

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

5 VOLUME II
6

7 Anvik, Alaska
8 October 11, 2004
9 9:00 o'clock a.m.
10

11
12 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
13

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

26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44

45 RECORDED AND TRANSCRIBED BY:
46 COMPUTER MATRIX COURT REPORTERS, LLC
47 3522 West 27th Avenue
48 Anchorage, Alaska 99517
49 907-243-0668
50 jpk@gci.net

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

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anvik, Alaska - 10/11/2004)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SAM: We'll reconvene Western Interior's meeting. At this time I will call the meeting back to order. Vince, where are we?

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I don't know if you can hear me -- oh, there we go. We left off last night with a post-season summary with leaving the Kuskokwim and Robert Sundown's plane was delayed so he is here now so it makes sense to start off with the Kuskokwim post-season summary. We are on teleconference so periodically I'll check and see if anybody's called in.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

MR. MATHEWS: Is anybody on line?

(No comments)

MR. MATHEWS: Okay, we'll leave that on line probably for an hour or so and then if no one calls in then we'll go from there.

So Robert Sundown will give the post-season review of the Kuskokwim River. And I believe he gave you a handout on that.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Robert.

MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Members of the Western Regional Council. My name is Robert Sundown. I'm here on behalf of Mike Reardon who is the Federal in-season manager down in Bethel for the Kuskokwim. And I'm here to give you a brief summary of events that occurred this summary for the fisheries, both on the commercial end and for the subsistence end as well.

Earlier, just a couple of minutes ago, I passed out a handout for all of you that basically shows a summary that's courtesy of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Craig Whitmore and his Staff produced that along with Tracy Krauthoefer with the Subsistence Division over at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

1 These are meetings we have very frequently in Bethel
2 because what drives the fishery in Bethel and on the
3 Kuskokwim is the Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working
4 Group and on a weekly basis they determine pretty much
5 the fate of both the commercial and the subsistence
6 fisheries that occur there, so everything works fairly in
7 sync, boy, from McGrath from Ray Collins all the way down
8 to the mouth of the river, where commercial fisheries and
9 subsistence fisheries are determined as far as their
10 schedules go.

11
12 So for those of you in the public and
13 agency, there's extra copies of the presentation there
14 and it's basically a summary of the season's events that
15 occurred.

16
17 So thank you again, members of the
18 Regional Advisory Council. It's a little bit of a change
19 of pace for me given that I normally work with the Yukon-
20 Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Council.

21
22 Okay, basically what this is, the first
23 section is, it's divided into two, the commercial section
24 and the subsistence section and basically we have numbers
25 for the commercial fisheries that occurred this summer
26 and the subsistence fisheries that have occurred for the
27 last several years up through last year, given that the
28 2004 subsistence harvest numbers aren't quite processed
29 yet, and won't be processed until later on this spring.

30
31 So the summary basically is we did not
32 have a coho -- we didn't have a directed fishery for
33 anything except coho this year. The Kuskokwim is on a
34 salmon rebuilding plan for the last several years and it
35 puts the Kuskokwim on a schedule for three days of closed
36 days from Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday and opens the
37 Kuskokwim for subsistence fishing on Wednesday, Thursday,
38 Friday and Saturday. And it's worked fairly well in
39 terms of distributing the salmon run throughout the
40 season. The biggest concern the managers have had, both
41 with the State and the Federal agencies down in Bethel
42 has been the front loading of the salmon run,
43 particularly with kings. When the kings come in the
44 concern has been that so much effort takes place on the
45 lower river at or around Bethel that the distribution of
46 king salmon for subsistence purposes is heavily hammered.
47 So we have felt the schedule has worked very well for the
48 last three years in terms of evening out the distribution
49 of king salmon from the lower river to different parts of
50 the river up above Aniak.

1 So we have felt that's worked very well.
2 And early this last week we've had a meeting to do away
3 with the schedule. The schedule is pretty much locked as
4 political support down in the Bethel region, and there's
5 several proposals to the Alaska Department of Fish and
6 Game to do away with that schedule for the Kuskokwim.
7 Certainly we're looking for ways to make the schedule
8 work for everybody while maintaining that front loading
9 of king salmon that's taken down in Bethel.

10
11 So let me just go over the commercial
12 fisheries numbers with you guys, just here on the first
13 half. And we did have a coho fishery that occurred, and
14 that's the only directed fishery that we've had. 688,000
15 salmon were taken this summer over the period of three to
16 four weeks, that occurred in late July through late
17 August.

18
19 We've had very good escapement for the
20 rest of the salmon species. We only have two escapement
21 projects formally on the Kuskokwim, one of them on the
22 Holitna River, up in its tributary, on the Kogrukluuk, and
23 another one on the Aniak. And the Aniak one is more or
24 less all fish species, it doesn't differentiate the
25 various species of salmon.

26
27 So in summary we've had an excellent
28 summer for salmon. We've had more than enough salmon
29 both for kings, chums, sockeyes and coho come in and from
30 all of the activities and reports we've heard everybody's
31 been fairly happy from the bottom end of the Kuskokwim,
32 to the upper end of the Kuskokwim.

33
34 Okay, let's move on to -- if you guys
35 have any specific questions let me know.

36
37 The figures for the subsistence harvest
38 are on the end of Page -- it's somewhere in the middle of
39 your packet, it starts out with the Kuskokwim River
40 subsistence fishery and it's a presentation created by
41 Tracy Krauthoefer. When we had this meeting here last
42 week it was the Kuskokwim River Summit, and Ray Collins
43 pointed out some interesting facts, we'll go over about
44 how the numbers were taken and if you guys have any
45 questions about this, please, let me know, and we can go
46 over the subsistence numbers starting with chinook.

47
48 Back several years ago, I think it was
49 four years ago, the Board of Fish determination for
50 chinook salmon for the Kuskokwim region, the amounts

1 necessary for subsistence was determined between 6,400
2 and 8,300 chinook for the entire range of the Kuskokwim.
3 And you can see the numbers here fluctuated from
4 different sections of the river, from the lower river to
5 the middle river to all the way in the upper Kuskokwim.
6 And it shows the number of fish that are taken from the
7 lower river and it exceeds 50,000 fish every year and
8 only a fraction of that, somewhere between five and
9 10,000 are taken in the upper section which is why the
10 managers down in Bethel feel that the schedule has been
11 very good for people up river. It reduces that front
12 taking of chinook salmon down in the lower river.

13
14 So we can go on to the subsistence chum
15 harvest, from '89 to 2003 and again we don't have the
16 2004 numbers just because they're in process until later
17 on this spring. And the amounts necessary for
18 subsistence determined by the Board of Fish has been
19 determined to be from 39,000 to 75,000 chum salmon. And,
20 again, you can see that we've maintained that amounts
21 necessary for all the years through 2003. And, again
22 about 40,000 fish are taken from the low river with a
23 very small fraction of that somewhere between five and
24 8,000 being taken in the upper sections of the river.

25
26 And if we go to the subsistence coho
27 harvest from 1989 to 2003, you can see again the amounts
28 necessary for subsistence are determined to be between
29 24,000 and 35,000 fish. And, again, it's kind of the
30 consistent story here -- well, a good majority of that
31 fish is taken in the low river, both by subsistence
32 fishing, and in this situation by commercial fishing.
33 There's a lot more reliance on coho from the commercial
34 than there is from the subsistence end. And it's
35 averaged between 20 and 25,000 with the total of, you
36 know, 40 to 50,000 being taken on some years. But
37 there's a little bit -- there's a good deal taken again
38 on the lower river.

39
40 And the sockeye harvest is probably the
41 smallest harvest that we see. It's determined between
42 27,000 and 39,000 fish are taken and needed for
43 subsistence. And, again, between 20,000 and 55,000 on
44 good years are taken by subsistence fishermen on good
45 years, again, with the majority of that being taken on
46 the lower river.

47
48 And let's go to the next chart here. The
49 low river subsistence salmon harvest in 2003. As you can
50 see the chinook harvest takes the lion's share of the

1 species that are targeted in the lower river followed by
2 chum and evenly split between coho and sockeye. So for
3 that 80,000 chum that's taken it's definitely the
4 majority, a little under half is targeted for coho. I
5 got some notes in there that may make some sense to some
6 people looking at that. The middle river harvest for
7 subsistence in 2003, 35 percent, again, are targeting
8 chinook with the other 34 targeting chum and, again, more
9 or less evenly split between coho and sockeye, coho being
10 at 18 percent and sockeye being at 13 percent.

11
12 And this is where it might start be of
13 interest to George and Ray Collins respecting McGrath and
14 Aniak as well as Carl Morgan. In the upper Kuskokwim
15 River subsistence salmon harvest for 2003 for the upper
16 river, and this is where Ray made an interesting point,
17 there's some other villages that might have been
18 considered, and I don't know if Tracy has gotten back to
19 you on revising some of these figures for the upper
20 river, given the sample size was so much smaller in terms
21 of talking to people. We've come to the conclusion that
22 these numbers might not be as accurate if they included
23 some of the other villages, included more questions to
24 more people about what their harvest practice was. And
25 as Tracy found out the harvest was evenly split between
26 coho and sockeye and with chinook taking 20 percent, chum
27 taking 21 percent, coho being 32 and sockeye being 27
28 percent. And I imagine most of that, for sockeye, was
29 taken over at Lime Village, you know, given the run
30 distribution for Lime Village being right there at
31 Telequana Lake for the sockeyes.

32
33 So, I mean, Ray, I don't know if you want
34 to share your thoughts on these numbers to the rest of
35 the Advisory Council.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

38
39 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, the reason I pointed
40 out that they may not be accurate is they were heavily
41 loaded towards McGrath where there were quite a number of
42 families reporting and very little on Nicholi and Talida
43 and the other more traditional villages up there, and
44 McGrath is a mixed population, about half and half. Half
45 the people are non-Native and they don't rely as heavily
46 on it, so what they take for subsistence may not be the
47 same as Nicholi and so on.

48
49 But overall I had some concern, you know,
50 about 80 percent of the fish for subsistence are taken in

1 that lower river on all the species, just as an average,
2 only 20 percent up above, and even with the windows in
3 place, if you'll look on Page 3, what concerns me is that
4 chinook here was average or above average with the
5 exception of the Salmon River, where escapement was
6 average and the Takotna was also average up there. So
7 even though they were higher on the other -- and then if
8 you go down to chum salmon, again, it looks good -- in
9 the middle of the paragraph -- with the exception of the
10 Takotna River where escapement was about the lowest out
11 of seven years monitoring and then coho -- coho
12 escapements were above average on all monitored locations
13 with the exception of Takotna River where escapement was
14 the second lowest in five years. So even with the
15 windows in place the escapements in the McGrath area, at
16 the head of the river were low or even the lowest on some
17 of the species. And if the windows were not in place I
18 don't know what it would have looked like up there, you
19 know, and that's why I felt it was important to keep
20 those in place until we figure out what's happening, why
21 are they returning in such low numbers up there. And
22 those streams don't support the numbers down -- we're
23 only talking about a few thousand as opposed to much
24 larger numbers in lower tributaries. And the fact that
25 those fish have got to make it all the way up the river.
26 It's kind of like the Canadian situation on the Yukon, I
27 guess, you know, they get what's left up there after it
28 goes all the way.

29
30 So, again, I just argue that the windows
31 need to be in place until we figure out what's happening
32 on those up river streams, why are they coming in so low
33 when everybody else is doing fairly well.

34
35 That's the point that I made over there.

36
37 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
38 Thank you, Ray.

39
40 And the last two pages after the upper
41 Kuskokwim pretty much deal with Kuskokwim Bay. And, you
42 know, depending on what numbers you look at, Ray Baxter,
43 boy, back in the early '70s did some number crunching
44 about how many fish heading for the Kuskokwim get
45 harvested in Kuskokwim Bay and it turned out to be like
46 25 percent for a lot of the species, so it was fairly
47 insignificant for -- well, insignificant, depending on
48 who you talk to, I guess.

49
50 And the last page is a subsistence survey

1 done by the ONC, the Native Council out of Bethel,
2 Orutsararmiut Native Council, and it basically shows from
3 the beginning of June through the end of August what they
4 felt the subsistence fishing effort was like. And for
5 the most part it was very good, with the exception of
6 coho salmon, and most of that is because the coho salmon
7 are heavily targeted by the commercial fishing industry
8 down in Bethel.

9

10 But that pretty much is the composition
11 for the fishing effort this summer, both by the
12 commercial and the subsistence fishing program down in
13 the lower river and in Bethel.

14

15 There's a couple other issues I just
16 wanted to remind the Council of in terms of both with
17 game and the fish issues coming up here before -- I'd
18 love to answer any questions you might have of the
19 management down in Bethel. But the first issue is the
20 agenda change request being pushed out of Bethel to
21 eliminate or reduce the windows through the Board of
22 Fish, the area is proposing to the Alaska Board of
23 Fisheries to do an agenda change request to take up the
24 issue of whether or not the windows should be implemented
25 for next summer given the fantastic runs that we've had
26 on the Kuskokwim for the last several years, and that
27 would impact the region that you guys represent,
28 substantially.

29

30 The other issue has to do with predator
31 control. And I just mention this now because I've got 10
32 minutes to do it. The Unit 19(A), in terms of their
33 predator control efforts with the State of Alaska have
34 included aerial land and shoot predator control. This is
35 still not supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
36 and the management down in Bethel for the Yukon-Delta
37 National Wildlife Refuge. The areas surrounding the
38 river corridor between Aniak and Kalskag are in Unit
39 19(A) and have gotten the support of the State for aerial
40 wolf control programs. But that is not true once you
41 leave the river corridor and enter the Refuge, just north
42 and south of the river corridor on the Kuskokwim between
43 Aniak and Lower Kalskag for Unit 19(A), so that's
44 something that when Carl and George and Ray get back to
45 their hometowns, this is something that everybody should
46 know, that way -- because we do have differing
47 regulations. And I don't know what it's going to take to
48 get the Federal government to get in synch with the State
49 but there doesn't seem to be any support for it.

50

1 So just for your information. That
2 concludes my presentation, Mr. Chairman.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mr. Sundown. I
5 think what you did was reiterate most of our concerns and
6 one of our biggest concerns as a Council is that on both
7 the Kuskokwim and the Yukon, that first run is heavily
8 targeted and that's the one we're mostly concerned about,
9 and I'm glad that you realize that that is a problem.
10 Eastern Interior Chair Craig Fleener and I wanted to open
11 the window system earlier on both the Kuskokwim and the
12 Yukon, but they said nobody's using it. Still our
13 biggest concern is the first run that's hit, they're so
14 heavily targeted, people want fresh stuff, and I'm glad
15 that you realize that and I just want to be noted as
16 going on record that our biggest concern is the first
17 run, first salmon hit on both rivers, both river systems.

18
19 MR. SUNDOWN: And the other
20 recommendation I may have, Mr. Chair, once you guys meet
21 together in Anchorage or the next time you guys do meet
22 with the Yukon-Delta Regional Advisory Council is to
23 bring up these concerns and share it with them, that way
24 you guys can work in synch to address some of these
25 windows concerns that may affect the upper parts of the
26 Kuskokwim.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again. But
29 what happened is that we both just submitted a special
30 action request to close the opening on both systems, it
31 didn't go nowhere but that showed our concerns anyway.

32
33 Mr. Campbell you had something.

34
35 MR. SUNDOWN: Okay, I get an update from
36 somebody who knows better than I do.

37
38 The Board of Fish did reject the agenda
39 change request so the windows stay as scheduled for the
40 next summer, so good news for you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray. The windows system,
43 you're pretty comfortable with that.

44
45 MR. COLLINS: Yes. Yes, I'm glad that
46 they're going to keep it in place. What we'd reached in
47 agreement over there, was for the first 20 days of June,
48 they would have the windows in effect, and then it would
49 be lifted.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any questions
2 for Mr. Sundown.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, just so the
9 Council knows, Ray Collins is your Coordinating Fishery
10 Committee member that's a voting member on the working
11 group and he just recently attended a meeting of the
12 working group to look at how they functioned this past
13 year, I believe that was the objective. In addition the
14 in-season managers for the Kuskokwim are having an Inter-
15 Agency meeting in November to go over all the projects
16 and how the season progressed and Ray will be attending
17 that as well as Bob Aloysius, so you guys have now fully
18 integrated into the working group process, and Ray is
19 your lead on that.

20
21 So just so you know, he's going to be up
22 to speed on most of the projects, or at least
23 knowledgeable of all the projects on the Kuskokwim, so
24 maybe he'll report back at your spring meeting on what we
25 learned from attending the Inter-Agency kind of post-
26 season meeting, and that will be in Anchorage, so just to
27 give you an update.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. The
30 Chair will note that at times we kind of forget about
31 Kuskokwim concerns because most of us come from the
32 Yukon, you know, the Yukon drainage, however a good
33 portion of our people also come from the Kuskokwim
34 drainage, so thank you for your report.

35
36 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
39 Mr. Sundown.

40
41 MR. CHASE: Mr. Chairman. Ken Chase, I
42 have a question, I don't know.....

43
44 REPORTER: Ken.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ken, Ken, can you share a
47 mic with Tommy.

48
49 MR. CHASE: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, thank
50 you. I don't know if you have liberty to expand on your

1 report on why is the lower management against the aerial
2 wolf at this time?

3

4 MR. SUNDOWN: The predator control
5 program for the State of Alaska is fairly simple. All of
6 the support that occurs for the aerial wolf control
7 program or wolf control, in general, occurs within the
8 State of Alaska. Once a Federal proposal is made, as you
9 know, it goes through the Federal Subsistence Board and
10 then from there it goes on to a review period in which
11 the rest of the country, the rest of the United States
12 gets to review how much they like the predator control
13 program. And the reason it's going to be much more
14 difficult to get a predator control program on the
15 Federal land is because it's accountable to the rest of
16 the country. And the rest of the country's feeling on
17 predator control is just not there.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ken. Ken, it's coming up
20 under No. 11, predator management policy, so at this
21 time, I'd like to just do away with all predator control
22 discussion. I know it's your concern, but it is on the
23 agenda.

24

25 MR. CHASE: Okay.

26

27 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again. Vince.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings
32 us up to the annual report section of your agenda so you
33 may want to turn to your book to Page 173 and I don't
34 know how you want to handle this, we've done it several
35 different ways.

36

37 Basically on 173 is the reply to your
38 last year's annual report. I can give you a summary of
39 that or you can review it. And so that closes out your
40 2003 annual report and then now we start your 2004 annual
41 report by giving me a list of topics that we develop
42 between now and your winter meeting, and at your winter
43 meeting you approve that annual report. So I'll wait for
44 your direction on how to handle the summary from 2003.

45

46 You should have gotten this in the mail,
47 too.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: A brief summary, and
50 that's about it, because like you said we finalize our

1 annual report at our March meeting. Brief summary.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. If you look at Page
4 173 the topics are all numbered.

5

6 So Issue No. 1 was your concern about a
7 law enforcement decline in Unit 24, and that basically
8 the Council appreciated the support the Board gave to its
9 2002 report. So my understanding of all the paragraphs
10 there is they basically were explaining that there is
11 coordination between the Federal agencies that have law
12 enforcement within the upper portions of Unit 24. The
13 key thing there is that the Board has requested a Federal
14 law enforcement officer to attend a future Council
15 meeting to explain the high level of cooperation and
16 coordination between the Federal and State agencies.

17

18 In a nutshell, you guys said, you know,
19 there's been reductions in Staff, what's going to fill in
20 the gap, and are you guys working together to address
21 concerns, and the response is they are and they'll send
22 an officer. I don't know when that will be, I'll have to
23 track that to see if we can get an officer at your next
24 meeting.

25

26 Any questions on Issue No. 1.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, issue No. 2 is
31 Ichthyophonus and returning salmon concerns. You desired
32 precautionary principles. You passed a resolution in
33 Wasilla that requested the Board of Fish implement a
34 precautionary principles involving Ichthyophonus and that
35 the Federal Board and the Board of Fisheries make a
36 mortality allocation for that disease based on best
37 available science.

38

39 The response is that they agree that
40 Ichthyophonus is a potential threat to salmon production.
41 And they cover the report from Dr. Cosan. I'm just going
42 to focus on your request to have it part of the
43 allocation, and they're basically saying on that is it's
44 considered premature to have an allocation by salmon
45 managers since the actual effects of the disease on
46 spawning have yet been identified, and that management
47 actions are based on the best available information and
48 are dependent on information provided by existing
49 research.

50

1 I think in a nutshell what they're trying
2 to say there is that they're going to monitor as closely
3 as they can with their existing tools and projects
4 reporting in and then once it's been identified that the
5 impact beyond there they possibly would look at an
6 allocation but right now they don't know how it affects
7 spawning.

8
9 So there may be others in the room that
10 can help explain that further, but right now you have
11 agreement that there's concern about the disease but an
12 actual allocation, there's not enough data to support
13 having an actual allocation.

14 So that's Issue No. 2.

15
16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Keep going.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Issue No. 3 is you
20 were concerned about the Area M intercept fisheries, and
21 you endorsed the -- became a petition but it was the
22 special action request originally by Bristol Bay and
23 Eastern Interior Council which asked the Secretaries of
24 Interior and Agriculture to extend their extra-
25 territorial jurisdiction. They did have, what you've
26 talked about several times, they did have a meeting in
27 Anchorage to take public testimony on that. They met
28 afterwards in Executive Session and developed a
29 recommendation to the Secretaries and the outcome of that
30 is the Secretaries did not extend Federal jurisdiction to
31 that area. The outcome is that the Secretary of Interior
32 sent a letter to Alaska Governor Frank Murkowski
33 encouraging him to follow through with his pledge to
34 closely monitor the effects of the new Area M
35 regulations. And her letter also shared her support of
36 the State in its efforts to gain new information to
37 better manage the Western Alaska salmon fisheries.

38
39 You did talk a little bit about that
40 yesterday, I don't know what the outcome of the
41 Governor's action to more closely monitor that. I don't
42 have any information, there may be others, how that was
43 done or what was found, I don't know.

44
45 But anyways, that's the response, they
46 didn't agree with your extra-territorial extension and
47 they're encouraging the Governor to keep a closer eye.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yesterday our Council
50 member Benedict Jones hammered, hammered, hammered on

1 identifying all the species that we are concerned about,
2 the species way out in the high seas, but when Governor
3 Murkowski lifted restrictions on Area M, it went without
4 question. So the information that Benedict wanted is out
5 there, because Governor Murkowski lifted restrictions out
6 there without question or without being questioned and
7 our concerns are still the same. That information on
8 identifying species out in Area M and where they're going
9 -- I mean the information is there, it's not being
10 shared. I think it's being held back just for commercial
11 interests, you know, Area M.

12

13 So I'd just like to go on record that
14 Benedict Jones is right that we still have to identify
15 species way out in the high seas and where they're going.

16

17 Next. Next.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: The next issue is increased
20 hunting pressure on wildlife Refuges. You were concerned
21 about displacement of taking maybe what might be
22 considered more intensive management actions in one area
23 and displacing it to another. That the Board needed to
24 explore options to take appropriate actions to prevent
25 user conflicts with that displacement.

26

27 And of course the Board appreciated your
28 recognition about that and, in particular, you were
29 focusing on the Nowitna Refuge and the northern unit of
30 the Innoko Refuge which you commonly call the Kaiyuh
31 Flats. It's a fairly lengthy response. It was an
32 extensive response from the Refuge because they're very
33 concerned about user conflict with that Refuge, so if I
34 don't cover all the points adequately I know they have
35 Staff here to help out on that.

36

37 You supported the recent Board of Game
38 actions to develop a drawing and registration permit for
39 21(B), for those not familiar with the area, the Nowitna
40 Refuge is within 21(B). So the Board applauds you on
41 that that you're looking at other ways to control that
42 hunting pressure. And as you already know there's a
43 check station at the mouth of the Nowitna to monitor
44 hunting and participation and harvest, and I believe
45 Staff will give you a summary as best they can at this
46 close to the end of the season, how the check station
47 worked and possibly how the hunt was prosecuted. They do
48 law enforcement patrols of the area and they're
49 constantly keeping you guys informed at the various
50 meetings of the progress or what they discover, I should

1 say, from their surveys.

2

3 Again, they put in there, which is
4 extremely important, Patrick Madros is an RIT, but
5 they're pointing out the importance of having Refuge
6 Information Technicians. We do throw around a lot of
7 acronyms, the RIT is Refuge Information Technicians which
8 are a valuable arm, not only to OSM, but I'm sure for the
9 Refuge too. Because they are our eyes, and ears and feet
10 out there in the villages.

11

12 Let's see, what else here, they go
13 through the fact that one of the advantages of the
14 complex in Galena is it's one Staff there looking at the
15 same areas that are being displaced. And I think that
16 needs to be acknowledged, because Geoff and Mike Spindler
17 and others are on top of that, but that's the advantage
18 of having this complex is that the same Staff is there
19 and can monitor that.

20

21 And then the Board is in clear agreement
22 between the Refuge and the Council on the importance of
23 the status of the moose population and associated
24 wildlife species.

25

26 And I think the rest of it will be -- the
27 actions that the Refuge has taken will probably come up
28 in their summary. So everyone's on board that they need
29 to look at displacement and they appreciate that you are
30 also looking at on the State side how to deal with
31 displacement and user conflicts. That's how I would
32 summarize it.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Next.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the next one is
37 hunting guide selection process for BLM. Basically you
38 were pleased with the briefing and response that you
39 received from them and the Board appreciates and
40 acknowledges the efforts of the Council with its one
41 agency and convey that appreciation to the Board member
42 Henri Bisson. That's pretty much what that is.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Next.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: The next issues is one that
47 we had a difficult writing a response to because it's
48 dealing with Legislation that was moving through Juneau,
49 so basically the response is that the Legislation that
50 you had concerns on which was repealing the ORV

1 restrictions in the Dalton Highway Corridor never made it
2 out of one of the committees. Carl can maybe elaborate
3 more on that. But basically it did not go to conclusion
4 on it so it will be back before the Legislature in
5 January 2005.

6
7 The Fish and Wildlife Service Legislative
8 liaison, that's a position in Anchorage, is going to
9 continue to monitor this bill as it comes up again
10 because of its importance and also for those that have
11 internet access you can be monitoring that also through
12 that site.

13
14 And then finally you had a concern about
15 contingency planning. BLM responded on that that
16 basically they're guided by their resource management
17 plan so if the Legislature did adopt lifting those ORV
18 restrictions, both plans that cover the Dalton Highway
19 Corridor would need to be updated and this is a key part,
20 including a Section .810 analysis. Now, hopefully I get
21 that right, I don't have my lawyer's hat out today, but
22 an .810 analysis is when you're dealing with allocation
23 or actions on Federal lands, ANILCA requires that there
24 be an analysis of potential impacts on subsistence.
25 That's my interpretation, we do have the full text here,
26 that's a powerful tool that is there, a tool for
27 protection and tool for looking into subsistence and not
28 pushing it aside for other issues, it has to have its own
29 analysis.

30
31 If that were to come to be, that meaning
32 reviewing the plans and the .810 analysis within those
33 plans, BLM would involve the Regional Advisory Council,
34 local residents and others.

35
36 So that's a summary of your ORV one, so
37 stay on -- we're on hold, see what the Legislature does.
38 I don't know, maybe Carl and others may have knowledge of
39 how -- the potential of that bill surviving, I don't
40 know. There was a lot of rumors flying towards when it
41 was in there so I'll leave it at that.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

46
47 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, basically the bill
48 died because there was no action taken. Whether they
49 bring it up next year but -- we did -- from my office
50 work with the BLM real closely to see it will involve

1 ANILCA and they've got to come in -- different RACs would
2 have to come in, the Federal Board would have to come in
3 because you're trying to amend or change the language of
4 ANILCA, and that was the biggest factor that killed that
5 bill, that they didn't want the Feds to come in because
6 it can even get more restrictive, very, very, very
7 sensitive, and they know the sensitivity of how the
8 Federal Board works and the Federal Advisory Committees
9 thoughts on opening up that Dalton.

10

11 So I think if the favorite Senator from
12 Fairbanks want to reintroduce that bill, he tried twice,
13 he introduced that bill and then another bill, but both
14 of them basically didn't go no place, basically all the
15 Bush legislators, both in the Senate and in the House
16 joined together and regrouped and got a lot of support
17 from other Senators and Legislators from the House and
18 the Senate.

19

20 I think it's going to have a difficult
21 time passing for a few people that it's going to give
22 access to.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl.

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

29

30 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, I would like to be on
31 record as stating that that the question under .810 is
32 whether it's a significant impact to subsistence. This
33 is would be -- there would be no question that this would
34 be a significant impact to subsistence into the
35 associated areas of the Dalton Highway Corridor, it's not
36 just the Dalton Highway Corridor, it's the access that it
37 gives outside of the Corridor. So that's what my
38 position on that contingency was, is that the BLM
39 understands that this will be a significant impact. A
40 lot of the plan that the BLM has for the Dalton Highway
41 Corridor does not assess -- really that plan was
42 developed in 1986 or something, I would like the BLM to
43 be under the understanding if this bill progresses that
44 this would be a significant impact to subsistence, that
45 they would have to immediately enter into an .810
46 analysis for what those impacts are going to be to
47 subsistence users, not only that reside in the Dalton
48 Highway Corridor but the associated areas to the Dalton
49 Highway, there would be major amounts of additional
50 hunting pressure there. It would be literally hundreds

1 and hundreds of people that would access the associated
2 areas from the Dalton Highway.

3

4 So I just wanted to make that statement
5 on the record.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Next.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the next one is
10 predator management policy. I think on that it would be
11 best since there's going to be a briefing on that later,
12 that it'd probably be best because the briefing addresses
13 your annual report topic in there. So I don't know what
14 the wishes of the Council, wait for that briefing.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, as I stated to one
17 of our locals, I'm glad he's here, it is on our agenda.
18 Next.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The next one is real
21 good timing for the next one, your concern about the
22 Office of Subsistence Management having preliminary
23 recommendations before the Board of Game when the Council
24 has not met and your suggestion, I believe, was that if
25 the Council has not met that OSM should look to the
26 affected local Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

27

28 The response was to explain that those
29 are preliminary recommendations, that's why they're
30 titled that way, rather than Federal recommendations, and
31 that OSM will work more closely with Board support
32 through the conservation units, as well as myself to
33 regularly -- well, let me put it another way -- will
34 monitor very closely what the local Advisory Committees
35 do. The arm that will do that will be the conservation
36 units that regularly attend that meeting, as well as
37 others that have access to those minutes and incorporate
38 those in the preliminary conclusions.

39

40 I think you already know that the
41 Advisory Committees do have a difficult time trying to
42 take up Federal proposals with their limited
43 opportunities, so we're going to meet -- we're going to
44 try our best to monitor that, but the bottom line is
45 these are preliminary recommendations, not Federal
46 recommendations. So if you have more questions about
47 that, and since it was Board of Game, your liaison, the
48 OSM Liaison to Board of Game is here, Dan LaPlant, so if
49 you do have more questions ask him privately or whenever,
50 on that.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Next.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the next topic is
4 additional time for customary trade regulations. The
5 Board just acknowledges that there's going to be more
6 time needed for that and then they talk about proposals
7 that were submitted and how they agree with your
8 rejections consistent with your recommendations.

9

10 There's going to be a study coming out on
11 traditional ecological knowledge of customary trade on
12 subsistence harvest fish and that's going to be done by
13 YRDFA, and that study is scheduled for completion in May
14 2006. So it is anticipated that FP04-04 and any other
15 customary trade proposals will be deferred until the
16 study is completed.

17

18 And so they understood that various
19 regions will be more time and that maybe when the study
20 comes out that will provide additional information for
21 those that may need to put some further defining of what
22 customary trade is.

23

24 So that's the annual report response.
25 Most of you members -- there's new members here so I
26 don't have to go through the importance of this response,
27 you guys already know, this is the Board talking directly
28 to you. It's a very important tool, also it's the
29 directors for all those agencies that control the land,
30 how the land is managed, so I encourage you to seriously
31 consider a 2004 report, you always have submitted a
32 report, but I encourage you to stay in there because it's
33 a great dialogue channel with the directors as well as
34 the full Board.

35

36 That's all we have, Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Again, we
39 finalize our annual report at our next meeting, right?

