks as they pass through False
25 Pass or intercepted, and is there any call for proposals
26 for projects to address those data lack concerns or do
27 you know of studies that are being deployed by the
28 Department to address those issues or I'm sort of in the
29 dark as to the progress of what's going on there?

30
31 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. Member Reakoff,
32 that would be two of us that would be in the dark.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 MS. WHEELER: I will look to my colleague
37 sitting behind me to see if anybody from the Department
38 wants to speak to that. I know that there's a couple of
39 other funding efforts out there, there's the AYK
40 Sustainable Salmon Initiative which is funding sort of
41 what we call research with a big R as opposed to kind of
42 -- the stuff that we fund has a real -- most of it has a
43 very strong applied focus and I don't know if the AYK
44 Sustainable Salmon Initiative -- and I don't see any of
45 my colleagues jumping up to help me out here, so I would
46 say that there's -- our call for proposals, which will
47 come out in the fall, the late fall, is going to be a
48 fairly small call in terms of money available because we
49 just don't have a lot. The next call, for 2007, the
50 amount will be fairly high, again, I don't know what the

1 AYK call for proposals is looking like, but I can find
2 out and I can get back to you and make sure that that
3 information goes out to you through Vince because I don't
4 have a very good answer for you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

7
8 MR. REAKOFF: I am a little bit surprised
9 that there's not somebody jumping in here because this
10 was an integral issue of the Area M deliberation this
11 spring with the Federal Board, is that, nobody could
12 answer the question as to whose stocks those are.
13 There's speculation as to whose stocks they are, there's
14 really no definitive answer to that.

15
16 So I would, you know, if you could
17 investigate that I would appreciate that.

18
19 MS. WHEELER: Will do.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Polly.

22
23 MS. WHEELER: Fortunately one of my
24 colleagues did step up. Dr. Glenn Chen from BIA pointed
25 out that we -- that the program did fund a project, it's
26 at the very bottom of -- it's the last project on Page
27 100, 04-228, Yukon River chum GSI, genetic stock
28 identification, and that just began this year, it's a two
29 year project. So if it just began in 2004, that means
30 they would have a report sometime in 2006. But, you
31 know, one possibility might be, Mr. Chair, and this is
32 just a recommendation that at our winter meeting we
33 typically have investigators come and speak to the
34 Council, not a lot of investigators because we don't have
35 the time, but we have some investigators come and speak
36 to the Council about projects that are of interest to
37 them, and that might be one project where even though
38 it's early on in the project where it might be valuable
39 to have that investigator come, I don't know it's just a
40 suggestion.

41
42 I don't know if Dr. Glenn Chen has
43 anything more to add. Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Glenn.

46
47 MR. CHEN: Mr. Reakoff, there's a
48 recognition that there needs to be better stock
49 identification of what's caught of the Area M and it
50 involves a multitude of steps to do that and one is to

1 establish the genetic baseline so they can then sample
2 the fishery in Area M and see where the fish are coming
3 from. So part of the objectives of Project 04-228 is to
4 develop that baseline for Yukon River chum stocks. Once
5 that's done then there needs to be a program implemented
6 by which then they can sample the commercial fishery in a
7 statistical manner and then compare those samples, the
8 genetic make up of those samples to what's been
9 identified for Yukon River chums.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

12

13 MR. REAKOFF: I'm happy to realize that I
14 forgot about that project, but I do feel that the
15 Kuskokwim, as a Western Interior Council member, I would
16 like to see identification of those Kuskokwim stocks also
17 so that assessment can be made in-season as to what
18 stocks are being caught as a by-catch, and those impacts
19 on those possibly stocks of concerns, you know. And so I
20 would -- if this project, the Yukon project addresses
21 those genetic issues, I would also like to see a
22 Kuskokwim project, also.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we've been
27 bouncing around with this AYKSSI, maybe it would be wise
28 if Staff agrees, that we would give you an assessment or
29 report or summary of where they're at at your next
30 meeting, because several times that this has come up and
31 they're doing a planning process to look at what projects
32 should be done, which ones need to continue and all that.
33 So I'm sensing the Council wants to know what's going on
34 out there and I think, Staff, we could contact them to
35 find out. It's coming your way. I'm not doing this just
36 because of Jack's request, it will come your way at a
37 certain point down the road, so it'd be best to start
38 stepping you into their process.

39

40 Again, I don't know if you'd have
41 standing there, it'd just be informational.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

44

45 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Polly
46 on top of each one of your deals it says recommended for
47 funding, are you coming to the Board saying you would
48 like our support here to help you get funding on this?

49

50 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. Member Walker,

1 yes, that was going to be my request, after any other
2 questions on any of these projects. Again, if you go to
3 Pages 106 and 107, the list of seven projects there has a
4 line drawn under Yukon River coho genetics and the first
5 five projects are the projects that the Technical Review
6 Committee recommends for funding.

7
8 So at this time, Mr. Chair, I would ask
9 for a formal vote from the Council to support the
10 Technical Review Committee recommendations for the Yukon
11 River Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: What pages are these on
14 again, 106?

15
16 MS. WHEELER: Page 106.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: And 107.

19
20 MS. WHEELER:and going over to 107.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: So all we're looking for
23 here is just a motion adopting the TRC recommendations,
24 request for funding, is that it?

25
26 MS. WHEELER: Yes, Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, the Chair will
29 entertain a motion to that effect, to accept the TRC's
30 recommended funding for all our new projects.

31
32 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

35
36 MR. REAKOFF: I'd like to make a motion
37 to adopt the TRC's recommendations. I appreciate the
38 hard work they've done to formulate the need for that
39 information and I concur with them.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Is there
42 a second.

43
44 MR. PETERS: I second it. And I think
45 it's a good program and I'd like to see more of that
46 studies going on.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 MR. WALKER: Question.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called
2 for. All those in favor of adopting the TRC's
3 recommendations signify by saying aye.
4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.
6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.
8
9 (No opposing votes)
10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Go ahead,
12 Polly.
13
14 MS. WHEELER: Now, Mr. Chair, if you'd
15 bear with me we need to do the same thing for the
16 Kuskokwim.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, and that is on Page?
19
20 MS. WHEELER: The Kuskokwim Monitoring
21 Plan begins on Page 127 of your Council book.
22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.
24
25 (Pause)
26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Polly.
28
29 MS. WHEELER: On Pages 129 to 130 there's
30 a list of all the projects that have been funded in the
31 Kuskokwim since the beginning of this program. Again, as
32 I mentioned earlier the Monitoring Program funds about 50
33 percent of all the fisheries monitoring research
34 conducted on the Kuskokwim, so you are all responsible
35 really for funding a lot of research going on in the
36 Kuskokwim as we speak and really, for the past four
37 years.
38
39 In terms of the Kuskokwim and the
40 projects submitted for funding consideration, nine
41 investigation plans were submitted for projects on the
42 Kuskokwim. These included six biological projects and
43 three harvest monitoring and TEK projects. On Page 131
44 you can find a map of those project locations for those
45 of you that might not be as familiar with the Kuskokwim.
46
47 On Page 137 to 138, there's again the
48 prioritized list of projects that are recommended by the
49 Technical Review Committee. The TRC has recommended
50 funding seven out of the nine projects, and these include

1 -- Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: So they draw the line at
4 05-301.
5
6 MS. WHEELER: That's correct, Mr. Chair.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.
9
10 MS. WHEELER: They draw the line under
11 05-301, so up until that line all those projects are
12 recommended for funding, below the line they're not
13 recommended for funding.
14
15 MR. WALKER: Ron.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.
18
19 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 Going back to the Yukon, Polly, in that motion there did
21 you need a dollar amount or you just needed a line item?
22
23 MS. WHEELER: Just the vote that you did
24 was fine, because the Technical Review Committee
25 recommendations take into account the dollar amount.
26
27 MR. WALKER: Okay.
28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks, Robert.
30 Back to Kuskokwim.
31
32 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, I'd be happy to
33 entertain any questions that you might have on any of
34 those Kuskokwim projects. The ones that are recommended
35 for funding or not. One thing that I will say is that
36 with that last project on that prioritized list that's
37 not recommended for funding, the 05-355, the Nunapitchuk
38 freshwater fish project, that has been a project that has
39 been of concern, or the issues raised by that project are
40 -- the Technical Review Committee is on notice that those
41 are important issues but, again, there was some technical
42 issues with the project proposal and that's really what
43 we evaluate, is it's the issues -- the issues have to be
44 important in the context of the program but the project
45 also has to be technically sound because as you all know
46 there's no point in -- I mean we all have good ideas but
47 it doesn't mean we can carry them out so that we end up
48 with something at the end. So we're really trying to
49 fund projects that are not only good ideas, but that
50 people can do what they say they're going to do. But

1 that is a particular -- you know that issue has come up
2 as something that needs to be looked at at some point in
3 time but this investigation plan didn't get us there.

