

00112

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

4

5

6

VOLUME II

7

8 McGrath, Alaska

9 March 20, 2002

10 9:00 o'clock a.m.

11

12

13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14

15 Ronald Sam, Chairman

16 Raymond Collins

17 Angela Demientieff

18 Emmitt Peters

19 Jack Reakoff

20 Michael Stickman

21 Robert Walker

22

23 Regional Coordinator, Vince Mathews

00113

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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(McGrath, Alaska - 3/20/2002)

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5

(On record)

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CHAIRMAN SAM: Let's take our seats and

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MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it's under Tab F, on Page 1 through 3. For the new members I didn't get a chance to talk to you about this so just a few seconds on what this means. In Title VIII of ANILCA, it's a requirement, I would say that the Secretary of Interior needs to respond in writing as to why the Secretary didn't adopt your recommendations. Well, as you know the Secretary delegated his authority to the Federal Subsistence Board so the Federal Subsistence Board, after every meeting that they have where they deal with regulatory proposals that you have recommendations, draft a letter informing you of what happened. We've expanded

37 that to include all the proposals not just the one that
38 they didn't adopt your recommendation.

39

40 So if you look at Page 2 under Tab F
41 you'll see the proposals and Proposal 7, 8, 9 and 10,
42 many of those were alignments with State regulations.
43 The Board adopted the recommendations of the three
44 Councils. And since we're trying to use time up here
45 I'll just leave that for you to look at because you were
46 in alignment with the Board.

47

48 On Proposal 44, was one that the Board
49 didn't align with you and that had to deal with the
50 customary and traditional use determination for an area
00114

1 down near the mouth of the Yukon River and you went with
2 your neighboring Council, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and
3 Eastern Interior saying the villages of St. Michaels and
4 Stebbins should qualify. The Board modified that and
5 added the village of Kotlik.

6

7 Okay, I went through that a little fast
8 but this is a very important item, but this is your
9 report card, and it should have been mailed to you
10 before, you should have gotten it in the mail already.
11 If you have any questions about it, this would be the
12 time to ask. But after every meeting, so when these
13 recommendations from your wildlife proposals go to the
14 Board, then soon after that a letter is drafted. I call
15 it an .805 letter because it's referring to Section .805
16 of ANILCA.

17

18 That's all I have on that, is there any
19 questions?

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, on that
24 44, this is very much in line with what we're facing in
25 21(E) there. And it was a customary use case and I
26 notice that the Board did look at that very closely and
27 they ended up expanding it to one. It just points out
28 again the importance of documenting the use of these
29 communities when they're making these decisions. Because
30 once they come down and make it, now, you know, all those
31 villages listed have customary and traditional use and
32 that's kind of the start of that. And I think we're
33 going to see more of that as we look at potential
34 conflicts between areas and we really got to look at it
35 closely and be sure we've got documentation when it goes
36 to the Board because then they have to make a final
37 decision based on whatever information they get.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions or
40 comments for Vince on the .805 letter? I think Ray's
41 point is well taken, plus it dealt with one specific area
42 and I think the Board did what they had to do. Any
43 further comments or questions? Did you have anything
44 else, Vince?

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: No, I think we're ready to

47 go on to customary trade and just for the record it was a
48 subcommittee of the group. It was just to develop
49 options, they made no recommendations per se at that
50 meeting. We had Staff from Alaska Department of Fish and
00115

1 Game, Staff from Fish and Wildlife Service, I don't know
2 if Park Service Staff was there or not, I don't remember,
3 there was quite a few people but it was basically a
4 working session. And we'll have -- we'll be projecting
5 it on the wall over there by Tina on what it is and I
6 think we have handouts on it and we'll have to encourage
7 Ray and Angela and Jack to help us go through the work
8 they went through last night.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we need to take action
11 on this today?

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. As you
14 know, yesterday Pete Probasco talked to you about
15 customary trade. The comment period goes through April
16 30th, I believe, and it would be best for you guys to get
17 your recommendations on customary trade at this meeting
18 to meet that window.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. I think
21 so because everyone -- every other Regional Council has
22 taken action except us, and again I'd like to thank all
23 the Staff that was present last night and all our Council
24 members for their donation of their time, again. So
25 whenever Jerry's ready we'll turn it over to Jerry.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Now, the reason we're
28 projecting it is to help if there is going to be any
29 wording. We're not trying to make this any more
30 difficult. If some are more comfortable with the page,
31 this just makes it easier, you'll visually see the
32 changes. Jerry might have to make it bigger for us
33 people with glasses but anyway, it will -- it's there to
34 help you for wording. It's just a draft option.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jerry.

