

00159

1 WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

3

4 VOLUME II

5

6 Aniak, Alaska

7 March 19, 2003

8 9:00 o'clock a.m.

9

10

11 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

12

13 Ronald Sam, Chair

14 Ray Collins

15 Angela Demientieff

16 Benedict Jones

17 Carl Morgan

18 Emmitt Peters

19 Jack Reakoff

20 Michael Stickman

21 Robert Walker

22

23

24 Regional Council Coordinator; Jerry Berg (Substitute)

00160

1 PROCEEDINGS

2

3 (Aniak, Alaska - 3/19/2003)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: If we could find our seats
6 I'd like to reconvene the meeting. We have some agenda
7 changes because we have some people leaving today. I
8 would like to accommodate all the people that are
9 leaving. We know that Jack is attending the Alaska Board
10 of Fisheries meeting so we'll be jumping around the
11 agenda. And if any of you are leaving, any of the Staff
12 are leaving early, I would like to know right away so I
13 can move you up on the agenda so we can get your reports
14 and stuff in. We do appreciate all your work and all
15 your reports and that's what we base our decisions on.
16

17 So thank you for bearing with us and if
18 there is anybody else leaving early please let me know.
19 They have a big lunch special over at the Dimond Willow,
20 which is roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, so at our
21 first break this morning I would like -- if you're going
22 to be here for lunch, please place an order right away
23 with -- this order form will be going around somewhere
24 around here.

25

26 So I'd like to call the meeting to order,
27 Jerry Berg would you take roll call.

28

29 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chair, let me get my
30 papers in order here.

31

32 (Pause)

33

34 MR. BERG: Roll call for Wednesday March
35 11th, Ron Sam.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Here.

38

39 MR. BERG: Ray Collins.

40

41 MR. COLLINS: Here.

42

43 MR. BERG: Jack Reakoff.

44

45 MR. REAKOFF: Here.

46

47 MR. BERG: Angela Demientieff.

48

49 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Here.

50

00161

1 MR. BERG: Benedict Jones.

2

3 MR. JONES: Here.

4

5 MR. BERG: Carl Morgan.

6

7 MR. MORGAN: Here.

8

9 MR. BERG: Robert Walker.

10

11 MR. WALKER: Here.

12

13 MR. BERG: Micky Stickman.

14

15 MR. STICKMAN: Here.

16

17 MR. BERG: Emmitt Peters.

18

19 MR. PETERS: Here.

20

21 MR. BERG: Mr. Chair, we have a quorum.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. We have the
24 whole Western Interior Council present. Again, if you
25 are leaving early please let us know so we can
26 accommodate you. So with the pleasure of the Council, we
27 all know that Jack Reakoff is attending the Alaska Board
28 of Fisheries meeting conference down at Anchorage, so if
29 it's okay with all the Council I'd like to put Jack on
30 first because we have him covering G2 at the bottom of
31 the page, this is Item 8, Fisheries Topics, C, Alaska
32 Board of Fisheries proposals. And he does have a
33 response to cover our annual report.

34

35 So without further adieu, which one do
36 you want to cover first, G?

37

38 MR. BERG: Yeah, we could just start --
39 those first two, under fisheries I think will be pretty
40 quick.

41

42 Mr. Chairman, I could cover the first two
43 topics under 8A and B, I think, rather quickly before you
44 get into Board of Fish proposals, if you'd like or we can
45 go right into Board of Fish proposals, whatever is the
46 wishes of the Council.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, with permission from
49 Jack we'll go ahead on the fisheries topics, A.

50

00162

1 MR. REAKOFF: That's fine.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jerry.

4

5 MR. BERG: Under Topic A, is the results
6 of the actions taken by the Federal Subsistence Board at
7 their fall meeting last December on fisheries proposals,
8 and you can find their letter, the .805 letter under Tab
9 D in your book. And all of the Council members should
10 have received this same letter in early February
11 basically stating what the Federal Board did on the
12 proposals that you took actions on in your meeting in
13 Fairbanks last fall.

14

15 I can go through each one if you'd like,
16 but basically the Federal Board adopted all four
17 proposals that your Council addressed as recommended by
18 your Council. If you'd like I can go through each one
19 individually.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, a quick synopsis.

22

23 MR. BERG: The Proposal 27 was the
24 proposal to -- that would allow -- it was a statewide
25 proposal that would allow for subsistence take of fish
26 for ceremonial or potlatch purposes. Somewhat similar to
27 the wildlife proposal you addressed yesterday. And so
28 there was a statewide provision established by the
29 Federal Board that does allow for the taking of fish in
30 Federal waters outside of the open season. So, you know,
31 normally people can take fish for potlatch purposes under
32 normal subsistence regulations but if there's some sort
33 of a restriction in a certain area they can use this
34 provision to take fish a special provision even during
35 closed seasons as long as they follow this permitting
36 process. And you can see that process, the entire
37 regulation is written there under the response for No.
38 27.

39

40 Proposal No. 28 was the streamlining
41 proposal that would allow streamlining management between
42 the Federal and State fishery managers for emergency
43 actions on the Yukon and the Kuskokwim so it will allow
44 the Federal manager to automatically adopt an EO
45 established by the State manager without having to
46 rewrite the same emergency order in Federal regulations.
47 So it was just to streamline and minimizing duplication
48 of the same process.

49

50 And then Proposal No. 2 was the proposal

00163

1 submitted by AVCP that would allow the use of rod and
2 reel to fish for salmon in Yukon River tributaries. And
3 as recommended by your Council and Staff at the meeting
4 in Fairbanks, your Council recommended that rod and reel
5 be allowed throughout the entire Yukon River drainage on
6 Federal waters and the Board agreed with that and adopted
7 that into regulation. So rod and reel is now allowed for
8 subsistence purposes throughout the Yukon River drainage.

9
10 Proposal No. 03-03 was the proposal
11 dealing with the Kuskokwim River, and it was also an
12 alignment with the State to allow rod and reel to harvest
13 subsistence before, during and after a commercial opening
14 in District 2 of the Kuskokwim River and tributaries
15 within that district. So it was already allowed under
16 State regulation in District 2 of the Kuskokwim and we
17 were aligning with the State so that would also be
18 allowed under Federal regulation.

19
20 So that's a summary of the actions taken
21 by the Federal Subsistence Board last December, Mr.
22 Chairman.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any questions
27 for Jerry.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: No. Thank you. So that
32 brings us up to B. Okay, I briefly touched in our
33 meeting yesterday with the meeting with the North Pacific
34 Fisheries Management Staff and there was quite a few
35 other people from Seattle, Anchorage or Juneau's office
36 covering the fisheries issues that we brought up on the
37 high sea's trawl and everything. And what came out of
38 that meeting was that they are using an honor system much
39 like the guides that we have out in our areas. It's an
40 honor system and all the registered guides really attempt
41 to utilize the honor system and honor all the land
42 holders, corporations, villages and do all their
43 reporting accordingly. Our in the North Seas Fisheries
44 they have a satellite radio telephone on each boat and
45 they, too, use that honor system to take care of all
46 their reporting.

47
48 With their tracking system, GPS, they
49 know exactly where these big fishing boats are and they
50 ask for the immediate report on all the salmon by-catch.

00164

1 If it stays around one or two percent they just send out
2 some warning signals, five percent by-catch, they start
3 telling them to get the heck out of there and they move
4 from one spot to another as that pollack deep sea
5 fisheries goes.

6

7 But again, they just use the honor system
8 and they do track it on their own. They were very open
9 and they admitted to all of us that just like anybody
10 else they have a few bad apples that no matter what they
11 tell them they just stay in that area and just the heck
12 with them, salmon by-catch. But they know who they are,
13 they know the boat number, the Coast Guard knows who they
14 are. So when they do come to shore, they do cite these
15 people. And they do have some say on the renewal of
16 their fishing permits, too. Again, it's just an honor
17 system and the meeting was about two or three hours and
18 that's about it.

19

20 At this time that's about all I have to
21 report on that North Pacific Fisheries. We had Gerald
22 Nicholai out of Tanana, Della Trumble out of
23 Kodiak/Aleutians and Harry Wilde out of YK-Delta.
24 Because these are the four Regional Councils that claim
25 that most of the fish that goes through False Pass, so
26 the Federal Subsistence Board has been very adamant that
27 we all four Councils meet on a consensus agenda and
28 that's what we've been trying to do to alleviate all our
29 differences.

30

31 That, in essence, is my oral report. Any
32 questions.

33

34 Jack.

35

36 MR. REAKOFF: Did they have any
37 additional measures that they were thinking about taking
38 about eliminating certain areas for by-catch, moving them
39 away from those areas during certain times of the year?

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Such as?

42

43 MR. REAKOFF: Well, when we were seeing
44 that NMFS data down there in Anchorage a couple of years
45 ago they had these, there was a lot of chinook
46 interception at certain -- from January through March in
47 the Bering Sea and I was wondering if they were
48 discussing whether to close those areas during that
49 chinook passage.

50

00165

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Well, they do, not so much
2 as a closure, they just move and control the boats and
3 ask them to get the heck out of there when they're
4 getting too much salmon by-catch. Just, again, more of
5 an honor system than anything else, you know. Because
6 they do ask for these reports on salmon by-catch, like
7 they said, about 90 percent of them turn in good reports
8 and they automatically move when they are asked, but,
9 yet, there are a few of them that just won't listen they
10 say.

11

12 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh. So instead of
15 closing a certain area they just ask them to move to
16 another area, you know, where they know there's pollack.

17

18 Any further questions.

19

20 MR. STICKMAN: Ron.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Micky.

23

24 MR. STICKMAN: You know, I was wondering
25 if we -- you know, we passed, when we had the 10 Regional
26 Councils in Anchorage and we had the three Regional
27 Advisory Committees that encompassed the whole Yukon we
28 passed proposals. I was wondering if they addressed
29 those proposals and I was wondering, you know, it seems
30 like we always had a hard time with communications with
31 the Northern Pacific -- the management system there, I
32 was wondering if you -- what was the feeling when you
33 went before them, did you feel that the door was open?

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, they were very open.
36 And we did, all four Council Chairs really questioned
37 them on that honor system, but they say they're tracking
38 it pretty close. They did look at our three resolutions
39 that we did pass so they know it's there and they said
40 they are more than willing to work with us. Because they
41 also brought in two or three people from the commercial
42 side, they are asking -- who they are asking to more or
43 less police themselves and they said they were trying
44 their best.

45

46 Anything else.

47

48 MR. STICKMAN: No, thanks, Ron. I'm glad
49 to see that the doors are finally open.

50

00166

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. They were very open.
2 Like I said, even the commercial interests that were
3 there, I had a report sent out and yes, they were more
4 than willing to try and police themselves, especially
5 when they are asked to move from one area to another.

6
7 Ray.

8
9 MR. COLLINS: Are they still dumping what
10 by-catch they do get? I understand there's limits and
11 have they pulled all the observers off the boats and
12 there are no observers on any of the boats?

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: The observers, I think the
15 observers were assigned so many boats and they just move
16 boat to boat, area to area, if I remember right.

17
18 MR. COLLINS: By-catch is dumped?

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: By-catch is dumped and we
21 requested -- I think we requested that you go ahead and
22 haul it to shore and donate it to charities or something,
23 I think they were going to look into it. But we didn't
24 have nothing on paper but we didn't want to see that by-
25 catch just dumped because it's already caught, you know.
26 And that's automatic counts against salmon returning, you
27 know. I believe we asked for them to go ahead and bring
28 it to shore and donate it to charity because they're
29 coming in anyway.

30
31 Thank you, Ray.

32
33 Anything further.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, we'll go on but
38 like I said they were very open and they even brought
39 those commercial entities in there to answer questions,
40 too, and they were hit fairly hard. Juneau said they'd
41 give us more help on tracking and not only try to
42 eliminate the by-catch but try to stay away from what we
43 perceive as the Yukon River fish and Kuskokwim fish so
44 they were more than willing to sit down.

45
46 With that, okay, Jerry.

47
48 MR. BERG: Yeah, I just also wanted to
49 mention I unfortunately missed that meeting, I think I
50 was out of town that week. But, you know, at the

00167

1 direction of your Council Vince Mathews really did a lot
2 of work to try to get that meeting put together and we
3 really, I think, owe a lot of thanks to your Council for
4 directing him in that direction and then for him to take
5 it on and put it together. And I heard nothing but
6 positive comments come out of that meeting, that it was
7 really well received by everybody. And I know that the
8 Council did say that they were doing as much as they
9 could to try and reduce that by-catch. You know, it's
10 certainly not down to zero and probably will never get
11 down that low, but they are doing -- they're making
12 strides, I think, every year to try to do everything they
13 can to at least address the issue, like Ron said.

14

15 Anyway, I just wanted to say thanks to
16 Vince for doing the efforts he did to help pull that
17 together, it was a big effort on his part.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I would also like to
22 -- you know, yesterday when I gave my Chair's report I
23 also stated that I cut down quite a bit on my travel
24 because we do have Yukon River Fisheries -- Coordinating
25 Fisheries Committee and the Kuskokwim Coordinating
26 Fisheries Committee, a lot of those meetings that I just
27 stay out of. We had Micky Stickman, Benedict Jones for
28 the Yukon Coordinating Fisheries and they were very
29 adamant in meeting with the Northern Pacific Fisheries,
30 so our fisheries committees really deserve a lot of
31 commendations, too, because they worked closely with
32 Gerald Nicholai and Vince, so they deserve a lot of
33 commendations, too. And I just wanted to mention that.

34

35 And as you know, I stated earlier, we're
36 sending Jack down to the Board of Fisheries because Micky
37 had other commitments, Benedict had other commitments and
38 we automatically called Jack, so thank Jack for saying
39 yes for us, because we do consider fisheries an important
40 agenda item at all of our meetings.

41

42 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

45

46 MR. REAKOFF: On that by-catch issue, I
47 think that future work on that by-catch should be a
48 requirement to freeze and process those salmon and give
49 those to charity under a mandate so that that would give
50 incentive to reduce that by-catch. If they have to

00168

1 process, go to all that expense to process those fish and
2 disseminate them to charity they'll want to get away from
3 them. Right now they can just grind them and throw them
4 and they don't have -- it's no expense to them. But if
5 we require them to process those by-catch and donate
6 them, and I'm of the opinion then they should go back to
7 their rivers of origin, but if they had to process those
8 that would make a disincentive for continuing to have by-
9 catch.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I'd like to
12 make sure that was recorded because it may come up at
13 another meeting as an agenda item. Note that for the
14 record, Tina.

15

16 Jerry, C. Board of Fisheries Proposals.

17

18 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I did hand
19 out a copy of the comments that the Federal Subsistence
20 Program has drafted to submit to the Board of Fisheries
21 for these two proposals. I have more copies here if
22 people in the audience would like them.

23

24 These two proposals were originally
25 started as agenda change requests because the AYK area is
26 not reviewed this year as a normal part of the Board of
27 Fish cycle. Of course you can submit what they call an
28 ACR at any time and the Board of Fisheries did agree to
29 review these two, 462 and 463 ACRs which are now
30 proposals before the Board of Fisheries. And they're
31 really two -- they're both fairly similar in nature, so I
32 guess I'll go ahead and just kind of summarize what each
33 proposal is about and then I'll kind of go through what
34 our comments are going to be to the Board of Fisheries
35 and kind of give you some background information on the
36 proposals, and then the Council can get into their
37 discussion.

38

39 Proposal No. 462 was submitted by Virgil
40 Umphenour who used to be on the Board of Fisheries and
41 now is an Eastern Interior Regional Council member. And
42 his proposal was that the subsistence fishing schedules
43 should remain in place on the Yukon River throughout the
44 entire fishing season and in the Kuskokwim River,
45 throughout June and July regardless of available surplus
46 for any salmon species or commercial fishing periods.

47

48 So basically he feels that the
49 subsistence fishing schedule should remain in place, the
50 windowed schedules that were set up two years ago. He

00169

1 feels that those schedules should remain in place
2 irregardless if there's a commercial fishing period or
3 not so that there will be windows of fish moving through
4 the river to reach -- to help with escapement in the
5 upper drainages and then also to help spread the
6 subsistence harvest throughout the entire drainage.

7

8 So that's the first proposal.

9

10 And then Proposal No. 463 was submitted
11 by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and it is
12 somewhat related to that same issue. They basically
13 submitted a proposal to allow the State and Federal
14 managers to revert back to the pre-2001 subsistence
15 fishing schedule just for the Yukon River districts when
16 the in-season indicators suggest that run strength is
17 sufficient in abundance to allow commercial salmon
18 fisheries in that district or subdistrict.

19

20 So basically they feel like if there's
21 enough fish -- they feel like if there's enough fish in a
22 specific district to allow or warrant a commercial
23 period, then the subsistence window schedules should not
24 be implemented at that point, that they should go away.

25

26 So basically it's almost opposite of what
27 Virgil was proposing. And they feel like they don't have
28 enough flexibility for management with both schedules in
29 place.

30

31 Now, as you remember, those schedules are
32 in addition to the closures for subsistence surrounding a
33 commercial opening. You know, so if we go back two years
34 we had closures before, during and after commercial
35 periods for subsistence, and then -- and so that's --
36 and, you know, subsistence was open until a commercial
37 period was announced. And then two years ago certain
38 stocks were identified as stocks of concern, and so the
39 Board of Fisheries implemented a schedule to allow
40 windows of fish to move through both the Yukon and the
41 Kuskokwim for chinook and chum salmon.

42

43 So that's the way that things have been
44 operating the last two years .

45

46 But this last year we had runs that were
47 better than expected. They were still average and maybe
48 even somewhat below average for some stocks, but there
49 was enough salmon on both rivers to allow for some level
50 of commercial harvest. And so then it became somewhat

00170

1 confusing, more so on the Yukon as to whether those
2 windows would remain in place or not. And so the Alaska
3 Department of Fish and Game would like to clarify that
4 and make sure it's clear in-season because there was some
5 confusion last year.

6

7 Now, on the Kuskokwim last year it was
8 determined that there was enough fish to have a
9 commercial harvest, however, there was no buyer in the
10 area. However, once there was enough -- once it was
11 determined there was enough fish to have a commercial
12 opening they basically said, okay, there are enough fish
13 to have an opening so we're going to do away with the
14 schedule and they went back to seven days a week. And
15 you know, there was an extensive public process through
16 the Kuskokwim working group which Ray is a member of the
17 Kuskokwim working group now and Carl is an alternate.
18 And of course, Ray participates on that working group
19 very regularly and stays up to date on this issues. And
20 I know the working group really appreciates his input on
21 that working group.

22

23 And so that seemed to work pretty well on
24 the Kuskokwim last year and we felt like that was the
25 right management to approach. And our recommendation for
26 the Kuskokwim portion of 462 is to oppose that proposal
27 because we felt like the way management was dealt with
28 last year was the appropriate way, when there was enough
29 surplus fish to have a commercial opening that we feel
30 like that with the window schedule -- schedule should
31 fall away at that point.

32

33 On the Yukon River, of course, things are
34 a little bit different and a little bit more complicated.
35 The management approach that was used in 2002 likely did
36 help escapement levels, especially during the early
37 portion of the run because that's when the windowed
38 schedules were mainly in place, so especially helped the
39 chinook and also somewhat later during the season during
40 the chum and coho runs. However, there is an increasing
41 concern of not meeting escapement needs now for multiple
42 years on the Canadian-bound chinook salmon. And
43 conservation of the Yukon River salmon stocks of concern
44 continues to be a critical need to help rebuild these
45 runs. I think everybody probably would agree with that,
46 we really need to do everything we can to rebuild these
47 runs. And so we feel that this increases the need to be
48 even more conservative with decisions on when and to what
49 extent to allow commercial harvest of these salmon
50 resources. So we'd like to see, really the burden of

00171

1 conservation, fall on the commercial harvest level on the
2 Yukon side.

3

4 And so with that, the Federal Subsistence
5 Program is opposing Virgil's proposal 462 for these
6 reasons. We feel like the management approach used last
7 year on the Kuskokwim worked well, and we'd like to see
8 it remain in place, which basically the windows do go
9 away if there's a surplus of salmon identified. And then
10 also we'd like to see the schedule also go away on the
11 Yukon if there's enough deemed necessary -- or if there's
12 enough salmon present for a commercial opening and we'd
13 also like to just see a little bit more conservative
14 approach, even in the commercial decision-making process
15 on the Yukon.

16

17 And so on 463 we basically had very
18 similar comments. We do support the Department's
19 Proposal 463. We do think that lifting those schedules
20 would provide more flexibility to the in-season managers
21 by lifting that subsistence schedule. And basically for
22 the same reasons I just stated on 462.

23

24 So with that, I guess I don't have any
25 more details, I'll try to answer any questions the
26 Council might have on either of the proposals. But we
27 support 463 and oppose 462.

28

29 I guess I will add a little bit of
30 information on other groups that have addressed these
31 proposals. We had the Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Council
32 address these proposals in Chevak two weeks ago and they
33 also opposed 462 for both the Yukon and the Kuskokwim and
34 then they supported 463.

35

36 I know YRDFA addressed these proposals in
37 Kotlik almost a month ago and they took the same action,
38 they opposed 462 and supported 463.

39

40 The Kuskokwim Salmon Working Group met
41 last Wednesday, a week ago today and of course they only
42 address issues on the Kuskokwim so they only addressed
43 462 and they only addressed the Kuskokwim portion of 462.
44 And there was about three hours of discussion and
45 deliberation. They did have Dr. John White who was the
46 Board member who developed the Kuskokwim Rebuilding Plan
47 two years ago and he does support 462. He supports
48 Virgil's proposal and his thinking. However, the
49 Kuskokwim Working Group did oppose the Kuskokwim portion
50 of 462 in their motion and they passed it unanimously.

00172

1 So with that, that's the only information
2 I have. I'd be happy to answer questions if I can, Mr.
3 Chairman.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jerry. Any
6 questions. Go ahead, Ray.

7
8 MR. COLLINS: Yes, Jerry, at the meeting
9 last week, they do support, though, having the window
10 closure openings at the beginning of the subsistence
11 season, don't they, but then later on it would be
12 changed?

13
14 MR. BERG: Yes, they did support
15 management approach used last year which would leave the
16 schedule in place until it's determined that there are a
17 surplus of fish available to make a decision on whether
18 or not to -- well, if there were a surplus of fish and
19 there was enough to have a commercial opening, then they
20 do support lifting the schedule similar to last year on
21 the Kuskokwim. They did not address the Yukon portion of
22 either proposal.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
25 Jerry. Benedict.

26
27 MR. JONES: Yeah, Benedict. Jerry, last
28 summer chinook return, Nulato River, Gisasa, Clear Creek
29 and Sheenjik River below -- was below average for chinook
30 return to the spawning grounds so I'd be cautious for
31 this -- for a commercial opening for the next season on
32 that.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. Any
37 further questions of Jerry. Micky.

38
39 MR. STICKMAN: You know, as a
40 Coordinating Fisheries Committee member, I was
41 participating in the teleconferences, but at our winter
42 meeting last year I asked that I be replaced by Robert
43 Walker to spread the responsibilities on the river
44 because me and Ben were only 18 miles apart and we were
45 both on the Coordinating Fish Committee. So I gave my
46 seat to Robert but I remained on as an alternate because
47 I am a subsistence fisherman so as an alternate I do
48 participate in all the teleconferences but in the
49 teleconferences with the Commercial Fish Division last
50 summer on at least two or three of the teleconferences I

00173

1 told the State Commercial Fish Division that they were
2 practicing geographic discrimination because for the last
3 five years they never had no commercial fishing in Y4A
4 but yet they continue to have commercial fishing openings
5 in Y1 and Y2 and their excuse is to say, we want to save
6 the infrastructure. But yet they did nothing to save the
7 infrastructure in Y4A, so they're still practicing
8 geographic discrimination.

9

10 And I just wanted to have that on record
11 before the Board so there's no mistakes. I'm still
12 thinking what I'm thinking.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. Any
15 further questions for Jerry.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, you had a letter
20 that addresses fisheries issues.

21

22 MR. REAKOFF: I was faxed all of these
23 comments and proposals and so forth and before I left
24 home I looked at all of those and then it's my opinion,
25 personal opinion, that the Alaska Department of Fish and
26 Game has opened the commercial fishery too soon, the
27 proof is in the pudding, in the rivers were underescaped.
28 There was a protest -- I was on that YR DFA teleconference
29 and protested that premature opening of the commercial
30 fishery. And sure enough the escapement goals in Canada
31 were not -- the thresholds were not met. I live on the
32 Koyukuk River and I seen very few chinook made it to the
33 top of the Koyukuk River.

34

35 So the data that came in that I reviewed
36 showed that there was a 13 percent under the normal
37 subsistence harvest. The subsistence harvest was 13
38 percent below normal for the last 10 years. Again,
39 showing the premature commercial harvest excluded
40 subsistence users from certain amounts of fish.

41

42 I feel that the Board of Fisheries should
43 direct the Commercial Fish Division to reevaluate their
44 thresholds and evaluate what they did in 2002 and allow
45 additional fish to pass through.

46

47 I've written a statement for this Council
48 to review and I would like to see what the Council feels,
49 if there's portions that need to be changed or inserted,
50 but I'm going to read this statement that I've prepared

00174

1 to present before that Board of Fish Committee and so I'm
2 going to read that right now.

3

4 This is a statement to the Board of
5 Fisheries Subcommittee Meeting on
6 Proposals 462 and 463.

7

8 The Western Interior Regional Advisory
9 Council is very concerned with
10 escapements into Canada below necessary
11 amounts for multiple years.

12

13 The effects of ichthyophonous infection
14 and preclusion of a large component of
15 spawning chinook from reaching the
16 spawning grounds is very serious at this
17 time.

18

19 The Western Interior Regional Advisory
20 Council feels that the premature
21 commercial fishery on the Yukon in 2002
22 with a harvest of 24,900 fish leads to an
23 unacceptable amount of escapement and
24 reduction of subsistence harvest by 13
25 percent of the 10-year average.

26

27 The Commercial Fish Division seems to be
28 distracted with maintaining processing
29 infrastructure of the Lower Yukon and not
30 with sustained yield and providing for
31 subsistence which are paramount.

32

33 Regarding Proposals 462 and 463, we feel
34 that the Board of Fish should give the
35 Department clear direction to restrain
36 commercial harvest until adequate passage
37 has occurred. The 2002 threshold was
38 proven inadequate. The windowed
39 subsistence fishing schedules should
40 remain in effect in districts that are
41 not commercial fishing to maintain
42 protection to portions of the first half
43 of the chinook run. Once lower river
44 districts have possibly commenced
45 commercial fishing openings, they should
46 revert to the pre-2001 fishing period
47 regulations.

48

49 The Department's proposal is unclear as
50 to this management intent.

00175

1 When I read their proposal they say that
2 once they have a commercial fishing opening they want it
3 to revert it to the 2001 schedule, but in their
4 discussion they say, that it's important to protect the
5 subsistence fishing schedule -- it's important that the
6 protection, the subsistence fishing schedule affords to
7 salmon stocks early in the run in the lower river is
8 maintained as the fish pass through the middle and upper
9 river areas otherwise positive conservation effects in
10 one section of the river may be voided in another.

11

12 So the way I feel is that we're having
13 windowed subsistence openings, we're allowing fish to go
14 up the river, if they have a lower river commercial
15 opening then they should revert to their 24 hours before
16 and that, but the upper river districts that still
17 haven't commercial fished yet should still have windowed
18 openings to let fish get up to Canada. And that's the
19 way I feel about it and I wanted to see how the Council
20 felt about that.

21

22 And so that's the statement I prepared
23 and if Council members disagree with what I've written I
24 would like to have a consensus on this.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Comments Council. Micky.

27

28 MR. STICKMAN: You know, we all agreed
29 that the windows was a good idea because while -- because
30 of the windows I think more fish -- as far as windows, as
31 far as False Pass is concerned allowed more fish into the
32 Yukon River. But you know as far as subsistence fishing
33 compared to commercial, you know, the people that, you
34 know, in Y4A where I'm from we only subsistence fish,
35 there's no commercial openings.

36

37 But, you know, last summer while we were
38 fishing, you know, we were still fishing with the
39 windows, but fishermen in my community were being
40 approached by a representative of a company. He said,
41 you know, we have \$70 million go fishing 24 hours a day,
42 we'll represent you in court, you know. So, you know, we
43 have these windows but then we have these guys
44 approaching us and saying, go fishing, go fishing, you
45 know, we'll back you up in court, we have \$70 million.
46 You know, with that kind of information out there, you
47 know, they asked me how come I never fish, you know, and
48 I told them, well, you know, I don't want to break any
49 laws because I sit on the Federal Subsistence Advisory
50 Committee and if I break any laws I'm going to lose that

00176

1 edge and if we lose that edge then we lose our voice so I
2 told them, you know, I wouldn't do it. But then there's
3 guys back home saying, well, there's nothing to hold me
4 back, you know.

5
6 So, you know, it's important that the
7 Department knows these things though. Because I was
8 already approached by the same people this winter and
9 they're prepared to sue the State if the State have any
10 commercial openings and they have subsistence closures in
11 the Y4 area or anywhere above where they have commercial
12 openings, they're ready to back up anybody that's willing
13 to go out there and take a chance and fish 24/7.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. This is
16 pretty, I don't know pretty good information to some
17 extent. I'm glad you, as a former Coordinating Fisheries
18 Committee member you are on top of all this and that's
19 why I pretty much stayed out of that CFC because we're
20 way the heck up Koyukuk and so we don't really know
21 what's going on on the Yukon, and that's why you're
22 seated and it's quite apparent that you are keeping up on
23 all the issues.

24
25 Any further questions or comments for
26 Jack.

27
28 MR. STICKMAN: One last comment.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

31
32 MR. STICKMAN: You know if I didn't sit
33 here I would be out there fishing, you know. If somebody
34 told me I got \$70 million and they'll back you up in
35 court I would go out there fishing right now. You know,
36 my family tried to convince me to go fishing and I told
37 them, oh, no, you know, maybe my brother can go fishing
38 but I wouldn't take no chances, you know, I like what I
39 do and I think I make a positive difference and I told
40 them I will continue to do what I'm doing. But I told
41 them the minute -- or the very second I'm off this board,
42 though, I will fish 24/7.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Carl.

45
46 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I got to agree with
47 what Micky is saying. If we're going to -- you know, the
48 big fight was to -- we said, there was a big fight within
49 the Kuskokwim and the AYK area, that intercept of Area M
50 was the greatest concern, that we've got to limit the by-

00177

1 catch out of Area M that's coming up to the AYK area. I
2 think so far we have been successful in having them limit
3 their by-catch, to conserve. By being conservative we
4 shouldn't -- when we conserve that fish that pass the
5 Area M, should make it all the way up to the spawning
6 streams.

7

8 I think it does not give nobody any right
9 for one area to conserve and another area down the line
10 to commercial fish. There's the conserving, it's gone.
11 You've fished it. So we got to concern all the way up to
12 the spawning area, I truly believe that. If we're going
13 to ask one area of the state to conserve everybody must
14 conserve.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. Robert.

17

18 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 You know, just listening to Jack here speaking and Micky,
20 you know, one of the things we have to consider this
21 proposal here, 463 is something that we're going back to
22 2001. And I underlined down here, similar being
23 addressed by the FSB, unless enough surplus salmon are
24 available for a commercial opening. Now, this is what
25 happened last year.

26

27 Last year the Fish and Game came and told
28 us that we're not going to have a commercial opening so
29 don't expect to be commercial fishing. We'll give you
30 all the subsidizing with your subsistence fishing five
31 days a week, so, okay. Come July all of a sudden a big
32 run hit the Yukon and they opened commercial fishing in
33 Y1 and Y2, and they call us up in Y4A and we had a
34 teleconference and we sat down and talked with them, they
35 want to open up Y4A right now. Wait a minute, we said,
36 how are we going to open up Y4A. We don't have a buyer,
37 we don't have nobody lined up, nobody geared up. You told
38 us in May there was going to be no commercial season so
39 don't expect to do anything this year.

40

41 Now, the Fish and Game, either they don't
42 know what they're doing or they got so much political
43 pressure from Y1 and Y2 or something with the
44 Commissioner, I don't know. But I'm really dissatisfied
45 with this whole fisheries here, this is really a slap in
46 our face. We haven't fished in five years but still,
47 continue Y1 and Y2 are commercial fishing. We are
48 conservative. If we don't have enough fish up the Anvik
49 River for our commercial fishing we'll see, well, we'll
50 close it, but to still continue Y1 and Y2 will fish. And

00178

1 they do intercept our chum salmon and king salmon up the
2 Anvik River. We only have a small run of about 800 to
3 maybe 1000 kings per year up the Anvik River. And a lot
4 of the incidental catch that takes place takes place in
5 Y1 and Y2, they catch our king salmon so we never have a
6 chance really to build up the king salmon in the Anvik
7 River to two to three to four to 5,000 fish because of
8 all the commercial fishing.

9

10 So I'd be, you know, really careful on
11 how we do this. Just like Micky says here, too, there
12 are people out there that have money that, you know,
13 would try to buy us, we have to be careful too. We want
14 to leave something behind for our kids. You know, we
15 don't want to have to deplete everything and say, well,
16 this is what we're going to do, we're going to give you
17 farm fish here and that's what you're going to have, what
18 happened to the wild stock, depleted, misused, thrown
19 away.

20

21 So I'm really going to take a hard look
22 at this issue here and talk to all my board members, not
23 mine, but the board members for the Western Interior RAC
24 and sit down and we're going to have to discuss this
25 here, because, you know, if we have to go to the State
26 together or go to the State with the TCC, Tanana Chiefs
27 Conference, wherever, you know, get something resolved
28 here early before the season starts.

29

30 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert. Jack,
33 did you -- what kind of consensus did you want on this
34 statement?

