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2 YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA,
3 WESTERN INTERIOR,
4 EASTERN INTERIOR
5 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS
6 JOINT MEETING

7 Taken at:
8 Millenium Hotel
9 Anchorage, Alaska

10 October 11, 2001

11 Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta Council Members
12 Present:

13 Harry Wilde, Sr. Chair
14 John Hanson
15 Mary Gregory
16 Willard Church
17 Robert Nick
18 Billy McCann
19 James A. Charles
20 Phillip Moses
21 Lester Wilde, Sr.
22 Alvin Owletuck

23 Western Interior Council Members Present:

24 Ron Sam, Chair
25 Raymond Collins
26 Jack L. Reakoff
27 Sampson Henry
28 Angela O. Demientieff
29 Benedict Jones
30 Carl Morgan

31 Eastern Interior Council Members Present

32 Gerald Nicholia, Chair
33 Jim Wilde
34 David James

1 Coordinators:

2 Alex Nick, Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta
3 Vince Mathews, Western Interior
4 Donald Mike, Eastern Interior

5 Others Present:

6 Audra Brase, ADF&G; Eva Bryant, Yupik
7 Translator; Marie Meade, Yupik Translator;
8 Stanley Ned, TCC; Larry Boyle, ADF&G;
9 Michael Martin; John Nicholas; Nick Frank;
10 Bob Lafferty, ADF&G; Jerry Berg, US FWS;
11 Bill Knauer, US FWS; Adelheid Herrmann,
12 BSFA; Pete Probasco, US FWS; Bob Karlen,
13 BLM; Ingrid McSweeny, BLM; Carl Kretsinger,
14 BLM; Dave Anderson; Janet Cohen, NPS; Tim
15 Craig, BLM; Cassandra Tulloch, US FWS; John
16 Burr, ADF&G; George Sherrod, US FWS; Hollis
17 Twitchell, Denali NP; Frank Charles,
18 Kuskokwim River Salmon Working Group; Carl
19 Jack, OSM; Gerry C. Keffer; Geoff Byerdorf;
20 Rod Simmons, US FWS; Sandy Rabinowitch, NPS;
21 Charlie Burkey, Jr., ADF&G; I.L. Andrew;
22 David Enoch; Henry Lupie; Sandra Frazier;
23 Jennifer Hooper, AVCP; Patrick Snow, US FWS;
24 Wally Suroka, US FWS; Jeff Denton, BLM;
25 Wayne Morgan, KNA; Jill Klein, YRDFA; Ken
Harper, US FWS; Richard Davis; Paul
Liedberg, US FWS; Richard Uberuaga, US FWS;
Jay Stevens, SVS NRP; Michael Rearden, Yukon
Delta NWR; Polly Wheeler, ADF&G; Michael
Coffing, ADF&G; Jeff Adams, US FWS; James
Schwarber, ADF&G; Edgar Holnh; Greg
McClella, Koyukuk/Nowitna NWR; Don Rivard,
US FWS; Dan Bergstrom, ADF&G; Connie Friend,
Tetlin NWR; Robert Schultz; Bill Schiff,
Innoko NWR; Wassilie Bavilla; Annie
Cleveland, NVK; Laddy Elliott; Della
Trumble, Kodiak/Aleutians RAC; Orville
Huntington; Ida Hildebrand, BIA; Bob
Gerhard, NPS; Ruth Gronquist, BLM; Dan
LaPlant US FWS; Pat McClenahan, US FWS;
Richard Wilmot, NMFS; Cliff Schleusner, US
FWS; Ann Wilkinson, US FWS; Angela Morgan,
KNA; Tom Kron, US FWS; Greg Bos, US FWS;
Pamela Moreno; Paul Hunter, NPS; D.E.
Phelps, Jr; Andrew Slaughter; Karen Gillis,
Bering Strait Fishermen's Association; Nick

1 Frank; Paul Liedberg, Yukon Delta NWR; Terry
2 L. Haynes, ADF&G; Sabrina Fernandez,
3 Attorney General's Office; Donald Runsfelt;
4 Michelle Horner; Pat Petrivelli US FWS;
5 Taylor Brelsford; Stanley Ned, TCC; Sam
6 Henry; Ted Hamilton, Randy Brown, US FWS;
7 Elizabeth Marry, ADN; G. Kevin Van Hatten;
8 Devi Sharp, Wrangell-St. Elias NP; Eric
9 Veach, Wrangell-St. Elias NP; Mason Reid,
10 Wrangell-St. Elias NP; Rob McWhorter, Joint
11 Pipeline Office; Mike McDougall, YRDFA; Fred
12 Bue, ADF&G; John Burr, ADF&G; Patrick Snow,
13 US FWS; Orville Huntington; Brenda Tabes
14 Horse, BLM.
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1 PROCEEDINGS

2 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'll
3 correct myself. We do have a housekeeping
4 item this morning. One of the housekeeping
5 items is due to the plane crash near
6 Dillingham. One of our translators will not
7 be available; so, Alex, to my right, the
8 coordinator, will keep me informed if
9 there's any problems with translation.
10 There doesn't appear to be any, but we do
11 need to keep aware of it.

12 We should have enough, but I just
13 wanted to let you know that.

14 Mr. Chairman, we're a little bit
15 into the agenda. We need to pick up some
16 items from yesterday. The original plan was
17 Jill Klein would speak first, then go from
18 there. When Jill comes we'll try to have to
19 work her in on her presentation from the
20 Yukon River Fisheries Drainage Association.
21 For new staff that have come to this
22 meeting, the ground rules are, basically,
23 when you come to the mic, so the red light
24 comes on, you introduce yourself. You
25 noticing I'm talking slower because we need
to do that for translation, so take a breath
every three words.

It seems to work for me.

The other thing is, if you have
handouts, you need to give handouts to me
first, myself and Don and Alex Nick. That
way we can be sure that the translator and
translators get a copy first and then they
go to the public. For the public, if
there's not enough copies, get ahold of the
staff here and we'll try to make
arrangements to get copies.

With that, Mr. Chairman, that's
all the housekeeping, other than if you have
any travel concerns to get ahold of one
of -- get ahold of your coordinator to
resolve that before -- it would be easier to
do that today than try to find us tomorrow.

That's it. Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

24 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: This
25 morning, before we start going into our
agenda, we're going to have a moment of

1 more. I think we can make it much more
2 precise, better precision. We need better
3 data to better spatially conduct those
4 fisheries, and I think we acknowledge that.

5 So, I'm not going to come here
6 today and say that this is the reason why
7 these returns are low. I think it's a
8 combination of different factors. But I
9 don't want to preclude my two colleagues
10 from bringing their two presentations and
11 we're certainly open for questions and we'll
12 do our best to try to answer them for you.
13 I don't live in rural Alaska. I don't
14 depend upon fish for my livelihood, my way
15 of life. I'm not here telling you what's
16 going on and how to live your life. Our
17 role is as public servants, we're just going
18 to communicate to you what we know.

19 Thank you, I'll turn it over to
20 John Eiler.

21 Sorry. It takes a minute to warm
22 up.

23 I was hoping this was going to
24 show a little better, but it's not.

25 MR. WILMOT: The three things I'm
sure you are interested in are the salmon
by-catch and the salmon -- I'm Dick Wilmot,
Alaska Bay National Marine Fisheries.

The high seas intercept
fisheries, and our law enforcement efforts,
and research to determine the causes --
Marine causes of decline of Western Alaska
salmon.

National Marines Fisheries
Service is responsible for the Groundfish
Fishery in the Bering Sea and that's these
areas out in here, these are the statistical
reporting zones.

The other one is the Gulf of
Alaska Groundfish Fishery and the
statistical reporting zones.

Okay. We have reports on the
salmon by-catch in both the Bering Sea and
the Gulf of Alaska since 1990.

The top graph shows the Chinook
salmon by-catch. Dark bars are in the
Bering Sea, the light-colored hash bars are
from the Gulf of Alaska.

You can see in the Bering Sea we

1 had some fairly high catches back in '96,
2 '97, and '98. Since that time, the by-catch
3 has declined somewhat. The Gulf of Alaska
4 kind of bounces around a little bit, but
5 stays relatively -- relatively constant
6 throughout the years.

7 The bottom graph shows other
8 salmon.

9 Other salmon are everything but
10 chinook.

11 In the Bering Sea, this almost
12 invariably is 95 percent-plus chum salmon.

13 In the Gulf of Alaska, it's
14 usually greater than 85 percent chum salmon
15 and usually better than 90. In some years,
16 it can be significant numbers of coho and
17 pink salmon and sockeye.

18 Now, 1993, you can see that that
19 was the year that got everybody upset when
20 the Bering Sea by-catch hit almost 250,000
21 fish.

22 Since that time you can see it's
23 declined quite a bit. The Gulf of Alaska
24 has never taken a lot and it's declined
25 quite dramatically.

This graph shows -- the light
blue -- in the light blue is where the
pelagic trawl pollock fishery is mainly
concentrated. The dark blue dots show where
most of the chum salmon are caught within
that fishery, and you'll see that the
heaviest catch is right down here north and
west of Unimak Island.

This shows the same thing for
chinook salmon. The yellow dots are where
the -- most of the chinook salmon are caught
in the Bering Sea by-catch during the Bering
Sea fishery. Here again, you'll see it's
down here north and west of Unimak Island.

These purplish areas are
conservation critical habitat zones that
I'll talk about later.

Okay. Ways we have to measure,
monitor, and reduce salmon by-catch are the
observer program, the American Fisheries Act
requirements, salmon savings areas, and
Steller's sea lion conservation zones.

The observer program run by NMFS
puts scientifically trained observers on
vessels. You can see it depends on the size

1 of the vessel how much coverage they could
2 have, and also on motherships and shoreside
processing plants.

3 The observers collect random
4 samples of each of the prohibited species of
5 each haul before it is sorted and they
6 record the data. And this data is later
7 analyzed by NMFS scientists.

8 Secondly, is the Americans
9 Fisheries Act requirements where they've set
10 up co-ops, and they employ what they call
11 SeaState, a cooperative industry program
12 that monitors incidental catch of nontarget
13 species.

14 On a daily basis, the observers
15 report the vessel's fishing location and
16 by-catch amounts, and then this information
17 is compiled on a realtime basis, and the
18 information is shared among all participants
19 in the program and then this is to help
20 fishers avoid areas of high by-catch.

21 Thirdly is what they call salmon
22 savings areas. The ones in red are the
23 chinook salmon savings areas, and in the
24 gray is the chum salmon savings areas.
25 You'll see they're down here in that area
north and west of Unimak Island for the most
part where the heaviest by-catch of salmon
takes place.

There are caps in this area that
trigger closure, change of the fishery that
they started seeing this cap.

Next are the Steller's sea lion
conservation areas that were set up. The
reason we're showing this is they should
help reduce the by-catch.

The areas in pink are closed to
fishing. The green are the open areas. And
these kind of yellowish areas are
conservation areas that also have further
restrictions on the fishing.

Okay. I'm going to get into the
high seas fishing and law enforcement
efforts. These slides were provided to us
by law enforcement and Coast Guard. I'm
sorry there's a lot of acronyms in here.
They talk amongst themselves and they all
know what they mean. I'll try to explain
them to you.

The main effort is through the

1 North Pacific and Anadromous Fish
2 Commission, which is made up of the U.S.,
3 Canada, Japan, and Russia, and a lot of
4 coordination is going on between these four
5 countries for law enforcement.

6 They had the first ever
7 attendance by what they call the Federal
8 Border Service. This is the Russian
9 equivalent of our Coast Guard. And they've
10 started doing joint patrols. And Russia
11 actually hosted an enforcement meeting in
12 Russia in May.

13 Canada deployed this airplane you
14 see out to Shemya, during the month of
15 April, and they conducted 18 sorties for a
16 total of 144 hours, and they didn't find any
17 drift net vessels. They did detect three
18 suspicious vessels that were checked out.

19 This shows you the path that they
20 flew during that month of April. I point
21 out it seems like the month of April and May
22 seems to be when most of the bad guys are
23 out there for some reason. Anyway, you can
24 see they've covered quite an area, there's
25 Aleutian Peninsula, and so they were out
there covering a broad area.

U.S. effort included 14 C130
sorties for 117 hours. They had high
endurance cutters out there and NMFS agents
and officers.

That PRC is the Peoples' Republic
of China.

Okay. You can see this is their
flights that they took. They started in
February and went until the end of August.
You can see they covered a lot of area out
there looking for illegal high seas drift
nets.

Okay. We know we have a problem
that there's a perceived impact to Alaska
salmon from these, and there may be. So,
anyway, right now we have Russia, Japan,
Canada, the U.S. out there looking for
people. What they're enforcing is called
the United Nations Moratorium Against High
Seas Drift Net Fishing. That's our
authority to seize vessels on the high seas.

The U.S. and the People's
Republic of China have signed an MOU,
memorandum of agreement to seize vessels.

1 This is a summary of the high
2 seas drift net activity by the U.S. Coast
3 Guard and NMFS law enforcement since 1995.
4 You can see this column is a number of
5 detections, the number of seizures. This
6 one in 2000 was the one -- it was the Arctic
7 Wind, registered in Honduras. It's actually
8 a Russian vessel.

9 In 1999 we actually seized one.
10 It was a People's Republic of China vessel.

11 This just shows where most of the
12 activity took place. This was the YingFa.
13 This was the Arctic Wind, and there were a
14 number of other vessels that were up here.
15 I think most of them were turned over to the
16 Russians.

17 Known seizures now in 2001.

18 One of the gentlemen, I believe
19 it was yesterday morning, mentioned about
20 trying to find out the migratory path of
21 salmon throughout the Bering Sea and North
22 Pacific. This is a makeup, an ethic stock
23 identification study done on the fish seized
24 from the YingFa which is out here. It has
25 chum and sockeye onboard. We did the
analysis. We have an excellent baseline of
chum salmon genetic baseline. When we
looked at it is, it was about 80 percent
Asian origin. There was a smattering of
Western Alaska fish. This FY stands for
fall Yukon chum. They're a very distinct
genetic group that are very easy to pick out
and identify.

 We had a few others which is
everything south of Alaska Peninsula, down
through British Columbia and Washington.

 They also had sockeye onboard,
about 30 percent Asian origin and about 70
percent U.S. origin.

 This was seized in 1999. This
Arctic Winds was seized in 2000. It had
chum, sockeye, and chinook onboard. The
chum were about 75 percent Asian origin,
about 10 percent western Alaska, no fall
Yukon, and about 10 percent from other areas
south.

 The sockeye were about 25 percent
Asian origin and about 75 percent U.S.
origin.

 The chinook salmon, about 45

1 percent Asian origin. It was about 25
2 percent Western Alaska origin. About 5
3 percent came from Southcentral Alaska, and
surprisingly, a large number were from the
4 Pacific Northwest, Washington, Oregon, and
California.

5 In efforts to try and determine
6 the distribution of salmon, there have been
7 a number of genetic stock identification
8 studies on chum salmon. This one right here
9 is a three-year study we did on the chum
by-catch in the Bering Sea as a composite.
10 You see the red shows it was a high degree
11 of Asian origin, fair amount of Western
12 Alaska, small percentage of fall Yukon, and
quite a large number from British Columbia
13 and Washington.

14 These two down here, the study
15 that was done by the Alaska Department of
16 Fish & Game genetics laboratory on the June
17 fall fishery, you can see most of the fish
18 were Western Alaska origin. It has some
19 Asian component and some from British
Columbia and Washington. And one is a small
20 portion of fall Yukon fish.

21 This was from a sample taken from
22 a Japanese research vessel in cooperation
23 with our Northwest Fisheries Science Center.
24 You can see it was predominantly fish from
25 Washington and Oregon and British Columbia,
though there were a small number of Asian
origin and Western Alaska fish.

26 This one was from a Japanese
27 research vessel. These are all summer
28 samples -- by the way, all taken during the
29 summer, and it was predominantly Asian,
30 though there were some Western Alaska fish.

31 This was a sample taken from the
32 Russian fishery we did in cooperation with
33 the Russians. This is a small amount of
34 Western Alaska fish in there and British
Columbia, Washington.

35 The sample taken by the Japanese
36 over here in the Sea of Okhotsk,
37 surprisingly, had a small number of Western
38 Alaska fish in it.

39 Research, we've started to try
40 and address some of the problems in the
41 Bering Sea. We had a chance to tag on to a
42 study. We got some that are called drifters

1 and these can be tracked by satellite. They
2 were put off of the mouth of the
3 Yukon/Kuskokwim here -- four of them -- and
4 this graph is as of October 1. You can see
5 one of the drifters -- I should mention that
6 what we're trying to find out is what the
7 currents are off the mouth of the Yukon and
8 Kuskokwim, figuring that Juneau salmon
9 coming out of those areas are going to be
10 highly affected by the currents, and might
11 affect their migratory path.

12 You can see two of the drifters
13 have stayed, drifted up here in the Norton
14 Sound and that's where they're staying.

15 Two of them drifted up here in
16 the Kotzebue Sound, one of them is still out
17 here in the middle. One of them, we think
18 has grounded itself here.

19 Anyway, it's just efforts to find
20 out more information about what's going on
21 out there.

22 We have what's called the ocean
23 carrying capacity and climate change program
24 at the October Bay laboratory, started a few
25 years ago. Started off in the Gulf of
26 Alaska and we've been picking transects,
27 ship those out, captures juvenile salmon
28 along these transects. What we're trying to
29 determine is the -- what populations are
30 where and when. We're looking at their
31 food, what food they're eating, the
32 conditions, various things like that.

33 We are also doing the same thing
34 in Bristol Bay. There's the transects we've
35 been taking, sampling, juvenile salmon.

36 We're hoping to take this same
37 study up in the Bering Sea off the mouth of
38 the Yukon and Kuskokwim in the next year or
39 two.

40 So far what they've been able to
41 develop, they've developed an efficient and
42 effective method of capturing juvenile
43 salmon in the high seas. This was a real
44 problem. This is something that has never
45 been easy to do and we think we've finally
46 figured out how to do it. Also pioneered
47 research on the migrations of individual
48 salmon populations through the analysis of
49 markings on salmon on the otoliths. These
50 are thermal marks put on salmon when they're

1 released from hatcheries. There's a number
2 of them, so we can detect these and tell
3 what population is where and when.

4 Documented migratory pathways of
5 juvenile salmon off Alaska in the summer.

6 Initiated a long-term program on
7 the growth and migration of juvenile salmon
8 from Bristol Bay and identified
9 relationships between early marine growth,
10 climate, and survival.

11 Undertook the study of annual and
12 decadal changes in the early marine growth
13 of Yukon River chum salmon, and we've
14 demonstrated a linkage between decadal
15 changes in size and maturation of Alaskan
16 chum salmon on populations and climate
17 changes using a long-term monitoring
18 program. This is 30-plus years worth of
19 data on these populations.

20 The future of what research is
21 going to be in the Bering Sea is still a
22 little bit up in the air. It's going to
23 depend on funding. We're hoping that we're
24 going to have the use of the Miller Freeman,
25 which is a Miller research vessel to be used
up in the Bering Sea next year.

There's also a proposal that's
being put forth through the North Pacific
and Anadromous Fish Commission. This was
pushed by your Lieutenant Governor Fran
Ulmer. It's trying to get a cooperative
study going between the United States,
Canada, Russia, and Japan on the Bering Sea.
And the purposes of it are to start
documenting migratory pathways of salmon,
factors might affect the survival, a number
of factors, and I guess maybe Bill could
give you a little better sense of where this
is at. My understanding is it's not
finalized yet. There's some question of
where the funding is going to come from.

Any questions?

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman --

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Mary?

MS. GREGORY: I wanted to know,
well, you are showing us the amounts of
different types of salmon, what tonnage are

1 you talking about from those two vessels?

2 MR. WILMOT: Yeah, I'm trying to
3 remember. The YingFa had a lot. I didn't
4 bring the study -- I'm sorry. I just don't
5 remember. It was quite a lot. The Arctic
6 Wind had a fair amount too. It didn't have
7 many chinook salmon. They had a lot of chum
8 and sockeye.

9 MS. GREGORY: Do you have a copy
10 of your presentation to hand out?

11 MR. WILMOT: What I can do is --
12 not get you copies of the report, I didn't
13 bring them with me. I'll get your name and
14 address and get the reports to you.

15 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

16 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Gerald?

17 MR. NICHOLIA: Do you know, me
18 and my Vice Chair, Craig Fleener, we're the
19 ones that requested you guys to come here.
20 I'm sure glad -- you sure shed a lot of
21 light on the problem we've been dealing with
22 here in the Yukon and Kuskokwim, where our
23 fish go. Is it possible that you guys could
24 share all this information with these two
25 agencies, the Federal and State agency to
also protect the research that we rely on.
I don't want to be mean or nothing, but it's
been -- you guys know all this information,
and we're sitting in the Interior; we're
very connected to the ocean, you know, our
lives depend on this ocean. If fish don't
survive, we go hungry through the winter.
You know -- compared the to gas prices, you
guys talk about \$1.60 a gallon. We're
paying, 3 and \$5 a gallon. It gets very
expensive. We're looking for fish to put
away for the winter. I sure would be
appreciative if you would be open to the
Federal and State agencies and share the
information with us. This is our
livelihood, our way of life, and we depend
on these fish very much. I want to say a
lot more. I'm asking you guys to share this
information with these agencies here so we

1 can work together and include us in these
2 plans you have, like this green whaling plea
3 or bird plan, or sea otter plan. We have to
4 make some kind of plan to protect these
5 fish, that all the people who we represent
6 depend on. We have to be included in this.
7 If we're not included, we're going to have
8 to use some kind of other avenue to be
9 included. What I'm requesting right here is
10 to include agencies, the State and Federal
11 agencies and these people, because what I
12 see in this by-catches; that's our
13 escapement, that's our commercial, that's
14 our subsistence. Just in that by-catch, in
15 those three years, that's what we live on,
16 make money on, and feed our children, put
17 our children through schools and stuff. You
18 have to include us in all this information.
19 I don't want to make me and my friend, we
20 don't want to go over the edge again. But
21 I'm glad you came here. I really appreciate
22 that. I know a lot of people got some
23 pressing questions here. We don't want to
24 start out in a bad way. I know there's a
25 lot of bad things going on out there,
climate change and everything. I get a lot
of reports from the sources I got that there
is high sea raiding going on. It's
happening everywhere, and one thing that,
we, as human beings have to understand is
that we are overfishing our oceans. There
is going to come a time when there's not
going to be nothing out there.