37

38 MR. BERG: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I guess, I
39 don't know if Jack wants to go through some of the
40 changes or Angela was there last night or Ray or if you'd
41 like us to walk you through some of the changes that were
42 made we'd be happy to do that. But basically the handout
43 we gave to you, the red that shows up on this document,
44 which you really can't see the red up on the wall up very
45 well either but we underlined the changes that have been
46 added from the discussions last night to highlight the
47 changes. And then, of course, the strikeouts would be
48 the deletion portions. So I'll leave that open to Jack
49 if he'd like to walk you through or we can do that if
50 you'd rather have us do it.

00116

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair. We went through
4 these -- we were sort of conglomerating some different
5 thoughts that other Councils had come up with and we

6 became reluctant about the sale of the eggs from salmon
7 and so we felt that taking the eggs out from the fish
8 parts, but not eliminating the whole -- the sale of whole
9 fish that have the eggs in it should be allowed and so
10 that's where the eggs are -- eggs sort of out of there.

11
12 On down, down into 12 there, can you
13 scroll down -- yeah, it gets into the -- let's see
14 transactions between a rural resident, other customary
15 trade -- and others, customary trade for fish, their
16 parts, except eggs, legally taken under the -- and I
17 thought we had Federal regulations, in this part from a
18 rural resident to an individual other than rural
19 residents is permitted as long as -- well, let's see, it
20 shouldn't -- as long as it is used for personal or family
21 consumption of the individual who purchased the fish and
22 cannot be resold. And we went into that whole part so if
23 somebody wants to go to another village and -- with some
24 money for somebody and pick up fish they could bring it
25 -- they can buy it and bring it back but they -- we
26 didn't want to have them, you know, buying a lot of fish
27 and then coming home and then marking them up and selling
28 them. That's what that kind of addresses there.

29
30 And then under being able to sell the
31 fish, at least 50 percent of all the fish taken under
32 Federal subsistence regulations must be used for personal
33 and family consumption. This sets a work limit on, you
34 know, how many fish a person can put up. You know, if
35 they can sell half of them but they have to at least eat
36 half because the Federal regulations primarily are
37 designed for personal and family consumption.

38
39 If in-season subsistence restrictions
40 have been imposed on a salmon species or escapement goal
41 thresholds have not been met in the majority of the Yukon
42 and Kuskokwim drainages, sales to others shall be
43 eliminated for that species. So this is if the kings
44 come in weak, there's been subsistence restrictions and
45 the escapements are not met then it would be a time when
46 those fish are going to be needed by the people of the
47 drainage instead of -- and they should be -- it's almost
48 necessary for the people that -- in that drainage to be
49 able to purchase fish from people who did get fish.

50
00117

1 If a rural resident engages in customary
2 trade of subsistence harvested fish they shall maintain a
3 subsistence harvest record to track the harvest level as
4 a record keeping system. So to have customary trade --
5 if a person wants to sell part of their catch, they would
6 have to keep a record of that catch so that they would
7 not be -- would have to be able to track how many fish
8 they're taking and whether they're staying within the 50
9 percent harvest.

10
11 And that was some of the ideas that we
12 kind of kicked around and then after the meeting started
13 thinking about, well, what would actually trigger, you
14 know, what would actually trigger, you know, an abuse of
15 this whole system? And I've thought about, you know,

16 like if there's somebody in Anchorage and they're selling
17 like 500 pounds of strips, that might be kind of a
18 problem and I feel that a hundred -- anybody that's
19 selling more than 100 pounds of strips should -- the
20 enforcement should go and take a look at -- you know, are
21 they actually eating 50 percent of their fish, so I think
22 there should be some level -- the enforcement has
23 questions about what would constitute a significant
24 commercial enterprise and I think that we should talk
25 about what level the enforcement should -- the red light
26 should be lighting up on their panel as to what level of
27 sale that a person may be approaching that, you know,
28 maybe should be -- you'd want to look at their harvest
29 record and how big their family is and how much fish
30 they're eating and stuff like that.