35

36 MR. REAKOFF: From what I hear I think we
37 have consensus that the commercial fishery was opened too
38 soon and that portion of the letter should remain. What
39 I need to know is I'm of the opinion that those windows
40 on that first portion of the fish should continue up the
41 river to allow the fish to get up into the spawning
42 grounds. Once a district is fished, once a district has
43 a commercial opening then those should revert to the old
44 thing.

45

46 I do feel that the windows -- I've heard
47 people telling me that the windows should be more aligned
48 to the weekend. There's people who work and they don't
49 -- they can't fish on the -- you know, they're working
50 during the week day, the window should be rearranged to

00179

1 accommodate the weekend work schedule for a lot of people
2 on the river. And the driftnet extension should be
3 addressed, the driftnet extension around Galena should be
4 moved up the river, there's too much competition around
5 Koyukuk Village and down below there.

6

7 But the main thing is that that first
8 portion of the run needs protection as it moves up the
9 river and the windows give those runs that protection.

10

11 And the Department needs to be
12 restrained. I was told down in McGrath last year at our
13 Council meeting by CommFish that they were going to have
14 a commercial opening if at all possible to maintain the
15 processing infrastructure on the Lower Yukon. I consider
16 that intolerable. That is not looking to the resource,
17 health of the resource as the apex. And they pushed the
18 outer envelope of that and they underescaped the
19 drainage. And so the Board of Fish is going to have to
20 restrain the Commercial Fisheries Division. They're too
21 anxious to have these commercial openings. Those are fat
22 fish on the lower -- everybody knows those early ones are
23 fat, they're worth \$3.37 a pound last year on the lower
24 river and they're too anxious to kill those fish, and
25 they're killing the goose that lays the golden egg. And
26 we want to rebuild these salmon stocks, we have stocks of
27 concern.

28

29 So I want to know from the Council
30 whether those windowed openings should be maintained
31 until a commercial opening has occurred and I need to
32 have input from the Council on that aspect.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Council. Benedict.

35

36 MR. JONES: Yeah, I support Jack's
37 proposal on the window opening, it worked good last year.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky, then Emmitt.

40

41 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, you know, the one
42 other thing that I feel that the Council here should
43 know, is that, our tribal government's out there talking
44 about having a tribal government fishwheel because as
45 sovereign tribal governments you can't be sued. So
46 there's tribal governments out there saying we're going
47 to have a tribal government fishwheel on the river and
48 we're going to fish 24/7 because we're sovereign and we
49 can't be sued.

50

00180

1 So you know, that's just something that I
2 feel that the council here should know. But as far as
3 the windows, I do agree with Ben, you know, I fish for
4 kings like Ben, you know, and I got enough fish, you
5 know, like Ben, I stop -- when my fish cutters tell me we
6 have enough for the family it's time to stop, you know,
7 save smoke wood for silver salmon if we have any
8 openings, so, like Ben, I agree with the windows, they've
9 worked for me.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. Emmitt.

12

13 MR. PETERS: Yes, I agree with Jack and
14 Micky and Robert. You know, we in our district area we
15 understand the problems in the Lower Yukon River and
16 Kuskokwim River and we feel it's very important -- the
17 fish means a lot to our people here in the Interior. The
18 value of a dollar don't mean nothing to us by golly the
19 fish means a lot to our people.

20

21 So I'm all for Jack so let's wish him
22 good luck on that in the meeting he's going to and
23 hopefully we come out on top.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Angie.

26

27 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 I, too, agree with what Jack is going to be saying at
29 that Board of Fisheries. And if possible to try and get
30 some weekend openings in those windows because are people
31 are taking time off from their jobs to go fishing for
32 their subsistence fish. And if they could work part of
33 the week and just fish on the weekends that would help
34 them out.

35

36 We didn't like windows when they first
37 started because we didn't understand windows and it was a
38 hardship on us when we first started because we would get
39 some fish and it drug out our fishing season all summer.
40 But then we're starting to see the value behind having
41 windows in our area. And so people are used to it now
42 that the windows are going to be there again.

43

44 But my biggest concern was return of the
45 fish. When I was in Canada last week they said that the
46 return was only 1.5 per spawner, and that's really low.
47 When I first started to go to Canada in 1990 it was like
48 four, and now it's down to one so we're losing a lot of
49 fish somewhere.

50

00181

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Angie. Ray.

4

5 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I think the windows
6 have worked well on the Kuskokwim and I'm speaking as an
7 up river person because we have -- I get the comments
8 from Nikolai that the runs have improved with those
9 windows over what they were before. So I think that's a
10 good approach. I do understand what that it causes some
11 hardship for down river people and that they usually go
12 out and fish for a period and put up what they need when
13 they have good weather like in the spring down there, but
14 at the same time they are meeting their subsistence
15 needs. They get all the subsistence fish they need even
16 though they have to deal with the windows, so I think the
17 windows is a good approach.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Carl.

20

21 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I agree with what Ray
22 was saying but we've got to take into consideration, on
23 the Kuskokwim River, we didn't have many commercial
24 openings. And, you know, that just shows you, hey, the
25 fish will make it up. When you have an opening you can't
26 even go down that river, it's blocked. And the whole
27 river is blocked with nets, you got to just stop and wait
28 until they're done and then you can go down. And we've
29 got to take that into consideration, too, there was no
30 commercial openings.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. Anything
33 to add, Robert.

34

35 MR. WALKER: Everything I already said.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. It's
38 quite apparent that we do have a consensus on Jack's
39 statement. I think that it's important that you
40 introduce it early to the committee that addresses this
41 issue and then that will strengthen all your positions
42 and people will know that you are there.

43

44 So do we have a consensus, is that all
45 you wanted Jack?

46

47 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Jerry.

50

00182

1 MR. BERG: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I think it'd
2 probably be appropriate to actually have a motion to pass
3 an official motion for Jack to carry forward so he can
4 speak on behalf of the entire Council at the Board of
5 Fish meeting just to make the record clear.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair will entertain a
10 motion to approve of and have Jack introduce the
11 statement he read to us to the related -- or the main
12 committees that he wants to and.....

13
14 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

15
16 MR. PETERS: Second.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved by Micky, seconded
19 by Emmitt. All those in favor of introducing this
20 statement, signify by saying aye.

21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

25
26 (No opposing votes)

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank
29 you, Jerry, next. The next item would be what, G2,
30 right?

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: We just cover that and see
35 what we have to do on that one, on the bottom of Page 2,
36 what does that consist of?

37
38 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chairman. That's one
39 more action item we were going to try to cover before
40 Jack has to leave today and that is actually G3 is the
41 discussion of the village of Koyukuk Resolution to extent
42 the driftnet fishery. And as I said at the beginning of
43 the meeting I do have that draft proposal that Vince
44 drafted up working with Benedict and so I'll pass these
45 out for the Council and then the Council can review that
46 proposal and decide if they want to support it and take
47 action on that for the Board of Fish proposal.

48
49 (Pause)

50

00183

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this the form that we
2 usually submit this under?

3

4 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is the
5 outline that the Board of Fish has established for their
6 proposal process. And so this is -- yeah, the outline
7 that they like to receive proposals in. Robert was just
8 asking me about a number, the Board of Fishery will
9 assign it a number when they receive it, so it doesn't
10 really have a number yet. I guess for purposes of
11 addressing it here at the meeting we can just call it the
12 District 4A driftnet fishery proposal I would suggest.

13

14 And I guess just as a way to introduce
15 the proposal and Benedict can correct me if I'm missing
16 anything here but basically there -- as Jack just alluded
17 to there is an increase competition for driftnet, gillnet
18 sites in District 4A which has made it more difficult for
19 residents, especially the residents of the Village of
20 Koyukuk to meet their subsistence needs with the people
21 coming into their area to use drift gillnets. So they
22 would like to extend the driftnet area -- let me see,
23 I'll need to read -- right, and so it would expand the
24 drift -- the subsistence driftnet, gillnet fishery for
25 District 4 up to the mouth of the Yuki River.

26

27 I'm not exactly sure right now, maybe we
28 could get clarification, I'm not sure where the cut off
29 right now is, maybe Benedict can identify that. I'm not
30 familiar with that area myself or maybe we have Ray
31 Hander that might be able to help us.

32

33 MR. JONES: Yeah, the geographic location
34 is -- they call it Cone Point (ph), just a couple of
35 miles below Bishop Rock.

36

37 MR. BERG: Yeah, so basically it would
38 just extend the area available for people to use their
39 driftnets in so they're not all concentrated in one area
40 is my understanding. So anyway, this is the draft that's
41 before you and if you choose to submit it, Vince has got
42 it drafted here to be submitted on behalf of the Western
43 Interior Council and then I believe Benedict is also
44 working with some of the local villages out there to get
45 their support for the proposal also.

46

47 That's all I have for this proposal, Mr.
48 Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

00184

1 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, just for the
2 Regional Council's information when we talked about this
3 proposal at the Yukon Koyukuk Regional Advisory Committee
4 meeting on the State side, we passed this proposal so as
5 the Chief of the Nulato Tribal Council for the tribal
6 council's support so Nulato Tribal Council passed a
7 resolution supporting Ben's proposal. So that's just so
8 that the Regional Council here will know that already the
9 Village of Nulato has backed this proposal already.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

12

13 MR. JONES: Yeah, the reason we put in
14 this proposal is due to lack of fishing sites on the
15 Yukon River. We don't have much eddies on the south bank
16 of the Yukon from Nulato to Yuki, so that's why we wanted
17 to extend this driftnetting so it'd give more opportunity
18 for the peoples of Galena and Ruby area to fish locally.
19 There's a good harvest spot area in their area. So
20 that's the proposal -- that's why this proposal, we want
21 to extend the driftnetting because of lack of eddies on
22 the Yukon River. There's one just below Galena and one
23 at Bishop Rock but Bishop Rock has a family site there so
24 just gives the opportunity for people to fish locally.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict.
29 Jerry, do you think that if we made a motion to adopt
30 this proposal on behalf of Koyukuk and have Jack present
31 this at the Board of Fisheries meeting, would that be
32 appropriate?

33

34 MR. BERG: Mr. Chairman, I think it would
35 be appropriate for the Council to make a motion if they
36 feel they want to support this proposal. But it will not
37 -- the deadline for proposals to the Board of Fisheries
38 is April 10th and this proposal would not be reviewed
39 until next year, until this time next year. The AYK
40 region will be reviewed by the Board of Fisheries, every
41 three years, which is this coming -- well, it will be
42 next January basically. So Jack won't present this
43 proposal to the Board of Fisheries tomorrow, this will
44 just be a proposal that will be submitted on behalf of
45 the Western Interior Council and anybody else who
46 supports it by the April 10th deadline that the Board of
47 Fish has set. So you know, it's a year out before this
48 proposal will be reviewed by the Board of Fisheries.

49

50 We don't have to submit it right away, we

00185

1 could wait until Benedict -- we can work with him and see
2 which other villages all support it and then submit it as
3 one proposal with everybody who supported it up until
4 that date.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you want to do that or
7 do you want to submit it now?

8

9 MR. JONES: Is this the State Board of
10 Fisheries that Jack's going to or the Federal?

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: State.

13

14 MR. REAKOFF: I'm going to the State
15 Board of Fisheries, but they're already on an agenda for
16 other proposals. This proposal won't make the hopper
17 until this next year. But this Council should endorse
18 this proposal right now. And so let's submit it and then
19 there can be other endorsements coming along that support
20 it later.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: That would be my feeling
23 and I understand you did make some changes already, I
24 mean some additions.

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair. Under 3 at the
27 end of the paragraph, I inserted -- I just wanted to see
28 if this language would be acceptable; Ruby and Galena
29 fisheries are traveling farther at a great expense to
30 congest an area where other villages are already
31 harvesting. And I think the Board has to understand that
32 it's very expensive for the other people to come down,
33 all the way down there to fish and then run back up with
34 fish. So the Board should know that that's a pretty big
35 burden at these fuel prices to run way down there.

36

37 So would you be in favor of changing --
38 or adding -- inserting that sentence, Benedict?

39

40 MR. JONES: Yeah, it'd not only be a big
41 burden on their fish it's the quality of fish. If it's a
42 warm day they have to rush back to Galena. It depends on
43 the weather, sometimes the wind comes up and delays their
44 trip back home.

45

46 But I'd like to see this resolution be
47 passed to the State Fish and Game Board because this is
48 the State waters.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: So you're also in favor of

00186

1 that small addendum that Jack added on Ruby and Galena?

2

3 MR. JONES: (Nods Affirmatively)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any further
6 comments. If not, the Chair will entertain a motion to
7 present -- go ahead.

8

9 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
10 make a motion to present this proposal to the Alaska
11 Board of Fish with an amendment to the language to insert
12 under paragraph three at the end of -- behind villages -
13 village of Koyukuk, new sentence, Ruby and Galena
14 fisheries are traveling farther at a great expense to
15 congest an area where other villages are already
16 harvesting.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

19

20 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.

23

24 MR. STICKMAN: Jack, I was just
25 wondering, are you going to present this as a Western
26 Interior Regional Advisory Committee proposal or as a
27 single village proposal, like Ben has out there, but I
28 would rather that it come from this arena here, instead
29 of putting the whole burden on Ben and just having it as
30 a single village proposal. I think as a Federal
31 Subsistence Advisory Committee that it would carry more
32 weight if it came from this group.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: On the back page it says
35 submitted by the Western Interior, is that satisfactory?

36

37 MR. STICKMAN: (Nods Affirmatively)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Anything else.

40

41 MR. REAKOFF: It will carry much more
42 weight from this Council, and I feel that then any other
43 organizations or villages that endorse it would be all
44 the better. But, you're right, from this Council would
45 be the best and having this Western Interior's letterhead
46 would be the best.

47

48 MR. WALKER: Question.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Question

00187

1 was called for. All those in favor of submitting this
2 Koyukuk proposal under Western Interior's name, signify
3 by saying aye.

4

5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

8

9 (No opposing votes)

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. What's
12 the next item on the agenda Jerry?

13

14 MR. BERG: Mr. Chairman, I believe that
15 covers all of the action items that we need to take care
16 of before Jack were to leave unless there's any other
17 items that Council members would like to address before
18 Jack has to leave.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

21

22 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to
23 address that BLM letter we received from the BLM
24 Director's office.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

27

28 MR. REAKOFF: In our annual report we
29 stated that we were concerned about unlimited amounts of
30 guides on BLM land and there was a response from the BLM
31 and I've drafted a letter of response. So at your
32 pleasure I would like to address that issue.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, you do have that --
35 Council members do have that prerogative, either later on
36 or early on the agenda or somewhere on the agenda, and if
37 you feel it's important enough the Chair will go ahead
38 and grant you the time to go ahead and address this
39 issue.

40

41 Is this okay with the Council? Because
42 this does deal with our annual report which we submit
43 every year.

44

45 (Council Nods Affirmatively)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack. Jerry,
48 what would this come under, annual report or review and
49 approval, what?

50

00188

1 MR. BERG: Mr. Chairman, this is a
2 response letter to the letter that the Council sent to
3 the State Director for BLM back in December. I believe
4 all the Council members received copies of this letter.
5 I have more copies of the letter if you'd like them, from
6 the Council to the Director, but mainly what you have
7 before you is the letter from the Director of BLM back to
8 the Council addressing the issues that the Council raised
9 to BLM. And I guess I'd ask Tim Craig or Jeff Denton
10 from BLM to come and address any questions the Council
11 may have regarding this response letter to the Council.
12

13 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman. Council
14 members. I'm Tim Craig. I'm a wildlife biologist in the
15 Northern Field Office of BLM. And with me today at the
16 table are Roger Delaney, recreational planner from our
17 office and Jeff Denton at the Anchorage Field Office,
18 subsistence coordinator. And we'd just be happy to answer
19 any questions you have about the letter or BLM policy.
20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.
22

23 MR. REAKOFF: Well, Mr. Chairman, the
24 letter states that there's -- you know, we're requesting
25 guide areas be implemented on BLM land like the Park
26 Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife, that was the crux of
27 our statement. And the BLM states that they already have
28 something in progress in their new BLM recreational
29 administration policy, a program manual and that section
30 is .06 and .06B. That there's officer shall determine
31 the desired level or use of carrying capacity. And I'm
32 wondering, is that in progress? Is that happening?
33

34 MR. DELANEY: Mr. Chair. When you say is
35 it in progress, the policy's actually been there for
36 several years. The new regs is just something new that
37 has replaced our old recreation regs that we had back in
38 the -- it was originated back in 1984. So they've always
39 been there.
40

41 What -- in terms of what we're trying to
42 say there is that you establish -- we can establish
43 carrying capacity as it relates to trying to restrict
44 certain uses or types of use but we generally do that
45 through our land use plans. And so are we doing that
46 now, I would say, yes, we're in the throws right now of
47 doing several land use plans as it relates to the utility
48 corridor area, we're not doing one there but they're
49 doing a new plan out of the Anchorage Field Office.
50 We've got new plans coming down the line in the

00189

1 Northwest, out in the Squirrel River country. We've got
2 another new plan coming up in the National Petroleum
3 Reserve. And all of these plans, that's the time that
4 you would address the carrying capacities.

5
6 MR. REAKOFF: Well, Mr. Chairman, it's my
7 perception that not enough is being done. That there is
8 a lot of guiding pressure on BLM land and the State land
9 and the BLM land they're big free for all zones. And
10 that is becoming a huge problem.

11
12 There was a missperception in this
13 response from the BLM that I -- because this member is
14 from the Dalton Highway Corridor that it was specific to
15 the Dalton Highway area, no, I'm a Western Interior
16 Representative, I'm representing the Western Interior
17 regionwide, and there are multiple millions of acres of
18 land within the Western Interior that have a lot of
19 guiding pressure on it. And the Park Service and the
20 U.S. Fish and Wildlife have guide areas.

21
22 Through this Council, I would like to
23 urge the BLM through their evaluations, look at those
24 other sister agencies and come up with a similar type
25 system of evaluation and limited guide numbers on BLM
26 lands and that's what I would like this Council to
27 request.

28
29 I've formulated a response to the
30 Director, Mr. Bisson. And so I would, at some time like
31 to read that response and see how the Council feels about
32 the response that I've written.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the pleasure of the
35 Council, go ahead and read this into the record?

36
37 (Council Nods Affirmatively)

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

40
41 MR. REAKOFF: This is a response to the
42 BLM Director, Mr. Bisson's letter, from the Western
43 Interior Regional Council.

44
45 Thank you for pointing out that the BLM
46 does have the new 2930 recreational
47 permit manual, Sections .06 and .06B
48 states that, as uses increase, an action
49 that may be taken is an authorized
50 officer may determine the desired level

00190

1 of use or carrying capacity and analysis
2 of the resources of concern, dall sheep,
3 moose and bears need to be undertaken on
4 BLM land to determine carrying capacity,
5 regionwide, and statewide.
6

7 The State Board of Game is in a quandary
8 as to how to control unlimited guide
9 numbers on State land. They have
10 requested the Legislature to implement a
11 commercial service board to control guide
12 numbers or carrying capacity as you would
13 say. Their request has fallen on deaf
14 ears of the Majority and the dilemma
15 continues.
16

17 The Western Interior Regional Advisory
18 Council's advise is to look at your
19 sister interagencies, which are
20 determining carrying capacity and
21 selecting qualified and limited number of
22 guides that may hunt an area.
23

24 Resources are limited in the Western
25 Interior of Alaska and the unlimited
26 guide issue must be addressed by your
27 agency. The State Board of Game is at a
28 loss as to their parameter of authority.
29 Guide numbers will continue to escalate,
30 opportunity exponentially at the expense
31 of the resource, the subsistence users
32 and other non-commercial users if this
33 problem is not remedied soon.
34

35 There was some other points in that
36 response and I've added some other response language.
37

38 In regards to the law enforcement and
39 moose population movement telemetry
40 studies, the request was stated for
41 Northern Unit 24 and not for the Dalton
42 Highway Management Unit. There are many
43 millions of acres of BLM land in Northern
44 Unit 24 and data is lacking on how far
45 moose move, and who is managing what
46 population. Coordinated enforcement with
47 the Alaska Fish and Wildlife Protection
48 and other agencies would enhance
49 protection efforts and good game
50 regulations will be complied with.

00191

1 Thank you for the opportunity to clarify
2 our position on these issues.

3
4 And I would like to see how the Council
5 feels about that letter and I would like to submit that
6 back to Mr. Bisson and I guess we'll have to take a
7 response from BLM.

8
9 MR. DENTON: Jeff Denton from the
10 Anchorage Field Office, BLM. I know this particular
11 Council has also had concerns relative to transporter,
12 air taxi things which isn't specifically addressed here,
13 but it's also kind of a fundamental festering problem
14 that's been mentioned for several years by this group
15 also. I don't know if you'd want to include that and
16 make this more complex or not.

17
18 Also of concern in the Anchorage Field
19 Office and it goes beyond -- somewhat beyond the bounds
20 of this Council, but we have mountain goat, and in your
21 case bison guides and outfitters as well. There's other
22 species that also have the potential to have this big
23 pile up of potential outfitters and so on. So there's
24 some other species that you may want to add to that list
25 as well.

26
27 But I know, this goes beyond actually the
28 Western Interior regions, Bristol Bay is having the same
29 problems, we have the same problems in parts of the
30 Southeast and even in Southcentral we have some of the
31 same problems. So it's, you know, like you were saying
32 it's more of a statewide problem, potential problem than
33 it is very localized which this letter kind of indicates.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I think
38 it's important that we send this letter. Because --
39 actually it should be addressed at the State level if
40 they get into regulating that, but in the absence of
41 that, we should use whatever tools we have and I'd like
42 to compliment the Fish and Wildlife and the Park they
43 have regulated it, limited it and if BLM could institute
44 something that would take care of part of the problem, at
45 least on those lands in the state.

46
47 So I would urge sending this letter.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Any
50 further comments.

00192

1 Jack, did you want to address the
2 transporter issue within this letter or not?

3

4 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'm fully
5 aware that we have a transporter problem, but this guide
6 area thing, neither the U.S. Fish and Wildlife or Park
7 Service or the State has addressed that issue. That has
8 to be controlled through a commercial services board or
9 an authority, at least to the Game Board. It's my
10 opinion that if the Legislature does not want to make a
11 commercial services board then they should delegate an
12 authority to control commercial services for hunting
13 activities through the Game Board. That would be one
14 avenue to address this issue.

15

16 But one way or another, the transporter
17 issue has to be addressed in a bigger realm, and I don't
18 see how the BLM can be singled out to address that issue.
19 That's a statewide thing and that has to be addressed
20 primarily by the State.

21

22 But the limited guide area aspect can be
23 addressed by the BLM. It's done by the other sister
24 agencies and there's really no reason why it can't be
25 done by the BLM.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. And if I
28 remember right I think that it was clarified to this
29 Council that transporters come under Department of
30 Revenue and if we wanted to deal with them we'd have to
31 go through the Department of Revenue, or the Department
32 of Commerce, something like that.

33

34 MR. REAKOFF: Commerce.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Commerce. Ray.

37

38 MR. COLLINS: Well, one reason that's a
39 problem, for example, on the Innoko, the reason they
40 couldn't make a statement is that those transporters are
41 landing on navigable waters which are controlled by the
42 State so they really can drop them off anywhere where
43 there's navigable waters and the agency that controlled
44 the lands didn't really have that much to say about it.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Without
47 further adieu, the Chair would -- how do we handle this,
48 by motion, Jerry, to go ahead and submit this letter on
49 behalf of the Western Interior?

50

00193

1 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chair, I think that'd
2 make the record clearer if you were to deal with it by a
3 motion.

4
5 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion that this
6 Council here supports Jack's letter of response to BLM.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

9
10 MR. PETERS: Second.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Emmitt Peters.
13 Any further discussion

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, all those in favor
18 of the motion, signify by saying aye.

19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

23
24 (No opposing votes)

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you BLM for being
27 here and answering questions. And so we will address

28 this transporter issue through another avenue.
29

30 It is now 10:30, I think it would be
31 appropriate to take a break and order lunch while you're
32 at it. Again, the special is roast beef, mashed potatoes
33 and gravy, he's got a bunch ready.

34
35 Take a break.

36
37 (Off record)

38
39 (On record)

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: If we could find our way
42 back I'll call the meeting back to order. I believe all
43 the lunches have been ordered and quite a few people came
44 up and asked to be put on the agenda a little earlier
45 than our agenda called for. But for now we'll go ahead
46 and follow the agenda and start with Yukon River D,
47 whenever Jerry's ready.

48
49 So Jerry, do you think it would be
50 appropriate at this time to start with the Yukon River,

00194

1 D, Fisheries Topics?

2

3 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I know
4 there's a number of people trying to get out on planes
5 this afternoon and I believe one of those is Ray Hander
6 who is going to cover the Yukon River for us. So maybe
7 we could go ahead and go through the Yukon River
8 presentation from Ray Hander.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Kuskokwim River under
11 subtitle E is leaving around 2:00 p.m. so I think we can
12 accommodate these two people right away. So thank you
13 for your patience and bear with us and we'll start out
14 with Ray Hander.

15

16 MR. HANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 Council members. Has that handout made it all the way
18 down there, there you go. I'm Ray Hander, I'm the
19 assistant fishery manager for the Yukon River Subsistence
20 Fishery Management Program. Russ Holder, the senior
21 Federal manager and Paul Salmone, the assistant Yukon
22 Chinook Summer Chum manager are both at the Alaska Board
23 of Fisheries meetings in Anchorage, the one that Jack is
24 going to be attending. So I'm the representative. I'll
25 be going over both the information on the Federal side
26 and I'll review the information from the State that
27 they've given me that they presented both at the YK RAC
28 meeting two weeks ago and at the YRDFA meeting in Kotlik.
29 So I'll continue on here.

30

31 As Council members are aware, the U.S.
32 Fish and Wildlife Service has been working closely with
33 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to manage Yukon
34 River subsistence fisheries within the Federal
35 conservation units. A project that we had in 2000, the
36 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, conducted a pilot project
37 to monitor in-season subsistence harvest in Emmonak,
38 Nulato and Galena. This project came about by request
39 from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the three
40 Yukon River Regional Advisory Councils about the need to
41 use subsistence fisheries information from fishers on the
42 river during the fishing season.

43

44 This helped managers assess subsistence
45 harvest and combined that information into management
46 decisions. In general, surveyed families indicated that
47 their household chinook salmon needs were met or nearly
48 met in the year 2000 -- for the 2002 season.

49

50 We're hoping to continue the in-season

00195

1 subsistence harvest monitoring project this coming
2 fishing season using Refuge information technicians from
3 Emmonak, Holy Cross and Nulato even though this year we
4 don't have any directly obtained funds for that project.

5

6 And the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
7 and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff have
8 been developing the 2003 information sheet which is what
9 I just handed out to you there, which reviews the 2002
10 season and provides the 2003 outlook. I want to
11 emphasize that this is certainly a draft at this point in
12 time and I think while Russ and the management staff from
13 ADF&G are in Anchorage this week, they'll be working very
14 hard to finalize this as soon as possible.

15

16 And I'll review this draft information
17 with you and answer any questions to the best of my
18 ability, but questions that I cannot answer that may be
19 more suited for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to
20 address, I will probably defer these but I will take your
21 questions to the proper agency, whether it be Russ that
22 might be better suited or Alaska Department of Fish and
23 Game Staff, I'll take your concerns to them and I will
24 make sure that it the answers are routed back through the
25 Regional Advisory -- your Council coordinator, so there's
26 kind of an official route of travel if there's some very
27 specific questions that you want answered that I'm not
28 able to take on.

29

30 So first I wanted to take a quick second
31 to address a question that a couple of the members had
32 when you were in your discussions regarding some of the
33 previous -- I think some of the proposals, the ACRs
34 there, a subject came up about trying to alter the
35 schedule to maybe have more weekend oriented periods. My
36 suggestion, and I think we've encouraged you before but
37 as a Council to put that in the form of a proposal, like
38 for the 2000 -- the upcoming Board of Fish meetings in
39 2004 that are going to address the AYK. I would -- I
40 know we've done this on an individual basis with people
41 that have this concern, but I'm pretty sure we, at the
42 last RAC meeting we also encouraged you to do that, so I
43 guess I'll just reiterate that that would be -- since
44 that schedule is in regulation, that is going to be the
45 proper way to address any shifting of that schedule.
46 Because the meetings this week in Anchorage, for the
47 agenda change requests, they're not going to be dealing
48 with that issue at all. It's going to be -- or at least
49 that's not on their docket, it's more what to do with the
50 schedule after -- if a commercial season is commenced.

00196

1 So just to make you aware of that.

2

3 Okay, at this time we'll go to the
4 information sheet. And I guess I'd prefer to take it in
5 chronological order, so if you'd go to Page 3, I
6 apologize for the inconvenience there, we'll look back at
7 last year.

8

9 The chinook salmon run was poor to below
10 average, as expected. The 2002 chum salmon runs were
11 poor as anticipated. But however, the summer chum run
12 was twice the 2000/2001 runs. As Jack Reakoff mentioned
13 earlier, the chinook, the commercial harvest was about
14 24,430, the subsistence chinook harvest was about 44,000,
15 which was about 13 percent below the 10 year average.
16 There was a small number of summer chum that were taken
17 incidental to the chinook harvest, about 14,500. Summer
18 chums subsistence was about 87 or 88,000 and that's about
19 six percent below the recent 10 year average. The fall
20 chum salmon run was very poor. There was no commercial
21 season. And there was about 21,000 subsistence harvest
22 which is about 76 percent below the 10 year average.

23

24 This subsistence salmon harvest
25 information is still in the preliminary stage.

26

27 Let's go to the 2002 Yukon River
28 escapement, there was a little over a million summer chum
29 salmon which was a very pleasant surprise for all of us
30 because we were not really expecting that to occur.

31

32 They chinook salmon run in 2002 was
33 approximately twice the size of the 2000 run and it was
34 slightly better than the 2001. And based on harvest
35 data, escapement estimates from selected tributaries.

36

37 And now we can go to the 2003 outlook
38 which is the first page. The run outlook for 2003 is
39 continued to be poor to below average runs and the trend
40 of the poor production since 1998 is anticipated to
41 continue. The 2003 chinook run is anticipated to be
42 similar to the 2002 run. And although the chum salmon
43 runs are difficult to project pre-season the 2003 summer
44 and fall chum salmon runs are expected to be poor to
45 below average again.

46

47 The harvest outlook given uncertainties
48 associated with these declines and productivities since
49 1998 we'll continue to manage the fisheries
50 conservatively. It's anticipated that enough chinook and

00197

1 summer chum salmon will be available to meet escapement
2 goals and provide for subsistence harvest. A small
3 commercial and chinook and summer chum salmon harvest may
4 be possible, and subsistence harvest for fall chum may be
5 less than normal.

6

7 Management strategies for next year, or
8 this coming season, manage for escapement and to spread
9 out subsistence harvest opportunity along the entire
10 Yukon River. We'll continue the regulatory subsistence
11 salmon fishing schedule. If necessary emergency orders
12 may reduce the daily harvest limit for the sportfishery
13 to one chinook or one chum salmon in the Yukon drainage.
14 And based on the evaluation of in-season indicators of
15 run strength, it may be necessary -- if necessary, reduce
16 the subsistence salmon fishing schedule sometime after
17 the quarter point of each salmon run and close all other
18 uses unless an escapement of a goal of a tributary is
19 projected to be met. And then consider a Federal rural
20 subsistence priority on Federal waters if the reduction
21 occurs. And also based on in-season indicators we'll be
22 prepared to allow a small commercial chinook and summer
23 chum salmon harvest near the mid-point of the run or
24 later.

25

26 We can continue on back to Page 4.
27 Pretty much kind of what I gave you is in this -- these
28 little boxes up at the top here. The thing I didn't
29 cover as the -- and I think it's reasonable feel that the
30 fall chum run, it's suffering in the last few years and
31 it didn't -- in the past we felt like the summer and the
32 fall chum runs have tracked somewhat on their run sizes
33 -- run strength have tracked together, last year it
34 didn't pan out and the fall chum run just was very poor.

35

36

37 The Canadian origin chinook salmon,
38 because the panel has not met and this data is
39 preliminary, the following figures and text will likely
40 change where you see the Canadian mainstem spawning
41 escapement goal of 33 to 43,000, I think that's subject
42 to the panel meeting which is, boy, it's happening this
43 month as well.

44

45 And if the 2003 salmon run is
46 approximately the same size as the 2001/2002 runs,
47 there's an expect -- harvestable surplus for commercial
48 fisheries may be between zero and 20,000 fish, which was
49 the same as last year. That was the outlook expectation.

50

00198

1 So go to the next page, the subsistence
2 fishing schedule. The dates have been changed here to
3 reflect 2003, the days of the week and the hours remain
4 the same as per regulation.

5
6 Go down to the middle of the page there
7 above the last graph and the 2003 chinook run is
8 anticipated to be similar to 2002. The summer and fall
9 chum salmon runs will be managed using the regulatory
10 management plans. If it's determined that salmon runs
11 are insufficient to provide for escapement then
12 subsistence fishing may be reduced from the regulatory
13 subsistence salmon fishing schedule and/or gear
14 restrictions may be implemented. Subsistence fishing
15 opportunity on Federal waters may be further restricted
16 to Federally-qualified users. Which means the residents
17 of the Yukon River drainage including the community of
18 Stebbins. Once enacted, this restriction could be
19 rescinded if the salmon run size is determined to be
20 sufficient to provide for escapement and subsistence
21 needs. And these will all be based on in-season
22 assessment of the salmon runs.

23
24 And that I believe concludes my
25 presentation. I'll be glad to take any questions that I
26 can.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.
29

30 MR. REAKOFF: As I stated in what I'm
31 going to be speaking to the Fish Board about is the
32 premature opening of the chinook commercial harvest. And
33 it was apparent that those commercial harvest had an
34 impact on escapements and subsistence also, there was a
35 13 percent reduction in subsistence over the 10 year
36 period. And I would like the fisheries managers to
37 reevaluate those figures of when those commercial
38 openings occurred last year and make their own
39 calculation. Don't rely on Fish and Game, Alaska
40 Department of Fish and Game's Commercial Fish Division,
41 they've proven that they're too anxious to open the
42 season and I would like that your branch to reevaluate
43 those numbers and come up with some calculations that
44 would increase those thresholds for commercial harvest so
45 that -- just don't rubber-stamp everything Fish and
46 Game's doing on that commercial fishery for chinook.