You know, it's going to be
where -- you can't eat money, you know, you
can't eat money. You have to share this
information with these people here. We're
desperately trying to keep our livelihoods
and way of life alive. It will just be a
pleasure -- I mean, it will be a start for
us -- we're all Americans. We'll be
starting -- start to work together, come to
one conclusion and if we're all together, we
could do something better for this fish that
we so much depend on.

24 MR. HINES: Thank you, Mr.
25 Chairman. And thank you for your remarks.
I can say that there has been some
coordination between Federal agencies and

1 the State of Alaska. In saying that, there
2 is always room for improvement. We are
3 certainly available to address this
4 distinguished bodies or anyone else that
5 would like for us to talk about what we do
6 in terms of managing the resource and trying
7 to prevent any type of illegal activity. We
8 are certainly available for that. I agree
9 with your remarks that it's important to get
10 the information out to let people know what
11 it is we are doing, to possibly answer some
12 of these -- the questions that you raise
13 about what's going on, and we are certainly
14 available, and we certainly need to improve
15 communications amongst the agencies, both
16 State and Federal. I don't disagree with
17 that.

18 MR. NICHOLIA: There's another
19 thing too, I've been very involved in this
20 kind of slow down -- this by-catch on the
21 deep sea trawlers, and you said you included
22 all the coastal people in this environmental
23 impact statement on the deep sea trawler,
24 but you never included the Kuskokwim or
25 Yukon people. We have to be involved. If
we're not involved, we're going to find some
other way to be involved. We have to be
included. You can't exclude us.

MR. HINES: Yes. Certainly, we
do not wish to exclude anyone. We are
available. I know there's different
processes and certainly the Council is an
arena where you can address these concerns.
I know many issues have been raised for the
Council. Like I said during my earlier
remarks, we don't have a perfect management
system in place. There is always room for
improvement, our comments, our observations
are vitally important and don't feel like
you don't have a voice in the process,
because certainly you do. It goes back to
what I just said a few minutes ago, we do
need to improve some of these communication
processes. The anadromous fisheries --
we're not part of the Federal Subsistence
Board. We certainly will make ourselves
available to do what you ask. I understand
the sensitivity, the importance of the

1 coordination. That needs to occur between
2 State and Federal agencies, more importantly
3 in concert with the people. I can say there
4 are many instances where we have not done a
5 good job communicating what it is we do or
6 what it is we are contemplating doing. And
7 that's a very accurate criticism.

8 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Jack?

9 MR. REAKOFF: I very much
10 appreciate your presentation, and I thought
11 your data was very enlightening also. I
12 would like to obtain those printouts of what
13 you're explaining there. You can send those
14 to our coordinator. I would like our
15 Council to obtain those, that data.

16 I have a question on -- in those
17 salmon savings areas, when is most of that
18 salmon by-catch, is that in the migratory
19 period when salmon are moving through those
20 passages, and what are the age classes of
21 those fish that they're catching?

22 MR. WILMOT: The chinook salmon
23 are caught mainly in the spring fishery.
24 The fishery has two periods, an A season
25 which runs January through March, isn't it?

MR. HINES: Basically, a
year-around fishery.

MR. WILMOT: Yeah, but almost all
the chinook are caught in that January,
February, March period.

Very few chum salmon are caught
during that period. Most of the chum are
caught in the period from late August,
September, October.

MR. HINES: I think that's the
whole concept of having a salmon savings
area, during certain times of the year it's
recognized that the by-catch will be higher
in those areas, and that's the reason why
you have those designated areas and you have
an associated cap, meaning the maximum
number of fish that you can take in that
area. Due to the efforts of YRDFA and other
organizations, in working with the Council,

1 they were on a yearly basis ratcheting down
2 that cap. I think the ultimate goal within
3 the next couple of years is get down to
4 29,000 fish. That still may not be
5 acceptable, I think it shows there is some
6 imprecision in management, that we are
7 making steps to try to address this, and
8 that we're going to need more information,
9 better data to get even a much better
10 precise way of precluding and reducing the
11 amount of by-catch, but it is a problem. We
12 also have another presentation to make. We
13 can certainly be available to answer more
14 questions. John Eiler wanted to talk about
15 some of the satellite telemetry work he's
16 doing on the river. We can certainly talk
17 about by-catch and others after his
18 presentation, if you don't mind, Mr.
19 Chairman.

11 MR. EILER: Thank you, Bill.
12 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is John
13 Eiler. I'm also with the National Marine
14 Fisheries Service, Auke Bay Laboratory. In
15 addition to some of the marine work that
16 Dick and Bill were talking about previously,
17 the agency is also involved in some in-river
18 work, particularly in terms of looking at
19 some of the run characteristics of the
20 salmon returns within the Basin.

16 Because of the recent declines,
17 particularly in the chinook salmon and the
18 importance of that species that's currently
19 the focus of the study, but there have been
20 additional work that's been done previously.

19 The current program working with
20 chinook is a cooperative program with the
21 Alaska Department of Fish & Game. There's
22 also cooperation with other agencies and
23 entities within the Basin.

21 The purpose of the study is to
22 develop a better understanding on the
23 characteristics of the runs as they return
24 and move through the system, and the ideal
25 is to develop a better baseline of
information to improve management and
understanding, and the thought, again, here,
is this then that can translate into a
benefit to local fishermen as well as to the
local communities within the drainage.

1 The program has a number of
2 principal objectives. One of the most
3 important is trying to look at the stock
4 composition of the run, and the timing. And
5 by that I mean how the returns -- you have a
6 group of fish that are moving through the
7 river. What's the composition of that run?
8 How many are going up to the Tanana River,
9 to Koyukuk River, how do those different
10 components go through in terms of the timing
11 of the run? Are they all going through at
12 the same time or are there differences? Can
13 those differences be used to manage those
14 returns?

15 A part of that component also,
16 then, looks at some of the international
17 issues. So, concerns that come up between
18 the United States and Canada in terms of the
19 different groups of fish and how they're
20 harvested and allocated.

21 There's also some useful
22 information that can be collected related to
23 the patterns of movement and migration
24 rates. When do different groups of fish
25 move through fisheries within the river?
Again, is there information here we can use
to help manage those runs and the fisheries?

 And also to collect new
information on the spawning distribution.
So, let's say that we know that a certain
component of the run go up into the Koyukuk
drainage, are there areas within that
portion of the drainage that are important
for spawning more so than others? That's
one of the objectives of the program.

 There are a number of factors
that make this type of information very
difficult to obtain. As you all know, the
Yukon is in an extremely large system.
Again, this map shows just basically the
Yukon River and the major tributaries, the
Koyukuk, the Tanana, the Porcupine. This is
probably a better representation of all the
drainage, again, showing all the different
tributaries flowing in. If you look, it
takes up most of Interior Alaska. Again,
trying to collect good information over an
area this large, not only logistically, but
on a number of levels is very difficult.

 Another problem is the nature of

1 the river in many sections. Many sections
2 are very turbid, so it's very difficult to
3 observe fish, to collect the type of
4 information that's needed. So here you see
5 a small tributary flowing into part of the
6 main river, where, again, it's very
7 difficult to see.

8 One of the tools that we use to
9 try and get a handle on some of this
10 information is radio telemetry, and, again,
11 you've heard telemetry mentioned in relation
12 to a number of different studies, and
13 there's different ways that it can be
14 applied. And so in the time that I had this
15 morning, what I wanted to do is give you
16 kind of a general overview of how we're
17 using telemetry. What is it? How does it
18 function? What type of information we're
19 collecting, and again, I'm not going to try
20 to do this morning is tell you all the types
21 of information we have or are collecting,
22 but give you sort of a sense of this is what
23 we're trying to do with this approach.

24 And also line out for you a
25 little bit, give you an overview of the
26 current program, particularly as it relates
27 to the chinook returns.

28 We've actually been using
29 telemetry to look at salmon returns on large
30 rivers for a number of years. Actually,
31 some of the first ones that we conducted
32 were back in the early 1980s. We've been
33 involved in the Yukon River since the mid to
34 late 1990s, and some of the early work were
35 programs on fall chum salmon in the upper
36 Basin. These were cooperative studies with
37 the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, again,
38 looking mainly at fall chum up in the upper
39 part of the drainage. The fish were tagged
40 up at the Rampart-Rapids and we were looking
41 at distribution and movement further
42 upriver.

43 Again, the current emphasis is on
44 chinook salmon, and because of the interest
45 not only in terms of the Upper Basin, but in
46 other sections of the drainage, we've made
47 an effort to expand the program to include
48 both the middle and lower sections of the
49 drainage as well. So, again, that was quite
50 an undertaking to go from a relatively small

1 section of the drainage to making it a
2 basinwide study.

3 We spent the last two years, 2000
4 and 2001, in getting the infrastructure in
5 place, determining ways of catching the fish
6 effectively in the lower river, getting
7 assets in place on the ground so that we
8 could be prepared to collect the type of
9 information that's needed.

10 So, the last couple years, we've
11 tagged a very small number of turn, around
12 100. The plans for next year are to do a
13 very large-scale study over the entire run,
14 putting about 1,000 fish over radio so it
15 will be a very large, hopefully
16 comprehensive study.

17 Quick overview of the study; the
18 catch effort is in the lower river. There
19 are two villages that also we've been
20 working out of, down at Marshall and Russian
21 Mission.

22 The approach has been to catch
23 our fish with drift gillnets. We've been
24 using local fishers to do the catch.
25 They're much better at it than we are. So,
again, developing and utilizing some of the
local expertise.

Fish are captured and immediately
released -- I'm sorry, immediately removed
from the nets, and put in a tagging cradle
that's down in a tote filled with fresh
water. One thing I guess it's important to
emphasize is that we do everything we can to
minimize handling effects on the fish. What
we're trying to do is tag these fish so that
they're acting the same way an untagged fish
would react. So, we spent a number of years
looking at how we do these studies, how we
handle the fish to try and take very good
care of them prior to release.

This is one of the radio tags
that we use. Again, it's actually an older
model, they're much smaller now because of
some of the miniaturization of electronic
components. But, essentially, they're about
the size of your finger. They're actually
inserted down into the stomach of the fish.
Someone mentioned earlier in one of the
talks, salmon aren't eating at this period
of time, the stomach is actually an ideal

1 place to put the tag because it doesn't
2 interfere with the streamlined shape of the
3 body, it's not a surgical procedure, we
4 basically open up the mouth and slide the
5 tag down into the top.

6 This is not part of our tagging
7 procedure. This is actually a fish that we
8 recovered up on the spawning grounds and I
9 show this just to give you an idea. This a
10 fish where the internal organ has been
11 removed. You can actually see the tag
12 nestled inside the stomach.

13 And basically, these tags are
14 like a little radio station. So they're
15 emitting signals which kind of fight their
16 way out of the water and transmit out into
17 the air. What we do is similar to you
18 listening to a radio. We basically can tune
19 in to the frequencies of these fish and when
20 we're within a range of the signal you can
21 actually detect where they are. And that's
22 kind of a simplistic way of looking at it,
23 but that gives you kind of the gist of it.

24 The fish are captured. This is a
25 diagram that shows the Russian Mission.
We're also tagging down in Marshall.
Basically, fish are captured in drifts along
the river and tagged. This year we put out
about 120 tags on chinook salmon. We also
did a small number of fall chum salmon just,
again, to begin to look at how the fish will
spawn after tagging in case down the road
somewhere there is some additional interest
in doing some other species in addition to
chinook.

This gives kind of a sense of the
capture effort. This particularly at the
Russian Mission but also at the Marshall
site. Again, this is over a number of weeks
so we are starting around the 10th of June,
tag through about the middle of July.

The blue and the yellow show the
fish that were captured and just
spaghetti-tagged, that gives you at least a
sense of the number of fish that are
captured over time.

This year we also did a small
number of radio-tagged fish, and the data
that I'm going to be showing you, related to
the chinook, it's important that you

1 remember it's a very small number of fish.
2 It's hard to say very much about the run of
3 fish itself based on the small sample. It's
4 tagged during a very limited period of time.
5 We're looking at about a seven-day period of
6 tagging.

7 Once the fish are released,
8 there's a number of ways that also we could
9 monitor their movements upriver. We do some
10 with boats, riding the tagging area, because
11 of how fast the fish are going and how deep
12 they go. Most of the initial tagging is
13 done with aircraft. They have tracking
14 antennas that are placed on the outside and,
15 again, can detect the fish as you move close
16 to them.

17 This map just shows the camp area
18 and the area immediately upriver and
19 downriver. Again, the aerial tracks were
20 done primarily in the vicinity of the
21 release site. So, upriver about 40, 50
22 kilometers, and downriver. And, again, the
23 purpose of this was, again to watch what
24 kind of response that fish had after being
25 tagged. Again, we're very concerned that
fish begin to act normally. You assume that
there may be a short period of time where
there may be a bit of delay. I like to use
the kick in the shins analogy. If you're
walking down the street and someone kicks
you in the shins, it may take a second to
stop a little bit and take a while to get
going again, but hopefully it's not so
severe that it keeps you from walking.
Again, that's what we're looking at. How
are these fish responding?

19 Because of the size of the
20 drainage it's being -- impractical to fly up
21 and down the drainage keeping up with the
22 fish, particularly when we're trying to
23 study so many of them. What we've done over
24 the years is develop a system of tracking
25 stations. This is one of the stations.
They're basically a tower that we put up on
the river. It's self-contained, it has a
battery bank, it has solar panels that keep
these batteries charged and that's what runs
the electronic equipment that we use to
detect the fish.

 These stations are typically put

1 up on bluffs just so they have a good,
2 clear, view of the river. So, essentially
3 the process is -- let's say you have a fish
4 moving close to the station, it's detected
5 by the receiving equipment we have, every
6 hour that information is shot up to a
7 satellite, which is then downloaded and the
8 information sent to the receiving station
9 near Washington, D.C. On a daily basis,
10 we're able to access that information and in
11 that way we're able to look every day at
12 stations all over the drainage to get a
13 sense of what's happening with the fish and
14 that way be able to get some in-season
15 insight in terms of what's going on.

16 This slide is a map of the
17 drainage, again, showing the location of the
18 stations. We have about 37, just under 40
19 stations in place now. The ones that are in
20 yellow are the stations that also we
21 activated this year to do some of the
22 preliminary work, and the blue ones are ones
23 that will be activated next year for the
24 full study.

25 Once the fish do move up into the
area -- so let's say we have a group of fish
that move up into the Koyukuk or Tanana
drainage, using helicopters or fixed wing,
you can then go in if it's important to
determine this information and locate where
these fish actually are and collect samples.
Some of the questions related to sampling
for the ichthyophonous, again, this is one
way to begin to locate some of these areas
and potentially do some additional sampling
that will provide information to help answer
some of those questions.

Pretty clean here, here's some of
the information that we had. This is
actually fairly recent data. This is from
this year. It shows, again, about 108 fish
that were tagged with the radios. I guess
one of the things that was very encouraging,
again, only about 3 percent of the fish did
not move upriver after release. So, again
we had about 97 percent of the fish resume
upriver movement for a tagging study like
this, or any tagging study, that's very
encouraging. You always have some fish that
are affected adversely by the handling, you

1 try to minimize that. 97 percent was very
2 encouraging.

3 We're able to look at the fish
4 that are caught in the various fisheries,
5 and, again, you have fish that are kind of
6 in transit and really reached the terminal
7 area and also fish that are up in Canada, up
8 in the Tanana, and then you've got other
9 fish that are going up to what we call the
10 terminal areas, that's kind of the end of
11 the line areas or these nonterminal areas,
12 transitional zones, where, again, these may
13 be fish that are going further up or they're
14 small feeder tributaries that occur in those
15 areas in the lower and middle drainage.

16 One thing that's very important,
17 because of the way we look at the data, and
18 this is where you all and people within your
19 communities can really be helpful, is tag
20 returns. Fish that are caught in the
21 fisheries, it's very useful information to
22 know, "Hey, are these fish caught or are
23 they still out there swimming up the river?"
24 That's information that if you can encourage
25 people to return, it becomes very useful in
terms of analyzing the data.

1 Again, this gives you some -- a
2 sense of some of the information that we're
3 able to collect with the distribution of the
4 radio-tagged fish. So, again, just
5 looking -- I've tried to color-code it.
6 These are fish that are basically in the
7 lower river. We've got some areas that were
8 in a known terminal area. So fish that went
9 up the Anvik area. We also have other fish
10 that went to the lower river and may be
11 going to other areas like the -- to other
12 areas.

13 Same thing, as you go up to the
14 Basin in terms of the middle river, and also
15 to the upper areas as well, the Tanana, up
16 above the Rapids and up into Canada. This
17 is one type of information we're very
18 interested in looking at for the entire run.

19 There's another way you can use
20 this information. This is the same kind of
21 information I showed you previously, just --
22 in the previous slide, but related from chum
23 salmon when we did one of the large-scale
24 studies. You can take this information now
25

1 and be able to break it down over the course
2 of the run and, again, be able to look at
3 how the different groups of fish move
4 through the river. So, there's some
5 interesting things. So here's -- you can
6 take a look. Here's the Canadian Porcupine
7 stock of fish. Again, primarily an
8 early-return of fish, a small bulge here.
9 Again, you can look at the timing of the
10 fish as it moves through the river. And
11 with enough information and compilation you
12 can do these for the various stocks, and
13 that becomes very useful.

14 You can also look at some of the
15 rates of movement, and, again, here's some
16 information from both years of study,
17 looking for chinook and chum salmon, chinook
18 about mid 50s in terms of kilometers per
19 day, in terms of how fast they move,
20 substantially faster than chum. Actually
21 the fastest movement we saw with chinook was
22 76 kilometers a day. That was for fish that
23 went all the way up into Canada. That's
24 tremendous rates of movement for some of
25 these fish.

1 In addition to looking at the
2 overall rates of movement, you can, again,
3 also break it down into different groups
4 within the drainage. So, here you can
5 compare a group -- let's see that are going
6 up into Canada versus fish that go to some
7 of the U.S. tributaries in terms of how fast
8 they're moving through.

9 And then you can also look at how
10 the fish move in terms of between sections
11 of the river. And this may become very
12 important in terms of looking at movement
13 through fisheries by villages, to, again,
14 help improve our ability to manage and
15 harvest the stocks.

16 I mentioned just briefly the
17 presentation yesterday on the ichthyophonous
18 and some of the concerns related to that,
19 particularly as the fish move upriver.
20 Telemetry may also be a way to get a handle
21 on some of that problem. Again, I mention
22 the ability to go in and sample areas to
23 look for the presence of the disease or
24 absence. One of the other things is to
25 potentially be able to track fish that may

1 have a problem. So, from this year's work,
2 we have a small number of fish that moved up
3 into the Upper Basin, and then we were able
4 to track as they started moving downriver,
5 and, again, this may be one way to assess
6 dropout by certain groups of fish as they
7 move upriver.

8 The last thing, just to mention,
9 just so you know some of the work that's
10 gone into this, again, because of the size
11 of the drainage, because of the amount of
12 data that's collected, it's often hard to
13 keep it all straight and to get it out to
14 the people who are really interested in it.
15 One thing that we've tried to do over the
16 last couple of years is develop a database
17 system that would be easy for -- to
18 summarize the data, but also to provide it
19 to other people that might be interested.

20 And we started with work up in
21 the -- getting this organized for the Upper
22 Basin, we've now expanded that to the entire
23 river. Essentially what we've done is we've
24 gotten some of these electronic GIS maps,
25 committed them all together, and now have
coverage for the entire drainage.

Now, the nice thing about this is
different types of information can be
entered and displayed on this map or within
the database, so, let's say that there's a
small study up in Beaver Creek or down on
the Anvik, that information can be put in
the same place as information on some of the
larger studies that look at the entire run
and so it becomes much easier for people to
begin and look and say what's happening
here, what's happening there, how does it
relate to each other?

So it's a good way to archive
information.

One thing we're also attempting
to do is create an Internet link so that
people within towns and villages around the
river, if they have Internet access and are
interested in the information that's
occurring within the season can be able to
actually look up and say, where are the
fish, how far are they moving up, how fast
are they going, when are going -- when are
they going to reach my village, those types

1 of things. There's a lot of potential here.
2 Again, it's in some of the early development
3 stage, but it's definitely something that's
4 coming.

5 In summary, again, telemetry is a
6 very useful tool. It's powerful. It has a
7 number of applications. We're trying to use
8 it to address some of the information needs
9 on the river, to be able to look, kind of
10 take the salmon return, break them apart so
11 that we understand the different pieces a
12 little better.

13 And, again, we're in -- starting
14 next year, we'll be undertaking very large
15 studies, specifically looking at the
16 chinook.

17 I'll be glad to answer any
18 questions.

19 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Ray?

20 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I
21 have three questions coming out of the
22 various reports. The first one is: How
23 much -- how sure are you on the by-catch
24 reporting? Because even in Interior Alaska
25 I had a personal friend that was involved in
26 a lot of the fisheries. There are a lot of
27 pressures to dump or not count when
28 observers aren't watching. How accurate is
29 that data, how confident are you in that?