31
32 So those were some of the ideas that our
33 little subcommittee came up with and so now the Council
34 can kind of mull that over.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you, Jack. I
37 had some questions on that 50 percent. Is this
38 satisfactory to the whole Council at this time or do you
39 need more time?

40
41 MR. PETERS: Jack, would this have to do
42 anything with the guy that has a bunch of dogs in the
43 village, would that do anything, affect this?

44
45 MR. REAKOFF: No. No.

46
47 MR. PETERS: Okay, thank you.

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: No, we looked at that dog
50 issue. And in the Western Interior, we don't have the
00118

1 kind of -- we don't have these dog problems. I mean we
2 don't have that dog problem, that's an Eastern Interior
3 thing that they felt like addressing. We don't have that
4 problem that I know of here, abuse of that so we didn't
5 address that dog issue here at all.

6
7 This 50 percent is -- you know, we don't
8 want the system to be abused. We don't want to develop a
9 commercial fishery. And with that 50 percent, these
10 people would have to eat half of the fish for personal --
11 they could give them to their family and stuff but they'd
12 have to use those fish, they couldn't sell them. And we
13 don't want to -- you know, I'm reluctant to allow people
14 to sell 90 percent of their fish, you know, we could
15 develop a commercial fishery under the subsistence
16 regulations. I don't think we really want to do that.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, that was my
19 question. If these fish are taken under subsistence
20 harvest, you know, I still think that maybe that 50
21 percent could be looked at, even lower than that if there
22 was some request to do so. You've seen this in Fairbanks
23 and you've seen this in Anchorage at AFN, Tanana Chiefs,
24 the Fur Rondy, the North American, that you see
25 truckloads of salmon strips being sold. The thing that

26 bothers me about that, especially down in Anchorage, is
27 there any way that we can track or trace where these fish
28 came from and who's selling them or has there been any
29 efforts made to that effect at this time?

30
31 MR. COLLINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, under
32 our proposal they have to keep that calendar, so you
33 should ask someone, let me see your calendar and that
34 would show how many they're taking and where they're
35 taking them. Because as soon as they're selling them
36 they have to have had a calendar showing how many were
37 taken and what days and obviously you could ask them,
38 well, where was this at.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: And the other thing, too,
41 okay, we're trying to address the Yukon and Kuskokwim,
42 right, right Jack? Go ahead.

43
44 MR. REAKOFF: That's a real good idea.
45 The calendar should be in the possession, if they're in
46 town selling fish the calendar should be in their
47 possession while they're selling so that if enforcement
48 wants to look at where they got those fish they would
49 have to produce that calendar so that they would be able
50 to document where those fish are coming from.
00119

1 Again, I feel that we should set a
2 trigger level of sale. If somebody's got a pick-up load
3 of strips in town, that should trigger something for
4 scrutiny.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: The reason I brought that
7 up is that these truckloads, I know that I did buy some
8 fish from Anchorage but they certainly didn't look like
9 Natives to me, they looked like Japanese. That's the
10 truth. And some of these people I bought fish off of in
11 Fairbanks, they didn't really know -- with the consent of
12 the Council, could we add that part where they have that
13 subsistence calendar with them at all times in their
14 possession? I think that's the only way we can address
15 this issue if we are addressing the Yukon and Kuskokwim
16 areas.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, he's adding
19 it now and I think he needs to add in there if rural
20 resident engages in customary trade with others because I
21 think you're just saying that this record keeping only
22 needs to be if they trade with others, correct, not rural
23 to rural? So we need to put in there -- oh, it is, okay.
24 So it's clear that you're only asking for this when it's
25 rural to others. So look at the language he has up there
26 of anyone selling subsistence harvest of salmon, that
27 they must have their harvest record in their possession
28 when engaged in transactions. It's a little long but we
29 can clean it up but that's pretty much what you were
30 saying.

31
32 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

35

36 MR. REAKOFF: In their possession while
37 engaged in sales with others.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: With others, okay. Any
40 further comments from the Council on this?

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair, we didn't tell
43 all the Council members this, this is going to be an
44 annual regulation. So you're clear that this is not cast
45 in stone, next year if there needs to be some changes you
46 can submit proposals or users can submit proposals, or
47 whatever, so it's an annual regulation just so you
48 understand that.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the pleasure of the
00120

1 Council, do you want to add that into the recommendation
2 that we are trying to make, that we annually revisit or
3 reconsider this whole proposal or anything that passes?
4 Jack.