47
48 MR. HANDER: Yes, thank you.
49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Any

00199

1 further questions. Micky.

2

3 MR. STICKMAN: You know, that chinook
4 harvest, the commercial harvest of 24,000, you know,
5 those were 24,000 of the very biggest chinooks because of
6 the gear that they use so you know with the low chinook
7 salmon runs, you know, and catching 24,000 of the very
8 biggest ones the ones that have any possibility of even
9 making it to the spawning grounds, you know, I feel that
10 any commercial openings that's coming up this summer, you
11 know, would be unfair to the people in my area because
12 they have commercial fishing and then all of a sudden
13 subsistence is closed and, you know, we're just trying to
14 feed our people, you know, we're not out there trying to
15 make money. You know, we're just basically fishing so
16 that we can eat. You know, so if there's any commercial
17 fishing openings, some of the people in my area feel that
18 if there's going to be commercial openings below us we
19 should be allowed to fish 24 hours a day seven days a
20 week because all we're doing is just trying to feed
21 ourselves, you know, we're not trying to make any money.

22

23 MR. HANDER: Thank you. Mr. Chair, if I
24 could.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

27

28 MR. HANDER: I would like to just refresh
29 some management actions that were taken last year in
30 regards to Mr. Stickman's comments. We did allow the
31 first pulse of fish to go up river, it was not until the
32 19th of June, which was approximately two days before the
33 mid-point of the run before this commercial fishery was
34 prosecuted, just for information sake. So there were --
35 because there was -- has been concern regarding the early
36 portion of the chinook run being weak and needing to put
37 those fish into Canada and the upper Alaska streams to
38 try and get escapement on the spawning grounds. So just
39 for your information we did try to get fish where they
40 were going and not hit them right off the bat.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.

43

44 MR. COLLINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
45 Has there been a proposal to just bite the bullet and
46 close that commercial until the runs are restored?
47 Because even at 20,000 if they'd put them in there you
48 might not have met all the escapement goals but it
49 wouldn't have been a wasted fish because it would have
50 built up future runs. Wouldn't that be a better strategy

00200

1 than to try to limp along and have a limited opening each
2 year that keeps whittling away at it?

3

4 MR. HANDER: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Collins,
5 I certainly understand your concern. And I have not seen
6 a proposal come across, either our desk or I don't know
7 about Alaska Department of Fish and Game particularly,
8 but I'm not aware of anything there either.

9

10 I certainly understand where you're
11 coming from as far as putting every fish on the spawning
12 grounds, and to some degree it comes down to mandates by
13 each agency. It's somewhat akin to the big game issues
14 where it's maximum sustained yield is the principle that
15 Alaska Department of Fish and Game works from and they
16 are mandated to try and provide that opportunity of
17 harvest. And I probably won't go any further into that
18 because I'm not -- I'm not an Alaska Department of Fish
19 and Game person but I certainly will pass on any of your
20 concerns and let them know.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: When you talked about
23 proposals, you mean you wanted to see a proposal
24 introduced by us to stop that commercial opening or not
25 or what?

26

27 MR. HANDER: No, I did not say that at
28 all. I was responding to Mr. Collins' question whether I
29 had ever seen a proposal, unless I misunderstood his
30 question, I have never seen a proposal come across that
31 said stop commercial for X amount of time to let the runs
32 rebuild, that was the only thing I was responding to.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

35

36 MR. JONES: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I brought
37 up this subject in our Middle Yukon Advisory to a period
38 of close commercial fishing period for three to five
39 years to rebuild our chinook stock. And you said that
40 last summer, the mid-point commercial opening, you were
41 targeting the Anvik River, Nulato River and Koyukuk River
42 fish stock, the towers and the spawners, the main
43 spawners of the salmon on the spawning grounds, you were
44 targeting those. So I'm kind of concerned about those
45 three rivers when you have a commercial opening on the
46 mid-point of your fishing season.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

49

50 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, you gave the

00201

1 -- if the fish -- if the chinook run was comparable to
2 those 2001/2002 runs you would anticipate a zero to
3 20,000 harvest, commercial harvest, it's my calculation,
4 a rough calculation that there was a 13 percent reduction
5 in subsistence and that's 5,000 fish, and there's a
6 Canadian escapement lack of 6,000 fish, and uncalculated
7 number of fish on the Koyukuk River and these other
8 rivers that were lacking in escapement because they don't
9 have escapement goals and don't have very good survey,
10 it's very apparent that just in rough calculations of
11 those two components, the subsistence and the Canadian
12 escapements, that a 20,000 anticipated harvest is totally
13 unwarranted if you have the same type of a run.

14

15 So I would like Mr. Holder to reevaluate
16 those figures again, I'm just doing this off the top of
17 my head, I don't have my computer sitting in front of me
18 with all the data, and I would like -- that's what this,
19 the fisheries managers are supposed to do, is to check
20 the Fish and Game's numbers to assure sustained yield,
21 and the maximum sustained yield aspect is when they're
22 underescaping drainages, they're not meeting their State
23 Constitutional mandate of sustained yield, that's not
24 sustained yield when you under-escape the drainage. So
25 the maximum sustained yield is not being met by the
26 Department and it's going to have to be the job of the
27 U.S. Fish and Wildlife to assure those escapements
28 because the subsistence users are going to have to
29 continue to have burdens of hardships and as long as
30 these runs are completed like this so that's going to
31 have to be your branch's job is to recalculate those
32 numbers, don't take these numbers right out of Fish and
33 Game's computers, you're going to have to recalculate
34 these numbers and look at what the realities are.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Robert.

37

38 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
39 Ray I had two questions here. One, Page 5, is that
40 Federal will be further restricted to Federally-qualified
41 users which means residents of Yukon River drainage
42 including the community of Stebbins. How did Stebbins
43 fit into this subsistence program here with the Yukon.

44

45 MR. HANDER: I think I should probably
46 defer that question to somebody that knows more about --
47 I think it's a customary and traditional question, is it
48 not? I honestly don't know how to answer your question
49 there, Mr. Walker.

50

00202

1 Mr. Chairman. Mr. Walker, I'll be glad
2 to get an answer to that question because it may well be
3 a management area boundary question or maybe a C&T. I'll
4 get back with you on that unless somebody has an answer.
5

6 MR. WALKER: Okay, I had one more
7 question here today, get to Page 1 here, it says on the
8 bottom here, be prepared to allow a small commercial
9 chinook and summer chum salmon harvest near the mid-point
10 of the run or later. Mr. Chairman, you know, if we're
11 going to have a commercial opening at the mid-point of
12 the fish run, you know, maybe that everybody should be
13 notified a month, two months early that there is going to
14 be so people would have time to gear up, so there would
15 be adequate time to find buyers rather than say the last
16 minute try to find this, try to find that. The
17 Department could look into this and notify, not only the
18 Western Interior Board but all the other commercial
19 entities along the river, that have commercial licenses.
20

21 MR. HANDER: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Walker,
22 certainly that's something that I will pass on to the
23 Alaska Department of Fish and Game because they are
24 responsible for the commercial fisheries, so that's where
25 I will pass that information.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Ray.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pat, were you going to
32 address the C&T question. Thank you.

33
34 MR. HANDER: Mr. Chairman, maybe I can,
35 it was a customary and traditional use determination for
36 the Yukon River drainage that the residents of the Yukon
37 River drainage, including the community of Stebbins for
38 salmon other than fall chum salmon. So it was a C&T
39 issue at some point.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
44 Ray.

45
46 MR. STICKMAN: I just, you know, do you
47 work for the State or the Office of Subsistence
48 Management?

49
50 MR. HANDER: Guess what, neither. I do

00203

1 not work for the State, I'm the assistant Federal -- you
2 know, Russ Holder, I work directly for him and we work --
3 we're independent from the Office of Subsistence
4 Management. We are strictly tasked with the regulatory
5 management of Yukon River subsistence fishing on Federal
6 lands.

7

8 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. You know, because
9 you talked about a small commercial harvest for summer
10 chum, you know, I know the fishermen in Nulato and Kaltag
11 and Koyukuk, you know, those are all fishwheel fishermen.
12 So it's -- you know, just for a small commercial fishing
13 opening it wouldn't be worth it for them, you know, they
14 spend 3,000 bucks preparing a fishwheel, fish for a
15 couple days and then they'll be shut down, you know,
16 they'll lose money, you know.

17

18 I think the State commercial didn't do
19 anything to save the infrastructure there, you know, but
20 yet they have openings in Y1 and Y2 and their analogy is
21 to save that infrastructure, well, you know, they're
22 practicing geographic discrimination because they're
23 trying to save the infrastructure in Y1 and Y2 but they
24 didn't do nothing for Y4A, so, you know, it doesn't make
25 any sense.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: You got a response.

28

29 MR. HANDER: Yes, Mr. Chair. I wrote
30 notes earlier on your comments regarding this issue and
31 I'm seconding them here and I will pass them on to the
32 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Russ as well.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Emmitt Peters, you had a
37 question.

38

39 MR. PETERS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Use the mic.

42

43 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 Looking at this kind of puzzles me a little bit and it's
45 on the management strategy there, and it says if
46 necessary you reduce the subsistence salmon fishing
47 schedule time for after the quarter point of each salmon
48 run. Now, are we talking about king salmon or both, the
49 chums and the king, or what are we talking about?

50

00204

1 MR. HANDER: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Peters,
2 it would be any of the runs, yes. And as you're aware,
3 the chinook and summer chum runs do come in at about the
4 same time as well, there's a little more separation
5 between the fall chum and the coho runs but kind of how
6 it works is the chinook summer chum, since they come in
7 timing-wise so closely that they're, I wouldn't say
8 they're co-managed, but we watch them independently but
9 the actions that we take we have to take in consideration
10 both species since you can affect both species by one
11 action if you're not careful. And then with the fall
12 chum salmon runs, since there's a break in the timing
13 between the chinook summer chum run and the fall chum
14 cohos we kind of start over again, for instance, for fall
15 chum, so they can be treated equally.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MR. PETERS: Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert. And then we'll go
22 into Kuskokwim if there aren't too many other questions.
23 Go ahead, Robert.

24
25 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
26 Wayne [sic], one more question here, under this C&T
27 customary and traditional use determination, go to Page
28 5, and you go to the coastal district here, it says seven
29 days a week by regulation. In here it says, fall chum
30 salmon, residents for Yukon River drainage include the
31 communities of Chevak, Hooper Bay, Stebbins and Scammon
32 Bay who can fish fall chum under the subsistence fishing
33 schedule. Why is it seven days a week? I mean when you
34 go back up to our districts, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, you know,
35 we have so many hours per week but you give these other
36 communities the fall chum fishery seven days a week, I
37 mean how was that determined? Is it determined because
38 of their community size? Was it determined because they
39 are on the open ocean intercepting Yukon fish or how was
40 it determined?

41
42 MR. HANDER: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Walker, I
43 do believe it's the latter of your speculation there.
44 It's their fishing on a one-sided river. It is much more
45 difficult for them to catch fish in the coastal
46 communities and especially as fall time approaches,
47 weather becomes more of an issue for them to be able to
48 access those fish. And I'm going to take good notes on
49 this because I need to look that up and actually get back
50 to you on the reasoning that was done at the time of the

00205

1 inception or the making of this schedule. But that is my
2 best recollection but I will certainly get you more
3 official correspondence on that.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MR. WALKER: Okay. And also when you do
8 that, Wayne [sic], could you give us the numbers of what
9 has been caught in this coastal district here, for the
10 record, at next fall's meeting, could you do that?

11

12 MR. HANDER: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Walker,
13 yes, sir, I will be able to cite the Alaska Department of
14 Fish and Game's post-season subsistence harvest survey
15 report for that.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Wayne. Thank
20 you, Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, all of you, for
23 your questions, for Ray. Is there any more?

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, I would really
28 like to go to the Kuskokwim report. Okay, thank you
29 again Ray for trying to answer to the best of your
30 ability. So at this time I would like to call on the
31 Kuskokwim River, Jeff Estensen, who also leaves this
32 afternoon.

33

34 (Pause)

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Jeff.

37

38 MR. ESTENSEN: Good morning, Mr.
39 Chairman. Committee members. A couple of handouts are
40 coming around here first and I'll let those get
41 distributed before I move on here.

42

43 I'll go ahead and introduce myself. My
44 name is Jeff Estensen, I'm with the Alaska Department of
45 Fish and Game, and I'm an assistant area management
46 biologist for the Kuskokwim area. And my primary duties
47 are actually management of the fisheries and escapement
48 down in Kuskokwim River -- Kuskokwim Bay, but I'm kind of
49 filling in as we're transitioning here.

50

00206

1 I just want to point out that Tim Ward,
2 who was our area biologist for the last year is going to
3 be moving on, I think beginning April 3rd, and we're
4 going to have a new biologist in the area, his name is
5 Craig Whitmore and some of you may be familiar with
6 Craig. He's been with the Department for about 23 years.
7 He has had experience working in the Kuskokwim area with
8 doing the Kuskokwim Bay herring and he's also worked
9 quite a bit on the Yukon River. So we're real lucky to
10 have him on board and hopefully a few of you are familiar
11 with who Craig is. And I just also want to say, too,
12 that on behalf of the Department we appreciate all the
13 work that Tim Ward has done for us in the last year and
14 we wish him luck as he moves on.

15
16 You should have two handouts here, you
17 should have one which is a one-page handout with material
18 on both sides, it's titled Kuskokwim Area Salmon
19 Fisheries and this is a summary of the 2002 commercial
20 season. Then you should have another handout that's two
21 pages with material on both sides entitled the Kuskokwim
22 Area Salmon Fisheries Preliminary Outlook and Management
23 Strategy for 2003. Both of these documents were put
24 together jointly by the Alaska Department of Fish and
25 Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

26
27 I want to point out that the Kuskokwim
28 Salmon Area Fisheries Preliminary Outlook and Management
29 Strategy, this is a draft, this is preliminary and
30 definitely subject to change as we continue to get input
31 and feedback from the various RAC meetings and advisory
32 committees that will be wrapping up here pretty quick.

33
34 So I guess with that I'll go ahead and
35 get started with the Kuskokwim Area Salmon Fisheries
36 Summary of the 2002 Commercial Season. And just kind of
37 in a nutshell, 2002 the chinook and chum salmon runs were
38 adequate to allow for a commercial harvest on the
39 Kuskokwim River. Chum salmon commercial harvest. But
40 I'm sure you all are aware that there was no buyer for
41 chum salmon last year as a result of that we did not have
42 any commercial openings for chum salmon. We did have six
43 coho directed periods in District 1 this last year. The
44 coho fishery can be best characterized as limited process
45 and capacity, low number of permits fishing, near average
46 catch per unit effort. And if you look on the front
47 there, there's a table, the 2002 outlook and harvest, you
48 can see what the individual harvests were for each
49 species. For coho salmon, we had 83,688 coho that were
50 harvested last year, that was the second lowest on record

00207

1 for the Kuskokwim River.

2

3 Chinook salmon escapement appeared

4 adequate in 11 of the 15 streams where chinook escapement

5 goal -- or sorry, where chinook escapement was monitored.

6 Chum escapement goals were achieved in two of the streams

7 with goals, the Aniak and the Kogruklu Rivers, and coho

8 salmon escapement levels were below average through the

9 six streams that were monitored.

10

11 The Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding

12 Management Plan included a subsistence fishing schedule

13 last year, that allowed four consecutive days of

14 subsistence fishing per week in June and July. As you

15 recall the schedule ended on June 28th with the opening

16 -- or actually allowing a chum salmon directed fishery.

17 For the subsistence fishery, subsistence fishers rated

18 their chinook and chum harvests were normal to very good

19 compared to normal years and the coho harvest was rated

20 as adequate for 2002.

21

22 And on the back of this document here is

23 Kuskokwim Bay, I wasn't really going to go into that with

24 any detail but if you have any questions about Kuskokwim

25 Bay I'd be more than happy to answer them for you.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MR. ESTENSEN: I'm going to go ahead and

30 continue on now to the second document entitled

31 Preliminary Outlook and Management Strategy for 2003.

32

33 We'll go ahead and start out with the

34 outlook. Actually let me just point out first of all

35 that as it has been for the last two years and will be

36 again in 2003, management of the Kuskokwim management

37 area salmon fisheries will follow the Kuskokwim River

38 Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan which I will refer to

39 now as the rebuilding plan after this.

40

41 With that in mind we expect chinook chum

42 sockeye runs in 2003 to be similar or slightly stronger

43 than they were in 2002. And if you recall that in 2002

44 the chinook and chum salmon runs provided adequate

45 escapements and subsistence harvests throughout the

46 drainage and was sufficient to allow a chum salmon

47 directed fishery.

48

49 Our outlook for the 2003, and I wanted to

50 point out that our outlook is not a formal forecast such

00208

1 as they have in Bristol Bay. Our outlooks are broad
2 expectations developed or based on evaluation of parent
3 year escapement and trends in the commercial harvest and
4 productivity over the last five or so years.

5
6 So with that in mind then our outlook
7 then for chinook salmon for the Kuskokwim River is zero
8 to 1,000 fish, for chinook. For chum salmon it's going
9 to be zero to 150,000 fish. And for sockeye it would be
10 zero to 15,000 fish. For coho salmon we anticipate a
11 modest coho salmon directed fishery in 2003. We do
12 anticipate an average to below average run in harvest
13 based on the last five year trend since '97 and the
14 trends in the runs and the harvests. And our outlook
15 then for coho salmon would be 50 to 250,000 fish.

16
17 Our management strategy for 2003, as I
18 just mentioned, to continue to follow guidelines dictated
19 by the rebuilding plan. We will, in general, manage
20 salmon runs to achieve escapement goals, to provide for
21 subsistence needs and to allow a commercial chum fishery
22 if there is a harvestable surplus and subsistence harvest
23 needs are being met.

24
25 There could be a chum directed salmon
26 fishery if chinook and chum salmon in-season run strength
27 indicators show that there is a harvestable surplus of
28 chum and chinook and the chinook run strength has to be
29 sufficient to allow an incidental harvest of the chinook.
30 There is no chinook directed fishery on the Kuskokwim
31 River, and again if the subsistence needs are being met.

32
33 Coho directed fishery could begin as
34 early as late July or early August. Two things have to
35 happen for that, there has to be -- the chum strength has
36 to be here and also the coho salmon abundance has to be
37 there and if subsistence needs are being met.

38
39 Moving on to the subsistence schedule, as
40 there was in 2002, there will be a subsistence salmon
41 fishing schedule for gillnet and fishwheel gear as
42 detailed in the rebuilding plan. The schedule does allow
43 four consecutive days of subsistence fishing in June and
44 July. The schedule can be modified -- can be reduction
45 for conservation purposes, and if for some reason if the
46 run strength does allow for a commercial -- a harvestable
47 surplus for a commercial fishery, then the schedule will
48 revert back to seven days a week. And the details of the
49 subsistence schedule haven't changed much from last year
50 so that is covered right there in the handout.

00209

1 Moving on to the sportfishery, pre-season
2 emergency order has been issued closing chinook and chum
3 salmon sportfishery until June 15th in the Kuskokwim
4 drainage. Bag and possession limits will be reduced from
5 three to one chinook or one chum salmon for 2003, and the
6 chinook fishery will close as of July 26th.

7

8 And as before, as we had in the past, our
9 in-season run indicators for salmon run abundance will
10 include the Bethel test fishery, subsistence harvest
11 reports and tributary escapement monitoring projects and
12 during commercial fishing, if we do have a commercial
13 directed -- if we do have commercial fishing periods,
14 we'll look at catch per unit effort.

15

16 That's about all that I have so I'd be
17 more than happy to answer any questions if there are any.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any questions
20 for Jeff Estensen on the Kuskokwim River. Go ahead,
21 Carl.

22

23 MR. MORGAN: I'm just looking through
24 here and, you know, we've had restrictions on Area M
25 intercept, we said that Area M is intercepting our
26 fishery. And you've got your Kuskokwim Bay, Goodnews,
27 Quinhagak, is that area W5?

28

29 MR. ESTENSEN: It's W4.

30

31 MR. MORGAN: W4. Yet, they continue to
32 have their openings. Is there any thought that maybe
33 they are intercepting some fish that comes up the
34 Kuskokwim and the Yukon?

35

36 MR. ESTENSEN: In 1970 a study done by
37 Ray Baxter, who many of you may be familiar with, did a
38 lot of work out here in the Kuskokwim area, he did a
39 tagging study, he basically -- basically they tagged fish
40 in W4 and recovered tags on the Kuskokwim, they even
41 recovered tags down in Bristol Bay. And essentially what
42 we can gather from that, as a scientist looking at that
43 information, the best thing that we can conclusively
44 bring from that study is it's qualitative, that there
45 are, indeed, fish that are in W4 that are going to the
46 Kuskokwim River, but we don't know what the percentages
47 of those are. We don't know what percentage of the
48 harvest down there is, indeed, Kuskokwim bound fish. As
49 a matter of fact we've had coho and chum salmon on the
50 Kuskokwim River that were actually passed through the

00210

1 weir down in Kanektok, just to show you how things move
2 around.

3

4 What the Department -- what I have done
5 since I've been on board, down in the Bay, and I know the
6 folks down in Quinhagak really want an answer to this
7 question as much as the people on the river do, we were
8 going to do a tagging study, a radio tagging study but we
9 found out it was going to cost too much, so right now
10 what we're doing is we're trying to get genetic
11 signatures from all the different stocks on the Kuskokwim
12 and we're also doing it for the Kanektok, and eventually,
13 hopefully, soon in the next couple of years or so as we
14 get more information available, we'll be able to sample
15 the commercial harvest down in Quinhagak and we'll get a
16 better idea of exactly where the fish are destined for.
17 And that will be a heck of a lot cheaper than doing a
18 radio tagging study and also won't be endangering the
19 fish, you know, by trying to tag the fish. So that's
20 what we're looking at right now.

21

22 You talk to the folks down in Quinhagak
23 and they say the fish are coming from the north and then
24 heading down -- they're coming in from the north of the
25 Bay and then moving down, you know, and you talk to the
26 people in the river and they say they're coming up this
27 way. So I think everybody is aware that this is
28 something that needs to be looked at. W4 has already
29 made a pretty big concession is that they've already lost
30 a good chunk of their boundary down there. Second of
31 all, I'm sure we're all aware of what the market value of
32 salmon is right now and their harvests have been more
33 than 50 percent below than what they have in the last few
34 years, so the number of fish that are being taken down
35 there, you know, has really dropped off.

36

37 So, you know, until we get more -- I
38 think they've made pretty good concessions down there and
39 until we get more information, I think at that point then
40 we can make a better decision about what's going on. I
41 think definitely it's a question that needs to be looked
42 at and a lot of people are aware of the problem --
43 question.

44

45 MR. MORGAN: I'd like to reiterate, too,
46 that, you know, you made a comment that there were more
47 fish caught up the Kuskokwim this year but I'd like to
48 point out there was no commercial openings.

49

50 Thank you.

00211

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Angie.

2

3 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes, Mr. Chair, just a
4 comment. Since we're dealing with both rivers and I'm
5 real familiar with the Yukon River, if at your next
6 report, could you include a map of the Kuskokwim River so
7 when you're saying District 4 or 5 or whichever district,
8 we'll have a picture to look at so we'll know what you're
9 talking about.

10

11 MR. ESTENSEN: That would be no problem
12 at all.

13

14 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
17 Jeff.

18

19 MR. MORGAN: I've got just one more
20 comment.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

23

24 MR. MORGAN: I'm sorry, thank you, Mr.
25 Chairman.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

28

29 MR. MORGAN: You know, you got a schedule
30 here but as soon as you declare an opening then that
31 schedule just reverts back to the old way of fishing,
32 right, for subsistence?

33

34 MR. ESTENSEN: Well, it doesn't have to
35 take an opening to revert back. When we -- like for
36 example this year we didn't have any openings, but we
37 determined that the abundance was sufficient enough to
38 allow a commercial harvestable surplus for commercial
39 fishery, so it doesn't take an opening, it takes us, the
40 Department and the working group and the U.S. Fish and
41 Wildlife Service to sit down collectively and look at the
42 abundance and say, you know, look at our in-season
43 indicators and say, we have a harvestable surplus, at
44 which point then the Department feels that the
45 subsistence schedule should revert back to the seven days
46 a week.

47

48 MR. MORGAN: Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for

00212

1 Jeff on the Kuskokwim River.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you. I'd
6 like to thank Carl, who is more familiar with this area,
7 too, and asking all the questions. Thank you, Carl.

8

9 (Pause)

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: The next item Fisheries
12 Resource Monitoring Program, Rich Cannon, and we talked
13 earlier and he said he would be available a little later,
14 right?

15

16 MR. R. CANNON: (Nods Affirmatively)

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right. Okay, at this
19 time I would like to ask all of our Refuges, if they are
20 leaving any time soon, because we have Dario Notti of
21 AVCP who is leaving at 2:00, too. Any Refuges, or any --
22 no, we're fine then, okay.

23

24 At this time I would like to move Dario
25 up on the agenda since he's leaving early this afternoon,
26 too, so get AVCP's report and testimony. This is under
27 organization reports, Item 10. Dario, introduce yourself
28 please.

29

30 MR. NOTTI: I'm Dario Notti, with
31 Association of Village Council Presidents. My
32 responsibility in the Natural Resources Department are to
33 work with migratory birds and land mammals. So I just
34 wanted to mention besides the 21(E) negotiations that we
35 were involved in that you heard about yesterday, our
36 department is also involved with the 19(A) and (B)
37 negotiations and also involved with Unit 18 Kuskokwim
38 side moose moratorium which may affect all of the 21(E)
39 and 19.

40

41 The other part that I'm involved in is
42 with the negotiations for the legalized spring hunt of
43 migratory birds, and it's probably a less important to
44 the up river people than it is to the down river people.
45 But I wanted to let everyone know that there is, on the
46 back table, and I'm not sure who brought it, one of the
47 Federal people probably, but there's this list of all the
48 birds that are legal to hunt this year and of course, the
49 list of birds that are closed to hunting and eggging.

50

00213

1 And then I'm willing to take any
2 questions that you have.

3

4 And also I wanted to introduce one of our
5 fisheries biologist, this is Dave Waltemyer and he's one
6 of the two partners biologists that AVCP has gotten and
7 he'll be assigned to the Yukon River. So those of you
8 from the Yukon may be seeing him visiting projects in
9 your areas.

10

11 We'll be open for any questions if you
12 have any.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's your biologist's
15 name again?

16

17 MR. NOTTI: Dave Waltemyer.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are there any questions.
20 Okay, Micky.

21

22 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, I was just
23 wondering, as you were looking at the migratory birds, do
24 any of your -- do we share birds? I mean over where I'm
25 from in the Nulato area, the geese that we get on Kaiyuh
26 Flats, when they're getting ready to go south, they fly
27 from the Kaiyuh Flats to the northwest up in the Kotzebue
28 area and they all band together and then they fly south.
29 So I was wondering if any of the birds in the Lower
30 Kuskokwim do the same thing?

31

32 MR. NOTTI: Yeah, I'm not a biologist, my
33 degree is political science so I don't know all of the
34 specifics. I know that, for instance, a lot of our
35 emperors that nest in our area end up -- if they're
36 molting they head north, if they're molting that year or
37 if they are unsuccessful at nesting. And your
38 whitefronts, I believe, don't necessarily -- it seems
39 that I heard that the whitefronts from your area end up
40 going down to the Central Flyaway and don't necessarily
41 mix with our birds that may be more Pacific Flyaway. But
42 some of the other species, I'm sure, flock together for
43 their migrations.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

46

47 MR. JONES: Yeah, I just wanted to ask a
48 question. Do you have much more snow geese in this area
49 than we do because the last 40 years the snow geese has
50 changed their flyaway on the southern part of the Alaska

00214

1 Range, instead of Yukon Range. So do you have more snow
2 geese in this area?

3

4 MR. NOTTI: Like I said I'm a political
5 science major and not a biologist. I'm just there more
6 to help in negotiations rather than do the research
7 itself. And the Refuge does have bird biologists but I
8 don't see any of them here. There's probably better
9 people to ask than me. I don't know about the birds from
10 the entire state.

11

12 MR. JONES: Yeah, the reason I ask is do
13 you see snow geese in this area, in the Chevak area?

14

15 MR. NOTTI: You said Chevak area just
16 now, actually I've never hunted Chevak. I've hunted
17 around Scammon Bay and then I've hunted south and then on
18 the Kuskokwim itself. And yeah, we've got some snow
19 geese.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

22

23 MR. JONES: Yeah, the reason I ask is
24 because I talked to the biologists in Galena and they
25 reported back to me that snow geese migrate all the way
26 over to the eastern part of Russia. That's why I asked
27 that question.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions. Go
30 ahead, Robert.

31

32 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
33 Dave, right? Right, Dave I don't see the cackling goose
34 on the endangered species, have they taken the cackling
35 goose of the endangered species list.

36

37 MR. NOTTI: Which goose?

38

39 MR. WALKER: Cackling goose.

40

41 MR. NOTTI: Well, if you see here, yeah,
42 it's numbers have increased and you can hunt the cackling
43 but you can't egg for it. You can't take their eggs but
44 you can't hunt the cackling Canada. And then the
45 Aleutian Canada, if you're not sitting in the Semidi
46 Islands you don't have to worry about them you can hunt
47 them. Because they say Semidi Island, Aleutian Canada
48 geese are closed to hunting but once those geese leave
49 where they're nesting they just consider them Aleutian
50 Canada geese. So if you're not in the Semidi Islands

00215

1 then they're open to hunt.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

4 Micky.

5

6 MR. STICKMAN: One, you know, I was

7 looking -- I sit on the Migratory Bird Council back home,

8 too, with TCC, you probably know Mike Smith, and you

9 know, as we're formulating our plan we're looking at the

10 plan that was done in the AVCP region for the geese

11 rebuilding and it was a commendable plan because you know

12 the geese are rebounding. So it was a terrific plan.

13

14 But I was wondering just as a subsistence

15 council here, I was wondering the effect that it had on

16 the subsistence users, you know, while they were

17 rebuilding?

18

19 MR. NOTTI: Most of the villages in the

20 YK have really supported it and really honored it and we

21 do have a couple of villages that have just said that

22 these are our birds, we've always done this and you're

23 not going to tell us otherwise. On the whole, even those

24 that are most dependent on it, the support has been very

25 strong.

26

27 It's really helped that there's been

28 cooperation from both sides, you know, it's -- the

29 wildlife Refuge has chosen to take more of an educational

30 aspect than a law enforcement aspect. I think they've

31 averaged about two tickets a year or something. And

32 there was a big case from two summers ago, two falls ago

33 and what happened there is it took them about four months

34 to decide to charge the people, some young hunters, and

35 you know instead of impounding guns and boats and sending

36 them off to jail and giving them big fines, they did take

37 the birds and eggs and I think they gave them to a

38 different village and then the hunters had to come into

39 the Refuge and sit there in the Refuge and they spent a

40 week or two learning from the RITs about the goose

41 management plan and about the different numbers of the

42 species and going through and seeing what species have

43 been rebounding since the plan was put into effect in '84

44 and which are still having troubles. And, you know, now

45 those guys are back in their village and they know all

46 the specifics of why it's important and what species are

47 good to hunt and which are better to hold off and let

48 them rebound.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more questions,

00216

1 comments.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, I'd like to thank
6 AVCP. Last one.

7

8 MR. PETERS: Okay, I just -- my name is
9 Emmitt Peters, Mr. Chairman, thank you. I'd like to ask
10 this egg gathering I don't quite understand it, they do
11 that every year, number 1, and the only egg gathering we
12 got up in the Interior is every Easter Sunday we turn the
13 kids loose and they hunt eggs.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 MR. PETERS: But that's the only egg
18 hunting we got up there. And the other one, I'd like to
19 know more about this gentleman here, what's his
20 background and whether he's familiar with these kind of
21 animals, and I'd like to know where he worked last.
22 Okay, go ahead.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Dario.

27

28 MR. NOTTI: Thank you. Early on in the
29 nesting when you first -- and that's a practice I don't
30 get involved in, it's mostly the women that do it and
31 only when they're down on the -- almost exclusively on
32 the coast. So I don't know the specifics. But you put
33 the egg in the water and if it sinks then it's good, if
34 it doesn't sink then you put it back, I think, or maybe I
35 got that switched around. And also early on if you take
36 eggs, then the bird will lay more. So basically what
37 you're doing is you're delaying the hatching of the eggs
38 for a week or 10 days because you take the eggs and then
39 they lay more. And then once they start developing you
40 stop taking the eggs. And that's a tradition for them.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.
43 Benedict, go ahead.

44

45 MR. JONES: Yeah, I was kind of concerned
46 about the Flyaway, the eastern part of the state, the
47 sports hunters target our whitefront and Canadian geese
48 when they're returning in the fall, they have an open
49 season, their harvest limit is too high. So they're
50 targeting the Alaska bound flyaway birds, Canadian and

00217

1 the whitefronted geese.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

4

5 MR. NOTTI: Yeah, at the last meeting of
6 the AMBCC, I remember the TCC representative Mike was
7 talking and you're whitefronts, they start off down in
8 Texas and Mexico and they get to Alberta and take about a
9 two week break and there's a lot of worry about the
10 amount of harvest that's happening in Alberta right now
11 on your Central Flyaway whitefronts. And they were going
12 to see what kind of cooperation they could get with the
13 Canadian Government to try to limit that for this year
14 and see how it improves your whitefront returns. And you
15 know, other than that I don't have anymore answer for
16 you.