30 Second question, since I noticed
31 that the by-catch is very concentrated in
32 certain areas and you've created zones in
33 there, is there anything that triggers
34 complete closures in that area besides the
35 caps? In other words, if there are low
36 returns or stocks that are really
37 threatened, is there anything that would
38 trigger a complete closure and would not
39 consider that?

40 And then the third question is
41 the Asian stocks, are they also experiencing
42 low runs or is it only in Western Alaska?

43 MR. HINES: Thank you,
44 Mr. Chairman. In response to the first
45 question about the accuracy of by-catch
46 numbers, I think that, first of all, keep in
47 perspective that most of the by-catch of

1 salmon occurs in mid water trawl fisheries.
2 Of course, if a vessel is of a certain size,
3 meaning 124 feet and above, then they have
4 to have an observer 100 percent of the time.
5 These are very large vessels. These are the
6 ones that fall far offshore, and observe the
7 by-catch. They have an observer 100 percent
8 of the time. The vessels from 60 to 140
9 feet. They have to have it 30 percent of
10 the time. Some of these are trawl vessels.
11 When they deliver to a shoreside processor,
12 then the processor itself has an observer
13 there present, as well as having an observer
14 30 percent of the time on the vessel too.

15 So I think we have pretty good
16 coverage of this, and in the CDQ fish rim,
17 for example, they have to have two observers
18 aboard these vessels that are out there
19 catching fish. So I think that we feel
20 fairly good about the coverage in terms of
21 the numbers that are being reported. We
22 haven't had any reports of fishermen dumping
23 over salmon or anything like that to stay
24 under the cap. Because, again, there you
25 have a certified observer there observing
what's going on.

1 Now, in terms of the by-catch and
2 certain areas, as we described, certain
3 conservational areas for chinook as well as
4 chum salmon, we don't have enough precision
5 to be able to identify specific individual
6 stocks in an area, and, therefore, shut down
7 all fishing in those particular designated
8 areas that Dr. Wilmot had shown up there.
9 Once it reaches a certain level, meaning a
10 certain number of fish are caught, then
11 fishing is suspended meaning that groundfish
12 fishery has to move out of that area.

13 So, we don't have the mechanism
14 to, again, identify each individual stock
15 and where they occur. Again, just look at
16 previous information and, again, once it
17 reaches a certain number, then we seize all
18 fishing activities in that savings area, if
19 vessels move to other areas.

20 In terms of Asian stocks, we have
21 reports from Russian colleagues, that
22 they've had some problems with some of their
23 stocks as well. So, it's not necessarily a
24 phenomenon that's primarily centered here in
25

1 Alaska. The Russians and even the Japanese,
2 even the Canadians, they do have problems.
3 So, Dick, you want to add anything else to
4 that?

5 MR. WILMOT: It does seem to be
6 Pacific-wide. Their stock started declining
7 a little later than ours did. Japan has had
8 some disappointing returns in the last
9 couple of years. And the word we're kind of
10 getting from Russia is their chum returns
11 have been a little bit poor too.

12 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Gerald?

13 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, like I
14 mentioned earlier, you know, our oceans are
15 being overfished and stuff. All these drift
16 netters and deep sea trawlers are taking a
17 lot of other animals like Steller's sea
18 lions and seals and stuff as by-catch too,
19 other whales and stuff. This is causing
20 other predators like the killer whales and
21 other predators, stuff to harvest sea otters
22 and salmon.

23 Do you guys realize that it's a
24 very delicate web that we're destroying? We
25 have to do something now to protect that
26 web, the life that we depend on or it will
27 be ruined. Something has to be done now.
28 What man is doing now is not good to the
29 oceans we depend on. It's causing other --
30 man is not the only harvester, you know.
31 It's causing other animals to rely on other
32 food sources. There's something has to be
33 done some way, somehow to -- it's a delicate
34 web and somehow we have to protect it,
35 because we're all connected to it.

36 MR. HINES: Mr. Chairman, I
37 totally agree that it is a very delicate
38 web, and I think that certainly the Council
39 as well as the State of Alaska, think they
40 try to employ what they term as ecosystem
41 management. I think we try to take into
42 account that fishing has impacts not only on
43 certain species, but cross-species as well,
44 birds, mammals, as well as man. We
45 certainly in our domestic fisheries have
46 tried to strive to maintain a very delicate

1 balance between conservation, economic
2 development. I mean, it's a very difficult
3 thing to do. I think you understand that.
4 We have to take into account your needs on
5 the rivers as well as many other people's
6 needs from the oceans, providing jobs,
7 money, but you're right, we don't do that at
8 the expense of the marine -- system which
9 sustains that all. I think that
10 domestically we certainly have certain
11 processes and have done certain things. I
12 admit there is room for improvement.

13 On the international front, we
14 certainly are working with the other
15 countries, like Japan, with Canada, with
16 Russia, trying to get the Chinese and
17 Koreans on board as well and try to better
18 manage these fisheries, but I think that
19 that's going to take some time. They have
20 different philosophies, different cultures
21 and we have to try and bridge all that. I
22 know that within our domestic fisheries,
23 that we certainly have employed various
24 measures to try to take into account the
25 impacts of fishing on other types of
species. But we still have a ways to go.

I don't disagree.

MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mr.
Chair. I have a question for you. In
looking at the '96, '97, and '98, you
mentioned there was a high bay catch. My
name is Della Trumble. I'm from the
Kodiak/Aleutians, mainly King Cove, to be
exact.

What I was wanting to ask is in
2000, I think is when the Steller's sea
lion, I think the fall fishing for the
bottom fish stopped, actually. And then in
2001 the 20-miles surrounding the rookeries,
the zone that also we couldn't fish around
was implemented. Do you have the figures of
what these various numbers are on by-catch
from, like the '96, '97, 'the 8, 2000, 2001,
to show what those differences, what those
numbers are in difference?

MR. HINES: Mr. Chairman, Della,
I don't have that information with me
currently. I certainly think we can

1 possibly do that. I think what you've
2 articulated was essentially that with
3 Steller's sea lions we employed new measures
4 and we have therefore changed the nature of
5 the fishery. We've extended the season,
6 certain areas, fishing is not allowed, so
7 what does that mean in terms of impacts on
8 other areas. I don't think we've done the
9 assessment in terms of being able to
10 determine how this has affected by cap.
11 This is certainly one of the issues that
12 scientists and managers can look at. I
13 don't have the information, I certainly can
14 provide that to you when I get back to the
15 office. I don't know if the analysis is
16 complete in terms of what the analysis has
17 done in affecting the fishing and the
18 impacts of by-catch.

19 But I can say, as Dr. Wilmot
20 talked about the Americans Fisheries Act and
21 creating these co-ops and what that does is
22 allow these vessels to also work
23 cooperatively together, when they see they
24 have incidences of great by-catch. It's a
25 great move. That's been a very positive
development. It's slowed down the fishery
between those members of the co-op. Perhaps
they may be able to expand that to include
other vessels, I think other groups are
looking at that. I think mainly it's slow
down the fishery, prosecute it in a
deliberate fashion and remove the impacts
and adverse impacts on the fisheries.

18 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: John
19 Hanson?

20 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr.
21 Chairman, my name is John Hanson. I'm from
22 the lower part of the Yukon River. I got a
23 couple of questions that also I want to
24 clear up. No. 1, is that graph that the
25 doctor showed up on the by-catch of chinook
for the year, I think it was '99, the
highest -- the high graph that they had on
chinook. Does that have -- the highest
by-catch that they had, does that have an
effect in '99 or -- '99, 2000, and 2001
coming to the -- the chinooks were Western
Alaska chinook, coming to the Yukon and

1 Kuskokwim.

2 MR. WILMOT: I have tried to draw
3 a conclusion, look for a relationship
4 between the number caught in the by-catch,
5 and then the catch in Western Alaska. And
6 I've tried doing it from, say, like if I
7 had, say, for '99, look what effect it might
8 have on '99 catch, 2000 catch, 2001 catch.

9 And I can't make a connection.

10 I can't make a valid
11 relationship. And I think part of the
12 reason is that the catch data doesn't really
13 represent what the numbers were to Western
14 Alaska, because the fishery is so affected
15 by the regulations, by the weather, you
16 know. There might be a lot of fish, but for
17 some reason, you didn't get a fishery.

18 So, the catch doesn't really
19 reflect what the actual number was.

20 So, I think that's the problem
21 when trying to make a relationship between
22 the by-catch and then what the catch might
23 be in Western Alaska, because those catch
24 figures are suspect. They don't really
25 represent maybe what the real number was.

So, the answer to your question,
at this point, I can't make a valid
correlation between the by-catch and the
catch either in the same year or the year
after, or the year after.

17 MR. HANSON: Thank you.

18 Another question I want to bring
19 is for the tagging, for the tagger there,
20 when you tag chinook, I think last year was
21 the first year they put radio tags on
22 chinook?

23 MR. EILER: Yes, 2000 was the
24 first year of taking chinook in the lower
25 river. We have worked on chinook, did a
small study up in the Upper Basin on chinook
and we've also done large-scale studies on
other river systems with chinook.

24 MR. HANSON: Now, those tags, you
25 track them all the way up? Or your tracker
just goes so far, or all the way up into
Canada?

1
2 MR. EILER: The system of
3 stations that we have went all the way up
4 into Canada. There are some additional -- I
5 mean, next year we'll have more stations
6 that also are active, so we'll get a better
7 idea of where exactly these fish were. And
8 then if there's additional interest in going
9 even further, you can fly up in a helicopter
10 or a plane and actually locate individual
11 fish on the grounds.

12 MR. HANSON: Thanks. Last year,
13 I think it was in March, YK Delta Councils
14 met, I asked one of the staff from Fish &
15 Wildlife if they ever followed the radio
16 tag. They said, yes. But when it goes down
17 into deep water, then they use it, the track
18 doesn't even track.

19 MR. EILER: One of the problems
20 we had to address, and this is one of the
21 reasons instead of just jumping into a large
22 study we've spent the last two years getting
23 ready, is because -- a couple things chinook
24 do different than other species, they seem
25 to go much deeper so it's much harder to
26 track them. They also go faster, so you
27 have less of a chance of seeing them in
28 those particular stations.

29 So, one thing that we use this
30 year is we use tags that were more powerful
31 that provided a better signal so that we can
32 track them deeper.

33 Also, as you begin to go upriver,
34 again, the hardest place is down in the
35 lower river, as the fish go up and up into
36 the drainage, the river gets shallower and
37 shallower. It becomes easier to track them.

38 Even this year, the first track,
39 what we look at as the starting line, we
40 have stations that are 30 miles upriver from
41 the tagging site. Even there, we were
42 picking up about 80 percent of the fish that
43 had tags, and then as they went further
44 upriver, again, then we started picking them
45 up regularly.

46 MR. HANSON: Thank you.

1 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Sampson?

2 MR. JONES: My name is Benedict
3 Jones. I have a question about the
4 hatcheries. First, Yukon/Kuskokwim juvenile
5 fish returning to sea, have you studied --
6 we heard rumors that hatchery fish were more
7 aggressive for their food out at sea than
8 wild Yukon and Kuskokwim juvenile fish.

9 MR. WILMOT: I don't think
10 they're necessarily anymore aggressive. I
11 think one of the thoughts is maybe there
12 have just been too many released.
13 Particularly in chum salmon. They've just
14 maybe overtaxed the environment. There's
15 been some studies off the coast of Japan,
16 you know, who release huge, huge numbers of
17 chum salmon and it seemed to show that they
18 reached a point where they oversaturated the
19 near-shore environment and the fish just
20 didn't have enough to eat. There was just
21 too many fish for the amount of food out
22 there.

23 So, I think that's the big
24 concern, not so much that they're more
25 aggressive or better feeders, just the fact
26 that maybe putting too many fish in the
27 ocean. We're exceeding carrying capacity.
28 So, that's the fear.

29 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Other
30 questions from Council?

31 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

32 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Jack?

33 MR. REAKOFF: I still would like
34 to know the age composition of the by-catch.
35 Is that across the board, juvenile through
36 adult during those time frames you referred
37 to in January, February, on chinook? Are
38 those multi-age classes, or is that -- are
39 there some certain age classes that are
40 predominant in those by-catches?

41 MR. WILMOT: It's mainly fish
42 that are either going to spawn that year or
43 probably the year after. There is data on

1 the age classes, and there's a study going
2 on. I believe, YRDFA is funding it through
3 Kate Meyers, the Fisheries Research
4 Institute, looking at the scales collected
5 by the observers. So, there will be age
6 class data available.

7 I think that report is due next
8 year.

9 MR. REAKOFF: One more question,
10 I wanted to know what the mortalities, if
11 you found any, with spaghetti-tagged fish.
12 We had questions yesterday whether the
13 mortalities from spaghetti tags were
14 exceedingly high?

15 MR. EILER: I can't really answer
16 related to the spaghetti-tagged fish --
17 except for the fish that are recovered in
18 the fisheries. We don't have any additional
19 handle on what happened to other fish. It
20 can go to other areas that they don't have
21 assessment programs on, there's no coverage.
22 If they're not covered in the fishery,
23 they're basically information we just don't
24 have.

25 In terms of the radio-tagged
26 fish, again, we had a pretty good sense in
27 terms of immediate mortality after tagging.
28 Again, you assume, too, that if -- if
29 there's a problem with the handling, you're
30 going to see it fairly soon. But there's
31 always -- there's always the possibility for
32 latent problems as they move upriver,
33 stress-related, whatever. Some of the
34 studies that we've done up in the Upper
35 Basin, related to the fishwheels in terms of
36 what's the effect of holding fish versus
37 releasing them immediately would indicate
38 that there can be other effects.

39 What we try and do in terms of
40 assessing the upriver movement of the
41 radio-tagged fish is we look at a number of
42 things. If we're aware of the proportions,
43 if we see 90 percent of the fish spawning in
44 the lower river, we know we've got a
45 problem. That's not realistic. You look
46 kind of what the composition seems to be.

47 We also have pretty good
48 information because we have a series of

1 stations that the fish check into as they
2 move upriver. We can look at the migration
3 rates that the fish are showing, and that
4 gives us sort of an indication, hey, if the
5 fish is really seeming to struggle upriver,
6 and if it is a much lower movement rate than
7 others, that may indicate a problem.

8 Whereas, like, in this study this
9 year, we look at some of the fish that are
10 up into Canada, some of them are going 60
11 kilometers a day. That would indicate
12 they're probably doing pretty well.

13 But one of the things we'll be
14 trying to do again next year with more
15 stations out and also the hope to have
16 additional funds to do aerial surveys, is to
17 begin to kind of do some verification on
18 fish that are in some of these transitional
19 zones.

20 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Gerald?

21 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, if -- coming
22 from me and Craig Fleener from Eastern
23 Interior, I really want to show my gratitude
24 and thank you guys for coming up and showing
25 us that graph there, just explains what
happened to our salmon. I really appreciate
it.

I'd really like to see you guys
include us, work with these two, Federal and
State agencies. Hopefully -- hopefully from
this drill there will be some kind of --
some kind of coalition to save our salmon or
something, something that we could work
together with and include all these people,
maybe a couple of members, a couple of
State, a couple of Federal members to work
with you guys to see what's going on and be
included is what me and Craig Fleener is
always working for. We do a lot of
reports -- we did a lot of reports from
different sources on this -- you know what's
kind of going on out there -- sorry for
going over your heads and stuff, you know.
But I sure appreciate it.

24 MR. HINES: Mr. Chairman, thank
25 you very much for those remarks. You didn't
have to go over our heads. All you have to

1 do is call us. We'll be happy to address
2 this distinguished groups and anybody else
3 that is interested. It's our pleasure to be
4 here today. If you have any questions or
5 anything, feel free to call upon us. We're
6 available and we're here to work with you.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Before you
9 go, we want to thank -- we want to thank
10 Gerald Nicholia that invited you people to
11 come over. I think first time from a long
12 time we're looking at some things as a
13 Council, subsistence Councils. Some things
14 that we don't know. I've been with the --
15 in and out of fisheries for 47 years, and I
16 never seen that kind of draftup. And we
17 want to thank you that you are coming this
18 morning and presenting this.

19 MR. HINES: Thank you.

20 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Ron?

21 MR. SAM: Thank you,
22 Mr. Chairman, as co-chair, I too would like
23 to express my gratitude for your
24 presentation. As with -- with this
25 interaction, you just confirmed a lot of our
26 allegations that we still have to be careful
27 on who we make allegations against, and as
28 you can see from a lot of our remarks, a lot
29 of remarks are directed at the high seas
30 fisheries. Our concerns are still with high
31 seas fisheries.

32 And the other thing is that -- I
33 mean, again, I would like to thank you for
34 your presentation, and I know that we have
35 invited you year after year and finally got
36 to see you and interact with you face to
37 face.

38 I appreciate your presentation.
39 Thank you.

40 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Jack?

41 MR. REAKOFF: One more question.
42 Do you have data for the entire by-catch for
43 the Bering Sea outside of those salmon
44 conservation areas?

1

MR. WILMOT: Yeah. The data is reported back to us by those statistical areas, so, we have it by area. I might mention the Alaska region has a web site. I'm sorry, I don't have it -- the exact address with me, but, like, if you get on and you just type in NMFS, you'll get to it. It has the catch statistics back through 1990, and if you click on catch statistics, and you can have it by year. If you click on 2001, you'll have the catch by the Bering Sea and it's updated weekly, and it's by fishery, by statistical zone, everything.

8

So, you can immediately find out exactly what the catch is. It's usually about a week behind, but it's fairly much in season.

10

11

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Go ahead, Vince.

12

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, since this is the first dialogue between the National Marine Fisheries and the Councils here, I kind of recommend that the Councils do two things here. One would be to charge staff to write a complimentary letter to the supervisors and necessary people that it was greatly appreciated that the National Marine Fisheries Service provided expert staff here to start this dialogue and to provide information. That would be No. 1.

17

18

No. 2, I think there's going to be additional dialogue down the road, and I think it would be good to look into maybe to address the whole Yukon together that you encourage your coordinating fishery committee to possibly be the avenue of communication between the National Marine Fisheries and you, because that would save them traveling to three separate Council meetings in the future, and then as the issue warrants, the Chairs would decide to invite them to speak at full Council meetings.

24

25

For the National Marine Fisheries, they have a committee that just deals with fisheries on the Yukon, mainly for in-season, but it's to allow them to

1 communicate quicker across the drainage
2 instead of waiting for two meetings per year
3 to do that communication.

4 So, that's to get them top speed.
5 So that would be two recommendations that
6 maybe the Council would like to consider so
7 this dialogue can continue by using the
8 committee system, and that's all.

9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Yeah,
11 Vince, I think on behalf of Eastern and
12 Western and Yukon and Kuskokwim Delta
13 Advisory Councils we could urge you to go
14 ahead and write an appreciation to them for
15 coming over.

16 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Mr.
17 Chairman, and I'll be finding you for
18 signatures.

19 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Gerald?

20 MR. NICHOLIA: Vince, you could
21 go ahead and put your coordinator committee
22 on the spot too.

23 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Gerald.
24 It's important, because there was good
25 dialogue here, good sharing, and I didn't
26 want it to be nebulous where it goes from
27 here. I appreciate that, and those
28 committee members, you got a little bit more
29 work.

30 MR. MATHEWS: That would bring us
31 up. I haven't been able to see behind the
32 screen. I don't know if Jill Klein is here.
33 If she is --

34 MR. SAM: Just a moment, Vince.
35 Harry, I'd like to recognize Della Trumble.

36 MS. TRUMBLE: I didn't mean to
37 interrupt your names schedule, I'd like --
38 I -- I appreciate it. I learned a lot. It
39 was great having access to the agencies
40 here, listening to the reports. We maintain
41 we want to work with you. We understand for
42 years we've been on a different side of the

1 issue. We strongly support studying more
2 and trying to find out what is happening
3 with these fish. We survive on them also.
4 We're a whole part of this whole process and
5 we would like to continue work with you, and
6 I think it's unfortunate that we weren't
7 able to have more people from our Council be
8 able to participate in this because all the
9 members on my Council are fishermen. I'm
10 the only nonfisherman, but I do survive and
11 subsist on all the resources. I think --
12 listening to some of the issues in regard to
13 the wildlife, the concerns with the sports,
14 the impact, those are issues we have, not
15 only with the Izembek, but with the caribou
16 and the Boards, where they allow so many
17 permits for hunters or guides to come in,
18 and I think if you look through some of your
19 plans, through some of these wilderness
20 areas, you may be able to cooperatively
21 limit those permits for guides, and that's
22 something to really look at. It's something
23 we are looking at strongly with the Kodiak
24 Aleutians, the Kodiak Refuge and our area.

13 I think -- one of the issues that
14 came up yesterday is the tagging, and the
15 mortality rate and that being a concern, and
16 the Shumagins. I did talk a little bit
17 about Dick Jacobsen yesterday. The tagging
18 is done in salt water, bringing up a seine
19 and a dip net, but fish remained in the salt
20 water at all times.

17 What the impacts are of this,
18 like I say is out there. No one seems to
19 know.

19 We have some weirs in two of our
20 systems in Izembek, around the Izembek
21 Refuge. And one of the creeks there, they
22 maintain there is a high mortality rate with
23 that weir there, and it was brought to our
24 attention that it's possibly the depth of
25 the water, different times of the year that
26 might impact it.

23 Above and beyond, I think there's
24 just a lot of variables and things out
25 there. I really appreciate the time, and I
26 hope that there are some other times that
27 also we can have more of our members
28 available and to work together jointly,
29 because it's understanding both of our

1 regions is really important.
2 Thank you.

3 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Sam?