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. But right now what we
42 need is some preliminary topics so we can have something
43 before you and then what we do is, as you know, say
44 Benedict has a couple annual report topics then I would
45 work with drafting language between now and then, the
46 next meeting, with him and you, and then that's before
47 you at your winter meeting, and if additional topics come
48 up then we take them up then and draft them as best we
49 can and then those are submitted.

50

1 So this is the time to prime the pump, I
2 suppose for your 2004 report. The advantage of doing it
3 now is all the Staff here have a chance to know what
4 you're looking at and it does help develop a better
5 report as well as a better response. Because the topics
6 you're dealing with sometimes are really broad and --
7 well, the BLM was an example, your topics from several
8 years ago developed a whole other communication and
9 addressing, so it's great to have them ahead of time. If
10 not, we can pull out those at the next meeting.

11

12 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

15

16 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I have two
17 subjects that I think we should include into our next
18 annual report.

19

20 One is the need to maintain -- we have to
21 be on record as needing to maintain these windows on the
22 Kuskokwim River and the understanding that this Council
23 believes that those windows allow passage to the upper
24 river drainage.

25

26 Then I also feel that the moose
27 regulations on Unit 24 are very complex because of the
28 large unit. And the Department has talked about
29 subdividing the unit into two or three different
30 subunits, that hasn't happened. I feel that the Federal
31 program should look at subdividing Unit 24 into subunits
32 for ease of reading the regulations. So I would like to
33 see the Federal Board entertain that idea. And I think
34 that the State would -- has discussed it but they don't
35 seem to have the funding to want to even look at it. And
36 so I would like to see possibly subdivision of the unit,
37 but I would also like to know what the other Council
38 members feel about that also.

39

40 Those are the two things I have.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. I'm
43 right in the middle of that upper Unit of 24, we like it
44 confused so we -- we like it confused. We just tell them
45 we don't know what we're doing and you don't know what
46 you're doing either.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: We have -- just outside of

1 Alatna/Allakaket, it depends if you go north, east, or
2 west, you're under different regulations.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: So we're using regulations
7 from down river.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: But that has to be
12 addressed, I think that we addressed it through the
13 Koyukuk Moose River Working Group, it should be
14 subdivided into three -- our recommendation then was
15 three, but at this time I don't know. I thought somebody
16 had their hand up -- Jack.

17
18 MR. REAKOFF: The working group discussed
19 that, the Department's discussed that, but that has not
20 moved forward and I feel that it's time for the Federal
21 Board to possibly -- or the Federal program to look at --
22 for our regulatory process, subdividing the unit, it just
23 makes it a lot easier on the users to have a subdivided
24 unit, and work with the State on where those boundaries
25 would be drawn, you know, not just doing their own little
26 thing. But I think that that's kind of fallen by the
27 wayside, nobody's really doing it, but we have to start
28 addressing this issue, it's just getting more and more
29 complex.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. To
32 respond to that on both the State and the Feds have been
33 working on the issue. You look at the maps and
34 regulations that govern Unit 24 in our area from Koyukuk
35 on up, we have colored maps which does subdivide but it's
36 not really clear to everyone yet, especially the
37 residents.

38
39 Vince.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think, and
42 not in support of Jack, but just to give you additional
43 facts, I think it would be timely to put that in your
44 annual report. Now, again, you approve it at your next
45 meeting. There's been a lot of internal discussions over
46 coffee and around the water cooler or whatever about
47 trying to work through the confusion of the regulations
48 in Unit 24. This puts support to move in that direction.

49
50 Again, you would vote it up or down at

1 your winter meeting. Because Kanuti Refuge approached
2 me, they could not make it here because basically they
3 were still weathered in in Eagle, so they could not get
4 here, weathered into the Eastern Interior meeting to
5 explore with you developing a proposal, a straw dog, to
6 address the complexity of the regulations in the area.
7 There was concern that we'd get out of step with the
8 State. This action, if you did approve it in spring,
9 says you want to be in step because the Park Service
10 tried at the last round to work through those regulations
11 and we didn't get much forward motion on that. So in a
12 nutshell it does well, and there is a report here from
13 Randy Rogers that the working group, they're looking at
14 getting funding to revisit the whole Unit 24 and we'll
15 pass that out later. And I didn't memorize the letter, I
16 don't know the timing of that, but Randy's very thorough
17 if that takes off, then that working group will be back
18 functioning to address the plan as well as this
19 complexity.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. As I
22 stated earlier, we do deal with this at our winter
23 meeting. But the issues that come out are pretty much
24 the same, it's just the way that we reintroduce them.
25 Because it's just so complex that we can't get our point
26 across at times. And at this time the more complex that
27 upper unit of 24 is the more confused people are so we'll
28 just deal with it as is except what happens what happens.

29

30 So at this time are there any more topics
31 that we should introduce at this time.

32

33 Ray.

34

35 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
36 add just a comment on the windows thing, that in there,
37 in the annual report it should state that until we
38 understand what the impact of that intercept fishery is
39 down there on the up river stocks and so, that it is a
40 subsistence issue and that's why we're asking the windows
41 to stay in effect until we understand more, since 80
42 percent of the harvest is taking place in that lower
43 river, whatever the impact of that harvest is we don't
44 know exactly on those up river stocks yet, but we suspect
45 that it may be the timing of when that's taken, and the
46 windows is meant to relieve that.

47

48 I don't know if we've got it sorted out,
49 but that's the reasoning behind wanting the windows in,
50 is we still don't understand exactly what the impact of

1 that is, and we feel that it does give some relief and
2 let's fish up river. And then of course there is that
3 request for a continued study of escapement that are
4 doing telemetry studies and other things on that to find
5 out where those fish are going, those early fish. It's
6 related, actually, to the Area M, same kind of thing,
7 they don't know what the impact on the Area M is being,
8 we don't know exactly what the impact is on that lower
9 river but it's an intercept issue that we need to have
10 more information on.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Any
13 further -- George.

14

15 MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 I just would like to agree, concur with Jack and Ray,
17 about keeping windows on the -- keeping them in place.
18 What I've heard yesterday here, keeping them in place and
19 keeping it focused on a topic for our report.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, George. Any
24 other topics.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that our next
29 meeting is scheduled for March 8th and 9th.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it's in March and if
32 you have additional topics that come up after the
33 meeting, you can get them to me and then I'll get ahold
34 of Ron, and it doesn't mean that they're gone, it just
35 means we'll write up a thing and then you'd approve them.
36 Everything's approved at the next meeting.

37

38 So I didn't know if Jack wanted that
39 immediate .810 as part of the annual report or not or is
40 that just a statement that BLM will carry back?

41

42 MR. REAKOFF: No, I wouldn't put that
43 into the annual report right now but I just wanted the
44 BLM to be aware that my sentiments on whether that bill
45 resurfaces and what those impacts would be, the severity
46 and the seriousness of that issue. You know, that's
47 going to have a huge range of impacts, but at this time I
48 wouldn't include that into the annual report.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: So Mr. Chairman, that's all

1 I need for the annual report process and we'll have a
2 draft one before you at your March meeting.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Next
5 item on the agenda, wildlife topics, right.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, on the
8 wildlife one, need to pass out a copy to you -- well,
9 actually I don't it's in your book, we have public
10 copies, excuse me, this is a special action request,
11 perfect timing to address the complexity of moose seasons
12 up in Unit 24. So Dan LaPlant will be presenting that
13 and you have it on Page 183 and then we'll handout the
14 copies. Oh, the analysis is not in here, I'm sorry,
15 yeah, I got to hand out the analysis. Well, the analysis
16 has it all, we'll be handing that out, sorry.

17

18 (Pause)

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the reason we
21 didn't get it in the book, back to the timing. We don't
22 like handing out all this material at this late date but
23 the timing of producing the book and that is the reason
24 why it's being handed out.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: One question, is this one
27 of those special action requests that just addresses one
28 family or two families or two persons or what?

29

30 MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman, for the
31 record my name is Dan LaPlant, I can get into that a
32 little bit. I don't know quite the extent of the use.
33 The primary users are residents of Anaktuvuk Pass, but
34 how many I'm not certain.

35

36 This special action, again, the analysis
37 is being handed out, the request itself came from Gates
38 of the Arctic National Park and it is for closing the
39 antlerless moose hunt in the Upper John River area of
40 Unit 24. If you look on the analysis that's being passed
41 out on the map, there's that very complex map that's been
42 discussed here already. In area C on the map is what
43 this special action request applies to, so just the upper
44 John River there in Gates of the Arctic and I don't know
45 what the use of that area is by down river folks with low
46 waters this year I'm sure it wasn't much, in the winter
47 season I don't know how many folks would be traveling up
48 that area, but the primary users are probably the
49 Anaktuvuk Pass residents.

50

1 This request is to close the antlerless
2 season starting on October 27th. The season runs through
3 the end of December. And this is a follow up action to
4 special actions and State emergency orders that were
5 issued earlier this fall. In fact it's a continuation of
6 action that's been taking place in this area for the last
7 several years. Moose population has been declining.
8 Cow/calf ratios have been down, yearling bull/cow ratios
9 have been down and it's just been a declining population.
10 State and Federal regulations have closed the fall
11 antlerless season now for, I believe, four years in a
12 row. And this season in the upper John River, the
13 antlerless portion of it was closed last year as well.
14

15 When the emergency order from the State
16 occurred in the end of August and the Federal special
17 action was approved at that time, Federal regulations
18 don't allow special actions to take place for more than
19 60 days, so to continue that for this season, which
20 actually goes from the 1st of August until the end of
21 December, to cover the remainder of the season, Federal
22 regulations require a public hearing, so we scheduled
23 that public hearing and announced it to take place today
24 at the Council meeting, for the opportunity to take in
25 public comment on that. So that's the purpose of this
26 subject coming up at this meeting at this time is to
27 allow the public, Council members as well to express
28 their opinions on the special action request and these
29 comments will be summarized and brought to the Board and
30 the Board will make a decision whether to extend the
31 antlerless closure until the end of December.
32

33 As far as going into the analysis, this
34 is the same analysis document that you've probably seen
35 in the last couple of years. The biology and the harvest
36 history is pretty much the same, it's the one that has
37 been used to close the antlerless season, like I said,
38 the last four years in the lower parts of the -- well,
39 the Alatna River -- the upper -- all of upper Unit 24, so
40 the lower John River, the Alatna River, the Northfork and
41 so on. Again, the cow/calf ratios have been less than 20
42 calves per 100 cows, the yearling bulls have been less
43 than eight yearling bulls so the recruitment has been
44 low. And so this is the same analysis and our
45 recommendation is to support the request from the Park
46 Service and close the antlerless season -- or continue
47 the disclosure through the end of December.
48

49 Mr. Chairman.
50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Jack.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'm vice-
4 Chair of the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource
5 Commission and we discussed this antlerless moose hunting
6 in the upper John River at our last meeting and people
7 from Anaktuvuk Pass told us that they caught primarily
8 bull moose in the fall time and they didn't have any
9 problem with elimination of the cow component from that
10 hunt, and at this time of low population status and to
11 mainly alleviate the fears of the managers, not that
12 there's a large harvest of cows in the upper John River,
13 but mainly to alleviate the fears of the managers the
14 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission
15 endorsed that, temporary elimination of that cow
16 antlerless hunting during the winter time. Most people
17 in Anaktuvuk Pass hunt caribou, they don't -- well,
18 there's a few people that hunt moose in fall time and at
19 this time there was not a -- it wasn't thought to be a
20 large impact to the subsistence users to eliminate the
21 antlerless moose season in the fall.

22

23 The Koyukuk River Advisory Committee and
24 this Council worked with the Koyukuk Moose Planning Group
25 and we agreed to eliminate the fall cow hunts as a first
26 step to recover the moose population and we've endorsed
27 that and continue to endorse that in the Koyukuk River
28 Advisory. And the Subsistence Resource Commission also
29 endorses that.

30

31 The winter antlerless season is a totally
32 different subject and throughout the lower part of the
33 drainages, but in the upper drainage, the people in
34 Anaktuvuk Pass stated that they didn't feel that
35 elimination of the cow portion was going to be a big
36 impact, and so I endorse this special action request
37 also.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: So Mr. LaPlant, are you
40 expecting or do you want action at this time?

41

42 MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman, Federal
43 regulations don't require action by the Council because
44 these special actions don't normally occur or routinely
45 occur at the time when there's a Council meeting, so
46 regulations don't require the Council to weigh in but
47 certainly would be welcome if you would express an
48 opinion as a Council on this issue.

49

50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't know what I want
2 on this one, I barely got a week extension for Federal
3 subsistence hunt and now you're looking at September to
4 December, I don't know what the heck I want out of this
5 one. Because geez, when you see stuff like this
6 happening around you, it makes you wonder whether you
7 want to be involved on these decisions and it's so wide
8 open for other people, but so restricted for the locals.
9 I have problems with that. But I do agree with Jack that
10 our Koyukuk River Advisory Committee did meet and we did
11 agree with the closure of antlerless moose hunts.

12

13 Did you have anything else to add, Jack.

14

15 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I would like
16 to make a motion to endorse this special action request
17 for the area described as (C) on Map 1 for the upper John
18 River only. And I would like to make a motion to endorse
19 this special action request, WSA04-04 only.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

22

23 MR. PETERS: I second it.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Emmitt Peters.
26 Any further discussion.

27

28 Vince.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the North
31 Slope Regional Advisory Council took this up and I don't
32 have my notes here but I believe they endorsed, if that's
33 the term, they -- Dan may know of their official action,
34 I took it as they endorsed this special action.

35

36 MR. LAPLANT: Yes, Mr.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: It still bothers me, the
39 term subsistence is subsistence, I mean we barely subsidize
40 when -- when you talk about North Slope, Southeast Alaska
41 my feelings automatically go, ummmmm, they don't need
42 subsistence. And the dates on this bothers me but I know
43 that they don't depend on moose to survive so they don't
44 go all out to hunt moose, so any further discussion.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: There is a motion on the
49 floor. Tommy.

50

1 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, I was just wondering
2 that you got -- couldn't this thing on this antlerless
3 moose hunt, when you do something like that wouldn't it
4 mean the whole area, the whole District E, instead of
5 putting a little portion on that, I mean how is that
6 regulated there.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

9
10 MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman. Tom, the --
11 well, I guess I wouldn't be able to explain how the
12 regulations got to where they are now, it's a product of
13 adopting the -- the Federal regulations were adopted from
14 State regulations when the Federal program began and
15 they've been diverging ever since. So as Mr. Chairman,
16 stated earlier, the regulations for this upper Koyukuk
17 region are very complex and that's one of the things that
18 we would like to address working with the State, Regional
19 Council, to simplify these regulations here in the
20 future. But currently the only antlerless season that's
21 left in the regulations is this upper John River area.
22 So there are no antlerless seasons in regulation right
23 now, for the other areas, Area (E) as you're pointing
24 out, that's only a bull season and those seasons have
25 closed already. So the only late season left in the area
26 is this area (C), and the regulations -- the Federal
27 regulations have it as a one bull season and again this
28 proposal is to make that an antlerless season only to
29 eliminate the harvest of cows.

30
31 But, yes, it is very complex and our goal
32 is to help the users and the Council, working with them
33 to come up with a set of regulations that are more easily
34 understandable and address the resource issues that need
35 to be addressed.

36
37 Mr. Chairman, I could go on and make a
38 comment on the planning process that we've, at least,
39 been preliminary discussing to address this.

40
41 Randy Rogers has requested some funding
42 from OSM to get the Koyukuk River Moose Planning Group
43 together this winter in probably January or February to
44 scope out some options for simplifying these regulations,
45 and developing some proposals that could be brought to
46 the Board of Game next year in their 2006 spring meeting
47 in Fairbanks, and then it would be in synch with the
48 Federal Board's meeting that same spring. So that's kind
49 of the schedule we're looking at is addressing this.
50

1 Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Let's stay
4 with the special action request. We do have a motion on
5 the floor. Any further discussion or questions.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, just for public
10 information, I depend heavily on Jack Reakoff to cover
11 Gates of the Arctic because he does have a seat on the
12 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Committee as
13 does Ray Collins on the Denali Subsistence Resource
14 Committee, so I think it is in order that we help Jack
15 out on this issue.

16

17 There is a motion on the floor, it has
18 been seconded, any further discussion.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, all those in favor
23 of Special Action Request WSA04-04 signify by saying aye.

24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

28

29 (No opposing votes)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank
32 you.

33

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

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings
39 us up to the .805(c) letter, which is Page 187. This
40 again is similar to your annual report response, this is
41 directly from the Board to you on the actions that they
42 took with your recommendations on wildlife proposals at
43 your last meeting. I think I'll leave it up to you to
44 review it to see if you have any questions. But again
45 it's required in ANILCA that if the Board does not follow
46 your recommendation it has to provide in writing their
47 reasoning as to why they didn't follow this.

48

49 We have expanded that for many years now
50 to include all actions that you've taken before the Board

1 on proposals. So with that it starts on Page 187.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince.

6

7 Proposal WP04-01, for the public
8 information, I believe that there were three Regional
9 Councils, Subsistence Councils that acted and accepted
10 the sale of handicraft items from bears. There was
11 Eastern, Bristol Bay and Southeast, right?

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: (Nods affirmatively)

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: The reason that I'm
16 talking about this right now is I started getting phone
17 calls, I started getting faxes, the State, Alaska
18 Department of Fish and Game is reconsidering everything
19 that these three Regional Councils passed. Do you have
20 anything new to add on that?

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we have
23 that further on on the agenda, a report on the request
24 for reconsideration by the State, it's for information
25 only but we will be presenting that later on the agenda.
26 We have a full write up from the State on their
27 reasonings for their request for reconsideration.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, if it's on the
30 agenda, fine. What else are we looking for on this?

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Well, just so you're aware
33 of this response letter, you should have received it in
34 the mail, this is your report card back from the Board.
35 You said we wanted this, the Board did what with that and
36 then a summary of those proposals. That's all. You'll
37 receive one after this process.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Vince, next
40 item.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings
43 us up into an area, let me doublecheck here, call for
44 proposals for 2005/2006. Emmitt Peters has approached me
45 because of concerns from the Ruby area that he may want
46 to talk to you about a proposal for his area, and this
47 would be the time to discuss it, on that. So anyone else
48 that has proposals may want to bring them up, and, again,
49 they can bring them up to the Council here and the
50 Council can say, well, we'll comment them on the next

1 meeting or you can make a parallel proposal or you could
2 say we'll submit it under our name.

3

4 Tom Kron just gave me the form and we can
5 help you fill that out. For those that want to do it
6 individually there's plenty of Staff here that are also
7 willing to help you write proposals. The due date for
8 submitting proposals is October 22nd. That's it. So
9 right now maybe Emmitt would like to discuss the concerns
10 from Ruby.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Emmitt. Then Tom.

13

14 MR. PETERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I was
15 real concerned about the hunting regulations up there and
16 we didn't have any check station at Yuki there, the mouth
17 of the Yuki. They did have a check station there but I
18 guess the funding is no they no longer have any money to
19 pay anybody there. But I was wondering if we could try
20 to find a way to have somebody there, a check station,
21 because this year we had three moose killed there and
22 they just took the quarters and the antlers and left
23 everything there. And because there's nobody to check
24 them out. And these guys that come all the way down from
25 Fairbanks and they got this jet unit, boat, high powered
26 boats, and they go up the Yuki as far as they can. And
27 another thing, too, is they even had a plane come in from
28 Kenai, they were helping out these people with gas. In
29 other words they were flying in, with a pontoon plane on
30 the lake there and I happen to be there because I was
31 looking for a moose myself and they just landed there and
32 I walked out and they were surprised to see me there,
33 they were just going to unload their gas, I should have
34 waited a little longer.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. PETERS: I would have had some free
39 gas then. But they loaded up their gas can and took off.
40 So we need to put this to a stop. And I'm wondering how
41 can we go about this. Geoff, you or somebody in Galena
42 notice that or did you hear anything about that?

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Geoff. While Geoff is
45 coming up here I would like to let the public know what
46 happened on the Koyukuk River Moose Working Group. It
47 was just so successful, that Willie Goodwin of Kotzebue,
48 he used to be Chairman of the Northwest Arctic
49 Subsistence Council told me, God Damn you, you sent them
50 all up my way, because you displace hunters you displace

1 them. What happened here was we utilized the Koyukuk
2 River Moose Working Plan and we -- all of Emmitt Peters
3 land, Nowitna and all those areas we introduced those
4 regulations to include all of Ruby area and Galena area
5 but I think we forgot to allocate some money to set up
6 some check stations.

7
8
9

Go ahead, Geoff.

10 MR. BEYERSDORF: Mr. Chair. Member
11 Peters. You and I did talk about this a bit yesterday
12 and that area on the Yuki is State land so on the Federal
13 side we don't have any authority that's why we don't have
14 a check station there. I can go back and talk to Glenn
15 as far as your concerns and a check station being placed
16 on the Yuki. I would imagine that what's going to happen
17 with the State's budget the way it is right now that
18 that's going to be fairly difficult to try and get monies
19 for that. I don't know if there's any way to work
20 through the Tribal Council, because Nulato has brought up
21 some similar concerns and there has been talk of the
22 Tribal Councils somehow being able to come up with some
23 monies and Staff to be able to monitor that.

24
25

And I guess the other thing, with your
26 concerns, as far as it sounded like there was some waste
27 issues that were going on on the Yuki, that happened in
28 2003 also and people from that area didn't let any of us
29 know until after the season and it's very difficult for
30 us to be able to go out and do anything at that point.
31 So I would encourage you, if you see something like that
32 occurring, I mean you know where I am -- I mean in
33 September I'm always at the check station but I have
34 means of contacting law enforcement both at the Federal
35 and at the State level, so when you do see something like
36 that occurring, if you can let us know immediately then
37 we can take actions on that.

38
39
40

MR. PETERS: Yes, thank you very much.

41
42

CHAIRMAN SAM: Microphone.

43 MR. PETERS: Excuse me. Thank you very
44 much Geoff and I would like you to come to Ruby and
45 explain it to the Ruby Tribal Council so they can
46 understand what we are talking about here at this meeting
47 and what we can do. We need Holly [sic] to come up there
48 and dig into the government's pockets and come up with
49 the funding.

50

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MR. PETERS: Thank you.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, this discussion is
6 just calling for wildlife proposals, Vince, and I think
7 that's duly noted that we will address this issue, if I
8 understand Emmitt right, his proposal would be to just
9 find some funding to establish a check station at the
10 mouth of the Yuki. Right?
11
12 MR. PETERS: (Nods affirmatively)
13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, go ahead, Vince.
15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Emmitt, you also mentioned
17 that the Ruby Tribal Council wanted to extend the moose
18 season by a week, I don't know if that's still a viable
19 concern or not?
20
21 MR. PETERS: Mr. Chairman. Yes, they
22 would like to see it extended until the first of October
23 because of -- well, it was warm weather, warm climate and
24 it's just tough for anybody to get any moose at that
25 early season there.
26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Emmitt. I
28 think that's what we did up there but you can do that by
29 just simply requesting managers of the wildlife Refuge to
30 either grant it or just extend the season automatically.
31 I don't think that anything of this nature will go year
32 after year.
33
34 Tommy.
35
36 MR. KRISKA: Well, I got puzzled there
37 now that you said that. I was just wondering like, you
38 know, how they have emergency fish openings, like now
39 days the fish is early, late, I don't know, but I was
40 just thinking I don't know how the Federal or the State
41 can ever do something with the regulations to move the
42 season later or, you know, to adjust to what's going on
43 today, I don't know.
44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that we, as a
46 Council, can introduce a proposal to change those dates.
47 We can do that, I think, but whether it's accepted or
48 not, you know, it's a different story. Geoff.
49
50 MR. BEYERSDORF: I guess, Tommy, just to

1 clarify, do you mean like within that season, like with
2 in-season fisheries management they can make different
3 schedules, they can adjust things, that if there's a
4 particular bad year, like this year we all know was a
5 very low water year, are you asking if they can adjust
6 that; is that correct, is that what you're asking?

7
8 MR. KRISKA: Yes. And not just for only
9 our unit. I mean if you look at the whole situation it's
10 throughout almost the whole state.

11
12 MR. BEYERSDORF: What I know occurred
13 that Allakaket, my understanding, they at the Federal and
14 State level asked for an extension. The State denied the
15 extension but the Federal did offer an extension. So if,
16 like let's say the Koyukuk Tribal Council wanted to put
17 forth a request to extend the Federal season, I know
18 Emmitt it sounded like you talked about trying to do
19 that, to October 1st, I mean it's already beyond that but
20 you can put that, I believe it's a special action request
21 or an emergency action to have those seasons extended
22 within this time period.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that we're not
25 asking per se for an extension, I think Tommy just wanted
26 to change the dates of the moose season, that's right?

27
28 MR. KRISKA: Okay. Well, that's what I'm
29 saying here. I don't personally -- I'm saying this for
30 subsistence only, not just because no one got moose, I
31 don't want it open for trophy hunters and everybody else,
32 I mean it's just for subsistence only. I'm not trying to
33 extend it for everybody else, just the subsistence users
34 only.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, just to make it clear
39 let me reinforce what Geoff was saying. If we're in the
40 season you can submit a special action to the Federal
41 Board to ask it to adjust the season. You can submit an
42 emergency order request to the State within that year to
43 move things around. If Ruby Traditional Council wants to
44 permanently have for, you know, down the road to have it
45 end on October 1st, then right now you need to submit a
46 proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board asking it to
47 change the ending date to October 1st. That's on the
48 Federal side. I don't have the schedule with me for the
49 Board of Game if you want to do it on the Board of Game
50 side. So right now it might be best, not for the

1 Council, but for Emmitt and other Staff to work with the
2 Ruby Traditional Council to find out exactly what they
3 want and then -- because we got enough time there before
4 October 22nd to work it out for a change that would be in
5 the book itself.

6
7 All these other changes we talked about
8 are ones that we send you by a news release that now the
9 season has changed. So to get that clear, you're right
10 at that same point for starting a whole new proposal.

11
12 MR. PETERS: Mr. Chairman.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Emmitt.

15
16 MR. PETERS: I think you explained it
17 well there and I need to -- do I have to get with Geoff
18 there to make this change or what?

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: No, you don't have to have
21 Geoff there, I think what I'm saying is we're not clear
22 what Ruby wants so we need to get together with Ruby to
23 find out really what they want and explain to them what
24 is available and then go forward from there. So that can
25 be a phone call, it could be whatever on that, but it's
26 not clear to me what Ruby wants. And so I think we need
27 to give some time to find out what they really want.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's the gist I'm
30 getting too. Just for your information, I just picked up
31 the phone, called Vince, on the Federal side, Kanuti
32 Controlled Use area and we got it extended by a week. By
33 the time the State responded we had two days left on the
34 extension anyway. So I don't know what the State
35 constitutes an emergency, but it wasn't an emergency, all
36 we asked for was that week of extension of moose hunting
37 season because there was no harvest and the Feds granted
38 it immediately, in what, a day and a half, but if you try
39 to deal with the State on any kind of extension -- you
40 can deal with them if you knock off five or 10 days of
41 that season early, just tack it on the other end, that
42 way they can understand, that one they will go for, but
43 to extend the season it's a total different story. As
44 far as the State's concern I don't think there's every an
45 emergency for subsistence.

46
47 Geoff.

48
49 MR. BEYERSDORF: Mr. Chair. Member
50 Peters, what I understand then is when you and I get

1 back, I can contact you in Ruby and find out what the
2 Ruby Traditional Council would like and then I can help
3 craft a Federal proposal before this October 22nd
4 deadline. So if that is, indeed, what you want you and I
5 can sit down this next week and do that.

6

7 MR. PETERS: That'd be fine, thank you.

8

9 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

12

13 MR. COLLINS: I think on the State side
14 they dealt with Interior regulations for moose last
15 spring and it's going to be two years before they come up
16 again, I think that's their schedule.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it'll be 2006, and
19 Dan LaPlant knows more about that than I do.

20

21 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Yeah.

22

23 MR. LAPLANT: That's correct, the Board
24 of Game will be addressing those issues in March of 2006
25 so the deadline for the Board of Game proposals for that
26 would be probably around December or January, December
27 2005, something like that.

28

29 MR. COLLINS: Right.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, we're just calling
32 for wildlife proposals, I'm glad some of these issues
33 come out. All we're doing right now is laying down the
34 groundwork for the basis of our proposals.

35

36 Benedict.

37

38 MR. JONES: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
39 Chairman. On our local Advisory Board Committee we took
40 action on this extension on the winter season due to the
41 cold weather but that's different than the summer/fall
42 hunt so Glenn Stout, the local biologist, took our
43 request that we move the dates around from October 10 to
44 15 to something like that, so he has that authority to
45 change those opening dates on the winter hunt.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. Tom,
50 there was a reason you came up here?

1 (Laughter)
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.
4
5 MR. KRON: Vince had me on the agenda to,
6 you know, be here as you talked about possible wildlife
7 proposals, and, again, as already has been stated the
8 wildlife proposals for this next cycle need to be
9 developed and turned in here this month and the date was
10 by October.....
11
12 MR. MATHEWS: October 22nd.
13
14 MR. KRON:22nd. Anyway, I was here
15 to help -- you know, again, there's Staff here for your
16 meeting that are willing to help you if you want to draft
17 proposals, you can draft them at this meeting or you
18 draft them between now and the deadline.
19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just to answer that, we
23 called for a meeting at Ruby three or four years in a
24 row, Iditarod busted us out, threw us out, if we call
25 another meeting we'll just run over Iditarod this time.
26
27 But Ruby, Kaltag, I think is the other
28 village that we barely hear from them so I'm glad that
29 Ruby is represented at this time, and so is Kaltag by Pat
30 Madros.
31
32 Call for proposals. Vince.
33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I
35 apologize, Wennona, I lean on her so much and she was not
36 able to make it here. Kanuti is submitting a Federal
37 proposal and there's copy of it here that I believe she
38 wanted shared with you. And I believe, just by phone
39 conversations they want to have the same regulations that
40 you had in the Koyukuk Refuge where the Refuge manager
41 could call when that winter moose season in March could
42 happen, they want that same thing up in the Kanuti area.
43 So, again, I'll pass this out, it will come back to you
44 with full analysis and I apologize to Kanuti that I'm not
45 going to do as thorough job as Wennona would do, but
46 basically they're going to put forward that proposal and
47 wanted to inform you of it.
48
49 This is for the area up around Allakaket.
50 So if you have questions we'll work through it as you see

1 it. But she did provide copies of it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: For the public's
4 information because the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge, Kanuti
5 Controlled Use area, Gates of the Arctic and all the
6 State and private lands was in the area of Allakaket, we
7 have so many rules and regulations, like I said, don't
8 scratch my back, I won't scratch yours.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's just right within the
13 village area, the complexities and we live and deal with
14 it as long as we report all our harvest and the area that
15 we harvest, that's about all we're doing.

16

17 I did ask Kanuti Wildlife Refuge manager
18 and their Staff to hold a meeting to address the
19 complexities of the moose regulations within our area.
20 We had a meeting about two weeks before the moose season
21 opened at home, so I think this is where this is coming
22 from and like Vince said, it's too late to deal with it
23 right now but it is being introduced and this is just for
24 your information. For the public's information, we had a
25 meeting at Huslia's to address the March hunt. We stayed
26 there until 11:00 o'clock both nights that we met and
27 they were adamant about getting one moose either sex, and
28 I we passed that. It took me about two and a half to
29 three hours to argue that point before the Federal
30 Subsistence Board and they finally agreed to it because
31 of the numbers of moose.

32

33 Again, we're in the middle of just
34 calling for proposals not to discuss them, right?

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Right. Mr. Chairman, I
37 don't know of any other proposals. If there's other
38 Staff here from the other agencies that know, this just
39 gives you a head's up on them, you don't do anything with
40 them unless you want to ask questions. But I don't know
41 of any others from any of the other agencies. And, of
42 course, you'll get the book when they're all published.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

45

46 MR. REAKOFF: Gates of the Arctic
47 Subsistence Resource Commission was working with the Park
48 Service Staff on addressing some season adjustments for
49 antlerless moose in Gates of the Arctic Park, and so this
50 language was worked out at our last SRC meeting in

1 Fairbanks in, I believe, it was April, and I would like
2 to submit this proposal to be included in our proposal
3 packet.