17

18 But the other half of Emmitt's question
19 was for Dave to introduce himself and we forgot to answer
20 that part.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, he's been pretty
23 quiet.

24

25 MR. WALTEMYER: Just waiting to be called
26 on. Yes, Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Council members.
27 My name, again is David Waltemyer. My background is in
28 fisheries biology. I have a bachelor's and a Master --
29 well, bachelor's from Colorado State University and then
30 my Master's is from University of Alaska. I've been
31 working for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for 23
32 years. I retired four years ago. And I'm now back in
33 fisheries with AVCP as a partners fisheries biologist.
34 And we'll be working on hiring interns, working on
35 various projects on the Yukon River primarily. And we do
36 have another biologist that will be coming on board here
37 fairly soon for working on the Kuskokwim.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Dave. And for
40 the Council's information under Item 11, we do have it on
41 the agenda, the Alaska Migratory Birds Co-Management
42 Council, so if we have any more questions on the
43 migratory birds I would like to save them until then
44 because it is an agenda item.

45

46 MR. JONES: I think Jeff has the answers.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jeff.

49

50 MR. BEYERSDORF: I'm Jeff Beyersdorf.

00218

1 I'm with the Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge. And in response to
2 Benedict's question, Mr. Chair, there is a graduate
3 student from UAF, Debra Webb, that's working with our
4 Refuge and she's been studying this issue that you're
5 talking about and what she's found so far, the
6 preliminary information, she's going to be writing it up
7 this winter, is that, the geese from your region are
8 getting down to the Alberta area approximately three
9 weeks earlier than any of the other geese, so that
10 subpopulation is there earlier and they also stay for a
11 longer time period so they're exposed to hunting
12 pressures for a longer time period. And we are working
13 with the Canadian Wildlife Service to look at addressing
14 this through the hunting regulations to either reduce the
15 season or reduce the take during that time period.

16

17 So I just wanted to make you aware of
18 where that stands. She should finish up her Master's
19 thesis this winter and we are working with Canadian
20 Wildlife Service on that issue.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you leaving early?

25

26 MR. BEYERSDORF: I don't know, it depends
27 on what the weather is between here and Galena. Right
28 now I think we're good and I'll stay here until the end
29 of the meeting.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you.

32

33 MR. BEYERSDORF: Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, I would like to
36 save all our migratory bird questions when it comes up on
37 the agenda. Do we have any other agencies out there that
38 are leaving early?

39

40 MR. WALKER: Do you want to go?

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a war on tonight.
45 What's the pleasure of the Council, do you want to go
46 until lunch arrives and then we could take some time off.

47

48

49 (Council Nods Affirmatively)

50

00219

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: It looks like everyone can
2 stay and accommodate our agenda. Is this pretty much it?
3 Okay, fine, it looks like it. So Jerry, I'm kind of lost
4 now, where are we on the agenda?

5
6 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chair, well, it would
7 be good to go back to our Resource Monitoring Program as
8 they would be next, but those folks volunteered to go get
9 our lunch for us so I guess we'll wait for them.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: We'll accommodate them
12 very well.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 MR. BERG: I guess I could go into --
17 it's going to be a real brief summary on the call for
18 proposals, for fisheries proposals, for 2004, would you
19 like me to move through those items?

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead. Because that's
22 one item we skipped.

23
24 MR. BERG: Okay, Mr. Chairman, that's
25 Item G and I believe there are a couple of proposal forms
26 under Tab D, let's see if there's a page number -- I
27 don't see a proposal form in there right off the bat.
28 But anyway, the Federal Subsistence Board, the open
29 period to submit proposals for fishery proposals to the
30 Federal program is open right now and it's open through
31 May 28th [sic], which is basically a week from this
32 coming Friday. And there are proposal forms in our
33 regulations books. There's plenty of regulations books
34 up on the front desk -- or the front table there and so
35 it's just an opportunity, if anybody wants to submit a
36 proposal, fishery proposal for this next year.

37
38 I know Benedict did say that he thought
39 that his driftnet proposal only affected State waters and
40 I did want to get together with him and look at that on
41 the map to find out exactly where that was to make sure
42 it was because this would be the opportunity to include
43 that also, to include that as a proposal to the Federal
44 Board if that was needed, if there are any Federal waters
45 there. I'm not exactly sure exactly where his proposal
46 is for. But anyway, we can work on that later. We have
47 until Friday to get those proposals in.

48
49 And then also under number 2, is the
50 Alaska Board of Fisheries proposal due date which, as I

00220

1 mentioned earlier, when we were discussing Benedict's
2 driftnet proposal was the due date for their proposals is
3 April 10th, and it's just a reminder if the Council would
4 like to pursue any other fishery issues in their area
5 that they feel like they want to submit a proposal to
6 either the Federal or the State program, both, call for
7 proposals are open at this time.

8

9 Of course, at the Federal program we
10 accept proposals every year on fishery proposals and the
11 Board of Fisheries only addresses AKY proposals every
12 three years. So this would be the time, for sure, to get
13 proposals in on the State side as they will be meeting on
14 AYK proposals next year and as I understand it, the Board
15 of Fish meeting will be in Bethel next January so it will
16 be a good opportunity for people in this region to
17 actually maybe become more involved with the Board of
18 Fisheries process next January.

19

20 That's all I have unless the Council has
21 any question.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: I have a question or maybe
24 a comment. When we submitted Benedict's proposal on that
25 driftnet around Koyukuk, doesn't that automatically go in
26 our record and just pass that on to the Federal
27 Subsistence Board at the same time?

28

29 MR. BERG: Yes. Actually that might be
30 the way to just make sure the basis are covered, just to
31 go ahead and just adopt another resolution -- or make a
32 motion to also submit it to the Federal Board in case
33 there are Federal waters and that way the two proposals
34 will go up parallel next year, until we get the
35 jurisdiction issue settled.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. At this time the
38 Chair will entertain a motion to go ahead and submit
39 Benedict Jones' proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board
40 or OSM.

41

42 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

45

46 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, thank you.
47 Shouldn't we have a number on this here so it could be
48 recorded as some kind of a proposal number or something?

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: We haven't assigned it a

00221

1 number have we, okay, heck, it would be what.....

2

3 MR. COLLINS: It'd be 03-01, we haven't
4 submitted any, have we, yeah, I mean.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, 03-01, yeah, put it
7 on there for the time being. Micky.

8

9 MR. STICKMAN: Jerry, you know, Emmitt,
10 he wants to put in a proposal for -- to have a little
11 research done on the Melozi as far as spawning for
12 chinook and summer chum, so I guess he would -- it would
13 be a good idea to sit down and talk to him and help him
14 out with his proposal.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. Under
17 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, I think it would
18 be quite appropriate to go ahead and introduce it then
19 and take some action to speed up this process, would this
20 be fine with you Emmitt?

21

22 MR. PETERS: Yes. I was just trying to
23 figure out how to go about that. I really think it's a
24 good time.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Because when we go
27 into Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program reports and
28 updates, we'll cover both the Kuskokwim and the Yukon and
29 their tributaries and see if we can try to find some
30 funding for your request.

31

32 MR. PETERS: Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Don, did you have
35 something.

36

37 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair. Don Rivard,
38 with the Office of Subsistence Management. There was a
39 little bit of redundancy in your Council book, the form
40 that Jerry was referring to under Tab D is actually under
41 Tab F, and it's on Page 269, and that's the fisheries
42 proposal form. So I just wanted to point that out to the
43 Council.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. For our
46 information, could you give that number again.

47

48 MR. RIVARD: Yes, it's under Tab F, it's
49 Page 269 and this is for Federal Subsistence fisheries
50 proposal form for regulations, changes in fisheries

00222

1 regulations.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Don. Micky.

4

5 MR. STICKMAN: Excuse me, Mr. Chair. Is
6 there a motion on the floor.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

9

10 MS. HILE: No.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Oh, I was just asking for
13 a motion to go ahead and submit Benedict's proposal on
14 the Koyukuk River driftnet -- resolution number -- or
15 Proposal No. 03-01.

16

17 MR. STICKMAN: I make that motion.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Jack Reakoff.

24

25 MR. PETERS: Question.

26

27 MR. MORGAN: Question.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called.

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

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

35

36 (No opposing votes)

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank
39 you. Do we have anything else. We don't have anybody
40 leaving, do we, Jerry.

41

42 MR. WALKER: The war starts tonight.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. BERG: I don't believe so. Nobody's
47 stepping up I guess, everybody else, that's leaving this
48 afternoon.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, we're done with the

00223

1 first two pages, we will be done today. Are we done with
2 that Page 2?

3

4 MR. BERG: Actually, I guess, maybe some
5 of the BLM folks may be leaving on the afternoon flight,
6 if you guys had some issues you'd like to address.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for catching
9 that.

10

11 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I gather that
12 weather could close in and they're talking about maybe
13 flying out earlier, if it'd please the Council we'll just
14 take a few minutes to kind of brief you on things that
15 we've been up to.

16

17 I'll start, my name is Tim Craig, I'm a
18 wildlife biologist in the Dalton Highway Corridor,
19 Northern Field Office of BLM.

20

21 The only thing I wanted to bring to the
22 Council's attention, I think you have this handout, I
23 have an overhead of it but if you'd just look at it
24 quickly there, that's the results of this year's moose
25 survey in the Kanuti National wildlife Refuge and also in
26 the Middle Fork Koyukuk, which is the area that the BLM
27 has administrative responsibilities for. I bring this up
28 to the Council's attention because if you'll remember I
29 think it was two years ago the Council sent a letter to
30 BLM asking that my budget be increased so that we could
31 participate in moose survey work and we have been able to
32 do it since that time. We've done it for the last three
33 years and it looks like we're going to be able to
34 continue to that financially. So I wanted to let you
35 know that your efforts on the behalf of my survey work
36 were rewarded.

37

38 I also wanted to let you know that at the
39 bottom of that chart, you can see that those are the
40 harvest results from the State hunts. There were changes
41 in the moose hunting strategy in the Dalton Corridor that
42 went into effect this year largely because of Mr.
43 Reakoff's efforts, I think, with the Board of Game. And
44 they went to a drawing hunt there for archery hunting and
45 the number of successful hunters, at least, this is
46 preliminary information, it looks like there's going to
47 be much lower moose harvest in that area than in the
48 past. So far they believe that there's only maybe four
49 animals that were harvested no the State side.

50

00224

1 I think the only other thing that I
2 thought I might mention is that BLM does have plans to
3 conduct some aerial sheep surveys in some administrative
4 units that we have in the Dalton Corridor that are called
5 areas of critical environmental concern this year.

6

7 And outside of that, I think that's all
8 that I have. And I'll turn it over to Ingrid McSweeney of
9 our office who is a fish biologist out of the Northern
10 Field Office.

11

12 Thank you. Yeah, I would entertain
13 questions I guess if you have any.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: What is your name again,
16 I'm sorry.

17

18 MR. CRAIG: Tim Craig.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any questions for
21 Tim.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: I do have one. On both
26 the Hinshaw, Kanuti Canyon, bulls per 100 cows, are those
27 numbers real?

28

29 MR. CRAIG: In the Kanuti Canyon trend
30 count area, that was your question?

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

33

34 MR. CRAIG: Yeah, if you notice on the
35 bulls per 100 cows, in all the survey areas, the numbers
36 were pretty low this year. I think what we're really
37 seeing there is the effect of weather. We couldn't even
38 do the moose transects until early December because there
39 was just no snow. We finally did get a little dump of
40 snow so you could see the moose, that did satisfy the
41 protocol. But moose, for instance if you look in the
42 Middle Fork trend counts we didn't see any bulls, zero
43 bulls, but as we were ferrying around in the survey area
44 and we got up high and made sweeps around outside of our
45 trend count areas we'd see bulls really high. And I
46 think that it was more of a reflection of this mild
47 winter than a real population estimate on the number of
48 bulls per 100 cows.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, some of those

00225

1 numbers I questioned, they're real way back so it kind of
2 took care of themselves, I think. Is that about the size
3 of it?

4

5 MR. CRAIG: Yeah, I think so. I'd point
6 out one other thing here. In the Middle Fork trend count
7 area for 1987 and '88 you'll see that the moose per
8 square mile was 2.16 and I should point out that that was
9 actually done by Roy Nowlin. They use different
10 techniques in different areas for that estimate. So I'm
11 not sure how directly comparable that two moose per
12 square mile versus the below one moose per square mile
13 that we've seen in the last three years. I'm not sure if
14 that's an artifact of the way, you know, the survey was
15 done then because they weren't the same techniques.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. I think those
18 figures are right because every survey we've gotten has
19 shown about the same results, about .3 moose per square
20 mile, you know, up in the upper Koyukuk, so those numbers
21 got to be closer, right, Jack.

22

23 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah. Most of the data
24 shows that there's .3, .4 moose per square mile in that
25 area and this 2.16 was an anomaly, they just landed right
26 on top of the moose that particular survey. And our
27 bull/cow ratios are real low and that's reflected in the
28 hunter harvest, and we had a real poor hunting season. I
29 didn't kill a moose and I hunted for two and a half
30 weeks. And so the bottom line is the Dalton Highway
31 hunters didn't kill very many moose, partially because of
32 a bad hunting season, and partially because the bull/cow
33 ratios are fairly poor there, generally, so the ratios of
34 cows and the bulls is very few bulls around. So next
35 year there'll be more harvest. There was about five
36 subsistence hunters that harvested moose around the
37 Wiseman area there.

38

39 So that's some supplementary stuff I
40 wanted to give to the Council.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Jack. We
43 know that the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge manager is here,
44 too, so we'll ask -- we'll confirm these numbers, too,
45 because we know we have a low moose count up in Jack's
46 area and Allakaket area, the Kanuti area. So thanks for
47 these numbers, you just more or less confirmed what we
48 thought was right.

49

50 Any further questions for Tim Craig.

00226

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, we sure appreciate
4 your report. Thank you.

5

6 MS. MCSWEENY: Okay, Mr. Chair and
7 Council members. In your meeting handbook on Page 271
8 and 272 is a report from the fisheries projects and
9 issues from last year and I don't know if you guys have
10 had a chance to review it but if you have, I can just
11 answer questions.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pardon me, what pages and
14 what tab? Your mic.

15

16 MS. MCSWEENY: Page 271 and then there's
17 Tab G, then after Tab G, Page 272.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, go ahead.

20

21 MS. MCSWEENY: And if you haven't
22 reviewed it, I can go through each project. I also
23 passed out a handout and the handout is an additional
24 project and it has three maps attached to it.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, were you the one
27 that passed out this Clear Creek.....

28

29 MS. MCSWEENY: Yes.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM:Hogatza?

32

33 MS. MCSWEENY: Yes.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. So
36 you'll be covering that then.

37

38 MS. MCSWEENY: Well, I'll start with the
39 material that's in the handbook.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, I see lunch has
42 arrived. With the Consensus of the Council, I'd like to
43 go ahead and cover this briefly and go ahead and take of
44 it. Go ahead.

45

46 MS. MCSWEENY: Okay, thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you.

49

50 MS. MCSWEENY: Do you want me to read

00227

1 through each one or have you already gone through it and
2 then I can just answer questions from it.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: How about a brief
5 synopsis, quickly, quick, quick.

6

7 MS. MCSWEENY: All right. I'll start out
8 with last years results from the Clear Creek Weir.

9

10 The Bureau of Land Management operated a
11 weir on Clear Creek from June 19th to August 2nd of last
12 year. During this period 13,150 summer run chum salmon,
13 15 chinook salmon and 10 sockeye salmon were counted. In
14 '02 over three times as many chum returned as in '01 but
15 the run still remains 76 below the six year average. The
16 first chum salmon arrived at the weir on June 23rd with
17 passage occurring on 5, 8 and 13 of July. The peak day
18 of chum migration occurred on July 5th with 1,363 fish
19 passing through the weir. Sex composition of the chum
20 escapement was about even with 51 percent of the run
21 being female. Age class composition based on 934 scale
22 samples were one percent age two, 23 percent age three,
23 73 percent age four, and three percent age five.

24

25 And then I also listed the project
26 manager for the Clear Creek weir and if you have
27 questions you can ask me and if I can't answer them I'll
28 defer to him and I have his phone number there for you.

29

30 The next project is a cooperative project
31 with the USGS, it's also on Clear Creek. '02 marked the
32 second season of cooperative effort by BLM and USGS/BRD
33 to estimate the availability of chum salmon spawning
34 habitat and document the timing and magnitude of chum
35 salmon fry migration in Clear Creek. Efforts during '02
36 focused on collecting habitat data, including channel
37 width, substrate composition, channel profile, water
38 velocity, water column temperature and intergravel
39 temperature at geo-reference sampling locations. In
40 addition a modified version of ADF&G's incline plain trap
41 was tested to see if it could be fished safely and
42 effectively through break up in Clear Creek. Based on
43 results of the trap test we made a few modifications to
44 the existing trap and plan to add a second trap for
45 sampling during '03.

46

47 Again, I've listed Carl Krettsinger and
48 the contact for USGS is Jim Finn.

49

50 The next summary is an issue, and Carl

00228

1 Krettsinger visited Western Interior RAC meeting
2 approximately two years ago and he informed you of this
3 issue. For the second year, BLM's proposal to purchase
4 private land within the Clear Creek watershed was
5 declined. The proposed purchase of approximately 800
6 acres of private land within Clear Creek watershed using
7 the land and waters conservation fund was originally put
8 forth in '01. The objective of the proposal was to
9 require patented mining claims in order to protect high
10 value chum salmon spawning habitat from impacts
11 associated with impending gold mining development. The
12 purchase of this land would substantially aide the BLM
13 meeting its management directive of protecting and
14 maintaining the productivity of salmon spawning habitat
15 within the Hogatza area, ACEC. As outlined in the
16 Central Yukon Resource Management plan, the acquisition
17 of this property would also support the Yukon River
18 Comprehensive Salmon Plan for Alaska which emphasizes
19 protecting salmon habitat. The proposal was endorsed by
20 ADF&G, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Western
21 Interior RAC and YRDFA.

22

23 In addition, Taiga Mining company is a
24 willing seller.

25

26 As part of the land and water
27 conservation fund process, projects throughout BLM are
28 submitted to BLM's national review team for
29 prioritization. If the project makes the cut, it is then
30 forwarded on to Department of Interior and Office of
31 Management and Budget for final approval and funding.
32 The primary reason given by BLMs national review team for
33 not recommending the Clear Creek proposal for funding did
34 not have to do with the proposal itself, but the lack of
35 progress being made on other BLM Alaska projects.
36 Specifically noted was BLM Alaska's inability to move
37 forward with the '02 Beaver Creek, White Mountain's NRA
38 appropriation.

39

40 And on one of your maps, I think it's the
41 second one, it shows the area that we're trying to buy
42 and it's the two pink lined areas in Upper Aloha and
43 Clear Creek. It's approximately 800 acres and we had the
44 area appraised and the appraised value of the land and
45 what the seller wants, there's a big difference, about
46 four times the difference, but we're still trying to find
47 ways to buy that land. And this map also shows you the
48 amount of chum salmon spawning distribution. And in that
49 upper areas, the areas where we would like to purchase,
50 it averages about anywhere -- it's about seven percent of

00229

1 our annual chum salmon return occurs in that area.

2

3 The next issue is the mining status in
4 the Hog area critical environmental concern. In May of
5 '02, Taiga Mining Company completed the relocation of a
6 7,500 foot section of Aloha Creek into a historic channel
7 in preparation for mining within a 200 acre parcel of
8 private land. In August of '02 Taiga Mining finished
9 construction of a new road which provides access from the
10 mining camp on Bear Creek to private land on Aloha Creek,
11 and began mine operations. Prior to closing down for the
12 season, the company stripped approximately 10 to 15 acres
13 and built settling ponds. In '03 the company will begin
14 mining in the Aloha Creek valley in earnest, ultimately
15 mining over 200 acres in the valley alone. It is
16 anticipated that the mining in Aloha Creek valley will be
17 the company's primary focus for the next three to five
18 years, after which they will be looking to move to new
19 ground likely in the mainstem of Clear Creek.

20

21 The next thing I'll talk about is the
22 Yukon River Salmon Production Habitat Inventory. And
23 this is a survey of habitat and fisheries values on BLM
24 and State managed watershed and the Yukon River drainage.
25 This will be our third year conducting the study.

26

27 The project is being undertaken to
28 document the quality and quantity of salmon production
29 habitat. The focus is on expanding the knowledge base of
30 salmon production areas by assessing streams and portions
31 of streams not cataloged as known anadromous streams. A
32 secondary goal of the inventory is habitat
33 characterization and includes collecting information on
34 riparian condition, water quality and stream channel
35 attributes. The project is a cooperative effort funded
36 through a five year challenge cost share agreement
37 between BLM, ADF&G and YR DFA.

38

39 From July 8th to August 2nd, '02 work was
40 conducted throughout the Melozitna, Indian, Hogatza,
41 Kateel, South Fork Huslia and Gisasa drainages.
42 Investigators visited 212 site locations and deployed 180
43 minnow traps. The inventory discovered one undocumented
44 tributary, Klik Creek within the Hogatza River drainage
45 used by chum salmon for spawning. An estimated 631 live
46 chum salmon and 55 chum salmon carcasses were counted
47 during an aerial survey of the stream. Presence
48 verifications were confirmed for juvenile chinook salmon
49 in the mainstem of the Kateel and Gisasa Rivers. Fish
50 captured included 600-plus juvenile chinook in the Gisasa

00230

1 River drainage and in Alaska blackfish caught in traps in
2 Kektahati Creek located within the Melozitna River
3 drainage.

4

5 In '03 the project will run from July 7
6 to August 2. The list of drainages to be surveyed is
7 still preliminary but will likely include the Gisasa
8 River, Bonasila River and a small streams in the
9 Blackburn hills. And then I listed Robert Karlen as the
10 main contact for that project.

11

12 In the handout there's one additional
13 project that we'll be working on, and it's Caribou Creek
14 Remote Video Project. And what this entails is we're
15 proposing to estimate the total abundance and run timing
16 of summer run chum salmon in Caribou Creek. And this
17 creek is within the Hogatza area of critical
18 environmental concern. We're using a remote time lapse
19 video recorder. Caribou Creek is adjacent to Clear Creek
20 and it is similar in size but unlike Clear Creek which is
21 in its natural state, Caribou Creek has been heavily
22 impacted by placer goldmining from the mid-1950s through
23 the present. Both Caribou Creek and Clear Creek have
24 been used by ADF&G as index streams to monitor salmon
25 escapement in the Koyukuk River of the Yukon Basin.
26 ADF&G has conducted aerial index counts on salmon
27 escapement in both Caribou and Clear from 1975 to 1991.
28 As a result of their counts, ADF&G developed aerial index
29 escapement goals of 9,000 chum salmon for Caribou Creek
30 and 8,000 chum for Clear Creek.

31

32 Interesting enough Caribou Creek which
33 has been heavily impacted by early mining practices,
34 actually has a higher escapement goal than Clear Creek.
35 As with any aerial count, the numbers do not reflect
36 total escapement or even a consistent portion of total
37 escapement. Aerial counts are an index based on an
38 unknown proportion of the total spawning population and
39 often do not reflect the production value of a particular
40 spawning area. Concurrently there are no data on the
41 actual number of spawn as used in the important spawning
42 area or the contribution that this degraded system
43 currently or historically has had to the overall summer
44 chum salmon production within the Hogatza area.

45

46 The proposed project will evaluate the
47 potential for using time lapse video equipment to
48 estimate and monitor annual spawner abundance in this
49 remote location and has the means to reduce the high cost
50 of on the ground escapement monitoring.

00231

1 Any questions.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. I have a couple, I
4 guess. Are the residents of Huslia, Hughes, Galena aware
5 of all this attempt to buy out this project?

6

7 MS. MCSWEENY: Well, I don't know if
8 they're directly involved. Like I said Carl Krettsinger
9 visited the RAC two years and informed you people of what
10 was going to go on and I believe you wrote a letter to
11 the Bureau of Land Management supporting that.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

14

15 MS. MCSWEENY: But I'm not sure if those
16 villages know.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: But I would then ask you
19 to make a packet of this information and go ahead and
20 send it out to Huslia, Hughes, Allakaket and Galena.

21

22 MS. MCSWEENY: Okay.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: And I would like that to
25 be on record, because these people have go know about
26 this attempt to buy out because we have a lot of people
27 from Hughes working at that gold mine to this day.

28

29 MS. MCSWEENY: Okay.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: And there may be a few
32 from Huslia. But I dare say that Huslia would be more
33 concerned about the salmon escapement up in that area --
34 for that area.

35

36 Any further questions.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, I would like this
41 information gotten out to these villages.

42

43 MS. MCSWEENY: Okay.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that the conclusion?

46

47 MS. MCSWEENY: That's the conclusion.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. I think it's worth
50 following and letting the local residents know of this

00232

1 project because it can have quite an impact, not only on
2 the salmon but on the work or work stoppages if that mine
3 ever closes.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MS. MCSWEENY: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Lunch time. What time do
10 you want to come back, it's quarter to 1:00. Come back
11 at 1:30 again.

12

13 (Council Nods Affirmatively)

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, come back at 1:30.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (On record)

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would like to call the
22 meeting back to order. For the record, we have eight
23 members present so we do have a quorum. A quick
24 announcement, another change on the agenda. I would like
25 to call Kanuti Wildlife Refuge up to the table. Kanuti.
26 They are also leaving at 3:00 o'clock. So I'd like to
27 thank Rich Cannon, the Fisheries Resource Monitoring for
28 having patience with us and bearing with us.

29

30 Thank you. With that, Bob Schulz.

31

32 MR. SCHULZ: Good afternoon. My name is
33 Bob Schulz. I'm the Refuge manager for Kanuti National
34 Wildlife Refuge.

35

36 I'd like to start off with our biological
37 staff is now fully staffed. We've just hired Chris
38 Tarwood as Lisa Saperstein's assistant. Chris has about
39 13 years of working in the Lower Kuskokwim and Yukon
40 River out of Bethel with the Yukon-Delta Refuge there.

41

42 This winter we were fortunate to have a
43 number of caribou on the Refuge so people out of
44 Allakaket and Bettles for the first time in a number of
45 years had an opportunity to harvest caribou there. It
46 was pleasing to see. We had between 300 and 400 animals
47 scattered throughout the Refuge.

48

49 As most of you know, the Fish and
50 Wildlife Service has just readvertised their big game

00233

1 guides. Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge has one big game
2 guide area and for the second or third time we received
3 no applicants. And at present time I don't plan on
4 readvertising that.

5
6 We're going through -- we're just
7 starting the process to rewrite our comprehensive
8 conservation plan and I think I'm going to bring that up
9 as a user group conflict issue and try to see what the
10 people have concerns on the big game guides on the
11 Refuge. The only part of the Refuge that's open to big
12 game guides is the eastern part and the very southern
13 part, and both of those parts don't have very good
14 access, so we may be able to do away with the big game
15 guide on the Refuge.

16
17 Wennona Brown here as subsistence
18 coordinator has been working very closely with the people
19 in our regional office and will be conducting two steel-
20 shot clinics this spring. They will be conducted the
21 last week of April. They will be having one on the 23rd
22 and 24th in Bettles and Evansville and then on the 25th
23 and 26th we'll be going down to Allakaket and conducting
24 one for the Allakaket and Alatna folks.

25
26 As previously mentioned, this year was
27 the first year that we'll have legalized spring take. It
28 opens up on April 2nd and runs through June 14th and then
29 it reopens up on July 16th and runs through August 31st.
30 Being someone that lives very close to the land and has a
31 lot of respect for the land, I think Emmitt brought up a
32 very good point. Right now the way the regs read, egg
33 gathering will be allowed in the Interior portions of
34 Alaska. I think as a board, I'd appreciate it if you'd
35 take a very close look at these regulations. They're in
36 their infancy, this is the first year they've been
37 regulated. The first year that they've come out. And I
38 think a lot of things need to be looked at very closely.
39 If egg gathering hasn't been something that's been
40 conducted previously then why open it up now. The same
41 way with now it's legal to take short-eared owls,
42 northern hawk owls, take harvest sandpipers, golden
43 plovers, gulls, you know, if those birds weren't
44 harvested previously I think that maybe those things
45 ought to be removed from the list and something ought to
46 be done about the zoning of it.

47
48 I'd appreciate your help as a land
49 manager and somebody that lives close to the land to
50 remove some of these species. Down in the Northway area,

00234

1 when I worked down there I caught a couple guys shooting
2 gulls, they'd been drinking one afternoon and they went
3 out and shot two or three gulls. Instead of arresting
4 them or giving them a ticket I went and talked to their
5 grandmother. And a couple of weeks later one of the guys
6 seen me at the store up in Tok and he told me he'd wished
7 that I'd given him a ticket and not gone and talked to
8 his grandmother.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 I think that we need to talk to our
13 elders and that and if these birds haven't been
14 harvested, then I think as a Council that maybe you folks
15 could come together and talk to the people about these
16 and say, hey, you know, these have never been harvested
17 and we shouldn't be opening it up.

18

19 The basis for allowing spring take was
20 not to increase subsistence take, it was to maintain what
21 was being taken before, and if they haven't been taken
22 then lots not open them up.

23

24 A lot of people live close to the land
25 but like Ron was saying on the fishermen out in the
26 ocean, you know, you always got one or two bad apples in
27 there and why should we give them free reign and start
28 something that hasn't been going on.

29

30 I guess I'll get off my soapbox on that
31 issue.

32

33 Wennona's been working on some steel-shot
34 posters they'll be putting those out again trying to
35 educate people that use of lead is really basically
36 wanton waste. You're putting the poison out there on the
37 land and it only takes a couple small pellets to kill a
38 swan, kill a goose. If you weaken those birds they're
39 more susceptible to predation so let's -- you know, if we
40 can get the word out, start using steel-shot we can start
41 cleaning up some of our acts.

42

43 She's also been working on a poster that
44 explains how to legally mark your subsistence gillnets.
45 Part of the compliance on subsistence nets is they need
46 to be marked with a name and telephone number, things
47 like that. We'll be getting those posters out here very
48 shortly.

49

50 I guess the last thing is we've been

00235

1 working with the village of Allakaket on a fuel
2 reduction, trying to protect the village, make it a
3 little bit safer from wild fires and everything, to my
4 knowledge has been signed and we're just waiting for
5 spring, a little bit of snow to go away and we'll start
6 working with the Allakaket folks on clearing up some of
7 the brush around the villages to make it a little bit
8 safer.

9

10 And that's all I have. If you have any
11 questions, or have any concerns.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Ray.

14

15 MR. COLLINS: I was surprised at that
16 long list, too, how did that list come about, do you
17 know? In all the discussions I've heard I never heard
18 about owls and all those other things and all of a sudden
19 they show up on that list.

20

21 MR. SCHULZ: I think it's migratory birds
22 that have been harvested at one time in various
23 locations. There's 126 birds on that list. There's some
24 of them like the puffins and ocklets, a lot of coastal
25 birds that we don't see but there's a whole slug of them
26 in there that, you know, short-eared owls, northern hawk
27 owls, goddwicks, sandpipers. I may be wrong, you know,
28 Emmitt was talking about egg gathering, you know, in the
29 Interior, I know that some of the folks down in the
30 Northway area did harvest waterfowl eggs and I understand
31 that some of the people out on the coast harvest
32 shorebird eggs, you know, if it's been done there I have
33 no problem with seeing it done, you know, if it's been a
34 customary and traditional thing. But if it hasn't been a
35 customary and traditional thing then lets limit it to
36 easter egg gathering.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

39

40 MR. JONES: Yeah, is it illegal to shoot
41 swans in the spring, white swans?

42

43 MR. SCHULZ: No, swans will be on the
44 list, both of them are on there, both the trumpeters and
45 the tundra swans are listed, yes.

46

47 MR. JONES: So it's legal?

48

49 MR. SCHULZ: Uh-huh.

50

00236

1 MR. JONES: Okay, thank you.

2

3 MR. SCHULZ: But could I ask you what you
4 call swans in your language? For the Northway, the Upper
5 Tanana, we call them tacos.

6

7 MR. JONES: We call it talba (ph).

8

9 MR. SCHULZ: Talba (ph), okay, thanks.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

12

13 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Robert.

16

17 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 Bob, I was just wondering, what is yellowlegs here, is
19 that some form of a goose?

20

21 MR. SCHULZ: No, that yellow leg is that
22 little brown bird, you know, when you nose your boat into
23 the sedges and that and you got that little bird that
24 goes, beep, beep, beep, beep and kind of hovers over the
25 top of you, that's more than likely a lesser yellow leg.
26 We have two species though, greater and a lesser. And
27 most of the Interior areas have the lesser ones. I'm not
28 quite sure down your way, I think you probably are
29 dealing with the greater yellow legs. But they're the
30 small brown bird that you see along the edges of
31 shorelines, the marshes or along the rivers. They're the
32 ones that usually squawk at you when you get out of your
33 boat.

34

35 MR. WALKER: My second question is you
36 don't have speckled breasted goose on here either.

37

38 MR. SCHULZ: One of the problems here is
39 they don't list them all in orders. Yeah, it's on the
40 right-hand one, fourth one down, white fronted goose.

41

42 MR. WALKER: Well, actually the real term
43 is called speckled breasted goose, right, am I correct?

44

45 MR. SCHULZ: No, it's a white front,
46 greater white fronts.

47

48 MR. WALKER: Okay, are there two
49 different kinds?

50

00237

1 MR. SCHULZ: No. Different common names,
2 speckled bellies, laughing geese, there are several
3 different names that are used for those, but it's a
4 greater white front.

5
6 MR. WALKER: One more question here Bob.
7 Did the government take the cackling Canadian goose off
8 the endangered species, too, also?