4 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr.
5 Chairman, thank you for your presence too,
6 Della, for the Councils' information. We
7 invited Della specifically to attend our
8 three-council meetings because in the past
9 we had some misunderstandings and
10 mishandling of communication through the
11 office of OSM, some of the letters that we
12 wrote, what we intended to do didn't come
13 out until -- about five or six months later
14 which created a rift between Kodiak
15 Aleutians, Bristol Bay, and our three
16 regions on the Yukon. And this -- we
17 extended an invitation to Della to help mend
18 fences and from now on, we wanted to deal
19 with all other Regional Advisory Committees
20 above-board, on the floor and not behind the
21 back. Once again, I would like to thank you
22 for your presence, Della.

23 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Gerald?

24 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, there's a
25 lot of things that we did, we tried to pull
the wool over your eyes a couple of times, I
think. I think it would be wise for the
agencies to know that since we all depend on
fish, we invited her. I think it will be
wise to have some of our people go to their
meetings and get their perspective on, like
she got our perspective on the way we live.

19 We sure would like to understand
20 how it issues you guys face and stuff like
21 that. I'd sure like to see some of our
22 people go to their meetings.

23 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Della is
24 not a new person to some of us. We know her
25 before and work with her in board meetings
here, subsistence board meetings, and good
to see you. I'm glad that you made it here.

26 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you everyone.

27 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Sam?

1
2 MR. SAM: Sorry, I didn't mean to
interrupt you there, Vince, I had to say
3 goodbye to Della.

4 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman --

5 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Vince?

6 MR. MATHEWS: We have two options
here. I'm usually not a break person, but
7 it might be a good time to break. Two
reasons is I'm hearing a report that Jill is
8 around and we could round her up and get her
here. The other thing is if Jill is not
9 present, then Alaska Department of Fish &
Game has been organizing who will be
10 present. So that would give them a minute
or two to get their coordination set up,
11 which I believe they already have, but they
may have additional people that have showed
up.

12 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: We'll have
13 ten minutes break first.

14 (Break.)

15 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Think we
can start now? We are limited to stay here
16 in this meeting place.

17 Right now, Jill Klein, you're
next.

18 MR. KLEIN: I'm Steve Klein with
Fisheries Information Service. I'm no
19 relationship to Jill. So far we had four
reports from your Fisheries Resource
20 Monitoring Program. Some of them have
covered internships and Jill was the fifth
21 and final presentation on the results from
some of the activities we've got going in
22 2000 and 2001. As you know, Jill has been
working in the Yukon for over three years
23 with both the Yukon River Inter-Tribal
Council and Gerda, given the short time
24 constraints, we'll let her get flying.

Jill?

25 MS. KLEIN: Thank you,

1 Mr. Chairman, and members of the Council.
2 My name is Jill Klein. I work with Yukon
3 Drainage Rivers Fisheries Association.
4 Starting last February, we started a grant
5 through the office of subsistence management
6 entitled "Traditional Ecological Knowledge
7 of Salmon on the Yukon River." And the idea
8 for this project came out of -- I think it
9 came out of the Council's meetings, the
10 issue of traditional knowledge was
11 identified --

12 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'm
13 sorry Jill. We've been bouncing all over
14 the place. We have no one to interpret at
15 this moment. So, again, I apologize, but --
16 okay, Alex, you will interpret.
17 Sorry, Jill. Sorry, Mr. Chair.

18 MS. KLEIN: Traditional knowledge
19 was identified as an area by the Regional
20 Councils to be addressed, and also over the
21 years, YRDFA has had over ten years of
22 annual meetings, and -- Dan Ulga was
23 director of YRDFA all over the years, was --
24 the -- knowledge coming out of the meetings
25 and wanted a way to start documenting that
information and utilizing it. This year we
started the traditional knowledge project
and the idea was to go out to a certain
amount of villages which we chose as four
villages to go out and survey Elders and/or
good fishermen or women in the area, and to
document some of the local knowledge that
they have, and then to take that and turn it
into some kind of final product, a written
report and/or video, and then to try to
utilize that information in fisheries
management on the Yukon River.

And we started out at our meeting
in Holy Cross discussing the traditional
knowledge project, and that was the first
objective. And also, I didn't mention, I'm
following through in the green booklet,
that -- has the fall performance reports
from the monitoring program, and it's page
28, which is the performance report that I
had written. So, you can follow along with
that.

The first objective was to

1 discuss TEK and to find methodology of the
2 YRDFA four-day annual meeting in Holy Cross
3 as part of community-based planning for TEK
4 research on the Yukon River. So we
5 dedicated an afternoon to discuss the TEK
6 project and we created a questionnaire which
7 I'll just put up here. That was entitled "A
8 Directory of Knowledgeable Resource People
9 on the Yukon."

10 So, this is just the first page
11 of it and I'll -- you can look at some of
12 the questions and we asked people to fill
13 this out, and from this we can see the
14 questions about which of the following
15 categories are you willing to share your
16 knowledge and from these questions about
17 when you fish, how you fish, where you fish,
18 depth and location of salmon in the water,
19 different runs of salmon, which we've heard
20 about over the years such as the white nose
21 and the blue backs, change of abundance of
22 species over the first for salmon shortages
23 and also diseases in the salmon. From this,
24 I'll put up the second page of it. We asked
25 people if they've noticed changes. Are
there other areas of traditional knowledge
that they like to incorporate into fisheries
management, and we also asked managers,
there were agency people at the meeting as
well, what aspects of TEK they would like to
learn about. From this, we created a
questionnaire and also I want to mention
that we were working with the Alaska
Department of Fish & Game subsistence
division. Polly Wheeler and Dave Andersen
helped in creating the project and defining
how to choose villages, of where to go to,
how to create the questionnaire, the process
of going in to interview.

So, this questionnaire was
developed -- you can see the questions.

The first question was: When do
you fish for salmon and how long have you
fished there? What kinds of fishing gear do
you use for salmon, and what did you use in
the past, if you don't currently use it now?
When do the kings usually arrive in your
area? And I should mention that we focused
on king salmon in this interview.

What kinds of things affect

1 arrival time, such as breakup, water levels,
and weather?

2 Can you remember years that the
3 king salmon arrived especially late or
4 especially early? And people gave us
5 responses, you know, they gave us dates in
6 response to that. Can you remember years
when the king run was especially strong or
weak? We're also asking people if they
remember any times of salmon shortages in
that area.

How do the kings position
7 themselves in the river, and that was in
8 reference to where they swim; are they deep,
9 are they shallow, what side, what bank do
10 they swim on? Are there different kinds of
11 stocks of kings in the area, kings that look
12 different from each other, that was in
reference again to either the white nose or
the blue backs? Can you remember seeing
kings in the past that were unhealthy? That
was mostly in reference to parasites and
ichthyophonus.

Do you think the kings are the
13 same size now as they were in the past? And
do people know where the salmon spawn?

14 And with this questionnaire, I
15 went out to four different villages, went
out to Alakanuk, St. Mary's, Holy Cross, and
Nulato, and basically went with this
16 interview and before I went, though, I can
just go through how we contacted the
17 villages. I would contact the Tribal
Council or somebody from the YRDFA Board or
18 somebody that we had worked closely with,
could be a RAC member over the years, and
19 that's how we decided on which village to go
to. And we had applied to continue the
20 project for the next two years, as we
followed yesterday, it wasn't recommended
21 for funding, but the idea was to try to go
to four villages the first year, but then
22 continue on either targeting more villages
over the next two years and try to get a
23 full picture of what traditional knowledge
looks like on the Yukon River, CATG had also
24 been doing work on the past year, they were
doing work on the Yukon Flats to gather
25 information.

A local assistant was chosen in

1 each village. They were there to help set
2 up interviews and determine who would be
3 interviewed and when we would go interview
4 them and where. If we were going out to
5 someone's fish camp or someone's home, they
6 helped with video equipment and
7 documentation of each interview.

8 And so they were there,
9 basically, to assist and interview, and all
10 interviews were recorded either with notes,
11 hand writing, and they were either
12 videotaped or voice-recorded.

13 And before each interview, I
14 learned about a participant consent form
15 that we created and basically we asked
16 people if they would consent to the project.
17 If we could take photos of them. If their
18 name could be used, and if they could be
19 video and/or voice-recorded. And then also
20 there was a little paragraph, having people
21 state that they understood what the project
22 was, that it had been explained to them and
23 that the information would be sent back to
24 them for reviews so that they knew it was
25 contradict before we published anything.

And approximately each village,
as I mentioned, I went to four villages and
five to seven people were interviewed in
each village and that led to about 20 to 28
interviews that I now have, and they've yet
to be transcribed. So I don't have any
final data or information for you at the
moment.

That's something that will come
out by the end of the project.

Since this time, I've thought
that it would be good to go back and hold a
community meeting in each village that I
went to originally. And the purpose of this
would just be that I only spoke with five
people, even within those five people
there's varying amounts -- not varying
amounts of information, some people would
say something, and someone else would say a
different thing, that information would
contradict each other. I think it would be
nice to go back and speak with people in a
more community setting, bring those five
people together and then also bring people
together that weren't able to be interviewed

1 but would have valuable information and like
2 to be part of the information, as well as I
3 think it would be good to go back to a
4 biologist or a fisheries manager and try to
5 create an exchange of information between
6 the manager and then a local person, and
7 that we can have a conversation and exchange
8 of information together. And that would
9 then, again, lead to the final product.

10 Some questions that I came up
11 with just for the future, as I was doing
12 this, and I just wanted to raise these
13 questions and issues, and if anyone would
14 like to comment on them, that's great, but I
15 understand we're short for time.

16 So, as I was doing this, it's
17 clear about the concept of the intellectual
18 property rights about who this information
19 belongs to, and where it should be kept and
20 how it should be used is of issue, and, you
21 know, YRDFA is doing the project, but then
22 we're also being funded by the Federal
23 Government, but yet it's local people. It's
24 knowledge from people of the Yukon River, so
25 that's just something that has been brought
up.

1 Also, what should we do with the
2 final products? Not everybody liked to be
3 videotaped, but yet a videotape can be a
4 very useful way to educate people, be it
5 kids on the Yukon River, or showing it to
6 agency personnel or people who just aren't
7 aware of what's going on on the Yukon River,
8 it can be turned into a report. We could
9 create a database, and I think that that --
10 what should be done with the final product
11 should be something that could come out of
12 possibly a RAC meeting or people from the
13 Yukon River to decide how we should best
14 utilize that information and where it should
15 be kept. Also, I noticed people can go out
16 to the Yukon River and document local
17 knowledge, but it also becomes a question
18 also what we're going to do with this
19 information and can management incorporate
20 traditional knowledge into its system or how
21 we're going to utilize it.

22 So that's something that came up.

23 And also, yesterday in some of
24 the discussion, the issue of trust comes up

1 and do fishery users and managers and
2 biologists have the trust or respect that
3 can lead to really utilizing traditional
4 knowledge and western fisheries management?
5 Could we really incorporate the two areas
6 together and create something new?

7 So, as I mentioned, I don't have
8 any results right now from it, but I just
9 wanted to explain a little bit about the
10 process of the project that YRDFA carried
11 out this past summer, and even if it isn't
12 funded again by the office of subsistence
13 management, YRDFA can try to continue to
14 look for funding elsewhere, if people would
15 like this project to continue.

16 So, I'm open to any questions or
17 comment that also anyone has.

18 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Gerald?

19 MR. NICHOLIA: About where you're
20 going to keep this document or whatever, I
21 suggest that Fish & Wildlife have it, your
22 office have it, and all the people in the
23 villages that you interviewed, they should
24 have the document also.

25 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Any other
26 questions?

27 Jack?

28 MR. REAKOFF: I think this is a
29 very worthwhile project. I would like to
30 see this project continue. We've had --
31 we've lost Elders in the areas where I live
32 and their vast knowledge is very important
33 to how historical uses were employed and how
34 those same uses may be still employed. I'm
35 somewhat distraught that the funding wasn't
36 there to continue this project, but I think
37 that it's a very worthwhile project, and I
38 would -- I feel that, you know, the general
39 display of the information should be more or
40 less anonymous, but I do appreciate the
41 video for those people who wish to be
42 videoed. But sometimes information that's
43 displayed anonymously is more accurate,
44 because people don't feel constrained by
45 being on public display.

46 But I would -- I would appreciate

1 if this funding can be found to continue
2 this, as these Elders age and are lost on a
3 yearly basis, we're losing a huge history.

4 I felt that it's imperative with
5 the university projects to continue this
6 type of work.

7 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Ray?

8 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman,
9 I think it would be an important
10 consideration that this information also be
11 made available for Council members, both now
12 and in the future because our knowledge is
13 only limited to certain areas, certain
14 individuals, and certainly the more we know
15 the better as we're making decisions, so
16 some thought should be given to how it might
17 be disseminated to the Council members for
18 ongoing learning or -- anyhow.

19 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: David?

20 MR. JAMES: A few years back when
21 these proposals were coming out there, when
22 the funds were coming in there, one of the
23 main stress points I was making, that we
24 have our traditional knowledge implemented
25 into the management plan. In the last two
26 years of the proposals I've seen a lot of
27 scientific proposals being funded and I -- I
28 was really surprised this wasn't continued,
29 because a lot of these -- a lot of these
30 findings, these scientific managements are
31 finding right now are what other elderly and
32 our traditional people in the village have
33 been saying for years, and I think we need
34 to fund these kind of projects more along
35 the river so we can manage these two plans
36 together.

37 Thank you.

38 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Other
39 questions from Council?
40 Sampson?

41 MR. HENRY: My comment about some
42 of these stories that was collected.
43 Recently, I was with someone that is an
44 Elder. He's about 75 years old and he told

1 me a story about what happened around 1940.
2 Some people around Kobuk, I think, Kobuk,
3 was short on caribou and the caribou was
4 trading their migration route, and they were
5 really hurting for caribou. Caribou was
6 their main subsistence. It was caribou, and
7 then all that winter next about four, five
8 years, I guess, they depended on fish,
9 whitefish, sheefish, burbot, stories like
10 that, we need to hear that because of future
11 reference or whatever, what's going to
12 happen next or whatever, you know, we seen
13 dollar signs of what's going to happen, but
14 we're just doing something that I think it's
15 nature, I think.

Thank you.

9
10 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Jack?

11 MR. REAKOFF: I'd like to ask
12 Jill, do you have another funding source to
13 continue this project this year? Do you
14 have any ideas where you may get additional
15 funding for this project?

16 MS. KLEIN: As of right now, we
17 don't have another funding source for it.
18 And we would just need to see about upcoming
19 opportunities such as the RNE funds,
20 research process is coming up for proposals,
21 and we would need to see what other kinds
22 of -- you know, government funds are
23 available and/or foundation funds that YR DFA
24 could try to apply for.

25 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Other
questions?

MR. NICHOLIA: How much are you
looking for?

MS. KLEIN: Well, the proposal
that we submitted to OSM was to continue the
project for two years and it was at about I
think somewhere between -- it was around
\$50,000 per year for the project. Which I
think can actually be scaled down. This
past year, we received 52,000 from OSM for
the project, and like any first-year
project, you're not sure exactly what your

1 accurate costs are. So, I think it can be
2 scaled down a little.

2

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Mary?

3

MS. GREGORY: Are you
4 compensating the Elders that you are
5 interviewing or --

5

MS. KLEIN: Yeah, that's
6 something I forgot to mention, that everyone
7 received financial compensation from
8 anywhere of 50 to \$100 for their time.

8

MS. GREGORY: Because I did a
9 study on the diet of teenagers several years
10 back and I got stipends for my Elders from
11 the humanities forum, you might want to
12 check on them. The Council on the arts is
13 another vehicle that you can get funding for
14 stuff like that because what you're doing is
15 part of the cultural, and they're really
16 culturally minded organizations.

10

11

12

13

MS. KLEIN: Thanks.

14

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: If you
15 have more information -- question, Jill will
16 be here. You could ask her questions --
17 more questions.

15

16

At this time, thank you, Jill.
Greg Roczicka. Greg?

17

18

MR. MOSES: (Through the
19 interpreter.) He appreciates what she
20 provided. He's happy that she is working
21 with the villages at least let them know, he
22 is appreciative of -- of the Elders for the
23 help. And he is appreciative of the people
24 who the Councils or communities get together
25 to approach our common people. And also
26 thinks that we do an appreciation of our
27 work or our -- our way of living. Thank
28 you.

23

24

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Guyana.
25 We have been moving around, the agenda looks
26 like this. I don't know which to pick.

25

Vince, please?

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
2 I believe Mr. Roczicka wanted to talk to
3 you. That would come up off the agenda from
4 yesterday where you had Native corporations
5 and groups had the opportunity to speak.
6 So, you can pick that up if you would like.

7 Greg Roczicka has talked to me
8 several times and knows you're under time
9 constraints. He's already prepared for a
10 short presentation.

11 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Greg.
12 Nice and sweet.

13 Ron, go ahead.

14 MR. SAM: For the -- for the
15 mixup Greg, but for all Council members, we
16 were just notified a little while ago that
17 we are being kicked out of here at 5:00, and
18 we will have to look for another place to
19 continue our breakout sessions. However, I
20 do want to continue with our meeting, go as
21 far as we can, see where we're at after all
22 these reports.

23 I know people like Greg,
24 Jennifer, and a few of our Native
25 corporations have been waiting three days,
all night for two nights, and I would really
appreciate all your presentations.

Thank you.

16 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman, with
17 that knowledge, there, what I requested was
18 to be able to speak to you as a
19 representative of the State Board of Game
20 interagencies since I did give you a brief
21 comment last night for ONC. This is
22 pertaining to an issue that came up before
23 you regarding the resolutions from the
24 Village of Quinhagak, and I just wanted to
25 give you a few perspectives on that, on how
it's going to be received by the Board.
This was one of those areas that falls kind
of in a gray area between Board of Fish or
the Board of Game. What you're asking
essentially the Board to do is to go across
jurisdictional nature to close down -- to
close down fishing during the hunting
period, and neither of the Boards has that
clear authority. We ran into the same

1 situation with the Board of Game last spring
2 where we were asked to close hundred hunting
3 to protect fisheries, and we did not have
4 that authority to do that. And the Board of
5 Game additionally cannot -- does not have
6 the statutory authority to pass a regulation
7 or make real distributions on -- based on a
8 commercial -- on commercial activities.

9 So it kind of puts us in a
10 quandary. And I happen to have a letter
11 along with me -- I congratulate, certainly,
12 Quinhagak for trying to find another
13 solution, for the increased competition that
14 we've been seeing over the years and the
15 saturation, if you will, from the outfitter,
16 transporter, industrial, and the guides as
17 well. Since the legislature disbanded the
18 Commercial Services Board back in '92 and
19 '93.

20 I passed you along a letter that
21 was initiated from concerns that we received
22 from the Department of Natural Resources and
23 it is from the joint Boards of Fisheries and
24 Games to speak to this issue for habitat
25 protection and that there is essentially no
control for commercial activities in place,
and it's signed by both myself and
Mr. Coffing as the Board of Fisheries. I'm
sorry, and what we're asking the Department
of Natural Resources to do is to put a
moratorium on these permits until we can get
a handle on this being that we're not likely
to see any actions from the legislature for
the commercial services board. We had a
resolution back in 1998 from the Board of
Game in '98. 127 is the number, if you care
to look it up.

We do exactly that. We get that
commercial support back in place. We
followed it up with letters every year,
again, restating our concerns in that
regard. There has been essentially no
response and in recent conversations with
several legislators, I find that they've
never even seen it. So the leadership
hasn't even passed a law down through their
groups, but we'll continue to try to push
some action at that level.

So, what we -- this letter had
gone out as of September 21 of this year,

1 and we have asked DNR to put a moratorium on
2 all commercial permits in area that we have
stocks of concern for salmon.

3 And as yet, we haven't got a
4 response. It's working its way through the
5 bureaucracy, but we will continue to push
6 for a response out of there. The issue is
7 just far too important to be left behind.

8 I'd like to offer you too, just a
9 couple more things that I think you should
10 start looking at. I believe that you need
11 to request your staff to give you an
12 explanation of what is maintaining a healthy
13 population to provide for subsistence needs
14 or for the amounts reasonably necessary for
subsistence.

15 That right now it seems to me a
16 fairly nebulous thing, if you will, and it's
17 subject to whoever's interpretation wants to
18 give it if it is their purpose at the
19 moment, and I suggest that you pursue a way
20 to formalize that. We're under the same
21 kind of quandary with the State that there
22 really is no definition for sustained yield.
23 It's out there in the ozone somewhere that
24 nobody is really taking a pin-down as
25 regards game issues.

And as well to put it into the
context of where you're at, I've heard time
and again at this meeting and in other
arenas that if only we could have taken some
action ten years ago with our AYK salmon
stocks we wouldn't be in the condition we're
in right now. And I put it to you and this
has been reflected in Board discussions and
debates that we are right now sitting in
with our moose populations in many areas
right where salmon were ten years ago. And
in five to ten years if some sort of active
management measures are taken, we're looking
at nothing but Tier II hunts across the
state.

Just for a couple other items,
I'd like to give you what our schedule is
and I know that many of you also serve, you
know, dual roles working with the State
Advisory Committee System. Next week,
September 19th -- I'm sorry, October 19th,
is a deadline for statewide proposals for
the Board's meeting in January. Under that,

1 we will be revisiting the Tier II
2 regulations, predator control is in there,
3 off-road vehicle use policy, salvage
4 requirements, things of that nature that
5 would apply on a statewide basis, and I'd
6 encourage all of you to take a close look at
7 that and see where you might want to get
8 some proposals in to address that and
9 address your concerns.

10 Also, December 7th is a deadline
11 for proposals for interior region which
12 affects all three Councils sitting here
13 quite substantially. In the YK Delta
14 Regional Council people do have a fairly
15 high reliance on what happens in GM19 and
16 21, even though you're not specifically
17 contained in there there is certainly a
18 common interest that you have. So, again,
19 if you could take a look at any proposals
20 with respect to villages, and just finally
21 that come January there will be three seats
22 up for appointment on Board of Game, and,
23 again, putting it in the context of your
24 interest, I know -- it's focused on the
25 rural, all three of those seats are held by
individuals that are from rural areas.
There's myself, Mr. Mike Fleener from
McGrath and Mr. Greg Streber from Gustavus.
So, again, I think it would be a real good
idea for you to look around your respective
regions and local areas for putting in --
submitting names for consideration to the
Governor to appoint someone. And you'd want
to have those in oh, by mid to late
September, and the appointments are supposed
to take place sometime in January, however,
in recent history they sometimes are several
months to a year after that.