4

5 Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

8

9 MR. REAKOFF: Regarding that project,
10 does the investigators review your comments and then
11 readjust their proposal?

12

13 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. Yes. And that
14 happened on several of the Yukon projects as well. And
15 I've spent a lot of time working with all these
16 investigators and sometimes they get to a good point
17 because the projects are reviewed by the TRC and
18 sometimes they don't. But, yeah, that's our job, really,
19 is to work with these investigators and I've been in
20 touch with that particular investigator and we're going
21 to try and help -- I'm going to try and help her get
22 something for the next call for proposals.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
25 Polly.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: So again you're just -- a
30 motion then would be in order to also accept the TRC's
31 recommendations for the Kuskokwim projects, the seven?

32

33 MS. WHEELER: That's correct, Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a motion.
36 Robert.

37

38 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I'll make a
39 motion of the TRC for the Kuskokwim.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

42

43 MR. MORGAN: I'll second the motion.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
46 Polly.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 MR. WALKER: Question.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called
2 for. All those in favor of adopting the TRC's
3 recommendations on the Kuskokwim signify by saying aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

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

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Polly,
12 Inter-regional.

13
14 MS. WHEELER: Yes, Mr. Chair. But one
15 point that I did want to make is that, again, at the
16 winter meetings, we do usually have a couple of
17 investigators come and talk to you about projects in your
18 region. So you can look at the list of projects, not the
19 ones that you just recommended for funding because they
20 still have more review to go through, and if they're
21 recommended for funding they won't go in the water until
22 next summer, but for the existing projects in that table
23 for the Yukon in the early 100s and then for the
24 Kuskokwim -- excuse me while I look for it, the Yukon
25 projects are on Page 100 and 101, the Kuskokwim projects
26 are on Page 129 and 130, you don't need to necessarily do
27 it right now, I'm just saying at some point during this
28 meeting if you want to look through those projects and
29 kind of think about an investigator that you'd like to
30 have come talk to you about a project, like I said,
31 you're lucky because you have a couple of -- some of our
32 star investigators from the social-science side of things
33 that are going to speak to you at this meeting, and I say
34 star statewide, you're lucky in this region, but if
35 there's other investigators that you'd like to have come
36 talk to you then let us know and we'll make that happen
37 -- or we'll try to make it happen anyway at our winter
38 meeting, so just something to keep in mind.

39
40 There is one inter-regional project that
41 I'd like you to take, at least, a look at or at least
42 think about, it's on Page -- a summary of that project is
43 on Page 168 to 170 in your book.

44
45 And this inter-regional category is sort
46 of a strange category, we've had it since the beginning
47 of the program, it's typically a small amount of money
48 but it funds projects that kind of don't fit in any
49 particular region so projects that either cross regions
50 or are more of a programmatic assessment, like that

1 statewide harvest monitoring program that I mentioned
2 earlier, that was funded through the inter-regional
3 category because it didn't fit specifically in one
4 category so we did it in the inter-regional.

5
6 There's only one inter-regional project
7 that was submitted this year and it's -- I hope you don't
8 ask me too many specific questions on it but if you do I
9 can try and help you out. It's genetic species markers
10 and population structure in Alaskan whitefish. Again,
11 the summary and I would certainly urge you to look at
12 that, is on Pages 168 and 170. And that project was
13 submitted in part because in recent years, as you all
14 know, whitefish are coming up more and more as potential
15 issues and this project is trying to look at assessing
16 the population structure within the Yukon River,
17 primarily between the Koyukuk, Tanana and Upper Yukon
18 River populations and to develop genetic markers to
19 discriminate among different species.

20
21 It's a shot in the dark but it's
22 certainly -- there's some potential value in doing that
23 and because whitefish, again, some issues with whitefish
24 are cropping up more and more in recent years it was felt
25 that this was a potentially valuable project to fund. So
26 the TRC did recommend funding that project.

27
28 And, Mr. Chair, at this time I would ask
29 if there were any questions or if the Council would like
30 to recommend supporting the Technical Review Committee
31 recommendation.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Polly. I think
34 that it's more than a worthwhile study. It's not only
35 important it is necessary, it is a necessary food item up
36 along the Koyukuk River. Robert, you had a question.

37
38 MR. WALKER: Yes, Polly, going back to
39 the topic for recommending funding with modifications for
40 adjusted dollar sign down here, the cost, 2005/2006?

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Polly.

43
44 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. Member Walker,
45 there were some technical issues that needed to be
46 addressed in the investigation plan, it wasn't the money
47 that was of concern, it was the technical issues and I
48 believe that the investigators are working with
49 biologists at FIS to address those concerns raised by the
50 Technical Review Committee.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, I said this is more
2 than important so at this time the Chair will entertain a
3 motion to adopt TRC recommendations on genetic markers on
4 Alaskan whitefish.
5
6 Jack.
7
8 MR. REAKOFF: So moved.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.
11
12 MR. PETERS: I second it.
13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Emmitt. Any
15 further questions.
16
17 (No comments)
18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any discussion.
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 MR. WALKER: Question.
24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called
26 for. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying
27 aye.
28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.
32
33 (No opposing votes)
34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Vince.
36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Maybe
38 Polly was going to bring it up but if so I beat her.
39
40 (Laughter)
41
42 MR. MATHEWS: In Wasilla we made a
43 concerted effort to have posters. I'm concerned that --
44 I was just looking back to the Yukon River, we've been --
45 you guys have been agreeing to fund projects since 2000,
46 so we have enough out there, and I'm not sure we're
47 getting the information to you guys. So we need input
48 from you. I mean every meeting we say we'll get you the
49 reports, but I'm not sure that's it. So posters was one
50 intermediary. Another is, seriously, Polly asked you

1 strongly and I'll ask you a little bit more strongly,
2 give us recommendations of which investigators to come in
3 here. You guys made it strong in 2000 and 2001 that
4 these projects are important to protect that salmon, the
5 data is now coming in to support your positions or not to
6 support your positions, and it's a volume of data that we
7 just can't give you at every meeting, so we got to figure
8 out a medium ground. So one is posters, two is give us
9 strong indications of who you would like to come to
10 present.

11
12 Now, I'll probably be calling you back,
13 Polly or Steve Klein saying, no, we can't get that person
14 but we need to know who you would want and then more
15 likely you'll probably get that person.

16
17 But see I'm seeing a huge amount of data
18 in the pipeline and you guys started and laid out that
19 pipeline but we're not backfeeding, I think, well enough
20 to you, in my opinion on it. And they are on the web,
21 the reports, they will be on the web in the future but we
22 won't discuss that too much because many of you don't
23 have access to the web.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. If the
26 projects are that important to us, like they are to me,
27 at least, ones locally I make it a point to go out there
28 and actually see what's going on at the project and ask
29 questions on where it's going or what it's trying to do.
30 And I've been following the local ones pretty closely and
31 I think that for the most part everyone around here would
32 do that and I think that's how we're getting some of the
33 information back, at least, the ones that are close to us
34 and, you know, we can actually see it. But I can see the
35 need for dispersal of more information too, especially to
36 the general public. We, as Council members can, and do,
37 request this information and get it.

38
39 Yes, Polly.

40
41 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. I would also
42 add that we're at the point in the program where I think
43 some of the information from the projects is feeding back
44 into management, and that's ideally what we're looking at
45 is providing information for Council members, but also
46 providing the information for managers so that they can
47 make better decisions.

48
49 Also in terms of getting information out
50 to the public, you're all familiar with our news letter,

1 and the cover article in the most recent volume, and I
2 have copies back there was on that Koyukuk River project
3 and I got a number of calls from all over the state,
4 actually interested, I was surprised, for copies of that
5 report. So we're looking for ways of suggestions of how
6 we can better get the word out, so if you have any of
7 them, by all means let us know, but we are trying to get
8 that out. And Vince is right, we have gotten some
9 posters for some of these projects and I'm trying to
10 encourage investigators to get more.