4
5 This incorporates quite a bit of the
6 language that the SRC worked out and felt this proposal
7 that I just seen from Kanuti diverges from this proposal,
8 it would seem to be almost redundant but it's not so I
9 would like to submit this, the Gates of the Arctic
10 Resource Commission proposal at this time. So that will
11 be up for review at our spring meeting with the Council.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Just
14 submit all of them like we did on the driftnet fisheries,
15 just keep submitting.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: One of them will go
20 through one of these days.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: So I understand correctly
27 that's Gates of Arctic that's the author of that
28 proposal, and it's being submitted here under their name?

29
30 MR. REAKOFF: (Nods affirmatively)

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Correct, okay. So we'll
33 get it into the system and it will be back before you.
34 So we'll make copies to make sure it gets to Anchorage
35 and gets in the process.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does that conclude call
40 for 05/06 wildlife proposals? Tom.

41
42 MR. KRON: Yes, Mr. Chair, unless others
43 have proposals they'd like to discuss with you.

44
45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the next
50 topics would be OSM, Office of Subsistence Management

1 reports. And Tom is -- if I remember correctly Tom is
2 doing them all so they're all there in your book. These
3 are important ones. You've already talked about predator
4 management several times so I don't want to do that, and
5 then you also talked about the handicrafts of bear fur
6 and that so these are really timely to your earlier
7 discussion.

8

9 So with that, Tom Kron, will be
10 presenting with Dan LaPlant, the predator management
11 policy.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time the Chair
14 will reiterate that we invited the public to listen in on
15 this subject, the predator management policy, which I
16 discussed briefly. We have both Tom Kron and Dan LaPlant
17 up on the hot seats, but before we begin I have a request
18 for 15 minutes coffee break, smoke break.

19

20 Okay, break.

21

22 (Off record)

23

24 (On record)

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, if we could find our
27 seats, I would like to reconvene.

28

29 (Pause)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I would like
32 to call the meeting back to order.

33

34 (Pause)

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: For the public's
37 information Robert just informed me that lunch will be
38 sandwiches and soup at 12:00?

39

40 MR. WALKER: Yes.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Robert
43 for taking care of all of us.

44

45 Before we begin with Predator Management
46 Policy, George has asked for a minute, and as Chair I
47 will grant George Siavelis one minute on Proposal 08.

48

49 MR. SIAVELIS: Proposal 08.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, go ahead.

2

3 MR. SIAVELIS: Okay, thank you, Mr.
4 Chair. Regarding Proposal 08 I just wanted to go on
5 record at the time of the -- since we voted on it, since
6 I voted on it I've learned some additional information
7 and I just want to be on record that I'm uncomfortable
8 with -- and maybe I'm reading the ANILCA law wrong, but
9 I'm uncomfortable with some blanket -- some of these
10 blanket C&T determinations, you know, for entire
11 drainages that are, you know, huge. I feel like in order
12 -- you know, based on the eight criteria to give you a
13 positive C&T determination for a resource in an area,
14 that in order to comply with three, I just feel like --
15 as it regards to Proposal 08, I don't feel that it
16 complies with -- that a positive C&T for villages that
17 are, you know, hundreds of miles down river, I don't feel
18 that it complies with number 3 to give them a positive
19 C&T. And just by the same token, I don't feel that we in
20 Aniak should get a positive C&T for rainbow trout, for
21 example, on the Kiseralik River or way down there, you
22 know, both ways.

23

24 I'm just uncomfortable with that and I
25 wanted to be on record that I'm growing more and more
26 uncomfortable with that blanket type thing.

27

28 I'm adamantly in favor of the positive
29 C&T for rainbow trout for Bethel and those villages for
30 the rivers down there and for the middle Kuskokwim
31 villages receiving a C&T for their rivers in their area.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, George. I
36 think that when we discussed this issue, this policy,
37 yesterday, that we knew that this is more an introductory
38 issue more than anything else and further on down the
39 road we will deal with it as numbers are shown and needs
40 are shown because as Chair of Western Interior I feel
41 compelled to introduce any issue, any policy that grants
42 any kind of positive subsistence activities. So until
43 numbers show us wrong, I think that it will stay on the
44 record.

45

46 And discussing this briefly last night
47 with some other Council members, we know that for a fact
48 that until there are other numbers or other things that
49 gives us different directions, we just wanted to
50 introduce this as a positive thing at this time and then

1 it will be dealt with on down the road. And that's the
2 way -- you'll notice that when we deal with proposals, we
3 always -- it is Western Interior Regional Subsistence
4 Council's policy to introduce everything on the positive
5 side and then we vote it up or down, and that's the way
6 we work and if there's different issues that prove us
7 wrong we'll deal with it at that time.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 You are on record, and thank you for
12 that.

13

14 Now, we're back to Predator Management
15 Policy.

16

17 MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman. Members of
18 the Council. My name is Dan LaPlant, and I've just got a
19 briefing for you on the Predator Management Policy.
20 There's a briefing on Page 195 of your book, it's a half
21 page statement there explaining what the Federal
22 Subsistence Board did and then the following page, on
23 Page 196, is the actual Predator Management Policy that
24 the Board passed.

25

26 If you remember last meeting, it was in
27 February or March, your last meeting winter, but we came
28 to you with a draft Predator Management Policy and asked
29 for comments that we could take to the Federal
30 Subsistence Board and at that time two Councils, the
31 Western Interior Council and the YK Council provided some
32 suggested language changes to the draft Policy. So we
33 took those recommendations to the Board in May and when
34 they met in May they incorporated those changes that were
35 requested by the Western Interior and the Yukon Delta
36 Councils, they incorporated those into the Policy
37 statement, and passed that Policy.

38

39 And basically those requests were to have
40 the Board state in their policy that they recognized that
41 predator management is a legitimate wildlife management
42 tool and it is appropriate to be used at certain times
43 when certain conditions are met. So if you look at the
44 policy on Page 196, the statements that they actually
45 modified as a result of your input is the last sentence
46 on that first paragraph where it says, in addition.

47

48 It says, in addition the Board recognizes
49 that predator control may be an important
50 management tool on some State public

1 lands for restoring prey populations to
2 provide for subsistence needs where
3 predation has reduced or held prey
4 populations at levels significantly below
5 historical levels of abundance.
6

7 So the Board recognizes that and, again,
8 incorporated that into their statement here.
9

10 The other change that they made to that
11 draft Policy is down under Paragraph B under the Policy
12 itself and it'd be about, I guess, the second paragraph
13 under Paragraph B which starts out:
14

15 Where predators have been determined to
16 be a major contributing factor in the
17 significant reduction of ungulate
18 populations important for subsistence use
19 or in the chronic suppression of such
20 populations at low densities, the Board
21 will endorse timely affirmative and
22 effective action consistent with each
23 respective agency's policies and
24 management objectives to reduce predator
25 populations and allow affected ungulate
26 populations to recover.
27

28 So those are the two changes the Board
29 made to their policy statement based on input from this
30 Council and the YK-Delta Council.
31

32 But with that said, the Policy of the
33 Board here relative to predators is still, I guess it can
34 be summarized -- you can read the whole Policy statement
35 here but probably the most significant statement in this
36 whole thing is that last sentence of the second paragraph
37 where it says:
38

39 Wildlife management activities on Federal
40 lands, other than the subsistence take
41 and use of fish and wildlife, such as
42 predator control and habitat management,
43 are the responsibilities of and remain
44 with the authority of the individual land
45 management agencies.
46

47 So the Board is saying that they don't
48 have the authority to implement predator control on
49 Federal lands. It wasn't one of the authorities that the
50 Secretary of Interior or Secretary of Agriculture gave to

1 the Federal Subsistence Board. The Federal Subsistence
2 Board has got the authority to set seasons and harvest
3 limits, methods and means, customary and traditional use
4 determinations for the subsistence harvest of wildlife
5 resources, fish and wildlife resources, but to
6 incorporate predator control, that is the responsibility
7 that the Secretary left with the individual land
8 management agencies. And they put that in the same
9 category as habitat management, the Federal Board doesn't
10 have the authority to conduct habitat management on
11 Federal lands either.

12
13 So those three statements in the Policy
14 itself, Paragraphs A, B and C, explain what the Board
15 will do when they receive proposals relative to predator
16 control or predator management.

17
18 And the first paragraph, Paragraph A
19 basically says that if they receive a proposal to adjust
20 the harvest limits of predators and if it is for
21 subsistence use of that species, they'll treat it like
22 any other proposal and they'll take public input and make
23 their decision based upon subsistence use of that
24 species.

25
26 And Paragraph B, basically what they're
27 saying is if the proposal is specifically asking for
28 predator control, that they will refer that proposal to
29 the appropriate land managing agency, whether it be the
30 Refuge, BLM, Forest Service, whatever, and they'll work
31 with the proponent to make sure that the appropriate
32 agency that has responsibility will receive that proposal
33 and that can be dealt with under those regulations.

34
35 And then the last paragraph says that to
36 ensure that appropriate Councils are informed of these
37 proposals that come in that affect resources in your
38 area, we will make sure that at the next appropriate
39 Council meeting we inform the Council that we did receive
40 proposals dealing with predator management and let you
41 know what the concerns were so that you can work with
42 subsistence users in your area to find the proper avenue
43 to have those addressed.

44
45 But basically that is the Policy that the
46 Board passed at their May meeting, and the most
47 significant point here, the take home message is that the
48 Board recognizes that they don't have the authority, they
49 weren't given the authority by the Secretary to implement
50 predator control, that remains with the individual land

1 management agencies and, of course, the State of Alaska
2 has taken several steps to do predator control and it's
3 up to the individual agencies to work with the State to
4 incorporate that on the lands that they have
5 responsibility for.

6

7 Mr. Chairman.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Vince, this is on
10 the agenda, is this any type of action required?

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chair. All these
13 topics that are here are just basically for information
14 to get you up to speed. Obviously if you have comments
15 or something we're going to listen to them, but they
16 weren't placed on the agenda as action items. They're
17 basically informational items.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: The reason I ask is just
20 because we have some local people here that expressed
21 concerns about predator control. We have Rudy and Ken
22 Chase back there and we are on record as informing them
23 of the Predator Management Policy, that it would be
24 forthcoming, and I just wanted to -- since they're
25 hosting this meeting, I just wanted to know if they had
26 any questions or anything.

27

28 Any questions.

29

30 MR. CHASE: I got a lot of questions.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MR. CHASE: I don't really where to
35 start, but the concerns, I guess. You know you have a
36 problem and then we look for solutions and I don't -- I
37 always try to look for solutions to a lot of our
38 problems, and one of them, you know, this past year we've
39 seen the State implement a program in McGrath and I
40 understand they're expanding it down to the Kaltag area
41 this year, and we're basically tied in with both ends,
42 you know, with up Innoko River and the Holy Cross area
43 tied in with close to Aniak, and Kalskag area for
44 predator, and we've had lots of problems this year, not
45 only with wolves but with bears. And, you know, I fly
46 around a lot here and I've noticed and just off hand, the
47 moose cow/calf ratio, right now I bet in this area,
48 between here and Holy Cross we don't have 10 calves to
49 100 cows. And that's not an exaggeration. I've seen six
50 or seven cows with no calves, you know, and that's due a

1 lot, I think to spring bear.

2

3 You know, maybe the State -- last year we
4 lost 15 dogs here in the village, I lost five of my
5 racing dogs to wolves right in the village, and they seem
6 to develop a taste for certain animals, you know, and
7 they did to dogs last spring.

8

9 So I guess in saying that, the areas
10 around the villages last year took really a lot of wolf
11 kills and I don't know if the Innoko management -- I
12 never seen anything but I'd like to request that the
13 number of wolf kills reported by people, you know, that
14 we turn them into the management area and they can come
15 out with a report and show the public how much we're
16 really losing, you know, in the fight with the predator
17 control. I haven't seen that, and I haven't seen any
18 bear population reports either taken in this area in the
19 last two or three years.

20

21 So I guess what I'm saying is, any
22 program that we can get to help us on this would be more
23 than welcome, I don't know what else to say.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Dan.

26

27 MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman. I guess I'd
28 just like to kind of repeat a little bit what I said
29 earlier, you know, the State has really got the lead in
30 predator control and they have been taking steps in the
31 recent past, as you mentioned, in Unit 19(A) and (B) to
32 implement some predator control and in some other regions
33 in the state so they've really got the lead in predator
34 control. And then as far as on Federal lands, each
35 individual Federal agency has their own process that they
36 would go through to -- whether to either team up with the
37 State to implement the State's decision to do predator
38 control or to implement their own predator control. I
39 know BLM's process would be a little bit different than
40 what the Refuge would be or what Park lands would be.

41

42 So I guess the key recommendation here is
43 to continue working with the State and they're willing to
44 take those actions where necessary and they have the
45 authority to do so and that would be the path to be
46 pursuing for those concerns right now.

47

48 MR. CHASE: Uh-huh.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

1 MR. WALKER: No, Vince.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chase,
4 your timing is perfect, the stars are lining up, what I'm
5 getting at is that 21(E) moose planning effort would be
6 the time to tackle all these issues. Why do I say that,
7 Dan has laid it out already that we don't have those
8 particular tools in our tool bag to do that. The State
9 does. And the planning process allows to address all
10 those different components of the make up. So it would
11 be best for you and leaders throughout the GASH area to
12 pay close attention and high participation in that
13 planning process.

14

15 At least throughout the beginning of it,
16 if not through the end, because that's going to be the
17 catalyst to address the issues of who could hunt up
18 there, that's a C&T issue, which has been going on and
19 on, but this Council and the Federal Board had to address
20 expanding the Controlled Use Area, which you were
21 involved in getting the first one established. So if you
22 line all these stars up, it's all coming in your
23 direction. That planning process is the one to keep the
24 energy in and encourage your local representatives to sit
25 through it. And I'd encourage you to talk to Ron and
26 Jack and Benedict, there's times where it's really
27 difficult to sit there, but they can tell you what
28 happened once they did sit there and where it went.

29

30 So hopefully you can do that. So that is
31 the mechanism. And then finally, Ken, you know this very
32 well, accountability. The plan provides accountability
33 and you can just keep bringing that up throughout the
34 process. So I wish Randy was here because I'm giving him
35 all the pat's on the back, but seriously the planning
36 process has helped us for Unit 19(A), it helped us for
37 Yukon Flats, Unit 25 and it helped us, as you've seen
38 repeatedly, the Koyukuk River area. It's not perfect but
39 it's a heck of a lot better than these little proposals
40 going back and forth and all this other stuff.

41

42 So participate, collect as much
43 information as you can from your local elders and others
44 on that and bring that forth to that planning process.
45 If the local communities do not then the plan will not be
46 strong enough and Ron said that earlier and I want to
47 reemphasize that, the Tribal Councils for the Koyukuk
48 River in general supported that and that also kept it
49 going, they'd send representatives. So with that I think
50 you just got to take a longer breath to wait for this

1 planning process to develop it's completeness.

2

3 MR. CHASE: Thank you, Vince. Thank you,
4 Mr. Chair.

5

6 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

9

10 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, there is something,
11 however, in this Policy statement that I would like to
12 point out and have them think about. I still have a
13 problem with that first paragraph there, and it says that
14 the Board recognizes that it may be an appropriate
15 management tool on some lands to restore prey populations
16 to provide for subsistence needs.

17

18 It's this whole idea -- I don't even like
19 the word, predator control. To my mind those Federal
20 agencies have some responsibility to maintain viable
21 healthy game populations. And what happens with the
22 predator populations is at some point the wolf and the
23 bear population starts going up and the prey population
24 starts going down and you see calf survival is one
25 indication of that, you know, they're not recruiting
26 enough young ones in there, and this policy implemented
27 in this manner would mean you've got to wait until the
28 populations fall to a low level and then that predation
29 is holding it there before you do anything.

30

31 To my mind, when you see the things
32 changing as Ken mentioned already with the calf survival
33 there, they ought to at least be doing a survey of what
34 is the prey population, what is the moose and bear
35 population, are they the ones that are causing the low
36 calf survival so we've got that information. Then the
37 question would be, okay, how do we increase the harvest
38 of those prey animals, how do we increase harvest of
39 bears, and I know in our experience in the McGrath area,
40 we had work shops on training local people to become more
41 effective in trapping and so on and encouraging that.
42 We've heard up in the Koyukuk that the local villages
43 took responsibility and they started monitoring those
44 packs and going after them. But if that's not being done
45 you've got to do something to increase the harvest of
46 those predators if you're going to maintain, you
47 shouldn't wait until it gets to the bottom.

48

49 And so we need to talk about harvest of
50 those predators, not controlling them per se with a big

1 program. And at least the agencies could be giving us
2 accurate information on what's happening to those
3 populations so we got a clear picture of what's going on,
4 not wait until it gets to the bottom. Because you still
5 got healthy numbers of cows over here, if the calves were
6 surviving there would be enough calves to feed people and
7 recruitment but it won't -- that population's got to
8 start falling if you're not getting recruitment.

9
10 So I would feel better if there was some
11 word in there about maintaining healthy populations, not
12 restoring, you see what I mean, there's a difference in
13 that, and I think that concept ought to be looked at some
14 wording to that effect, of maintaining healthy
15 populations, not just -- and it can state for subsistence
16 purposes, but I think there ought to be more
17 responsibility then of the managers of those to be
18 monitoring those populations and know what's going on,
19 not wait until they get to the bottom.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. I think
24 you reiterated what I said about 10 to 20 years ago, the
25 only time they'll take any -- the State or the Feds will
26 take any kind of action is when we run out of moose, then
27 they'll really take some action.

28
29 Tommy.

30
31 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, I think there's this
32 State policy, there's Federal policy and then for some of
33 us there's our own policy, I guess. For me, I've been
34 going out there and getting rid of a lot of these
35 predators myself. And like Collins said there, you can't
36 wait until all these animals go down, I mean you can't do
37 it, I mean I spend a lot of my own money going out there
38 every year and there's at least 20 wolves a year average,
39 just on my own for 10 -- these last 10 years, 10 or 12
40 years, I shot over 200 wolves in that Koyukuk River area
41 and it's all out of my own pocket, I'm not waiting for
42 anybody to do it and I just advise the rest of you people
43 in the Interior, the lower and the upper river, you guys
44 are going to have to get out there and do it ourselves
45 and not wait. Like he said, if we wait and all of this
46 stuff, it's just going to go down to nothing.

47
48 I mean there's a lot of people out there
49 that love to have fun, I mean it's a lot of good
50 experience to be doing stuff like that. I mean just wish

1 there was funding for it, but there probably never will
2 be, and I'm just going to have to tell you like it is,
3 you're just going to have to go out there and pretty much
4 do it yourself.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tommy. The
9 State has finally found some funding for controlling in
10 McGrath area and what the Glennallen area and then
11 there's a possibility of introducing it but I think it's
12 one of these issues that you have to watch closely and
13 monitor.

14
15 Carl, and then Benedict.

16
17 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
18 Chairman.

19
20 You know, I think the State's trying to
21 do, and taking the lead on this, but you've got to
22 realize too that the only State that the place can take
23 the lead and do their stuff is only on State land. And
24 you heard that from Robert Sundown earlier this morning,
25 Ken asked him a very vital and very good question, I'd
26 like to ask you why you're not stepping up and taking
27 this predator control issue very seriously, it's because
28 of public opinion, not in the state of Alaska but he said
29 other -- in the rest of the U.S., if we look at all these
30 Federal lands, it's all public land which is controlled
31 by the public. Where's most of the public in Federal
32 land, in the lower 48. And basically what the Federal
33 Board is telling us in these three criteria is that they
34 have no power to implement or even do a predator control.
35 And then that just tells me then we don't have no power
36 as an Advisory to implement control.

37
38 All the power is right here, what the
39 Board says, the Federal Board says is each individual
40 manager that control, whether it be the BLM land, the
41 Park Service, and I would like to see if we can -- I'd
42 like to see who else is their boss beyond the State. I
43 mean, you know, we're going to have to go -- it seems like
44 in the future if we keep on pushing this predator
45 control, we're going to have to go beyond the state of
46 Alaska, we're going to have to go down to D.C., because
47 that's who controls the public lands in Federal lands.

48
49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl.
2 Benedict.

3
4 MR. JONES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On
5 local Advisory Board in Middle Yukon, Koyukuk Controlled
6 Use area, we advised the general hunt permit holders to
7 take as many -- they're allowed one wolf during the moose
8 hunting season and one bear, so we encourage all the
9 sportshunters to take wolves during the moose hunting
10 season so that's been helping a little bit. And for the
11 bears, there was one year there were quite a few taken
12 for the general hunt and that survived the calf ratio
13 that year, it helped.

14
15 And going back to the territorial days, I
16 don't know what the Federal policy was to predator
17 control, when they use cyanide, if you have any record of
18 those policies back in the 50s, I would like to see it.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: So if this is not an
23 action item, what do you expect -- what are you
24 requesting from Western Interior.

25
26 MR. LAPLANT: Well, Mr. Chairman, I guess
27 as Vince said, this was just for information only so
28 we're not expecting a response from the Council at all.
29 I'd just like to emphasize, again, what Vince also said
30 was the planning process, that's really the key to this.
31 As you can see there's a lot of complex authorities and
32 regulations and there's a lot of variations as to who can
33 do what, and by working together through this planning
34 process, we can come up with some solutions and some
35 things the State can do, some things individual land
36 management agencies can do, some things the Federal Board
37 can do is as far as passing regulations to provide more
38 subsistence harvest opportunity of predators.

39
40 So by working together in a planning
41 process and identifying which regulations apply to which
42 methods, you know, need to be applied, that's the
43 solution, I think. And Office of Subsistence Management
44 is providing funding for this planning process, so we're
45 all pitching in trying to come to some solutions for
46 addressing the predator problem.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.
49 Comments. George.

50

1 MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Would this be the proper time to maybe we should consider
3 keeping predator management on the agenda or make them
4 aware to keep it on our annual report, the list of
5 subjects.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, as long as we're
8 dealing with the management policy, your request will be
9 honored that we include predator management control in
10 our annual report.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, it can
13 be put on the annual report, but the annual report is
14 basically flagging a problem to the Board and then
15 providing a suggested solution. Sometimes you can't come
16 up with a suggested solution, I understand that. So I
17 understand you want the predator management to be on the
18 annual report but what are you saying to the Board to do.

19
20 I mean I got to jump ahead here, A, as a
21 representative of the Board as saying, it's the land
22 managing agency's authority to deal with predator
23 management so what are you particularly going to ask the
24 Board, they've already told you from their studies and
25 analysis they don't have authority to address that.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: George.

28
29 MR. SIAVELIS: Well, I thought at this
30 point we were just naming some subjects that we wanted
31 the Staff to be aware that we were.....

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, okay.

34
35 MR. SIAVELIS:and then when.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: We're not finalizing it
38 yet.

39
40 MR. SIAVELIS: Yeah, exactly, we're not
41 finalizing it.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that's what I was
44 looking at, too, before, is just introduce the issues and
45 then we finalize it at our next meeting.

46
47 Anybody else. I thought I saw some
48 hands.

49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything else on Predator
2 Management Policy.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just for the general
7 public's knowledge, this is new and if you look at the
8 statements on the Federal side they're still saying we'll
9 take a hands off policy, just do it, that's pretty much
10 what it tells me, right, Tom, just take a hand's off
11 policy, you can develop all the proposals you want, you
12 can pass all the proposals you want but we'll step back
13 and let you manage the policy, too, right, pretty much?

14
15 (Laughter)

16
17 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, to respond to
18 your comment, the Policy does talk about the fact that
19 Staff would help the public, members of the Council get
20 their proposals to the appropriate agencies, help them
21 frame them and, again, Dan touched on a number of the
22 issues so I'm not sure characterizing it as hands off is
23 -- but.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Passing the buck maybe.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anybody else on Predator
30 Management Policy.

31
32 Ray.

33
34 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
35 reiterate that at a minimum, they ought to be able to
36 provide us information about how healthy the wildlife
37 populations are in their management responsibility. What
38 are the ratios between predators and prey, are they
39 really monitoring those. Because that information is
40 needed by everybody before you can do anything and
41 they're responsible for managing that unit, so put the
42 emphasis there on providing accurate information and then
43 we can talk about what could we do to increase harvest if
44 it's a problem.

45
46 Hopefully we won't get to the place where
47 we'll have crashes before we try to change the ratios, if
48 the ratios are out of whack.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. At this

1 time the Chair will recognize Innoko, final words on
2 Predator Management Policy.

3

4 MR. SCHAFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One
5 thing, it was going to be in my report on what's
6 happening on the Innoko Refuge, but probably an
7 appropriate time to mention it in light of Ken's comment
8 about bears. We are in the process right now, we will be
9 looking at next spring doing a cooperative project on
10 black bears in this immediate vicinity with Fish and Game
11 and BLM, and Innoko Refuge on black bears so that refers
12 both to Ray's and Ken's comment about population on
13 predator, at least that one particular predator.

14

15 I got some other information later but I
16 just wanted to get that on record at this point in time.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Again, you
19 will be coming up later on with your report. Anything
20 else on Predator Management Policy.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, Vince.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, then we
27 just keep walking down the list, and the next one is one
28 that you've talked about earlier, is a briefing on
29 Council correspondence policy. Again, it's just
30 informational to get everybody up to speed, what's
31 happened in response to your discussion at other
32 meetings.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tom.

35

36 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, the next
37 briefing is found on Pages 197 and 198 in your Council
38 books. Since the beginning of the Federal Subsistence
39 Program, Regional Advisory Councils have prepared
40 correspondence to entities other than the Federal
41 Subsistence Board. The Southeast Alaska Regional Council
42 asked that the Federal Subsistence Board establish a
43 formal policy concerning Regional Council correspondence.
44 The Board adopted this policy last June. The intent of
45 this policy is to ensure that Regional Advisory Councils
46 are able to correspond appropriately with other entities
47 to assist Councils to direct their concerns to others in
48 the most effective manner and to prevent any breach of
49 Department policy. The question and answer sheet on
50 Pages 199 and 200 should address many of the questions

1 that you might have about the policy.
2
3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions.
6
7 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.
10
11 MR. REAKOFF: In this policy under Item
12 7, it says the Council may submit proposed regulatory
13 changes or written comments regarding proposed regulatory
14 changes affecting subsistence uses within their region to
15 the Alaska Board of Fish and Game, Board of Game
16 directly, but under 10 it says that the Councils may not
17 correspond or by any other means of communication
18 persuade an elected or appointed official. And my
19 question is, does this policy preclude representation
20 from the Regional Councils at a Board of Fish or Board of
21 Game meeting from, of course, everybody's well aware of
22 the persuasion process that ensues with the Board
23 process, and does this preclude Council members from
24 trying to persuade the Board about certain aspects that
25 affect subsistence uses within the region.
26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tom.
28
29 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. No.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: You're getting pretty good
32 at that.
33
34 (Laughter)
35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.
37
38 (No comments)
39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: If I read No. 10 right,
41 it's more or less just a disclaimer, right, is it, that's
42 how they're used, you can do this but you will not be
43 accounted for or something.
44
45 (Laughter)
46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.
48
49 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Dan was just
50 pointing out No. 10, you know, it leads off with except

1 as noted in Item 6, 7 and 8 above, so, again, but it is
2 kind of a wrap up disclaimer.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: George.

7

8 MR. SIAVELIS: I think in No. 10 they're
9 specifically talking about Legislature, I mean that type
10 of -- to me, I think.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

15

16 MR. REAKOFF: Why I brought that question
17 up, seven only says written comments and does not give
18 provisions for oral comments.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, when this
23 correspondence policy came out as a draft my blood
24 pressure went up and that was the first thing I asked and
25 I went to the top, and it's clear the Federal Subsistence
26 Program and the Board wants Council members involved with
27 the Board of Game and the Board of Fish. There was no
28 hesitation that's why Tom said, no, period, there was no
29 hesitation to say, no, this has no effect on that
30 participation. The Board and the Program understands
31 that to make anything work we have to work both Boards.
32 So clearly -- I mean I had the same concern Jack had and
33 internally raised that and it's clear that when you
34 appoint a person to go to the Board of Fish and they
35 serve on a committee, you are not in any way restricted
36 by this correspondence policy.

37

38 You are restricted to speak for the
39 Council and make it clear to the Board when you speak as
40 an individual, I'm not ignoring that, we all know that's
41 in the background. So, yes, I had concern with this as
42 written because it's carrying it a step further, then
43 what do we do with State planning processes and et
44 cetera, and that was assured to me that this does not
45 affect when you have Robert Walker on the GASH moose
46 planning thing, he's not bound by these restrictions.

47

48 So if there are any changes on that we
49 will let you know immediately but the Board made it clear
50 that they can't do their work unless the Councils are

1 integrated within the State Board processes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: George.

4

5 MR. SIAVELIS: However, I concur with
6 Jack, I mean it says any -- a copy of any comments or
7 proposals, you know, shall be forwarded, I mean it seems
8 to sort of imply that you can't talk on the side, or at
9 least that it doesn't say -- you know, including
10 conversations, talking, lobbying, whatever.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tom.

15

16 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, I guess I would
17 look to Vince, but it seems like clarification on this
18 issue. Again, there's been discussion about it, you've
19 gotten verbal assurance from Vince on this issue and
20 myself, but, you know, if there's a need to address that
21 issue, discussion at the Board of Fish and Board of Game,
22 maybe this would be something for your annual report, to
23 get this issue clarified. Does that make sense, Vince?

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, that might be -- my
26 acting boss came up and whispered in my ear and said --
27 and we don't want to get into semantics here, that's not
28 my point of bringing this up and that's not his reason
29 for sharing it. This is a correspondence policy, this is
30 written, not communication and dialogue and I don't want
31 to get into semantics, but I was surprised how quickly
32 the answer came back, this has no impact on that. And
33 so, yeah, it might be a good one to get it cleared
34 through the annual report and the Board would officially
35 respond to your flagging here even though you've had
36 assurances from us, it might be good to get that cleared
37 up, especially as you walk into contentious Board of Fish
38 meetings and et cetera, because they might also be
39 confused, too, on what you can and can't do.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: AT this time I would like
42 you to direct this issue and see if we can include it in
43 our annual report.

44

45 Jack.

46

47 MR. REAKOFF: I just wanted to be on
48 record as getting an assurance from OSM Staff what our
49 parameters are, I'm satisfied with that oral
50 interpretation. And if we have problems in the future we

1 will address this with the annual report, but I don't --
2 with oral confirmation, I don't think that we're -- it's
3 on the record, we have a transcript from Tina of it, so I
4 feel that I'm satisfied with that right now.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Tom.

7
8 MR. KRON: Maybe just to follow up again
9 on what Vince was saying and I think a number of you know
10 this, you've attended Board of Fish and Board of Game
11 meetings as representatives of your Council, the Federal
12 Subsistence Program to participate. The intent is that
13 we want you to participate actively in the process and
14 we're providing travel support to get you to the meetings
15 to be able to do exactly that.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tom. I think
20 some of the concerns that Jack expressed, are some that I
21 share, because at times when they call the Koyukuk River
22 Advisory Committee together, sometimes they're so new,
23 that Jack and I have to step in but then we have to
24 declare that we are also sitting on the Federal
25 Subsistence Council and I think that's where his concerns
26 come out from.

27
28 So does that take care of Council
29 correspondence.

30
31 MR. KRON: (Nods affirmatively)

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go on.

34
35 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Members of the
36 Council. The next written briefing concerns subsistence
37 use amounts protocol and is found on Page 201 in your
38 Council books. This subsistence use amounts protocols
39 was identified in the 2000 Memorandum of Agreement with
40 the State of Alaska. The working group for this protocol
41 was formed in 2001. This working group is developing a
42 process for establishing subsistence use amounts in the
43 Federal Subsistence Management Program that are
44 coordinated with the State. The protocol has proven to
45 be challenging. As the working group moves through this
46 process, we will continue to provide updates and seek
47 additional information, input and feedback from the
48 Regional Advisory Councils. Any questions or suggestions
49 would be welcome at this time.

50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions for Tom.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: I have one. We have dealt
8 with -- well, both Jack and I, anyway, have dealt with
9 the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee and their numbers
10 never seem to change and it would come under subsistence
11 use amounts. Does this bring any changes or anything to
12 -- or impact us in any way or is this just a statement
13 that gives us subsistence rights, harvest?

14

15 Glenn.

16

17 MR. CHEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Glenn
18 Chen from the BIA. I'm one of the Federal members on the
19 subsistence use amounts protocol work groups and your
20 question had to do with how these numbers might change?

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. How are these
23 numbers going to change and how can we change them to --
24 or adjust them to our growing populations in any given
25 village or stuff like that?