9
10 MR. SCHULZ: I believe they did, yes. I
11 think the cacklers were one that they removed, yeah, or
12 the Aleutian goose is the one that they removed.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further questions.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd just like to commend
19 Kanuti Wildlife Refuge for their efforts in dealing with
20 the people of Allakaket and Alatna. We have a lot of
21 corporate land. We have a lot of small parcels of
22 private land. We have Doyon land. All within the
23 Refuge. And we've been working very close with Bob
24 Schulz and the people based at Bettles. If we have any
25 problems or questions we just make a phone call and they
26 show up for one of our joint meetings. And they've
27 always been very open with us.

28
29 I guess I'm like Emmitt, one time I did
30 try to -- a little bit of egg gathering but when I boiled
31 it up I wasn't about to eat that eyeball that was there.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 So it was the first and only time that I
36 ever did that. You mentioned legal take on what, was
37 that -- what were you alluding to?

38
39 MR. SCHULZ: Well, I think that a lot of
40 those species, you know, haven't been taken. The
41 legalizing the spring water fowl take or the spring take
42 of migratory birds, basically one of the premises or one
43 of the foundations of that was not to increase the amount
44 of take. If it wasn't, you know, most people probably
45 won't shoot owls or probably won't shoot shorebirds, but
46 there's -- like you said -- you know, there's always one,
47 two, three or four people that, you know, let's go out
48 and, you know, there aren't any ducks to shoot so let's
49 shoot these birds. And, you know, why make it legal for
50 them.

00238

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Could you direct -- get a
2 cover letter and send it to the Alatna and Allakaket
3 Tribal Councils and have them run a survey on what they
4 would like to see on that list?

5
6 MR. SCHULZ: Well, that's what my
7 intentions are. Is when we are conducting these steel-
8 shot, I'm going to be talking to Johnson and Lindberg
9 and, you know, if William shows up I want to talk to
10 those elders to see what was really taken. I may be
11 wrong, you know.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, a lot of the species
14 you mentioned, those aren't taken.

15
16 MR. SCHULZ: No, I was planning on
17 showing up with my picture book and sitting down with the
18 elders and talking to them and see if we can't draw a
19 line through some of these, you know, I don't know maybe
20 I'm out of line but I don't think if they haven't been
21 customary and traditional taken, should we make it legal
22 now. I think it flies in the face of what subsistence is
23 if we do legalize it now and they haven't been taken
24 previously.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to see that done.
27 Any further questions. Benedict.

28
29 MR. JONES: Yeah, I don't know if you
30 were here the other day when spoke of king of all birds,
31 the yellow spur and in aide of the historic stories that
32 the animals have a king and the birds have a king, too,
33 so I don't know if you're aware of -- the Fairbanks Bird
34 Refuge area in Fairbanks wasn't aware of it. But they're
35 a little yellow bird, yellow spur bird that we call king
36 of all birds.

37
38 MR. SCHULZ: I'd be interested in finding
39 out more about that Benedict. Thanks for sharing it.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you have anything to
46 add, Wennona.

47
48 MS. BROWN: No, just looking forward to
49 coming up and working with everybody for the steel-shot
50 clinics, and working with Bob on initiating the upcoming

00239

1 rewrite of the comprehensive conservation plan. If
2 anybody has any questions or comments or things I can
3 help them with, you know, don't hesitate to call me.
4 I'll come up as often as I can to work with the villages
5 there and the people and any questions and I'm available.
6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Is that about
8 it, Bob?

9
10 MR. SCHULZ: Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

13
14 MR. SCHULZ: I'd like to thank Robert and
15 Carl for bringing the strips. This old urbanite really
16 appreciated it.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Kanuti. Now,
19 did we get everybody that's traveling out before 3:00? I
20 think so. So I would like to thank Rich Cannon,
21 Fisheries Resource Monitoring. And Emmitt, this is --
22 when you see this and see what's going on here, maybe we
23 could introduce a request to start looking into trying to
24 find some funding for that Melozitna River. So keep an
25 ear open for this one.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 Rich.

30
31 MR. R. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
32 Council members. Today I'm going to basically give you
33 an informational report on the work of the Fisheries
34 Monitoring Program, which is now going into its fifth
35 year. Your Councils have reviewed proposals that have
36 come to us for various fisheries studies, both in regard
37 to traditional biological studies, things like weirs and
38 tagging studies as well as harvest monitoring projects
39 and traditional ecological knowledge.

40
41 So I'm going to refer you in your Council
42 books to Tab D and if you go to the back portion of Tab D
43 you'll see a report that's titled Fisheries Monitoring
44 Program 2000-2003 Yukon and Kuskokwim Regions.

45
46 What our program has been attempting to
47 do is find a way to report back to the Councils about the
48 progress that's being made with the various projects that
49 this program is funding. If you look at Tab D and
50 hopefully your book is like mine.

00240

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: B?

2

3 MR. R. CANNON: D.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: D.

6

7 MR. R. CANNON: I'm sorry, Tab D.

8 Everybody find it? It's 213.

9

10 (Council Nods Affirmatively)

11

12 MR. R. CANNON: All right, I'll just sort
13 of take you through this report and, again, what we're
14 attempting to do is find a way to come back to the
15 Councils on the Yukon and Kuskokwim to give you an update
16 on the progress and status of more than 80 projects that
17 have been funded through this program since it started in
18 2000.

19

20 If you look inside it begins with the
21 Yukon on Page 214 and I won't go into too much detail
22 about the specific sections because this is, again,
23 something that we're preparing for you to take with you
24 as a reference when people in your areas have questions
25 about the project. And I think you'll see what I mean.
26 Each project that we've funded is in here and there's a
27 summary of the status of the project and some of the work
28 that's been done over the past year in that project.

29

30 So for the Yukon starting on 214, what
31 this little introduction does is talks about the good
32 work that your Coordinating Fisheries Committee did with
33 our Staff and the managers for the Yukon River to update
34 the issues and data needs that really are the focus of
35 this program, the issues and data needs that the Councils
36 prepared back in 2000. This is, for example, where
37 Emmitt's interest now in something on Melozi come in. We
38 need to continue to update that information. When there
39 is a need identified by the Council then we'll then begin
40 entering that into the process. Jerry asked me to spend
41 just a minute kind of explaining that, how that works.

42

43 Every year there's a call for proposals
44 that occurs in November. So for next year, the 2005 call
45 would be sometime about November 15th. And then tribal
46 organizations, regional organizations, State and Federal
47 agencies as well as universities, other people that are
48 interested in doing these projects submit proposals to us
49 that come in by about February, and then they're
50 reviewed, technically. And those that meet the criteria

00241

1 that the Federal Board has established for supporting,
2 Federal Subsistence Management then will be invited to
3 develop a more detailed proposal. And that is reviewed
4 again and ends up becoming part of the plan for that
5 year. So something that would come up on the Melozi
6 would come to us as a proposal after the call in November
7 of 2003.

8

9 We're in a cycle now for 2004, in fact,
10 we've reviewed about 80-some different proposals
11 statewide and now we're coming back to the investigators
12 and asking them to develop a detailed plan and that will
13 then become the management plan that we bring back to
14 you, to the Councils in the fall.

15

16 Okay.

17

18 So this introduction in the report talks
19 about what's happened on the Yukon this last year where
20 the Coordinating Fisheries Committee helped update the
21 issues and data needs.

22

23 If you then go to Page 217 there's a
24 listing of all the projects that have been done since the
25 project began in 2000. And they're organized by for the
26 Yukon by those projects in Table 1 that have to do with
27 Yukon salmon and then if you turn the page, then actually
28 this ends up being on Page -- unfortunately these didn't
29 get numbered but it's a continuation of Table 1 is the
30 third part of it. It's projects funded on the Yukon
31 River for non-salmon. So you see whitefish and resident
32 fish species. And these are projects, both harvest
33 monitoring, fisheries biology studies and TEK that have
34 been funded for work in the Yukon.

35

36 There are 35 salmon related studies and
37 12 non-salmon. And the total amount that's been
38 basically provided is a little over \$5 million.

39

40 And if you'd turn past the tables you'll
41 see that in the same order things appear in that table,
42 you'll see a little summary of each of the projects. So
43 we did this so that if people or you have a question or
44 people in your communities have a question about projects
45 you can go to this and you'll get a little summary of the
46 work and the status of each project. You'll notice on
47 the first one there, on Page 220 it says the effects of
48 ichthyophonous on chinook salmon, now, that project was
49 completed and Dr. Kosan from the University of Washington
50 is already, I think, presented some of his information to

00242

1 you at an earlier Council meeting, but that report now is
2 available. So if you needed a copy of that you'd contact
3 your Council coordinator or our office and we would be
4 able to get you that study. So as you look here there's
5 an awful lot of them so we don't want to spend a whole
6 lot of time on any one, but if they're being continued or
7 completed, it will say that.

8

9 Okay, then I'm going to now just move you
10 in through the document to the next part of it which is
11 for the Kuskokwim and you need to go over to Page 233.
12 Okay, same kind of organization. It talks about sort of
13 an introduction about the work that's going on on the
14 Kuskokwim to refine the issues and data needs and they're
15 doing that with working with the working group, the
16 Kuskokwim Working Group, and the Kuskokwim Fisheries
17 Resource Coalition, which is our local biologists, State,
18 Federal and Native organization biologists who are
19 working in the Kuskokwim and they were successful in
20 getting funding this year to begin a strategic plan,
21 which is going to be very important for the work on the
22 Kuskokwim. And it's a way for people to come together
23 and decide, you know, really what priorities they want to
24 see funded and then we'll be presenting this information
25 to you at your later Council meetings, about the results
26 of that planning exercise.

27

28 And, again, if you turn the page over
29 there's a set, Table 2, which has all of the -- there are
30 35 projects that have been funded for the Kuskokwim,
31 about \$5 million worth of projects since 2000.

32

33 And same kind of thing, as you go back
34 into that report, each project has a little summary, this
35 is a recent summary that was just current as of December
36 of what the status of the project is. And there's
37 hopefully enough detail in there so that you could answer
38 somebody's question or get some of your questions
39 answered about what's going on with the project.

40

41 Now, there's a few projects as you look
42 through here that you'll notice have been withdrawn or
43 discontinued and there are very few of those. But that,
44 you know, we watch the projects pretty closely and
45 sometimes something may get funded but, you know, people
46 in agencies or in other organizations, people come and go
47 and sometimes Staff may not be there to do the project so
48 we try to recover the funds so they can be used in other
49 places, but in most cases we've been able to move forward
50 with every project.

00243

1 My overall report is that for both the
2 Yukon and the Kuskokwim, the program is doing very well.
3 We are supporting projects that are being used in
4 management, a number of them have been talked about today
5 by the managers. On the Yukon, your program, the
6 Fisheries Monitoring Program is about funding about 25
7 percent of overall fisheries work on the Kuskokwim River
8 right now -- or on the Yukon rather, and then on the
9 Kuskokwim it's almost 50 percent. So key projects are
10 being funded out of this effort that are being used for
11 management.

12
13 And I just want to say one last thing
14 before I kind of throw this open to any questions you
15 might have, is I'm going to ask you to flip back a few
16 pages to -- there's a -- it's on Page 215 and it's Figure
17 1, which kind of shows the big picture in terms of the
18 budget statewide for this program. And we've gone
19 through this with you before, it hasn't changed too much.
20 But I want you to just look at that last part of the
21 graph for 2004, because that's what we're working on
22 here. You'll notice there's \$5 million, the upper part
23 of that bar and that's what we're going to be talking
24 about for 2004, about \$5 million statewide for projects
25 that we may want to continue that ran out of funding in
26 2003 or new projects so five of the \$7.2 million will be
27 open and we'll be bringing back a fisheries plan for you
28 to look at in the fall. And for the Yukon it will be
29 about 700,000 available and for the Kuskokwim about
30 700,000 of that five.

31
32 I'll just end my presentation and open it
33 for questions, if you have any at this point and then I'm
34 going to come back and talk a little bit about the
35 Partner's Program and make some introductions.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions. Go ahead
38 Micky.

39
40 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, I just wanted to get
41 back to Emmitt's. You said there's going to be possibly
42 700,000 left over?

43
44 MR. R. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. Micky, no,
45 that 700,000 for the Yukon and 700,000 for the Kuskokwim
46 will be the money we have for continuing projects and
47 starting new ones in 2004. So it's something like for
48 the 2005 cycle because we work about a year ahead, so for
49 2005, we'd want to take a look at the Melozi project and
50 get it into the system so it can be considered. What

00244

1 that means is we need to find somebody to develop a
2 proposal to do the work up there, either Refuge or tribal
3 organization to do the work and get that in by next
4 November.

5
6 And I took a note down, I heard that
7 there was an interest in doing that and we're going to
8 get back with Emmitt, a Staff that works with the Yukon
9 projects and find out more details about it and I guess
10 some of the Refuge Staff are aware of it as well. So we
11 will follow up on that.

12
13 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, thanks.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Emmitt.

16
17 MR. PETERS: Okay. I can understand
18 that. And does this, if we go through this idea of
19 checking this river out, Melozi, is that funded for the
20 time you suggested or that year or that goes in another
21 time?

22
23 MR. R. CANNON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.
24 Emmitt, when that one could be considered wouldn't be
25 until the 2005 budget cycle. And again, you know, it
26 needs to have a proposal for it and the priorities have
27 to be considered and then the Regional Councils will look
28 at all the things that are on the table and decide what
29 their priorities are and that all then goes to the
30 Federal Board and they'll make the final decision on what
31 gets funded in 2005.

32
33 MR. PETERS: Okay, thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. So if we wanted to
36 speed up this process of getting Melozi River looked at,
37 could we direct Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge to go ahead and
38 start the proceedings on this for us?

39
40 MR. R. CANNON: Unless they made some
41 special exception, the Federal Board did, you know, we'd
42 have to kind of go through the process I described. But
43 if there were other funds out there that might be
44 available then you could begin that work, you know, as
45 soon as those other funds are available. I mean there
46 are other funding sources for the Yukon. There's
47 US/Canada funds and there are treaty implementation funds
48 and AYK Sustainable Salmon Funds. There are other
49 funding sources that I could -- we could certainly let
50 the Refuge know about that might be available sooner than

00245

1 the funds that we have.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: So if the request for a
4 proposal, or a proposal itself came out of the village of
5 Ruby, would that speed things up also, too?

6

7 MR. R. CANNON: It's always good to have
8 -- because our program attempt to always involve
9 partnerships and a lot of capacity building, meaning that
10 we're working with the tribal organizations and
11 communities, that would give it a head start, but it
12 wouldn't speed it up in a sense, Mr. Chairman, because we
13 follow the process to be fair to everybody, and then we
14 have a call in November and it goes through a review
15 process and it comes back to you before it goes to the
16 Federal Board.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: If I remember right, we
19 have both the Federal system and a State system based at
20 Galena, right, and if the village of Ruby requested some
21 help from those people down there to draft a proposal to
22 look at Melozi, I think that would be a way to start and
23 then it would come under the heading of village Council
24 of Ruby. I think that would be a good start.

25

26 Emmitt.

27

28 MR. PETERS: Yeah, well, I can understand
29 that and do I refer this to you in Galena, to have some
30 recommendation on when to get started?

31

32 MR. BEYERSDORF: I'm Jeff Beyersdorf with
33 the Koyukuk/Nowitna. Mr. Chair. Mr. Peters, what would
34 happen then is I would get together with Rich, is my
35 understanding, and sit down and see what, as far as
36 through his -- the Fisheries Monitoring Program and if
37 there are other funds available that he could direct me
38 to.

39

40 MR. PETERS: Okay, I thank you very much.
41 And how soon are you going to be doing this so I can --
42 do I have to get it through the Board here to understand
43 what I'm trying to do?

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I think that once you
46 get it through the Ruby Council and it comes through in
47 some kind of proposal form, then it will be right in
48 front of all of us here/

49

50 MR. PETERS: Thank you.

00246

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Nothing further -- Rich.

2

3 MR. R. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. Emmitt, if
4 the need for the project is, you know, dealing with a
5 specific limitation or people not getting subsistence or
6 a conservation concern, that elevates the timeframe and
7 that's one of the things we need to explore with you,
8 getting that background information. It will help you
9 get through our process as far as getting the project
10 funding. Because that's what we look for, are those
11 things that really are going to directly affect a
12 subsistence fishery or there's a conservation measure
13 that will end up affecting a subsistence fishery because
14 the fish aren't going to be produced.

15

16 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, one of
17 the concerns that had been raised before was the impact
18 of the pike fishing on taking -- targeting the big fish,
19 like the guides and the others there, and that impact
20 that might have on spawning and so on, because it was
21 thought they produced most. Is there a study underway
22 that's addressing that particular issue now or is that
23 something to be researched?

24

25 MR. R. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. Ray, there
26 are some ongoing studies that -- one up in the -- one
27 that we helped fund with the Sportfisheries Division up
28 in the Yukon Flats, and if you remember a couple of
29 cycles ago, there was a proposal for doing one down in
30 the Innoko and we weren't able to fund that one that year
31 but I understand that the State of Alaska did go ahead
32 and begin to continue working with the guides in the area
33 to collect population data about the size of the fish and
34 some other basic information, I think that is helpful.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
37 Rich on the Fisheries Monitoring Program. Go ahead,
38 Jerry.

39

40 MR. BERG: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I just
41 wanted to make sure it was clear to the Council that the
42 Council can submit a concern on an issue that they have,
43 such as research on the Melozi, but a proposal needs to
44 be submitted from some organization that has the research
45 capability to actually do the research on the river. So
46 the Council would not submit a proposal, they would
47 identify that as an issue that they are concerned about
48 for your region and that needs to be addressed. But the
49 proposal needs to be forwarded by -- I don't know if the
50 Refuge has Staff available to do the work or it might

00247

1 have to be ADF&G or some organization that is capable of
2 actually doing the work.

3

4 So just to clarify, the proposal process
5 for this work comes from someone -- a proposal with a
6 dollar amount saying, we can do this work for \$70,000,
7 that would be their proposal. So just to clarify those
8 two parts.

9

10 Because the Council can submit a proposal
11 for a regulatory change but they don't submit proposals
12 for projects. They just identify the needs of the area.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that was what I was
17 afraid of. Unless there's a major biological concern,
18 you know, it wouldn't have much of a chance to get funded
19 for quite some time unless that was shown, right -- uh-
20 huh.

21

22 Jeff Denton.

23

24 MR. DENTON: Jeff Denton with the
25 Anchorage Field Office, BLM.

26

27 With the advent of the fisheries
28 subsistence thing, these kind of efforts they've been
29 wonderful, there's been a lot of money and I can't help
30 but ask, fisheries, when it came on, these kinds of funds
31 were almost immediately available. There's a lot of work
32 going on, a lot of special projects, a lot of planning
33 efforts. And I guess the question I have to ask or maybe
34 have the Council ask of the Office of Subsistence
35 Management is why isn't there a commensurate effort made
36 on the upland wildlife. We don't seem to see this
37 capability, effort or interest or dollars committed
38 towards moose management, caribou management, bear
39 management, this sort of thing. There's a very big
40 difference in dollars and man power and effort diverted
41 to fisheries, versus the others.

42

43 It's just kind of a curious thing.
44 Because we fight for funding for the bare minimum things
45 with large mammals and there's a lot of species,
46 terrestrial species we don't even address because we
47 can't due to funding and personnel limitations. I'm kind
48 of curious, even from -- I'm within an agency that does
49 this sort of thing and to this day I do not know or
50 understand why there's such a decisive difference in

00248

1 funding and interest in fisheries versus other
2 subsistence needs.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, did you have
7 anything else or you just wanted to.....

8

9 MR. DENTON: No, that's it.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. I think we should
12 address that sometime later in the agenda and look at
13 ways to look at that question. Because he is right, we
14 aren't spending half as much on game as we are on fish.

15

16 You had a Partnership Program that you
17 wanted to you us or you want to move on?

18

19 MR. R. CANNON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. As
20 part of the Fisheries Monitoring Program, a big part of
21 it, as you're aware, is working with rural organizations
22 and tribal organizations to build capacity in their
23 program, and you know many of the projects that are now
24 ongoing in the Yukon and Kuskokwim involve communities as
25 well as regional organizations. And to again support
26 that with actual staff, it takes staff and people to run
27 these projects, part of the program is to -- part of this
28 program is to provide staff to regional organizations
29 like Tanana Chiefs, KNA, AVCP and CATG, Council of
30 Athabaskan Tribal Governments, and so seven positions
31 were funded.

32

33 Six of those are fisheries biologists,
34 and one social scientist and I think your Council should
35 be happy to note that five of those biologist positions
36 are in the Yukon and Kuskokwim. Three for the Yukon and
37 two for the Kuskokwim. And we're, essentially, I think
38 have all of the Yukon and Kuskokwim biologists hired and
39 today we have two of those new fisheries biologists here
40 and I'd like to introduce them to the Council.

41

42 First, who's just come on with the
43 Association of Village Council Presidents, Dave
44 Waltemyer, if you could stand up. He's going to be
45 working with AVCP on the Yukon. And another staff person
46 who is working with KNA here in Aniak, is Dave Cannon,
47 who is going to give you a presentation on some of the
48 work that KNA has been doing for some time. KNA has
49 probably one of the strongest fisheries program of any
50 tribal organization in the state of Alaska. And through

00249

1 the efforts of Wayne Morgan and Angie Morgan and others
2 with KNA they've built a very impressive program. So I'm
3 going to quit talking and let the KNA staff basically
4 tell you what they're doing with fisheries in their area.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Dave.

9

10 MR. D. CANNON: Thank you, Rich. Mr.
11 Chairman. Members of the Council. Thank you for this
12 opportunity. What I thought I would do is just show you
13 various projects that KNA has been working cooperatively
14 with the Federal government, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
15 Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and
16 it will just take a second here.

17

18 (Pause)

19

20 As I said my name is Dave Cannon, and
21 I've been given a nickname since I've been here, so, I
22 still don't know if it's good or bad yet.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MR. RIVARD: What's the translation?

27

28 MR. D. CANNON: Well, it's almost dead
29 fish.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MR. D. CANNON: I know a lot of the
34 discussion today revolved around salmon but we're working
35 on a project, whitefish at Whitefish Lake that's not too
36 far from Aniak here. And over the years there's been
37 quite a bit of fishing pressure, mostly for the broad
38 whitefish that are in the lake and there's been concern
39 from down river fishermen harvesting these fish and
40 selling them in some of the grocery stores, and so over
41 time the numbers have appeared to decline quite a bit for
42 the broad whitefish. So KNA for years has been asking
43 the Fish and Wildlife Service if, you know, there isn't
44 some type of study that could be done. So basically two
45 summers ago Fish and Wildlife, along with KNA went ahead
46 and put a weir in in the outlet of Whitefish Lake.

47

48 This past summer the weir went in and was
49 basically fished tight on June 16th and it was in through
50 September 28th. And during that time they counted

00250

1 32,000-plus humpback whitefish going out of the lake,
2 over 26,000 cisco going out, 146 only broad whitefish and
3 that's going out also. They counted 63 humpbacks going
4 into the lake, 71 ciscos going in and only three broad
5 whitefish going in.

6

7 Now, the one question we had was, because
8 it wasn't until June 16th that we got the weir in, those
9 fish, probably a lot of them moved in prior to that. So
10 this coming summer we're going to try to get it in
11 sooner. There's been studies done on the Yukon, Randy
12 Brown, he's probably the expert in the state with
13 whitefish and he's documented migrations early in April
14 and May into some systems under the ice. So we're
15 actually hoping to possibly get out to the outlet there
16 this winter and it was open and possibly put a net in or
17 two but because of the weather conditions and that we
18 didn't get there this year. But we're going to try to
19 get the weir in earlier this year.

20

21 And if anybody does have any questions
22 while I'm going along, please feel free to ask.

23

24 And then what we did, we tagged quite a
25 few of the fish with little plastic floy tags they're
26 called. No transmitters but just little plastic tags.
27 And we tagged over 5,000 humpback, 1,800 cisco and we
28 tagged 29 of the broad whitefish. And we're also
29 collecting biological information, lengths, sex and
30 sexual maturities on these fish and this is Kevin Peltola
31 and he's taking some of that data.

32

33 One of the things we looked at, the
34 otolith which is the ear bone basically of the fish.
35 It's one of the ways that we can age them and we can also
36 analyze them for a chemical or an element called
37 strantium, and the strantium in high levels is found in
38 the saltwater and at low levels it's found in the
39 freshwater and if we look at these otolyths we can
40 determine if, in fact, they spent any time in saltwater.
41 And of all of the samples so far that we've sent to the
42 lab, they did find out that all of those fish at some
43 point in time in their lives did go down either into
44 Kuskokwim Bay in the saltwater or possibly beyond. And
45 if you look at this 1,300 in this dark line that's going
46 across there, that's the point where we decide if there's
47 more strantium about that line that they probably were in
48 saltwater and if it's below this line then this means
49 they were in freshwater. And if you look at these dotted
50 lines going vertically, this is basically when it was one

00251

1 year old, okay, and this is age one to two, and this is
2 two to three, and three to four and so on.

3

4 So it was born in freshwater and it looks
5 like before it was one year old it did go and spend some
6 time in maybe possibly Kuskokwim Bay and then came back
7 into freshwater, maybe just moved up stream a little bit
8 into freshwater, but it looks like it spent pretty much
9 most of its second year, totally, either in the Bay or
10 further in saltwater, and also then the third year and
11 then as it got older it came and spent much of its adult
12 life in freshwater. And this is a humpback whitefish.

13

14 And then we sampled a broad whitefish,
15 pretty much the same thing. When it was about a half
16 year old it stayed in freshwater and then moved down into
17 the saltwater here, stayed there for the second year,
18 kind of went back and forth most likely and then the
19 third year and beyond it, for the most part, stayed in
20 freshwater.

21

22 So one of the things, when we look at
23 populations and we consider harvest, at one point in time
24 we might have thought, you know, we're concerned with
25 harvest immediately in Whitefish Lake, but now we need to
26 consider as they move down stream beyond Bethel and back
27 that there's quite a bit of subsistence fishing, through
28 the ice, you know, all winter long, and that just adds to
29 the complexity now of things to consider when we look at
30 the population dynamics.

31

32 And then what we found with one of those
33 broad whitefish that we tagged, and if you look right
34 here's Aniak, you can see that arrow moving, and then
35 Whitefish Lake is not too far from there so that means
36 that these fish, generally, come down into the Kuskokwim
37 and tend to go down stream to the Kuskokwim Bay, but one
38 of the broad whitefish that we tagged in the lake this
39 summer went up stream and was caught up near Stoney
40 River, up in this area. And we believe that it was
41 probably going up there to spawn.

42

43 And so through the proposal process that
44 Rich discussed here just a little bit ago, we will be
45 putting forth a proposal to put some radio transmitters
46 on some of these fish and we can hopefully then track
47 them and know exactly where and when they're going.
48 Because I showed how many fish we tagged with those tags,
49 many thousands, and we've actually only had probably less
50 than 10 returned from fishermen. So they don't see to be

00252

1 getting caught. And we do have a lottery set up to
2 entice fishermen who catch them to return them, but we've
3 just had very few. So the transmitters can be a very
4 effective way to find out what these fish are doing.

5

6 And one of the other projects that we've
7 been involved in now for a few years in the Middle
8 Kuskokwim, there's a mark and recapture study going on to
9 try and determine population estimate of sockeye, chums
10 and coho from basically Kalskag up stream. And this is
11 Carol Kirlevec has been the main person with the State of
12 Alaska that we've been dealing with and this is one of
13 the fishwheels here at the Birch Tree crossing area down
14 stream of Aniak.

15

16 And what they've done, they've tagged
17 over 20,000 chum, 5,000 coho and 650 sockeye. And here's
18 a couple of projects that we aren't involved with, the
19 Kogrukluks there and I'll talk in a little bit about the
20 weir projects that we are involved with. But they
21 actually recovered at these weirs, 276 fish that had been
22 tagged in this study. In the Takotna, up near McGrath,
23 they caught 56. Now, the Kogrukluks is on the Holitna
24 drainage.

25

26 And this happens to be the George River
27 weir on the George River obviously, and this is a
28 cooperative project with the Alaska Department of Fish
29 and Game and this is a close up shot of the weir. Now,
30 on this particular system, you can see there's basically
31 a sand bag right here and this helps keep this floating
32 weir submerged just a little bit under water and this is
33 to allow suckers to actually migrate down stream because
34 there's quite a few suckers in this George River. And
35 they move up early and then tend to migrate down past the
36 weir and we have to allow passage for that.

37

38 And this is the counting chute where we
39 actually count the salmon as they move up through the
40 weir there. And we've got Dwyane Hoffman here from Aniak
41 and Doug Molono, Doug's with the State of Alaska. And
42 Doug has done a tremendous amount of work on most of
43 these projects throughout the drainage. He's the
44 research biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and
45 Game. And I think a lot of the good work that KNA has
46 been doing with the Department has a lot to do with Doug
47 and how much he's worked with Angie Morgan and Wayne here
48 over the years.

49

50 And some of the data we collect are

00253

1 scales to look at the age composition and also get
2 lengths and sexes on these fish. They don't do this to
3 every fish, they take a subsample and try to estimate
4 then what the entire population age sex and length
5 composition is.

6

7 And then I did mention that those
8 projects recovered those tags. Now, this right here is
9 one of the tags that was put on at the fishwheel at Birch
10 Tree crossing and they're able to actually see these fish
11 come up through the chute and close the chute on many of
12 these fish and get the number on the tag and they can get
13 the information as to when this fish was tagged and then
14 so they get a good idea as to how long it takes a fish to
15 swim from, you know, so many miles down stream up to
16 these sites. And at George River they did recover 165 of
17 those tags.

18

19 And then just in the commercial and
20 subsistence and sportfish harvest, this is pretty
21 interesting, that of the fish that were tagged and
22 caught, either in the commercial or subsistence basically
23 harvested, the 259 of them actually had moved down stream
24 from the tagging site, and 240 of them moved up stream.

25

26 Jeff Estensen pointed out, I think, that
27 some of the fish that were tagged at Birch Tree ended up
28 in the Kanektok River, which is, you know, all the way
29 down beyond the Kuskokwim Bay and so they actually went
30 back out to saltwater and then up into the Kanektok
31 River, there's only a few fish, I think a total of four.

32

33 And, you know, one of the things with any
34 of these programs, the data we collect from the taggings
35 is very important and I'm sure you people on the Yukon
36 are familiar with many of the studies that have gone on
37 up there. And it's very important for fishermen to
38 realize what needs to be done if a fish is caught with a
39 tag. So, you know, we just let people know that record
40 the location and the date of the capture because we have
41 gotten fish turned in with relatively little information
42 associated with it, and every little bit helps, record
43 the species and the condition. You know, if, in fact,
44 say ichthyophonous, up on the Yukon, it would be very good
45 to know if that one appeared to have ichthyophonous so
46 things like that are very important information. Record
47 the information from the tag and actually save it or
48 transmitters. So I mentioned that we had just tagged our
49 fish but some other studies they actually have radio-
50 transmitters in them and if you could return that

00254

1 transmitter that would be good. And then contact,
2 usually there's a phone number on the tags but, if not,
3 just contact basically a local, State, Federal or partner
4 biologist.

5

6 This is the Tatlawiksuk River weir
7 project a little further up stream from the George River.
8 Another cooperative project with the Alaska Department of
9 Fish and Game and they recovered 213 tags at this
10 project. And these are two State Alaska Department of
11 Fish and Game employees that worked up there on the weir
12 this summer and we had one employee all summer long at
13 the Tatlawiksuk weir.

14

15 And then some of the other projects that
16 we're involved in, the intern program. The last few years
17 we've sponsored a high school intern program, generally
18 up to 15 students, actually go out and spend time at
19 those various projects you saw, the weirs and they help
20 collect the data and learn basically what the needs are
21 for managing some of these resources. And the intent is
22 hopefully that over time there's some of these students
23 who are interested enough in becoming biologists and can
24 actually then work, you know, either for a local village
25 organization or the State or Federal government to help
26 manage the resources here in their own backyard.

27

28 And then KNA was involved in the in-
29 season subsistence harvest surveys that you're all
30 familiar with and, as well as the post-season harvest
31 surveys.

32

33 So that's pretty much what I had, and if
34 anybody has any questions I'll be more than happy to try
35 and answer them.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

38

39 MR. JONES: Yeah, on your whitefish
40 study, in the Fish Lake there, have you studied any
41 contaminants on the whitefish and also what they eat in
42 the lake, like insects or something, study their
43 intestines?

44

45 MR. D. CANNON: Yes, Mr. Jones. We have
46 taken stomach contents. But we haven't done any direct
47 analysis for toxicity or anything like that, heavy metals
48 on these fish. There are other studies in the Kuskokwim
49 drainage with pike and things like that, and we just
50 didn't have the capabilities of doing that. That,

00255

1 unfortunately, is a pretty expensive process.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

4 Robert.

5

6 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do

7 we have any pike that get into Whitefish Lake here or how

8 many have gone in, how many have come out in the time

9 there?

10

11 MR. D. CANNON: Yes. Actually there were

12 quite a few pike. As I recall, I think the majority of

13 them were moving through the system prior to when the

14 weir was actually in place. I have the numbers in the

15 data base and so they did track some pike. And as far as

16 subsistence fishermen, as they came and went from the

17 lake, they let us sample a lot of their fish and in fact,

18 some of the people were up there fishing for pike and so

19 we looked at some of the stomach content and took some

20 data on pike in the lake also.

21

22 MR. WALKER: Also, do you notice that --

23 did you get a chance to have the age of the pike, measure

24 them, how big they were?

25

26 MR. D. CANNON: We did that, yes. And we

27 hope to do more of that in the future.

28

29 MR. WALKER: That's all.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: I just find it amazing

36 that whitefish, I thought they were all local species. I

37 just find it amazing that they do go out to the

38 saltwater. That's quite a long run, too, especially for

39 small fish like that, it's just amazing to me. So I sure

40 appreciate your information on that.