11

12 We got a great poster for the Koyukuk
13 River project and I will bring that at the winter
14 meeting, so, yeah, any suggestions that you have either
15 for investigators or ways to get the word out for the
16 good work that we're doing that you're helping to make
17 decisions on for the funding, we're all ears.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. I would like
22 to see possibly the conclusions from a lot of those
23 projects sort of put into a synopsis so that we could go
24 down, at my leisure, when I have time drinking coffee in
25 the morning when I normally do a lot of reading, go
26 through those conclusions, and if I have any further
27 questions I may request then that that specific report.

28

29 MS. WHEELER: Duly noted, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Polly. Those
32 were the three action items you had at this time.

33

34 MS. WHEELER: I had several other short
35 items.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, what's the feelings
38 of the Council, you want a quick break and then go ahead
39 and try to finish or you want to just -- okay, go ahead,
40 Polly.

41

42 MS. WHEELER: I'll make them short.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

45

46 MS. WHEELER: One is on strategic
47 planning, which ties into what we've been talking about
48 all along, is identifying high priority issues. One of
49 the ways that our program is starting to tackle getting
50 or funding the highest priority issues is through these

1 strategic planning sessions that we're doing in each
2 region. This year we started, and there was a letter in
3 your winter Council book from Tom Boyd describing the
4 strategic planning process that we're undergoing. This
5 spring we started two strategic planning processes, one
6 in Bristol Bay region and one in Southcentral. We'll be
7 wrapping those up this winter. After those are wrapped
8 up, we'll be tackling several other regions.

9
10 For the Yukon and the Kuskokwim region,
11 there are a couple of other planning efforts that are
12 going on right now that we're waiting until those are
13 completed before we tackle these two regions. So I just
14 wanted to let you know that we are -- we recognize that
15 planning is important, but we're not interested in
16 reinventing the wheel so we're waiting until the
17 Kuskokwim planning effort that's being undertaken by the
18 Kuskokwim Working Group is resolved and also the AYK SSI
19 plan, the Yukon JTC plan, there's all these planning
20 efforts going on and so we're kind of waiting to see what
21 they come up with and looking at them through the State
22 subsistence filter to try and -- to look at developing an
23 additional strategic plan with the Federal subsistence
24 guidelines in place.

25
26 So it probably will happen sometime in
27 the next couple of years, but I just wanted to give you a
28 head's up that that is ongoing for these different
29 regions and it will be occurring in the Yukon and
30 Kuskokwim region within the next several years.

31
32 And on Page 171 of your Board book
33 there's an update saying what I just said basically.

34
35 And then finally, Mr. Chair, I just
36 wanted to give you an update on the Partner's Program.
37 As you know we have the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
38 Program, which funds biologists and social-scientists in
39 a number of different organizations throughout the state.
40 We currently have seven partners, and we have David
41 Orbutt with us today who's just recently been hired by
42 the Kuskokwim Native Association and Dave Cannon is in
43 the process of resigning his position, I guess and so he
44 and David have had a lot of overlap but we're real happy
45 to have David here in the program and I think he's
46 probably going to be on the agenda later on in your
47 meeting.

48
49 Kim Elkin is also one of the partners,
50 she's working for Tanana Chiefs Conference. I actually

1 had thought she was going to be at this meeting but
2 something must have come up, maybe weather.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MS. WHEELER: And the Association of
7 Village Council Presidents is currently advertising and
8 the Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments recently
9 hired a position. Their biologist left and they've hired
10 Gretchen Siderof who's just recently started working for
11 CATG.

12

13 So we've got all these positions and it's
14 been a growth experience. There's been some resistance
15 on different fronts to these positions, but we feel that
16 they've really -- we've been working hard to incorporate
17 them into the program to help build the capacity in rural
18 areas to be engaged in a meaningful way in fisheries
19 research and we're recognizing that any new program is
20 going to have bumps along the way but we feel like we're
21 really making some great strides and just wanted to give
22 you a head's up on that program.

23

24 So with that, Mr. Chair, if you have any
25 questions I'd be happy to answer them. I'll be here
26 tomorrow as well so if anything comes up you know where
27 to find me.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

30

31 MR. REAKOFF: Who was that AVCP biologist
32 that quit?

33

34 MS. WHEELER: David Waltmeier. He --
35 Erin Hebert was actually working for them and she left
36 last February and Dave Waltmeier left, I don't exactly
37 remember when, it was sometime in the spring, but they're
38 currently advertising.

39

40 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you.

41

42 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
45 Polly.

46

47 MR. PETERS: Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Emmitt.

50

1 MR. PETERS: Yes, Holly [sic], I'd just
2 like the Board to recognize you doing an outstanding job
3 and it shows here, that you're really digging in the
4 government's pocket trying to come up with the dollars.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 MR. PETERS: Well, thanks a lot for doing
9 a great job.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.
12
13 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I also would
14 like to reiterate that Polly has always done an excellent
15 job with Subsistence Division and now working with OSM
16 and I highly appreciate her work with us.
17
18 Thank you.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
21 Polly.
22
23 (No comments)
24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you, sure
26 appreciate it. When you say you'll make it short,
27 sometimes you do.
28
29 (Laughter)
30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the pleasure of the
32 Council, we can go until we finish this off or just take
33 a small short break.
34
35 MR. WALKER: Let's finish it off.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Next item on the
38 agenda, B, Vince.
39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. This is
41 a joint effort, this gives you a post-season review.
42 Right now I'm kind of scrambling for somebody on the
43 Kuskokwim so we'll worry about that down the road. But
44 this will be a joint presentation, Dave Wiswar is filling
45 in for John Gerkin, and of course Tracy's here for Alaska
46 Department of Fish and Game. And so with that, I have
47 some handouts to give you, and we'll just go ahead from
48 there. And I assume if the Council needs more time that
49 could be used this evening if there's time during that
50 public testimony.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, go ahead, please.

2

3 MR. WISWAR: Okay, Mr. Chair and members
4 of the Council. For the record my name is David -- I'm
5 filling in for somebody, my name is David Wiswar. I'm
6 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks.
7 I'm going to give you a brief overview of the subsistence
8 salmon activities through our office that occurred this
9 summer. I met a couple of Council members along the
10 river this summer, Mr. Peters and Mr. Jones, I want to
11 thank you for your hospitality out there. Thank you.

12

13 The State and Federal managers approached
14 the season with caution again this year and this was due
15 primarily to the uncertainty and concerns of the poor
16 salmon runs that have occurred since 1998. The agencies
17 worked cooperatively to develop the pre-season and in-
18 season management approaches.

19

20 Early in the summer there were two
21 special action requests. The first one was to remove the
22 window approach from Holy Cross on down river to the
23 coast. And the second one was to implement the windowed
24 fishing schedule earlier than was called for in the plan.
25 Both these requests were evaluated and denied because
26 mostly of the uncertainties that have existed in the past
27 with the salmon runs.

28

29 Initially there were harvest delays due
30 to high water and debris and the unavailability of gas in
31 the villages for people to go out to their fishing areas.
32 By mid-June the harvest assessment showed that the
33 households in the lower river were on track to meet their
34 subsistence needs.

35

36 In this overview I have, it's two sheets,
37 four pages. One consists of a table in the back and the
38 other one is a -- well, a figure, there's also a table
39 that kind of gives a brief overview of the assessment
40 projects that the Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Office was
41 involved with this year, and the first page is kind of
42 what I'm talking about, the first sheet is primarily what
43 I'm going over now.

44

45 In-season run abundance of chinook and
46 chum salmon was based on the lower river set net test
47 fishery, Pilot Station and subsistence reports.

48

49 In mid-June it was determined that a
50 sufficient amount of chinook salmon had entered the river

1 and allowed for a commercial fishery to occur.

2

3

4 The summer run chum approved over the
5 2002 and 2003 assessments, however, there were no
6 commercial periods because there were no buyers present
7 in the river.