26

27 MR. CHEN: Mr. Chair, at this time what
28 the protocol work group is involved with is trying to
29 establish some of the parameters by which we would
30 develop subsistence use amounts. We haven't yet decided
31 on a process which we would do that, and how we would
32 then use those numbers to maybe reevaluate existing, for
33 example, the State ANS numbers. There's been some
34 discussion about in some cases, perhaps, adopting State
35 ANS numbers as a starting point for the Federal SUA
36 numbers, but we haven't worked through all the details
37 about how we would, again, come up with the SUA numbers
38 themselves.

39

40 So at this point in time we're trying to
41 provide a briefing as kind of the preliminary progress on
42 this work group and, again, we haven't gotten to the
43 point of actually developing numbers.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn.
46 Anything -- hopefully this status report recognizes the
47 fact that some areas may grow and some areas may decline,
48 and that's about all I wanted, was recognition that these
49 declines -- or any kind of fluctuation, because you'll
50 have to adjust subsistence needs as needed.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

6

7 MR. REAKOFF: My comment on that is I've
8 personally witnessed the Board of Game suppressing ANS
9 numbers with data that was considered soft and to allow
10 more sport use. So I would caution OSM Staff as taking
11 that for what it's worth, the ANS numbers. Where data
12 was strong there are probably fairly good numbers, but
13 where data was soft, considered soft, those numbers were
14 highly suppressed, and I was highly annoyed by the Board
15 actions at that time because it was very apparent where
16 the direction of this allocation was going. And so I
17 would like to see a review as to whether that data was
18 actually looked at by the Board as soft or hard data.

19

20 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.

23

24 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I think there's
25 another important point, too, that we don't want to miss
26 sight of and that is that the use changes, according to
27 availability, and if we get fixed numbers in there that
28 you use so much caribou or so much moose and then all of
29 a sudden one species is down and you need to use that
30 other one more, but they say, oh, you've only been using
31 X amount, do you see what I mean, they've got to have --
32 recognize that it's going to change year to year. Like
33 use of caribou in our area was very low but then the
34 Mulchatna showed up two or three years ago, moose numbers
35 are down, people took more caribou. But that is a
36 statistic for just one period of time.

37

38 So there's an inter-relationship between
39 these numbers, you can't just keep them as separate
40 species of how much you use, and that principle should be
41 built into these numbers so that it can change, so that
42 we don't end up with a cap somewhere that's going to hurt
43 us.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. I think
46 maybe that's what I was trying to address when I said
47 numbers fluctuate, populations fluctuate. But in the old
48 days that's why our villages were established because of
49 the stableness of the moose population and/or the caribou
50 migrations. So the numbers do fluctuate but we'll still

1 need the same amount of meat, it doesn't matter if we use
2 caribou and/or moose.

3

4 Robert.

5

6 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 Tom, in 201, the second paragraph down, subsistence use
8 amounts are established based on historical subsistence
9 harvest levels that can be used an indicator or whether
10 or not subsistence users are being provided for and when
11 users, other than subsistence may need to be adjusted,
12 now this is predator control here, it's written.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. WALKER: I mean I'm not a lawyer, but
17 just read the writing here.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. WALKER: This is in black and white
22 and this is definitely something I'd like to hear an
23 answer for.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Glenn.

26

27 MR. CHEN: Mr. Walker, so if I understand
28 your question you're trying to see if there's a
29 relationship between the subsistence use amounts work
30 group protocol and the predator management policy?

31

32 MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman, I guess the
33 answer there is we haven't made that link at this time.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MR. LAPLANT: But what I think what this
38 statement is referring to is there's going to be times
39 when other uses, non-subsistence users need to be --
40 their harvest needs to be adjusted through either closure
41 of Federal lands to non-subsistence users or actions by
42 the State to adjust the State season. So what we're
43 saying there's connections there that other decisions
44 might need to be made in order to meet subsistence needs.
45 So whether it's predator control, you know, we just read
46 the policy on predator control, we haven't been making it
47 that strong of a link to predator control at this time.

48

49 MR. WALKER: Well, that's my indication
50 just reading it here, like I said, I'm not a lawyer but

1 if there was a lawyer here in the house I'd like to have
2 him or her come up with this definition here, I mean it's
3 your words written here but in my understanding it's a
4 whole different wording.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments.

7
8 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

11
12 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, this historic
13 subsistence harvest, in the area that I live in, the
14 oldtimers told me that caribou will present for 20 and 30
15 years and be gone for 20 and 30 years, so, of course,
16 when they're gone our harvests are very low for caribou.
17 I've personally witnessed this, caribou being there,
18 being gone, and now have returned.

19
20 And so what should be incorporated is TEK
21 projects to assess communities historic use of various
22 resources that they have customary and traditional uses
23 of as to the amounts necessary for -- to get ideas about
24 where those amounts necessary would be ranging.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, go ahead.

33
34 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. The next
35 written briefing is found on Page 202 of your Council
36 books, this pertains to participation in Federal
37 Subsistence Board committees. The Southeast Alaska
38 Regional Council requested that the Federal Subsistence
39 Board review Council participation on Board committees
40 and working groups. The solicitor's office undertook a
41 review of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, or FACA,
42 requirements as it relates to this issue. FACA limits
43 the membership of non-chartered committees such as the
44 protocol committees to government employees. The FACA
45 charter process and requirements for operations would
46 overburden such committees and make them ineffective.

47
48 Work on the memorandum of agreement
49 protocol committees and other Board committees and
50 working groups will continue, but without Regional

1 Council members. The Federal Subsistence Board, as you
2 know, highly values the information and advice by the
3 Regional Advisory Council and will ensure that the
4 Regional Councils are given ample opportunity to review
5 draft reports from these committees and to make
6 recommendations on those reports to the Board prior to
7 any final action.

8

9 Are there any questions about this
10 written briefing.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: I do have one. When
15 you're talking about participation on Federal Subsistence
16 Board committees, does this constitute the fish boards
17 that we -- on the Yukon and Kuskokwim?

18

19 MR. KRON: No.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair, these are those
22 protocols, remember several years ago, all the 10 Chairs
23 were asked to appoint people to these different
24 protocols, one was subsistence use amounts. Tom was
25 involved with regulatory coordination, how can we get
26 these lined up with the State, you know, exploring that.
27 Those are groups that are from the Board itself, the
28 Federal Subsistence Board, this is no relationship to the
29 Board of Fisheries when you serve on a committee, Jack's
30 done that several times, or Board of Game, when you go to
31 them. This is just the Federal Board. Regional Council
32 members cannot serve on these subgroups from all those
33 protocols. One protocol you just talked about 10 minutes
34 ago, or five minutes ago was the protocol on subsistence
35 use amounts. The appointee to that was Gerald Nicholia
36 from Eastern Interior from the 10 Chairs, he no longer
37 can serve on that protocol committee, to put it in
38 perspective.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: We can't serve so no use
45 in asking questions, uh?

46

47 MR. WALKER: Could we delete this?

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

2

3 MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman. This is a
4 briefing on the sale of handicrafts made from bear fur
5 and bear claws. On Page 203 there is a question and
6 answer sheet to respond to several questions that have
7 come up as a result of the Board's action this past May.
8 As you recall the Board did pass regulations at their May
9 meeting that allowed the sale of handicrafts made from
10 brown bear fur and the regulation for black bear had
11 already been in place since year 2002 and the proposal
12 that was before the Board in spring was to add brown bear
13 to that. And when the Board passed that regulation in
14 May, they applied the brown bear provision to only three
15 regions, the Eastern Interior, the Bristol Bay region and
16 Southeast.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, when you mentioned
19 they only included three, is that -- for my
20 clarification, I thought only Southeast, Bristol Bay and
21 the Eastern Interior were voted for inclusion on the sale
22 of bear handicraft.

23

24 MR. LAPLANT: That's correct, Mr.
25 Chairman. That's precisely why the Board modified the
26 proposal and had it apply to only those three regions
27 based on input from the Regional Councils. The other
28 Regional Councils were opposed to that proposal so the
29 Board modified it so that it only applies to those three
30 regions. The original proposal was to have it allowed
31 state-wide, but based on Council input, they modified it
32 so they passed it only for those three regions.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman, a little bit
39 more explanation, if I could please.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

42

43 MR. LAPLANT: One of the major
44 differences between the Federal regulation, this new
45 Federal regulation then and the State regulation, the
46 State passed a similar regulation at the Board of Game
47 meeting in March in Fairbanks allowing the sale of brown
48 bear fur that were made into handicrafts. The major
49 difference is that we have a definition of fur in Federal
50 regulations that differs from the State regulation and

1 our definition of fur includes claws, claws attached.
2 And so what the Federal Board's decision did was allow
3 the sale of brown bear fur with claws attached to be sold
4 after they're made into handicrafts and of course it
5 applies to black bear as well state-wide, just raised a
6 lot of questions and there's a lot of confusion because
7 the State regulations and the Federal regulations differ
8 on the claw issue.

9
10 So this question and answer sheet was
11 designed to answer those questions and the Board
12 recognizes that some modifications are needed here in the
13 future, probably during the next regulatory cycle to
14 maybe make some adjustments in the definition of
15 handicraft itself or to clarify the definition of fur, as
16 I said currently it includes claws. Some folks, I think,
17 will probably propose that that definition is changed.
18 So these questions and answers are designed to explain
19 the regulations as they exist right now.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did somebody panic or what
22 happened, because I got a couple of books of faxes asking
23 for reconsideration of the sale of handicrafts made from
24 bear and Western Interior wasn't included on that list
25 because we said, no, we didn't want to participate in
26 this. What was the big push to reconsider, why -- go
27 ahead, Tom.

28
29 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, the next
30 information included in your books is request for
31 reconsideration of regulations related to the sale of
32 handicraft made from fur, bear fur and/or claws. For
33 your information this was included. It's an ADF&G
34 request for reconsideration of Federal regulations
35 related to the sale of handicraft made from skin or claws
36 of brown and black bear. And, again, it's on pages 205
37 to 223 of your Council book.

38
39 Section 242.2 of the Federal regulations
40 specifically how requests for reconsiderations are to be
41 handled. These regulations state that, quote, the Board
42 will accept an RFR only if it is based upon information
43 not previously considered by the Board, demonstrates that
44 the existing information used by the Board is incorrect,
45 or demonstrates that the Board's interpretation of
46 information, applicable law or regulations is in error or
47 contrary to existing law. The Federal Subsistence Board
48 is scheduled to meet next month to consider whether this
49 RFR will be accepted or not. If the Board determines
50 that the State's RFR meets the criteria then a draft

1 Staff analysis will be prepared. If the Board determines
2 that the State RFR meets the criteria, review and
3 recommendations by the Regional Councils will be invited.
4 The Board will keep the Subsistence Regional Advisory
5 Councils and ADF&G informed on the review process for
6 this particular RFR.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: What page is that on, I
11 would like to just see?

12

13 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, it's on Pages
14 205 to 223. It includes the information received from
15 the State as well as, I think a cover letter from Tom
16 Boyd to the Council Chairs.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Again, what was the
21 driving force behind the request for reconsideration, do
22 you have any idea?

23

24 Dan.

25

26 MR. LAPLANT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, the
27 driving force there is that the State recognized that the
28 Federal definition of fur was different than the State's
29 and by the Federal Board making that decision they
30 brought claws into the picture and the State is opposed
31 to the use of claws, the sale of claws. They feel that
32 that will result in a lot of enforcement problems and
33 lead to more black market sale of bear parts beyond that.

34

35 So that's the basis of their concern, and
36 as you can see in their letter that they wrote, the RFR,
37 they state four different claims and we're currently
38 looking at right now, and as Tom said we'll be bringing
39 these before the Board on the 1st of November and the
40 Board will make a decision as to whether this is a
41 legitimate RFR or not, and whether they're going to
42 accept it.

43

44 But they're stating that the proposed
45 regulation that the Board passed is inconsistent with
46 sound management principles and the conservation of
47 healthy wildlife management, healthy wildlife of
48 populations of fish and wildlife and so on, so you can
49 look through there, at their claims here.

50

1 But at any rate, if they accept this, the
2 Board accepts this, we'll be doing an in-depth analysis
3 of this issue and we'll be coming back to the Councils at
4 your winter meeting and asking for your input, and then
5 the Board will make a final decision at their May
6 meeting. If they reject this, the 1st of May, that's the
7 end of the RFR [sic], but I can assure you it will be
8 back in front of the Councils again next spring because
9 -- or at your winter meeting, because there are at least
10 two proposals dealing with the sale of handicrafts that
11 will be before the Board anyway, so you'll be hearing
12 more about this at your next meeting.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for that
15 clarification. Because when I got all those faxes and it
16 seemed like they wanted immediate action and I said,
17 heck, we weren't involved in that sale of bear parts or
18 handicrafts in the first place, so I just let it slide,
19 just forgot about it, threw it on the pile.

20
21 Dan.

22
23 MR. LAPLANT: One thing you will want to
24 pay attention to though is that the difference in
25 definition between the Federal definition of fur and the
26 State applies to both black bear and brown bear. And the
27 provision to sell handicrafts from black bear does apply
28 to this region, it applies state-wide. I don't think
29 that many people recognize that we had this difference in
30 definition here before the Board met in May so it has
31 been legal for the past two years to sell handicrafts
32 made from black bear claws so that does affect your
33 region. And that's one of the claims that the State has
34 made in their RFR that they don't think that that
35 provision should stand.

36
37 So for brown bear it only applies for
38 those three regions, but for black bear it applies state-
39 wide and it's been in place for two years, but just
40 recently really recognized by users that it is there.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Dan. Any
43 further questions. George.

44
45 MR. SIAVELIS: Actually I have more of a
46 comment.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

49
50 MR. SIAVELIS: Part of the State, I read

1 this pretty thoroughly, part of the State's concern here
2 in its request for reconsideration and also the way I
3 read the OSM Staff reservations to the Federal
4 Subsistence Board at their meeting, you know, arguments
5 for not passing this is even the brown bear -- even
6 though it wasn't passed for our region it can have a big
7 impact on our region because the enforcement -- you know,
8 as soon as it gets to Anchorage where was this bear
9 taken, was it taken in Southeast, was it taken here, and
10 so there are big impacts, even with the brown bear claws,
11 even though it's not passed for our region, the State
12 explains here how this trade, international and inter-
13 state trade can have a big impact on our region. It does
14 pose a potential conservation problem in our region,
15 bears can be taken in our region under the pretense that
16 they were taken elsewhere or just the mere enforcement of
17 it, as soon as it leaves our region.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tom. I will recognize Ken
22 Chase as a local.

23

24 MR. CHASE: My concerns are the same as
25 his. My question, I guess, to you, is there any
26 accountability, anything like industry type thing that
27 you have to have for these type of sales?

28

29 MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman. Currently,
30 the regulation just states that it's legal to sell
31 handicraft made from the fur of a black bear and brown
32 bear in those three regions and then it goes on, if you
33 look at the definition of fur it includes claws. The
34 definition of handicraft -- I guess I have to look at
35 that again and quote from it, but that would prevent the
36 sale of handicraft at a level that would result in a -- I
37 don't know if they use a significant commercial
38 enterprise, but it's terminology similar to that.

39

40 But, you know, if you look at the fact
41 that the harvest limit for brown bear is either one bear
42 a year or one bear every four years and depending on the
43 region, selling large numbers of brown bear handicrafts,
44 particularly with claws attached, developing into a
45 commercial enterprise is pretty unlikely just because the
46 harvest limit is pretty low.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tom.

49

50 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Again, just

1 relative to the schedule on this issue, you know, the
2 process that we're required to go through is not all that
3 dissimilar from what the process the State has. Again,
4 when regulations are passed, and this particular
5 regulation was considered by the Board last May, in this
6 case the State of Alaska or other entities can challenge
7 those decisions based on the criteria that I read to you
8 earlier. We're all part of the public process. If
9 people disagree and feel like the process wasn't
10 followed, they can challenge that and that's the request
11 for reconsideration.

12
13 State Board of Fish, for example, in the
14 fall they consider a variety of requests for
15 reconsiderations that have been submitted, and it will be
16 a meeting usually in late September, early October. They
17 look at these requests for reconsiderations, they have
18 criteria for whether or not, you know, they meet the
19 standard. And if they do, they schedule them throughout
20 the winter and early spring for various meetings to be
21 heard in detail to actually be considered. And, again,
22 in our case the Federal Subsistence Board will be looking
23 at the merits of the State RFR in early November and then
24 again scheduling it for later -- you know, thorough
25 review of the details of that issue.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tom. I think
30 that clarified my questions and concerns on that request
31 for reconsideration.

32
33 Any further questions.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, it is now 12:04,
38 we'll take a lunch break.

39
40 (Council nods affirmatively)

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, reconvene at 1:00,
43 recess.

44
45 (Off record)

46
47 (On record)

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: It is now 1:11, I'd like
50 to call the meeting back to order. We have some people

1 leaving, quite a few of the Staff, plus Carl will be
2 leaving and we have Orville Huntington leaving. At this
3 time, Vince, I would like to adjust the agenda to go
4 ahead and put on Orville Huntington for a brief report.

5
6 Orville Huntington.

7
8 (Pause)

9
10 MR. HUNTINGTON: Orville Huntington,
11 Koyukuk/Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge, and I got Pat
12 Madros, Jr., here with me. One of the things we worked
13 on this summer, you guys got this, I don't know they were
14 supposed to hand it out, Geoff Beyersdorf was supposed to
15 hand it out.

16
17 (Pause)

18
19 Anyway, we did a contaminant cleanup up
20 there, I told you guys last spring, or when you were in
21 Huslia, and we ended up taking 7,000 gallons of old
22 diesel out of there, there was an old mining camp that
23 they left all these barrels out there so our main
24 priority was to get the diesel out. The barrels were a
25 lower priority, because it was easier to pump it right in
26 -- because those barrels were falling apart so we pumped
27 it right into clean barrels in the boat.

28
29 So Patrick came up and helped us with
30 that, too. It was the number 1 contaminant project in
31 the nation.

32
33 The next thing was our fisheries project.
34 Every week Patrick and I went and surveyed people and
35 called in on the teleconference. Most of the fish and
36 game guys know all of us know. I know Susan Esmelka and
37 Patrick and myself from our area.

38
39 There was a lot of moose work done,
40 keeping up with our moose management plan. I talked to
41 several of you guys about this, we're keeping all the
42 current data we have and we're going to try to do a
43 census this fall. If it's looking good, I think I talked
44 to Council Reakoff, and we're looking at some moderate
45 changes and no drastic changes to our plan. We don't
46 want any drastic changes because it would set us back too
47 far so if we do make changes, Pat Madros and I talked
48 with Geoff and they'll be moderate changes if we
49 recommend them at all.

50

1 Law enforcement, there was a big law
2 enforcement effort on the Nowitna because of our check
3 station there and in Huslia I did a lot of work with the
4 check station. I had a lot of local hunters and then I
5 had a lot of people with drawing permit hunts coming to
6 me in Huslia because they couldn't get up river so I gave
7 them subsistence permits for a different area and they
8 were pretty happy with that so overall the hunt in Huslia
9 went very well, extremely low water but I think everybody
10 did okay, subsistence wise.

11
12 Wolves. We did a census and -- go ahead,
13 Pat.

14
15 MR. MADROS: Well, when he was talking
16 about the check station in Huslia, I'll give a little bit
17 on the Nowitna, some of the numbers that we got from
18 Geoff's final analysis. This year we had a total of 151
19 hunters who harvested 28 moose. Nineteen hunters were
20 from the local area, 59 from the Fairbanks region, and 60
21 were from anywhere else in Alaska where they may be --
22 and 13 were non-residents this year. Along with the new
23 regulation changes and record low water, the Fairbanks
24 hunters and all these different factors, there was a
25 pretty much 30 percent decrease in the number of hunters,
26 and a 50 percent decrease in the number of moose taken
27 out of the Nowitna this year due to the regulation
28 changes and the low water.

29
30 The preliminary numbers of non-resident
31 hunters was cut to about half. No bulls were harvested
32 by non-residents so all harvested moose were by Alaskan
33 residents.

34
35 In general meat care was pretty good. We
36 had some cooler temperatures and it was nice for people
37 to go out there so they get to keep their meat longer and
38 it was pretty good.

39
40 And that's pretty much what I had on the
41 Nowitna.

42
43 MR. HUNTINGTON: Okay. For wolves we did
44 a wolf census in 21(B) and a pretty stable wolf pack, not
45 much change, there was no significant difference.

46
47 And the only other thing was staffing, we
48 hired Pat Madros, Jr., as our seasonal RIT for Nulato and
49 he's been a big help.

50

1 That's all I have.

2

3 MR. MADROS: I wanted to touch a little
4 more on waterfowl. Since I got hired this year it was
5 kind of my obligation and duty to oversee our harvest
6 surveys and this year we had some new problems because we
7 have a new system that we're trying to align with the
8 State, but we got our numbers in and it's looking kind of
9 okay. This spring we had about 167 whitefronts harvested
10 and about 269 Canada geese. And roughly about 311 ducks,
11 which mostly were pintails, mallards, widgeons, you know,
12 common duck species.

13

14 We'll continue to analyze the data this
15 winter and see how this compares to previous years. It's
16 all preliminary right now so this spring we'll have a
17 better account of what's going on. We'll present that at
18 your 2005 meeting.

19

20 Also part of my deal is that -- and
21 Orville's deal is we like to conduct safety -- or hunter
22 education type deals and one of our area is steelshot,
23 letting them know about how bad lead is and we had one in
24 Nulato this summer, along with the school district. And
25 I think for next spring when I get back out in March
26 again, we're going to try to plan out maybe a couple more
27 for our Refuge area and do more on that, just try to get
28 younger guys educated about the need for using steel
29 instead of lead and try to keep that effort out there so
30 we won't fall back into where we're trying to use lead
31 again.

32

33 That's all I have.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

36

37 MR. REAKOFF: Going back to the duck
38 harvest, I was wondering when the regs came out for
39 spring hunting, how the duck stamp requirement got
40 entered into this equation. A lot of people were
41 surprised to hear about that.

42

43 MR. MADROS: Well, you know we talked to
44 the Refuge Manager and the Staff and the Office of
45 Migratory Birds, the kind of deal is it was all agreed
46 upon that they would look away from it for the spring
47 hunt. The law is there to enforce it but until we get,
48 you know, the regs out there and people established they
49 weren't going to enforce it for the spring hunt. But
50 under State regs, for the fall hunt, they are required to

1 have the State and the Federal duck stamps with them on
2 their person when they're hunting. But for the spring,
3 it's kind of a Federal deal and they want to get more
4 input and let it be known to the people that they have to
5 have it. So in the future it's going to be more
6 enforced, I think.

7
8 MR. REAKOFF: You know this has been
9 coming up before the Council for many years, when I asked
10 a few years ago in the planning process whether that was
11 going to be a requirement, and they said, no, that it
12 wasn't, that the duck stamp wouldn't be required in the
13 spring hunt and that's why I was surprised that it
14 actually entered -- I hadn't seen that in the planning
15 process at all that they were -- the duck stamp
16 requirement.

17
18 MR. MADROS: I think because it's a
19 Federal thing you are required to have a Federal duck
20 stamp. I don't know what the State has under their regs
21 for a spring -- maybe Geoff could go into more depth on
22 that. But I did know that enforcement with the Federal
23 mandate that steelshot is the only thing to be used for
24 waterfowl and this spring is the first spring they've
25 enforced that new regulation, in the spring hunt, and we
26 were given a couple years to know about it and now it's
27 being enforced and people were passed out fines this
28 spring for that violation.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

31
32 MR. BEYERSDORF: Member Reakoff, I was
33 walking up as you were making your statement, so would
34 you rephrase your question I'll see if I can answer it
35 for you.

36
37 MR. REAKOFF: During the planning process
38 for the spring waterfowl harvest, about two years ago I
39 asked whether the duck stamp was going to be required for
40 the spring because that would be a burden to the
41 subsistence users, and the response was that, no, that
42 wasn't going to be a requirement, yet, when the regs came
43 out this year and it's this year that the duck stamp was
44 required, I didn't see that in last year's regs. And so
45 I'm wondering how that entered into that process -- how
46 the duck requirement occurred?

47
48 MR. BEYERSDORF: I wasn't able to attend
49 the Migratory Bird Co-Management Council meetings. I
50 know that that was an issue that was brought up. My

1 understanding on the Federal side is that they weren't
2 able to come to any resolution to be able to take that
3 portion out and that they would -- because they couldn't
4 find any way to alleviate that burden, but that had to be
5 maintained because it was a Federal program and it had to
6 be equal to all Federal users and so they -- I think it's
7 a \$5 fee and so they still kept that in there.

8

9 MR. REAKOFF: Fifteen.

10

11 MR. BEYERSDORF: Is it 15, okay.

12

13 MR. MADROS: And I'll add a little more
14 to it, on our side, you know, it was kind of -- I don't
15 know if it was a region-wide thing but they're kind of --
16 they're not going to enforce it anyhow this year whether
17 it was in there or not. Mainly they wanted to get the
18 point across this year that there would be no lead shot,
19 so when enforcement was out there, they're main focus was
20 to have steelshot instead of going into their duck stamp,
21 hunting licenses and that sort of deal.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Geoff.

28

29 MR. BEYERSDORF: There was a couple
30 things I wanted to bring out. I know Bill talked to it
31 earlier as far as predator control, one thing that I
32 wanted to mention is at the Koyukuk Refuge we've been
33 working in conjunction with Glenn Stout at the State and
34 we've been doing trapping and snaring clinic in the area
35 villages and we plan on doing a trapping and snaring
36 clinic this next year in Huslia and in Bettles. And in
37 addition to that we were able to at least get out on the
38 Nowitna this year and do a wolf survey and we found that
39 the last time -- in comparing it to the last 1996, when
40 it was conducted, our pack size is just about the same.
41 In 1996 it was 68 animals and 14 packs, and this last
42 year's survey it was 62 animals and 13 packs.

43

44 And the other thing, I know, Ray, you
45 talked as far as what's the health of the population prey
46 base wise, we were able to get out and do some twinning
47 surveys also. I think just off the top of my head, the
48 numbers for Unit 21(D) and 24 were 36 and 42 percent on
49 the twins. We also saw an increase in the survival on
50 the yearlings. So we've got some things for the last

1 couple years that we're showing some positive factors
2 there and I just wanted to make sure that you guys were
3 aware it. We are doing some things internally at the
4 Refuge level as far as predator control.

5
6 The last thing, I guess I wanted to say
7 is that Patrick has been working for us the last couple
8 years as a seasonable employee and we were able to, this
9 year, bring him on as a permanent employee, and he's been
10 an excellent addition. He's come up with some really
11 good ideas. And I just wanted to publicly thank him for
12 what he's been doing for the Refuge. I think he's very
13 integral to what's going on in the middle Yukon.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

18
19 MR. MADROS: And also just to add a
20 little more on the moose, we are planning for the Refuge,
21 the Koyukuk Refuge, in detail, we're going to have a
22 census of the whole Refuge in November. So we'll have
23 really great numbers next spring, hopefully.

24
25 MR. BEYERSDORF: Weather permitting.

26
27 MR. MADROS: Weather permitting, yeah.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

30
31 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'd like to commend
32 them for that report because I think that's exactly the
33 kind of information we need, the monitoring and knowing
34 what's happening in terms of predator/prey relationships
35 and survival of the calves is a good indicator. I'd like
36 to see that written where we can get written reports on
37 that to kind of monitor it year to year.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Geoff.

42
43 MR. BEYERSDORF: Member Collins, I do
44 have a very brief outline of the twinning surveys, what
45 happened at the check station and then also the area
46 moose surveys for this last year as far as the bull/cow
47 ratios, which I can give to you now. But I can also, if
48 you want, I can send you the full reports when I get back
49 if there's any members interested in that.

50

1 MR. BEYERSDORF: As soon as I get over
2 the air sickness from spinning, yeah, well, you know that
3 that March 1st through 5th season, there is the potential
4 to open that and what we're going to try to do is as
5 early in December as we can, and this is all a weather
6 permitting survey, actually this isn't going to be a
7 survey, this is going to be a complete census, so it's
8 going to be pretty intensive, we will look at the
9 numbers, we will determine if there can be a cow season.
10 If so it would be allowed, Mike Spindler would authorize
11 that and then whatever information we have from that,
12 Patrick and I and Orville will present at your spring
13 meeting.

14

15 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Jack, just before
18 Fred Andersen left he said there will be a count up on
19 the Alatna, Johns, the whole area will be counted this
20 year, a census will be taken there, too.

21

22 Jack.

23

24 MR. REAKOFF: That's why I'm asking about
25 the census data as it related dramatically to whether the
26 March 1 to March 5th opening occurred. I was designated
27 to sit in on the Staff Committee meeting for that
28 proposal when it was being formulated for the Federal
29 Board, and in the discussion Refuge Manager Spindler
30 stated that if the population had the sideboards to allow
31 the opening would be 20 calves per 100 cows, is that
32 currently what the assessment would be if there's 20
33 calves per 100 cows or when we do this census is that
34 still going to be the criteria for opening?

35

36 MR. BEYERSDORF: I don't have Mike's
37 specific biological criteria. I know that what he's
38 hoping to do, like, there is -- what we were able to do
39 when you guys went through this last year, when it went
40 through the Federal Subsistence Board is Mike wanted to
41 have the flexibility if he has good cow/calf numbers in
42 certain units, and not in others, can he open it within
43 those units in some of the areas that have the need for
44 it, and we were told that we could. So I know Mike's
45 taking a pretty heavy look at that and if he does have
46 the cow/calf ratios that can support it, he's going to
47 try and open it in those areas. I don't have the
48 specific numbers though from Mike.

49

50 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: I think I should inform the
4 Council of what was going on on that teleconference. Our
5 proposal was getting beat up pretty bad, I spent a lot of
6 time on that teleconference with that proposal. And so
7 the Refuge Staff wanted to put, quote, sideboards, on
8 allowing that March 1 to March 5th season. And those
9 sideboards were stated as in certain -- they didn't want
10 all the cow harvest to occur in one area, they wanted to
11 spread the cow harvest out and make like units UCU's or
12 some unit areas where certain levels of cow harvest would
13 occur. Another aspect was if the population could
14 support the harvest, if there was calf recruitments
15 showing that the cow harvest could occur there and those
16 numbers stated were 20 calves per 100 cows. And so I
17 feel that that was part of the discussion on how I was
18 entering into those discussions, and that's why I'm
19 trying to get this on the record as to what those
20 criteria are, are they still the same criterias, are they
21 still going to utilize the same system? That's why I'm
22 talking in this line of questioning for the Council's
23 benefit.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Pat.

26

27 MR. MADROS: Being the RIT from Nulato
28 and talking with hunters, you know, some of that's
29 details because people will hunt only a certain area in
30 the winter. And I think he's talking about, you know, he
31 wanted those areas to be able to support that cow hunt
32 and not just the whole Refuge but certain areas where
33 moose tend to congregate and where local uses is real
34 high, and I think that's what he's trying to account for.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more questions.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you.

41

42 MR. BEYERSDORF: Thank you.

43

44 MR. MADROS: Thank you.

45

46 MR. HUNTINGTON: Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: At the request of Council
49 member Robert Walker, we do have two people present from
50 Grayling, the local people that came down by boat, so I

1 would like to put them on the agenda first. I believe
2 their names are Gabe Nicholi and Harry Mula from Grayling
3 -- I think one of them just stepped out, yeah, but go
4 ahead.

5
6 (Pause)

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: This is at the request of
9 Robert Walker, because they did come down by boat and I
10 believe they're going back up by boat this evening, too,
11 before it gets dark.

12
13 MR. NICHOLI: Sit in the hot seat.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go right ahead.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 MR. NICHOLI: Yeah, my name's Gabe
20 Nicholi and I.....

21
22 REPORTER: Wait, wait.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pardon me, turn that
25 button on.

26
27 MR. NICHOLI: How's that?

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tina.

30
31 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

34
35 MR. NICHOLI: My name's Gabe Nicholi, I'm
36 the first chief of Grayling. I am down here today at the
37 request of Bob Walker, and he told me to go ahead and
38 voice my opinion, of what I felt like, how the fish and
39 game, the animals in our area, anyway, put it that way,
40 how everything is and how I felt about everything.

41
42 Anyway, I'm here today, and Harry is also
43 with me. We're currently working for RHA up in Grayling,
44 but we came down, we felt it was important enough to come
45 down and voice our opinion on how things are going in our
46 area.