5

6 MR. REAKOFF: That's kind of a given.
7 And if we see that this comes to the attention of the
8 Council that this gets to be a problem of even the 50
9 percent, then we can talk about reducing the percentage
10 of sale. But I think that there has to be some type of a
11 trigger of getting into a significant commercial
12 enterprise, and that would be right here. And I would --
13 we'd have to talk about the language but a certain level
14 of pounds of products sold to others would trigger a
15 significant commercial enterprise. And I feel that 100
16 pounds of cut fish, 100 pounds is a lot of fish and if
17 somebody's selling more than 100 pounds, that's -- then
18 they should be looked at. Maybe they got a big family
19 and that's not more than 50 percent but -- so I just
20 tossed that number out and you can mull that around.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comment from
23 the Council? Micky.

24

25 MR. STICKWAN: Yeah, you know, just like
26 you mentioned, you know, I don't see any place in here
27 about traditional or, you know, customary, but you know,
28 like you said, the guys that do all the fish selling in
29 Fairbanks and in Anchorage, those are Germans that fish
30 on the Yukon River by the rapids, you know, they're not
31 fishing for personal use or for family use, they're
32 fishing to sell strips and that's all they do. You know,
33 it's not like they're -- it's not their tradition to fish
34 it's just a way to make money.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you see anything else
37 that we could add into this to clarify that?

38

39 MR. REAKOFF: This section that Jerry's
40 put up there, I think, is very important, if a person
41 sells more than a certain pounds of salmon it would
42 constitute a significant commercial enterprise that
43 should be then looked at for staying within the 50
44 percent parameter.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.
47
48 MR. WALKER: If I'm going to read this
49 here, if a person sells more than XXX pounds, if I wasn't
50 on the Board here and I got this paper, I would say if a
00121
1 person sells more than 30 pounds of salmon, that's what I
2 would determine here, X is 10 in a roman numeral, right?
3
4 (Laughter)
5
6 MR. WALKER: You have to apply that
7 factor here, XXX.
8
9 (Laughter)
10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: We have to discuss that
12 whole thing there but you could go back to the, if a
13 person sells not sales.
14
15 MR. WALKER: Right.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Sells.
18
19 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.
22
23 MR. COLLINS: From listening to the
24 discussions when we got into trying to set limits with
25 the Task Force it was statewide in there, some people
26 were reluctant to start putting a number like that in
27 because it almost has the opposite effect. Everybody
28 could say, oh, I can sell 100 pounds of salmon so that
29 sets a target or a goal or something that they end up
30 working for instead of them looking at their subsistence
31 needs and trying to figure out what that is and then,
32 okay, I can double that amount or something, you know,
33 for -- so you got to be careful when you start getting to
34 the numbers, how it's going to be applied. And this is
35 talking about in one transaction or in total, because you
36 can sell 100 pounds to others and how much can you sell
37 to other subsistence users because that's not regulated
38 and how does it fall into the 50 percent: you see what I
39 mean?
40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.
42
43 MR. REAKOFF: This whole section is in
44 the sales to others, it doesn't affect the rural to rural
45 and -- but what enforcement is reluctant about what is
46 going to trigger their scrutiny and they need some
47 direction out of this Council as to what's going to
48 trigger, somebody who's got like a pick-up load or -- we
49 got to have some kind of language that's going to trigger
50 -- it still doesn't preclude or target, you know, it just
00122
1 brings them under scrutiny, you know, this is getting --
2 approaching this level and I'm not sure if -- how else
3 would you do it?
4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

6

7 MR. COLLINS: Well, I'm not sure. I mean
8 we hear about the cases like the truckloads and so on and
9 obviously just people's comments are going to trigger
10 some of that or their observations. And I don't know
11 whether the poundage, are you going to go around and
12 start weighing, okay, how many pounds did you bring to
13 AFN or something like that, you see -- yeah, I don't
14 know, I just feel a little uneasy about starting to put a
15 pound thing in there that's going to trigger it. And I
16 assume that would be at one time, because again maybe
17 they'll send 10 pounds here and 10 pounds there and so
18 on, how are you going to know when they reach 100 pounds,
19 even to others if it's not taking place at one place?