8

9

10 Overall subsistence fishers were provided
11 with reasonable opportunity to meet their needs, and if
12 you look on that Page 4 of 4 on the handout, it's a
13 little -- I'm sure I'm going to have questions on this
14 and I'll be around later today and tomorrow to answer
15 questions on this figure, it kind of -- it kind of shows
16 that most of the people -- or the households that were
17 surveyed, and these include most of the fishers or the
18 heavy fishers that were -- subsistence fishers that are
19 in those five villages that are presented here. So if
20 there's any questions about how it's presented and this
21 is -- well, the data we got up until the last -- pretty
22 much the last dates that are presented on the graph. So
23 for the number of -- there were 29 households surveyed in
24 Emmonak, 16 of those 29 households had reported that they
25 had 100 percent of their assessment needs -- or rather
26 their subsistence needs made on that date there. There
27 was some fishing that had gone on after that but this was
28 the last time that we did the surveys in those
29 households. So if you follow the example, in the first
30 one from Emmonak, you follow through and Holy Cross,
31 Nulato, Huslia and Galena.

32

33

34 The fall projection initially was for
35 350,000 to 670,000 fall chum with anticipation of a weak
36 run in the Porcupine River. The assessment in mid-July
37 was reevaluated and came up with the possible of 500 to
38 600,000 fall chum in the river.

39

40

41 By mid-August the subsistence schedule
42 was relaxed to five to seven days per week and this was
43 based on the projected run size. In late August there
44 was a pulse of about 100,000 fish and this expanded the
45 projection to over 600,000 fish in the river and allowed
46 for a commercial opening which is consistent with the
47 fall chum salmon management plan. The subsistence
48 harvest was based on in-season harvest information,
49 subsistence needs and we assume -- and we are figuring
50 that they were met.

51

52

53 There's a project that's going -- that
54 will be -- that was started this past season through the
55 Fish and Wildlife Service Genetic Labs with cooperation

1 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game -- this is on
2 Page 2 of the handout and with the Canadian Staff as
3 well, and it's to assess the in-season -- it's an in-
4 season genetic assessment of the fall chum, it's kind of
5 a pilot study this year, it will start earlier next year
6 with a possible projected start date of about July 1st,
7 rather than the -- kind of give us a jump on the
8 traditional time period of July 16th when they figure the
9 fall chum are in there, so get -- kind of open up the
10 window a little bit more as far as the number of -- or
11 when they may be actually coming in and answer some
12 questions there that have come up.

13

14 So if there's any questions, comments,
15 concerns that need to be taken back I'm willing to listen
16 to that if there's time, and I'll be here until Tuesday
17 if there's any other questions.

18

19 Tracy, do you have anything.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

22

23 MR. REAKOFF: These genetic assessments,
24 are these finclips taken off of various fish that are
25 harvested throughout the season and correlated to known
26 genetic markers in various tributaries or what?

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Tracy.

29

30 MR. LINGNAU: Mr. Chair. If I remember
31 right, these were finclips collected at Pilot Station and
32 what they tried to do is tried to take chunks of the run
33 that was going by, compare it to the baselines and figure
34 out what fish were going where. Again, it's a first year
35 study. I do know my counterpart in Canada tried to
36 calculate what may have gone into one tributary and he
37 was off by essentially 100 percent, he missed it by half,
38 so again this is a preliminary study. We're still trying
39 to figure out how it works yet.

40

41 MR. WISWAR: I think the Canadians have
42 used this like down on the Fraiser River, it's a matter
43 of just trying to adjust it properly for what occurs up
44 here. Whether or not they -- it depends on the number of
45 stocks as well, I'm sure, so there's a lot of tweaking to
46 do.

47

48 Now, they gave a briefing, I think it was
49 about a year ago, and they seemed pretty promising about
50 it, however, there is a -- as researchers will, it's a

1 matter of them to meet Alaska needs, so we'll see how it
2 works next year.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more questions.
5 Benedict.

6

7 MR. JONES: Yeah, Tracy, when you're
8 doing your genetic study, you guys been sampling scale
9 testing for years and still you can't identify which
10 species of fish -- which tributary it goes, same with
11 Area M. I think you should have some kind of study, the
12 fins, the teeth, and the coloration of the -- especially
13 in Area M, when you can't identify the Arctic fish in the
14 Yukon and Kuskokwim River.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Tracy.

17

18 MR. LINGNAU: Mr. Chair. You're
19 absolutely right, Mr. Jones, in the fact that we do
20 collect scales from all the species of salmon, they tell
21 us age composition and for chinook salmon they can tell
22 us a general area where they're going to, they can't tell
23 us specifically just like you mentioned. And this is one
24 direction that we're going, not only for fall chum but
25 also the Department itself is looking at trying to get
26 enough genetic markers for king salmon so that we may do
27 the same thing and not depend so much on scales, is that,
28 we can depend on a finclip.

29

30 You have to keep in mind genetics is one
31 of those fields that's like computers, it's just growing
32 leaps and bounds by the year and, you know, a few years
33 ago we had to have all kinds of tissue samples and now we
34 can -- just like you mentioned, just take a finclip. So
35 there is a lot of advancement that is occurring but
36 there's also a lot of tweaking going on as Mr. Wiswar
37 mentioned because there are several methods of
38 determining genetics. It's just not everybody's using
39 one system, there's several systems and so until all of
40 the agencies can kind of figure out what they want to do,
41 how they want to do it, it's going to take a little bit
42 of time, and that work is actually ongoing as well.

43

44 MR. WISWAR: Another thing to consider is
45 that -- with the genetics, is that you do need the
46 baseline first, too, and that requires going in and
47 getting the stocks that -- or samples from the stocks in
48 almost every individual drainage if you want to do it
49 correctly, it takes time and a tremendous amount of money
50 and logistics along the whole drainage is pretty

1 phenomenal, so this is not an easy undertaking.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

4

5 MR. REAKOFF: Are you going to have a
6 report on that or some conclusion coming up?

7

8 MR. WISWAR: For genetics?

9

10 MR. REAKOFF: The project that you're
11 talking about.

12

13 MR. WISWAR: This is a project that is
14 undertaken by the Genetics Lab, there will be a report --
15 we can put in a request to have them address you if
16 that's what you're asking?

17

18 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

19

20 MR. WISWAR: Yeah.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

23

24 MR. JONES: You know, since I retired
25 since 1990 and especially the chinook, I could identify
26 which species of fish is going up which stream. I could
27 identify the Tanana River and the Yukon River stock. But
28 still you guys down at the mouth can't identify those
29 fish.

30

31 MR. LINGNAU: Mr. Chair. That's correct,
32 we cannot. It's a mixed stock fishery there, they're not
33 split out, they come in overlapping each other. Again,
34 we're looking at trying to improve that and we do have a
35 project underway but what we're looking at in the future
36 is we feel would benefit management a lot.

37

38 Right now as it stands with scales, we
39 can't determine what fish are going where until almost a
40 year later. With genetics we can find out within, you
41 know, several days to a week, so we are trying to improve
42 and there are projects in the works that this Board
43 doesn't know about that hopefully will iron out some
44 details and get some information to you in the next year
45 or so.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: You covered the Yukon, I
2 see we have the Kuskokwim down too, do you cover that
3 one? Tracy.

4
5 MR. LINGNAU: No, Mr. Chair, I'm
6 certainly not going to volunteer. I was going to maybe
7 let Mr. Morgan do the Kuskokwim.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 MR. LINGNAU: What I would like to point
12 out to the Council is there were several handouts. The
13 first one has Yukon summer information letter, season
14 summary 2004. A second one was the Yukon aerial fall
15 season update. Keep in mind that the fall season Staff
16 is still out there counting fish so we don't know the
17 results yet. And then there was another figure, I don't
18 know if it was one page or two pages, that had kind of a
19 history of subsistence trends and compared to the ANS.
20 And I do have a few comments, but before I even get
21 started, I'd like to thank -- I know there were several
22 members here that put in their time and were on the YRDFA
23 teleconferences this summer and gave their input as far
24 as the run goes and I really appreciate that. It helped
25 us out because we had some problems early on with our
26 tools and when we hear from the public and telling us,
27 well, this is happening here it certainly solidifies some
28 of the decisions that we have to make.

29
30 But as far as the summer season
31 information letter goes, it just follows through. It
32 kind of briefs what we expected in-season. It goes
33 through this season, what happened and where it happened.