20 With that, I just wanted to bring
21 those points up to you.

22 I appreciate your time here,
23 thank you. I can say lots more, but -- in
24 the interest of time.

25 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Ron?

MR. SAM: Yeah, all of us do know
that Greg serves as chairman of the State
Board of Game, and I appreciate the time you
gave us. But, again, I would urge all of

1 you to go back to your respective regions
2 and get a search on to submit some names to
3 the Governor for consideration as being
4 appointed to the State Board of Game.

5 Thanks for your time again, Greg.
6 I certainly appreciate the messages.

7 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you,
8 Mr. Chairman.

9 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Thank you,
10 Greg.

11 Jennifer? Do you have anything?

12 MS. HOOPER: Thank you, Mr.
13 Chairman, no, I don't have anything
14 substantial right now. I just may introduce
15 myself and my capacity at AVCP. As of a
16 month and a half ago or so, I was made the
17 director for natural resources, so I'm
18 starting to learn everything else besides
19 fish, but at this time I don't have anything
20 substantial from the AVCP region.

21 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Thank you,
22 Jennifer.

23 Next, Council of Athabascan
24 Tribal Councils.

25 MR. JAMES: I talked to Craig
before he left for the Air National Guard
there. One of the concerns we've been
working on, they've been working is that
moose management plan, and one of the areas
that they have really concern the moose
management plan was the high bear
populations there, and one of the things
that he wants to express his concern is we
need to put -- he needs to work with the
State and Feds about cutting down the
predators, mainly the bears has been taking
a lot of our moose population. But besides
that, he said they've been working pretty
well with the State and the Feds and Tribal,
and the community of the Yukon Flats.

Thank you.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Thank you,
Dave.

Kuskokwim Native Association?

1 Do we have Kuskokwim Native
Association?

2 Rural CAP?

3 Do we have Rural CAP here?

4 Tanana Chiefs Council?

5 MR. NED: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. My name is Stanley Ned. I work
6 at Wildlife and Parks and Tanana Chiefs as a
staff researcher. I would just like to
7 thank the different Boards for their
concerns that we are presenting to you and
8 we want to make sure that everyone is heard,
and like David said, we still have the
9 predator control in our area and we were
submitting some proposal to also the Board
10 of Game, and we don't know how far it's
going to go. I think it's going to be an
11 ongoing thing for a while, the political
scene that we need to take care of. In
12 interest of time, that's all I have. Thank
you.

13 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Thank you.
Next, other Native organization
14 include local village council or Tribal?

15 MR. ALEX NICK: Mr. Chairman,
Nick Frank from one of those villages, I
16 don't know who he's representing, was
supposed to be here to give his testimony
17 yesterday. I don't know if he's in the
building or in the room.

18 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Thank you.
Next presentation on a draft task
19 force regulations on customary trade.

20 MR. SAM: Done.

21 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Already
22 did that.

23 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I
have a gentleman who may want to be talking.
24 Through interpreter.

25 A SPEAKER: I speak a little bit
English, but I'm afraid I might make a wrong
points. I am from in between Kuskokwim and

1 Yukon from the village, back home they call
2 me "Chief." and I would like to thank --
3 thank --

3 MS. GREGORY: Excuse me, on
4 record down.

5 A SPEAKER: (Through the
6 interpreter.) He's chief, even though I
7 don't think the Chief's position, but what
8 I'd like to say is thank all that has been
9 presented since yesterday, and the main
10 points that happen about the problems on the
11 Yukon and we have -- I learned that how the
12 salmon are being studied in the Yukon and
13 traditionally I know that in my area how the
14 fish are protected by our Elders and how
15 they're always protected by our Elders in
16 our area. And my father tells me that they
17 paid attention to how the fish runs are
18 predicted, and the salmon, when they first
19 hit the mouth of the Kuskokwim are very fat,
20 and he knows that when the salmon run is
21 strong, to protect the strengths -- I will
22 not get into that. And he thinks that -- he
23 thinks that what has been done in the Yukon
24 to be done in the Kuskokwim also, and he
25 would like to see the people in the
Kuskokwim area be given the same opportunity
as did the people in the Yukon to make the
technicians that have been hired to take
care of the weirs.

And now these in my area the area
is not like on the Kuskokwim, and the fish
are not just one species. There are many
fish species, and he has heard a lot about
the Yukon fish; and when he hears about the
Yukon fish he feels for the people of the
Yukon River. And he's behind the funding
proposals that were proposed to give jobs to
the people in his area.

Thank you.

22 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Alaska
23 Department of Fish & Game.

24 Randy Rogers?
25 I'm trying to follow on my
instructions here. I'm on track.

MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: Mr.

1 Chairman, are we on to today's agenda?

2 MR. SAM: You know we took action
3 on customary trade yesterday. Thank you.

4 MR. NOL: My name is Roy Nol, and
5 I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish &
6 Game. I'm the management coordinator in
7 Interior Alaska. What we'd like to do, we
8 understand we're on a very tight schedule
9 here. We'll keep this brief for you. What
10 we want to do is give you a brief overview
11 of regulatory activities amongst the staff
12 and in the Interior in preparation for the
13 Board of Game meeting this spring, and also
14 on my right here is Randy Rogers and he'll
15 give you just a brief overview of the
16 planning process in the Interior that we've
17 been pursuing. And on my left is Craig
18 Gardner. He's the area biologist for Tok
19 and he'll have a few brief comments
20 concerning 40-mile caribou.

21 As Greg Roczicka mentioned to you
22 earlier, we've got a Board of Game meeting
23 coming up in March and he'll be considering
24 proposals, regulatory proposals for Interior
25 Alaska. And the staff is preparing a series
of proposals for that, and that's going to
be ongoing for the next month or so --
several months, actually. But at this
point, we are -- those proposals are very
preliminary, and it would be inappropriate
right now to discuss those in much detail.

26 However, we do have some
27 proposals that we anticipate coming from
28 Unit 19D where the -- that's the McGrath
29 area, where we have a problem we've been
30 attempting to deal with for several years
31 there with very low moose densities, and for
32 poor calf recruitment.

33 We have currently a season out
34 there in 19D that starts on August 20th and
35 we expect that we'll have a proposal there
to shorten that season starting at probably
September 1, and once again, that's in
response to low moose densities. We also
have out there a December season that runs
from December 1 to December 15th. And once
again, there with the low moose densities we
expect that we'll probably have a proposal

1 there to eliminate that season that will
2 come up before the Board. Now, those are
3 the two that we can anticipate at this
4 point.

5 The other proposals that staff
6 are preparing are going to require
7 additional data from harvests this past fall
8 which is not available. Also, from surveys
9 that will be conducted in November and
10 December.

11 So, those are the only two right
12 now that we can kind of get our hands
13 around. And with that, if there's any
14 questions on those few, I could answer
15 those.

16 We can go on to Randy.

17

18 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Go ahead.

19

20 MR. SAM: Yeah, thank you. Could
21 you shed a little light on that January
22 meeting -- how many proposals is coming on
23 that January meeting, that statewide, that
24 concerns these regions?

25

MR. NOL: I would -- I'd have to
refer to Boards about that. We haven't got
to the final deadline, I don't believe, for
that January meeting yet. And so I don't
know what's in the -- what we got there yet.
That, again, is preliminary.

MR. SAM: Okay. As soon as you
get those proposals, could you put us on the
mailing list, because I understand that
there may be a few concerns from people from
our area?

MR. NOL: Certainly shall, thank
you.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Other
questions from Council?

MR. COLLINS: Could you review
what areas are open in the January? I heard
it once, but I'd like to hear it again, what
are the proposals going to be concerning in
January?

1 MR. NOL: The January proposals
2 are statewide, and they're perhaps --
3 there's a long list of those, and perhaps I
4 can get those to you when we break. Is that
5 all right?

6 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Thank you.

7 MR. ROGERS: I guess if there's
8 no more questions, I'll go ahead. Again, my
9 name is Randy Rogers. I'm wildlife planner
10 for the Interior Region Department of Fish &
11 Game. It's always good to be here in front
12 of the Regional Councils. For me this works
13 pretty good having the joint Councils setup.
14 I have a few things that are hopefully of
15 interest to all Councils.

16 What I had in mind is giving an
17 update on the Koyukuk Management Plan, the
18 Yukon Flats moose management project and
19 then briefly touch on planning efforts
20 involving the western Arctic caribou herd,
21 the Unit 19D moose rebuilding project, and
22 then also where we stand in our efforts to
23 organize for moose management planning in
24 the Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, Holy Cross
25 area.

 So, I'll try to go through this
 really quickly because I know you have lots
 of business yet to take care of.

 First, I'd like to just point out
 that the Board of Game and Federal
 Subsistence Board both endorsed the Koyukuk
 Moose Management Plan last spring, so that
 was a successful effort following up for
 Regional Council meetings. To give you an
 update on where we are right now, I just
 recently spoke with Glenn Stout, the Galena
 area biologist, and he's provided
 preliminary numbers from this year's hunting
 season from the Lower Koyukuk. To sum it
 up, harvest levels stayed well within the
 guidelines of the plan. There's always been
 a little uncertainty as to how things are
 going to work out there. But so far it
 seems to be working according to the
 recollections of the working group.

 This year, there was an increase
 in the number of hunters through the Ella's
 Cabin check-station. Overall success rates,

1 though, and the harvest level was lower.
2 Glenn wanted me to point out that this year
3 only three cows were taken in the Koyukuk
4 controlled use area, and of course, that's
5 good for the reproduction.

6 As you may recall, the Koyukuk
7 River Moose Hunter Working Group recommended
8 issuing the same number of permits for the
9 general drawing hunt for 2001 as were issued
10 in 2000. 258 permits.

11 Everyone was a little nervous
12 about that since weather precluded the fall
13 moose survey last year, Glenn calculated the
14 maximum allowable harvest to be
15 approximately 350 moose and that would be at
16 the 7 percent harvest rate that's in the
17 plan.

18 In this calculation, he presumed
19 a 10 percent decline in the moose
20 population, just to be on the cautious side.

21 And Glenn was prepared this year
22 to issue an emergency order to close the
23 season if the fall harvest reached 300
24 moose, keeping in mind that that still
25 reserves 50 moose for the winter subsistence
26 hunt.

27 In the preliminary numbers, it
28 looks like about 200 moose were taken this
29 year in the Koyukuk controlled use area in
30 the fall hunting regulations. Another eight
31 were taken for pot latches.

32 To compare that, about 280 were
33 taken in the fall of 2000 and in 1999, 367.

34 So, basically, that leaves us the
35 fall harvest at about 90 moose less than
36 what was calculated to be the maximum
37 harvest.

38 That equals right now about a 4
39 percent harvest rate, but keep in mind we do
40 expect additional winter harvest.

41 We had heard that you had
42 questions about predation in Units 23 and
43 24. I don't know exactly what questions the
44 Council had in mind there. We had no new
45 information in predation in the Koyukuk
46 drainage. I do want to let you know what
47 Glenn has on the harvest counts; we do take
48 on predation on the population. Glenn is
49 planning moose predation on the Koyukuk and
50 27D units last fall.

1 Last winter there was about 145
2 wolves harvested in Unit 21D. That's about
3 a 35 percent harvest rate and that's really
4 an exceptional effort and that should really
5 contribute to the moose population.

6 Glenn points out, though, as good
7 as that sounds, this is really what you
8 consider a regulatory level to keep the
9 population in check. And they can reproduce
10 that many wolves again. So, really, this
11 effort needs to continue on a regular basis.

12 This fall, there was a lesser
13 number of black bears and grizzly bears
14 taken through the Ella's Cabin
15 check-station. 18 black bears, two grizzly
16 and three wolves. Trooper Brett Gibbons and
17 Glenn had another good season of
18 enforcement. Several citations were issued
19 this year for illegal guiding. That's been
20 a concern in that area for a long time and
21 something very difficult to catch up with.

22 Glenn also notes that there is
23 really good compliance with the requirement
24 to cut antlers to destroy the trophy value
25 in the subsistence hunt.

 Again, Glenn plans on conducting
a thorough moose population survey in the
lower river this fall; and, you know,
weather permitting, that was the problem
last year. So we need to get some good
early snowfall, and then we're still -- want
to consult with the members of the working
group to determine if there's a need for a
meeting this year, if we need to discuss the
number of drawing permits or other issues,
if we do have a meeting -- and I think there
may be some sentiment among several folks
that they'd like to continue doing that --
we'd probably like to shoot for early
January there, because we want to make sure
that we do have that moose survey data.
That's really a key piece of information.

 So that's a little update on the
Koyukuk, and I'm sure we could go in lots of
questions on these topics, but it might be
best if I try to go through all of them and
answer questions depending on your
preference.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Ron?

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MR. SAM: I'd just like you to continue -- go ahead and cover it -- the Yukon Flats and GASH.

MR. ROGERS: As members of the Eastern Council, or Western, too, I think from the -- are aware. We began a Yukon Flats Moose Management Plan last winter. The planning committee we have includes representatives from every Yukon Flats area. Bob Stevenson, and Mark Bertrom with Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge; Craig Fleener helps to represent the Eastern Regional Council, and also provided a link with Council Athabaskan Tribal Governments. Craig has been very active in helping us formulate the process and the plan.

Up to this point, we've had five planning committee meetings, three in Fort Yukon, one in Chalkyitsik, one in Beaver. The Beaver meeting, we specifically designed to bring in some of the Elders in villages and key hunters to learn about the planning process, give us feedback, and then hopefully go back to the villages and develop support among the Councils.

The major direction we're taking in the plan right now is to promote the moose population by increasing moose harvest reporting to improve management and better document subsistence needs, reduce moose predation by increasing harvest of bears and wolves and decreasing cow/moose harvest so that more cow calves are born, production can increase. The committees also want to emphasize using both scientific information and traditional knowledge in making wise management decisions. This plan right now is taking a somewhat unique direction from the Koyukuk plan or other plan that also I'm aware of and that there is a great deal of emphasis being placed on working with Tribal Councils, getting Tribal Councils involved in oversight of the Tribal member harvest. Specifically, we want to involve both CATG and Tribal Councils in harvest reporting and oversight of potlatch moose needs within each of the villages.

We're hoping we can have a draft

1 plan up for public review and comment this
2 winter.

3 The draft plan, it looks like,
4 will outline -- likely outline three
5 alternative harvest management programs for
6 consideration in 25D east and possibly other
7 areas. There has been some folks in Fort
8 Yukon who have suggested and you may see a
9 proposal related to closing Federal lands to
10 all but the Federally qualified subsistence
11 users in 25D east. We had a good discussion
12 of that in our last meeting, and it's a
13 really tough decision to be made.

14 If you look at the moose
15 population estimates and the amount of moose
16 that's necessary for subsistence, we're very
17 close to a situation where Tier II and
18 Federal restrictions might be appropriate.
19 At the same time, the planning committee's
20 really reluctant to go towards a very
21 intense permitting and bureaucratic system
22 that will involve lots of paperwork and
23 difficulties for people in compliance.

24 So, we'll probably go out with
25 three alternatives to let people tell us
what they would prefer.

26 The basic alternatives will be
27 status quo, use of standard green harvest
28 tickets and possible expanded use of
29 community harvest programs, consideration of
30 a registration hunt which would provide
31 closer monitoring of harvest and permit --
32 yes, Ron.

33 MR. SAM: Yeah, could we do away
34 with all the other stuff until all this has
35 been decided? Okay. Because I just wanted
36 a quick report on where we stood on this,
37 and how soon do we expect some actions
38 out-committee.

39 MR. ROGERS: Okay. There's the
40 possibility of several proposals coming out.
41 We've already looked at State proposals.
42 We'd like to seek consistency with the
43 Federal process, so there may be some. As I
44 said, we're hoping to have a draft plan out
45 this fall. So, that's basically where we
sit with that one.

And it will depend a lot on our

1 success in getting out to villages in the
2 area and getting feedback there. We don't
3 want to go too far in a direction until we
4 know it's the direction people want to go.

5 Just real briefly I'll mention
6 the fact we have a western Arctic caribou
7 herd. Benedict Jones is on the planning
8 committee. We have a meeting coming up in a
9 couple of weeks.

10 We've put out some preliminary
11 planning ideas there also and I've got some
12 copies of that news letter. That's
13 something you guys, just as a head's up,
14 you'll want to watch for.

15 I don't anticipate regulatory
16 proposals related to that in the near
17 future.

18 I'll leave it at that for that
19 one.

20 I'll jump over the Unit 19D
21 project, even though I know we've got a
22 member here, Ray Collins who is on that.
23 But, briefly, that team is still
24 deliberating. There's going to be a meeting
25 next Monday and Tuesday here in Anchorage
and what comes out of that meeting and where
they're able to reach agreement will be very
important in deciding where we go with that
effort to rebuild the moose population in
McGrath and control predation within the
State.

The situation in a nutshell is
the committee has recommended wolf control,
but biologically it looks like it will take
both black bear and wolf control to be
successful. So, we need to figure out how
will we deal with the black bear component
with it. That's what the team will try to
deal with here next week.

With regard to the GASH area
moose planning project, I just want to
reiterate that this is one of the highest
priorities in our region for a new
moose-planning project. We want to get
moving on this. We've been communicating
with the Fish & Wildlife Service, with
Tanana Chiefs Council -- Chiefs conference
and several of the village Councils in the
area trying to figure out how we would go
about this project. One of our main

1 limiting factors there is staff availability
2 with the area biologist in McGrath
3 completely tied up and overbooked with
4 dealing with the McGrath predation
5 situation.

6 We do hope to get rolling on that
7 and at least a minimal way here, at least
8 start some organizational meetings before
9 this winter is over, and this is one where
10 we would expect that this would involve both
11 the Western Interior Council and the YK
12 Delta, because we know there's people that
13 come up the river to use those moose
14 resources, in addition to nonlocal people
15 from out of the area.

16 So, we like to hear from you
17 about who are the key players to be involved
18 in this, and how we would go about
19 organizing a working group to address those
20 issues there.

21 So, you'll hear more down the
22 line and I apologize if I got a little too
23 carried away.

24 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Any
25 questions for Randy, Ron?

MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. Jack Reakoff and I serve on the
Koyukuk River Moose Management Team as
non-voting members, and as members of the
Western Interior Regional Advisory Council.
We will request a meeting either late
January -- I mean, December or early January
as you stated. I just want to forewarn you
that we are requesting a meeting.

Jack?

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Jack?

MR. REAKOFF: I have many
concerns about the northern portion of the
unit. The controlled use area seems to be
under control, but the northern portion of
the unit is extrapolating into high hunting
pressure. We need to address that area
before this next Board cycle. So, that's
the reason for wanting to have another
meeting for up in that area.

1 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, I anticipated
2 that both you folks felt that way, and I
3 think it's probably mostly a formality that
4 I want to check and make sure that all the
5 group feels that it's necessary, but there's
6 every reason to think that everyone wants to
7 meet and will plan to do that.

8 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Jim?

9 MR. JIM WILDE: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chairman. Randy, you mentioned closing
11 east 25D to nonrural hunters which would
12 just make them turn upriver into 25B, and we
13 already have a pressure from Southeastern
14 and Southcentral in that. I've been asking
15 and would like to see some sort of moose
16 study east of the Yukon Flats on the NPS, if
17 that would be possible before you would put
18 that pressure on us.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Go ahead.

21 MR. ROGERS: Just to point out,
22 that actually, the planning committee itself
23 has really not been going in that direction,
24 but this proposal recently came out of Fort
25 Yukon, and I think that it really was good
26 that we set the planning committee meeting
27 in Fort Yukon to talk about that, and it was
28 good to generate discussion on what the pros
29 and cons are of that, so I wouldn't predict
30 that that's what will come out of the
31 process. But that's an option that's out
32 there now. And, of course, if -- if it did
33 go that direction, we do need to look at
34 what the implications are for that for areas
35 around there. Folks from the central area
36 actually have commented that, you know,
37 maybe we should expand our planning boundary
38 just a little bit further down that way and
39 deal more directly with that.

40 So, we'll hope that when we do
41 get a draft plan out that you folks will
42 look at that very closely and tell us what
43 you think and if we go one way or the other,
44 what do you think the implications or issues
45 are that need to be addressed accordingly.

 Thank you.

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MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Ray?

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MR. COLLINS: Randy, I'll be at that meeting next Monday, Tuesday for the McGrath planning. I was very disturbed to see yesterday that already a pronouncement has come down from the State level before we made a recommendation that there will be no wolf control allowed this winter.

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Is that the fact?

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MR. ROGERS: No, I don't think that that's the fact, that it won't be this winter. My understanding is, and, again, I'm just coming in to supporting this group, and this will be my first meeting. My understanding is that the concern is we don't want to have a program that won't be biologically effective. Hopefully, after this meeting, the team can agree upon one that includes both the wolf and bear components and that we can move forward with probably the wolf component as soon as daylight allows, and be ready to move on the bear component in early spring.

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I guess that means that it does not look likely that it could happen this fall. But the first priority this fall is to get good numbers of moose and wolves and, time-wise, it might have been logically difficult to get going anyhow.

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But as you know, this is very wrapped up in politics and lots of different folks watching this one. So, I guess I won't predict exactly where it will go, but, I am looking forward to working with Ray and the rest of the team here next week to try and help them come to agreement on some decisions to help address the problems that are there.

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We hope that we can have the support around the State to carry that through.