47
48 Excuse me, I'm a little bit nervous, I'm
49 a little cold also.

50

1 Anyway, we had a tough fall this fall
2 because we happen to live up in Grayling and we couldn't
3 make it over to Holichuk through the slough because of so
4 low water so we had to go way down by Anvik, Holy Cross,
5 Shageluk and get to Holichuk country then, I think our
6 first trip we went something like 700 miles roundtrip and
7 we got one bull and it was in very poor condition, so we
8 had to make another trip.

9
10 Anyway, I was just lucky enough to be
11 working so I could afford some gas. I think the first
12 trip was 110 gallons roundtrip and that's a lot of gas,
13 you know, for a local person to be using, whereas before
14 we could go through the slough and burn 30 or 40 gallons
15 maybe.

16
17 Anyway, I feel like it's important enough
18 to come down because -- actually what I wanted to say, I
19 guess, I know it's tough for Anvik or Holy Cross or
20 Shageluk people to see Grayling people hunting in their
21 areas, but once in awhile we don't have a choice because
22 there's just no sloughs around our country up that way
23 and I would say probably overall by local people in
24 Grayling, they probably didn't even get 10 moose up
25 around the Grayling area this year, they had to go
26 further away to do it. So we had a lot of competition
27 from hunters from Fairbanks, I seen three jet boats come
28 down past Grayling, got gas, and I heard reports they
29 were way up Innoko and they, like, went home with three
30 racks and there was no meat in the boat, because my son
31 happened to be the one that retails gas in Grayling, and
32 he seen there was no meat in the boat. So that's why I'm
33 here today to complain about that a little bit.

34
35 I feel like they're taking resources away
36 from us where -- they're taking it off our table,
37 actually. You know, if we go to the store and we try to
38 buy something, you can't even walk out of the store with
39 \$100 worth of food that's worth \$100, you hardly get
40 anything so moose is very important for us.

41
42 Also I don't know, I can't answer in ways
43 that I want to or maybe ask you guys how you can help us
44 better, maybe we should start dealing with -- there's too
45 much outside competition right now is what I'd say and
46 there's not many sloughs that are available. So about
47 every bend in the slough, where there is a slough, or in
48 the Innoko River, you'll see a boat that's there that's
49 not local and it kind of like hurts when your camp places
50 are taken up and you don't have a chance, you know, like

1 I don't know how other people hunt but we check all the
2 flats. Like one day we did something like 40-some flats
3 and not even one bull.

4
5 My friend, Harry, is here too and he was
6 going to make a statement, but I guess he didn't feel
7 like it, but, anyway, we made two trips and he went
8 something like 900 miles and all he seen was one bull
9 which he was fortunate enough to get. We saw three in my
10 boat, three or four different families and we got two of
11 them and we were very happy for that.

12
13 But I guess what I'm trying to say is I
14 wish the local people had more opportunities than the
15 people that don't live in the area.

16
17 I don't know how to explain that, you
18 know. Maybe you guys want to ask me some questions
19 instead of me asking you guys questions.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Gabe. Any
22 questions for Gabe. Go ahead, Tommy.

23
24 MR. KRISKA: As of yesterday we were
25 getting with Robert and some other folks around here to
26 work with your tribal councils and other people and
27 trying to help you guys to set up a permit hunt -- I mean
28 to wind up to get permit huntings to reduce the hunting
29 around here, I guess. I don't know how much -- what's
30 the percentage or how it can go but there is things that
31 are happening. I guess maybe some of the other guys
32 might have more to say about it.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tommy. Gabe,
35 what he's alluding to is that we understand there is an
36 effort going on in this area to establish a moose working
37 group quite similar to the Koyukuk River Moose Working
38 Group status where we established a permit system. But
39 Jack went through this pretty thoroughly yesterday and
40 it's just one of those things that you have to just bring
41 everybody to the table, State, Feds, local people, guides
42 and everybody and establish a good moose count and then
43 just go out by dealing out these permits with subsistence
44 being the number one priority. And I think that there is
45 a group being formed and I think Robert and Ken, Rudy and
46 a few others were talking about this, where we establish
47 subsistence hunters as the number one priority. And I
48 think is that what you were alluding to?

49
50 MR. KRISKA: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, okay, thank you. Any
2 more questions for Gabe.

3
4 REPORTER: Benedict.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

7
8 MR. JONES: Yeah, Gabe, when we set up
9 the permit system in Koyukuk Controlled Use Area we
10 invited all the guides and other advisory board member
11 from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Soldotna, Kenai to work to
12 hammer out this drawing permit system. There was lots of
13 opposition from the rural area but we had to work it out
14 for days and days, but we finally made an agreement with
15 them, how the drawing permit system going to work so it's
16 in effect with the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area, that's
17 how we worked it out with the conservationist people to
18 the Wildlife Alliance and all that, we invited them for
19 their comments on that. So with a working group in this
20 area, invitation to the non-local hunters and especially
21 the guides for guidance to how you want the system to be
22 set up.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more questions for
27 Gabe.

28
29 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Gabe. Then Ray.

32
33 MR. NICHOLI: Yeah, I'll say one more
34 thing maybe before I go ahead and leave and head back to
35 work. I didn't realize you guys had this big of a
36 meeting down here, there's not many locals, people from
37 around the area like Shag or Holy Cross or something,
38 because this is important, you know, that's why we're
39 down here, and Grayling -- we should have showed up
40 yesterday and gave a little more input in here maybe.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, these are advertised
43 well in advance because when Robert invited us last year,
44 notices were sent to all local communities and that's why
45 we try to prioritize all the tribal governments in this
46 area, you know, and that's why we're recognizing you and
47 we recognized quite a few people last night. I think
48 that maybe we should advertise a little bit more.

49
50 Ray.

1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Gabe, thanks for
2 coming down. We need that input from local people. I
3 might mention that one of the important things is, for
4 the future, when the State and Feds are dealing with it,
5 or when the committee is dealing with it they're looking
6 for statistics, and it would be very important for you as
7 a community to figure out how many moose you harvested
8 this year and last year, even if the individuals didn't,
9 if you had some kind of community survey so that you can
10 show that there was a fall off in take, because when they
11 look at the information from the community that the State
12 have, it looks like Grayling doesn't need many moose. I
13 saw that before on the C&T findings when they were
14 dealing here, it looked like Grayling had only harvested
15 10 moose or something like that in a given year, and I
16 know it's a lot higher than that. So it's really
17 important to be able to come in with those figures to
18 say, well, normally we harvest 50 moose or 70 moose and
19 this year we were only able to get 15. But there has to
20 be some data to back up the planning. So if the Council
21 or somebody else did surveys and start documenting what
22 that harvest is I think it would help.

23
24 MR. NICHOLI: Yeah, I worked for somebody
25 last year, I forgot who it might have been, it might have
26 been Fish and Game or somebody, yeah, Caroline Brown,
27 yeah, I think she does have documentation or kind of like
28 did a survey with individuals and telling us it was
29 confidential information and all that and try to gather
30 that kind of information. So I know Grayling uses at
31 least 50 moose a year, even if it's under the table or
32 not, you know, we can't live off the store. It's
33 impossible.

34
35 Well, thanks you guys, I appreciate it,
36 and I hope the next time I'll get here a little sooner.

37
38 Thank you, Jerry.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Gabe. Just for
41 your information, that's what that permit system that
42 we're talking about is based on, it's year after year and
43 household survey on how many moose we take annually and
44 it covered the Yukon River. But you need that
45 information to do anything -- to go forward with anything
46 else. And I sure appreciate you expressing your concerns
47 and thank you for taking the time and effort to come down
48 and speak before the Board.

49
50 MR. NICHOLI: And thank you, Ron, I said

1 Jerry.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's okay.
4
5 MR. WALKER: Are you going back?
6
7 MR. NICHOLI: We're trying to take back
8 off and go back to work at 3:00.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for showing up
11 again. At this time I would like to recognize Kathy, and
12 I believe you do have some students out here, do you want
13 to introduce them, what grade they are and how many of
14 them, do you want to -- there's a mic if you want to.
15 Use the mic.
16
17 MS. WALKER: Well, they could introduce
18 themself if they want, stand up and say who you are.
19
20 Come on.
21
22 KYLE: Kyle.
23
24 MS. WALKER: Well, there's Kyle over
25 there, Curtis, Robert, Kyle, Carlson and Nity and Greene
26 (away from microphone on saying names).
27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. This is the
29 Anvik School, and what grade are they?
30
31 MS. WALKER: I have no clue.
32
33 (Laughter)
34
35 MS. WALKER: I don't. They're upper --
36 upper elementary anyway. They're Ms. Jones class and
37 Tammy Jerue is taking it over, and I just brought them
38 down because I was available.
39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you.
41
42 MS. WALKER: But I'd like to testify,
43 too, addressing the moose and salmon issues.
44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you want to do it now?
46
47 MS. WALKER: I guess.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: We are on our.....
50

1 MS. WALKER: Whatever you have on your
2 agenda.
3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: On our agenda it says
5 Native Corporations, Village Tribes, so.....
6
7 MS. WALKER: Well, I'm from a tribe.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: You're more than welcome,
14 come up here and use that microphone.
15
16 MS. WALKER: Okay.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: For the record and state
19 your name and your residence please.
20
21 MS. WALKER: Kathy Walker Chase, Holy
22 Cross.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: You have to push that
25 button.
26
27 MS. WALKER: Turn it on?
28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.
30
31 MS. WALKER: Kathy Walker Chase, Holy
32 Cross. The last 20 years that I've been moose hunting
33 and going out or whatever I've seen a decline in the
34 moose population. I have no clue what it is, it might be
35 the global warming or whatever. But there's a lot of
36 guides that bring hunters in and I kind of hate to see
37 that because we have somebody from Minnesota that has a
38 six digit salary for his wages per year versus what the
39 local people around here have, they just live a
40 subsistence lifestyle and are borderline poverty level.
41 So I kind of hate to see people coming in and getting our
42 moose because that's -- well, that's our moose and I
43 think everyone should not be so headed out for the money
44 and making money off the hunters that they bring in, they
45 should be looking down the road at our children and our
46 grandchildren and our great-grandchildren. They won't
47 even know what a moose is by the time they're of age.
48
49 What I don't like about the king salmon
50 regulations and the fishing regulations is you have us --

1 we're allowed to fish two days out of a week or some
2 goofy thing like that, but, anyway, it just takes time
3 away. We'd like to -- like fish nine days straight or
4 whatever, 10 days straight get all the fish that we can
5 in one shot so we could start drying them and running our
6 smokehouse and burning wood to run the smokehouse, we
7 have to go out and get wood, and the gas is so expensive,
8 if we could just have like nine days or 10 days or
9 whatever, just fish until we get how much fish we want
10 and then it wouldn't be so hard on the people.

11
12 And another thing -- what else was there,
13 I don't know, just the fishing, they need to -- like a
14 couple of people were saying the other day that they're
15 saying that we have different areas down river, they're
16 allowed to have a commercial opening and yet our area
17 remains closed. If you're going to be opening up fishing
18 for one area you should open it up for the whole area and
19 be fair to everyone.

20
21 That's it.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Kathy.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks for taking this
28 opportunity. Vince, where are we on the agenda.

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think we've
31 got another class in here but I think it would be a good
32 time, for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, since
33 there's already been a lead in on Caroline's study, to
34 have them present their presentation since it's also a
35 slide program so the students could see how data is put
36 together and stuff like that.

37
38 So if Caroline and Dave Andersen are
39 ready, I think we can work that out. We may need to move
40 the students around a little bit.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that is fine. At
43 this time I would like to have Julie Walker introduce her
44 class and what grade they are.

45
46 MS. WALKER: Okay, I'll just go from the
47 front row back. This is Cindy Kruger, she's in first --
48 second grade this year. Let's see what else we have to
49 say -- Damian Jensen, please stand up, he's in second
50 grade also. Michael, third grade. Brian, third grade.

1 Isaac, first grade. Chantelle Walker, second grade.
2 Sonny Kruger, third grade. Peta Flemming, second grade
3 -- or first grade. That's it for my class.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Julie. Dave
6 Andersen and.....
7
8 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.
11
12 MR. COLLINS: I'd like to thank the
13 students for the nice posters they made welcoming us.
14 This is the group that made some of the posters around, I
15 recognize the names, so thank you for what you did.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks, Ray.
18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Dave, would it work if they
20 sat down here and maybe around the table there, would
21 that cause you too much trouble?
22
23 MR. ANDERSEN: I don't see anyone in the
24 way of this right now, the Council members can see it, so
25 but do you want them to have a better view?
26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I'm wondering if the
28 students could see, if we could move them up.
29
30 MS. WALKER: Okay.
31
32 MR. MATHEWS: And you got to keep your
33 hands down, but other than that it would be pretty easy.
34
35 MR. ANDERSEN: Are you ready for me, Mr.
36 Chairman.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Been waiting.
39
40 MR. ANDERSEN: All right.
41
42 (Laughter)
43
44 MR. ANDERSEN: My name's David Andersen.
45 I'm out of Fairbanks and I wanted to brief the Council on
46 -- I have about 12 slides here that go with this
47 presentation and the handout you have which has this on
48 the cover is just simply a copy of the slides. But I
49 wanted to talk about a recently completed fisheries
50 project in the Koyukuk River region. It was a

1 traditional knowledge, or TEK program that we began in
2 late 2001 and just wrapped up this last spring. The
3 final report has been distributed as part of the Division
4 of Subsistence technical paper series, it's now available
5 under this title. It was a cooperative project between
6 myself and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
7 Subsistence Division and Tanana Chiefs. Other products
8 besides the written report, this poster on the wall that
9 I put up yesterday was a summary poster that we sent out
10 to tribal councils and schools in the communities. We
11 also have on CD a traditional knowledge data base the
12 Division of Subsistence put together.

13
14 Non-salmon fish were an extremely
15 important subsistence resource and continue to be on the
16 Koyukuk and fishing for them today is an activity that
17 takes place in virtually every calendar month. And it
18 provides a really important source of food. One of our
19 main goals with this project was to identify local
20 residents throughout the drainage to talk to, to document
21 and record and preserve the tremendous amount of
22 traditional knowledge that they had on these fish. And
23 another major goal was to achieve an accurate estimate of
24 the contemporary harvest levels that are going on on
25 these fish, and we did that with an extensive door to
26 door survey of every household in the drainage.

27
28 Just to give you an idea of the non-
29 salmon fish species we're talking about here, they're
30 these. Blackfish, grayling, burbot, suckers, pike,
31 sheefish and several species of whitefish.

32
33 And I want to talk a little bit about who
34 we talked to since really this whole report was based on
35 information we got from local people. In general we were
36 speaking with community elders. The respondents ranged
37 in age 46 to 87, but only two were younger than 65 and
38 the average age of people we talked to was 74. So these
39 were fairly senior people. And they were individuals
40 identified to us as having some expertise in fishing, and
41 that expertise was gained from basically having spent
42 their entire lives fishing for and harvesting and
43 processing these fish.

44
45 Some of the topics that we talked about
46 in our interviews were the Native names of fish and in
47 this region it's both the Koyukon language and Inupiat.
48 Information on the distribution and seasonal movements of
49 the fish through the Koyukuk waters, identification of
50 major fishing areas and critical habitat such as spawning

1 areas and overwintering areas. Past and present harvest
2 methods, uses for the fish and preservation methods and
3 finally any traditional stories or beliefs or legends
4 pertaining to these fish.

5
6 Now, I'm not going to be able to go
7 through all the findings here, but I wanted to highlight
8 just a couple for the Council to give you an idea of the
9 kinds of information that can come out of a study like
10 this. And I included this slide to show just the simple
11 process of collecting Native names can sometimes shed
12 significant light on aspects of fish behavior, fish
13 biology and even human use of these fish. The general
14 Koyukon term for blackfish oonyeeyh translates roughly to
15 the ones that we survive on. This is a reference to the
16 significant role the small fish played in feeding both
17 people and dogs in decades past. They were taken in
18 large quantities, using basket traps late in the winter
19 and early spring and they were one of the few fish
20 species available at that time of year.

21
22 Aside from this general term four
23 additional Koyukon terms distinguish specific kinds of
24 blackfish based on their size or their color or other
25 physical characteristics. And this is a fish that
26 Western science knows by one name, and I have yet to find
27 a fish biologist that knows much about this fish and it's
28 just one example of several we found where the Native
29 language taxonomy for a fish species was more detailed
30 than Western science.

31
32 With regard to fish movements and
33 critical habitats, the lower, middle and head water areas
34 of the Koyukuk offer very distinct kinds of habitat for
35 fish and by involving residents from all portions of the
36 drainage we were able to document the distribution and
37 follow the movements of the various species through the
38 entire drainage. That was one unique aspect of this
39 study. Probably the most significant finding in terms of
40 critical habitats was the identification of some major
41 spawning areas for whitefish and sheefish on the Alatna
42 River. And while it was generally known that fish
43 spawned somewhere up the Alatna, by talking to local
44 people we were able to pinpoint more exactly the spawning
45 locations, the timing of the spawning event and what
46 species were involved.

47
48 Looking at how fish are preserved. We
49 were able to document a unique network of streamside
50 boxes known as suluun's, these were used prior to the

1 advent of snowmachines to deal with the abundant late
2 fall harvest of fish on the Alatna River spawning
3 grounds, and fish were stored whole and allowed to freeze
4 naturally in these family owned caches. By doing this it
5 alleviated the need to transport huge loads of fish long
6 distances back to communities by small boat and it made
7 stores of fish available in distant locations for winter
8 travel and to support trapping activities during the
9 winter. The advent of snowmachines and the availability
10 of large outboard motors in the 1960s put an end to the
11 use of suluuns, but to our knowledge this efficient and
12 organized system of preserving and storing fish had not
13 been previously documented in the literature.

14
15 A little bit about the harvest, I won't
16 go over this in any detail, but the 2002 harvest survey
17 succeeded in contacting 242 out of 253 Koyukuk
18 households. This is an exceptionally high contact rate
19 of more than 95 percent. The estimated harvest of non-
20 salmon fish by these households in 2002 was almost 96,000
21 pounds, and you can see the large majority of that is
22 whitefish.

23
24 Now, this table represents the totals for
25 all communities combined, but the data are also tabulated
26 and reported by community and by species and also by
27 month of harvest. So we got some harvest timing
28 information as well.

29
30 And given the dominance of whitefish in
31 the region I thought I'd just briefly mention that I'm
32 currently involved in another TEK project, the Kanuti
33 whitefish project that's attempting to gather more
34 detailed information on whitefish in the Kanuti Refuge
35 region. We're basically putting whitefish under the
36 microscope here in a smaller area, the Koyukuk and trying
37 to gather a little bit more detailed information. This
38 has both a TEK and a biological tagging component done by
39 Randi Brown out of Fairbanks, and we're currently six
40 months into this two year project. So it's one the
41 Council will hear more about in the future.

42
43 This project produced really a wealth of
44 information on a group of fish species in a geographic
45 region that is sometimes overlooked. And as we do these
46 kinds of studies, we're repeatedly asked by FIS Staff to
47 underscore their importance to management. And I think
48 if one takes a very narrow view of management, you could
49 argue that there are no pressing management issues with
50 fish like suckers or blackfish and question why these

1 kind of studies are needed, but my response to that is
2 that Alaska's unique subsistence law and really the
3 entire subsistence management system is predicated on
4 this thing called C&T where we describe and accommodate
5 where we can the customary and traditional practices and
6 uses of all the subsistence resources. And I think for
7 species and for regions of the state where there are
8 holes in the C&T information or it's not detailed as we'd
9 like, I think this kind of TEK information is not only
10 relevant but required.

11

12 I might also add that the commercial
13 fishery on Arctic lampray that sort of materialized out
14 of nowhere last year right in this part of the drainage
15 demonstrates just how quickly a fish can jump from sort
16 of being one that nobody pays any attention to to being
17 on the front burner of a management issue.

18

19 So being in the private sector now I
20 don't get a chance to come out to these meetings very
21 often anymore, but I wanted to come to this one and I
22 wanted to come out to say thank you on the record to
23 everyone in the Koyukuk region who was involved in this
24 project, especially the 29 elders we interviewed as part
25 of the TEK project, and at the risk of embarrassing a
26 couple of your Council members, Mr. Reakoff and Mr. Jones
27 were an integral part of that whole respondent process
28 there, and I thank them for their participation.

29

30 I wanted to thank the Office of
31 Subsistence Management and the FIS program for making
32 funds available to do this kind of work. And I wanted to
33 thank the Council for your role in what seems like a long
34 time ago, now, reviewing the proposal for this project
35 and recognizing it had some merit and forward it for
36 funding, so thank you very much.

37

38 I can take questions on this one if you
39 have any or we can glide right into Caroline's.

40

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead and slide.

42

(Laughter)

44

45 MS. BROWN: It will take me just a minute
46 to set it up.

47

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Polly.

49

MS. WHEELER: Maybe while Caroline gets a

50

1 chance to set that up, I could just add that again this
2 project was the front -- or the cover story on the Land
3 and Water issue that just came out and I've got a lot of
4 extra copies in case anybody's interested and I also have
5 a limited number of copies of the report specifically for
6 the Council members here that don't have them. I know
7 Jack already has one, Ron already has one, and I believe
8 Benedict already has one so I have copies for the
9 remainder of you if you're interested, and I can
10 certainly -- and for those of you in the public if you're
11 interested in the report I can get you copies. So just
12 to make that available if anybody's interested.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Polly. Rudy,
15 you had a question.

16

17 MR. DEMOSKI: For Mr. Andersen, what's
18 going to happen to the commercial aspect of the lampray
19 eels?

20

21 MR. ANDERSEN: Well, I was really a guest
22 last year. I got invited to come down and observe the
23 fishery and actually photograph it. Caroline has a few
24 photographs and will talk a little bit more about eels
25 and she might be more up on what's going to happen. The
26 short answer is it's going to happen again this year as
27 far as I know.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Caroline.

30

31 MS. BROWN: Thank you. For the record my
32 name is Caroline Brown and I'm with Fish and Game,
33 Subsistence, in Fairbanks.

34

35 As far as I know the Division of
36 Commercial Fisheries manages the commercial aspect of
37 that harvest, for lampray, and last I heard, which was
38 the middle of last week, they were reviewing a draft of a
39 permit to have that open again this year as a second year
40 in an experimental fishery. According to the draft of
41 that permit, the regulations will remain the same as they
42 were last year, and the important aspects of that were
43 pounds harvested, which will remain at 44,000 split
44 between St. Mary's and Grayling, I believe. And in terms
45 of legal gear I believe they added eel sticks to the list
46 of legal gear, in addition to dip nets, as it was last
47 year. So that's all draft, but that's where things are
48 as of the middle of last week.

49

50 MR. DEMOSKI: Thank you.

1 MS. BROWN: Okay, this is -- again, my
2 name is Caroline Brown, and I'm with Fish and Game,
3 Subsistence Division in Fairbanks. And I'm going to be
4 giving this report with John Burr also at Fish and Game
5 in Sportfish in Fairbanks. This project was designed as
6 somewhat of a complimentary project to the Koyukuk River
7 project that Dave just spoke about. Together these two
8 projects provide information on non-salmon fish species
9 for managers and other researchers in a significant
10 portion of the Yukon area. This project covers the area
11 of the villages of Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk and Holy
12 Cross so right where we are. And just like the Koyukuk
13 project, this project is also a cooperative effort
14 between Fish and Game and Tanana Chief Conferences, and
15 Kim Elkin, the partners biologist for TCC helped quite a
16 bit with this project as well.

17
18 It's not fully complete, we began this
19 project about a year and a half ago, two years ago, and
20 it is due at the end of this calendar year, so it's not
21 fully complete yet. We're reporting on it now to you
22 since you guys were integral in getting it passed for
23 funding. The bulk of the research and analysis is
24 complete. All four communities are currently reviewing
25 the draft of the final report before it can be finalized.
26 And we're hoping to have the final report available for
27 you in late November or early December. And also, as
28 with the Koyukuk project, there will be a written report,
29 there will also be a TEK data base similar to what Dave
30 showed you. Those data bases are designed primarily for
31 use in schools, actually, so we make sure all the schools
32 in the region have lots of copies of that, that the kids
33 can use, and we produce a poster similar to what Dave has
34 put up there that summarizes the project.

35
36 The study itself was designed with three
37 components that would work together to address a larger
38 need for information about non-salmon fish species in
39 this area in the lower, middle Yukon. But also to
40 consider user concerns over pike in the Holy Cross area
41 specifically around the area of Reindeer Lake. The three
42 components, the first one there, the collection of local
43 knowledge or TEK, on the same species of non-salmon,
44 pike, sheefish, five different species of whitefish,
45 sucker, burbot, blackfish, grayling and the addition of
46 eels or Arctic lampray. The second -- so I'll be talking
47 about that component and a third component which was an
48 additional harvest survey, which provided a snapshot on
49 these species for a calendar year. The second component,
50 the sampling of the subsistence winter pike harvest and

1 recovery of tagged pike is going to be discussed by John
2 Burr in just a moment. So this project diverged a bit
3 from the Koyukuk project, in that, it included this
4 biological component.

5
6 Okay, so the first component, the
7 collection and documentation of traditional ecological
8 knowledge. Similar to the findings in the Koyukuk
9 project area, non-salmon fish are extremely important to
10 this area since they make up a significant part of the
11 annual subsistence harvest, we'll see later in the
12 harvest survey, and are available year-round. TEK for
13 this project was documented primarily through interviews
14 with elders and other knowledgeable fishermen. We
15 discussed projects, in terms of seasonal movements and
16 spawning as well as historical and contemporary harvest
17 techniques and use. Also local observations on abundance
18 and population trends. Interviews usually included
19 mapping of harvest areas and important habitats, such as
20 overwintering areas and spawning. We also accompanied
21 fishermen on trips and other harvest efforts wherever we
22 could. A prominent one that Dave mentioned earlier was
23 the lampray harvest in Grayling last early December.

24
25 We also collected information on fish and
26 fishing in both Deg Xinag and Holikachuk, the two
27 Athabascan dialects in this area and language assistance
28 for that component was provided by Beth Leonard in Deg
29 Xinag who's originally from Shageluk and Julia Olevieria
30 on Holikachuk, who currently lives in Grayling.

31
32 Working with elders and other fishermen
33 provided detailed information about all of the non-salmon
34 fish species and in some cases provided critical
35 information on certain fish. Here this slide talks
36 about Arctic lampray or eels as they're called locally,
37 where very little biological information exists.

38
39 TEK work with elders for this project
40 probably represents one of the most comprehensive
41 attempts to describe the life history and ecology of
42 lampray in the Yukon to date. And part of this included
43 -- a lot of our ability -- or a lot of my ability to
44 describe this in the final report relied on Dave's
45 observation of the actual harvest. According to local
46 prohibitions, women aren't allowed on the ice when the
47 eels are being harvested, so I brought my eyes with me.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 MS. BROWN: So the ability to harvest
2 eels relies a great deal on long-term experience with an
3 observation of the eel runs. And some of the interesting
4 things that we were able to document which will be
5 extremely critical in managing both a subsistence harvest
6 and any future commercial harvest were things like run
7 timing whereas a lot of people think of just one eel run,
8 all of our respondents identified two and potentially
9 three runs of lampray, actually, with very specific on
10 what side of the river they ran on, the timing of those
11 runs, the quality of the eels, the size of the eels in
12 each of those runs. We talked about run timing
13 indicators in terms of weather. The weather changes as
14 the eels run or migrate up the Yukon. We talked about
15 spawning areas in terms of where they find juvenile eels,
16 usually at summer fish camp at the mouth of creeks coming
17 out of mud. And all the various uses that eels are put
18 to.

19
20 One of the most intriguing things about
21 eels that this project documents is sort of captured by
22 that quote at the bottom, local residents talked about
23 eels in terms of their sensitivity, that they're smart
24 fish, that they're aware of and have an active
25 relationship with people on the ice, and that
26 relationship has a lot to do with how people then are
27 able to harvest eels.

28
29 I'm going to turn it over to John Burr to
30 talk about the next several slides, they're about the
31 sampling.

32
33 MR. BURR: In order to sample fish from
34 the subsistence harvest, the next few slides deal only
35 with pike because the focus of that part of the study
36 down there by Holy Cross. But anyway, we were able to
37 get samples from the subsistence fishery by three
38 methods, primarily, first while there was hooking going
39 on there at Holy Cross. We had a lot of help from the
40 students there at the school in sampling, well, catching
41 the fish and then measuring them and looking at maturity
42 and what not. The second method was by return of fish
43 that had radio tags implanted in them. In another
44 companion study we put 40 radio tags in northern pike
45 over in the area around Reindeer Lake, and there'll be a
46 slide here in a minute that shows where those tags went
47 in. And then the third way, we have a lot of northern
48 pike that have been tagged with little flo tags or
49 spaghetti tags and most of those were put out either
50 while we were putting the radio tags in the fish or we

1 also have had a program with the sportfishery over there
2 the past few years and we've tagged two to 500 or so fish
3 each year. So there's about 3,000 northern pike in the
4 Reindeer Lake area that have flo tags in them.

5
6 Notice that that particular fish that the
7 young man is holding open there, it's a pre-spawning
8 female and as we'll see most of the fish in the fishery,
9 that are harvested in the fishery in the wintertime are
10 these large pre-spawning females. This graph just shows
11 the size of the fish that we were sampling there at Holy
12 Cross in those two years. About two-thirds of the fish
13 sampled were females and they were all in pre-spawning
14 condition, and all of the fish larger than 33 inches were
15 females. And that's pretty typical throughout the state
16 -- you almost never, well, I have never found a northern
17 pike longer than about 33 inches that was not a female.

18
19 In this next slide, it just shows the
20 difference in growth rates of males and females, again,
21 it shows that of the fish that were sampled there at Holy
22 Cross, they ranged in age from four or five up to about
23 15, and all the big fish are eight years or older and the
24 females get to be large at a younger age than the males
25 that grow faster.

26
27 This slide shows where the fish were
28 located during May during three different years. The
29 radio tags that we put out lasted for almost three years.
30 most of the spawning takes place right there by Reindeer
31 Lake where most of these green dots are. I can't point
32 to the slide, that won't work.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 MR. BURR: But the ones that we had radio
37 tags in spawned from up by Albert's Lake down almost all
38 the way by Pike Lake, so it was all in the area over in
39 the Innoko drainage and none of them over in the Yukon,
40 and that was every year during May, we never found any
41 fish with these radio tags in them that were over in the
42 main stem, they were all over in the shallow, warmer
43 water.

44
45 In the summer time, this is the rest of
46 the summer, the first slide just showed May distribution.
47 The red dots there are the locations of radio tagged fish
48 throughout the entire summer, that would be June, July,
49 August and through September until almost freeze-up and
50 it shows that they were from Layman's Lake all the way

1 down to Pike Lake again and a lot of them were in the
2 Reindeer Lake area. The green shading shows the area of
3 the drainage where most of the sportfishery occurs in
4 those areas that are down stream from Shageluk, there's
5 also a sportfishery, these same guys actually go up past
6 Shageluk sometimes, but this study just looked at the
7 lower area because all of our radio tagged fish stayed in
8 this lower area, none of them went upstream.

9
10 The tan areas are the areas that were
11 identified as primary summer time subsistence pike areas,
12 and most of that really is incidental to fishing for
13 other kinds of species and this information -- except for
14 the stuff there by Reindeer Lake, and this information,
15 of course, came from the interviews that Caroline was
16 doing.

17
18 In the winter time the pattern changes
19 quite a bit, these fish move out of the freshwater areas
20 in the Innoko out into the deeper areas in the Yukon.
21 Again, we have a difference in the area of use by local
22 subsistence users there and those are shown in the tan.
23 The thing that is significant here is that these fish
24 really do move a lot, and you don't really see that to
25 the degree that it happens because you're just getting
26 all of the winter time locations and all the summer time
27 locations, but we had fish that would be, for example,
28 marked in Reindeer Lake area that would go up to Layman's
29 Lake, go down to Pike Lake, go out to -- this is a single
30 fish over the course of one year, go out to Paimut
31 Slough, down there by Paimut and then back up by Holy
32 Cross and then return to the Reindeer Lake area to spawn,
33 so they're moving just an enormous number of miles in any
34 one year. But the significance of this slide shows that
35 -- in the last slide we had most of the subsistence use
36 was in an area that was separate from where the radio
37 tagged pike were, in the winter time the radio tagged
38 pike and the subsistence areas are almost identical and
39 this is really pretty good evidence that these fish that
40 are being targeted by the sportfishery in the summer time
41 are the same fish that are being targeted in winter time,
42 at least, by the local subsistence fishery.