34
35 I'm going to go straight to kind of the
36 heart of everything and like for you to just go to the
37 last two pages of the report, and essentially what these
38 two pages are are the escapements that we had this year.
39 I'm not going to dwell on what happened in-season because
40 fishermen along the river already know what happened.
41 But what I'd like to just go through, at least point out
42 what happened in some of the escapements.

43
44 For kings, I've got the Canadian estimate
45 and also the Chena and Salcha. But again, keep in mind
46 this report is a work in progress because we're still
47 trying to finalize tag captures. There's still some days
48 missing on the Chena and Salcha too.

49
50 And then on the last page is the summer

1 chum salmon. The top one is Anvik River sonar here, the
2 East Fork Andreafsky weir and then the summer chum salmon
3 at Pilot Station.

4
5 The fall season report is what I got from
6 Fred Bue. Again, these numbers are certainly going to
7 change. But it does look like they, as Mr. Wiswar said,
8 had a good year this year as well.

9
10 And as far as trends go, if you're
11 looking at those last two graphs for even the subsistence
12 trends, what we've seen the last few years is an increase
13 in the run strength and in salmon, certainly into the
14 Yukon and I believe into the Kuskokwim as well. We had
15 some terrible runs, you know, '98 through 2001/2002,
16 especially 2000 for kings and fall chums had a number of
17 years. The fish that we're seeing this year and next
18 year are from those poor runs and so given that we had
19 poor runs but yet we're seeing -- we had poor
20 escapements, but yet we're seeing good runs is an
21 indication that something in the habitat whether it's
22 fresh water or the ocean and we tend to think more ocean,
23 that's what gave us the grief in the first place, these
24 runs are improving. So I think as long as we're
25 conservative in our management actions, like we have been
26 doing the last few years, I see nothing but hopefully
27 continued at least runs that will support escapement and
28 subsistence.

29
30 Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any questions
33 for Tracy. Benedict.

34
35 MR. JONES: Yeah, Tracy, I noticed this
36 fall that the fall chum has less eggs than the previous
37 year even though the run strength was good, but they have
38 less eggs. Same way when you identify the Canadian bound
39 chinook, they have less eggs than the local stocks.

40
41 MR. LINGNAU: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I
42 appreciate that comment. The one quandary that we have
43 is with our across border counterparts, they have a
44 border passage estimate for kinds and fall chum. For
45 fall chum they've got at least one escapement project on
46 the fishing branch, for the kings there is no escapement
47 projects. We don't know what happens on the escapement
48 grounds whatsoever. We don't know age composition, sex
49 composition, anything in Canada. And that's one of the
50 things that we're trying to push forward through the

1 US/Canada Panel.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.
4
5 (No comments)
6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: You had more?
8
9 MR. LINGNAU: (Shakes head negatively)
10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: No. How about you?
12
13 MR. WISWAR: No.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right.
16
17 MR. WISWAR: No, other than to reiterate
18 what Tracy says, that regarding the Canadian counterparts
19 and their escapement projects is that we've tried to
20 encourage the use of some fish weirs and we thought there
21 was some going in this year and I haven't heard any
22 reports back yet and this is through the Yukon Treaty
23 money, there was at least one that was -- I believe was
24 supposed to occur and I don't know where that project
25 went right now though.
26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right, any further
28 questions.
29
30 (No comments)
31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you for
33 the.....
34
35 MR. REAKOFF: One more, Mr. Chairman.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.
38
39 MR. REAKOFF: There was a discussion
40 about a sonar project near the Canadian border, is that
41 in progress for next year?
42
43 MR. LINGNAU: Carl Fister's the project
44 leader on that and he did some investigations, we're
45 still looking at trying to find a correct site. I think
46 we may have a site, I don't know. When they tested the
47 equipment it looked like fall chum, like it is at Pilot,
48 or summer chum will count really well, it just doesn't
49 seem to be an issue with the chum, those kings are just
50 trouble makers. It just doesn't look like -- I won't say

1 it doesn't look like it's going to work out but we're
2 still looking into it and right now it's looking into a
3 combination of a didson (ph) and a split beam so we're
4 using several different methods of gear trying to
5 evaluate that, not only the site but species composition
6 and where they run.

7
8 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that your conclusion?

15
16 MR. LINGNAU: (Nods affirmatively)

17
18 MR. WISWAR: (Nods affirmatively)

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Vince, where
21 are we?

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, we are
24 now to post-season Kuskokwim and we have a problem
25 because the person who was supposed to present apparently
26 did not make it in. We talked to him this morning on the
27 phone and that would be Robert Sundown, so I don't know
28 where he's at at this moment for a post-season on the
29 Kuskokwim. So I did consult with Ken Chase here because
30 he was available on when planes would come in today and
31 it's possible some other planes might come in and Robert
32 Sundown would be on that. So I don't know what we can do
33 on the Kuskokwim post-season until Robert shows up.

34
35 And I don't know who on the State was
36 going to cover the post-season for the Kuskokwim.

37
38 MR. WALKER: Table it.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, we got another
41 Robert here who says table it.

42
43 MR. WALKER: Table it.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, it is now 5:21 and
48 we're going to recess for the day and then just try and
49 go through 7:00 o'clock.....

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Well, we would have the
2 7:00 o'clock testimony and that will be transcribed, so
3 7:00 o'clock. So I don't know, Robert, if we were
4 supposed to get everybody up to the school or.....

5
6 MR. WALKER: I think it's going to be
7 here and we got to clean these tables off.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. With that we'll
10 recess until 7:00 o'clock.

11
12 (Off record)

13
14 (On record)

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM:Council meeting, we
17 generally have an evening session to listen to all the
18 local concerns or problems that we are having in any
19 particular area. And since you are the host we'll take
20 up any issue you want to discuss with the Council or you
21 want to put on record as one of your major concerns for
22 your home area.

23
24 Can you add anything else, Vince.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: No, other than some
27 mentioned that they may come by tomorrow, so there may be
28 some more testimony tomorrow that will come by.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks for that
31 clarification. Because again we should be done by 4:00
32 o'clock tomorrow, if not earlier, so we may have time to
33 take public testimony at any time. So if you want to
34 discuss or bring out any issues or any concerns that you
35 have, just come up and turn on one of the mics and state
36 your name and you will be on record. Your issues or
37 concerns will be dealt with, and hopefully resolved to
38 some point.

39
40 At this time the Chair will recognize
41 Carl Jerue.

42
43 MR. JERUE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I've
44 been with our tribe here as Chief for the past 13 years.
45 There's been a lot of changes and a lot of decrease in
46 our moose population and with the salmon runs, our poor
47 salmon runs has never returned. And we've had commercial
48 fishing for years and years, ever since I was a little
49 kid, I remember fishing commercially. And it started out
50 just with a couple of fishermen and we had a lot, a lot

1 of salmon, so much salmon that the wheels would overrun
2 and now there's so few fish and even if you had dogs, I
3 don't know if you could provide for your dogs, maybe for
4 a couple of dogs you might be able to.

5
6 I've never seen any restrictions like
7 we've had to experience in the past years, you know,
8 we've had to fish four days out of the week and at the
9 same time there is openings down in Y1 and Y2, commercial
10 openings and we have the residents along the Yukon
11 restricted just to put fish on the table or in their
12 freezers for their family. I don't think that's fair.
13 And with all the resources that Fish and Game has, they
14 should know that the run is going to be a strong one by
15 the time they get a 100 miles up from the mouth of the
16 Yukon, and they should allow us to fish seven days a week
17 so we can get our supply and not having to restrict us.
18 And by fishing on the restricted schedule, two times a
19 week we have to run down the river and come back with no
20 fish, because we're resetting the net or we have to go
21 out and drift and all of that is -- it's costing us more
22 in gas and our time and on our equipment. So it's not
23 cheap to provide for your family with the restricted
24 schedule that Fish and Game imposed upon us.

25
26 And elders who have been here all their
27 life and they've used the resources, they don't over
28 fish, they don't over hunt, but they're on that
29 restricted schedule too, and I don't think it's fair for
30 the elders to have to put up with that and, you know, how
31 hard it is to reset your net. You're putting that
32 burden upon the elders, too. And it's tough to get the
33 help, some of the elders, they don't get fish because
34 they can't fish and there's a lot of -- there's too much
35 restrictions, I think, upon us for the kings.