One thing that we are looking at is following the recommendations from this meeting, sending out a public review draft, and that would be a very important time. What happens in McGrath has implications around the State. And so other folks, maybe

1 even beyond the immediate McGrath area may
2 want to be involved in commenting on that,
3 and letting us know, you know, does the
4 public as a whole within the State of Alaska
5 support this approach or not?

6 So, I'd encourage you to all pay
7 attention to that.

8 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Ron?

9 MR. SAM: You should know that
10 all Natives are proponents for predator
11 control. That goes without saying.

12 I would like to thank you for the
13 report and for the -- for information for
14 the Councils involved here. We started this
15 intensive management, moose management. It
16 was one of the first ones that was approved
17 by the State Board of Game, Federal
18 Subsistence Board, and all the players
19 within our region, and we -- you can see
20 that we've expanded or we are attempting to
21 expand into even more intensive moose
22 management.

23 So, I'd like to thank all these
24 agencies involved from both the Alaska
25 Department of Game and Federal Subsistence
26 Board.

27 Thank you.

28 MR. ROGERS: With that, maybe we
29 ought to move on to Craig, where we can move
30 on to the update as to the most active
31 project we have.

32 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Another
33 question from Council?

34 MR. JONES: Benedict Jones,
35 Koyukuk. Your predator control, this seems
36 to be more high mortality on moose tagging,
37 collaring like in the McGrath area, 60 to 40
38 percent of those mortality on the moose
39 collaring and also on the wolves and the
40 upper Koyukuk, what I feel is that this
41 moose collaring radio that polls the animal
42 it attracts the bear and the wolves because
43 it has to be on their neck, even the wolves,
44 it seems to kill on account of this radio
45 collar, and on your report on bears for this

1 year, does that include spring hunt on the
2 grizzly harvest in the Koyukuk River control
use area.

3 MR. ROGERS: No, Benedict. I was
4 only giving numbers of bears that were
through Ella's Cabin just this fall.

5 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Randy, do
6 you have another one or someone there?

7 MR. GARDNER: Just one more.
8 Actually, this one is probably
9 more a little more fun after you guys have
10 sat through two-and-a-half days of talking
11 about declining stocks of fish and wildlife.
12 I just kind of wanted to quickly report from
13 direct contributions from Eastern Interior
and communities and villages in Western and
North Slope Alaska in the recovery of the
caribou herd, basically, reducing harvests,
a little bit of harvest, the caribou herd
has increased from 23,000 to 40,000. It's
around 40,000 caribou right now.

14 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Will you
15 give us your name, please?

16 MR. GARDNER: Craig Gardner, area
17 biologist from Tok.

18 So, basically, we're sitting with
19 40,000 caribou right now and the herd is
20 growing probably 10 to 12 percent a year. I
21 believe it's probably the only herd in the
22 State that's growing, and so to give some
23 maybe hope for people working on management
plans right now -- intensive management, it
can work if you can follow it to the end.

24 We increased harvest for the
25 first time this year. I guess anytime you
go through a new project, you learn quite a
bit, and I got actually some proposals I'm
going to present to the Eastern Interior
that will help the subsistence hunters out,
I believe. I will also be presenting to the
Board of Game this spring.

One more thing, with cooperation
with Northway Village, the White River First
Nation and Yukon, Teller National Wildlife
Refuge, we had our second traditional

1 workshop over in Beaver Creek this year.
2 The Elders gave us quite a bit of
3 information. This year we talked about
4 salmon, caribou, furbearers, whitefish, and
5 moose.

6 That's all I got.

7 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Ron?

8 MR. SAM: Thank you, I hope you
9 realize that the reason the caribou herd has
10 expanded or grown so much is because you
11 sent the wolf up our way.

12 MR. GARDNER: I do appreciate
13 that, actually.

14 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Any more
15 questions for Council.

16 MR. MATHEWS: There are more from
17 Alaska Department of Fish & Game want to
18 present, Dave Andersen does. I don't know
19 if others are available. They should line
20 up if they are. Dave has been involved in
21 many projects across the Yukon, and we're
22 valuable to hear from him again.

23 MR. ANDERSEN: Dave Anderson.
24 I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish &
25 Game, subsistence division in Fairbanks.
26 And I'm responsible for carrying out the
27 division's research program in the Interior
28 Region. As I've done at your past fall
29 meetings, I was hoping to give you an
30 overview of several projects that I've been
31 working on. In the interest of time I think
32 I'm going to mention three and I'll give you
33 details on one that I think is of particular
34 interest.

35 The last four years, I've talked
36 to this Council about a project we call the
37 big-game harvest survey that's taken place
38 in ten communities on the Koyukuk and Middle
39 Yukon River. And in that study, we hire
40 local village people to collect harvest
41 information on caribou, moose, and bears.
42 We didn't do that project this year. We
43 didn't do a year five. The funding arrived
44 a little bit late for that, and we had a

1 full slate of fisheries projects and TEK
2 projects that we are working on.

3 So, I don't have another year of
4 data to report on that one.

5 The last time I talked to you, I
6 gave you the preliminary results of the '99
7 and 2000 survey. And I do have the final
8 report available from that. If Council
9 members want to get a copy of that, I have
10 it with me.

11 I was also involved in a
12 migratory bird harvest survey project in 17
13 communities this year, ten communities on
14 the Yukon Flats, and seven communities in
15 the Upper Tanana region. And on that one,
16 we completed surveys with 550 area
17 households and we documented the harvest of
18 about 11,000 birds by subsistence hunters.
19 And we have information by species and by
20 month of harvest on that.

21 I'm currently writing up the
22 reports on that one. We're going to have
23 two reports, one for the Yukon Flats region
24 and one for the Upper Tanana.

25 The main project I'm involved in
right now is focused on the Koyukuk River.
It's a federally funded fisheries project
and we're gathering traditional ecological
knowledge from Elders along the Koyukuk
River about non-salmon fish species.
Somebody mentioned this morning the
importance of non-salmon fish when some of
these other resources aren't available to
people, and that's exactly the point behind
this project. We're trying to gather
information the Elders have about where they
caught these fish, what they know about the
life history of the fish and how they use
them.

We did our first round of
interviews in Alakak in August and that
project is already producing some very
interesting information.

The one project I wanted to
provide you a little more information on was
our "Beaver, Whitefish TEK Project" that we
did on the Yukon Flats. This project is
different than the one Randy Brown talked to
you about yesterday.

We were kind of cooperating. We

1 had them going at the same time. We also
2 cooperated with CATG, so there was some
3 similarities, but we approached the topic
4 very differently.

5 Our goal was to interview Elders
6 on the Flats about what they knew about
7 interactions between beaver and whitefish.

8 We completed interviews with 15
9 Elders in Beaver and Fort Yukon and we
10 recorded a wealth of information, including
11 the Native names and traditional systems for
12 classifying whitefish, seasonal movements
13 and life history of fish, information on the
14 traditional harvest and use of fish, and the
15 impacts of beaver dams on whitefish.

16 While there was general agreement
17 that there were more beaver now than in the
18 recent past, and fewer whitefish, there was
19 also acknowledgment that beaver and
20 whitefish had coexisted for centuries and
21 that beaver dams did not normally represent
22 a permanent obstacle to the movement of
23 whitefish.

24 They did emphasize the importance
25 of floods and high water interests in
helping fish move around the beaver dams at
certain critical times of the year. They
also spoke of climate changes in recent
decades that have made flood interests less
common.

So, we concluded that the
combination of high beaver populations and
climate changes in recent decades that have
made flood interests less common may be
impacting whitefish populations in some
Yukon Flats areas.

I came to the meeting with 20
copies of the final report from this one and
I'm down to about half of that, but I do
have about ten copies I can make available
of this to people that want them, and I can
get more copies and mail them out to people
if there's not enough to go around.

In the interest of time, I guess
that's all I've got for the Council unless
you have questions.

24 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Ron?

25 MR. SAM: Yeah, Dave, you said

1 the funding came in late for that survey.
2 How?

3 MR. ANDERSEN: We didn't get
4 final approval on funding, until the end
5 of -- middle of May. We typically do that
6 survey in April. I have people in the field
7 that we line up in March and try to put in
8 the field collecting information in April.

9 A big -- we could have probably
10 made it work and done it late, probably a
11 bigger issue was the full slate of projects
12 that we were working on.

13 MR. SAM: So, I take it for
14 granted, then, that you do have funding for
15 next year?

16 MR. ANDERSEN: We're -- I don't
17 know whether the funding we've got for this
18 year is going to carry over and we can use
19 that to do another one or not. We're hoping
20 to do another year this year.

21 MR. SAM: If you don't, please
22 don't hesitate to contact us, because that
23 house-to-household survey is one of our
24 biggest weapons, and one of our strongest
25 arms as far as subsistence use is presented,
26 and allotted in our area. That is one
27 important survey, both for the Middle Yukon
28 and the Kuskokwim. Just, if you have any
29 trouble finding funding, please don't
30 hesitate to contact us.

31 Thank you.

32 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Other
33 questions for Dave?

34 Yeah, go ahead.

35 MS. HILDEBRAND: I'm having a
36 hard time with this -- thank you, Mr.
37 Chairman I just wanted to inform the Council
38 that also I had an opportunity to read
39 Dave's report on the whitefish and beaver
40 interactions in the Yukon Flats area and
41 it's the kind of information that you -- all
42 the Councils have been requesting for the
43 last three years, and I would suggest that
44 you get a copy and read it. It's really

1 wonderful to hear what the Elders had to say
2 about that interaction and it confirms most
3 of the statements that the Council members
4 have been making.

5 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Ron?

6 MR. SAM: Dave, can you divide
7 those ten copies up for three of these
8 Councils?

9 MR. ANDERSEN: I'll put all I
10 have available here, and what do you want me
11 to just distribute them equally among the
12 three Councils.

13 MR. SAM: I just want everyone to
14 get a copy.

15 MR. MATHEWS: We could mail
16 them -- mail them.

17 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Thank you,
18 Dave.

19 At this time we're going to have
20 a break for lunch. After lunch, 1:00
21 o'clock, we going to start off with Bureau
22 of Land Management.

23 (Lunch break.)

24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman,
25 I was just finding out where different
Council members were. We are now into the
agenda where the Bureau of Land Management
is here. They wanted to mainly discuss the
Trans-Alaska pipeline system and EIS scoping
process. I'll have a handout on that for
you. They'll introduce themselves, which
would be a lot better than myself, and
Taylor Brelsford will be probably doing that
also. With that, we'll go into the section
with the Bureau of Land Management.

MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, very
much, I'm Taylor Brelsford. I serve as the
staff coordinator for BLM.

Because the time is short, some
of the district -- the field office staffs
will meet with the individual Councils

1 separately to talk about some issues that
2 only refer to one or two Councils at a time.
3 On matters of general interest for all of
4 you. The first that we'd like to present
5 concerns the lease renewal for the Alaska
6 pipeline contract, and here to present some
7 matters of the schedule and how the public
8 can be involved is Rob McWhorter with the
9 Joint pipeline office, and with that, I'll
10 ask to you carry on.

11 MR. McWHORTER: Thank you, Mr.
12 Chairman, for the invitation to appear
13 before the Council. We're pleased to be
14 able to give you some information about the
15 Trans-Alaska -- Martin Hanson, here, is the
16 realty officer for the project. I'm the
17 Federal coordinator for the right-of-way
18 renewal.

19 We've passed out packets of
20 material, which you all can flip through as
21 I talk, if you want to.

22 We have material in there that
23 describes the joint pipeline office, and it
24 also -- also the environmental impact
25 statement process as well as some
information about the important thing right
now, which is we are in the scoping period
for the environmental impact statement.

I'll give you the bottom line
first for the Council. That scoping will
end on October 19th and there are six ways
to comment. You'll see that in one of your
handouts. You can comment by toll-free
telephone, and they will take your words
down and transcribe them and put them in the
record, or you can -- there's a toll-free
fax number that you can use. There are two
ways to comment on the Internet either with
e-mail or with the -- yes, sir.

MR. SAM: Before you go further,
could you explain scoping?

MR. McWHORTER: Scoping is the
time period in the -- in the environmental
impact statement process. It's the period
set aside at the beginning of the project
for people to tell the government what the
environmental impact statement should

1 address and those issues that are of concern
2 to those individuals or those groups, and
3 then the government takes that information
4 and analyzes it and based on that
5 information as well as some other
6 information that we already have, decides
7 how the alternatives in the environmental
8 impact statement will be structured and then
9 how the analysis of all these issues will be
10 done. And so scoping is the period of time
11 when people have a chance to tell us which
12 issues are most important to them, and even
13 ideas about what -- how we ought to analyze
14 it or address those issues. All that is
15 fair game during scoping.

9 MR. SAM: Thank you.

10 MR. McWHORTER: You bet.
11 Just a little bit -- I don't want
12 to kill too much time. I know you've got a
13 tight schedule. Just want to mention that
14 the joint pipeline office is a
15 conglomeration of 13 Federal and State
16 agencies that oversees the Trans-Alaska
17 Pipeline System as well as some other common
18 carrier lines in Alaska, as well as some DNR
19 activity on the North Slope.

15 The Federal grant of right-of-way
16 and the State lease of right-of-way are due
17 to expire. They were originally given for
18 30 years, and they're due to expire in the
19 year 2004.

18 And so recognizing that this was
19 coming up, the owner companies submitted a
20 very large application package to us of both
21 the State and Federal Governments on May the
22 2nd, and that initiated the environmental
23 impact statement process. It had previously
24 been decided that an environmental impact
25 statement would be required in order to
allow full public discussion about the
pipeline system and -- as well as to provide
a legal vehicle for analyzing all the
different issues that are likely to come up.

24 And what the EIS will do is -- it
25 is an umbrella -- it is an umbrella process
now -- I'm going to go right to this colored
flow chart that you have in your handouts.
What the EIS will do, EISs have a certain

1 number of steps that they always have in
2 them, but this particular one will also
3 serve as an umbrella -- as an overreaching
4 umbrella-type process, and underneath it,
5 the regular EIS steps are two other things
6 going on simultaneously, and these are in
7 the middle of the paper there. There's a
8 Federal/State coordinated analysis which the
9 State refers to as a Commissioner's renewal
10 determination and the Federal Government
11 refers to as a Trans-Alaska Pipeline
12 Authorization Act report or a TAPA report,
13 and then the third thing, down at the bottom
14 of the page, running along the entire length
15 of the project will be
16 government-to-government consultation with
17 Alaska Native Tribes. And we have begun
18 this process and have met with a large
19 number of the Tribes along the right-of-way
20 corridor.

21 But anyway, go back to the
22 overall environmental impact statement
23 process, and I will mention that we got our
24 application in May. We did some pre-scoping
25 processing and some other preparation work.
We started the scoping process the 1st of
August, and it was going to be terminated at
the end of September, but then we had the
tragedy of September 11th, and so that threw
everybody back a little bit.

26 We had scheduled meetings for
27 Barrow and Fairbanks. We went ahead and
28 rescheduled those and extended the comment
29 period for scoping until the 19th of
30 October.

31 We had a meeting yesterday in
32 Fairbanks for the public, and we have
33 another one tomorrow in Barrow for the
34 people up there. But public meetings is
35 only one of seven -- of seven different ways
36 to get your voice heard on this project.
37 So, public meetings is one way, but like I
38 was saying, there are six other ways to
39 comment. You can use the Internet, you can
40 use the phone or the fax, or you can write
41 letters.

42 So, for this Council, though,
43 what I was going to say, you've got a little
44 over a week if you want to come in with
45 something about your thoughts about the EIS,

1 I don't know if -- individual members are
2 also welcome, either as members or as
3 individuals or groups that they might go
4 back home and talk to, anybody can tell us
5 what they think about what the EIS should
6 address.

7 Really, that's what the key point
8 is with this talk today, to let you know we
9 are in the scoping period, that there's a
10 limited amount of time. We're going to take
11 your comments if you give them to us and
12 we're going to work those into an analysis
13 that will eventually result in alternatives
14 and analysis of alternatives.

15 There are other steps in the EIS.
16 We've retained Argonne National Laboratory
17 to assist us in writing this environmental
18 impact statement. And we're projecting and
19 scheduled and think that we can provide a
20 draft EIS in July of next year.

21 Before that, 60 days or so before
22 that, we're going to provide a public
23 document, the TAPA report that I talked
24 about and that document will talk about
25 whether or not the -- whether or not the
owner companies and Alyeska are in
compliance with Federal and State laws and
whether or not they're in commercial
operation. Some other Federal provisions
include anti-trust discussions and
regulatory compliance, et cetera.

But I do want to make the point
that the owner companies do have the right
to renew this right-of-way grant and lease
if they are in compliance with law, and if
they're in commercial observation. That's
just the way the Federal law is written.

So, I want to make that very
clear.

We talked about the draft, and,
again, on the green indicates an opportunity
for people to make comments on what's going
on and that the draft environmental impact
statement stage anyone can make commentary
about what EIS has in it, as well as -- as
well as what they think might have been
missed or was gotten wrong.

Each of those comments will be
specifically addressed and talked about in
the final environmental impact statement.

1 should be on the list and they're not on the
2 list, they should get ahold of Spud
3 Williams, who is our Native liaison on the
4 Project. Spud is in Fairbanks. I'll give
5 you his phone number, and Spud will provide
6 information to the Tribe -- there's about
7 five criteria that we look at, proximity to
8 the pipeline, traditional use of the area
9 around the pipeline for subsistence,
10 employment, if people are employed or have
11 other ties to the pipeline that way, and a
12 couple of other pieces. But Spud will
13 explain all that and help the village or the
14 Tribe if they want to ask for inclusion in
15 this list and directly affect, they can do
16 that. We will look at their rationale and
17 make a decision of whether or not we're
18 going to add them to the list of 18.

19 MR. SAM: Do you have a card --
20 business card with you?

21 MR. McWHORTER: Yes.

22 MR. SAM: I'd like one.

23 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Lester
24 Wilde?

25 MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: I
understand the pipeline crosses the Yukon
River, has villages downriver of where the
pipeline crosses been invited for comment?

MR. McWHORTER: We've had a
meeting at Allakaket and we've had a meeting
at Minto, and the Village -- some of the
villages around there did attend those
meetings. I know that there are people down
the river, Rampart and further down even
that would like to -- and I would say if you
are on the river and you do feel that you
have a case for being included, we had --
our initial determination, we tried to stick
pretty close to the pipeline, but if you do
feel that there's a rationale for including
your village or one of the villages
downstream, we would be open to, like I
said, talk to Spud and come in to us with a
letter citing the reasons why you feel that

1 your community should be on that list. We'd
2 be open to that.

3 MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: As you
4 know, God forbid, that there was a problem
5 with leakage on the river, then if that
6 should -- on the pipeline, but if that
7 should ever happen on the river, it's going
8 to impact the rest of the villages down
9 below the pipeline all the way to the mouth
10 and below it.

11 MR. McWHORTER: Yes, sir, I hear
12 you.

13 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Question,
14 Jack?

15 MR. REAKOFF: As coming from
16 Wiseman, which is immediately west of the
17 pipeline, my main concerns in this renewal
18 is that in the last many years since the
19 pipeline has been built people have utilized
20 those resources around within that Dalton
21 Highway corridor, and I would like to have
22 some kind of assurance in the renewal
23 process that as Congress allowed the
24 building of the pipeline, they recognized
25 subsistence uses in those areas, and I would
26 like to see assurances that Alyeska has been
27 very compatible with people not inhibiting
28 their movements in that area, and I would
29 like to see those movements and uses of
30 those resources continued.

31 We've had, over the years, become
32 used to the pipeline and so forth, and being
33 that close to it, we watch what they do, and
34 they have ramps for spill responsibility
35 down by the rivers and I'm fairly confident
36 in Alyeska, the way they've run the
37 pipeline, they seem to run it pretty well
38 and have a very professional way -- they
39 have lots of backup plans and so forth.

40 But my main concern is that
41 people's uses will be continued in that
42 area.

43 MR. McWHORTER: Thank you. We've
44 recorded your comment. That will be entered
45 into the scope.

1

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Another question?

2

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MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, this is really just for your information to that point, and to insure that the members of villages near the pipeline corridor have an opportunity to get comments in and to participate as time goes on. Perhaps some more information would come back to the Regional Councils later when the draft EIS is prepared. So this is really just an opening point of information for the Councils.

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We do have one other presentation, but let me give Rob a second to say --

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MR. McWHORTER: Just wanted to say. I forgot to mention, the scoping comments will be compiled and we will put out a scoping report. So, that can be distributed to the Council as well as anyone else who wants it.

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MR. BRELSFORD: Thanks.

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MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: We're ready for the next one.

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MR. BRELSFORD: Very well. My two co-workers are coming up to the table. This will be a very brief presentation about some work that BLM is doing on habitat and habitat productivity for salmon spawning and rearing areas on the Yukon River. This will concern Clear Creek and Susitna River. With me to make the presentation, is Bob Carlin and Carl Kretsinger. They are both fisheries biologists with the Fairbanks office.

23

24

25

MR. CARLIN: My name its Bob Carlin. I work for BLM in the office in Fairbanks, and today what I wanted to do is let the Council know of two new projects that BLM started this past summer along the Yukon River, just let you know what kind of data we're collecting and where we're

1 working.

2 The first project I'd like to
3 talk about is the Yukon River salmon
4 production habitat inventory. As a way of
5 background, the Yukon River comprehensive
6 salmon plan for Alaska, which was published
7 by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game in
8 1998 in cooperation with the fishermen of
9 the Yukon River noted that there are a large
10 number of unsurveyed streams that, quote,
11 represent important component of the
12 chinook, chum, and coho production, end of
13 quote. The plan recognized the need to
14 identify use in these streams by both the
15 adults and juveniles in order to protect
16 habitat and assess the contribution to
17 overall Yukon River productivity.