43
44 And I'm done.

45
46 MR. COLLINS: I had a question, Ron, is
47 it appropriate.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.

50

1 MR. COLLINS: Those larger fish, the
2 females, what about spawning age, are those larger ones
3 doing most of the spawning, are they critical for the
4 survival, because I'd heard that before?
5

6 MR. BURR: Yeah, northern pike almost
7 everywhere start spawning sometime around four years of
8 age. A little earlier, a little younger depending on
9 growth rates. But, yeah, these large females that are
10 concentrated in these areas in the winter time and are
11 more susceptible of being jigged are really important to
12 the recruitment of these stocks. There's no doubt about
13 that.
14

15 Again, in this case, it's probably not a
16 large issue because the number of people that are
17 participating there in the Holy Cross area are relatively
18 small compared to the enormous area that we're talking
19 about. But, yeah, there's some definite potential
20 management ramifications if there were a large increase
21 in the use of these fish by either the sportfishery or if
22 the number of people participating in the local
23 subsistence fishery was to grow, you could see that there
24 is a huge potential for things going sideways pretty
25 quickly.
26

27 MS. BROWN: Okay, the third component of
28 this project, the harvest survey for the calendar year,
29 2002, was to provide a snapshot of the harvest during an
30 entire year. Surveyors were selected locally by their
31 tribal Councils and hired by TCC to conduct face to face
32 surveys in every household. Overall 89 percent of the
33 area's households in all four communities did participate
34 in the survey.
35

36 The survey itself asked households to
37 provide information about harvest, it was fairly a simple
38 survey, a one page survey, to provide information about
39 overall harvest as well as questions about receiving and
40 giving fish to map distribution and sharing patterns.
41 And just as an aside, it was the same survey also that
42 was used in the Koyukuk so there's some comparability
43 there.
44

45 Together you can see the total there. I
46 actually cut some of the species out to be able to fit
47 the chart on. But together they reported, the households
48 reported an estimated harvest of just over 87,500 pounds
49 of fish which is quite a lot for these four communities.
50 And as you can see, whitefish, specifically broad and

1 humpback whitefish made up the largest portion of the
2 non-salmon harvest with eels coming in a close second.

3
4 This slide takes a closer look comparing
5 community harvest levels by species, and that's one of
6 the things that both reports do is to look at overall
7 regional harvest and then also harvest by -- as Dave
8 mentioned, by community and by species. This just gives
9 you another perspective on community practices, and it
10 supports some of the TEK work we did with residents to
11 look at patterns.

12
13 The pie charts give a quick view of the
14 differences between each community and their harvest in a
15 single year. Though, all generally harvest the same
16 species. And a lot of these differences have to do with,
17 interestingly, some of the geographical differences
18 between communities. For example Grayling harvested the
19 most species while Shageluk harvested only four, likely
20 because of the location, Shageluk's location on the
21 Innoko which doesn't support all of the species, lampray,
22 for example, and only some seasonally. There was quite a
23 lot of information about the fall and spring pike and
24 whitefish migrations and the exodus of those fish out of
25 the Innoko which raised potentially future research
26 questions about water quality in the Innoko and some of
27 those run timing aspects.

28
29 A second example in these pie charts,
30 pike and whitefish harvest were greatest in Holy Cross
31 and Shageluk where pike habitats are of high quality down
32 by the Reindeer Lake and Piamut Slough area, and seasonal
33 migrations of whitefish and pike are targeted by both
34 Shageluk and Holy Cross fishers as they exist or entered
35 the Yukon from the Innoko.

36
37 In summary, this project, as I had
38 mentioned before, brought together different components
39 to try to address two major concerns. One was this need
40 for information, a larger need for information in the
41 region in terms of the use and ecology of these fish
42 species, but also to address the user concerns over pike,
43 specifically in Reindeer Lake. The user concerns
44 primarily between the subsistence fishery and a
45 sportfishery in that area. And according to the report
46 one of the concerns was to identify whether or not -- was
47 to be able to map this important harvest area and also to
48 address the extent to which this was the same population
49 that both fisheries were targeting.

50

1 In general we found that residents of the
2 area maintain an extensive body of information about non-
3 salmon fish species based on their long-term observation
4 and use of these fish.

5
6 The harvest survey estimates a
7 significant annual harvest and quantifies sharing and
8 distribution patterns in a community.

9
10 The study also provides, interestingly,
11 some comparative information for considering regional and
12 local similarities and differences when compared to the
13 Koyukuk project, and these kinds of things can be
14 incredibly important in dealing with local or regional
15 differences with management issues especially when you're
16 dealing with, you know, as an advisory Council if you
17 were dealing with an issue that may manifest differently
18 in another part of the river.

19
20 The interviews and the biological work
21 combine to address user concerns over pike in the
22 Reindeer Lake area. For example, the systematic mapping
23 of subsistence harvest locations and other important
24 seasonable habitats were considered alongside maps
25 depicting the movements of tagged pike to more accurately
26 describe the utilization and definition of pike
27 population stocks.

28
29 Do you have anything you wanted to add?

30
31 MR. BURR: (Shakes head negatively)

32
33 MS. BROWN: So in conclusion we just
34 wanted to thank a bunch of people for our ability to do
35 this project, primarily the people of Grayling, Anvik,
36 Shageluk and Holy Cross and the students and Staff of
37 Holy Cross and the Shageluk schools who helped with the
38 interviews and with the winter harvest sampling.

39
40 Obviously Office of Subsistence
41 Management, and you guys who approved these projects and
42 offer support throughout the research and the writing.

43
44 And then there's a variety of people,
45 including one sitting here with me right now, Dave, who
46 helped contribute to the interviews, either through
47 language assistance, photography skills and description,
48 and some other students who worked with me throughout the
49 project to do the interviews. So all of those people
50 together make these kind of things possible.

1 I can take any questions about this
2 project, or John and I can take any questions if there's
3 any.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Would someone get the
6 lights.

7
8 MR. PETERS: Mr. Chairman.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Emmitt Peters.

11
12 MR. PETERS: Yes, that's a very good
13 project you have there going on, you know, and I was
14 wondering if you would consider checking the other
15 drainages like Yuki or Melosi, something like that for
16 this kind of species or if there are -- if they got any
17 money or a grant for that, or plans to do that?

18
19 MS. BROWN: Well, we don't. Let's see we
20 have thought about doing this project -- I mean one of
21 the -- having the Koyukuk River and this area provides
22 two pieces of the puzzle and then there are projects in
23 the works for -- we developed a project to work in the
24 middle Yukon and also in the Yukon Flats, Birch Creek
25 area, there are also some management areas up there -- or
26 management concerns up there. And mostly we take our
27 direction from you guys. And also wherever there's a
28 management issue that comes up, so if there are concerns,
29 specific concerns, then that's actually very good
30 direction for us to try to develop a project in a
31 specific area. So if there are any in the areas that you
32 are talking about then it would really be worthwhile to
33 know about them now and we can try to look into that for
34 the future.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict, and then.....

37
38 MR. PETERS: Well, excuse me. Well, I
39 consider that a good issue if you could find a way to do
40 the study up there. Maybe we can get our money person
41 over there to dig into the government's pocket for a
42 little more help there.

43
44 Thank you, very much.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict, and then I would
47 like to move on with the agenda. It is now 2:30 and we
48 adjourn at 4:00.

49
50 MR. JONES: Yeah, this is Benedict Jones.

1 You kids I just want to tell you historical stories about
2 these species of fish, like the suker, it has -- it eats
3 on the bottom of the river but the story is a historical
4 story that it steal everything from other fish on the
5 bottom so if you -- my wife knows more about the fish on
6 the sucker, so she'd cut the belly open and there'd be
7 all kinds of different things that it steal from the
8 other fish.

9
10 And the blackfish, it has to have oxygen
11 during the winter, so rather than calling it blackfish,
12 some people -- the older people used to call it devil
13 fish because when it snows in the winter, especially in
14 March they'll go in a circle, a whole bunch of them and
15 they'll make a hole through the ice, under the snow, and
16 when you're walking with snowshoes you'd fall through, so
17 when you're -- at that time of the month the people that
18 used to trap used to have walking stick all the time so
19 when they're walking they'll hit that hole so they won't
20 fall in.

21
22 Another thing, too, the blackfish you can
23 keep as a pet. I had one for two years in Fairbanks that
24 I brought back from Koyukuk but you have to change the
25 water twice a week because it urinate and everything and
26 it eats whatever it urinates. But you can feed oats and
27 whitefish and springtime mostly you can feed mosquitos,
28 but when I used to come home from work the kids -- like
29 my kids was about your age, they'd go over there play
30 with the fish but the blackfish wouldn't pay attention to
31 them, but as soon as they see me come in from work at
32 4:00 or 5:00 o'clock, I'd tap on the fish tank and man,
33 they'd jump right to the top and start jumping, and
34 they'd say, oh, boy, we're going to eat.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 MR. JONES: But you could have for pets
39 at the school for your project.

40
41 Historical, pike, there was one up the
42 Dalbi River, nobody know what the age of the pike was,
43 nobody knew how big it got but it got landlocked right
44 next to the Dalbi River, the high water, and people, you
45 know, from my generation back to my great-grandfather's
46 generation, they warned other trappers not to cross that
47 lake because last guy that tried to cross that lake was a
48 White man in 1952, that's the last time we knew that fish
49 was still alive, but nobody knew when it got in there,
50 but first in late 1800s they noticed it was there, so the

1 fish might have lived for 75, 100 years, we don't know.
2 But I seen one pike -- let me continue the story about
3 this White man, the lake wasn't very big, probably about
4 a half a mile long by a quarter mile wide, and the White
5 man, the elders warned him not to cross that lake, so one
6 evening in November the ice was still kind of thin,
7 probably about four to six inches, so he decided to cross
8 that lake, he got about halfway across and right in front
9 of him the ice start flying, and he had snowshoes on and
10 so he ran back toward the direction he came. So he
11 believed the elders that the fish was still alive in
12 there, that was the last time we know that it was alive,
13 was in 1952, so then from then on he always walked
14 around.

15
16 But in 1947 I was hunting muskrats in
17 that same kind of lake and there was high water and I
18 paddled for about five hours hunting muskrat and I got to
19 take a break on the only land that I found, little
20 knolls, I took a rest there, I had tea and a little lunch
21 and I got back in the canoe and I started getting back in
22 the canoe, I don't know why I took my 30/30 out of the
23 canoe with me, but -- and I started to get back in and I
24 saw movement alongside of my canoe and I had a 14 foot
25 long canoe and I look and there was a pike, it was 11
26 foot long and the head was probably about that wide. I
27 was going to shoot it with the 30/30 but just before I
28 pulled the trigger, I said, no, I better not because if
29 busts my canoe if I didn't hit it right I'd be stuck, my
30 mother, you know, she was about 20 miles away and she
31 wouldn't know where I was at, so I decided not to shoot
32 it. And then after it went back out, I thought, well,
33 how am I going to get it home, probably about a 400 pound
34 fish, I'll never get it home in a canoe.

35
36 But that's the story I wanted to share
37 with you kids.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict.

42
43 Any further questions for Dave or
44 Caroline.

45
46 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, last one, Jack,
49 and then we'll go on with the agenda.

50

1 MR. REAKOFF: I just wanted to comment
2 that I highly appreciate the work the Department is doing
3 on these two projects and Dave's project on the Koyukuk,
4 those are going to be very instrumental to how we look at
5 and manage these freshwater species. And the pike
6 inventory and telemetry project was requested by one of
7 our Council members, and that's some very interesting
8 information, so I just wanted to express my appreciation.
9

10 Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. And I
13 would like to thank you Julie and Kathy for bringing the
14 kids in.

15
16 Vince.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that would
19 bring us up to -- Tim Craig needs to use the overhead
20 projector also, I think it worked, did it not, and Tim
21 Craig with BLM always provides you data from the
22 different surveys for areas of interest. So I don't know
23 if you want to take a short break or just go right into
24 Tim but he would be next because of the projector.
25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, as long as the
27 projector's up we'll go ahead and use it. Again, we
28 adjourn at 4:00 o'clock or so, so start limiting your
29 time.

30
31 But before you start I'd like a five
32 minute break -- 10 minute break.

33
34 (Off record)

35
36 (On record)

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I would like
39 to call the meeting back to order. Before us we have Tim
40 Craig and Jeff Denton, BLM.

41
42 Go ahead.

43
44 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman. Council
45 members. Again, I'm Tim Craig for the record. I work
46 out of the Northern Field Office. I'm the representative
47 to the Western Interior RAC. I'm going to move right
48 along here pretty quickly.

49
50 If you could just give me a minute here

1 to kind of figure this out.

2

3

(Pause)

4

5 MR. CRAIG: Okay, all I've done here is
6 I've actually taken some pictures of graphs and things
7 that might help you in following along on the handout and
8 so the audience can kind of follow along, too. Again,
9 I'm the Northern Field Office's representative to the
10 Western Interior RAC. We, out of our office administer
11 BLM lands basically in the northern half of Alaska. The
12 Anchorage Field Office where Jeff Denton works has the
13 rest of Alaska, BLM lands.

14

15 Things that are of interest, I'm going to
16 kind of rush through this, most of it you know about it,
17 some of it you might not. Of course the big news this
18 year as you all know is a tremendous amount of the
19 country in the Interior burned and I have a little chart
20 up here on the overhead that shows just the fires that
21 occurred in my unit, which is the Dalton Corridor. Of
22 course these fires burned outside of that as well. I
23 even missed one, I forgot the Collick (ph) fires, another
24 100,000 so over a million acres burned in my unit and
25 surrounding areas alone this year. One of the big
26 events, of course, of the year.

27

28 Point two on your handout is, of course,
29 we have the challenge cost share agreement with Alaska
30 Department of Fish and Game that the Council was
31 instrumental in getting us funding for. I thought I'd
32 give you a quick run down on how we're spending that
33 money this year. The first bullet is about a sheep
34 survey that has occurred in the eastern -- kind of
35 central eastern Brooks Range. Fish and Game has
36 conducted that survey for three years in a row, and if
37 you will remember at the last meeting I gave you some
38 information that showed that the number of sheep in that
39 survey -- this is the area that is directly east of the
40 Dalton Highway, basically in the Chandalar drainage.
41 There was about a 30 percent decline in sheep between
42 2002 and 2003. Well, with BLM's help this year in
43 funding they conducted that identical survey again this
44 year and found that the number of sheep in 2004 in that
45 same survey area was almost identical as it was in 2002,
46 which is really good news to me. It probably indicates
47 -- at least it indicates to me how important these long
48 range -- long-term commitments to surveying ungulate
49 populations is. You can't just go and do a survey this
50 year and next year and then say this is the way things

1 are. We don't know exactly at this point why those sheep
2 were missed in 2003. The theories are that they either
3 may have moved out of the area for whatever reason and
4 then moved back in or the other possibility, of course,
5 is that the survey -- that the survey conditions were
6 such that there were just a bunch of sheep that were
7 missed in 2003.

8
9 But the bottom line is at least now it
10 looks like the population is relatively static, although
11 there are still some real serious, in my estimation,
12 anyway, questions about the age structure that's going on
13 there because of the increased hunting pressure in that
14 area.

15
16 Okay, so that covers, again, the sheep
17 survey. The money that we spent on sheep surveys this
18 year.

19
20 Then this winter the Alaska Department of
21 Fish and Game, the Kanuti and BLM are all going to
22 conduct a moose trend count again, that's been ongoing
23 ever since I've entered the program. However, there is
24 going to be a big change in that this year, not only are
25 we going to continue to do the trend counts, but the
26 National Park Service is going to get involved and we're
27 planning to actually do a census. And the distinction
28 there is we're just going to do one heck a lot of more
29 surveying, including stratification, it's going to be a
30 repeat of a survey that was done in 1999 and it should
31 give us kind of a long range view of exactly what the
32 moose population is doing in the northern part of Unit
33 24, GMU 24. So again, we're going to continue the trend
34 count but we're also going to do this census that's done
35 every five years this year.

36
37 And then lastly, the other part of this
38 challenge cost share, is we're going to put four more
39 radios out in the Hogzanta Hills. If you'll remember we
40 put four out last year. As of right now one of them is
41 mortality in a rock pile. One of them has completely
42 disappeared, it left about the same time the Western
43 Arctic Herd left. And then another one was just on the
44 fritz and we were having a lot of trouble with it, so we
45 just have one radio left. So we're hopefully -- but I
46 found more radios down in the basement of BLM and we had
47 them refurbished, and it's kind of a shoestring outfit,
48 but anyway, we're going to go ahead and try and get those
49 out in the next couple of weeks so we can get a little
50 more data out of those caribou.

1 So that's the challenge cost share
2 information.

3
4 Point No. 3, is we have these five areas
5 of critical environmental concern in my unit that were
6 established just for the management of critical sheep
7 habitat and we've been trying to collect some information
8 on that. I took, actually, some of that money and used
9 it to help extend that sheep survey early in the summer,
10 but we also did a little bit of work ourselves and found
11 out that sheep winter in all five of those. We know that
12 now, that sheep lamb in all five of those and we've got a
13 little better idea of how they use it, although we
14 haven't analyzed all that data.

15
16 Point No. 4 on your handout, the BLM
17 issued four new recreational guiding permits in the
18 Dalton Highway in 2004, they were all for tour operators.
19 We didn't receive or issue any new hunting or fishing
20 guide permits.

21
22 I promised the Council last year that I
23 would dig into and find out how many hunting guides that
24 we actually permit out of the Northern Field Office, and
25 it was not as easy as just going to the files and
26 counting because the guide units often overlap boundaries
27 and jurisdictions and what have you, but it looks like
28 there's about 39 hunting guides that are permitted out of
29 the Northern Field Office. Again, remember there's 60
30 million acres that we administer, so those are spread out
31 over those 60 million acres. And, again, none of them
32 were in the Dalton Corridor or the Dalton Management
33 Unit, no new ones this year. There are also eight tour
34 operators that were permitted by the Northern Field
35 Office.

36
37 And then lastly, No. 5, visitation. I
38 always try to give you an update on what's happening
39 there. The Coldfoot AIVC, the Arctic Interagency Visitor
40 Center, the new -- if you haven't been there, it's a big
41 beautiful building there in Coldfoot, Alaska. The grand
42 opening was this year. And it was up 47 percent,
43 directly as a result of that facility being available.
44 In contrast, the Yukon Crossings, the number of people at
45 Yukon Crossing was down four percent. And this little
46 chart right here is pretty busy, you're probably not too
47 interested in, you can kind of see some of these numbers
48 over in this percent change column here of various
49 things, and number of guided visitors here is the 47
50 percent, if you can see the arrow moving back and forth

1 there. And that is really where the number of visitors
2 that has increased coming in and visiting our facilities
3 is because of all these tour operators that have shown up
4 there. Well, if you didn't like -- let me see if I can
5 do this -- well, you saw it there for a minute -- if you
6 didn't like the look of that chart, maybe I'll just show
7 you where we are right here. As you can see these are
8 the charts for the last several years, the blue one right
9 here is the number of visits to the AIVC, and you can
10 kind of get the idea of where the trend is going. And
11 the moral of the story there is if you build a road, they
12 will come.

13

(Laughter)

14

15
16 MR. CRAIG: And that concludes my
17 presentation. I'd take questions if you had any.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, and then Robert.

22

23 MR. REAKOFF: I have one question on
24 deploying those collars on caribou, are you going to do
25 that a little later to try and get away from Western
26 Arctic Caribou, if they're present, or you just have a
27 timeframe you can put them on or.....

28

29 MR. CRAIG: We're going to do it this
30 week, if we can pull it off. And there's a reason, and
31 it has to do with finances, because I'm stealing money
32 from Peter to give it to Paul, and I have to do something
33 else and it has to be done right now, and so we're going
34 to fly cover on that project so that we can, you know how
35 that works, so anyway.

36

(Laughter)

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

39

40 MR. REAKOFF: I think it's a good time to
41 deploy because the Western Herd hasn't shown up yet.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have a question,
44 Robert?

45

46 MR. WALKER: Yes.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

49

50

1 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Tim, I have two questions. One, is there going to be any
3 planned controlled burns in the next few years, and my
4 second question is, how many sheep are actually taken for
5 subsistence, could you give us an answer for that?
6

7 MR. CRAIG: Yeah, Member Walker, through
8 the Chairman. We don't have any -- in my unit we don't
9 have any plans to do anymore burning right away.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 MR. CRAIG: We kind of think that 1.1
14 million is probably enough for the short term here.

15
16 (Laughter)

17
18 MR. CRAIG: And then the other question
19 was how many sheep are taken by subsistence hunters, and
20 that's a -- it runs, I'd guess two to four, probably a
21 year, annually two to four, and that's, if you remember,
22 that is a permit hunt that the BLM administers. We
23 administer two different hunts, one South Atigun Pass and
24 one is North of Atigun Pass, and I think almost all of
25 these sheep are South of Atigun Pass. There aren't very
26 many taken by subsistence hunters north of the Pass
27 although it's open to them.

28
29 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Tim.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
32 Tim.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: You had something Jeff.

37
38 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
39 name is Jeff Denton. I'm a biologist for the Anchorage
40 Field Office, we're the shoestring for the Hotfoot, he's
41 the shoestring for the Coldfoot.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 MR. DENTON: And I've got several things
46 to cover here. Last year I had told you about the speed
47 up of the conveyance process that BLM's processing
48 through. I told you I'd give you kind of periodic
49 updates to that for your local area. You guys may know
50 more about it than I do, but Holy Cross, either early

1 this winter or during this winter, their final conveyance
2 program, I think, will be completed, and I'm not too sure
3 about Anvik and Shageluk and Grayling, but I know this
4 area is on the front end of that process. So you can
5 expect -- in this area, but statewide, Native corporation
6 lands, there was over 900,000 acres conveyed this year
7 and on State selected lands, there was over 300,000 acres
8 conveyed. So just as kind of an update in general terms
9 on what's going on there.

10

11 Speaking of roads, I think -- did all you
12 guys pick up a copy of that DOT scoping booklet.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: It's later on the agenda,
15 but we could pass it out now.

16

17 MR. DENTON: Okay. It's probably not
18 that critical except take a hard look at that because
19 that's a proposed road proposed basically in conjunction
20 more or less with the development or potential
21 development of Donlan Creek and the gold mining up there.
22 It's a road proposal that would put a road, an all season
23 road between Crooked Creek and basically Holy Cross, to
24 railroad city there, which would have some pretty
25 significant implications to even lifestyles in that piece
26 of country. But this is only one of the roads being
27 considered. A year and a half ago, a road from Crooked
28 Creek to the Donlan Creek mine was also being evaluated,
29 and BLM made scoping statements on that but DOT has never
30 come back with us with what they've come out on that so
31 you've got potentially 90 miles of road that people are
32 looking at right now back in that country.

33

34 So pay attention to that.

35

36 Plus the power plant in Bethel, providing
37 power to these villages as well as mostly the mine will
38 also create another large infrastructure type thing,
39 there'll be roads associated with power lines, this sort
40 of thing. So there's some things in the wind here that
41 could have extremely significant implications to
42 subsistence ways of life out here. Try to keep up with
43 that and make sure that this Council is aware of that and
44 provide comments, because you will definitely be impacted
45 by those things.

46

47 Right now BLM is not one of the major
48 players in these things but we're actually in a lot of
49 cases one of the major land owners. But Federal highways
50 have special waivers on Federal lands and so we don't

1 have as much to say about it. So there's a lot of
2 politics and big dollars playing games here. So just
3 some things to be cognizant of.

4
5 We've mentioned the Central Kuskokwim
6 Moose Management Plan several times, I won't belabor
7 that. The final is done. There's implementation which
8 will take many years to build back those moose
9 populations to see if the regulatory changes will be
10 successful or not. Like all plans, you know, you've got
11 to have some adaptive management, if things aren't
12 working you've got to take a reassessment and take a new
13 look at it and move on. But at least we have the basic
14 framework established now to do that over time. And
15 already this year Toby and I are going to do 19(A), we're
16 going to do a moose major density estimate, census of
17 that unit this year, and we're going to try -- and that's
18 a big area, so those are pretty expensive ventures, but
19 we're going to take a shot at that. For 21(E), Toby's
20 going to do the fall classification counts this year. If
21 I get snow early I'm going to do basically a
22 stratification level of the upper country of 21(E), the
23 head of the Anvik River, the head of the Bonasilla River,
24 the big blocks of BLM land there. So we'll have some
25 idea of what that country. That hasn't been done for 10
26 years so we'll have a comparison with 10 years ago, at
27 least, we're lucky to get back every 10 years on BLM
28 lands.

29
30 But it's also been mentioned by Bill
31 Schaff, the bear work that we're intending to initiate
32 this next year. And we have quite a bit of support, you
33 know, via subsistence ends to do that work. So we
34 greatly appreciate your support and continued support
35 because I think subsistence dollars and the subsistence
36 program is what's going to drive that kind of work. We
37 would never be able to get monies for that any other way.
38 In fact, to get money for the next few years is going to
39 be very difficult for BLM to continue a long-term study,
40 we're looking at probably a five year study at a minimum
41 to do adequate work for black bears. And so we would
42 greatly appreciate actually continued support meeting by
43 meeting and even in your annual report, that goes a long
44 ways when we go to get our project monies year by year,
45 so we greatly appreciate your support in that.

46
47 I've done some bear work this summer to
48 compare, again, with past work, and actually in the Anvik
49 River we're seeing brown bear populations in pretty
50 severe decline. We've got about 50 percent of the bears

1 we were seeing 10 years in that country. So the reasons
2 for it, we don't really know. There's been some pretty
3 heavy hunting pressure from outfitter pressure in there.
4 There's some age and sex ratio things that are indicating
5 that it's basically overharvested. And we're seeing
6 black bears moving into those brown bear habitats. We're
7 seeing black bears where you don't expect to see black
8 bears, way out of the timber, way out in the open, and
9 that's a trend we're seeing over the years. So real
10 consistent trend.

11

12 Fisheries-wise, on the Anvik River, we
13 have had a stream gage placed in there for the last two
14 years for in-stream flow applications through the State,
15 you have to have about a 10 year monitoring period of
16 flow rates, our intention is to get those flow rates so
17 we can actually reserve an in-stream flow for the
18 fisheries values in the Anvik River, so we can actually
19 apply for them. And so we're trying to comply with the
20 State law in order to do that, especially when we're
21 looking at power, energy development, road systems,
22 mining development, those folks can apply for those kind
23 of uses of water and if there's not a prior right for
24 fish and wildlife already established, fish and wildlife
25 won't have water, the water will go to the industrial
26 user. So we're trying to get ahead of the curve,
27 hopefully, we can. So we're working on that.

28

29 I was asked to make a little bit of a
30 statement about predator control on BLM lands as it
31 relates to the McGrath effort and also the 19
32 authorizations that the Fish and Game and management of
33 that predator program. For BLM, our policy state-wide is
34 that predator control is a State issue and if the State
35 meets the exceptions of the Airborne Hunting Act, which
36 they have around McGrath, then those BLM lands are
37 basically open for predator control. The area around
38 McGrath within the Ema (ph), there's a lot of BLM lands
39 in there and that program is taking place on those lands
40 just as it is on everybody else's lands there.

41

42 So to help clarify that, BLM's policy and
43 the laws that guide us are somewhat different than what
44 guide the Refuges and the Parks, just so -- that makes it
45 a little easier for these areas where there's primarily
46 BLM land and not Refuge lands or other folk's lands
47 involved.

48

49 And just a catch up report on Lime
50 Village, in the last year, the last regulatory year and

1 we all know the moose population down there has been in
2 real bad shape for a long time but they only killed eight
3 moose. They have a 12 month season there. They have a
4 village quota of 40 moose, which they have never met, and
5 it's gone from -- their harvest in the last 10 years has
6 gone from basically 36 moose down to eight moose this
7 last year. What they're killing is only transient, you
8 know, two year old cows that are basically dispersed and
9 as the population declined in that country, also the age
10 structure and the number of cows killed has increased
11 dramatically. So they average a third of their harvest
12 cows overall but in the last few years it's like 80
13 percent cows. So I mean it's just working against them,
14 everything that happens is working against getting that
15 moose population to reestablish and we did change
16 regulations this year to cut the cow harvest out, which,
17 you know, may be too little too late, but we'll just have
18 to wait and see what happens there.

19

20 So with that, is there any questions,
21 I'll stop right there.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: George.

24

25 MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
26 Thank you, Jeff. Has BLM officially given, you know, the
27 -- in 19(A) the State approved a predator control plan
28 that's supposed to be taking place this winter, I
29 believe, is BLM officially -- I mean the State -- I mean
30 is BLM completely open to there's quite a few BLM lands
31 in 19(A), are they free to do that program on BLM land
32 there, in 19(A)?

33

34 MR. DENTON: Yeah, basically we don't
35 have to give the Fish and Game approval, as long as they
36 meet the exceptions to the way they manage that program,
37 as long as they meet the exceptions of the Airborne
38 Hunting Act, it's strictly a Federal operation, we're not
39 even involved.

40

41 MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you.

42

43 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.

46

47 MR. COLLINS: I had a question and a
48 comment. First, Jeff raised an issue that I've never
49 heard before and we ought to be aware of and that's water
50 rights. He's saying that on critical spawning streams

1 that if there isn't a 10 year monitoring to establish
2 what water you need, any industry can come in there and
3 be granted water rights. So we ought to be asking on
4 critical spawning areas, I would think, who has the water
5 rights, and if we identify some of those rivers where
6 there's potential for mining we ought to be asking that
7 water rights -- that flows be established to make sure
8 that we can guarantee the water quality. So that's a new
9 issue that I hadn't heard before.

10

11 The other one is a question, there was
12 also discussion of a Donlan Creek, Ophir/Ruby Road, has
13 any scoping or planning been done on that or is that not
14 on the boards now, do you know?

15

16 MR. DENTON: Well, to my knowledge, at
17 least the BLM hasn't been approached with a scoping
18 process or any pre-work to that. But a large portion of
19 that would not be on BLM lands.

20

21 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

22

23 MR. DENTON: So it may be going on but
24 within DOT and within the State agencies themselves.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

27

28 MR. JONES: Yeah, Jeff, you mentioned
29 decrease in the brown bear, what specific area are you
30 talking about?

31

32 MR. DENTON: Well, actually we've got two
33 areas, one adjacent to the Western Interior over in the
34 Golsolvvia/Unalakleet area, but basically the Anvik River
35 drainage and the upper Bonasilla drainages.

36

37 MR. JONES: Yeah, has that habitat
38 changed in the last 10 years, salmon -- less salmon going
39 up that stream or what?

40

41 MR. DENTON: Well, of course, most of us
42 are familiar with the chum runs on the Anvik, you know,
43 they went down, but I believe this year they came back
44 up, there was actually quite a -- there was a lot of
45 salmon in the Anvik this year, that's why I chose this
46 year to fly again, because it was comparable with 1994
47 when I flew it before. And so I wanted to have at least
48 a comparable food base and time period that I flew these
49 bear surveys for consistency and comparability.

50

1 But overall, habitat changes, yeah, fish
2 have gone up and down, but mostly kind of down and
3 they're swinging back up, at least, for this year, but
4 other than that -- you know, other than the typical
5 climatic, you know, you have good bear years, you have
6 bad bear years, but overall what we're seeing is less old
7 age males, fewer bears in total, and actually a
8 population dominated by very young age structure, and so
9 that's what we're seeing in both of these areas.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

12

13 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 Jeff, when you say low bear count, is that when you're
15 flying it, how many bears are you seeing a mile, and is
16 there any other -- is the black bear moving into these
17 areas where the brown bears that have been habitat there
18 for years?

19

20 MR. DENTON: Yes, we have noticed that
21 black bears are showing up where we used to see brown
22 bear populations, or brown bear numbers, some of those
23 areas now we're seeing black bears instead of brown
24 bears. And there's -- this isn't super high density
25 brown bear country, you know, we don't see bears per mile
26 on the streams here. We see probably one bear -- in '94
27 we saw about one bear every 3.6 miles, and this year
28 we're seeing about one bear every 7 to 9 miles, so it's
29 not high densities of brown bears at all compared with
30 other bear areas that I work.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Rudy.