36
37 I'm glad to see that we're allowed to
38 finally drift. Before we haven't been able to. We'd
39 have to do it at night time or keep an eye out for Fish
40 and Game before.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 MR. JERUE: And now it's gotten a little
45 better, but I think it should be even better for the
46 communities.

47
48 And as far as moose hunting goes, like I
49 said, it's the same thing as fishing, it's costing us
50 more in gas and our time and equipment to get a moose.

1 And some people have to spend \$800 in gas to get a moose,
2 and then we see unrestricted sporthunters from Minnesota
3 coming in or Texas, we see them coming in just -- there's
4 no cap, and I think they should be capped on the
5 outfitters and the guides because if we don't start
6 putting some restrictions on the amount of hunters that
7 come into the Yukon we're not going to have any moose.
8 So the commercial guides and sport hunters, they're not
9 going to have it, and if they don't have it the
10 subsistence hunters aren't going to be able to have it.
11 So we got to come to some agreement, I think, with the
12 guides, it's a statewide association, the guiding, we
13 have to work with them where they could make a living off
14 of so many moose hunters they bring in and not cause the
15 resource, the moose population to decrease and
16 subsistence hunters, we won't be able to provide for our
17 families and the elders.

18
19 I wish there were some people from
20 Grayling here, they've had a hard time this year moose
21 hunting. Some of them never got a moose and there's a
22 lot of people that didn't get a moose on the Yukon
23 because of low water and more pressure from guiding.

24
25 I also would like -- I asked at past
26 meetings for some research done on the Anvik River, why
27 our runs haven't come back. There hasn't been no
28 interest in that for many reasons, I guess, the budget
29 shortfall, the lack of resources that the State has to do
30 that research, but for Anvik and Grayling, we've
31 commercial fished here for years and it was an
32 opportunity for us to make a couple thousand dollars and
33 a lot of people had dog food from that commercial
34 fishing.

35
36 Right now the only benefit off the Anvik
37 River now is the Anvik River Lodge, and it's getting to a
38 point where that lodge is the only one that makes money
39 off the Anvik River resource, which was ours. There's
40 been some concerns on the lodge there, he's been running
41 jet boats, big jet boats, 23 foot jet boats up and down
42 that river and all summer long he's been running those
43 jet boats, and that's a major spawning river. What about
44 the salmon spawning up there. Is that hurting them?
45 You're darn right it's hurting them because that's where
46 they spawn. And we get these jet boats up there causing
47 turbulence in the water and washing all the eggs out.

48
49 So I'd like to just let you guys know
50 about my concerns and the community -- and some community

1 members expressed that to me so I'm passing that on to
2 you about all what I said, it's not just for me, it's
3 from the community.

4
5 Thanks for listening.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. Thank
8 you.

9
10 (Applause)

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anyone else that would
13 like to testify, again, all you have to do is come up
14 here to the mic and speak. These evening sessions are to
15 listen to your concerns so go ahead.

16
17 Again, we've heard that we may get some
18 more people and more testimony from Grayling and if
19 they're on the short end of the stick or they're time
20 pressed, we'll recognize them at any time during our
21 meeting.

22
23 At this time I would recognize Ken Chase.

24
25 MR. CHASE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
26 name is Ken Chase. I reside here at Anvik and McGrath, I
27 bounce back and forth quite a bit. Excuse me, I have a
28 pretty bad cold so I'll have to break now and then here.

29
30 I've been Chairman and I've been with the
31 GASH Community Advisory Board for these four villages for
32 a good number of years, 30-some years, I guess. And I'm
33 not too familiar with how this advisory group works, but
34 I know some of the concerns I have and the committee has
35 are the same ones that the Federal Board has. One of the
36 ones that comes to mind for me, you hear moose all the
37 time, moose population, the GASH Advisory Board is
38 holding a meeting the first week in November here in
39 Anvik, and it would be in the early stages of starting a
40 management plan for the moose in this district. And I
41 think it probably works hand in hand with the Federal
42 Board because we'll be looking, at least if I have my way
43 we'll be looking very strongly at predator control and
44 mandating the predator control in our plan, that's for
45 moose, bear, wolves, any other predators and human
46 consumption.

47
48 We had, I think you heard Carl say, a lot
49 of pressure from hunting outside and non-guided hunts and
50 like that, that has to be addressed in the plan. And

1 we'll be looking for guidance from the Koyukuk plan and
2 also from the Aniak plan and hopefully come up with
3 something that we can work in for this whole region and
4 I'm sure the McGrath area, Ray Collins, and that area,
5 probably will put in some input also.

6
7 The fisheries, now, I have to take a
8 little exception, I think to some of Carl's testimony,
9 because I have not had any problem with king salmon and
10 fishing the last few years, in fact, it's gotten a lot
11 better than it was 10 years ago. And I see a lot of
12 people meeting their subsistence and I think it's those
13 that are going overboard that are going to cause the
14 problems if we don't put a handle on it. And the other
15 areas, the Anvik River fisheries, we're in the same fix
16 as the whole western Alaska, it's just been a drop and
17 nobody knows why, but the Anvik River, this year had a
18 return of 500,000 chums which is escapement goal, or
19 somewhere in that area, they can correct me if I'm wrong,
20 but we just don't have the market that's why we haven't
21 had any kind of sale for it.

22
23 Going back to the bear, it's kind of my
24 pet thing, I think the advisory group here had a proposal
25 for sale of bear parts and different parts of black bear,
26 and I think it would work in a way, if we had in our plan
27 to where the subsistence end of it would be allowing
28 black bear or parts, maybe one year or something, for
29 people so they could get some sort income off of it,
30 because the black bear in this area -- as long as the
31 grizzly's are getting nuisance, they're getting to be
32 nuisance bears, and we just have to start getting rid of
33 them. And I think if it's controlled and that area we
34 can do it.

35
36 And that's -- if there's any questions
37 I'd be glad to respond.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Tommy, can you come
40 up here and use this microphone for any questions. Just
41 for the public's information, the Federal Subsistence
42 Board Office of Subsistence Management have already
43 passed a predator control draft statement, so we are
44 finally getting into predator control and I'm glad you
45 brought that up. I just wanted to point that out to you,
46 that at some time we will see some kind of predator
47 control under the Federal system. So again just work
48 closely with Robert Walker right now, since he sits on
49 this Council and just keep bringing your concerns out to
50 us and we will try to address them as much as we can.

1 Tommy, you had a question.

2

3 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, Ken, this is Tom.
4 With the, you know, like your concerns with the guiding,
5 I'm a guide and George is here a guide himself, but up
6 where we're at we went and had, you know, just allowed so
7 many permits in different areas, I mean like it's -- I
8 don't know how that works down with you guys in your
9 districts and stuff like that, but we just allow so many
10 hunters to come in with permits, I mean you know just
11 allow so many permits. I'm pretty sure the Koyukuk area
12 has like 50 permits and then like years before that,
13 there were like 500 people going in there and now it's
14 like only 50 if you get picked.

15

16 MR. CHASE: That's because of the
17 management plan though.

18

19 MR. KRISKA: That's because of the
20 management plan. And I think if you do go look through
21 the Koyukuk and Nulato, I'm pretty sure Nulato is getting
22 into that too for the Kaiyuh area, I mean I'm a guide and
23 everything, too, but I'm really wanting to help out with
24 all these concerns and it takes us out a little bit but
25 we've got to watch what we're doing with these moose and
26 everything.

27

28 And another thing, with the predator
29 control, I think that's a big concern. I mean we can't
30 wait for the Fish and Game or anybody else to do anything
31 about it, I think we have to get out there and do it
32 ourselves.

33

34 MR. CHASE: Uh-huh.

35

36 MR. KRISKA: That's one of the things I
37 see that would probably help out. I don't know, thank
38 you.

39

40 MR. CHASE: I guide. Rudy guides. And,
41 you know, we have our Class A and working with somebody
42 else, and that's fine, you know, that's employment for
43 the area, but it has to be controlled. We have to look
44 at it real seriously, you know, to regulate it, and I
45 think Koyukuk has that now and Aniak has it and we got to
46 do it here.

47

48 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, I think you got to
49 look into it right away before it gets too out of hand
50 and moose go down pretty fast.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. CHASE: Yeah, we'll be doing that
4 through the course of the winter. We'll be having four
5 or five public meetings so if people want to support it,
6 you know, in our area here they have to be here because
7 we can't do it without people, you know.