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: I have trouble with
22 putting numbers up there, too, but the whole drainage
23 especially the Federal Staff and the State fishing Staff
24 would know how many salmon are out there because if you
25 go back to that, at least, 50 percent, you know, and you
26 take the second sentence, if in-season subsistence
27 restrictions have been imposed on the salmon species or
28 escapement goal thresholds have not been met, I think
29 that's one of the key phrases there. Was that the intent
30 of this whole thing?

31

32 MR. REAKOFF: Um?

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Was that the intent of
35 this whole thing?

36

37 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Is that understood
40 by everyone? Micky.

41

42 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah. You know, I was
43 just looking at the at least 50 percent of the -- you
44 know, I was wondering, you know, like I have an aunt back
45 home that she'll sell 300 pounds of strips in a half
46 hour. She'll bring 300 pounds of salt strips to a TCC
47 office and it will be gone in a half hour.

48

49 MR. REAKOFF: Would that still be within
50 50 percent of her -- she uses 300 pounds around home,
00123

1 though?

2

3 MR. STICKMAN: Oh, no, the 300 pounds I'm
4 talking about is just her first trip. She'll make four
5 or five trips, you know, I mean she puts up, you know,
6 she'll fill up her smokehouse six times, you know. And I
7 was wondering is she going -- is my aunt going to eat
8 1,500 pounds of fish, no way, you know, but she'll sell
9 1,500 pounds but she ain't going to eat 1,500 pounds.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments from
12 the Council? I would like some more comments on the 100
13 pounds because if we don't put a number on there who then
14 would put a number in that area, if anyone?

15

16 MR. STICKMAN: Ron.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

19

20 MR. STICKMAN: You know, I don't -- I
21 have no hard feelings about putting a number in there,
22 but, you know, what I would like to know is who is --
23 like Ray says, you know, who's going to be there to weigh
24 it? Who's going to be the enforcement, you know, I mean
25 how are you going to do it? I mean there's so many
26 people out there. You know, you have the whole Yukon
27 River from the mouth to Canada to -- and then you're
28 going to weigh all this fish from the mouth to the end.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

31

32 MR. COLLINS: I think this shows out
33 again the need for documentation, like Micky was just
34 sharing about his aunt. Because I think if you'd look at
35 that you'd probably find that a lot of those fish are
36 going to other rural residents or people who have moved
37 to town from that area who are dependent on those. And
38 instead of them going to camp themselves, they're working
39 and have jobs and so on, they end up buying their fish
40 from the people that are still producing them. So we
41 really need to know more about that enterprise. Because
42 I'm sure his aunt is providing a valuable service to
43 people up and down the river who depend on her for strips
44 now. And a lot of those are traditional people and it's
45 not falling into the other, maybe, some of those in
46 Fairbanks may be others, but a lot of them are just other
47 people who grew up on those fish and now they depend on
48 her to supply them. But we don't have that kind of
49 information. It's available but people need to go to the
50 villages and visit and find out who's doing it and how
00124

1 much and see where it's going.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

4

5 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, Ron, you know, it's
6 just like Ray's saying, you know, I have one friend that,
7 you know, he's a couple years younger than me but he's
8 been raising his family, he's got like four children of
9 his own but he's been raising his family ever since I can
10 remember on selling salmon strips, I mean that's all he
11 does in the summertime is go fishing and, you know,
12 that's the only way he makes his money unless he -- well,
13 in the wintertime he traps a little bit but he -- you
14 know, for the last 15 years, I know he's been raising his
15 family primarily on selling strips.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. We keep
18 talking about AFN and Tanana Chiefs. I would like to ask
19 Stanley if he has any comments on this because he's
20 working directly with Tanana Chiefs.

21

22 MR. NED: I have a couple of questions on
23 here. One is that when you're talking rural to urban
24 residents, right, you're not talking rural to rural.

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: (Nods affirmatively)

27

28 MR. NED: Okay. And then I think the
29 second paragraph down there, if a rural resident engages
30 in customary trade should be if a rural resident engages
31 in customary trade with urban residents, that should be
32 in there to make it clear that you're doing that. So if
33 you're talking rural to rural, you know, then.....

34

35 MR. REAKOFF: (Shakes head negatively)

36

37 MR. NED: You're not. Okay. Then the
38 other thing you should do, I think, is -- or I would
39 suggest is that you bring this proposal back to the
40 villages so they can question and you could probably get
41 some input from them, too, you know, because if you're
42 going to make some proposals here and plant it on them
43 then you'll get people frustrated and -- well, you know
44 the system.