18 This project focused on assessing
19 uncataloged streams where we happened --
20 haven't found salmon before, and in an
21 effort to expand our knowledge base of
22 salmon production areas.

23 With that in mind, BLM entered
24 into a challenge cautionary agreement with
25 the Alaska Department of Fish & Game Habitat
out in Fairbanks and the Yukon Drainage
Fisheries Association in an effort to
inventory these areas. Specific use of the
data would be to update the catalog of
waters important for spawning, rearing or
mile graylings of and anadromous fishes
which is a management tool used by the
Alaska Department of Fish & Game when they
protect salmon under the State regulations
and BLM would use the information as
guidance to protect salmon resources when
formulating management activity plans and on
permitting activities.

26 So, areas we looked at and some
27 of the results; in 2001, we looked for
28 adults, chum and king, and trapped juveniles
29 in early July to early August in the
30 following areas. We looked in the Birch
31 Creek drainage, the Beaver Creek drainage,
32 Upper Black River, north of the Yukon
33 between Circle and Eagle. The Susitna River
34 drainage, and in some Yukon River
35 tributaries between the village of Tanana
and the Yukon River bridge.

As far as results, as far as new

1 information, we found chinook in Victoria
2 Creek which is a tributary to Beaver Creek.
3 We found chum salmon farther than we'd known
4 before in the Rage River, just down from the
5 Hall Road Bridge. We found chum salmon in
6 Twentymile Creek, which is a small stream
7 between Tanana and the Yukon River Bridge,
8 and we also found adult chinook salmon for
9 the first time in the Big Salt River which
10 is also -- the mouth is just down from the
11 Yukon River Bridge. One interesting note
12 from the Big Salt River, when we were
13 working there, we found close to -- it was
14 over 650 chum salmon in the Lower Big Salt
15 River and considering how poor the chum run
16 was this year, that was actually a pretty
17 significant number of chum we felt that --
18 to document that.

19 Those were the main results, just
20 to conclude with that project, we will
21 continue in 2002, and we'll concentrate on
22 areas north and west of the Village of
23 Tanana.

24 The second project I'd like to
25 talk about, it was also a new start this
year for BLM. BLM initiated a salmon
counting project on the Susitna River this
past summer to provide information for
Federal and State managers. No counts had
ever been done to the Susitna River before,
the State of Alaska has followed aerial
surveys in the past there; no one has
counted fish or salmon there. BLM operated
a tower project. The Tanana Tribal Council
hired young people from the Village of
Tanana; they helped count; and those young
people did a good job for us this summer.
It was located 53 miles up the Susitna
River, counting tower and partial weir were
stalled during the period 25 to 30 June. We
started seeing fish July 11th and counted
August 11th. We counted 12,833 chum
salmon -- we were presently surprised to see
that many fish in the Susitna River. We
didn't think we would see that many chum or
king for that matter. We also did an aerial
survey, near the end of the project. Since
we were 50 miles up the river counting, we
were concerned that maybe we missed some of
the fish down the stream from the Susitna.

1 We only saw an estimated 10 live and one
2 chum carcass, so we're fairly certain that
3 most of the spawning activity for chinook is
4 above us. We did see 1270 chum carcasses
5 and 124 live fish. That estimate for chum
6 salmon may then underestimate the real
7 escapement by about 10 percent. There is a
8 portion of the summer chums that are
9 spawning below our site.

10 In conclusion, we will run this
11 project again next summer. We have one year
12 funding left in this agreement with the
13 Tanana Tribal Council for the year 2002.

14 MR. KRETSINGER: My name is Carl
15 Kretsinger. I'm also with the Bureau of
16 Land Management, and I wanted to briefly
17 mention the results of escapement to Clear
18 Creek, and also a land acquisition proposal
19 that we have in the same drainage.

20 This was the 7th year of summer
21 chum salmon escapement monitor on Clear
22 Creek, a tributary to the Hagaska River on
23 the Koyukuk River drainage. This year
24 estimated was a standard picket weir. From
25 the 7th of July to the 2nd of August an
estimated 3,674 summer chum passed upstream
of the trap, this year's chum return was 94
percent below the five-year average. And 81
percent below last year's poor return of
19,400 fish.

The sex ratio was 68 percent male
and 32 percent female. The Clear Creek
summer chum salmon return for 2001 accounted
for approximately 8/10ths of a percent of
the preliminary pilot station sonar estimate
for summer chum salmon. This compares to a
four-year average of 3-and-a-half percent.

At this time, I'd like to go into
the land acquisition proposal. This is also
on Clear Creek.

Clear Creek is an important
summer chum salmon spawning stream which is
being threatened by proposed placer mine
development. In order to meet our land use
plan commitments and protect Beaver Creek
spawning habitat from mining development the
Bureau is proposing to purchase 818 acres of
private land claims within the watershed.
The initial proposal was developed by Bureau

1 staff in conjunction with the Tiaga Mining
2 Company. This proposal was submitted to the
3 Bureau -- Washington office for review and
4 ranking against other bureau projects on a
5 nationwide basis. This summer we found out
6 that proposal, although ranking favorably
7 among other bureau projects was not
8 recommended for funding in 2003.

9 Funding for the proposal would
10 have come through the Land and Conservation
11 Act appropriation. This spring we plan on
12 submitting the proposal for potential
13 funding in 2004. Submission dates have not
14 been set yet, but generally fall February to
15 April. Currently we have a willing seller
16 and support from the proposal from the U.S.
17 Fish & Wildlife Service and the Alaska
18 Department of Fish & Game. We offer you the
19 opportunity to review our proposal and if so
20 inclined support it through a formal letter
21 to our field office manager. If you feel
22 you would be interested in reviewing our
23 proposal we would be happy to send you a
24 copy.

25 Thank you.

MR. SAM: Could you submit one to
the Western Interior?

MR. KRETSINGER: Yes, sir.

MR. SAM: For the land and
acquisition.

MR. KRETSINGER: Yes.

MR. SAM: Bob, how far up the
Susitna did you say you were situated?

MR. CARLIN: We set up that camp
50 miles up the Susitna, the reason being
down below that, we looked at spots lower,
we would rather have been in the lower part
of the river, it was too high and too big
for us to handle counting down there.

MR. SAM: Thank you.

MS. GREGORY: I have two
questions. You being from the BLM, I can't

1 understand why you're counting fish and who
2 you're doing it for and how are you
financing it.

3 MR. CARLIN: Sure, I can try that
4 one. Speaking form the Clear Creek project
5 that Carl spoke about, the reason for
6 collecting that information is we knew that
7 there was a significant number of chums just
8 based on the aerial surveys that has been
9 done in the past on caribou which is
10 extremely near Clear Creek and with the
11 placer mining activity that was going on up
12 there and they hold valid claims on Clear
13 Creek. We wanted to get an idea of exactly
14 how many fish -- how much of a resource
15 there was there, and so that was the reason
16 for starting the counts on the Beaver Creek.

17 As far as funding goes, the -- at
18 one time Clear Creek was funded jointly.
19 Right now BLM funds that project out of our
20 budget. The Susitna River project is what's
21 funded through money that came to BLM, an
22 appropriation from Congress, and we put that
23 money into an agreement with the Tanana
24 Tribal Council, and that money, last year
25 was the first year of the project and it was
funded for two years. We have enough money
for next summer yet to run the Tuzitna
project.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Ron?

MR. SAM: Going back to the land
acquisition on Clear Creek, have you met
with the residents?

MR. KRETSINGER: Mr. Chairman,
this proposal was brand new last spring, and
we haven't had a time -- had time to
actually get out and talk to the folks.

MR. SAM: But you will?

MR. KRETSINGER: Yes.

MR. SAM: Thank you.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Any more
questions to BLM?

1
2 MR. BRELSFORD: Let us close by
3 thanking you for the opportunity to talk to
4 the Council. The fisheries work conducted
5 by the BLM is not very well known. We do
6 have an obligation to protect the Fish &
7 Wildlife resources on the BLM lands and
8 these numbers are added to other numbers
9 trying to monitor fish runs throughout the
10 Yukon drainage, so we're trying to be a
11 partner in management resources on this
12 watershed. And it's great to have Mary ask
13 the question and give a chance for the
14 biologists to explain a little bit of this
15 work. Thank you very much.

9 MR. SAM: Thank you.

10 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Next is
11 Bureau of Land, Indian affairs.

12 MS. HILDEBRAND: I'll be very
13 brief. Ida Hildebrand, BIA staff committee
14 member. I've written to the Council Chairs
15 stating the BIA had a fish biologist who
16 would be here to meet but, while that was
17 true when I wrote the letter, he has
18 resigned. We were in the process of
19 soliciting a fisheries biologist. If you
20 know anyone with a fisheries biology degree,
21 please have them call.

Thank you.

17
18 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Thank you,
19 Ida.

19 MR. MATHEWS: I believe Hollis
20 Twitchell for Denali National Park and there
21 were representatives from Wrangell-St.
22 Elias. I'm not sure if they have a
23 presentation or not.

22 The Denali one does cover two
23 regions, that's one reason why it's before
24 you. Hollis will be explaining that.

24 MR. TWITCHELL: Good afternoon
25 Chairs, Council members. I'm Hollis
Twitchell. I'm with Denali National Park.
I have only one item that requires for or
that we ask for any action by two Councils

1 that are associated with Denali, Western
2 Interior and Eastern Interior. I'll beg
3 your indulgence of YK Council at this time.
4 I'd also ask for guidance from the Chairs
5 whether they would like to take up a
6 response to this in your breakout sessions
7 rather than deliberate that time now.
8 That's certainly an option for you.

9 At this point, I guess I would
10 like to go ahead and present this one issue,
11 if I may.

12 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Sam?

13 MR. SAM: If it's -- I'd like you
14 to continue and please inform us of the
15 action needed if we -- bitch.

16 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you.
17 This proposal is a proposed
18 hunting plan recommendation that comes from
19 the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission
20 and it's the hunting plan proposal that
21 would deal with an agency-specific
22 regulation for Denali. And it involves one
23 of their subsistence use communities of
24 Cantwell, which is on the south side of the
25 Alaska range. They've brought this forward
as the first beginning steps of consultation
that we do with all hunting plan proposal
with Regional Advisory Councils, local Fish
& Game Advisory Committees, the State of
Alaska and the public. So, this is just the
beginning of this consultation process.
They are requesting a reply to them if you
so choose to by February 28th, 2002.
They'll be meeting shortly after that date.

The proposed recommendation,
again, is agency-specific for Denali and for
the community of Cantwell. The Commission
recommends that a minimum residency
requirement of three years be established
for individuals moving into the Cantwell
resident zone. The residency requirement
would have to be met prior to gaining
eligibility to hunt and trap in Denali
National Park. The recommendation would
permit individuals who temporarily leave the
community to serve in the military or to
attend school to retain their eligibility

1 for subsistence residency in the community
2 that they had previously established.

3 That's the recommendation.

4 The discussions for that is that
5 the Subsistence Commission discussed the
6 need to place some sort of restriction on
7 eligibility in the Cantwell resident zone
8 for individuals and families that are now
9 moving into the area.

10 The current regulations allow for
11 instant eligibility for subsistence use in
12 the park for newcomers who establish
13 permanent residency in Cantwell.

14 The Commission feels there is a
15 problem with individuals moving into the
16 resident zone and establishing the
17 instability park subsistence eligibility.

18 Over the past 20 years, the
19 Cantwell population has more than doubled,
20 and developed a more transient nature than
21 in the past. In 1980, the Cantwell census
22 was 89 individuals. In 1990, it was 147
23 individuals; in 2000, it was 222
24 individuals.

25 So, it's more than doubled.

The Commission is concerned about
the effect on subsistence of increased
pressure on the limited amount of
subsistence resources available in the area.

The Commission is also concerned
about the limited amount of Federal land in
the Cantwell area.

The Commission believes that it
takes several years for new individuals to
the community to sufficiently learn the
customary and traditional practices of the
community.

The longer requirement would
reduce hunting pressures on the local area
and preserve resources for long-time
residents who had traditionally depended
upon them.

I'd like to add further that it
seems to be the greatest problems with new
arrivees and individuals regarding trapping
and moving in and utilizing traditional trap
lines and long-time residents as well as
hunting pressure. The new people arriving
into certain areas of traditional households
or families would use for their hunting

1 camps. That's combined with the declining
2 population of moose in Unit 13E experiencing
3 nine years the decline in moose populations
4 as well as more recent declines in caribou.

5 A combination of all these
6 factors is what led the Commission to this
7 recommendation. They ask it only for the
8 community of Cantwell. Denali's other
9 subsistence communities are stable. With
10 one community, Kalinda, decreasing in
11 population so the Commission does not want
12 this to be applicable for any other
13 subsistence communities for Denali.
14 Cantwell, as you know, is along the Park
15 Highway System and railroad and is
16 experiencing a significant amount of
17 competition for resources adjacent to the
18 Park from individuals coming into the area
19 from both the north and the south.

20 That concludes my presentation on
21 this.

22 I'll answer any questions if you
23 have them.

24 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Any
25 question from Council?
Gerald?

MR. NICHOLIA: What kind of
action do you want?

MR. TWITCHELL: The Commission is
in the consultation process. If you have
any comments or positions, they would like
to hear a response from you. Again, they
will take up this issue again at their next
Subsistence Resource Commission meeting the
first week in March. So, they would like
either a letter of support or whatever
format you choose to comment on.

MR. NICHOLIA: If they're going
to get instant eligibility if somebody moves
in, I don't think we should support them.

MR. TWITCHELL: They're asking
for this three-year residency requirement
because of the problems of new people moving
into the community, as they describe in
their letter that you have before you.

1

MR. NICHOLIA: Would this be coming up at our next winter meeting?

2

3

MR. TWITCHELL: They try to hold the meetings right in front of the Councils so they have an opportunity to get their comments in to yourselves as you deliberate on the wildlife proposals, so, they'll be holding their meeting right in front of yours, and they hope to take up this issue again. So, that's why they're asking for your comment this cycle, if that's possible.

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MR. NICHOLIA: I don't make comments.

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MR. REAKOFF: On the Arctic Resource Subsistence Commission, we deliberated the same issue on the Gates of the Arctic, people who move to the resident-zoned communities, become instant eligible to come to the park. People are concerned about those people not understanding about the way the resources are used, and where they hunt. We felt a residency requirement should be necessary so if teachers or whoever moves into the community will be able to learn how people -- where people live, live and go and stuff before they're eligible to hunt.

17

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Mary and Ron?

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MS. GREGORY: I would support it if I know who -- what kind of people are moving in there. If they are subsistence users themselves from another area or they're nonsubsistence users, then I wouldn't -- I -- that's me talking, not Bethel.

23

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Ron?

24

MR. SAM: Ray, do you support that Denali Commission?

25

MR. COLLINS: Yes, I do. In general, I think many of the people that are

1 moving in are new to that area of Alaska.
2 They're not subsistence users from other
3 areas. They're state workers. There's
4 other people moving from Anchorage,
5 Fairbanks, so on.

6 MS. GREGORY: In our tradition,
7 whenever a person moves to another village
8 or location, we are told by our Elders to
9 respect those people that you move into, and
10 to respect their hunting and berry-picking
11 in the areas and not bother them. And I
12 think that's not happening here.

13 MR. COLLINS: That was why we
14 recommended a three-year residency before
15 they be granted rights. Right now they can
16 move in and be instantly eligible according
17 to the law. What we're implementing is that
18 they have to have a three-year residency
19 period before they would be recognized as
20 subsistence users.

21 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Ron, you
22 raise your hand?

23 MR. SAM: Without taking a vote,
24 I'm sure that the Western Interior would
25 give the support and final action on the
26 March meeting. Would that be detrimental to
27 your efforts to slow down the new hunters?

28 MR. TWITCHELL: They were hoping
29 for a response before your next cycle so
30 that they can take it up, this proposal of
31 theirs the same time they take up the other
32 wildlife regulation proposals. So, they
33 were hoping very much to come with the
34 comments before February 28th time.

35 MR. SAM: Could you attend the
36 Western Interior breakout session?

37 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes, I could.
38 And I'd also like to build upon what Ray was
39 saying, that there is sort of a variety of
40 newcomers into the community, certainly
41 individuals coming in for teaching, school
42 jobs, other workers coming in from the road,
43 with the Parks Highway going right through

1 their community, and the railroad as well as
2 recreational development, lodges and summer
3 observations as well.

4 So, it's a combination of not
5 only Alaska residents from other parts of
6 the State, but also individuals from
7 outside.

8 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Thank you.
9 You be here -- you could attend one of the
10 breakout in -- we're going to have a couple
11 more on our agenda, and we got a couple more
12 hours to stay here, so next on our agenda is
13 Fish & Wildlife.

14 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman,
15 Keith Mueller is the coordinator on that and
16 Wrangell-St. Elias and said they passed on
17 making a presentation on this. They did
18 come, but due to time constraints, they're
19 shortening their agenda.

20 MR. MUELER: My name is Keith
21 Mueller. I work for Fish & Wildlife Service
22 in Fairbanks. I work with the ecological
23 services group. We'd also like to take a
24 short amount of time for someone from each
25 of Innoko and Yukon Delta to speak. It
doesn't -- it's better than it sounds.

I would like to speak to you
briefly, we talked about last time you met
in Fairbanks, that is a contaminant study on
Yukon and Kuskokwim River salmon. There's a
little propaganda sheet going around now
which you should each get a copy of. And I
intend to be very brief because this is an
update, not the final report. Basically,
this says we went out this summer and
collected samples, and what this study is
all about is Senator Ted Stevens put money
in the 2001 Interior Department budget for a
study to be performed on baseline
contaminants in wildlife species used for
subsistence purposes. And after a lot of
discussions here and there and everywhere
around, we decided to target salmon on Yukon
and Kuskokwim Rivers. This year we sampled
at three spots. We sampled at Bethel, two
spots on the Yukon, one at the Rapids and
the other at Beaver Village. And our goal

1 was to collect ten males and ten females at
2 each site, and for the most part, we were
3 successful at Beaver Village. We didn't get
4 as many king salmon as we wanted, but we got
5 all we wanted at the Rapids, so we have a
6 nice sampling from the Yukon River anyway,
7 and the way these usually work is if you
8 don't collect enough samples in one spot,
9 you can use that money to do more analyses
10 on the samples that you've collected at
11 other spots. This worked out quite well
12 from our perspective.

13 The objectives of the study are
14 basically to determine broad sweeps of
15 contaminants measures in Yukon king and --
16 Yukon king and chum salmon, and to the best
17 of our knowledge, this is the first study of
18 this kind, so what we wanted to do is not
19 collect samples from here, there, and
20 everywhere, that would dilute our sample
21 size at each site too much. We wanted to
22 collect enough samples at each sample side
23 to get a real good idea of what the
24 variation among the fish is at each site in
25 contaminants concentrations. That's why we
kept it to three sites.

14 As I said, the sampling went
15 quite well. Now we're in the stage where we
16 do lots of paperwork and we send samples out
17 to the labs. Next Tuesday, we're going to
18 send half the samples out to one lab. We
19 intend to analyze the samples from these for
20 21 organic chlorines, DDT and other
21 pesticides, PCBs which is an industrial
22 product. We're going to analyze them for a
23 suite of other metals, mercury, cadmium and
24 lead. We have blood samples collected,
25 we're doing hormone analysis on those. Some
constituents went in the environment affect
reproductive hormones in fish. We're doing
those.

22 We are also doing some
23 reproductive bio markers. Sometimes when
24 fish organisms are exposed to a contaminant
25 it has an effect on them that we can
measure, and we can't analyze for every
constituent there is in the world. There's
not enough money in the world to do that.
Sometimes we monitor the effects they have
on them, instead of monitoring the actual

1 compounds. We're having histology done on
2 each one, the study of tissues, like kidney
3 tissue, liver tissue, and any tissue that
4 also we find abnormalities on and we send
5 them to our histologist, and he tells us
6 what he thinks.

7 There is a little bit of this sex
8 chromosome gender abnormalities done, that
9 was mostly for the research done in the
10 Columbia River Basin. We don't expect to
11 have those kind of problems. We're trying
12 to cooperate with as many other
13 investigators as can, so we can make as
14 broad a sweep of measures as we can.

15 We're also coordinating with Dick
16 Kocan who spoke with you, I think yesterday
17 or the day before -- yesterday -- about
18 ichthyophonus in king salmon. All of the
19 salmons we took, he checked for
20 ichthyophonus. This way we can try to
21 correlate the incidents of ichthyophonus and
22 concentrations of contaminants in these
23 fish.

24 We are also going to take all of
25 our data -- we are the Fish & Wildlife
26 Service, we don't do people, we do fish and
27 animals. Because we don't do people and
28 because we're interested in the effects of
29 eating salmon on the health of people, we
30 are going to give all of our data to the
31 Alaska Department of Epidemiology and the
32 Alaska Native Health Consortium, and they
33 are going to together formulate an opinion
34 on the public health implications of people
35 consuming salmon such as the ones we
36 sampled.

37 And, in fact, they're paying for
38 some of the analysis. They're paying for
39 fatty hazards analyses simply for human
40 consumption information.

41 We expect to have all this
42 information available in report form this
43 time next year. So next year this time I'll
44 be back and I will be able to have data
45 available to give you at that time.

46 We also intend to go back to all
47 the villages that we visited and see those
48 who assisted us in collecting these samples.

49 In the interest of keeping it
50 short, I think I'll stop.

1

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Mueller, I have several questions. I was going to ask you what percent, but I just heard you say, you send them to the lab. What kind of samples are you collecting? I know you're taking some tissues from the organ meats, but -- and how many fish are you -- how many fish did you take and what did you do with the rest of the fish?

2

MR. MUELER: We collected about 125 fish total, half king salmon, half chum salmon. We collected samples of kidney, liver, muscle, eggs, heart, what else is there? Spleen, and all of the fish went to -- we were assisted by local subsistence users in each place, and they got the fish.