8

9 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, the people in the
10 surrounding villages need to do a lot better.

11

12 MR. CHASE: Yes.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more questions for
15 Ken. Benedict and -- Ray, and then Benedict.

16

17 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Ken, you mentioned
18 you weren't sure just how we operated, I just wanted to
19 point out that one of the reasons you're in a plan now, I
20 think, is because of actions of this Board. Based on our
21 experience with the Koyukuk we saw what was happening
22 here and we'd recommended to the Federal and State that
23 they get into a planning process down here and I'm glad
24 it's getting started because we've been behind that kind
25 of an effort. It can't be solved, we usually just
26 recommend regulations to the Federal Board, but when
27 you've got mixed lands like you have here, it's got to be
28 both State and Federal working together like it was up on
29 the Koyukuk to really solve the problem. You can't do it
30 on just one side.

31

32 MR. CHASE: Yeah.

33

34 MR. COLLINS: But I'm glad you're getting
35 started.

36

37 MR. CHASE: Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

40

41 MR. JONES: Yeah, Ken, for the record I'm
42 on the middle Yukon Advisory Committee for State of
43 Alaska. And we work on this drawing permit for years.
44 It took us three years, but the last time about four or
45 five years ago I sat at the Board of Game meeting in
46 Fairbanks for 10 full days and I spent all my time
47 arguing the drawing permit. We had a lot of discussion
48 with that, we get voted down by one vote and it was a
49 Board member from Anchorage, so ever break during the
50 day, we have 15 minutes break and I corner him, the guy

1 that was voting down the drawing permit, I argued with
2 him for days and he finally got tired of me arguing with
3 him and also I was arguing with Wildlife Alliance, but I
4 won the argument with them, and finally the Chairman of
5 the Board of Game called me to the floor and asked me if
6 I could round up my Advisory Committee to discuss the
7 language proposals and amendments on this drawing
8 permits, so I called my chairman, Roy Speerington (ph),
9 so he came back to Fairbanks, and they let us out for the
10 day and we had a full day of discussion with our Advisory
11 Committee, but the State attorney appointed himself to
12 our Advisory Committee for language to the amendment and
13 we finally got it to the floor and Game Board finally
14 accepted our proposal, and that's how we got the drawing
15 permit.

16
17 The first year they had 419 permits
18 issued. Then last year we were concerned about the moose
19 population declining real fast because they're targeting
20 all the big bull moose to reproduce, to continue our
21 moose population, so we cut it down to 250 permits, but
22 the biologist in Galena found themselves with the Board,
23 they issued only 50 permits for this past season, and out
24 of that 50 permits, only 19 showed up. So our moose
25 harvest was down 50 percent from last year, so it's
26 working in our area for the drawing permit.

27
28 I just wanted to let you know. Thank you
29 for listening.

30
31 MR. CHASE: Yeah, thank you, Benedict. I
32 think it's through work like you guys, you and Aniak
33 area, Mark and those guys that we're going to be looking
34 to for advice and guidance when we start out so we can do
35 it a lot easier and hopefully more smoother.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more questions.

38
39 MR. DEMOSKI: Right here, Ron.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: You want to testify
42 or.....

43
44 MR. DEMOSKI: I want to question him.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, go ahead.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just for your information,

1 that plan that Ken Chase is talking about is that Koyukuk
2 River Moose Working Group Plan and it's made up of all
3 the guides and subsistence people, and that has been
4 highly successful. It's been copied pretty much
5 everywhere and now there's a copy of it down in Southeast
6 for those 200 pound moose down there, those little tan
7 200 pound moose down there, and it's working too.

8
9 MR. CHASE: We let you guys lead the way
10 on the management because we started the controlled use
11 planning in the state, you know.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for those
16 comments again. And, Rudy, you had a question.

17
18 MR. DEMOSKI: Yeah, Ken, I was just going
19 to make a statement that you and I, we drive up 70 miles,
20 80 miles from Anvik up above Grayling, 90 miles below
21 Kaltag and they got their management units, and they're
22 trying to get a management unit down here for moose and
23 we're stuck right in the middle.

24
25 MR. CHASE: Uh-huh.

26
27 MR. DEMOSKI: And so how could we, as
28 guides, who do we listen to, you know? I mean we're out
29 of both areas, we're right in the middle, and my concern
30 is how can Anvik justify what I do up in Anvik -- I mean
31 up in Blackburn and how can Kaltag justify what I do
32 being so far away from both villages?

33
34 MR. CHASE: Do we have somebody from Fish
35 and Game?

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, anybody from the
38 State Department, Alaska Department of Fish and Game that
39 would want to try and tackle this issue?

40
41 MR. CHASE: I think the Koyukuk
42 Management covers Unit 21(D) which is from above
43 Blackburn on up to toward Koyukuk, I think is where it
44 goes, uh?

45
46 MR. DEMOSKI: I.....

47
48 MR. KRISKA: The only way it's going to
49 be resolved is right there on the district line.

50

1 MR. CHASE: Yeah, on the district line.
2
3 MR. DEMOSKI: Yeah, but then I heard it's
4 cut off at the 22 mile and then Y-22 -- I mean 21(E) is
5 at Blackburn and then there's a grace period, or a grey
6 area, I guess you call it.
7
8 MR. CHASE: I don't know, 21(D) goes all
9 way down.
10
11 MR. DEMOSKI: Yeah, it goes all the way
12 down but then Kaltag is just managing as far as 22 Mile.
13
14 MR. CHASE: Uh-huh. Maybe Orville has an
15 idea.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Orville.
18
19 MR. HUNTINGTON: All right, first of all
20 -- you want to shut your mic off -- my name is Orville
21 Huntington, for the record, from Huslia.
22
23 When we first came up with Koyukuk Moose
24 Hunter Working Group, there was over 700 hunters in our
25 area. There was no control. The population was going
26 down. Too many predators. So the best thing we did was
27 Fish and Game brought in a really good biologist I could
28 work with, his name was Glenn Stout, and we decided that
29 we needed the best data that we could have, the best
30 scientific data, so that was our first step. And then we
31 got that to bring to Fish and Game, because that's what
32 they want. And then the next step was to bring all the
33 user groups together, which is guides, out -- well, the
34 outfitters never came to the table, but the guides, the
35 subsistence users, the non-local people and the Fish and
36 Game Advisory Committee members from Mat-Su Borough,
37 because they have an interest too, because they have a
38 lot hunters there. So we brought all of them together to
39 work together on it, and that was the biggest, hardest
40 part, was just sitting down. Because we're all human.
41 We all sat there and we found that, hey, you know, we can
42 talk to each other, we didn't have to butt heads. So
43 once we got to that point then we started, like Benedict
44 said, I know he argued a long time for those people out
45 there because, you know, just to get to the point where
46 you could talk was the hard part. This is all
47 complicated by a lot of things when you're scientists.
48 For me, I had to back out of it because climate change
49 causes a lot of problems too.
50

1 So for you guys, you guys are on the
2 right track. The best thing you could do first is look
3 at all your scientific data from Fish and Game, they'd
4 probably have it, BLM, I don't know what Fish and
5 Wildlife has out there, and then bring the user groups
6 in, the guides, you know, I don't know who's over in
7 Aniak or who hunts around here, but you have to have all
8 the hunters at the table, and then once you get to that
9 point, it won't matter if it's Koyukuk River group or
10 Innoko River group because we're going to be after the
11 same conservation goals. So Koyukuk group is going to
12 work closely with Kaiyuh group, and Kaiyuh group will
13 work closely with the lower river here because you guys
14 are hunting the same animals. They don't stay on one
15 side of the border, they go back and forth just like
16 bears and moose and everything.

17
18 So it's just going to be like three units
19 working together, plus that, I don't know what you have
20 over at Aniak, but those four groups will work together,
21 it's not going to be against each other, you know,
22 because in the end we're all after the conservation, you
23 know, to bring them back.

24
25 And I talked to a lot of elders at home
26 before I came down and they said, you know, at first we
27 didn't like all those regulations they put on us but the
28 fact is we can see those moose are coming back now in the
29 end and a lot of it was, like Tommy said, we just went
30 ahead and said, we're not going to wait for Federal
31 government or State government to kill these predators
32 we're just going to do it ourselves and so we just
33 started managing it ourself and then we brought that to
34 Fish and Game meetings and said, hey, you know, we're
35 doing our part, you guys need to work with us and, you
36 know, do the rest.