45

46 And the other thing, I think, is we do --
47 I work in Fairbanks and I've been working there for 11
48 years -- oh, for the record my name is Stanley Ned,
49 Tanana Chiefs. I've been working there for 11 years now.
50 And I do, like Micky said, I do depend on people, my
00125

1 people, to bring me my traditional food. I personally
2 don't have the time to go out there and get it myself and
3 so I do depend on it and they trade with me on something
4 that they need for their snowmachine or for their house
5 or for the motor parts, and for that I get my subsistence
6 foods.

7

8 But I think it's very important that you
9 go back to the villages that you're representing and let
10 them know that these things are happening. I think it's
11 really important that you get their input. Thanks.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Stanley. I got
14 a question for you then, too, you stated yesterday that
15 you will be utilizing Carl Jack, our liaison officer as
16 much as you could and at this time you plan to do it
17 subregion by subregion?

18

19 MR. NED: Yes. I talked with Carl Jack
20 during the TCC convention. And we sat down with our
21 administrator upstairs and we suggested -- or I suggested
22 to him that we utilize our subregions, village by village
23 and have a teleconference with Carl Jack to explain
24 customary trade to us.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Is there any
27 time frame put on this yet?

28

29 MR. NED: That will have to be probably
30 the first week in April, I'll be traveling up to that
31 time.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Just for your
34 information and the public's information, any kind of

35 action we take we usually notify every village and Vince,
36 can you address this?

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. We
39 don't inform them of everything but generally if there's
40 an action that the Council desires, we can mail it to --
41 we mail it to the village councils, tribal councils and
42 city offices. But if this is going on, the subregion
43 office, we could work with Stanley and TCC staff to get
44 this -- your recommendation, which is just a
45 recommendation into that package so they know where you
46 guys are positioned and it all has to happen before April
47 30th so it sounds like it would. So we could work closer
48 with them on that. And, in addition, if you'd like, we
49 can mail it out to them since people get busy with the
50 light getting longer, so we could mail it and then work
00126

1 with TCC on their subregion teleconferences.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. If we do come into
4 final -- some sort of agreement on this, I would then ask
5 you to hit every village Council in our Western Interior.
6 Any further comments or questions? Jack.

7

8 MR. REAKOFF: That's a good point,
9 Stanley, about making it clear between rural and urban.
10 And if you scroll up there, Jerry, to the top on 12, it
11 says -- higher -- or right there -- it's transactions
12 between a rural resident and others, I think that should
13 be clarified and I think it should be between other urban
14 residents and that makes it real, real clear as to who
15 the others are and that would address what you're talking
16 about Stanley?

17

18 MR. NED: (Nods affirmatively)

19

20 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

23

24 MR. COLLINS: When the committee was
25 dealing with that in their others, the term rural
26 residents and so as soon as you go outside of rural
27 residents you're dealing with others.

28

29 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

30

31 MR. COLLINS: In the regulation, that's
32 my understanding of the background of why the word,
33 other, was chosen and rural residents are subsistence
34 users. So somebody that's not a subsistence user is an
35 other, whether they're urban or what.

36

37 MR. REAKOFF: For the lay person, though,
38 I feel that that has to be real clear, so I feel that
39 putting what Stanley's saying, urban residents in there
40 makes it crystal clear as to what the discussion is
41 about.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

44

45 MR. COLLINS: So if I live in rural
46 Washington then or in Oklahoma on a farm or something I
47 can buy strips but if I live in Anchorage I can't, that's
48 what you get into in regulation language. Well, if I
49 live in a non-urban area anywhere in the country then I'm
50 no longer an other, you see what I mean, that's what you
00127

1 get into in the regulation language. Somebody who drafts
2 to that can talk to that. But that's what they were
3 coming up in the committee of why they were using the
4 term other, other than urban.

5
6 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, that brings up a
7 whole different issue that, you know, the sale outside of
8 Alaska. And that's -- I have mixed feelings about that.
9 I think that that opens up a whole can of worms and I
10 would prefer to see the sale outside of Alaska not really
11 happening. I feel that people who live outside of Alaska
12 that lived in Alaska, raised in Alaska can have family
13 members send them strips without sale, you know, for
14 free. And I'm reluctant to have subsistence sales, at
15 least in this region outside of Alaska.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. I think
18 that throughout the last couple of years we have been
19 talking about this issue and most of the testimony we
20 have received addresses the issue of outside -- on the
21 outside, Lower 48 issues, they always said that they send
22 some to their siblings or their relatives; wasn't that
23 right? Stanley.