41

42 MR. D. CANNON: Yeah, they actually on

43 the Yukon seem to go much further than the ones on the

44 Kuskokwim just because it's a much larger system. And if

45 you're interested, Randy Brown, with the Fish and

46 Wildlife Service in Fairbanks, he's done quite a bit of

47 work and he's documented a lot of their spawning grounds

48 on sheefish and different species of whitefish.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: The reason I find it so

00256

1 amazing is that we catch all those species, all the
2 whitefish species up the Alatna and we don't hardly-- we
3 never used to get so many salmon before but it's just
4 making me wonder now if what I consider our whitefish go
5 all the way down to the ocean because we're way the heck
6 up there, you know.

7

8 Ray.

9

10 MR. D. CANNON: Uh-huh.

11

12 MR. COLLINS: Well, I had the same
13 question, there's Telida Lakes is named for the Telida,
14 the broad whitefish up there and they've had a major run
15 up there that the people have used for a long time, and I
16 wonder if those come all the way down the Kuskokwim, too.
17 It would be interesting to sample just a few maybe there
18 to see, at Telida.

19

20 MR. D. CANNON: Right. And I know up
21 Lime Village, too, near Lime Village there's another
22 Whitefish Lake and Joe Bobby from up in that area, he's
23 expressed interest in doing further studies.
24 Unfortunately, you know, there's only so much money to go
25 around and so much that we do need to study. But I'm
26 glad to see that, you know, Rich mentioned how many
27 studies were non-salmon studies. Obviously the salmon
28 issue is very large but at least we are trying to collect
29 some of this information with some of these other very
30 important species.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: So if I send some samples
33 into Randy Brown, do you think he could find out if that
34 fish was ever out to the ocean?

35

36 MR. D. CANNON: Definitely.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

39

40 MR. D. CANNON: Definitely.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, give me his card.

43

44 MR. D. CANNON: Randy is actually the
45 person who did the analysis on the ones that we sampled,
46 we sent them to Randy.

47

48 MR. COLLINS: What kind of sample would
49 you need? What are they looking for, some of the scales,
50 or what particularly?

00257

1 MR. D. CANNON: Well, that otolith is the
2 best technique. The otolith which is the ear bone in the
3 fish so you have to basically cut the head off and take
4 these otoliths out and then there's -- it's a fairly
5 involved process to be able to analyze them. But, sure,
6 if you happen to get whitefish from a known location, and
7 that's what's very important, I'm sure Randy, he is as
8 excited about studying whitefish as anybody and he'd be
9 more than happy to accept your samples and when he had
10 time, I'm sure he'd look at them for you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: The reason it's so
13 interesting to me, because us Alutna River people we
14 seine all summer when there's no salmon and then we cut
15 and dry them and then the fall time we start seining and
16 just let them freeze just the way they are and we have
17 some major whitefish stocks up there.

18
19 Any further questions.

20
21 Emmitt.

22
23 MR. PETERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Quite a
24 few years back, I believe it was in the '70s, I was
25 fishing with a fishwheel late fall chums and I got one
26 whitefish, you believe it or not, it was about three feet
27 high, I held it up here and the tail was down there and
28 it had to be one of the biggest whitefish I ever saw and
29 I sent it to Fairbanks so they can -- but they lost track
30 of it, I don't know what happened.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Somebody ate it.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: It's on a wall, a
37 trophy.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MR. PETERS: I never got a word back from
42 them but I do have a picture of it.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 MR. PETERS: So I'm going to go ahead and
47 send it to the Board of Fish and Game.

48
49 MR. D. CANNON: Right. Or you can either
50 send it to myself here at KNA or Randy Brown. If he does

00258

1 get it he'd be very interested in seeing something like
2 that. I can get you his address, I'll give it to you
3 today.

4
5 MR. PETERS: You better give it to me
6 now.....

7
8 MR. D. CANNON: Pardon me?
9

10 MR. PETERS: You better give it to me now
11 before I leave.

12
13 MR. D. CANNON: I will, yes.
14

15 MR. PETERS: Thank you, very much.
16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: I want the same thing,
18 too. Because we've caught whitefish over three feet
19 long, humongous.

20
21 Any further questions. Benedict.
22

23 MR. JONES: Yeah, we, historically know
24 that we had a pike that was caught, trapped in the lake
25 up at Dulbi River, and the old elders told us they never
26 knew how big the fish was but it came the age of about 80
27 years old by the time -- there was a trapper there, that
28 the last time he saw it was in the early '50s and they
29 warned him not to go across the lake because pike hear
30 you walking across in the middle of the lake and start
31 breaking the ice either behind you or in front of you and
32 he said the ice was about four inches thick and the ice
33 started flying and so he ran back to shore. But I did
34 see one pike that was 11 feet long in the length, pike.
35 And so they live a long time, average age is probably
36 about 40 years old, pikes, I don't know about whitefish.
37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
39 Rich or Mr. Cannon, Dave.
40

41 MR. D. CANNON: And just for the record,
42 Rich and I, we aren't related.
43

44 (Laughter)
45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Well, early on I saw a
47 Cannon and Cannon and I said is this some type of
48 nepotism.

49
50 (Laughter)

00259

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further for them.

2

3 MR. PETERS: Yeah, for awhile I thought
4 you guys were brothers.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. R. CANNON: He's my older brother.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have anything else?

13

14 MR. R. CANNON: No, Mr. Chairman, thank

15 you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that this film
18 section was very good and I thank you for your report and
19 monitoring. I'm glad we introduced Emmitt to this
20 monitoring program and hopefully we can find some success
21 in getting him a program started.

22

23 Benedict.

24

25 MR. JONES: Yeah, that sheefish we start
26 monitoring for the migration up the Yukon about this time
27 of the year and pike later part of April they start
28 migrating up the Koyukuk River and then the sheefish and
29 the pike start coming out in late October.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

32

33 MR. R. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. Just a
34 comment about the Whitefish Lake study, some of you may
35 not know is that one of the few regulations that the
36 State ever passed to protect whitefish was for this
37 particular population and it came from reports from
38 people in the area. There were never any studies on
39 these stocks. But people knew that at one time the broad
40 whitefish were very abundant and then there's been fewer
41 and fewer of them. And it's taken this many years, this
42 was back when Ray Baxter was the fisheries biologist in
43 Bethel, it's taken this many years now for us to verify
44 with, you know, the methods that we have what people were
45 telling us all these years about this population.

46

47 MR. COLLINS: And you have no clue,
48 actually, though, why the decline, any particularly clue
49 to that?

50

00260

1 MR. R. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. Yeah, Ray,
2 I don't know exactly the reason and it could be because
3 of local depletion, because of harvest or something like
4 that but I don't have any proof of that.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Well, thank you both.
7 That was very interesting. And how many agencies do we
8 have left, Randy, Jeff, Bill, Koyukuk/Nowitna. Do you
9 want to take a short break and try to finish them off.

10
11 (Council Nods Affirmatively)

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, 10 minute break.

14
15 (Off record)

16
17 (On record)

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to call the
20 meeting back to order. I believe the next item on the
21 agenda is OSM, Don Rivard.

22
23 MR. RIVARD: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
24 Members of the Western Interior Council. Don Rivard with
25 the Office of Subsistence Management. If you look in
26 your book there on the agenda item, I believe it's 10,
27 Tab F. I'm just going to give you some updates on some
28 of these topics that have been around for a little bit.
29 Some of these, I think, you're very familiar with.

30
31 The first one is where we're at with the
32 customary trade regulation. As you may know the Board
33 did pass and put into place a regulation on customary
34 trade. And if some of you have seen the new fisheries
35 regulations book, it talks about it in there under Roman
36 Numeral III. It's essentially the same thing as what you
37 have in your book on Page 255 under Tab F. Just talking
38 about some basic questions and answers regarding
39 customary trade. I'll read a couple of things here and
40 then if you have any questions I'll try to answer them.

41
42 1. The new regulations. Provide for
43 continuing customary trade
44 between rural residents. Most
45 customary trade exchanges take
46 place in rural communities and
47 involve small amounts of fish.
48 The new regulation is simpler and
49 eliminates the troublesome
50 wording we were dealing with

00261

1 "significant commercial
2 enterprise." That is now out of
3 the regulation, there is no
4 reference to that particular
5 term.

6
7 2. The new regulations prohibit sale
8 to and purchase by businesses of
9 subsistence caught fish as well
10 sale of subsistence caught fish
11 by non-rural individuals.

12
13 3. The new regulations require that
14 non-rural purchasers of
15 subsistence caught fish use the
16 fish for their own or their
17 family's personal consumption and
18 non-rural purchasers cannot
19 collect and resell subsistence
20 caught fish.

21
22 4. The new regulations are faithful
23 to the views expressed by many of
24 the Regional Advisory Councils,
25 that the use of fish obtained
26 through customary trade be
27 consistent with the intent of
28 Title VIII of ANILCA.

29
30 So your Council as well as the other nine
31 all participated in formulating this particular
32 regulation. It is a regulation that can be changed. In
33 other words, just like the other fishery regulatory
34 proposal, you can have a regulatory proposal to change
35 this customary trade regulation if you so choose.
36 Anybody can submit a proposal, as well as the Council or
37 an individual.

38
39 Again, there's the questions and answers,
40 I think they're really well done. I think they probably
41 cover most of the areas that people may have some
42 questions about or concerns and I'm willing to answer any
43 questions on this topic if you have any.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Don. At this
48 time I would like to point out that I did delegate
49 authority to Ray Collins to attend and be a part of that
50 customary trade work force. So at this time I would be

00262

1 quite appropriate to thank Ray for doing a lot of good
2 work for us.

3

4 Does anyone have any questions for Don
5 Rivard on customary trade. Go ahead.

6

7 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Ron, I'd just like to
8 make one comment on that three there, you notice about
9 the purchase and the resale and so on. There is one area
10 in there that could be a problem and I made note of it at
11 the last meeting in town there but it would be too hard
12 to get into regs. For instance, my daughter lives in
13 Anchorage. If she asked me to get some fish and I'm over
14 at Holy Cross and I buy those fish and take them into
15 town and then she pays me again, see, I've paid for them
16 and then it's a resale in a sense, it would fall under
17 that and it says you're not supposed to do that. She's
18 supposed to deal directly with them out there. And I
19 think often people in town may ask you to pick up fish
20 and you're acting as an agent is what you're doing,
21 you're not making any money on it. But you're paying
22 somebody for fish and then somebody, your relative in
23 town is being reimbursed.

24

25 If they're not rural subsistence they
26 fall under that three. But they said it probably would
27 not be enforced unless somebody is making a business of
28 that, you know, buying and reselling. But do you see
29 what I mean?

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: When you're doing as an
34 agent, because it says for your own's use or the family's
35 personal consumption, cannot collect and resell
36 subsistence caught fish. So in a sense when you pay
37 somebody with your money and then you go in and recollect
38 in town you're doing that, but it probably won't come up.
39 But I just wanted it on the record that that's a common
40 practice often for people that travel, to buy them for
41 somebody else.

42

43 And if it's in a rural area it doesn't
44 fall under it but if it is somebody in town, it does.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that wouldn't be my
47 interpretation, I think I would fight that even in court.

48

49 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

50

00263

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: And I would expect to win.
2 Don -- Robert.

3

4 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 Ray, maybe we should put the word in there, middle man or
6 something.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. WALKER: Something.....

11

12 MR. COLLINS: Well, I raised that issue
13 but it would be very difficult to get it written so that
14 it would cover and wouldn't be abused and so on and so it
15 just kind of didn't go anywhere.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Don.

18

19 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Using Ray's
20 example, he's a rural resident and if he went and
21 purchased subsistence caught fish from another rural
22 resident, that's perfectly fine under the regulations,
23 and that's unlimited.

24

25 MR. COLLINS: Right.

26

27 MR. RIVARD: You could then take those
28 fish and you could sell them to another rural resident.
29 There's no limitation between rural residents.

30

31 But then to get further on, now, you've
32 taken some subsistence caught fish, you are allowed under
33 the customary trade regulation to sell to others, but the
34 person that then gets that, in this case you're talking
35 about your daughter in Anchorage, now, she's the one that
36 has to use that for personal consumption or her family's
37 personal consumption. She could not resell that fish.

38

39 MR. COLLINS: I understand. But actually
40 I didn't put up the fish as a rural resident and sell to
41 her so it's not -- but, yeah, there is kind of a gray
42 area in there on -- do you see what I mean, I'm acting as
43 an agent in the sense because I didn't put up the fish
44 but I did purchase them and then I collected the money
45 from my daughter in town.

46

47 Maybe it's covered in the existing ones,
48 I don't know, it wasn't.....

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: It is a gray area, let's

00264

1 keep it as gray as we can get.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Because the more
6 restrictions we put on ourselves the more limited we can
7 do anything.

8

9 Carl.

10

11 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I think the key
12 wording there, you being from the rural, Ray, the key
13 word is non-rural purchaser.

14

15 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

16

17 MR. MORGAN: That's a non-rural, it
18 wouldn't have to be somebody from urban Alaska buying
19 this, purchasing this and bringing it -- cannot collect
20 and resell subsistence. The key word is non-rural
21 purchaser.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: Right. But there are now
24 people, even from villages here that live in Anchorage
25 and when they go home on visits, somebody in town that's
26 also -- may be a former resident will ask, you know, get
27 me some fish and they're bringing it back, so there are
28 cases where there's Native Alaskans in town who go out
29 purchase the fish and go back and then sell them to their
30 neighbor or rest of their family in Anchorage, not sell,
31 they just collect the money, they act as an agent.

32

33 It's just kind of a gray area. As long
34 as it's not being abused probably won't -- anything will
35 happen.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: I still think that you
38 would be in the right because I don't think you would be
39 selling it for profit either, you're not even acting as
40 an agent, you're just making sure that your family ties
41 have the opportunity to get some fish because they're not
42 out here.

43

44 Anything else for Don on customary trade.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not keep going.

49

50 MR. RIVARD: Okay, Mr. Chair, your next

00265

1 topic is, I'm going to give you a little status report on
2 the statewide rural determination contract. That's also
3 under Tab F and it starts on Page 259, it's kind of a
4 written summary.

5
6 There was going to be a Federal
7 Subsistence Board meeting in January, this past January
8 but that was canceled because there were some other
9 things that needed to be done. The final report is out
10 from the Institute of Social and Economic Research and
11 Robert Wolfe & Associates, on their methodology that they
12 came up with for rural determinations. Right now it's in
13 the process of being peer reviewed by, I think it may be
14 up to a half a dozen social scientists, experts in their
15 field, to just make sure that the methods that they came
16 up with are valid ones.

17
18 And once -- and we're not sure exactly
19 when that timetable for having that peer review done, but
20 once it's done it will be back on track to come at some
21 point before your Council -- should the Federal
22 Subsistence Board choose one of those methodologies, they
23 will send that out for public review including it will go
24 in front of all the Councils. And that could be as early
25 as your fall meeting but I'm not guaranteeing it, it may
26 be a year from now before it would come before you.

27
28 And that's all I have on the subject.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just for my information,
31 how many of our Council members attended any kind of
32 meetings on this rural determination thing? I think
33 Micky and I attended one in Fairbanks at the Doyon
34 building and at the end it just turned out to be a
35 shouting match between myself and Micky and a couple of
36 residents of Fairbanks.

37
38 Any questions for Don. Robert.

39
40 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don,
41 when you go through your customaries -- what is customary
42 trade and sharing and bartering, the effect by the
43 regulations, and you go on here, it doesn't say anything
44 about taking fish and trading it for rope, bartering. I
45 mean all it says is just cash, cash, cash. I mean some
46 people do trade fish for other than cash. I mean, you
47 know, like I say, John Doe needed parts and he says,
48 okay, I got \$80 worth of fish and you got a \$79 part,
49 let's trade. I mean.....

50

00266

1 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Mr. Walker, if
2 you look on Page 255, I think those questions will be
3 answered there. It gives a definition of customary
4 trade, which is the traditional sales of subsistence
5 harvested fish and wildlife. And then the next question,
6 are sharing and barter affected by these regulations, and
7 the answer is no. This is only a regulation on customary
8 trade and that's the exchange of fish for cash.

9

10 The other things as you say, barter,
11 those are allowed. Subsistence caught fish by rural
12 residents, bartering for non-cash items is allowed. It's
13 protected under ANILCA.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: If I remember right that's
18 all we used to do was this.

19

20 Any further questions on rural
21 determinations or customary trade before we go any
22 further.

23

24 Robert.

25

26 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
27 Don, we put a limit on this last year at the meeting in
28 McGrath here, is that still the same limit we're going to
29 go buy or maybe Ron could answer that, either you or Ron.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Don.

32

33 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Mr. Walker, the
34 Board decided not to go at this time with any limits.
35 They considered that. There were a number of Councils
36 that came up with kind of their own limits, cash limits,
37 value limits on the amount of fish or traded at one time
38 -- or excuse me, yeah, customary traded, and they just
39 decided not to go with those limits. Now, that doesn't
40 mean that at some point in the future a particular region
41 might want to try to get that into regulation for their
42 region if it looks like that's needed.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. And the reason
45 behind this was because a lot of the Councils, quite a
46 few of them, in fact, wanted to start with \$300 or \$400
47 limit and as you go on up there's some Councils that
48 really wanted limits on there upwards to three to 4,000,
49 and they said that it's something they've done all the
50 time and -- and when we did discuss that, we said that if

00267

1 we put any kind of limit it would have to be area
2 specific and I guess they didn't want to deal with that
3 because we would have about four or five more different
4 regulations and that would only apply to certain areas.

5

6 Don.

7

8 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair. And to add
9 to that, once you put a limit on there like that, then it
10 implies you're going to need some kind of recordkeeping
11 and we -- the Council -- excuse me, the Federal
12 Subsistence Board got plenty of feedback that people
13 didn't want to see the recordkeeping part of this, at
14 least at this time. So that was one of the reasons they
15 said, well, let's just not go with a limit.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: And again, at that meeting,
24 if we have a concern that we need to protect the
25 resource, in other words we feel that there's too much of
26 it going on and it's damaging the king salmon, for
27 instance, something like that, then we could come in with
28 a proposal for our area to set limits that would protect
29 the resource and they'll entertain those kind of
30 proposals now, but this is generic for statewide with no
31 limits.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions on
34 customary trade or rural determinations.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Were those answers
39 sufficient, Robert?

40

41 MR. WALKER: Yeah, they were.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

44

45 MR. WALKER: Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

48

49 MR. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chair, the last
50 time we had a meeting in McGrath we kind of like put a

00268

1 limit on what we were going to do but I see now they
2 turned around and they took this off, which makes real
3 good sense here because if people are going to have to
4 start taking whatever they sell and turn it back over to
5 the Federal government here or the State then it's going
6 to cause another problem. There'd have to be another
7 division here just to open up for customary trade.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, and not only that
10 but everybody out there that does trade would have to
11 have a ledger book handy at all times and open it up to
12 any kind of enforcement officer that comes around and
13 that's why that wasn't tied into it.

14

15 Your next item, Don.

16

17 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is on
18 the status of the draft regulatory coordination protocol.
19 And there's a briefing on it starting on Page 261 in your
20 book under Tab F.

21

22 This is an ongoing process mainly with
23 the State and the Federal government. And I'm not
24 knowledgeable of this. I don't have any firsthand
25 knowledge of this process. There is a good briefing, I
26 think, in your book, it does lay out a time table. And I
27 think it's somewhat behind schedule because there was --
28 if you look on Page 262, they originally were hoping to
29 get a draft protocol in front of your and the other nine
30 Councils and that's not happened yet, so they're somewhat
31 behind schedule to what they had hoped to be.

32

33 This is just -- I think this was
34 discussed a little bit earlier in your meeting yesterday,
35 just trying to come up with a protocol for how to
36 coordinate better, regulations that could maybe
37 simultaneously go before both the Board of Fisheries in
38 the case of fisheries and the Federal Subsistence Board
39 so they're just still working through that. There's a
40 committee that's formed and is working through that
41 process.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Don. I think
46 it was last night after our meeting that Micky brought up
47 an interesting point with what's going on down in Juneau
48 that the transactions or actions with DNR and Fish and
49 Game and who signed off on this interim MOA, you know,
50 will they -- will their signatures mean anything at all

00269

1 if the Governor changes that whole Fish and Game office
2 down at Juneau, you know. And that's something that we
3 have to stay on top of, and it's kind of scary if you
4 think further on it.

5

6 And I thought it would be worthwhile to
7 put this on record that we are concerned on all possible
8 moves down in Juneau on the signatories of this MOA.

9

10 Any questions for Don on MOA.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that it's
15 worthwhile noting that we should keep our eye on all the
16 signatories of this MOA. Do you follow my drift?

17

18 MR. RIVARD: (Nods affirmatively)

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Anything else on
21 MOA. Micky.

22

23 MR. STICKMAN: You know, when it first
24 came up, I don't know if you remember Ron, I thought
25 maybe it would be important for the tribes to be a part
26 of this memorandum of agreement.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, the record will show
29 Micky's concern about the tribal offices and this will be
30 recorded into our minutes of our next meeting. Is that
31 satisfactory Micky?

32

33 MR. STICKMAN: (Nods affirmatively)

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Anything
36 else for Don at this point.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, go on.

41

42 MR. RIVARD: Okay, Mr. Chair. The next
43 topic is under Item 10D, the changes in Regional Council
44 membership for the 2003 nomination cycle. This is,
45 again, under Tab F. On Page 267 there's questions and
46 answers that our office developed to try to answer all
47 the questions that we thought would come up.

48

49 Just to give you an update, we are now
50 into this, the first year of making some changes to the

00270

1 Council composition. Your Council will be expanded to
2 have 10 members, of which within three years -- this is a
3 three year period of implementation, but after three
4 years, in 2006, the Council composition will be 70
5 percent or seven members being self-designated as
6 subsistence users and then the other three would be
7 commercial or sport representatives. And, again, at this
8 cycle, the people that are applying right now, and I
9 think it just closed, maybe Jerry can clarify that for
10 me, but I think it just closed, the period for accepting
11 applications for the Council this cycle, this is the
12 first time that people are self-designating in which
13 group they want to be considered.

14

15 And it's going to be a three year phase
16 in period, as I stated. But next year, at this time you
17 should have 10 Council members. No one that's currently
18 on the Council is going to be removed. But when you do
19 come up for reappointment and you want to reapply then
20 you will also be designating, you know, which group you
21 want to be considered for.

22

23 At 2006, if for some reason, say you
24 didn't -- this particular Council didn't get anybody that
25 self-designated as a commercial or sport representative,
26 those three seats would remain vacant. They have to have
27 -- we have to have people that actually self-designate
28 themselves in those categories. And then your Council,
29 if that were the case that some were left vacant, some of
30 the seats were left vacant, that would be your Council
31 until the next year, so you would have a say a seven
32 person Council and you would look for a quorum for that
33 seven, which would be four members.

34

35 So that's how that's going to work. I
36 hope that makes sense. I think I confused myself with
37 that explanation, but thank you.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: It happens to me all the
42 time. As I stated, I approached a few people, with
43 commercial interests to try and have them file but as you
44 heard yesterday, I think there were two that filed out of
45 here. So maybe one would get on this year and then
46 others could just keep filing. I think that's the way
47 this new appointment system would work, right, until we
48 fully implement a 10 member Council with a 70/30 split;
49 is that right?

50

00271

1 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, Mr. Chair, just so
2 you're aware and your Council members, our office is
3 making a real concerted effort to spread the word out as
4 well to different groups, to commercial and sport
5 interests, that this is something that's available to
6 them now. So we're trying to do that, too. Not actively
7 encouraging any particular individual, but just letting
8 them know the opportunity is there to apply to these
9 Councils.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: I actively pursued that
14 already.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

19

20 MR. MORGAN: I was just curious, is there
21 any criteria? Is there any set rules who can apply as a
22 commercial or who can apply as a sports?

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Don.

25

26 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Mr. Morgan,
27 there are -- basically it has to be a person from that
28 region. So other than that I'm not aware of any
29 particular ones. That all gets -- it doesn't stop
30 anybody from applying, but what we are going to go
31 through as we have in the past, an interview process, an
32 evaluation process with a panel of people. And they will
33 weigh the individual character -- experiences of people
34 and give a recommendation to the Federal Subsistence
35 Board as who the most qualified folks are. And there's
36 some criteria that are being developed in our office how
37 to categorize their particular experience and knowledge
38 and skills and abilities and all that.

39

40 So, yeah, there's criteria out there.

41 But it doesn't -- anybody can apply. And anybody -- the
42 only real criterium is that they be a resident of the
43 region for which they're applying.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. And if I remember
46 right, even if you are parks and recreation, commercial
47 enterprise, I think that you would qualify, too, for that
48 commercial seat on the Western Interior Council, right?
49 Do you have any idea on that?

50

00272

1 MR. RIVARD: Well, Mr. Chair. Again,
2 people will self-designate, you know, how they want to be
3 considered for the Council. If they want to be a
4 subsistence user, commercial user, or a sport user, for
5 lack of a better term. And then again, their
6 qualifications -- they're going to have to prove that
7 they are -- you know, if you want to designate yourself
8 as a commercial representing commercial interests and yet
9 you've had no experience commercial guiding or commercial
10 fishing or whatever, then obviously you're not going to
11 be qualified for that particular seat.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 MR. MORGAN: One more.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Carl.

18
19 MR. MORGAN: So one of the criteria, I
20 probably can run -- if I had to, is fill out one for
21 sports fishing -- I mean sports. Because I do -- like
22 when I'm in Juneau or someplace, where it's required for
23 me to have a sports fishing license. Would that qualify
24 me for running as a sportsman?

25
26 MR. RIVARD: I can't answer that
27 question, I don't know. Jerry -- Jerry's got something
28 here. Jerry's going to bail me out.

29
30 MR. BERG: Yeah, I think I can respond
31 somewhat to that Carl. I mean you could say that, you
32 know, I do sport fish and so I would like to apply as a
33 sport representative. However, the panel that's going to
34 be reviewing all the applications, they're going to
35 contact you and ask you what your experience is in
36 sportfishing and subsistence and commercial, so they're
37 going to ask you, you know, collectively your experience
38 and your background. They're also going to contact key
39 organizations in your region. They're going to contact
40 KNA, they're going to contact biologists that work with
41 Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife Service. They're
42 probably also going to contact some of the sportfishing
43 groups that maybe represent your area and say, will this
44 person represent your views for sportfishing in your
45 area. So that's something that they're going to
46 consider.

47
48 I would like to give just a short update
49 on, you know, the three Council members up this year for
50 Western Interior, are Angela's seat, Benedict and Carl

00273

1 Morgan. And so far we've received -- this is as of last
2 week, we received nine applicants for the Western
3 Interior seats and four of those applicants are from
4 Aniak. George Siavelis, who was here earlier and Harry
5 Allain have both applied, and I think they're both
6 guides, so they seem to be interested in the program.
7 Leo Morgan has applied. And then of course Carl is the
8 incumbent. So anyway. Angela has already applied and so
9 has Benedict.

10

11 So just to give you an update on -- I
12 can't remember the deadline right off hand either. I
13 think the application period is open but we're getting
14 very close to the deadline.

15

16 MR. BEYERSDORF: March 10th.

17

18 MR. BERG: March 10th, okay.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

21

22 MR. STICKMAN: There hasn't been any
23 commercial fishing in Y4A for five years but when there
24 was I was a fish egg buyer for Tola America and before
25 Tola America (ph), there was another outfit there that I
26 was a fish buyer there for. But I would be riding the
27 river, going from fish camp to fish camp buying fish
28 eggs, would that qualify me for commercial interests?

29

30 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Micky, again, as
31 Jerry pointed out, well, I think, it's going to be your
32 particular experience if you designate yourself as a
33 commercial, as representing commercial interests. And
34 then your -- there's going to be some other people that
35 are going to be spoken to about, would you, in fact, be
36 someone who is going to represent their interest.

37

38 So you know they'll check into it. But,
39 again, each person can self-designate which category they
40 want to be considered for. And I think if we looked
41 again on the applications here, if I can remember where
42 that's at.

43

44 MR. BEYERSDORF: Page 267.

45

46 MR. RIVARD: Let me look here in the
47 regulation book. What?

48

49 MR. BEYERSDORF: Page 267.

50

00274

1 MR. RIVARD: Page 267 I'm hearing. Oh,
2 yeah, that's the questions and answers.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that on down the
5 line is going to be harder and harder to answer all the
6 questions. I don't know how many of you know but that I
7 was recently reappointed and another friend of mine was
8 reappointed, and when I was interviewed, I was also
9 interviewed about the other person so it's getting
10 critical on all their questions. And I would think that
11 if you file for commercial you would have to have an
12 active commercial license at this time, that's what I
13 would think. But go ahead Don.

14

15 MR. RIVARD: Well, in your fisheries
16 management regulations book, the last page, Page 70, it
17 says become a member of a Federal Subsistence Regional
18 Advisory Council and it's got the criteria for
19 membership. Would you like me to read that, there's a
20 few bullets there. It's pretty general in nature.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

23

24 MR. RIVARD: But it says

25

26 A resident of the region, you or your
27 nominee wants to represent.

28

29 Knowledge of fish and wildlife resources
30 in the region.

31

32 Knowledge of subsistence uses, customs
33 and traditions in the region.

34

35 Knowledge of recreational, commercial and
36 other uses in the region.

37

38 Leadership and experience with local
39 regional organizations.

40

41 Ability to communicate effectively.

42

43 Willingness to travel to at least these
44 two meetings you have each year.

45

46 Willingness to occasionally attend
47 Federal Subsistence Board meetings.

48

49 So again, that's fairly general in
50 nature. But that's what the criteria are.

00275

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Don. Anything
2 further on Council member composition.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, go on.

7

8 MR. RIVARD: Okay, Mr. Chair, the next
9 item is Item E, and I believe we already covered that,
10 the call for Federal Fisheries Subsistence Proposals. We
11 covered that a little bit earlier today?

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I think we did.

14

15 MR. RIVARD: And then Item F, I believe
16 that I don't have anything on that, and I don't know if
17 Jerry may have something on that, Council Charter Review.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have anything
20 Jerry?

21

22 MR. BERG: No, I....

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that it comes up
25 every couple of years or something and I think we did
26 take some action at our winter meeting, right, and I
27 think that may have covered our criteria for being in
28 line with the requirements.

29

30 MR. BERG: Yeah, the only reason we left
31 that in there was you do have a brand new charter that
32 was just signed this last fall but with these new changes
33 of the 70/30 split, they're going through a process to
34 update your charter to include those changes and we
35 thought we were going to have those charters back in time
36 for this meeting, but we don't have them back in our
37 office yet, so you'll see your new charter with those
38 changes that will implement the 70/30 split in your
39 charter at your fall meeting, so there's really nothing
40 to address here at this meeting. Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's what I thought. So
43 does that conclude your presentation or do you have some
44 more?

45

46 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair, that
47 concludes all I have to say under Item 10.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does anyone have any more
50 questions for Don on anything.

00276

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you for that
4 presentation. We had a lot of questions which I
5 expected. What else do we have Jerry, do we have anyone
6 here from Migratory Bird Co-Management?

7

8 MR. BERG: No, Mr. Chair. Actually we
9 were going to have somebody from the regional office for
10 Migratory Birds was going to attend your meeting and give
11 us an update but he was unable to attend. So hopefully
12 the discussions we had earlier today that Dario helped us
13 out with provided the Council with an update on what's
14 going on with those changes to the spring migratory bird
15 regulations.

16

17 If the Council has any more questions we
18 can try to answer those with the folks we have here in
19 the room.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just for your information,
22 just before he left Dario gave me some more information
23 on this flier, under the closed season. He said they did
24 come into agreement that there were no specific dates on
25 these closures because at times we all go through this,
26 whereas one year we'll have warm and early spring, the
27 next year we'll have a cold and windy spring, so they're
28 letting -- instead of July 15th -- I mean June 15th
29 through July 15th, they're letting the weather and the
30 arrival of the birds dictate the closed season and stuff
31 like that.

32

33 That's all he wanted me to bring up.

34

35 Micky.

36

37 MR. STICKMAN: Just so the Council here
38 knows that, you know, for the Alaska Migratory Birds, I
39 sit on the Alaska Migratory Bird Council with Tanana
40 Chiefs so, we haven't had a meeting for awhile but Mike
41 was talking about -- Mike Smith from TCC was talking
42 about having a Migratory Bird Council meeting sometime
43 next month.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. And for
46 our area, because we're right in the middle of the Kanuti
47 Wildlife Refuge, we're pretty well covered with all the
48 latest, and as Bob Schulz, the manager stated, they'll be
49 having yet another meeting so at least we're up to date
50 here and there.

00277

1 Anything else on Migratory Bird Co-
2 Management Council.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, organization
7 reports. We had Dario give his. Do we have any -- I
8 don't see any others. Tribal councils.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Regional councils.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: So Dario's report will
17 constitute A under organization. B, Alaska Department of
18 Fish and Game. Randy.

19

20 MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
21 name is Randy Rogers. I'm a wildlife planner for the
22 Department of Fish and Game, Interior Region.

23

24 I put together a fairly detailed report
25 for your folks and I don't want to take any more of your
26 time than you really want on these so feel free to cut me
27 short if I go on a little too long on some of this.

28

29 You know, just to start with I want to
30 say that I appreciate the opportunity to comment here and
31 we really value and appreciate the input of this Council
32 involvement in our planning efforts and decisions about
33 those. I did want to also mention that Roy and I were
34 both sorry for arriving late yesterday. It was caused by
35 mechanical problems in the plane.

36

37 I'm going to just kind of run through in
38 order of events what's taken place since the meeting last
39 October. At that time I'd informed the Council of our
40 plans to conduct a regional moose management summit in
41 Aniak. And we did go ahead and do that and it went quite
42 well. Several of your Council members have been involved
43 in these meetings I'm going to be talking about, so I'd
44 really defer to their interpretations of what went on at
45 these meetings and whether they were successful and
46 accomplished what they wanted to, you know, more than my
47 own interpretations. And I noticed in your
48 correspondence that -- of course the Chair is on my
49 mailing list for all of these things, but I noticed that
50 he had sent on the summary of the Aniak moose summit to

00278

1 all of you so hopefully you've got an idea of that and
2 maybe I'll cover that a little more briefly.