37
38 And so just to get to that point, it's
39 hard, I know I came down here for a moose management
40 meeting one time and we didn't really have our plan
41 working all the way and now it is and I think once Kaiyuh
42 group gets set up it'd be good to bring like whoever's up
43 there down here because it will benefit you in the long
44 run.

45
46 Coming over here as a biologist I could
47 see a lot of climate change issues going on here too.
48 That will be part of my presentation whenever I get up
49 and talk a little bit to the group.

50

1 Anyway, it's not really all hunters
2 fault, these things are going on. It goes way back, you
3 know, climate change affects everything, the willows
4 they're eating, where the water is at, and all that
5 affects the way we hunt and what's out there. For this
6 area down here I couldn't believe how different it is
7 from home. At home there's a lot of snow already, down
8 here it's like summertime and I'm thinking, you know,
9 just a couple degrees difference I could see big changes
10 in the water level, everything. I never -- I've been
11 down river two or three times and I never saw the river
12 this low and at home they say they've never seen it --
13 the old people don't even know of a time when it was that
14 hot for that long like this summer, and there's places on
15 the Koyukuk River you could walk across right now. And
16 when I think about it, those moose they're having a hard
17 time, too, they're mixed up just like all the other
18 animals out there.

19
20 For us, as managers, if we don't include
21 all the knowledge we have then we're not doing our job.
22 So at home, in Huslia, anyway, we rely on the traditional
23 knowledge, and for us a lot of it is old stories, so we
24 really watch those, we try not to let those people get a
25 hold of them because people want to make a big name for
26 theirself, but for me, it's not about that, it's about --
27 there's parts of those stories that make sense to us and
28 those parts we could share with scientists. I bring
29 scientists from all over the place to Huslia, they come
30 from Canada, California, Arizona, University of Alaska-
31 Fairbanks, and these are the people that answer some of
32 our questions and the elders, you know, at first they
33 thought scientists know it all, but then after the first
34 meeting workshop we had in Huslia they could see they
35 don't really know it all, they know little bits and
36 pieces, and the knowledge they were sharing with us at
37 the meeting really added to what the scientists were
38 trying to understand about changes in weather, you know,
39 all this climate change stuff that's going on.

40
41 And it's a long story, anyway, I think
42 I'm way off whatever you guys wanted.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 MR. HUNTINGTON: But I just thought I'd
47 share with you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Orville. Just
50 for the record I would like to clarify one thing, too,

1 the person that was testifying along side of me, for the
2 record, is Rudy Demoski. Did you have something to share
3 Benedict.

4

5 MR. JONES: Yes.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: And then right after
8 Benedict's done I'll ask for some more local concerns.

9

10 MR. JONES: Yeah, Ken for the Koyukuk
11 Controlled Use area we do have restricted area for non-
12 residents hunting. The first 60 miles is restricted for
13 the local subsistence hunters only. But the urban areas
14 like Anchorage and Fairbanks and Nenana could not hunt in
15 that area, it's only restricted to Galena, Ruby, Koyukuk
16 and Nulato. So that really helps, that first 60 miles of
17 restricted area, but the people who are commercial
18 hunting or urban area hunters have to go above the 60
19 miles before they can shoot a moose.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. Any
24 other local concerns. If you can't think of them right
25 now, I'm still expecting some people from Grayling to
26 show up, so we should have some time tomorrow and I will
27 put them on the agenda and give them the mic whenever
28 they want, if they want it. And if you know of other
29 people here locally that want to testify or just state a
30 few concerns, just advise them to come on down.

31

32 Again, last, but not least, I would like
33 to thank Carl Jerue, Rudy Demoski, Ken Chase -- and did
34 you have something else Carl.

35

36 MR. JERUE: I'd just like maybe.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Can you use the mic.

39

40 MR. JERUE: I'd just like to respond to a
41 comment made by Rudy, this is not Anvik trying to
42 regulate him or his enterprise there, it's for all the
43 groups, like Orville said, to come together and start
44 working on getting our resources to sustain -- be
45 sustainable in the future. I'm very interested in
46 working with other groups and coming together and getting
47 all the groups satisfied, but subsistence should be
48 priority and that's the whole purpose of Western
49 Subsistence Board is to work together to make sure the
50 locals could subsist, and it's not subsistence against

1 commercial. I'd just like to point that out and with all
2 of working together we could come up with a good plan
3 where the stock is going to be there for the next 50
4 years. But at this point we're going -- today, it's not
5 going to be there in the next 50 years, who could say,
6 maybe 10, 20 years we won't have no moose, so that's why
7 we're here today is to work together and work with the
8 Board here and with Fish and Game and all the resources.
9 The moose just don't stay in one area, they move around,
10 I've seen that on the Yukon, where there's tracks all the
11 way up and down the Yukon, and the Anvik River and the
12 Bonzilla. We've seen on the Anvik River, at one time
13 I've seen like 30 moose coming down the river, and I
14 don't know how far up they came from but they do travel.

15
16 So maybe if Staff has any information on
17 the range, the moose, they -- I don't know, I don't have
18 any scientific information on that but if anybody could
19 let us know if they have anything on that, sure
20 appreciate it.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again, Carl.
25 Local RIT.

26
27 MR. MADROS: You know, I come to kind of
28 answer Rudy's question being the closest Kaltag resident
29 because my family is from there and I know about the grey
30 spot that Rudy is talking about. It's a little area and
31 it's State controlled it's not within the Refuge area and
32 it's been an area that I think has been overlooked for
33 any kind of moose studies because it lies in between the
34 Northern Innoko and the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge.
35 In the past, you know, Rudy and them, you know, they
36 guide down there and people kind of know it from Kaltag
37 and I think the best way to address his question about,
38 you know, going into that grey area is maybe inviting
39 someone from Kaltag to come down and maybe listen in on
40 your working group so that someone from there could have
41 a suggestion. Because I know Kaltag residents have been
42 left out of any kind of working groups and you don't
43 really see anyone represented on the RAC Council and you
44 don't hear anything from Kaltag people too much, you
45 know, they don't complain, they just usually take care of
46 their own stuff.

47
48 But, you know, to answer your question,
49 you know, I'd invite someone from the Kaltag Tribal
50 Council or someone to come down and be a part of your

1 working group and just listen in for their part and if
2 anything on that grey area comes up they can address it
3 or you could talk with them.

4
5 MR. CHASE: Randy Rogers will be
6 coordinating now for that working group too, so I'm sure
7 he would include you guys.

8
9 MR. MADROS: Yeah. Well, I live in Nulato
10 now.....

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MR. MADROS:but I used to live in
15 Kaltag. I grew up down in that area and I know the grey
16 area he's talking about and there's a lot of stuff down
17 there, no one flies down that way. But, yeah, I'm sure
18 inviting someone from Kaltag just to sit in on their
19 working group would be a good answer to his question and
20 they can resolve a lot, I think.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you Pat. For
25 your information, too, every village Council, tribal
26 Council, tribal office gets printouts of all the actions
27 we take and all the actions that are coming up so they're
28 well aware of all our meetings and I made it a point to
29 work through Vince to get a short, simple synopsis of
30 what we did, all our actions, whether it's Jack Reakoff
31 going to State Board of Fish and all the action that has
32 happened, that is mailed out so we do try to keep you all
33 informed.

34
35 I know it doesn't work in my Council,
36 anything to do with subsistence they just shove it back
37 in my mailbox, so it just goes around and around there.

38
39 So do we have any further testimony.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, you're more than
44 welcome to testify on any other proposals. We will be
45 talking about some wildlife issues tomorrow. And, again,
46 be looking forward to seeing some people from Grayling.

47
48 With that, I think we're done for
49 tonight. Okay, we'll recess until what time in the
50 morning, 8:30.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: We might start by 9:00.
4
5 (Laughter)
6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, thank you all for
8 coming and, again, thanks for testifying and sitting
9 before us.
10
11 Thank you.
12
13 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 129 contain a full, true and correct transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically by Salena Hile on the 10th day of October 2004, beginning at the hour of 11:59 o'clock a.m. at Anvik, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 22nd day of October 2004.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/2008 _