24
25 MR. NED: That's true. Everybody that
26 comes out of rural Alaska and is used to this food, has
27 grown up with it and lived with it has always asked for
28 it wherever they live. But I think Ray got a good point
29 there and we need to phrase it in a way that it doesn't
30 get out of hand. So I'm beginning to wonder about what I
31 said earlier about urban up on top. But if we could do
32 that I think you could move it down -- if you scroll all
33 the way down a little bit more to a rural -- right there,
34 if a rural resident engages in customary trade with urban
35 or something like that, you know, it -- I think we need
36 to throw it around more. This is a proposal, right?

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: (Nods affirmatively)

39
40 MR. NED: And if could sit down with the
41 working committee then maybe I could try to get some TCC
42 input on there.

43
44 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

47
48 MR. COLLINS: One thing that might help
49 move this forward is to remember that we're not going to
50 put it into regulatory language, someone else is going to
00128

1 do that, so if they know what our intent is then we can
2 trust that they're going to go through that review, too.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks for reminding us.
5 If you go through this meeting booklet it makes clear in
6 one section how to clean up the regulatory language,
7 statutory language, and I think this will be addressed.
8 This is just throwing out some ideas or giving some
9 direction to the Federal Subsistence Board because this
10 will come up to them.

11

12 MR. NED: I have one more.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Stanley.

15

16 MR. NED: I think the word, shall, is
17 pretty strong in there and it needs to be.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: May.

20

21 MR. NED:may. I think we need to
22 throw that around a little bit more.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: I think we'll stay with
29 others because of the Task Force, if that's okay with you
30 and then in your justification write-up, we can clarify
31 it. But I think we need to stay with others and leave it
32 at that and clarify the later, if that's okay with you.
33 Clarify it under your justification, your intent and stay
34 with others. It's a larger pool if you use others than
35 if you go the other way. And then your intent would be
36 that this is mainly addressing urban. Is that okay with
37 everybody, we can get that in your write-up?

38

39 (Council nods affirmatively)

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, then the shall thing,
42 I think Jack definitely wants to speak about that.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky first.

45

46 MR. STICKMAN: You know, Stanley brought
47 up an important, you know. Like for my aunt, in her
48 case, you know, she's like 75 years old so pretty soon
49 she's going to -- I think this year -- I think last year
50 was her last year, I think she's not going to be able to
00129

1 do it again. You know, in her case, you know, geez, she
2 did it for maybe 15 or 20 years, but you know when she
3 quits, you know, she got the spots but you know the thing
4 about it is, you know, I don't think anybody else in her
5 family got that power to do 85 kings a day or 120 kings a
6 day or anything like that, you know. I think once she
7 stops that's it, you know. I think my aunt there had all
8 the power in that family and, you know, once she stops
9 cutting fish, you know, that -- that avenue of fish is
10 going to be gone. And I don't think anybody's going to
11 replace her in Nulato. You know, I guess the thing I'm
12 trying to get across is that this is only certain
13 families doing it and once they're done and once they

14 quit nobody else takes their place. It's not like
15 someone's waiting right behind them for them to quit.
16 You know, because of her age, you know, I don't think
17 she's going to do it this year and my uncle, he's 78
18 years old and he's not going to be 120 kings a day no
19 more. You know, I talked to him and he told me, no, he
20 said, your aunt's going to have to kick me out if she
21 want to get rid of me because I'm not going to do it
22 anymore.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks for that
27 clarification, Micky. I need some more clarification
28 from Stan, just -- Stanley is that sale that you were
29 addressing right on this paragraph?

30
31 MR. NED: Right. I think that's one that
32 you should bring back to the villages and have them look
33 at it a little bit more, you know, because we have a lot
34 of people out there that go fishing, for example, in our
35 hometown, in Allakaket that's not really recording
36 anything hardly because they don't catch much. They
37 catch maybe one or two kings and that's it. But then we
38 have -- they're not going to go back and say, hey, I
39 caught two kings, you know. I mean it's hard for people
40 to do that. I mean if we -- maybe we can work them to it
41 but it'll take some doing.