3

4 But at the Aniak summit last October we
5 had really good attendance, we had over 70 people signed
6 in. We had 17 Staff persons from different State and
7 Federal agencies. I want to thank the Kuskokwim Native
8 Association for their help in organizing the meeting. We
9 really couldn't have done it without them.

10

11 Several members of the Western Interior
12 Council attended the meeting. And there was also
13 representation from the YK-Delta Council.

14

15 We had numerous State Fish and Game
16 Advisory Committees. Several commercial guides. The
17 Alaska Outdoor Council. Defenders of Wildlife.
18 Association of Village Council Presidents. We also had
19 Tanana Chiefs through the Holy Cross subregion office.

20

21 And I did want to mention that we had
22 outstanding participation from the Holy Cross and GASH
23 area. They went to the extent of chartering a plane to
24 come in and attend the meeting. Brought several of their
25 village corporation representatives and they had
26 involvement pretty well on an equal level to folks right
27 here in Aniak.

28

29 In the summit we listened to people's
30 concerns, recorded those on flip charts. We had
31 extensive information presentations from Toby Boudreau,
32 the McGrath area biologist, Roger Seavoy Bethel area
33 biologists, Mike Coffing with Division of Subsistence,
34 Brett Gibbons Fish and Wildlife Protection, Jeff Denton
35 BLM, Bill Schaff from Innoko Refuge, Steve Korath from
36 YK-Delta Refuge and Dave Kelly from the Department of
37 Natural Resources.

38

39 One of the things to note at the meeting
40 is that the folks, as things progressed, people from the
41 GASH area were concerned that we weren't really focusing
42 on the information of Unit 21(E) enough and we weren't
43 having enough time to address their concerns. This
44 resulted in kind of a separate breakout discussion in the
45 KNA conference room where we discussed a number of things
46 including the idea that several folks had to issue an
47 emergency order to close the winter moose season over
48 there. And one of the things that came out of that was
49 we agreed to hold a separate meeting in Holy Cross as
50 soon as possible.

00279

1 We had a great potluck dinner that night.
2 We also had a spaghetti feed that was sponsored by the
3 high school and hopefully they earned a little bit of
4 money there. But it made the meeting go a lot better.

5
6 I discussed a proposal that I had put
7 together to address planning issues in this region. And,
8 you know, one of the very first parts of that was to take
9 a regional perspective on moose management here and
10 that's why we invited folks from Unit 17, 18, 21(E), from
11 up to the McGrath area. We didn't want to look at a
12 piecemeal way of addressing moose in this area. And the
13 Board of Game had specifically directed us to take that
14 approach. Anyhow, I had put together a proposed process
15 for addressing planning in the area. We discussed that
16 with folks. I think we had general support for that and
17 did go ahead and move forward with the planning effort.

18
19 One of the key comment areas was how we
20 were going to make up this proposed planning committee
21 that we had. What we did go ahead and do, the major
22 change that took place is we added a lot more
23 representation from the Central Kuskokwim area.

24
25 Let me just real quickly read the list of
26 who's involved with this and where they're from.

27
28 Leo Morgan with Kuskokwim Native
29 Association.

30
31 Gail Vanderpool who's a member of the
32 local advisory committee. Gail is from
33 Red Devil but also spends time in Aniak.

34
35 Joe Bobby from Lime Village.

36
37 Evan Savage from Lower Kalskag.

38
39 Thomas Willis from Stoney River.

40
41 Mark Matter from Aniak.

42
43 Kelly Vrem, a guide out of Chugiak.

44
45 Karen Deatherage from Defenders of
46 Wildlife in Anchorage.

47
48 Greg Roczicka from Bethel representing
49 the Native Council there.

50

00280

1 Oscar Larson representing the Lower
2 Kuskokwim Advisory Committee.

3
4 Patrick O'Conner from Matanuska Valley
5 Advisory Committee.

6
7 Jim Harrower representing Anchorage
8 Advisory Committee.

9
10 Steve Hill representing transporters.

11
12 And then we also had, the Board of Game
13 met in their first teleconference and
14 they designated a liaison to our
15 committee who is Ted Spraker.

16
17 So we've got a little bigger committee
18 than I had originally thought of but I think it's really
19 helped to broaden the input there.

20
21 The other thing that we've done,
22 recognizing the need to keep people involved and informed
23 in a broad regional area is we've put in an advisory
24 group to the planning committee where we intend to send
25 them all the information from the meetings, make sure
26 that they have opportunities to have input to the
27 planning committee or to Staff, review any products that
28 come out of this planning effort and make sure that, you
29 know, if there's concerns or ideas that have not been
30 brought forward that there's opportunities for them to do
31 that.

32
33 In the first meeting there was a lot of
34 discussion about the lack of good data on moose
35 population status and subsistence harvest levels. This
36 is a big difference that we're going to face in this
37 planning effort relative to the Koyukuk Plan that you
38 guys are familiar with. We're going to have a very
39 difficult time. It's been a top priority for our
40 department to get additional population data out here but
41 the weather hasn't cooperated with that this year.

42
43 The committee, in our first meeting,
44 which was held the first week of February, we're
45 primarily getting organized and continuing to review
46 information there. But they did come up with this
47 statement, with the lack of definitive information on
48 where the moose population is they wanted to come to
49 agreement on what they thought about the situation we're
50 confronting. So this is the statement that they

00281

1 came.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Didn't we get that in the
4 mail?

5

6 MR. ROGERS: You didn't get this
7 statement in the mail but if you want me to cut it short
8 on the moose summit I can do that. Let me just read this
9 and I'll move on to the Holy Cross meeting.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Yes, for your
12 information we have two more Refuges that just got word
13 that their plane is coming in, in between 4:30 and 5:00
14 so make it a little bit short and just for your
15 information, I think you might have made a mistake when
16 you made your committee too large by inviting all the
17 local and non-local area people there. If you remember,
18 like why the Koyukuk River Moose Management worked so
19 well was there was only three or four advisory committee
20 members and two or three non-voting members from the
21 Federal Subsistence Council, and we brought in all the
22 guides and everybody else on that one, so, yeah, if you
23 could make it a little short that would be fine.

24

25 MR. ROGERS: That's why I mentioned up
26 front I could do that.

27

28 Based on traditional knowledge and the
29 knowledge of all users, the Planning
30 Committee agrees to the following:

31

32 There is a major concern that the moose
33 population in Unit 19(A)/(B) will not
34 meet the needs of local subsistence users
35 and other consumptive users. Local
36 observations conclude that the moose
37 population in this region is very low,
38 with the exception of a few localized
39 areas, and has and will continue to
40 jeopardize subsistence and other uses.

41

42 The group agreed that state surveys
43 enhance local knowledge and help when
44 recommendations are brought to the public
45 for further review.

45

46 You know, again, one of the key issues
47 that we're looking at here is decline of the moose
48 population, the desire to reduce predation and the fact
49 that we have no means available to control the level of
50 guiding and transporting. And, you know, that's a major

00282

1 concern that comes up in nearly every one of these
2 planning processes.

3

4 Okay. We conducted our moose management
5 meeting in Holy Cross January 29th and 30th, again, it
6 was really well attended. Appreciate the hospitality of
7 the community there. And appreciate the help of Angela
8 and Robert in planning out that meeting.

9

10 We had representatives from a lot of the
11 councils, advisory committees, reviewed a lot of
12 information same way we did at the Aniak summit. We had
13 representatives of Tanana Chiefs and Division of
14 Subsistence explain the proposed household subsistence
15 use project that is now being put in place there in the
16 GASH villages and that data will be very important to
17 future management decisions. We had extensive discussion
18 of the Federal C&T proposal for Unit 21(E), you folks
19 have already gone through that. I would like to mention
20 that as we look towards further planning efforts, I see
21 the State's role in working out that Federal C&T issue as
22 being very limited. Without any defined criteria in
23 place for how those decisions are made, I'm not sure that
24 I wouldn't look towards the State planning process to
25 resolve that one. But once we get going we'll do what we
26 can.

27

28 I think what we did see there is
29 recognition that the folks there in Holy Cross and the
30 GASH villages are wanting to be very proactive in
31 managing their moose and taking a very cautious approach
32 to that and I think that's very wise.

33

34 The advisory committee there voted to not
35 reauthorize the winter antlerless hunt so that will go
36 into effect for next year. There will not be the winter
37 hunt in Unit 21(E) and I think it's going to be important
38 that we make efforts to inform residents of those
39 villages and those others of this change in regulations
40 and we certainly don't want to see enforcement problems.

41

42 With regard to a few other planning
43 efforts, the Koyukuk Moose Plan is continuing to be
44 implemented. We did not have a meeting of the working
45 group this year, the need wasn't identified. We're
46 continuing to follow the prescriptions of the plan, but
47 the proposed life of that plan will be coming up before
48 long and we would appreciate it if members of this
49 Council could start thinking about issues of concern that
50 there may be and what will be the need for updating that

00283

1 plan in the not too distant future.

2

3 There is a Western Arctic Caribou Herd
4 Plan which Benedict has been a member of the committee
5 working on that. There's a proposed final version that
6 is available. They're meeting next week and may very
7 well take action to finalize that. I've got one copy
8 here that I wanted to go ahead and leave with the Council
9 if anybody's interested in taking a look at that.

10

11 And I'd like to mention that Division of
12 Wildlife Conservation did receive some funding support
13 from Office of Subsistence Management for these planning
14 efforts which will be, you know, greatly appreciated.
15 The problem that I will still have is being able to, just
16 staff-wise, to keep up with all the information
17 distribution and meeting organization that it takes to
18 run these efforts.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you, Randy.
23 That was a pretty comprehensive report but I think that's
24 one of the reasons that I did cut you short a little bit
25 because we did take action on Proposal 33 yesterday and
26 you were here when we did. And, again, I would like to
27 just commend you for your work on that Koyukuk River
28 Moose Management Working Group, Gwich'in Working Group
29 out of Fort Yukon and your efforts in trying to get this
30 group off the ground and solving the big moose issue that
31 we have between here and Unit 18 -- 21(E) and 18. And I
32 would again just like to thank you for your efforts on
33 those, especially those three moose working groups that
34 are working, two working and one you've just formed. And
35 I think that, again, if everybody brings all the truths
36 to the table as we did in the other two, I think you will
37 resolve the issue between us and them, you know.

38

39 Any further questions for Randy.

40

41 Robert.

42

43 MR. WALKER: Yes, Randy. Thank you, Mr.
44 Chairman. Bob Schulz gave me here where it says --
45 remember yesterday I asked the question about the wolf
46 and wolverine, are they a big game, were you here when I
47 asked that question?

48

49 MR. ROGERS: Yes, I was here.

50

00284

1 MR. WALKER: Yes. Bob Schulz did bring
2 it to me and he showed me that the wolf and wolverine is
3 classified as a big game and on the next page they are
4 classified as a furbearing animal, too. And that is
5 quite interesting to know because on one hand you have a
6 big game and on the other hand you have furbearing. So
7 this is kind of an issue here, I don't know where it's
8 going to go or how it's going to handicap you guys on
9 this -- is there anyway -- I don't think there's going to
10 be any way to resolve this because it's already inside
11 the book.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
14 Randy.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, again, I thank you
19 and, go ahead.

20
21 MR. ROGERS: Yes, thank you, Mr.
22 Chairman. And I just wanted to mention that I did bring
23 a couple of extra copies of the meeting summary from the
24 Holy Cross meeting. So if anybody didn't get one in the
25 mail, I don't think I have your entire Council on the
26 list and you may not have had a chance to send it, so if
27 anybody wants those I've got copies.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. And I believe
32 that I may have requested that everything dealing with
33 the GASH area problems on moose I think I asked -- I
34 requested Vince to get everybody a copy of all the
35 proceedings -- or all the correspondence that he gets
36 from you and I asked that that be forwarded. Did anybody
37 get that?

38
39 (Council Nods Affirmatively)

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Okay, so we're
42 pretty well covered out of the information that you sent
43 me.

44
45 Again, thank you we'll take a look at it
46 and thanks again for your effort Randy.

47
48 MR. ROGERS: Thank you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

00285

1 MR. STICKMAN: I just wanted to thank
2 Randy for his work because, you know, through our work
3 with the Koyukuk River Moose Hunters Working Group and
4 working with Randy I thought that he would be, you know,
5 the right person to come down to this area to do this
6 kind of work. So I just wanted to thank Randy for doing
7 that.

8

9 (Applause)

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Wait, wait, wait, wait.
12 Once we got that Koyukuk River Moose Working Group in
13 place we more or less forced Randy onto the Eastern
14 Interior and the Gwich'in Working Group up there so he
15 does deserve a round of applause for all his efforts on
16 the Koyukuk River, Fort Yukon, Gwich'in area and GASH
17 area. Good, thank you Randy.

18

19 (Applause)

20

21 MR. ROGERS: Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again.

24

25 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: He can come back to
26 Holy Cross any time he wants.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: You see.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Innoko National
33 Wildlife Refuge or Koyukuk/Nowitna, who's first -- okay,
34 Innoko.

35

36 MR. SCHAFF: Good afternoon, Mr.
37 Chairman. Board. My name is Bill Schaff, I'm the Refuge
38 Manager at Innoko National Wildlife Refuge. One nice
39 thing about going last is a lot of the stuff that I'm
40 going to cover has already been covered so I can go over
41 it pretty quickly.

42

43 Innoko in the next few months, we will be
44 hosting several steel-shot clinic, waterfowl clinics in
45 conjunction with the opening -- the legal opening of
46 spring waterfowl season. We'll be holding a clinic in
47 Shageluk on April 6th and 7th and in Holy Cross on April
48 8th and 9th, and these will be -- we hope to get similar
49 information that Bob Schulz talked about, give out some
50 information on the spring waterfowl as well as do a

00286

1 little educational thing on steel-shot.

2

3 In addition to that, in conjunction with
4 the 100th Anniversary of the Refuge system, which was
5 February 14th, we'll be holding a couple of additional
6 potluck type celebrations in, not only Holy Cross and
7 Shageluk on those dates but also in Grayling and Anvik on
8 -- I don't have the dates in front of me for those two
9 things but it we'll be having additional meet the public
10 type things. The intent is -- well, the intent is really
11 to just get out and have face to face meetings with the
12 people in all the villages that we regularly deal with on
13 the Refuge.

14

15 One thing I'd like to ask the Board and
16 in particular Robert Walker and Angela, is we're trying
17 to drum up interest in a summer youth camps, which could
18 lead to summer employment, step programs and eventually
19 permanent employment and other possibilities with Fish
20 and Wildlife or other agencies, and Clara Demientieff
21 will be getting in touch with people, if she has not
22 already, trying to drum up interest. So if anyone has
23 any ideas on, not just individuals, but on ways to get to
24 youth that might be interested in that type of
25 employment, we'd be more than welcome to listen and more
26 than welcome to take any suggestions.

27

28 Innoko has been -- has a vacant lead
29 wildlife biologist position. Bob Skinner left to go to
30 Montana in September. I had hoped to fill that position
31 by now, due to some snafu's with personnel, it should be
32 advertised pretty soon and I hope to get that new lead
33 wildlife biologist on board by late spring or early
34 summer, before the field season really hits us.

35

36 Some of the projects that we have going
37 for this field season continuation of some projects. The
38 whitefront goose study that I'm sure Jeff will talk about
39 is in conjunction with migratory bird, Koyukuk/Nowitna
40 Refuges, and some other Interior Refuges, that project is
41 ongoing. We'll be doing several fish studies in
42 conjunction with Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries
43 Service on salmon. We have three radio towers that track
44 fish. The same towers are used by Randy Brown, the
45 Fisheries Assistance Office to track whitefish with --
46 like I said Randy Brown is working on that project. And
47 that's interesting, in that, we heard earlier today from
48 some other folks about the travel of the whitefish. We
49 have some whitefish that was tagged, radio-tagged last
50 year on Innoko Refuge and have gone up the Koyukuk River

00287

1 up as far as Fairbanks and the Yukon and I'm not sure of
2 their current status but last fall it was up past
3 Fairbanks on the Yukon. So the fish from the Innoko are
4 traveling throughout the Interior also.

5

6 Let's see Innoko has three -- on the big
7 game guide issues that was talked about earlier, Innoko
8 has three big game guide areas. We have reduced the
9 number -- we started out years ago with four areas, we
10 reduced that officially under the new offerings and the
11 reason we did that is the amount of corporation land and
12 subsistence hunting that occurs in the southwest corner
13 of the Refuge, that area closest to Grayling, Shageluk,
14 Anvik and Holy Cross. So we've reduced that to try to
15 enlarge that area so the one guide that would be covering
16 that area has a lot more area up the Iditarod River and
17 up the Innoko River farther away from the villages.

18

19 That's about it. Other stuff has been
20 covered by other speakers. So that kind of covers the
21 Innoko Refuge in a nutshell. I'll be glad to answer any
22 questions.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions for Innoko
25 Wildlife Refuge.

26

27 MR. STICKMAN: Ron.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

30

31 MR. STICKMAN: You know, I was curious
32 yesterday after we had our discussion on proposals and we
33 were talking about harvest surveys. And I was wondering,
34 what happened to Clara, the Refuge Information Technician
35 for the Innoko?

36

37 MR. SCHAFF: Clara's daughter had some
38 celebration for her, so Clara was in town in Anchorage
39 last week, and my goal is to have someone here at all of
40 the RAC meetings, ideally two people. Clara was
41 unavailable this week as I was last fall. I hope she'll
42 be here, we'll make every effort to get her here for
43 future meetings.

44

45 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you. I just thought
46 it was important for her to be here since she was the one
47 that actually went out to the villages and gathered that
48 harvest information.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. Any

00288

1 further questions. Robert.

2

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

4 Bill, this is quite interesting on this tagging of this
5 whitefish that it migrated so far. On your pike tagging,
6 did you do any pike tagging too to see how far they
7 travel or anything besides whitefish?

8

9 MR. SCHAFF: We did not do any tagging of
10 pike. I know John Burr, with the State was working south
11 of the Refuge boundary down around Reindeer Lake, I
12 believe on some pike tagging issues. I'm not sure if he
13 tagged fish or what he was doing. He talked about
14 expanding that study up on the Refuge. I don't think he
15 ever did this last year. We'd be glad to work with him
16 if he decides to do that and expand this year.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions. Go
19 ahead, Angie.

20

21 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Mr. Chair, mine is not
22 a real question, mine is more of a comment.

23

24 Since you have taken over the Innoko
25 Wildlife Refuge we have seen more of you than we've ever
26 seen of anybody from the Innoko Wildlife Refuge and the
27 people where I come from are really glad you're starting
28 to show your face in our area. Because we heard of you
29 guys, we knew you were over there but now we're seeing
30 you a lot and we really appreciate your efforts that
31 you're making to come and visit with us on the Yukon
32 side.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Angie. I think
35 that just knowing and seeing the people, just like the
36 Kanuti Wildlife Refuge people, seeing them darn near
37 every day just really breaks down any communication
38 barriers that you had perceived, real or perceived, and
39 once you get to know each other and you know you're
40 working for the same goal, that just takes away a whole
41 lot of other small stuff that's not needed. And thanks
42 for that effort.

43

44 Any further questions.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, we sure appreciate
49 your report and give my regards to Clara.

50

00289

1 MR. SCHAFF: Okay. Thank you. And
2 Angela, thank you for that. One additional thing that
3 did remind me when you said that is we are setting up a
4 1-800 number so people from the villages will be able to
5 call the office if they have issues they want to discuss.
6 I'm amiss in not bringing that number with us, we just
7 got it about a week ago and I will bring it over when we
8 have these celebrations. I will make sure it's on a
9 poster.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Do you have a
14 ride to your plane set up? Do you have a ride set up to
15 your plan?

16

17 MR. SCHAFF: Yes.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. All right,
20 Koyukuk/Nowitna and then they can get out to the airport.
21 Jeff.

22

23 MR. BEYERSDORF: Mr. Chair. Members of
24 the Council. I'm Jeff Beyersdorf with the
25 Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge. And as Bill already mentioned
26 some of this stuff's already been covered but I'll really
27 quickly go over and give you a summary here.

28

29 There were some concerns expressed in
30 past years in regards to declining caribou numbers for
31 the Galena Mountain Herd. Last year we instituted, along
32 with ADF&G a caribou collaring project and this year
33 we're going to be continuing doing transects and
34 distribution surveys. They're also going to be doing
35 some aggregation surveys to find out where the calving
36 grounds are. One of the things that we've been seeing so
37 far is that it may not be a declining population but what
38 may be, in fact, happening is that the Galena Mountain
39 Herd is mixing with the Ray Mountain Herd.

40

41 Another thing we talked about previously
42 on waterfowl with Benedict's question in regard to
43 greater whitefronted geese, there has been a study that
44 was being conducted that should be wrapped up this winter
45 sometime but one thing that they were seeing is the
46 geese, the subpopulation from this Interior was going
47 down to the Alberta area three weeks earlier and being
48 exposed to hunting pressures for a longer time period
49 than other subpopulations and that may be one reason for
50 the decline that we're seeing but we're also working with

00290

1 the Canadian Wildlife Service to try and address that
2 through regulations.

3

4 Another thing I wanted to mention, as
5 Bill mentioned the Centennial, the Refuge system
6 celebrated its 100th Birthday March 14th [sic], and we've
7 been working with -- Patrick actually helped put together
8 a video and we've been going out to the seven of the
9 eight villages associated with the Refuge and doing a
10 celebration of potluck kind of an awareness that the
11 people in the villages have been preserving these natural
12 resources and they have similar goals as the Fish and
13 Wildlife Service. So we've been doing a potluck dinner
14 with them and doing an educational program during the
15 day. We're also putting together a time capsule and so
16 all the kids in the villages have been participating in a
17 project where they choose an item to put in the Refuge
18 time capsule which we're bury somewhere on the Refuge and
19 then dig it up in 100 years. So all the kids from the
20 villages are having an opportunity to contribute to that.

21

22 Another thing that both Bob and Bill
23 mentioned was the non-toxic shot clinics that have been
24 going on and that's in conjunction with the April 2nd
25 opening of the spring/summer subsistence bird harvest
26 surveys. We've got some clinics set up for Hughes for
27 April 11th and 12th and Kaltag, I think April 8th and
28 9th, the first week there. And then Patrick's also going
29 to be assisting -- we're doing four other clinics in
30 Bettles, Allakaket, Circle and Fort Yukon, and Patrick
31 and Orville Huntington will be assisting with those
32 clinics.

33

34 We'll be doing our goose productivity
35 surveys again this year on the Nowitna River and the
36 Dulbi River and also Patrick and I have been working
37 together on waterfowl harvest survey data. Patrick
38 finished up for this last year, what he found was the
39 goose harvest numbers this last year had gone down.
40 Probably attributed to warmer temperatures and people's
41 inability to travel, to access the geese for hunting. It
42 looks like the duck numbers, the duck hunting was average
43 though. We're going to be -- when I get back, Patrick
44 and I are going to sit down and go over the '98 to 2002
45 data and I will present you with a summary report at the
46 fall meeting, which my understanding is you're going to
47 have in Galena.

48

49 We conducted a wolf trapping snare clinic
50 in Galena this past January. There is some interest

00291

1 that's been expressed by other villages and I think that
2 working in conjunction with the State we're going to go
3 out this next winter again and do more trapping and
4 snaring clinics. If there's anybody here on the Council
5 that has an interest for the villages in our area we'd be
6 more than happy to put on a trapping snaring clinic in
7 that area.

8

9 I also wanted to let you know that we're
10 looking at doing -- Randy Brown has contacted our Refuge
11 and is looking at doing a sheefish, whitefish study on
12 the Nowitna River this next fall and we'll be going out
13 with him to do that.

14

15 The other thing in regards to fisheries,
16 the in-season harvest assessment was very successful.
17 Patrick and myself and Orville Huntington worked for the
18 Galena, Nulato and Huslia area in getting fisheries input
19 on that and the teleconferences. And, although, I think
20 Ray pointed out that we didn't get funding for this year,
21 we've been able to put together enough money in-house to
22 be able to continue that so Patrick will be working with
23 Nulato and Kaltag and I'll be in Galena and Orville will
24 be getting information from people in the Huslia area and
25 we will be -- we plan on participating in those weekly
26 teleconferences sponsored by YRDFA.

27

28 I think the last two things I have here.
29 One is I know that Benedict has expressed some concerns
30 and there's been concerns expressed here that I've heard
31 from the Council as far as the fishing schedule and then
32 also driftnet fishing in the 4A, 4B, 4C area. I was
33 working with William Dyrendoff, the first chief from the
34 Huslia Tribal Council and we put together a proposal to
35 the Board of Fish to allow driftnetting in the 4B, 4C
36 area. It sounds like it mimics pretty much your
37 proposal. We do give them the alternative, though, of
38 changing the schedule to try and alleviate some of the
39 pressures on the people in the Koyukuk Nulato area.

40

41 And lastly, in regards to this customary
42 trade issue, we understand that there's been quite a bit
43 of confusion in some of the villages in interpreting that
44 and myself, Patrick and Orville will be going to the
45 villages and sitting down and meeting with people and
46 trying to address some of their concerns and clarify some
47 of the questions that they might have on this customary
48 trade issue.

49

50 And with that, I think that's all that I

00292

1 have. If you have any questions for Patrick or myself.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: How far up river are you
4 going in explaining the customary trade issue?

5

6 MR. BEYERSDORF: We'll be going Huslia,
7 Hughes, that far up on the Koyukuk, and then we'll be
8 going from Kaltag probably over to Ruby and Tanana.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: If invited would you go to
11 Allakaket, I've tried and tried to explain it and all the
12 correspondence that I -- I delegate to Vince Mathews,
13 everything that deals with Fish and Game, especially the
14 ones that are area specific, they go directly to the
15 tribal councils but then the tribal council sees their --
16 especially mine, is too busy or doesn't understand, it
17 more or less constitutes my report, so instead of it
18 going out to the -- copied and being delivered to our
19 council members it just piles up in my box again. So
20 it's just like a round robin until I can straightened
21 that out. So if invited to Allakaket, would you make it
22 up there, too?

23

24 MR. BEYERSDORF: Yes, I believe I could.
25 What I've done in the past is both Huslia and Ruby asked
26 for explanations on this customary trade issue and I'm
27 working with Pete Probasco and Carl Jack in the OSM
28 office, if they cannot make it to Allakaket, then I'm
29 willing to come instead.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
32 questions. Micky.

33

34 MR. STICKMAN: No real questions, but
35 during the winter moose hunt this February there was some
36 concern of the Chugach Development workers working at the
37 basin green bringing their friends in and hunting at that
38 five day hunt that I thought was supposed to be for local
39 subsistence users.

40

41 The other concern I have is the northern
42 Innoko, if you look at their map, the northern Innoko
43 lies right in between -- or it's right in the middle of
44 the communities of Nulato and Kaltag and those -- the
45 Refuge itself is right in our traditional use area. But
46 I've heard that the Refuge is under pressure to be opened
47 up for guided hunts. And if that's the case, I would
48 like a public comment period to be announced for the
49 villages of -- I mean I'd like the Refuge manager and
50 you, and maybe even Patty Bunn to go to the villages of

00293

1 Nulato and Kaltag and get -- let the people express their
2 concerns.

3

4 Thanks.

5

6 MR. BEYERSDORF: Mr. Chair. Member
7 Stickman. In regards to -- I'm glad you brought that up
8 on the guided hunts. For the northern Innoko there are
9 not going to be any offerings for special permit use
10 permits for the northern Innoko area. There will be
11 offerings on -- there are three offerings, open areas on
12 the Koyukuk and there's going to be three openings on the
13 Nowitna River, but none for northern Innoko.

14

15 In regards to your statement on non-
16 locals coming in and hunting in that area, we are aware
17 of that and we are looking at ways to try and address
18 that.

19

20 MR. STICKMAN: Thanks.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
23 Koyukuk/Nowitna. Angie.

24

25 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 Pat, could you tell us what -- how did you get involved
27 in all of this, you know, and what is your experience, or
28 have they been good, and when you travel to the
29 communities do you also meet with the students of those
30 villages and let them know how they can go into your job
31 one day.

32

33 MR. MADROS: Well, I've had a pretty
34 checkered background involvement with Fish and Wildlife
35 and stuff. Where mine began was with the Kaltag Tribal
36 Council working as their wildlife and parks specialist
37 and I've attended a few of your guy's meetings in the
38 past -- way in the past. And I've been talking -- I
39 talked with Micky and I talked to a lot of commercial
40 fishermen, subsistence fishermen over the years and I
41 guess Micky pushed for the opening with the Galena Refuge
42 and he mentioned it to me so I just applied.

43

44 Most of my experience has been good.

45

46 What I've dealt with in the past, mainly
47 was with the spring waterfowl harvest surveys. That's
48 what I initially came on board to do. I came on board and
49 went to the three or four villages and I've probably
50 stopped by Benedict's and asked him if got any geese or

00294

1 ducks once or twice. And that's basically how I got in,
2 was through that involvement. The Refuge's five year
3 assessment plan to help kind of deal with the aspects of
4 the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

5

6 It was kind of hard and we've had -- I
7 mean it was kind of hard to keep my job going and stuff
8 and right now I'm putting on a lot more hats so I can
9 keep working and stuff. And with Jeff's help, when he
10 came on board and -- when I first came on board I didn't
11 have no direction from the Refuge Staff until they
12 appointed a subsistence coordinator, Jeff, and together
13 we're working towards, you know, education and stuff.
14 And one of the things I like doing is the steel-shot
15 clinics. I've done one in Nulato and then we've done a
16 couple -- I did one in Huslia last year. And along that,
17 you know, we're trying to educate the youth about the
18 importance of trying to take game efficiently and using
19 the game right and that's -- we try to target, you know,
20 if the kid can hold up the shotgun theirself, you know,
21 we target them and we let them get involved.

22

23 And your thing to education about
24 involvement with students to get into the fisheries
25 business. One of the things we've kind of -- well, I've
26 asked about, you know, is, like we have weirs on the
27 Gisasa and on the Kateel Rivers through Fish and Wildlife
28 Service and in past years, you know, one of the things
29 that I just talked to them about is trying to get more
30 information on those weirs.

31

32 And then recently we went to a YRDFA
33 conference and I asked YRDFA and the Staff members from
34 Fish and Wildlife office in Fairbanks and I'm just
35 gathering information, you know, to help try to
36 disseminate some of the information to have for students
37 who would be interested in going to the biology programs
38 and how they can become interns with Fish and Wildlife
39 Service. It's in the beginning stages right now and
40 hopefully I'll work on it further to, you know, help our
41 youth get out there into the employment world.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jeff.

44

45 MR. BEYERSDORF: Mr. Chair. Angela. I'm
46 glad you asked that question. One of the reasons is that
47 I think I'm relatively new to my position and Patrick
48 came on very shortly after I did, but I'm really seeing
49 where RITs are critical to a lot of the Fish and Wildlife
50 Service programs. And one thing that I've been talking

00295

1 to some people in the regional office and I think they're
2 becoming aware of it also. We had a meeting back in
3 December and I think it really opened their eyes as to
4 how important RITs are to the Fish and Wildlife Service.
5 And the RITs, we're asking to become a lot more involved
6 in education, and hopefully in the future I think that
7 that's the direction I'd really like to see it go.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you for that
16 report. I see we have very few people left, but I would
17 like to thank all of you, Staff, for bearing with us and
18 sticking it out to the end. As I stated earlier in the
19 meeting, I think it was yesterday, right around the
20 beginning time that you people are our only Staff, only
21 paid Staff that we got and you do work for us and you've
22 been doing a wonderful job, all of you.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 Randy, on your report, did you cover that
27 Division report or not, or is that just your planning
28 efforts?

29

30 MR. ROGERS: That's all I had for now,
31 Ron.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, good. For the
34 record, for the record, the microphone.

35

36 MR. ROGERS: That's all I had for now,
37 Ron.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

40

41 MR. ROGERS: I apologize, I got to dash.
42 I have this truck I rented from DOT that they're going to
43 close in a few minutes.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, yes.

46

47 MR. ROGERS: I've been trying to help
48 with rides as much as can with you folks, but.....

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

00296

1 MR. ROGERS:hopefully I'll see you
2 this evening, yet.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. We appreciate your
5 efforts on that behalf, too. I see Jeff Denton. Okay,
6 at this time I would also like to excuse Ray Collins
7 momentarily until he finds out when his plane is coming
8 in. I think he's trying to get out tonight. Benedict, I
9 think is also leaving, if he wants to race in Galena.

10
11 So, Jeff, go ahead.

12
13 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
14 name is Jeff Denton. I'm with the Anchorage Field
15 Office, BLM. And my report will be brief because Randy
16 covered most of the efforts that BLM's involved in with
17 the 19(A) and (B), (C) and (D) moose problems, the whole
18 regional problems.

19
20 We've been doing a limited amount of work
21 over the last three years in terms of some moose surveys
22 and stratifications. We're cooperating in the current
23 effort in 19(A) waiting for the snow with Toby. We've
24 committed aircraft and fuel and so on to that effort if
25 it should occur.

26
27 And we've done the last two years 19(A)
28 north of the Kuskokwim, we've actually done
29 stratification level work there. We've also done 19(D)
30 in 2002, a portion of it south of McGrath to the Swift
31 River. And we did this year, earlier 19(C) and part of
32 19(D) to the west of McGrath -- or to the east of
33 McGrath, excuse me, towards the south fork of the
34 Kuskokwim, Tonzona River, Bear Creek, Farewell burn area.