33

34 MR. DEMOSKI: Yeah, excuse me, up in
35 Blackburn where we hunt every year, Kenny Chase and I,
36 this year we seen more brown bears than we ever seen, I
37 would say in the last 20 years. So what I'm saying is
38 maybe they moved from Anvik River, which is just a little
39 ways to Blackburn, over in that area, and there's no --
40 there's not the high density of black bears there used to
41 be in that area.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MR. DENTON: Yeah, that's highly
46 possible. Brown bears, in particular, move seasonally to
47 food sources, and in fact they -- you know, brown bears
48 are pretty smart critters and they'll go back to areas
49 where they had a good meal for years to come and if
50 there's a shift in food sources or there's an abundant

1 food source that suddenly becomes locally available, they
2 certainly take advantage of it. This is why I try to do
3 these surveys at the same time of the year under the same
4 set of conditions so they are more directly comparable.
5 And what you're saying, if you've been there at the same
6 time, fall after fall, for example, and you're seeing an
7 increase, there's obviously something going on there,
8 either a food source or something else has probably
9 changed that would favor brown bears in that piece of
10 country.

11

12 MR. DEMOSKI: And the same thing has
13 happened right in the immediate Anvik area, every fall
14 the brown bears come into the village practically, but no
15 black bears coming in, right all fall there was a brown
16 bear by my house right up here, you know, looking for
17 moose meat, I guess.

18

19 MR. DENTON: Well, they're looking for
20 something to eat, you know, mostly that's what's driving
21 those critters and I know you used to have a lot of black
22 bears around here because when we'd move out of the
23 country we'd camp out overnight at the air strip here
24 and, you know, without fail, the guy I'm always with
25 always has a bear sniffing at his head about every
26 morning so, you know, there's a lot we don't know about
27 bear dynamics in here and the amount of effort that I'm
28 putting into it is pretty superficial, you know, if I get
29 to look at it once every 10 years, that's not nearly the
30 intensity that you really need to look at bears to manage
31 bears, there's no question about it. I'm just basically
32 trying to get a very gross idea what may be happening.
33 And, you know, I'm just getting some instances and times,
34 so it's not hard management kind of data, all I can get
35 is gross trends, if anything.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: George.

38

39 MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 Jeff, do you know anything about, has there ever been any
41 documentation or any studies about, rather than the
42 actual killing of bears, but increased -- could part of
43 the bear migration be from increased pressure or
44 harassment of any kind moving them or is that usually not
45 significant or is there just no information on that?

46

47 MR. DENTON: There may be some isolated
48 studies that sort of get at that, I mean the work being
49 done on the Kenai kind of relates to more human pressure,
50 human confrontations, but bears aren't moving out of

1 there, the mortality rates go up, is what ends up
2 happening. The confrontations. This country doesn't
3 have that kind of human pressure at this point in time.
4 And hunting pressure, normally doesn't move bears out,
5 hunting pressure usually is a mortality and those bears
6 don't have much of a chance, they're dead, so their
7 opportunities to adapt and change, home range and stuff
8 relative to human hunting pressures, there's very, very
9 little evidence to support that. It's mostly a mortality
10 related age and sex specific age and harvest sort of
11 thing that impacts these populations.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: You had one more, George.

14

15 MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 What about a lot of boat activity, up and down the river.
17 I, personally have knowledge that that can chase brown
18 bears away, keep them from feeding, if you've got a lot
19 of boats during the -- on the Aniak River, I see
20 sometimes if a fishing operation is too big, you know,
21 they'll take off with -- instead of the jet boats going
22 all together in one mob, which I've actually asked them
23 to do, they take off to spread their people out, they'll
24 take off at 40 minute intervals, well 40 minutes is just
25 the amount of the time to run a bear off -- a boat goes
26 by from running a bear off, about 40 minutes later, the
27 bear comes back out because I sit and watch it all summer
28 long, about 40 minutes, 30 minutes later the bear comes
29 back out, that's just in time for the next boat to come
30 by, and I literally watched it for four hours straight --
31 there's enough boats -- or three hours, to keep a sow and
32 cubs or bears from fishing for salmon there, you know,
33 that would do it, I think, you know, I don't know if that
34 progressed real long, a lot of it could affect it.

35

36 MR. DENTON: Yeah, I don't know of any
37 direct studies that have been done that relate to that
38 but I have observations very similar to yours in some
39 areas like the main fork of the Unalakleet, those bears
40 are strictly nocturnal now. And I've sat and watched
41 them, they hear a motor coming, they step in the brush
42 about 15 feet, the boat goes by, they come back out, if
43 it's real heavy, crowds, constant traffic, they're
44 strictly nocturnal bears, they only operate at night,
45 basically. And this can have an effect on how much fish
46 they can consume, how much time they can spend, you know,
47 getting quality fish and quality fish parts and so on and
48 so forth, so that could definitely have some impact, but
49 what we're seeing is lots of young bears, we're still
50 seeing lots of sows with cubs, a lot more younger age

1 structure which indicates in some cases the big bears
2 aren't killing the younger bears and, you know, bears
3 have kind of their own population controls built in if
4 we're not harvesting a lot of those older guys. So
5 there's a lot of those kinds of things.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tommy.

8
9 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, I was just wondering,
10 I just noticed like in the Koyukuk River area and kind of
11 other places up where we're from, a lot of the bears came
12 down to the lower parts of the -- or I mean to the
13 Koyukuk River and Yukon River areas because for me, for
14 my thinking, because of climate change, the weather and
15 all of this rain and everything and so there's no berries
16 or anything in the mountains and so they have to go
17 somewhere and the only berries that are raised are the
18 rosebuds and the high bush berries, so I'm kind of
19 thinking one of the reasons that they really moved.

20
21 MR. DENTON: Yeah, this year was a very
22 poor berry year because it was so dry in a lot of areas,
23 you know, like I say, bears are seeking food. If there
24 are areas that they're -- you know, they're going to be
25 where the food's at, or where they think there's food at
26 anyway, and I think you're probably very, very correct,
27 that many of these bears had to go to the river bottoms
28 where there was some feed this fall because there was
29 nothing up high, berry wise.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jeff.

32
33 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: One more, Jack.

36
37 MR. REAKOFF: At this time I would like
38 to propose to the Council that we include in our annual
39 report funding for resource investigations on BLM lands
40 as there's all these road projects and various things
41 coming on, the possibility of that ORV issue coming back
42 up in the Dalton Highway Corridor, I think the BLM needs
43 funding for resource evaluation and monitoring. So I
44 would like to include that in the annual report.

45
46 Is that acceptable?

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, thank you, Jack. Do
49 we have it on the agenda -- oh, we do have it on the
50 agenda, under B under 13, so we'll include it then.

1 Where are we now on the agenda then, Vince?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we're still
4 on agency reports. It's appropriate for Council members
5 to suggest topics for the annual report and I'll just
6 bring it back next meeting.

7

8 So that's fine, there's no resistance by
9 the Council to have that on the annual report, then we'll
10 go ahead.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I think it's valid.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The next thing, and
15 it's not anything long, we've already talked about it
16 several times, Randy Rogers did provide me a summary of
17 the upcoming 21(E) planning process and a summary of the
18 other planning processes, we're not going to cover them
19 unless you have questions, there's no one here really to
20 answer the questions. But they're there for you, and I
21 did provide one to, I believe, it was Gabe Nicholi so he
22 could take that back home, because the second handout
23 that Salena's giving to you kind of gives an outline of
24 the 21(E) planning process.

25

26 I don't see John Burr here but sometimes
27 I don't identify him well, so I don't know if Sportfish
28 has any presentation, if not, then we're already done
29 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. It looks
30 like we've completed BLM, so then we would go to Fish and
31 Wildlife Refuge reports, and I know there's several of
32 those. I mean they're not long but there's several of
33 them and they're going to be responding to some of your
34 questions from earlier in the meeting.

35

36 So I don't know who wants to go first
37 from the Refuges.

38

39 It looks like Clara won out the lottery.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Innoko. Didn't we cover
42 Koyukuk/Nowitna already?

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Did we cover who?

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Koyukuk/Nowitna already.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Nope. Nope, you had some
49 open questions that Geoff has done some background work
50 on, if you don't want him to speak that's fine, but he

1 has done some -- I briefed him on what you talked about
2 yesterday so he's prepared to respond to some of those.

3
4 But anyways, Clara and Bill would cover
5 the Innoko Refuge and then I suppose we would go to
6 Koyukuk/Nowitna, and, again, Wennona was weathered out,
7 she has a report here, I won't attempt to present it but
8 it's well put together and so we'll pass that out to you
9 and that would leave it at that, unless I've left out --
10 I don't know if Robert left, if the Yukon-Delta had any
11 reports, I don't think so.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

16
17 MR. SCHAFF: Good afternoon, Mr.
18 Chairman. My name is Bill Schaff with the Innoko
19 National Wildlife Refuge. And I have a brief synopsis of
20 some of the things that have happened over the course of
21 the last year on Innoko Refuge. You're getting a handout
22 now that will give you some of the information.

23
24 In 2004, we conducted a semi-annual moose
25 survey in the south half of the Refuge on February 28th
26 through March 4th. The weather was extremely poor during
27 this timeframe and we were unable to conduct anywhere
28 nears what we normally do and consequently our numbers
29 were down significantly. Whether this was because of the
30 weather or other factors, but as you can read the numbers
31 for the Yukon River area and the Innoko River area, they
32 were both down. It's hard to say because viewing from
33 the air is so dependent on weather. It's nearly
34 impossible to say exactly what the decline rates were.
35 We will be doing another survey in the year after next,
36 and we will be working, of course, with Jeff Denton with
37 BLM and Toby with Fish and Game on their moose surveys.

38
39 I do have copies of our -- well, I don't
40 have copies of it, but I could get anyone on the Board
41 copies of a survey, the complete report, with all the
42 statistical analysis in it and I'd be glad to send it to
43 either Vince and/or directly to any members, I didn't
44 bring enough copies of this for everybody but I think I
45 have one here that I'll be glad to give -- Jack already
46 raised his hand so I'll be glad to give this one to Jack
47 and then get copies to anyone else.

48
49 So that's kind of the moose survey.

50

1 Black bears, as I mentioned earlier,
2 we're in the preliminary process of starting up a black
3 bear study. There's been very limited work done,
4 specifically on black bears in the Innoko and especially
5 partnering with Fish and Game and BLM working the area,
6 the south portion of the Refuge and the area south of the
7 Refuge which includes a lot of BLM and a lot of Fish and
8 Game land as well as a lot of private and corporation
9 land. The study is tentatively planned to look at
10 reproduction, average litter size, when bears stop
11 producing cubs, et cetera. The study is not -- it's a
12 bear ecology study, it's not specifically a predator/prey
13 study, however, that is one of the things that will be
14 looked at. And it's hoped that sufficient movement
15 information can be gathered so we'll be able to make some
16 inferences with black bears, at least, of course on the
17 lower Innoko there are some brown bears, it may be a
18 little bit inferences on the subject Jeff was just
19 talking about with the brown bears, but this one is more
20 black bear, habitat on the Innoko is more black bear
21 habitat than brown bear, although we do have a few of
22 each.

23
24 The Refuge is looking for any input into
25 the study, anyone who has comments. Especially from the
26 local area, I don't see Ken here now, but, you know,
27 Rudy, anyone who has interest or comments in this local
28 area and has any information they'd like to share with
29 us, please call our office. We'll also be around during
30 the moose management planning process, we plan on being
31 intimately involved with that so we'll be over here quite
32 a bit as will Fish and Game in the next few months over
33 this winter.

34
35 We also are starting a beaver survey on
36 the Refuge this year. We did some preliminary work.
37 Basically establishing cache and suitability -- habitat
38 suitability. Right now we're going to be looking at
39 information and we're looking for information from anyone
40 who's trapped beavers. As far as the number of beavers
41 that utilize a cache so we can come up with some
42 population estimates and if anybody has any information
43 on that, in general, but even in specific in this area,
44 also, would be very welcomed to get that information.

45
46 Let's see this last summer we banded 945
47 whitefronted geese on the Refuge. Orville is intimate
48 with that project because it's a combined project with
49 the other Refuges, the other Interior Refuges looking at
50 Interior whitefronted geese. We do have probably one of

1 the single largest populations of Interior whitefronts of
2 all the Refuges, at least, remaining. So that's a good
3 point on the Innoko Refuge, we hope to maintain that.
4 And one of the things we're looking at with the other
5 Refuges, why that is so, why have the moved out of the
6 Koyukuk and some of the other Refuges, and why we still
7 have our populations maintaining. There's some questions
8 -- because of the banding we hope to do statistical
9 analysis on disproportionate take during the early parts
10 of the season, hunting season, as birds are moving south.

11
12 Let's see harvest survey. It's really
13 honestly too soon after the moose survey, I haven't
14 gotten a lot of the information back from the
15 transporters or the guides that work the Refuge. We did
16 have -- the first part of the moose survey on the Refuge
17 -- moose hunting season on the Refuge was pretty slow due
18 to the weather. We saw very few moose along the river,
19 reports back from hunters in the field, both subsistence
20 and sport were that nobody was seeing much at all. The
21 end of the season flip-flopped, and we had some really
22 large animals and we were starting to see a lot of
23 animals along the river, including the last week of the
24 season, several -- I kind of looked at one 20 mile
25 section of the river and we had two cows with twins still
26 in tow the last week of the season, the hunting season,
27 so, again if there's any good signs that's a good
28 indication.

29
30 We had several problems, we worked with
31 the State, cooperative projects for law enforcement on
32 the violations, several of our violations this year would
33 be of interest to you folks in that they were mostly
34 having to do with meat left in the field, antlers removed
35 before meat, and so we worked with the State on those.
36 We had several injuries on the Refuge during hunting
37 season this year, it was not a very good year, there
38 seems like there was a lot of injuries and unfortunately
39 one death on the Refuge.

40
41 And then we're looking forward to working
42 cooperatively with the State and with anyone at the
43 villages and anyone else involved in the moose management
44 plan that I know you just received information about.

45
46 Clara, if you want to talk about
47 steelshot clinics, your harvest surveys and anything else
48 and then maybe we could both take questions, if that's
49 okay with you, sir.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Clara.

2

3 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Mr. Chairman. Fellow
4 Members. Clara A. Demientieff, Refuge Information Tech
5 for the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge.

6

7 Before you you have my Fish and Wildlife
8 report for March-October 2004. And in the first part I
9 would like to give the Refuge Information Tech duties
10 because so many people ask, you know, what do we do in
11 our Refuge, and all the Refuges. All the Refuge's RITs
12 have different projects to do. So I would like to read
13 this real quickly.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: (Nods affirmatively)

16

17 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. The RIT
18 program was established in 1984 because the Service need
19 to spread the word to the residents about the fish and
20 wildlife populations. The RIT's job is to develop close
21 working relationships between the Service and the people
22 living near or on the Refuge. We serve as liaison, Pat
23 and Orville, myself and those out of the Bethel area and
24 the Arctic and other, like Izembek Refuge, Selawik, they
25 have RITs also. We serve as liaisons, educators,
26 interpreters and public relations specialists. We
27 present information and educational programs, help with
28 waterfowl surveys and meet with Native leaders, village
29 residents and school students and teachers.

30

31 An important part of the job is
32 explaining the Innoko Refuge plan. We also provide law
33 enforcement and research activities. Since the RITs deal
34 with complex issues, we must have extensive knowledge of
35 local, State and Federal laws as well as Native
36 traditions.

37

38 The late Chuck Hunt, who started this RIT
39 program, who is deceased now, he says, much of the
40 success of the RIT program is due to the hard work and
41 knowledge of Refuge programs, wildlife issues and the
42 land and traditions of the Native people. We believe
43 what we do is important and we feel we can make a
44 difference in quality of hunting and fishing and
45 management of natural resources on behalf of the Native
46 people.

47

48 Next, I would like to present major
49 activities that I participated in in this past six
50 months.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, go ahead.

2

3 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thanks. First the U.S.
4 Fish and Wildlife Office has relocated from Holy Cross to
5 McGrath at the end of August. I felt like technology and
6 communication was really slow. I like to be up to date
7 with everything and work, you know, is face paced so I
8 requested that, it would be much more feasible if I did
9 go back to McGrath and did my work from there and also
10 worked with the GASH villages. Although I did enjoy many
11 of the visitors who access our office for information and
12 those who just wanted to visit and communicate on fish
13 and wildlife, I want to thank the community of Holy Cross
14 for letting me be part of their village life.

15

16 Second. This past spring, summer and
17 fall was Innoko's first bird harvest survey since 2000. I
18 think I looked at records from 1998 or 2000, I can't
19 remember which, but I did put 2000. Letters were sent to
20 the village Councils in the GASH area and the surrounding
21 villages of McGrath to ask if they wanted to participate
22 in the surveys. Holy Cross, Anvik, Nicholi returned
23 letters to me saying that they were interested in having
24 me do surveys in their villages. The last survey will be
25 picked up the first week of November, so I will be back
26 here in Anvik to pick up the last surveys for the fall,
27 and also a trip to Holy Cross and Nicholi.

28

29 Next week we do have work session
30 meetings on the harvest surveys in Anchorage, that's
31 starting tomorrow. So if there is any input from the
32 GASH villages it would be very valuable for me to bring
33 to the work sessions and meetings.

34

35 People need to report on any bands on
36 ducks and geese, even report them if they're laying
37 around your house. Because most of the time you see
38 these little bands that are lying around the kitchen, the
39 kitchen window and being displayed.....

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MS. DEMIENTIEFF:and they weren't
44 reported. So let me see, bird harvest surveys make a
45 record of local customary and traditional use of
46 waterfowl and also helps establish a subsistence amounts
47 necessary for each village.

48

49 The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management
50 Council uses the survey to ensure a continued hunt under

1 an Amended Migratory Bird Treaty.

2

3

4 Three will be salmon harvest surveys.
5 This past summer I participated in most of the salmon
6 harvest weekly teleconferences, talking with subsistence
7 fishers to find out whether their harvest goals are being
8 met, their time spent on fishing and what the salmon
9 quality was. This information was given to the State and
10 Federal managers to make in-season management changes in
11 the fishing, not the fishers, I have fishers on there.
12 This information was also needed to share anonymously
13 with other subsistence users, tribal organizations,
14 communities and agencies during weekly teleconferences.
15 And I want to thank all the villages, fishers that I've
16 talked to, you know, for all their information and
17 participation in the salmon surveys.

18

19 As for steelshot, clinics were held here
20 in Anvik, McGrath and Takotna this past April. And we
21 had some great subsistence shooters participate, Robert
22 and his son was one of them who did great shooting.

23

24 And the next one is a waterfowl calendar,
25 which is worked on every year, and the waterfowl calendar
26 for 2005 is now at the printers and will be ready for
27 distribution in November. And starting now until the
28 deadline, sometime in February, I'll be contacting the
29 schools again to participate to put in their art and
30 their literature and they'll be for 2006. And for the
31 2005 calendars we had 29 entries that were handed into
32 the Innoko National Wildlife Office, the entries were
33 from Holy Cross, Anvik and McGrath. The 2005 calendar
34 will be featuring RITs Patrick Madros and Orville
35 Huntington and then there's also a feature of elder Vaska
36 Gregory from Holy Cross on subsistence.

37

38 I'm very interested in participating in
39 your GASH committee meetings, so any time the GASH
40 committee has a meeting I would like to know about that,
41 if they could just give us a call in McGrath.

42

43 And this concludes my report, thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any questions
46 -- go ahead, Benedict.

47

48 MR. JONES: And your bear relocation,
49 last year, what's the furthest relocation and what
50 percentage has returned back to the McGrath area?

51

1 MR. SCHAFF: Benedict, that actually --
2 the State Fish and Game did the bear relocation in
3 McGrath and not us and that would be more appropriate to
4 ask either some of the State folks or Toby, I could
5 probably get that information for you from Toby, I'd be
6 glad to do so if there's not any State people that want
7 to.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert, you had a
10 question.

11
12 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 This concerns the 2004 Innoko moose census area, your
14 first item is here that you have a really dramatic drop
15 in moose population here on the Yukon River here. In
16 1994, was it that you did the moose count in 21(E) here,
17 and the moose count there was 1,055 on the upper portion
18 of the Yukon and then the lower portion of the Yukon was
19 5,000-some odd -- the count was that?

20
21 MR. SCHAFF: Again, Member Walker, the
22 weather was extremely poor for this count and we was
23 unable to complete the count area and so the numbers were
24 down significantly because we just didn't fly near as
25 much and was unable to get up and see, you know, get as
26 much land coverage.

27
28 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
29 Bill, you know, there is a draft proposal for the moose
30 management planning to be here in 21(E), you know, we're
31 going to have to have -- or whoever's going to be doing
32 this here, this moose management is going to have some
33 kind of a census done with the moose population, so who
34 is going to do it, are you going to do part of it in the
35 Refuge there, on the upper portion or is the State going
36 to combine with you like you did eight years ago and do
37 the whole 21(E) again?

38
39 MR. SCHAFF: Well, what I'm hoping on
40 doing is being able to get some semblance of conversion
41 between different survey methods. I know right now we're
42 looking at -- we're trying to contact an independent
43 statistician who can look at the State's Vanhuath (ph)
44 method of survey and the line transect method that we use
45 and give us some type of a compatible, yes, this is --
46 you know, this one misses five percent, this one misses
47 seven percent or whatever, I don't -- those numbers are
48 just off the top of my head, but give us some definite
49 information where we could use all of the information
50 that the State collects and what the Refuge collects, and

1 then combine all that stuff. That is the one thing I'm
2 really looking forward to with the moose management plan
3 is sitting down with the State, everybody throws their
4 data on the table and then take it from there.

5
6 MR. WALKER: Okay, thank you on that one.
7 Getting back to Innoko River area, you have 34 adults and
8 one calf observed. It seems like there should be some
9 sort of a predator control in your area because only one
10 moose calf surviving, that's not a very good percentage.

11
12 MR. SCHAFF: Yes, sir, again, you know,
13 remember we're doing this survey in March and these
14 numbers, I presented them to you, but the weather was so
15 bad that, you know.....

16
17 MR. WALKER: No excuses, Bill.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MR. SCHAFF: I'm sorry, that is excuse
22 but when you can't get up and fly and see the area it
23 really makes the numbers skewed and so yes they're
24 presented to you but for this survey they need to be
25 taken with a grain of salt because we tried to get up, we
26 held the helicopter out there for several days and get up
27 a few hours and it was just not a very productive survey.

28
29 MR. WALKER: Well, you know, I would
30 think the rest of the Board would think here that this
31 would be really serious here because if you're going to
32 have hunters here coming back year after year and you're
33 not going to have data for this, you're not going to have
34 data for this moose management planning, you know, it
35 just shows either poor judgment or lack of good judgment
36 here for this information.

37
38 MR. SCHAFF: Yes, I don't know what to
39 tell you, sir, other than we hope to sit down and put all
40 the data together, what we do have, this year's data, you
41 know, if we get a chance to fly this next year we can
42 incorporate more data, you know, the moose management
43 plan is not going to be taken off of just one survey, so
44 I realize this data set is fairly poor because of the
45 weather but it is the best we could do under those
46 conditions.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I think that maybe no
49 -- or incomplete report would be better, I mean just tell
50 them that you couldn't count, don't even put numbers up

1 there, because that moose management plan for this area
2 that's being proposed will need some solid numbers and
3 that's the only way to operate and I can't see it getting
4 off the ground with these kind of numbers, you know.

5
6 Go ahead, Tommy and then Rudy.

7
8 MR. KRISKA: I was just wondering if, you
9 know, you guys are looking for numbers, I know with
10 Galena I was offered to go to some training for moose
11 count and wolf count and everything like that and I just
12 was wondering if you, Geoff, have something down here
13 that could similarly happen.

14
15 MR. BEYERSDORF: Chairman Sam. Member
16 Kriska. As we offered to you and, in fact, I know you
17 weren't able to participate but Gerald Nicholia out of
18 Tanana did come in and do the training and is going to be
19 helping us with surveys this year on the Nowitna, I don't
20 know if those same opportunities are available for local
21 people to help out with the Innoko Refuge. I know at our
22 Refuge, though, that we have been encouraging
23 participation from local people. Patrick and Orville are
24 also going to be, as RITs, that's part of their function
25 is that they're going to be helping us when we do our
26 moose surveys and stratification, and for us what's
27 really helpful, is that helps get out the word at the
28 local level what we're seeing out there.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Tom.

31
32 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, I was just saying that
33 for the Tribal Council or somebody in this area to work
34 with this guy to get some training and kind of, you know,
35 I don't know to go out there if they need help, to help
36 them out.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Rudy. Thank you, Tommy.

39
40 MR. DEMOSKI: I was just going to say
41 exactly what Ronny said, you know, I don't think the
42 numbers that you show now should impact what we're going
43 to -- the subsistence and commercial use, you know, I
44 don't think your numbers should be final like that.

45
46 MR. SCHAFF: Yeah, as I said, the numbers
47 are not intended to really -- you know, we're not going
48 to use these as a basis for any management plans. It was
49 the numbers that we had from a survey that had extremely
50 bad weather, you know, keeping that in mind those were

1 the numbers that we produced. They're not going to be
2 documented as far as, you know, the basis of any
3 management plans. I would be against that myself, just
4 for that reason.

5
6 MR. DEMOSKI: Thank you.

7
8 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.

11
12 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Bill, your next
13 planned count then would be next spring, you do yours in
14 the spring, and I think the State does their in the fall,
15 don't they, after the first snow fall that's appropriate,
16 they try to fly. Is that a difference between the two
17 and what are your plans for the next one, I guess?

18
19 MR. SCHAFF: We do ours every other year
20 in the spring and the State has done theirs every year or
21 other year in the fall. They're two different survey
22 methods. Personally I have no problems with either one.
23 I'd like to have this independent statistical analysis
24 done by a valid statistician looking at all the variables
25 that can be taken into account to see if one method is
26 better than the other or if they're comparable and if
27 they're comparable, what's the correlation is between
28 them.

29
30 MR. COLLINS: Will you be waiting two
31 years then, even with the bad survey, it'll be two years
32 before you'll have another opportunity; is that right?

33
34 MR. SCHAFF: Funding may dictate that we
35 have to, but, yeah, each survey costs quite a bit of
36 money even though this one didn't work out because of
37 weather, funding may dictate we can't. We may do some
38 other types of incidental information gathering as Jeff,
39 from BLM was saying, you know, kind of the shoestring
40 operations and using some other indices but it won't be a
41 complete survey.

42
43 MR. COLLINS: The other question I had is
44 you don't get bull/cow ratios in the spring or are the
45 horns showing by then?

46
47 MR. SCHAFF: No.

48
49 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

50

1 MR. SCHAFF: The spring survey does not
2 give you bull/cow ratios.

3
4 MR. COLLINS: If you did any incidental
5 it might be nice if you tried to fly this fall at the end
6 of the hunting season because the hunting numbers were
7 down, is that because the bulls aren't there or not, it
8 would give you some of that information if you were able
9 to do some flying this fall.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you.

18
19 MR. SCHAFF: Okay, thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Kanuti is not here.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: right. We'll just pass out
24 their handout for you and then if you have questions you
25 can all Kanuti up. Since we're talking about Kanuti,
26 I'll seize the moment since it's being passed out. Your
27 Chair requested that a plaque be developed in recognition
28 of Bob Shultz, he retired as Refuge Manager for Kanuti,
29 so this is the plaque. The reason we had pictures of you
30 taken outside is that's going to be lasered into here and
31 that will be presented to Bob Shultz once that's
32 completed. What I need from the Council is \$7 per person
33 to cover the cost of this if you can possibly do that, by
34 the time we leave, but anyways, we'll figure out how to
35 present this.

36
37 Just to give you a level of dedication of
38 Bob Shultz, Wennona was weathered out, they approached me
39 and said, well, what are your thoughts about asking Bob
40 to come to this meeting, they called Bob at home, he's
41 fully retired now, he said, yeah, I'd come but I have a
42 doctor's appointment, so he would have come to your
43 meeting if he didn't have a doctor's appointment, so this
44 plaque is representative of that dedication to this
45 Council and to rural Alaska.

46
47 So we've put down here, Western Interior
48 Regional Advisory Council thanks Bob Shultz for your
49 years of service to rural Alaska, October 2004.

50

1 Son once we get that picture back from
2 Rich and we get this lasered in, I'll probably get back
3 to Ron to see if he happens to be in town or whatever and
4 we'll get it to Mr. Shultz. So that's it for Kanuti's
5 report.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: I have a few things to
8 add, too, as far as Kanuti's concerns. I've been working
9 pretty closely with them, I called for a special meeting
10 to explain the complexity of our regulations for the
11 moose hunt, that happened two weeks before the moose
12 season, they all showed up, we had a pretty good turnout
13 at the hall, and that's how that Kanuti Staff is, all you
14 have to do is call them and they'll show up and do the
15 best they can. Just before he left, Fred Andersen told
16 me that there will be a moose count, a pretty intensive
17 one in the Alatna, John, Kanuti, in that area, and it's
18 going to happen pretty quick, while they can
19 differentiate between bulls and cows. We've been asking
20 for this for quite some time and I think I may recommend
21 to Innoko to really look at the fall moose count. I
22 think that would be more effective than your March, it
23 would give you not only the -- it will give you a good
24 idea of how many bulls and cows are out there.

25
26 The other thing about -- I know that
27 Kanuti's been doing quite a bit of stuff like Clara has
28 been doing, they've had steelshot clinics and all that up
29 around our area, too.

30
31 You had your hand up, Jack.

32
33 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I think that
34 we should include that into our annual report, that we
35 recognize the need for funding for a geo-spatial type
36 moose survey for the Innoko and associated BLM lands to
37 get a handle on this moose population with some hard data
38 that's going to be necessary for this planning process
39 that's going to be occurring here with some real bull/cow
40 ratios and some real calf/cow ratios and so forth and so
41 I would like to include that into our annual report.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Hearing no objections, you
44 got that Vince.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: (Nods affirmatively)

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Jack.
49 Anything else on Kanuti.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Not that I know of on
2 Kanuti.
3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.
5
6 MR. MATHEWS: So that would lead us up to
7 Koyukuk/Nowitna and Geoff Beyersdorf is here to present
8 that.
9
10 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.
13
14 MR. REAKOFF: I have one more comment on
15 Kanuti. When I was waiting for the airplane, our charter
16 coming down here, I went over to the Kanuti Office,
17 they're doing their CCP, it's like their planning process
18 for the Kanuti and I sat down with their biologist, Lisa
19 Saperstein, and went over various resource inventorying
20 issues that I would like to see the Refuge, I was just
21 commenting from my own personal perspective and -- but
22 they are in the planning process for reevaluation of
23 their long-term plan and so I just wanted the Council to
24 be aware of that.
25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. I think
27 there was some question out around here whether we should
28 participate in that long-term planning effort, too, so
29 I'm going to readdress that on a local level.
30
31 Now, Geoff, Koyukuk/Nowitna.
32
33 MR. BEYERSDORF: For the record, I'm
34 Geoff Beyersdorf with the Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge. Orville
35 and Patrick already gave our report, but I was a little
36 late in getting here yesterday and there were two things
37 that I wanted to address.
38
39 I understand you had some questions in
40 regards to law enforcement on the Koyukuk, there were
41 some member concerns from you, Chairman Sam, and then
42 also from Member Peters. I did research on both of those
43 and I just want to let the Council here know, that as far
44 as the law enforcement efforts that were conducted, the
45 incidences that happened on the Upper Koyukuk area, that
46 was a State Trooper that did that, and it's -- I know
47 it's similar to some instances that have occurred in the
48 past. I will transfer your concerns down to the
49 appropriate people and let them know.
50

1 In regards to Emmitt's, as far as the
2 local concerns on one of the individuals that self-
3 reported on the cow hunt, again, that wasn't a Federal
4 issue, that was the State that ended up prosecuting that,
5 and I did make some phone calls today at lunch and what I
6 was told by the State Troopers was that that was a Class
7 -- if that had gone unreported, that was a Class A
8 misdemeanor, and the punishment for that was a \$10,000
9 fine, one year in jail, he could receive both of those
10 and also forfeit the rifle and forfeit the boat that was
11 used. Instead, what the State did, was they did 80 hours
12 of community service and the person was ordered to pay
13 \$1,000 restitution for taking the cow. Now, that
14 individual had come to me to do that reporting and I had
15 called our Federal law enforcement because our
16 understanding at the time was that that cow was taken on
17 Federal lands, and our recommendation at the time had
18 been a \$200 fine and that was it. Unfortunately what we
19 discovered afterwards was he had taken it on State lands
20 and then that fell into State hands and that was what
21 they had ended up doing, was that they felt that given
22 what he could have received if he hadn't reported it,
23 that he was given some considerations for self-reporting.