3

MS. GREGORY: Thank you. I didn't want to see any wanton waste.

4

MR. MUELER: It was their fish. We were just using the organs.

5

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Jack? Your mic is on. I thought you wanted to talk.

6

Any other questions from Council?

Thank you. Thank you very much.

7

Now, somebody from Koyukuk, Nowitna Refuge would like to speak to you. Thank you very much. I'll be back next year.

8

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: What you -- try to do it brief, because we got a couple of hours, and we may have not be able to break out here? Go ahead, Ron.

9

MR. SAM: Could we listen to Western Interior breakout, or did you have it all here for everyone?

10

Brief synopsis, then we'll hit it all at Western Interior.

11

MR. McCLELLAN: My name is Greg McClellan. I'm the refuge manager -- ours is strictly for Western Interior issues. We'll be brief. In your booklet under Tab E

12

1 on the second page is our report, and we
2 just wanted to briefly highlight a few
3 things. If there's any questions, the first
4 thing to highlight is there has been quite a
5 change in staff on the Koyukuk, Nowitna.
6 Both myself and Geoff Beyersdorf just
7 recently started working for the refuge this
8 year. Gene Williams transferred and that
9 position is currently vacant. And then
10 we -- in addition, we hired a second
11 seasonal RIT, Patrick Madros, who lives in
12 Nulato, and all of the -- both Geoff and
13 Orville have just a couple of things to
14 highlight.

15 MR. BEYERSDORF: Mr. Chairman,
16 members of the Council, my name is Geoff
17 Beyersdorf. I'm the new coordinator, as
18 Greg pointed out. If you want to go to Tab
19 E page 2 there, there's just a few items in
20 that report that I wanted to highlight for
21 you.

22 One of the main things I wanted
23 to point out is as far as the waterfowl
24 studies that also were conducted this past
25 spring, very quickly, I can give you
26 breakdowns of these numbers during the
27 breakout sessions if you're interested. 395
28 households were surveyed. Of those
29 households a total of 1,985 geese that were
30 harvested and as we are in this meeting now,
31 and over the next week or so, some local-
32 hire refuge staff are going to be conducting
33 the fall harvest survey in the seven
34 villages associated with the region.

35 Another thing that I wanted to
36 do, Randy Rogers pointed out some of the
37 preliminary information from Ella's Cabin.
38 I wanted to give you some of the preliminary
39 information we have for Nowitna Refuge, 160
40 hunters through the Nowitna check station,
41 we had 34 moose that were harvested, a
42 harvest rate of 21 percent. I have tables
43 and a graph that, again, I will give you
44 that has a breakdown of the numbers during
45 the breakout sessions. If you're
46 interested, you can ask me questions also.

47 And, I guess two of the last
48 things I wanted to present, that as Randy
49 Rogers alluded to earlier, Glenn Stout has

1 pointed out, it's very critical that we get
2 numbers as far as the moose population and
3 the productivity and also on wolves and our
4 refuge is going to be conducting, weather
5 permitting, over the next month, moose
6 census and we also hope to do a wolf census
7 this spring, and that's all I have at this
8 point.

9 Orville?

10 MR. HUNTINGTON: Orville
11 Huntington. We've got a declining
12 white-fronted goose problem on the Koyukuk
13 River. We share geese with North Western
14 Interior, Kolbuk, Kotzebue. I wish their
15 Chair was here. They're the ones we have to
16 deal with this on this issue. I briefed
17 Eastern/Western last year. They supported
18 us. We still have serious decline of our
19 white-fronted geese. I just want to bring
20 you up to date. We're doing outreach on it
21 right now, and have been working with the
22 Alaska Migratory Bird Council. The rep from
23 AVCP, and TCC, Mike Sheek from Nenana,
24 because it's -- you guys don't have much
25 time. That's about all I have to say.
Unless there's any questions, that's it.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Any
question? There's any questions?

Thank you.

Vince, what's the deal now? How
we going to work right now?

MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Mary,
Mr. Chairman, realistically, the next report
that Mr. Shaft is going to present is
important to your region as well as Western;
does not apply to Eastern. But it is just a
little bit of more information about the
planning process that's going to go on the
GASH area, that both of you have spent long
meetings on. So it would be worthwhile
hearing that. I don't have the -- that
would be it for Fish & Wildlife Service.

One other issue that -- going out
on a limb here, that's part of the role of a
coordinator is to go out a little bit out on
a limb. I'm trying to negotiate between
different parties here. I'm sensing some

1 movement within the Councils to look again
2 at their action dealing with who does
3 projects, monitoring projects on the Yukon
4 and Kuskokwim River. I'm wondering after
5 Bill gives his presentation if the Council,
6 again, we have to go through the
7 parliamentary procedures on that possibly.
8 If you want to revisit your decisions on
9 sport -- on the -- who's the principal
10 investigator on projects and who should or
11 should not be involved on being the
12 principal investigator.

13 Do I take that that you would
14 agree that there will be a small discussion
15 on that?

16 MS. GREGORY: No, we go for a
17 long time.

18 I know.

19 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Yeah,
20 Vince.

21 Right when Bill's done, then I
22 think the facilitator because of his long
23 history of working on the Yukon, we would
24 request that Fred Anderson of the National
25 Parks Service take me out of the hot seat
and he jump into that seat.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Shaft go first,
Bill assures me it won't be long. Inform
you of you -- if there needs to be more
details in the breakout session, Bill will
be available.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: First, we
are sorry that we're pushing you to do this
and that I never agree with some things like
that, but we sure need time to take care of
some other things.

MR. SHAFT: Thank you. Real
quickly, what I'm about to do, my name is
Bill Shaft. I'm the managers Innoko. We're
working with the GASH villages. You've
heard it with office of subsistence
management on this. I try to reiterate.
I'll try to slow down here, that the GASH
village issues situation is complex for
various reasons, including but not limited

1 to user conflicts, lack of baseline
2 information, lack of clear problem
3 identification, lack of appropriate agency
4 attention in the past. Because of these
5 issues, what we'd like to try to do is start
6 scoping meetings. Sometime in the next
7 month or two. I use the term "scoping" a
8 little bit differently than what the Bureau
9 of Land Management did. I'm just looking
10 for general information to get information
11 from the people of the villages of the GASH
12 villages on what they perceive as problems.
13 How they would like us to go forward, and
14 address these problems?

15 I'm going to be attending the
16 meeting in Grayling next Monday, hopefully
17 we'll have a conversation and be able to
18 come up with some tentative times for these
19 scoping meetings.

20 I just wanted to address the
21 committee now and let them know that there
22 is something happening. I would like to
23 address as well as Western Interior, the YK
24 Delta because I know a number of the folks
25 here from that area do come up to go moose
26 hunting in the GASH village area, so we
27 don't want to leave out people in the
28 Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta area.

29 We may be approaching someone
30 there to try to get some information on who
31 would be good to contact, who could give us
32 information, and we would be very thankful
33 for any information you could give us on
34 contact people or people who could give us
35 information.

36 We are in the process now only
37 ANILCA refuge of hiring a refuge information
38 technician. That position is going to close
39 October 24th and hopefully that person will
40 be instrumental in not only contacting the
41 GASH villages but making contacts down in
42 the YK Delta.

43 With that, I'm going to end it
44 real quick, and address any concerns that
45 the Western Interior has in the breakout
46 session.

47 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Thank you.

48 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, as

1 you agreed earlier, when I was sitting in
2 Mary's chair --

3 MS. GREGORY: It was Billy's
4 chair. That you had agreed to allow Fred
5 Anderson to revisit -- openly discuss your
6 action dealing with determining --
7 suggesting or directing who could be
8 principal investigators or scientists on
9 monitoring projects, so, with that, I think
10 we'll let Fred discuss it with you. This is
11 Fred Anderson.

12 MR. ANDERSON: This is -- my name
13 is Fred Anderson. I'm a fishery biologist
14 with the National Parks Service. That's a
15 position I've held for about a year and a
16 half. Currently working on subsistence,
17 mostly subsistence salmon fisheries issues
18 on the Yukon River. Prior to that, I worked
19 for ADF&G for a little over 28 years, and 25
20 or so years of that period was in the
21 Interior. I was the manager of the Middle
22 and Upper Yukon subsistence and commercial
23 fisheries for about 16 years, and then I
24 transferred to the sport fish division in
25 the late 1980s and worked there for --
26 all-is out of Fairbanks. Worked for the
27 sport fish division for eight or nine years,
28 and retired after being regional supervisor
29 there for about five years.

30 Before I say anything else, I'd
31 like to make it clear that the opinions and
32 comments I'm about to make are mine only. I
33 don't mean to represent ADF&G on this, nor
34 do I pretend to speak for Fish & Wildlife
35 Service. These are merely observations and
36 opinions of a fairly long-term fishery
37 professional in this general area, Northern
38 and Western Alaska.

39 Catch and release practices have
40 been an issue -- sort of a bone of
41 contention in this area for 15 or 20 years
42 that I know of. The problems are
43 deep-seated. The opinions are deeply held,
44 and if anything, the problems and
45 differences are getting worse over time as
46 sport fishing effort in rural Alaska
47 increases.

48 I think that the differences

1 exist because of deeply held cultural values
2 on both sides of the issue.

3 The Lower Kuskokwim, because it's
4 been a sport fish destination -- sport
5 fishing destination longer than some of the
6 other area in Western Alaska, I think it's
7 been an issue there longer, but it's
8 spreading, as is sport fishing effort all
9 over Interior and Western Alaska,
10 particularly acute on the Kobuk River,
11 sheefish fishery.

12 As I say, in my opinion, these --
13 this issue is because of deeply held values
14 on both sides, and I don't think it's a
15 possible that's going to be easily or
16 quickly resolved, and I firmly believe that
17 the issues won't be resolved in any way
18 unless we avail ourselves of all the
19 information that's available. And I think
20 this panel recognized the importance of the
21 issue yesterday when you redid the -- added
22 the proposal, the catch and release study.
23 I think that was acknowledged by you folks
24 that this is an issue that needs to be dealt
25 with.

Which leads to my point, that the
sport fish, in my opinion, is best equipped
to deal with this. They're the most
experienced. They're one of the most
credible professionals and, again,
experienced group of fishery staff that we
have in Alaska. They've done these studies
before. They've done this type of work
before, and importantly, it's my opinion
that if they don't do this piece of work,
it's not going to be done. And it will put
off further into the future any resolutions
of the problem. And I'll leave it at that
and try to answer any questions that you
might have. I would just ask that you
reconsider your decision that they not be
allowed to do this piece of work. I don't
think it's likely that Fish & Wildlife
Service would step in and do it. I don't
think the commercial fisheries division of
ADF&G. I can't imagine who else might step
in and initiate this work or who else might
do it as well as sport fish division.
That's all I have to say.

Thank you.

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MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Gerald?

MR. NICHOLIA: I'd like to hear what Lester Wilde would like to say about the motion we made yesterday.

MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: I really don't have anything to say. I said it yesterday. And I have absolutely no qualms whatsoever about the depart -- Department of Fish & Game taking over, but it was just the idea of having an unbiased opinion on the results of the study, and I know that this is important, and that's all I have to say.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Jack?

MR. REAKOFF: I would like to make a motion for reconsideration of -- I think that number was 02-071.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes. But the motion was separate from the project is my understanding.

MR. REAKOFF: I'm making a motion for reconsideration of that project with stipulations that oversight be by the subsistence division of the State of Alaska and the office of subsistence management to assure the best numbers available so that unbiasedness will not enter this project.

But I ask for reconsideration for this project because as far as I'm concerned, this data will not -- this -- that project will be shot down, and this catch and release mortality is necessary for some type of control on the numbers of fishermen that goes out on these streams. If we delay this project another year or two years, it's going to be -- we're going to be putting ourselves behind the eight-ball. I make a motion for reconsideration with those stipulations.

MR. COLLINS: Point of order, Mr. Chairman, point of order.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Ray?

1
2 MR. COLLINS: I think it has to
3 be somebody that voted in the affirmative to
4 reconsideration a motion and you and I voted
5 on the negative side. So --

6 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: That's
7 right.

8 MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: In that
9 light, Mr. Chairman, I move for
10 reconsideration of that -- whatever that is,
11 proposal that was --

12 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: That's
13 your motion?

14 MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: Yes.

15 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Is there a
16 second to the motion?

17 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: I will.

18 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Angela,
19 you second it?
20 Any discussion?

21 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, could
22 we have somebody read that motion so we'll
23 know exactly what we enacted to refresh your
24 minds? I'm not sure of the wording.

25 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Jack, you
could do it.

MR. REAKOFF: I believe that
project, for mortality study to be 02-071
and the motion shall read for
reconsideration vote that that project shall
continue by the sport fish division, but
with oversight by the subsistence division
of the State of Alaska and the office of
subsistence management to assure correct
data.

MR. COLLINS: Again, I think
point of order, you're moving to replace the
previous action with that -- we either have
to modify the other motion or modify it.

1

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Vince?

2

3

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we'll get this straight. First you got to vote that you want to reconsider, then Jack would bring up his motion from there. First you've got to take the vote to decide you want to bring this back to the table. I don't have the exact wording, but it was from Gerald to swap H 025, the funding with 025, to 071, and the balance of the difference coming, some subtraction of 13.3, wording of that effect, so you have to decide to bring that back to the table. You have to vote that, and from there, amendments can be done with it.

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MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Ron?

MR. SAM: I'm getting confused now. Weren't we just talking about the independent -- Ida -- we'll ask Ida to come up.

MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The simplest procedure is -- and yesterday's motion you moved to accept Project 02, 071, in a separate motion you moved to request that ADF&G sports division do not participate in this study, that's the motion that passed. That's the part of the motion that should be reconsidered or discussing reconsideration of.

So, Lester made a motion to reconsider. There was a second. I would suggest you vote on whether or not you reconsider the motion regarding sports fish division.

MR. NICHOLIA: Question.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Question been called for.

Request for the roll call, Vince?

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta. Alvin Owlletuck?

1 MR. OWLETUCK: Yes.

2 MR. MATHEWS: Lester Wilde?

3 MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: Yes.

4 MR. MATHEWS: Phillip Moses?

5 MR. MOSES: Yes.

6 MR. MATHEWS: James Charles?

7 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

8 MR. MATHEWS: Billy McCann?

9 MR. McCANN: Yes.

10 MR. MATHEWS: Willard Church?

11 MR. CHURCH: Yes.

12 MR. MATHEWS: Fritz George?
Mary Gregory?
13 John Hanson?

14 MR. HANSON: Yes.

15 MR. MATHEWS: Harry Wilde?

16 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Abstain.

17 MR. MATHEWS: Western Interior.
Carl Morgan?

18 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

19 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones?

20 MR. JONES: Yes.

21 MR. MATHEWS: Angela Demientieff?

22 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

23 MR. MATHEWS: Sampson Henry?

24 MR. HENRY: Yes.

25 MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff?

1 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

2 MR. MATHEWS: Ray Collins?

3 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

4 MR. MATHEWS: Ron Sam?

5 MR. SAM: Yes.

6 MR. MATHEWS: Eastern Interior.

7 Gerald Nicholia?

8 MR. NICHOLIA: Yes.

9 MR. MATHEWS: Jim Wilde?

10 MR. JIM WILDE: Yes.

11 MR. MATHEWS: David James?

12 MR. JAMES: Yes.

13 MR. MATHEWS: All three Councils
support the motion to reconsider.

14 MR. NICHOLIA: We're done with
15 it.

16 MR. COLLINS: What that does, is
that motion is before us now, as if we
17 haven't voted on it. You have to vote that
motion down or you can move to replace it
18 with another motion or amend it.

In other words, it just brings it
19 back before us as if we hadn't voted on it
yet.

20 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: So, what
21 do we have to do? I'll let Ron Sam take
over.

22 MR. REAKOFF: I make that same
23 motion for that 02-071 be -- project be
adopted for -- with oversight by the
24 subsistence division and the office of
subsistence management for clean data --
25 unbiased, clean data.

1 MR. NICHOLIA: Second.

2 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Motion has
3 been made and seconded.

4 MR. COLLINS: I think what you
5 meant is to replace that motion -- move to
6 replace that motion with the one you just
7 stated, right? The other one is still on
8 the table before it. You're moving to
9 replace it with this one?

10 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

11 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Angie?

12 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you,
13 Mr. Chair. By oversight, I'd also like to
14 include the tribal villages that are being
15 affected by all these sports fishing people
16 as part of the oversight group, because a
17 lot of the village people know what's going
18 on more so from those guys for two or three
19 days.

20 MR. SAM: Ron?
21 I'd like consultation from Ida.
22 When we first -- wouldn't we first have to
23 vote down or withdraw the motion that was in
24 front of us before this one.

25 MS. HILDEBRAND: For
clarification, for the record, it would be
easier if you did withdraw the prior motion
and then replace it with the motion that
Mr. Reakoff proposed.

MR. SAM: The only way that we
could handle this, then, legally, is to vote
down the motion that's on the floor, right?

MS. HILDEBRAND: Are you speaking
of Mr. Reakoff's motion?

MR. SAM: I'm speaking about the
motion that's still on the floor.

MS. HILDEBRAND: The motion from
yesterday until you could either have a
statement that I withdraw my prior motion or

1 just vote it down. Or call for unanimous
2 consent that you're rejecting the prior
3 motion.

3 MR. SAM: Okay.

4 MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: In order
5 for us to keep peace, Mr. Chairman, I'll
6 withdraw my motion.

6 MR. SAM: Now we're legal to act,
7 right?

8 MR. REAKOFF: I make that same
9 motion, for 02-071 that the sport fish
10 division proposal shall be retained and
11 budgeted with oversight by the subsistence
12 division and the office of subsistence
13 management and other interested parties to
14 assure clean data, unbiased, clean data.

11 MR. NICHOLIA: Second.

12 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Motion and
13 seconded has been made.
14 Discussion?

14 MR. SAM: Question.

15 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Question
16 been called for. Roll call.

17 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

18 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: You want
19 discussion?

19 MR. JAMES: Yeah.

20 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Go ahead.

21 MR. JAMES: A few years back when
22 we formed as three organizations here to
23 discuss the fisheries issues, we were -- it
24 was decided that we will operate on
25 consensus, traditional tribal consensus
basis, and that anybody that has an issue
concerns and we will allow that person to
speak instead of shoving them off under
Roberts Rules of Orders, calling for

1 questions, which I thought was a cheap way
2 of shutting people out, or other people that
3 want to speak. That was unanimously
4 decision we made three years ago, four years
5 ago, here in Anchorage, and now we went
6 right back to the old western ways of doing
7 business.

Thank you.

5 MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: Mr.
6 Chairman.

7 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Lester?

8 MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: I think
9 this is all we care about, is the data that
10 we produced by the study be unbiased, and I
11 have absolutely no problems with the motion
12 that's being made. I think that will take
13 care of my problem as well as the problem of
14 whether the material is biased or unbiased.

15 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Sam?

16 MR. SAM: I don't remember, I
17 don't recall making any kind of moves of
18 that sort. I have always abided by and I
19 always will abide by Roberts Rules of Order,
20 parliamentary procedure. Again, question.

21 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Roll call.

22 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
23 Western Interior. Ron Sam?

24 MR. SAM: Yes.

25 MR. MATHEWS: Ray Collins?

MR. COLLINS: Yes.

MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff?

MR. OLINDE: Yes.

MR. MATHEWS: Sampson Henry?

MR. HENRY: Yes.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Angela Demientieff?
2
3 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.
4 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones?
5 MR. JONES: Yes.
6 MR. MATHEWS: Carl Morgan?
7 MR. MORGAN: Yes.
8 MR. MATHEWS: Eastern Interior.
9 David James?
10 MR. JAMES: Yes.
11 MR. MATHEWS: Jim Wilde?
12 MR. JIM WILDE: Yes.
13 MR. MATHEWS: Gerald Nicholia?
14 MR. NICHOLIA: Yes.
15 MR. MATHEWS: Yukon/Kuskokwim.
16 Harry Wilde?
17 MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: Abstain.
18 MR. MATHEWS: John Hanson?
19 MR. HANSON: Yes.
20 MR. MATHEWS: Mary Gregory?
21 MS. GREGORY: Abstain.
22 MR. MATHEWS: Willard Church?
23 MR. CHURCH: Yes.
24 MR. MATHEWS: Billy McCann?
25 MR. McCANN: Yes.
MR. MATHEWS: James Charles?

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MR. CHARLES: Yes.

MR. MATHEWS: Phillip Moses?

MR. MOSES: Yes.

MR. MATHEWS: Lester Wilde?

MR. LESTER WILDE, SR.: Yes.

MR. MATHEWS: Alvin Owletuck?

MR. OWLETUCK: Yes.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, all three Councils passed the motion. Motion carried.

MR. ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HARRY WILDE, SR.: We're ready for breakdown, breakdown right now.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we got two housekeeping things real quickly. Those that have the red receivers, please turn them back in over by the translators.

Second thing, all Council members, before you move, you have to take all your material, and your name tag. The way the rooms are going to be divided up is to my right where all the Council members are now. That room will be the Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta region.

Right where I'm sitting will be the Western Interior. Eastern Interior will be back where the public is. Staff and others that have arms, we need help moving the table because there is no hotel staff to reassess the room.

So, if you could give us 20 minutes, 20 minutes and we'll go.

(Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Western Interior, and Eastern Interior Regional Subsistence Advisory Councils Joint Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.)

1 I, Sandra M. Mierop, Certified
2 Realtime Reporter, do hereby certify that
3 the above and foregoing contains a true and
4 correct transcription of the Yukon-Kuskokwim
5 Delta, Western Interior, and Eastern
6 Interior Federal Subsistence Regional
7 Advisory Council Joint Meeting reported by
8 me on the 11th day of October, 2001.

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Sandra M. Mierop, CRR, RPR, CSR