35
36 And our efforts are basically to take a
37 look at relative abundance and distribution of those
38 animals that are out there relative to the burns, the
39 historical burns over the last 40 years out there. And
40 what we're finding is a little bit alarming, we're seeing
41 a lot of really excellent habitat without a track in it,
42 with no animals in it at all. We're finding a few small
43 isolated pockets that moose population seem to be doing
44 fine. Production in some of those is 20 calves per 100
45 adults. We're doing these in the spring, so bulls don't
46 have antlers so we just have cows and bulls combined as
47 adults for our ratios, and those aren't too bad. But we
48 do find in the river areas, the calf crops and ratios are
49 much less than those out away from the rivers. It seems
50 like survivorship of calves away from the rivers is far

00297

1 greater than those associated with the river bottoms.

2

3 These are just some of the things we're
4 seeing.

5

6 We've also seen a very significant
7 decline in wolf sign trails and numbers in the three
8 different areas that we've done over the last three
9 years. In the 2001 when we did the George River country
10 most of the stuff in 19(A) north of the Kuskokwim,
11 tremendous wolf activity, packs of 20 animals were
12 observed, these sorts of things. In 2002 just on the
13 Kuskokwim bottom, south of McGrath to the west towards
14 the Alaska Range and just in the gross estimate, probably
15 60 percent less wolf sign. Wolf packs in the terms of
16 four and five animals, single animals and actually
17 trailing for wolves is much reduced. In 19(C) this year
18 extremely reduced, we only saw four wolves total, and
19 very little wolf sign except for individual animal tracks
20 and maybe a pair here and there.

21

22 So we're also seeing -- what I'm saying
23 is there's not enough moose out there to support any
24 wolves, to tell you the truth. There's tremendous areas
25 of marginal to moderately good moose habitat that don't
26 have any moose in them, not even a track. So like I say
27 there are some pockets, and we see twins, you know, in
28 those pockets we see production that's not too bad. We
29 see twining and we see cows with calves on a regular
30 basis in those.

31

32 I'll have the shiny reports of these done
33 hopefully, and send them out to you folks when we get
34 them done. My time's being diverted between the rest of
35 the state and other brush fires, I guess, what you'd call
36 them.

37

38 Lime Village report system is still in
39 tact, although we haven't had any reports since last
40 June. I know they're having a hard time finding moose
41 there. Their harvest record over the time has indicated,
42 you know, a very large proportion of their kill is cows.
43 It would appear that most of their reproductive resident
44 cow moose are gone. Most of them have been harvested,
45 and so it's pretty tough to maintain in densities of
46 moose and productivity of moose in Interior Alaska with
47 what we're encountering these days in densities and
48 numbers we can't be killing cows out there. And I think
49 it shows, over the last, we have nearly 10 years of data
50 now and it shows a very long-term steady decline of

00298

1 harvest and numbers. So there's legitimate concerns
2 there but it's also got to do with how those animals are
3 being harvested, and the cow harvest is probably a real
4 critical element out there.

5
6 The pike fish study that's been mentioned
7 several times, they do have some transmitters on Innoko
8 pike. The last time I talked to John, I believe, they
9 had some data, it was in the middle of summer I saw him
10 but they had pike moving from the Innoko Slough area
11 there as far as north as Shageluk, and also out to the
12 Yukon River, out to the south and to the west. So
13 there's considerable movement even in the summertime of
14 those fish. But that's all I know, I don't know what his
15 plans are for this coming year or anything.

16
17 Also of interest, at least, to the people
18 in the southern part of the Western Interior, the Fish
19 and Game and BLM and Fish and Wildlife Service Refuges
20 are trying to put together a Mulchatna Caribou Herd
21 Working Group, mostly with the agencies on better
22 management of money and personnel to do the, conduct more
23 scheduled and less redundant monitoring efforts of that
24 herd. That herd has apparently declined by about 50,000
25 animals in the last couple of years. At least that's
26 what the last census shows. There may be some gaps in
27 that census, we just didn't pick up some groups, we're
28 not real sure. But we're trying to combine the efforts
29 of all the agencies and the limited dollars aimed towards
30 Mulchatna Caribou to better effectively use personnel as
31 well as flight monies and this sort of thing to monitor
32 that herd.

33
34 Other than that, you know, I'm open for
35 questions.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Which moose population
38 were you talking about when you said they were so down
39 and so low that they can hardly reproduce?

40
41 MR. DENTON: Actually the three areas
42 that I've looked at in the last three years would be
43 19(A), the portion of it at least north of the Kuskokwim
44 River that I've flown. 19(D) south of McGrath, from
45 McGrath between Big River and the western boundary of
46 19(D) south to the Swift River. And then this year 19(C)
47 that includes Big River to the Little Tonzona River on
48 east of McGrath. Those are the three areas that we've
49 worked in.
50

00299

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Jeff.

2 Go ahead.

3

4 MR. COLLINS: A couple of comments. We
5 just had a meeting in McGrath and those that have been
6 out checking on the bison in the burn reported a lot of
7 wolves howling out there now. So I don't know whether
8 some have moved in since your count but there seems to be
9 a lot of activity right now out there.

10

11 MR. DENTON: That was the only place
12 where there were any moose in the country so if they've
13 found them they're probably going to concentrate on them
14 and be there. They weren't there. We had a week of
15 fresh snow. They weren't there when I was flying. But
16 there's no doubt they could have moved in there because,
17 really, that's the only moose prey base that they've got
18 in the country is right there.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
21 Jeff.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not I would like to
26 thank you for your couple of astute observations you made
27 and stated yesterday on our -- helping us determine what
28 really is C&T. And the other question that you brought
29 out, I guess when we spend all this money on fish it's
30 because it's not long ago when we thought about
31 subsistence food fish was almost always guaranteed when
32 we first -- when moose and stuff were just moving in.
33 And I would like to thank you for those astute
34 observations.

35

36 Thank you, Jeff.

37

38 Any further questions.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

43

44 MR. DENTON: Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Carl.

47

48 MR. MORGAN: Ron. Mr. Chairman, I am a
49 little bit -- maybe I forgot to scratch out number 9,
50 isn't that an action item this Council must approve,

00300

1 annual report, shouldn't we.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jerry.

4

5 MR. MORGAN: Jerry.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jerry.

8

9 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The annual
10 report, the draft annual report you can find under Tab E
11 and that report was drafted by Vince Mathews from the
12 notes from your last meeting last fall where you -- where
13 the Council identified issues that they'd like to have
14 addressed in their annual report. And you can see on the
15 second page of your annual report it identifies the four
16 main topics that the Council addressed -- or came up last
17 fall that they'd like to see addressed. So it's before
18 you now as a draft and it's up to the Council if they'd
19 like to make any changes to it at this point and then you
20 can approve it here and we can make changes and then send
21 another draft around to the Council and then of course,
22 it goes in for the final signature by the Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: So when are we mandated to
25 make it an action item, our next meeting?

26

27 MR. BERG: No, actually it would be good
28 to go ahead and get it approved at this meeting and that
29 way the Federal Board, the process that they go through
30 they'll review your issues this summer and respond --
31 they usually respond in August to your annual report.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Angie.

34

35 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
36 read that we will discuss the annual report for approval,
37 to open it up for questions or answers or questions.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: So you made a motion to
40 approve the annual report.

41

42 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. The motion was made
45 by Angela. Was there a second.

46

47 MR. MORGAN: I'll second it.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. And this is to read
50 and mostly for discussion purposes so we may go ahead and

00301

1 approve this. So take a few minutes and read it.

2

3 (Pause)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: I see that we've been
6 addressing this guide area selection for quite some time
7 and I think we're in the final process of getting what we
8 want. Any further comments, questions, changes.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, if there's no
13 more comments or changes -- there may be a slight change
14 here and there, I think, Vince Mathews can get back to
15 us.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

18

19 MR. MORGAN: I'd be minor changes. But
20 if there's no more changes or comments, I'd like to call
21 for the question.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. I think
24 we did pass one before and then it came back to Vince
25 from the Federal Subsistence Board or OSM with some
26 questions but that's all they were, some minor changes
27 and language changes, that's all they were.

28

29 So the question has been called for. All
30 those in favor of adopting our annual report 2002,
31 signify by saying aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

36

37 (No opposing votes)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank
40 you, I overlooked that one totally.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jerry, where are we?

45

46 MR. BERG: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, we are
47 under -- just for your informational purposes, under Tab
48 H, Vince has included a summary of correspondence sent
49 and received on behalf of the Council so you can see
50 under Tab H there's a summary of all the correspondence

00302

1 and all the Council members should have received copies
2 of those letters of correspondence. He's just listed a
3 summary of all those letters here. So that's just for
4 your information. And unless there's any questions
5 that's all there is for that item.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I think that's all
8 there is. Because I made a request that he followed up
9 on everything that's happening in the whole Western
10 Interior area from top to the bottom of the map, that all
11 of our Council members do get the correspondence,
12 especially the important ones but even if it doesn't
13 pertain to them, such as the Aniak meeting, I know that
14 all the Council members got that letter. So that's all
15 this is, this is information, we don't have the letters
16 there, so we'll move on to future meeting plans.

17

18 One of our newest members, Emmitt Peters,
19 I think, invited us to meet at Ruby, does that still hold
20 Emmitt?

21

22 MR. PETERS: Yes. I would be very
23 appreciated because we never had anything like this up in
24 our area so we'll definitely would like to host a meeting
25 up there and we'll work on it. If it's okay with the
26 Board, then I can step in and start working on it. Over
27 and out.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Emmitt. Is
32 there any opposition to meeting in Ruby, I think it's
33 overdue just as our newest village, newest member says,
34 we've had a meeting there.

35

36 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

39

40 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I
41 would say yes to meet in Ruby.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Maybe we should put it in
44 a motion, go ahead.

45

46 MR. COLLINS: Is the date already set the
47 30th and October 1, did you say?

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Oh, no, that was what --
50 what 2003 -- is that -- okay, Don.

00303

1 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Don Rivard with
2 the Office of Subsistence Management. This is for your
3 -- if you look on Page 279 in your book, there's a
4 calendar, we need to confirm this next meeting in the
5 fall. And we would ask, the office, ask if you'd be
6 willing to move that by one day, there's a couple of
7 different reasons why. I would ask that you'd move it to
8 the 29th and 30th of September, if you'd be willing to
9 move your meeting one day and leave it in Galena if you
10 so choose.

11
12 MR. WALKER: We're talking about Ruby.

13
14 MR. RIVARD: Well, I know and then we're
15 going to get to the next meeting. You've got -- Jerry
16 has a calendar for when we could do that.

17
18 MR. BERG: They meet October 1st and 2nd.

19
20 MR. RIVARD: Well, no, October 1st and
21 2nd we're bumping right up against the YK meeting then
22 and there's a number of Staff that will have to be at
23 both and it would be very difficult -- well, yeah, we're
24 not going to be able to accommodate all Staff.

25
26 But part of it is, and I was told this by
27 our administrative staff, this is more, that as you may
28 know, the Federal fiscal year starts on October 1st each
29 year, and it's much -- there's a whole lot of extra work
30 that goes into it if half of our meeting -- if half of a
31 meeting is in one fiscal year and half is in the other.
32 So what we need to do is have your meeting shifted one
33 day so that it falls within one fiscal year and not two.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: So did we already set this
36 meeting at Galena?

37
38 MR. RIVARD: You -- yeah, this was a --
39 what we do at this stage is that you confirm that you
40 want to continue it in Galena and the dates as well. And
41 I'm just asking that you move it one day to September
42 29th and 30th.

43
44 MR. COLLINS: Is there a problem with
45 changing it to Ruby.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't see any problems
48 with that. I think we made this decision, I think it was
49 forced on us down at Anchorage, that we have to set a
50 meeting one year in advance or something like that.

00304

1 MR. COLLINS: Oh.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'm pretty sure that's
4 where this date came out.

5

6 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair, that's
7 correct. We're trying to do this a year in advance to
8 try and see if any problems come up and I've pointed a
9 small one out to you with as far as the fiscal year
10 thing, plus if you look on Page 278, there's a number of
11 other considerations we have to do. We have to try to
12 avoid some of these overlaps because there's Staff that
13 handle more than one Regional Council and we want to make
14 sure we don't overlap Councils where same Staff have to
15 be at both at the same time. So just some
16 considerations.

17

18 I don't think it would be a problem if
19 you decided to go to Ruby instead of Galena at this
20 stage.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think it would be more
23 than fair if we did and then go ahead and move it from
24 September 30 to October 1 to September 29 and 30th.

25

26 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I'll move
27 that we meet September 29 and 30 in Ruby.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

30

31 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Angela. So
34 the motion before us would read that our next meeting,
35 which is all we're doing is confirming the dates and the
36 location would be September 29th and 30th in Ruby instead
37 of Galena. So that would take care of all your problems
38 at OSM?

39

40 MR. RIVARD: Well, it wouldn't take care
41 of all of them but it helps with this particular one,
42 thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jeff, go ahead. Wait
49 right there Don.

50

00305

1 MR. DENTON: Yeah, I just have one
2 comment with any of these changes, I look at this
3 calendar, there's four meetings in one day I'm supposed
4 to be at. I think there also needs to be some
5 consideration, at least, on OSM's point of other agency
6 staff that is required to go to these meetings as well.
7 This has been a problem for 10 years.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the feeling of the
10 Council, I know we've gone through this before, going
11 through this again, again. I know one damn thing is that
12 I will not do is a joint meeting with anybody else again
13 because it's too hectic.

14
15 What if we moved it up to -- is it
16 possible to move it up to the 22nd and 23rd?

17
18 MR. RIVARD: That would be great. If you
19 could do that that would even be better for probably a
20 lot of us.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Or is it still hunting.

23
24 MR. MORGAN: That's what I was going to
25 make a comment, then you're hitting into moose season.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: But most of them close the
28 25th, right, or the 20th for the most part? October 6th
29 and 7th. How does that schedule look?

30
31 MR. DENTON: The 22nd and 23rd is much
32 preferable to me in terms of overall scheduling. There's
33 so much overlap in these every year that there's
34 sometimes lapses of two years before I get to a given
35 region, so I would just thank you for your consideration,
36 it's up to you, you know. I have to make the decisions,
37 so, thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Our recorder, she also
40 attends all of our Council meetings, too.

41
42 Board deliberation. Any decisions one
43 way or the other. How bad would it cut into the moose
44 season for most of us.

45
46 MR. COLLINS: I think ours has been
47 shortened until the 20th so fine in McGrath.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think ours was too, I'm
50 not sure though. Benedict.

00306

1 MR. JONES: Yeah, the Koyukuk moose
2 hunting season, subsistence season would be closed on the
3 20th. But the remainder of 21(D) would be open on the
4 Yukon River until the 25th for subsistence.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: But Lower Koyukuk, what's
7 that 21(D), I'm hoping all the subsistence users get
8 their moose in the first couple of weeks.

9
10 (Laughter)

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's your feeling on
13 this, Micky.

14
15 MR. STICKMAN: Well, actually I was going
16 to leave it up to Ben since he's my elder and, you know,
17 I'm fairly young so I figure well I don't hunt every
18 single year, you know, there's some years that I don't
19 hunt because I have a lot of nephews that enjoy a little
20 bit more than I do. So I'd like to support their efforts
21 so I let them use my boat and so I'm pretty much wide
22 open. As long as it's on the end there, you know, as
23 long as I have at least 10 days of opportunity, that's
24 good enough for me.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. So do we go with
27 September 22nd and 23rd. Robert.

28
29 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30 Emmitt, is there a lot of people traveling on the record
31 the 22nd and 23rd and camping in Ruby at that time when
32 the moose season is going?

33
34 MR. PETERS: Yes. Mr. Chairman, we live
35 right at Ruby and it's the main place where the people
36 are coming and going back to Fairbanks on the boats, gas
37 and fuel and stuff, that's going to interfere with the
38 meeting. The 26th and 27th, that's when things slow
39 down. Well, actually they're heading back to Fairbanks
40 all the way to the 26th and 27th. So it's really going
41 to interrupt our meeting on the 22nd and 23rd. I can't
42 understand why we didn't have it on the 29th and 30th,
43 where we had it in the first place.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think there's a few
46 others that can't make it, too, because of conflicting
47 meetings, you know. A lot of our same Staff that you see
48 here goes to four or five different meetings.

49
50 MR. PETERS: Oh, I see.

00307

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Including our recorder
2 over here and she comes to our meetings.

3

4 MS. HILE: Any dates are fine.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

7

8 MR. JONES: Yeah, I make a motion that we
9 accept the 22nd and 23rd.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: You think Ruby can handle
12 it then?

13

14 MR. PETERS: Yeah, sure. I'm going to
15 make sure they all get their moose early.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this fine with the
20 Board on the 22nd?

21

22 MS. HILE: You already have a motion on
23 the floor.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, who made that
26 motion, can you withdraw it?

27

28 MR. JONES: (Nods affirmatively)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, and whoever seconded
31 it can you withdraw it -- oh, can you withdraw yours and
32 the second, too?

33

34 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: The seconder.

37

38 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: (Nods affirmatively)

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Don.

41

42 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, if you're going
43 to go for that week and I'm encouraging you to do so,
44 maybe we should do it starting on Tuesday the 23rd so
45 that the 22nd would be a travel date, otherwise we'll be
46 traveling on a Sunday and I'm not sure if anybody would
47 really want to do that or not. So it's just a
48 suggestion.

49

50 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman. You know, as

00308

1 far as different agencies not making it here, we didn't
2 have them today, did it stop our meeting?

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.

5

6 MR. MORGAN: I mean a lot of that's
7 different agencies that didn't, somebody else gave their
8 report. I think we're bending over too far backwards
9 that we just experienced some agencies that weren't here
10 today and our meeting still went fine.

11

12 You know, just -- this is our Regional
13 Council, this is our schedule, I realize we got to make
14 room and be kind some of the time but to bend over
15 backwards all of the time is, well, you know, just a
16 thought.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: That is a fact, too. So
19 we don't have any motions on the floor, do we? Nope they
20 were withdrawn.

21

22 MS. HILE: Benedict has a motion.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any motions any way, up or
25 down, time or place, dates and place, it's three minutes
26 to 5:00.

27

28 MR. COLLINS: I prefer the later one
29 myself, the 29th and 30th, but whatever is fine.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that a motion?

32

33 MR. COLLINS: I'll make that again.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Microphone.

36

37 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'll move September
38 29 and 30 in Ruby.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

41

42 MR. WALKER: Second.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Robert. Any
45 further discussion.

46

47 MR. MORGAN: Question.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called
50 for. All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying

00309

1 aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

6

7 (No opposing votes)

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

10

11 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

14

15 MR. WALKER: We'll have to travel on a

16 Sunday?

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. That is because of
19 the fiscal year beginning and ending.

20

21 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair, we should then
22 be setting the winter meeting, the February meeting a
23 year from now, if they want a year in advance.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. The next page, it
26 looks like it's wide open.

27

28 MR. RIVARD: Well, Mr. Chair, Jerry has
29 an updated on what other meetings have already been
30 scheduled. And I think he'll give you some of the weeks
31 that are still wide open, if there are any.

32

33 MR. BERG: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I only
34 have one copy here that I got just as I was leaving our
35 office. It looks like the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Council
36 is meeting on March 3rd and 4th. And of course, Eastern
37 Interior has not yet met. That's the other Council
38 that's good to avoid. And then Bristol Bay is meeting
39 February 25 and 26.

40

41 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, if I may, I'd
42 like to just clarify something. In your book on Page
43 280, if you'll notice that is really -- that is not 2004,
44 that is the same as this year, 2003, that was
45 inadvertently put in there. So from February -- there's
46 a February 29th next year plus the days get shifted one.
47 So any of the dates in March you actually have to shift
48 them two days. Two days. Okay, does everyone understand
49 that? So next year it's going to be Friday -- the first
50 Friday in March will be March 5th, not March 7th.

00310

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: So if we met on February
2 27th that still would be Thursday then?

3

4 MR. RIVARD: No, February 27th is going
5 to be a Saturday. Everything's got to be -- well, it
6 would be one day so it would be a Fri -- well, Jerry is
7 that one correct?

8

9 MR. BERG: Yeah, look at this one.
10 Whoever's going to make the motion, it'd be good to look
11 at this calendar right here, we only have one copy but
12 maybe let Ron look at it and some of the other Council
13 members, so that way they can use the correct dates on
14 there.

15

16 (Pause)

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: March 9th and 10th.

19

20 MR. WALKER: Tuesday and Wednesday.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: When does TCC meet again?
25 Again, we'll be dictated by some other season.

26

27 MR. WALKER: He's the vice president.

28

29 MR. STICKMAN: I don't know. Yeah, we
30 don't have the schedule.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MR. STICKMAN: We have no schedule.

35

36 MR. COLLINS: That's the first week,
37 second week, third week is down here, TCC would be down
38 here, that week.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: They met on the second
41 week this time, March 7th and March 8th they started
42 meeting.

43

44 MR. STICKMAN: I don't know.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 MR. BERG: Mr. Chairman, you could also
49 be able to review this schedule at your fall meeting next
50 fall and make any adjustments if you need to.

00311

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. What about if we
2 just set.....

3

4 MR. PETERS: Yeah, when we get a new
5 calendar that's right.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM:March 9th and 10th,
8 which is Tuesday and Wednesday tentative and then we
9 could change it again like we changed this one, right?

10

11 MR. RIVARD: You'll review it again in
12 the fall, yes.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: So that's tentative, and
15 do we need a motion to put it on the record or not.

16

17 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, the next is the
18 location.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: We just moved it out of
21 Galena, how about back in Galena.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: Back in March?

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, back in March. Or
26 we just need a tentative dates and tentative place.

27

28 MR. WALKER: Why don't we meet in Las
29 Vegas.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MR. COLLINS: Well, you're welcome to
34 come back to McGrath if you want to meet on the Kuskokwim
35 again. Where else haven't we been for awhile?

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: We haven't been on the
38 Koyukuk for awhile, too, but I don't think we could
39 handle that anymore with all the people. We need a
40 restaurant or lodge, you know. I mean we could but I
41 think it would put a hardship on the communities. So
42 tentative Galena or wherever.

43

44 MR. JONES: I'd go for Galena because
45 it's a hub area, you have all areas in connection to that
46 area.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: So you would prefer
49 Galena?

50

00312

1 MR. JONES: (Nods affirmatively)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Make a recommendation
4 somebody.

5

6 MR. WALKER: Bettles.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. They got two empty
9 lodges and restaurant. But then everybody else would
10 have to travel up there from our area if they do want to
11 attend. And a lot of them didn't attend when we held
12 that meeting in Allakaket, right, Carl.

13

14 MR. WALKER: I just threw that out there.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: They could handle it.
17 They've got a lodge, restaurant, two lodges really. Plus
18 they have a great big building, the Gates of the Arctic
19 building there which could also house a lot of staff,
20 whoever wants to stay there.

21

22 MR. COLLINS: Where at, in Bettles?

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

25

26 MR. COLLINS: You said it's good?

27

28 MR. WALKER: It's the back door of
29 Kanuti.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, that's where one of
32 their offices are.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: MR. WALKER: Yes, Mr.
35 Chairman, that would be in the background of the Kanuti
36 National Wildlife Refuge there at Bettles.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: So are you recommending
39 Bettles then?

40

41 MR. WALKER: I'm just throwing it out
42 there. Mr. Chairman, I'm just putting this out here,
43 people could voice their opinion on it or choose some
44 other place.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further
47 recommendations.

48

49 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair, just for
50 discussion purposes, I guess I'll move that we have our

00313

1 winter meeting in Bettles.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

4 Seconded by Robert.

5

6 MR. WALKER: I'll second it.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Robert Walker.

9

10 MR. COLLINS: Where?

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Bettles.

13

14 MR. BERG: Dates.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: March 9th and 10th. They

17 do have a winter road that people can drive right up

18 there, too, from Fairbanks. It's good for that

19 community, they get gas -- I guess they fly most of their

20 gas in, they get a lot of stuff in trucks and everything

21 and drive snowmachines.

22

23 MR. STICKMAN: Hearing no discussion, I

24 call for the question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. There's a motion to

27 set our meeting one year in advance to March 9th and 10th

28 at Bettles, 2004. Question's been called for. All those

29 in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

34

35 (No opposing votes)

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not we'll just go up to

38 Coldfoot and have everybody drive up there.

39

40 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, did you want to

41 read into the record that the motion passed.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Oh, motion carried, so our

44 next winter meeting March 9th and 10th at Bettles.

45

46 Topics and issues -- again, this date and

47 place is just to get a window, so we can lock in that

48 window.

49

50 It is now nine after 5:00, Council

00314

1 members closing comments. Robert, do you want to start.

2

3 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for
4 choosing me first on this, again, for the second time.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 First of all I'd like to thank our
9 recorder, Tina. Jerry for coordinating this. Don for
10 showing up. And all the other biologists, the ADF&G.
11 Randy, I'll say his name with very colorful, and our
12 Board, Micky, Emmitt, and our elder here we have, Mr.
13 Jones, Angela, Ray, our Chairman Ron Sam, Representative
14 Morgan, I thank them for coming and for helping us get
15 things resolved in a lot of these issues.

16

17 One of the things that really struck me
18 here, too, is we had so many proposals here and that so
19 many people were getting so concerned about a lot of
20 their game animals that they are really turning to the
21 Federal Board here, you know, the Western Interior, with
22 their proposals because they are getting concerned about
23 decline of these animals they have in their area and
24 units, so we have to start realizing here that even
25 though we have to start writing back and letting them
26 know that we have to start helping them get access and to
27 close some of these places if necessary.

28

29 So Mr. Chairman, Mr. Berg, you know, and
30 Vince also and the rest of the Board have to start
31 working toward this issue here.

32

33 One of my closing remarks is I'm hearing
34 some criticism from Staff and some other people that
35 attend our meeting about our Board here, and I would
36 really like to see this criticism, if the Board is being
37 criticized, if they can come out and bring it out in the
38 open and tell us where we're doing wrong or why are we
39 doing wrong because we don't work in their favor.
40 Criticism is really bad because we work hard here. You
41 know, we were selected by the Secretary of Interior, Gale
42 Norton, which I really felt proud of being selected by
43 here and to have employees and have other Fish and
44 Wildlife criticize the Board for some of the things they
45 may have done, but you have to understand we are doing
46 the best we can for our area, and that's the way it's
47 going to be.

48

49 Thank you. Thank you, Tina. Jerry.

50 Board.

00315

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert.

2

3 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I'd like to thank the
4 Staff and all the different agencies that did show up and
5 sacrifice their time away from the family. And I'd also
6 like to thank the Western Interior for having the meeting
7 out here in Aniak, in my home town, and thank them for
8 the break they gave me. And I'd like to apologize to the
9 Chairman, Ron Sam, for calling him Mr. Speaker.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 MR. MORGAN: I didn't realize I said that
14 until Robert wrote me a little note and says, he's not
15 Mr. Speaker, he's the Chairman, so I'd like to apologize
16 to him. I didn't catch it. But at least I didn't call
17 for a brief at ease.

18

19 We did tackle some -- especially that one
20 item, the C&T issue was a very controversial, very hard
21 subject to tackle. Some of these things are very, very
22 emotional, it's something that's very dear to us. Like,
23 you know, a lot of items that when is it going to -- when
24 did it begin, when is it going to stop, you know, and we
25 got to tackle these issues. We got to tackle data. We
26 got to analyze it quick, try to ask the right questions
27 on the data we got. Information we've got. We can only
28 make decisions and I think the best decision we make is
29 on what the different agencies and the different
30 departments, whether it's the Federal or State
31 information they give us. And a lot of time it's all
32 we've got and we make these decisions on that and we try
33 to do the best we can.

34

35 Again, I'd like to thank you for a little
36 spring break here.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl.
39 Representative Morgan. I actually took that Mr. Speaker
40 as a compliment. I thought I was promoted.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 And going on down the line, I would like
45 to give my closing comments, too. What Carl said is
46 true, about the tough issue like Proposal 33. We, as a
47 Council, got in trouble with OSM and the Federal
48 Subsistence Board over an issue similar to this. It was
49 taken as us -- all three Councils on the Yukon River
50 stepping all over Kodiak/Aleutians area. But then it has

00316

1 always been us against them. Us against Area M. And
2 that's where we three Councils of the Yukon River stood
3 tall on that.

4
5 We were brought in -- or at least the
6 Chairs were brought in to have a separate meeting between
7 four Chairmen, and this was brought out, but yet -- I
8 mean how we stepped on another region, but yet the
9 message came back to us strong that we do have every
10 right to uphold and protect our region, our boundaries,
11 our policies, our thoughts otherwise what are we there
12 for.

13
14 So again, I feel that we took the right
15 step because of our feelings and commitments to the
16 Western Interior by opposing Proposal 33.

17
18 And one final comment is that there's
19 hardly any Native peoples up in Bettles but they can
20 accommodate us. The ones that will go there are the ones
21 that really care and this may be one of the best moves
22 for awhile where we have a meeting that's more a retreat
23 than anything else and I think that we deserve it as a
24 Council, where we can sit down and deal strictly with
25 business and whoever shows up.

26
27 And that ends my closing comments.
28 Again, Carl, I just took it as a compliment, I got
29 promoted, as being Mr. Speaker.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 Ray.

34
35 MR. COLLINS: Thank you. I think it was
36 a productive meeting. We went through a lot of proposals
37 and everybody seemed to stay on task this time and again,
38 compliment the agencies who have been willing to sit
39 through all of our discussions. I know it's hard for
40 some when they have a report right at the end and you
41 have to sit through two days.

42
43 So it was good working with you all again
44 and I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Angela.

47
48 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 I'd like to thank Aniak for inviting us here. And thank,
50 Tina, and the Staff who gave up there time and sat with

00317

1 us for the last couple days. And I look forward to
2 meeting with everybody else in Ruby in the fall.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Angela.

7 Emmitt.

8

9 MR. PETERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank
10 you very much for all you members showing up, Robert,
11 Morgan, Sam and Angela, Benedict, Mike and what's Jack --
12 I can't remember his name.

13

14 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Jack Reakoff.

15

16 MR. PETERS: Jack, for being here. I
17 want to express my feeling about, especially Sam and
18 Micky, they seem some -- and Walker, they seem to know
19 what's going on in our meetings, they're right on top of
20 everything. We need that kind of a people on this kind
21 of a -- on this board. That way when we go back we say
22 these boys, Council men, they seems to know and they
23 recognize the problems we're having, and we definitely
24 need to have them on this board.

25

26 I thank Mr. Morgan for having the meeting
27 here in Aniak, I really enjoyed myself. Not better than
28 mushing dogs, I'll tell you that.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 At least I don't have to order my dogs
33 around. Well, I thank you very much and we'll see you in
34 Ruby.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, Thank you, and
39 thanks for inviting us to Ruby and we intend to be there.

40

41 Thanks for your closing comments.

42

43 Benedict.

44

45 MR. JONES: Yeah, this is Benedict Jones,
46 Koyukuk. I would just like to thank Staff and Aniak for
47 inviting us here to the meeting and all the Council
48 members. It was really a productive meeting.

49

50 My closing comments is we have the

00318

1 school, the Koyukon School District that started
2 subsistence training to our school students, elementary
3 students. And it's very productive, the teacher took it
4 upon himself to train these kids how to trap beaver,
5 martin and all the furbearing animals. And now they're
6 out at Ella's Cabin right now to outdoor training and
7 they did -- just this last week they had also culture
8 training, how to tan moose, and moose skin. They cleaned
9 the moose skin all by themselves and it was just a really
10 beautiful job on them, and they also tried to learn how
11 to tan beaver skins. And I'd like to see the Federal and
12 State agencies kind of fund these programs through the
13 school district all over the -- in the region.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict.
18 Interesting that we have programs going on to educate our
19 future leaders and populous. Micky.

20

21 MR. STICKMAN: First of all I just wanted
22 to thank Ben for taking the time to be here. I know he
23 wanted to be home training his dogs and it's something
24 that he loves, you know, so I just wanted to thank him
25 for being here. Because the knowledge that he has is so
26 important to us as a subsistence Regional Advisory
27 Committee, so I'd just like to thank Ben before he
28 leaves.

29

30 I'd like to thank the Staff. I'd like to
31 thank the rest of board here, you know. It seems like --
32 well, it seems like a lot of us only wanted to bring up
33 the controversial issues, and, you know, the one thing
34 that I do know is that, you know the Federal Staff are
35 the people -- the directors of -- they are the people
36 that recommend that you be reappointed, so, you know,
37 sometimes I feel that I say things that are going to hurt
38 my chances of being reappointed but the one thing that I
39 do know is that I remain connected to my people out there
40 in the villages by traveling from village to village and
41 talking to people about the resources and not just
42 looking at resources, but looking at their harvest.

43

44 You know, I wanted to thank the Staff
45 here for recognizing the traditional knowledge of the
46 people. And finally admitting that it was something that
47 the elders have been saying for a long time and it
48 finally hit the nail on the head and so I'd like to thank
49 them for acknowledging that traditional knowledge.

50

00319

1 And I just wanted to thank the rest of
2 the Council here for the work that they do.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. Again,
7 I'd just like to thank -- also thank Jerry Berg for
8 sitting in as a coordinator. For the second time --
9 second meeting in a row we had a substitute coordinator.
10 Our last one lasted all of two hours, I think, and then
11 he had to run all around between two other meetings with
12 us and that's why I don't like these joint meetings. You
13 can't concentrate on one by having the Staff attending
14 both meetings. But then that was the only window we had.

15

16 Again, thank you, Tina, for everything.

17 If you need help just let us know.

18

19 I see our ride is out there and I see
20 some of our people are already leaving. With that the
21 Chair will entertain a motion to adjourn.

22

23 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky, moved.

26

27 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Angela. All
30 those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Adjourned.

41

42 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

00320

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

4)ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA)

6

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

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 160 through 319
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
13 WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
14 COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically by Salena
15 Hile on the 19th day of March 2003, beginning at the hour
16 of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at Aniak, Alaska;

17

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

22

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

25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 30th day of
27 March 2003.

28

29

30

31

32

Joseph P. Kolasinski

33

Notary Public in and for Alaska

34

My Commission Expires: 04/17/04