24
25 I just want to let the Council know where
26 everything stood on that.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I was just
29 wondering if you're just going to pass our concerns out
30 of courtesy, is that the way it happens, because I was
31 thinking about writing a letter, but if you're going to
32 investigate, do some work on it, I appreciate your
33 efforts.

34
35 MR. BEYERSDORF: I think, Chairman Sam,
36 probably the better way to approach this is just locally,
37 to pass along your concerns at the local level would
38 probably be a more -- to me it seems like it'd be more
39 appropriate and carry a stronger voice.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, rather than just
42 starting a lot of confrontation, I think that would be
43 the best, too.

44
45 MR. BEYERSDORF: Okay.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: I sure appreciate your
48 efforts.

49
50 MR. BEYERSDORF: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Emmitt.
2
3 MR. PETERS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, what I'd
4 like this Board to do is write a letter to Ruby telling
5 them what happened, if we don't they won't know and
6 nobody will be happy -- and it will make him happy and
7 make everybody happy, otherwise nobody's going to be
8 happy.
9
10 I thank you.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Could you do anything on
13 that Vince.
14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Well, if I understand it,
16 Emmitt, you would like a summary of what happened with
17 this individual on this taking of a cow and the way that
18 ended up?
19
20 MR. PETERS: (Nods affirmatively)
21
22 MR. MATHEWS: That's a bit of a stretch
23 for us to do that because that's a law enforcement action
24 and then if we don't get it right, we're walking into a
25 whole bunch of barbs on that. So I think it would be
26 best, if the community wants to know these details, since
27 it was prosecuted in the State arena, would be to request
28 that they provide a summary. I don't want to defer it
29 but if we step in there it's big brother stepping into a
30 State issue and that sometimes can cause things to be
31 worse.
32
33 MR. PETERS: Uh-huh.
34
35 MR. MATHEWS: So I don't know the
36 officer, nor do I know the court system, but it would be
37 best that it would be worked out that way.
38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Geoff.
40
41 MR. BEYERSDORF: I guess one of my
42 thoughts, Chairman Sam, Member Peters, is when I get back
43 home is you have a traditional Council meeting the first
44 week in November, is my understanding, to convey that to
45 the trooper -- to convey the concerns from Ruby to the
46 trooper and suggest to him that he might want to attend
47 that and explain the situation. Does that seem like that
48 would suffice?
49
50 MR. PETERS: Yes, that'd be a good -- you

1 know, fine, and that way the local people in Ruby will be
2 -- you know, they get the true facts and then they'll
3 understand then.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MR. BEYERSDORF: Okay, thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again, Geoff,
10 do you have anything more?

11
12 MR. BEYERSDORF: (Shakes head negatively)

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, any questions.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thanks
19 Koyukuk/Nowitna.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings
22 us up to the National Park Service and I believe there's
23 no representative here. Fred Andersen was here and left.
24 And then that brings us up, if there's none there, would
25 bring us up to other agencies. We do have a report from
26 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association on the salmon
27 agreement issues and updates. I don't know why Darcy
28 could not make it in here, I know she was weathered out
29 of Eagle, so I have her report, Darcy King, of YRDFA, so
30 that's the only other agency report that I have here,
31 would be from YRDFA.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Handout.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, it's a handout,
38 informational. Now, that dinner's going to be served in
39 one hour, so let's kind of wrap up if we could.

40
41 Next item on the agenda.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, if
44 there's no other agency reports, obviously they'd come
45 flying up here if there were, that brings us into.....

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 MR. MATHEWS:the Page 224, now,
50 this will go fast, you have to slow me down. Every time

1 on a cycling system your charter, which is what
2 establishes you with the Federal government comes up.
3 The information is on 224. To really save time on it,
4 your charter, what you can recommend changes on, if you
5 want to change your name, I wouldn't recommend that but
6 you can do that. You could ask for a boundary change,
7 well, I wouldn't recommend that either, but you can
8 request it. The size of the Council membership, you've
9 already talked about that extensively, but you may want
10 to visit that. Specific Subsistence Resource Commission
11 appointments, I've heard zero complaints on your
12 appointments to Gates of the Arctic, and I think that's
13 the only one that you do make. Last thing is criteria
14 for removal of a member, that was an issue that you had a
15 few years ago, I've not seen it surface again, but those
16 would be the items that you could recommend change to.

17
18 Again, this is mainly -- it's an organic
19 document that creates your charter, so there's -- it's
20 basically an administrative thing unless you want to
21 change one of those five items I just listed.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just for my information,
24 whose terms are coming up this next cycle?

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, let me look
27 at another sheet on that, I want to make sure I get it
28 correct.

29
30 The seats for 2005 are yourself, Ray
31 Collins and Jack Reakoff.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: But that doesn't relate to
36 your charter.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: But anyway they are
41 pending. I do have applications here for anybody that
42 wants to apply but you'll also be getting those in the
43 mail and they're due by January 2nd, and I'll be bugging
44 the -- I'll be contacting the incumbents to see if they
45 want to reapply and that. But it is critical that people
46 apply for those open seats.

47
48 But anyways, back to the charter, do you
49 have any desires on any of those items to make a change?

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't think so. Was
2 there any other action needed.
3
4 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman, I think
5 it will be taken that you guys are comfortable with the
6 charter. I don't think there's any need for any motion
7 on it if I can remember.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.
10
11 MR. MATHEWS: I think it's only if you
12 have a desire to change it.
13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.
15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, then that brings us
17 up to, and you've already done it, we've experimented
18 with this agenda and the last agenda for Eastern
19 Interior, to have the annual reports on there twice
20 because -- just to help us capture those, but you've
21 already done that by coming up with additional topics.
22
23 Moving along, then we get to Regional
24 Council appointees. I did investigate your appointments
25 and Jack's here and he can correct me, I think you're
26 appointed by this Council?
27
28 MR. REAKOFF: (Shakes head negatively)
29
30 MR. MATHEWS: No, you're not, to the
31 Gates of the Arctic, or are you?
32
33 MR. REAKOFF: As far as I recall Polluck
34 Simon is the appointment from this Council.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.
37
38 MR. REAKOFF: And I'm a Secretarial
39 appointment to the SRC.
40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. To my knowledge, and
42 I've not gotten any communication from the Park Service
43 that Polluck Simon's seat is okay, so you don't need to
44 explore reappointing him or appointing someone else.
45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.
47
48 MR. MATHEWS: And then that gets you to
49 the Yukon Kuskokwim River Coordinating Fishery
50 Committees. On the Yukon you have Robert Walker and

1 Benedict Jones with the alternate of Emmitt Peters. For
2 the Kuskokwim was Ray Collins and.....
3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.
5
6 MR. MATHEWS:Carl with an alternate
7 of George Siavelis. So I don't know if you want to
8 change any of that or if one of the members want to --
9 seeing the head's shake no, I don't think we need to take
10 any action on that.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.
13
14 MR. MATHEWS: We just bring that up so
15 you know those are available. Okay, moving along, that
16 brings us up to correspondence sent and received, that's
17 on Page 228.
18
19 MR. WALKER: Vince. Vince.
20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, sorry.
22
23 MR. COLLINS: I did have one question on
24 that.
25
26 REPORTER: Ray.
27
28 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.
31
32 MR. COLLINS: I just ask.....
33
34 REPORTER: Ray.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray, use your microphone.
37
38 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, the Committee asked
39 if there could be alternates for someone like myself, I'm
40 the only one from the head of the river but we don't have
41 any other members up there that could be as an alternate.
42 Is it appropriate for me to ask somebody else in the
43 community to sit in on the meeting if I'm not there, you
44 see what I mean. I don't know what to do about whether I
45 named an appointment, since you named me to that
46 Commission, and you can't name an alternate, or should I
47 refer an alternate name to this Committee, what would be
48 appropriate?
49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think, and others

1 that are more familiar with the working group can help me
2 out here, your membership on the working group was
3 because you were on the Coordinating Fishery Committee.

4

MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: So I would think on the
8 Federal side you guys have not -- you said that you want
9 no alternates for your membership on the Council, so I
10 would think it would be a policy question by the working
11 group if -- well, that still gets a little muddy there
12 but, I mean there's no other Council member up river.....

13

14 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, right, there is no
15 other.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS:to have an alternate.
18 Yeah, we'll have to explore that. I think the working
19 group could give you direction, I think your Council
20 would be uncomfortable with doing that alternate.

21

CHAIRMAN SAM: No.

23

MR. MATHEWS: All right.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think it would be out of
27 our jurisdiction because we just have two members from
28 the Kuskokwim River, and I would direct that additional
29 membership or Council alternates -- is there anything you
30 can deal with it locally in McGrath?

31

32 MR. COLLINS: Well, I could find someone
33 locally there.

34

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

36

37 MR. COLLINS: One of the villages up
38 there, you know, they could fit in and it may not come up
39 but it happened this year, I had some absences.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: I think you would have to
42 check with the working group, if they would be
43 comfortable with someone else sitting in.

44

45 MR. COLLINS: Okay. Yeah, but I just
46 wanted to see what you were comfortable with.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: I think the Council's
49 comfortable with someone filling in for you in that
50 capacity but you have no alternate slots on the Council,

1 those disappeared with the FACA requirements and that.
2 And Tom may have more to address that part, or all of it.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tom.

5

6 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, my
7 understanding is the original appointments, the original
8 requests from the working group were for Council members.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

11

12 MR. KRON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: So it would still be
15 Council members, but maybe the working group would allow
16 that there could be an alternate representative for the
17 upper river. There's a little fine tuning there, but it
18 would not be an alternate member for the Council seat.
19 Does that sound somewhat bureaucratic?

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Jack.

22

23 MR. REAKOFF: I'm wondering if the
24 alternate could be from the pool of the Local Advisory
25 Committee for the Upper Kuskokwim.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: That would be a wise
28 recommendation because that wraps in the Advisory
29 Committee into that process, but that would be as a
30 representative up river, not as the Council member.

31

32 MR. REAKOFF: Right.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Maybe Rich could.....

35

36 MR. UBERUAGA: I'd just like to say that
37 Ray's played a really important role on that working
38 group and he's provided some real strong conservation
39 leadership up there for the upper river and we want to
40 keep him on there -- we really need to keep him on there.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: So did we resolve that, I
45 think -- I think we resolved that, okay. Ray, if you
46 need any other assistance on that, then let us know,
47 because we'll talk with the State further on that.

48

49 Okay, then some correspondence received
50 and sent, there's a summary there. You received copies

1 of those letters in the mail.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert, did you have
4 something. Robert.

5

6 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 Sorry, Vince, getting back to other appointments, the
8 letter from Randy Rogers.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Uh-huh.

11

12 MR. WALKER: He mentioned here, which I
13 feel you can name an alternate representative in case Mr.
14 Walker's unavailable for any of the meetings in January
15 of 2005, I believe I should have an alternate.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that's up to you. I
18 was surprised that Randy put that in there so I didn't
19 want to have to -- I didn't want to address that, I don't
20 know why he put in there if the Council wanted an
21 alternate to you because we're back to the same thing
22 again, unless I'm not seeing somebody, you're the only
23 one for the GASH area, so how can you have an alternate
24 that's going to be effective on the GASH planning area if
25 you don't have one. Now, I know it's close to the
26 Kuskokwim drainage, but.....

27

28 MR. WALKER: Well, you would either.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Robert.

31

32 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, there's either
33 Carl Morgan or George Siavelis that sits on the Board
34 here also too.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

37

38 MR. WALKER: They could be, either or.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: If the Council's
41 comfortable with that. I mean I don't know how much they
42 know the GASH area. I mean that's the Council's
43 direction if you want to put forth an alternate. But I
44 think Ron can explain that, that once this process takes
45 off, assuming it does, consistent membership was the key
46 to the success of it. I don't know, Jack and Ron can
47 talk about that. But if various people floated in and
48 out, I'm not sure the Koyukuk River process would have
49 achieved its goals.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.
2
3 MR. REAKOFF: I just wanted to explain to
4 the Council what that process entailed. The first
5 meeting was a lot of data presentation by the Department,
6 and so if you're not there for the first stage of all
7 this data process, if you miss various meetings, you'll
8 be so far behind, and there's this whole building of
9 relationship with the group and if you're not there to be
10 around those other guys, there's high tension at the
11 first stage and then there's relaxation as you get to
12 know those guys, and it's pretty important to be there
13 for all the meetings. If you're not there for all the
14 meetings, you're behind the eight ball.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.
17
18 MR. MATHEWS: You can put an alternate in
19 there in case of illness or something, I mean that's no
20 problem, and that might be good to find out if George
21 would be interested. Carl's already left, and then that
22 way Randy would have two to contact. George went through
23 the process in Unit 19, correct?
24
25 MR. WALKER: I was going to say he
26 already went through the process so he could be on there.
27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, so he's familiar
29 also.
30
31 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.
32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.
34
35 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, you know, I'm
36 pretty -- George, you know, he's been through the process
37 so he would know most of what would happen if I didn't
38 make it.
39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Would you be comfortable
41 with that, serving -- you're just looking for an
42 alternate then?
43
44 MR. WALKER: Yes.
45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: George.
47
48 MR. SIAVELIS: I would if -- I would be
49 more comfortable if we asked Carl first, and if he's
50 unwilling then I'll -- is that okay?

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.
2
3 MR. SIAVELIS: I think Carl's more
4 qualified and -- because this is out of my -- you know,
5 my specific hunting areas, I don't know as much about it.
6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, George.
8 Is Western Interior Council comfortable with this?
9
10 (Council nods affirmatively)
11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.
13
14 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I would also
15 suggest that if possible the alternates attend the
16 meetings in tandem with the primary to stay in step with
17 what's going on.
18
19 (Phone ringing)
20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: George.
22
23 MR. SIAVELIS: I'd like to reiterate
24 Jack's comments about how vital it is to be at every
25 meeting. I was at -- you know, I attended every one
26 except one of the moose planning committee and I served
27 as an alternate, but I was able to do that -- I would
28 have been lost doing that if that had been my only
29 meeting, you know.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does that cover all our
32 other appointments?
33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it does. It just --
35 when we cross that bridge on having the alternates
36 attend, I've already gotten a look from the
37 administrative Staff, that we'll have to explore that
38 because our travel budgets are tighter each year. So
39 we'll have to explore that down the road.
40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's fine.
42
43 MR. MATHEWS: But, again, we'll see as we
44 get to January.
45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Explore.
47
48 (Laughter)
49
50 MR. WALKER: We're getting into new

1 country.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Let's explore the agenda a
6 little more.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. You guys already
11 know the correspondence sent and received, there's a
12 summary, so I don't know if there's any questions on
13 that. Usually there's not.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Then that brings us up to,
18 and this doesn't get fair review and hopefully Ron can
19 explain the importance of this as well as Jack now that
20 he's attended a Board meeting. This item here, Council
21 topics for January Board meeting, those are topics that
22 you want your Chair to share with the Board. They have
23 time set aside to talk, all 10 Chairs with the Board, on
24 these topics. It's no longer in executive session but
25 it's still one on one. So it would be wise if you have
26 some topics that you want to present to the Board, to
27 bring them up now, or to bring them up to the person
28 who's going to attend that January Board meeting.
29 Remember these are all the directors for all the agencies
30 on State lands, and now there'll be the liaison with the
31 Board of Fishery sitting up there, so I apologize that
32 it's on the end of the meeting but it's the only place we
33 can stick it but it is important to kind of have these in
34 your hip pocket, if there are burning issues because then
35 you can share with the other nine regions as well as the
36 Board. And I can help you with, you know, writing them
37 up if that is necessary, but first we got to get you guys
38 to present -- decide if there's any topics.

39

40 Ray knows what I'm getting at and Ron
41 does.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, there's a new format
44 there that I don't like. I just don't think it's really
45 necessary. You cannot meet with the Federal Subsistence
46 Board ahead of time, it's after the meeting is over and
47 all that, that's when they can sit down with you and it's
48 just hardly any use to bring up any subjects unless it's
49 already on the agenda, and for the most part they are
50 anyway.

1 So these topics are -- I think it's -- we
2 could just defer it for now, and bring it back.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, then
5 that brings us up to future meeting plans and you need to
6 turn to.....

7
8 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

11
12 MR. COLLINS: You need things now for the
13 next meeting, is that what you're talking about, or
14 suggestions now for the next meeting that they should
15 bring?

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.

18
19 MR. COLLINS: No, the place?

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, this is items that
22 could -- supposedly could come before the Federal
23 Subsistence Board meeting in January.

24
25 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: And that's what that is.

28
29 MR. COLLINS: Well, one that I think of
30 that might be appropriate is the way they're making C&T
31 findings, that process for C&T that's come up might be
32 something that you could discuss with them to see whether
33 it's possible to make local -- I heard that they were
34 making determinations in Southeast Alaska for individual
35 streams on steelhead trout, whereas, here they made a
36 finding on the rainbow trout which are also localized by
37 stream, for the whole region. So you see what I mean,
38 the question of what process they're using for C&T. And
39 then that whole question that hasn't been resolved that
40 you dealt with at the last meeting, of determining a
41 whole village based on a few people that have C&T there,
42 you know, is that appropriate or is it going to be a
43 problem. I don't know if we want to raise that again or
44 not, they're some of the things we were going to put in
45 our letter, I think.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think it could be also
48 instituted into our annual report, C&T determinations.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, so I'll put that in

1 your annual report, your discussion about the C&T
2 concerns you have.

3
4 If I understand then that brings us up to
5 confirming the dates for your next meeting and then
6 locations. If that's true then you need to turn to Page
7 230, and I'll try to give you an update because you need
8 to know. So if you turn to Page 230 you guys selected,
9 now, again that can change within reason, you selected
10 March 8th and 9th for your next meeting, and that's to be
11 announced.

12
13 MR. WALKER: March.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: I have heard of two
16 options, or two locations have been brought forth to me,
17 one would be McGrath and then Ron talked about Allakaket.
18 If you seriously go forward with McGrath, then you would
19 have to move the dates to the following week, the 15th
20 and 16th because of the Iditarod, just so that's clear
21 because McGrath would not be available the 8th and 9th,
22 because that's when the Iditarod goes through.

23
24 That's it. None of the other concerns
25 you need to know about. If you do select the week of
26 February 28th, that would be nearly impossible because
27 the Staff that needs to be in Venetie, Eastern Interior's
28 meeting in Venetie, not Northway, cannot be in two places
29 at once, so that week is out of the question. You're one
30 step of YK, and they are tentatively in February so
31 anyway you selected the 8th and 9th and you have two
32 locations, one depends on changing.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Why, did we already tie
35 into McGrath already or what?

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman, I'm just
38 sharing with you because Council members talked to me
39 about opportunities so I just wanted to get it on the
40 table. No, you just had it to be announced and you
41 talked earlier about Allakaket and Ray approached me
42 about McGrath, and that's it, it's nothing more than
43 that.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: George.

46
47 MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
48 Is it appropriate or should we in any way consider when
49 the Board of Game meeting is, because some of us might
50 want to be there or somebody or what?

1 MR. MATHEWS: Well, the Board of Game
2 that affects Interior, unless they take things out of
3 cycle, which I'm not aware of, they meet March of 2006.
4
5 MR. SIAVELIS: Okay.
6
7 MR. MATHEWS: And then Interior Board of
8 Fish is not until -- well, it's not that time.
9
10 MR. SIAVELIS: They're going to take up
11 some aspects of the moose plan this spring.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: March 8th and 9th sound
14 good to everybody?
15
16 (Council nods affirmatively)
17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: This is just tentative, I
19 think, just go with it for now.
20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, in what location.
22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any suggestions from
24 anyone?
25
26 MR. COLLINS: Well, of the two suggested
27 it would have to be Allakaket then, because McGrath, the
28 race is going through that week. I would like to have
29 you meet in McGrath again, but if it's not appropriate
30 spring, maybe fall.
31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's fine with me.
33
34 MR. MATHEWS: So it would be Allakaket
35 then.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Allakaket then, March 8th
38 and 9th.
39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Okay, then.....
41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: McGrath, 2005, fall
43 meeting.
44
45 MR. WALKER: We just did that one.
46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Then for 2005, you guys
48 already jumped into it.
49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Robert.

1 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I think we
2 should set the date for the October meeting while we're
3 sitting here, I don't have any problem with that.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: October 4th and 5th,
6 McGrath.
7
8 MR. COLLINS: (Nods affirmatively)
9
10 MR. WALKER: Okay.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Fine.
13
14 (Council nods affirmatively)
15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Next item on the agenda,
17 Vince.
18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think, if
20 you guys have any topics or specific issues for those
21 meetings to bring them up and then the next item would be
22 closing comments.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any closing comments.
25
26 MR. JONES: Mr. Chair.
27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.
29
30 MR. JONES: I'll be going to Anchorage
31 tomorrow so I need as much information on Ichthyophonus,
32 when it showed up on the Yukon River and the Kuskokwim
33 River so I can present it to the YR DFA meeting in
34 Anchorage on the 12th and 13th -- 14th.
35
36 MR. MATHEWS: 13th and 14th.
37
38 MR. JONES: 13th and 14th, so I need some
39 kind of comment or -- it's kind of too late to draft some
40 proposal or something. But I did conduct telephone
41 information on the Koyukuk River for this past 2004
42 chinook Ichthyophonus and as far as I talked with Hughes
43 a couple fishermen there and they said the only two
44 salmon showed up with the Ichthyophonus, but the Koyukuk,
45 for myself and local peoples, there were probably only
46 about 10 salmon that showed with the Ichthyophonus, but
47 Tanana -- I don't know about Ruby, but Tanana they start
48 showing quite a bit on the chinook. And I want as much
49 information as I can get.
50

1 Remember about three years ago there was
2 a lot of disease on the chinook salmon and the fall chum.
3 This is just that one year period, but it has declined
4 this year, so I want to know as much information as I can
5 because the scientists will be studying what the effect,
6 if it's from the ocean or the spawning stream when
7 they're returning. And that's what I want to know if the
8 disease develop in the ocean current or what, it's the
9 stress that starts showing when they're going up the
10 Yukon River, mainly the Tanana River and the Upper Yukon
11 River stock, we don't see much of the Koyukuk River
12 stock. I don't know about Anvik River stock.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. I
17 think that you should, in that YRDFA meeting, there
18 should be professional Staff available for questioning on
19 that Ichthyophonus. We did request a study, I don't know
20 the status of it, Western Interior, Eastern Interior, YK-
21 Delta at our Wasilla meeting, we requested --
22 specifically requested some funding for the Ichthyophonus
23 study, so I don't know the status of that, but that will
24 be worth pursuing if you want some more information.
25 That's the only direction I can give you at this time,
26 because we did formally request it by the three Councils.

27

28

Vince.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Benedict has
31 correctly portrayed the meeting, they're going to ask for
32 traditional knowledge and understanding the effects of
33 Ichthyophonus. I think Benedict, and the Council can
34 correct me if I'm wrong, you are still wanting an
35 allocation in the management -- now, this is not a
36 management meeting, but if they're discussing the
37 disease, at some point it -- it branches into management.
38 So I don't know if the Council wants Benedict to carry
39 forth that concern that you've expressed earlier, that
40 there be an allocation in management -- this is not a
41 management meeting but I'm sure it's going to surface at
42 some point.

43

44

CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

45

46

47 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
48 Vince, I think you -- somebody has that -- a copy of what
49 we asked for last year, why can't you just fax it to
50 Benedict and he can bring it up when he goes in, when he
goes in for the YRDFA meeting?

1 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know which report
2 you're talking about as far as Ichthyophonus, do you mean
3 the summary that was provided by Dr. Cosan?
4
5 MR. WALKER: (Nods affirmatively)
6
7 MR. MATHEWS: That will be there. I
8 believe Dr. Cosan will be present at that meeting, I'm
9 guessing. I'm pretty sure he'll be there.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: And that was my comment
12 exactly, you'll have professional Staff down there.
13
14 Anything further.
15
16 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.
19
20 MR. REAKOFF: I would personally like our
21 Council to still be on record as requesting from that
22 body an allocation to be given to the disease loss of
23 that chinook spawning component. We don't want to be
24 left in the dust. If it's determined that there's a
25 mortality, that mortality has to be addressed in
26 additional escapement and so I would still like to be on
27 record with this Council's position.
28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, how would we address
30 this, is this some kind of motion, or what?
31
32 MR. MATHEWS: No.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.
35
36 MR. MATHEWS: I think Benedict would just
37 -- he's writing it down now, that that would be something
38 he may share when he has opportunity at this meeting. I
39 don't know the lay out of the meeting, it's not a
40 management meeting, I don't want to misportray it. But
41 I'm sure it's going to get into that discussion at some
42 point.
43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. So what's your
45 direction there, Jack, I mean which way are you leaning?
46
47 MR. REAKOFF: I'm.....
48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just going on record, is
50 that enough or no?

1 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, I just want to be on
2 record in this meeting that -- and Benedict's going to
3 convey that that this Council, shake of heads, or so
4 forth, that we're in favor of still an allocation for the
5 mortality loss from Ichthyophonus.

6
7 (Council nods affirmatively)

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: You have that, Vince.

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I think Benedict has
12 got it down there so.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: I won't be attending the
17 meeting, Benedict will be attending the meeting.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything else. The only
20 closing comments I can come up with is I sure appreciate
21 the hospitality of Anvik and our Council member Robert
22 Walker for setting everything up. Everything has been on
23 time, all the food we needed, all the housing, and it's
24 just been great hospitality.

25
26 This is actually the first time that
27 we've actually gotten gifts from the local community and
28 I don't know how to express my thanks to them for sharing
29 their traditional way -- I think it's sharing traditional
30 way of welcoming guests for this meeting, so what I'm
31 just trying to say is thank you Anvik.

32
33 Robert.

34
35 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. Ron, thank
36 you. But a lot of the credit goes to the tribal
37 government and goes to the teachers at the school, all I
38 did was just provide information for them and they went
39 ahead and they all this and they asked me what I thought
40 about it and I said do anything you want, just go all out
41 if you want and they did, so I was just kind of like
42 pushing them along and they're the ones that really
43 should get the thanks.

44
45 In fact, I think Vince should get a card
46 and get all the Board members and Staff to sign it and
47 send one to the school and one to the tribal government.
48 That would be really nice. We're just glad to have you
49 guys here, too.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would appreciate that,
2 something that they can show, put up on the wall or
3 school.

4
5 Ray.

6
7 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, the members
8 may want to take back their poster and there's a name on
9 those posters of one of the students if you wanted to
10 send a card back to them or something, too, to the one
11 that's on your poster. That might be nice, too, as a
12 personal feedback to the children.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. We're
15 also taking donations for our plaque award. Tommy.

16
17 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, I'd like to thank the
18 Anvik Tribal Council and the students from the school for
19 hosting a wonderful meeting here. I had fun and learned
20 a lot about different topics, of what's going on down
21 here, and I'm glad to have -- that we're trying to do
22 something about it and I hope the community and them feel
23 the same way, and just thank the Council members and
24 everything for being here, and the Staff. It was a great
25 experience, thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks, Tommy. Anybody
28 else. Rudy.

29
30 MR. DEMOSKI: I would just like to thank
31 the Council for coming over and explaining a lot of
32 things that I didn't know about and I really appreciate
33 you guys coming here and doing that.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Emmitt.

38
39 MR. PETERS: Yes, I want to thank all the
40 Board members and the Staff showing up and thank the
41 people from Anvik for putting us up and putting on a good
42 meal and especially those kids, they show a lot of
43 interest in seeing what we're doing here. And Benedict
44 telling a good story about that fish, I'm sure they will
45 remember that for a long time.

46
47 And I hope to see you all again next
48 meeting. Thank you, very much.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anyone else. Jack.

1 MR. REAKOFF: I wanted to thank Anvik for
2 hosting us here. I had a wonderful time here and I
3 really appreciate the thoughtfulness of all the gifts and
4 decorations.

5
6 I also want to thank all of the Refuge
7 and OSM Staff and State of Alaska for attending the
8 meeting, and enduring the long session and sitting and
9 waiting to present. I can empathize with that having
10 attended various meetings throughout my limited career.
11 And so I appreciate our diligence of our court recorder,
12 Salena, she's passing out papers and stays on top of
13 things with Vince and I really appreciate that. And of
14 course, Vince, is very integral to our whole Council's
15 progress and I highly appreciate his hard work. So thank
16 you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Ray.

19
20 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I
21 thank you all for a good meeting, and I certainly enjoyed
22 it. I'm glad to have my health back and be able to move
23 around again. I thank you for your concern during my
24 illness, the cards I received and everything.

25
26 We do have one more chance to give thanks
27 to the kids, I believe the donations go, not just to pay
28 for the food, but it goes to the school kids, so that's a
29 way we can remember them too, at supper time tonight.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks, Ray. George.

34
35 MR. SIAVELIS: Yeah, I want to thank the
36 community for the hospitality and Robert, I'm pretty
37 impressed, and for a great meeting.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any more.
42 Vince.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you did ask
45 for a thank you card and I do have a card that we picked
46 up in Aniak so.....

47
48 MR. WALKER: Dead fish head.

49
50 (Laughter)

1 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it kind of looks like
2 you, Robert, but.....
3
4 (Laughter)
5
6 MR. MATHEWS:but anyways, if you
7 guys could sign it, Council members and Staff, then we'll
8 get it quicker to thank the school, so there is a card
9 here.
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: You really want to send
16 that one?
17
18 (Laughter)
19
20 MR. WALKER: Do you have any more money
21 to buy another one?
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it was a starving
26 fisheries artist that I was providing -- I can get
27 another card if that one isn't appropriate, but I just
28 thought -- it was in my pocket.
29
30 (Laughter)
31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, get another one.
33
34 (Laughter)
35
36 MR. MATHEWS: All right.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: It hasn't passed the first
39 signee yet, anyway. Benedict, thank you.
40
41 (Laughter)
42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'll just set out a
44 sheet of paper then if people could sign their names on.
45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, go ahead.
47
48 MR. MATHEWS: And then we'll get an
49 appropriate card.
50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.
2
3 (Laughter)
4
5 MR. WALKER: Vince, could we afford a
6 four by 12 card, that would be great?
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.
9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, something big, I'll
11 find something big.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, we're sending around
14 two pieces of paper and we can just write thank you on
15 that, one for the school and one for the tribal office.
16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Benedict.
22
23 MR. JONES: Yeah, I just want to close
24 with my closing comments. I want to thank the tribal
25 office of Anvik and the city and the school kids for
26 hosting this wonderful meeting. I'm sure the school kids
27 have learned quite a bit today for attending the meeting,
28 which they will remember. I especially want to thank
29 Carl Jerue and his wife for their hospitality here, and I
30 hope to come back to Anvik again someday, maybe on my
31 vacation next summer.
32
33 Thank you.
34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict.
36 Again, I would just like to thank the Council members for
37 their patience and their willingness to work. When we
38 first caught up to the Council members and Staff at
39 Aniak, a lot of long faces, we'll never get through this
40 meeting, that was what everybody was thinking about, as
41 soon as I talked with some Staff members, they wanted to
42 turn around right then and there, but then I'd like to
43 thank you all for your diligence and patience and your
44 efforts in helping us make it through this meeting.
45
46 So thank you all, Staff, and thanks again
47 to Anvik and everyone else.
48
49 Again, we'll be signing two pieces of
50 paper, one to the school and one to the tribal office,

1 plus we have a little donation to make for our little
2 gift, the retirement gift. So anything else.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not the Chair will
7 entertain a motion to adjourn.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Really, nobody wants to
12 adjourn.
13
14 (Laughter)
15
16 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to adjourn
17 the meeting.
18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.
20
21 MR. KRISKA: Second.
22
23 MR. PETERS: I second it.
24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, second, third, okay,
26 all those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.
27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.
31
32 (No opposing votes)
33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. We are
35 adjourned.
36
37 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 132 through 286 contain a full, true and correct transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically by Salena Hile on the 11th day of October 2004, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at Anvik, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 26th day of October 2004.

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