42
43 MR. REAKOFF: What that's addressing is
44 not people in the rural areas, they don't have to keep a
45 record. This would be for people who are selling to
46 others in a city, then they would have to -- if they were
47 going to sell in the city then they'd have to have a
48 record. If they plan on putting up fish to sell then
49 they would have to keep this record so that enforcement
50 can begin tracking the 50 percent thing. People who are

00130
1 just cutting fish at home and eating them at home, we're
2 not saying they should have to have a record or anything.

3
4 MR. NED: Yeah, thanks for the
5 clarification, I was thinking in the other direction.

6
7 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, Ron.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just a minute. Do you
10 think we should clarify that in that paragraph there
11 then, Jerry?

12
13 MR. COLLINS: If you put may in there, in
14 that particular section, you just negated the whole
15 thing.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Right.

18
19 MR. COLLINS: Because when it's a may
20 it's optional so really you have no way to enforce it and
21 because they'll say, I chose not to so it either has to
22 be shall or nothing if you're going to keep that section.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: And that's the intent of
25 this whole discussion on customary trade, to take out may
26 and should because what we want to do is enforce it,
27 especially when they're selling in Anchorage, Fairbanks
28 in -- Robert, you had something.

29
30 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On
31 the top of the paragraph here, could you move that down
32 please -- okay, transactions between the rural residents,
33 the exchange between rural residents in customary trade
34 of subsistence harvested, shouldn't we say salmon
35 species, i.e., fish parts -- fish and their parts?
36 Salmon's right down at the bottom of the paragraph, you
37 know, when you want to read the paragraph, you want it
38 right at the top what are we talking about?

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Any time we deal in
41 customary trade, the only thing that we ever address is
42 salmon, right, am I correct on this? Vince.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: That's my understanding
45 that it is salmon. I know in Southeast they talked about
46 hooligan and herring eggs but we don't have jurisdiction
47 over herring eggs so it is for salmon is my
48 understanding.

49
50 MR. SHERROD: So far.

00131
1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Stanley.

2
3 MR. NED: I think Robert has a good point
4 there, I think we need to clarify that a little bit and
5 put salmon, salmon species. If we're going to talk
6 chinooks, maybe we should put chinook salmon, if we're
7 going to talk dog salmon, maybe we should clarify that.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think you brought up a
10 valid point, especially if we're going to bring this up
11 before the subregion offices and our people, they've got
12 to know what we're talking about and what we are
13 addressing. And I think that is a valid point. Jack.

14
15 MR. REAKOFF: These species of fish can
16 be reviewed on a yearly basis, also?

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, this regulation would
19 be reviewed annually. I think we're burying ourselves in
20 detail here. I think if that's the intent that you want
21 salmon species up there let's put it in there and then
22 we'll move it through the process and go ahead with it.
23 Because what you're saying is you're trying to explain
24 through this draft language to your users in the villages
25 what this means. We'll work out the language that will
26 go into regulation, that will capture that, but my
27 understanding it is fish, but it's mainly salmon. And so
28 we will -- you're mixing two objectives here. One, to
29 educate your users with the regulatory language. So I
30 think it'd be wise to put in there salmon for the use.

31
32 Maybe Jerry has something else on that?

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, but this came up
35 before 10 Regional Councils and quite a few other joint
36 meetings that the only species that we address on
37 customary trade is salmon and I just wanted to make that
38 clear, I think that's the only thing that we can address
39 because everything else is regional or areawide -- area
40 specific. Jerry, you had a comment?

41

42 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chair. I guess just
43 to keep the broad perspective that when this went out for
44 review it was intended to go out statewide, and I believe
45 there was some comments that there are some situations
46 where actually whitefish may fall into the category or
47 some other species in Southeast and that's why it was
48 left as fish. That was my understanding but you've
49 already qualified your statement on 12 to say for Yukon
50 and Kuskokwim areas only. So I think you're certainly
00132

1 headed down the right path for your area, that it really
2 only applies to salmon.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

5

6 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, but again, I know
9 darn well, but everybody should know that the only
10 species we address or can address, I think, is salmon
11 species. And Vince was right on this, we've already
12 spent 45 minutes on this, 50 minutes, so we've got a full
13 agenda in front of us, too, so how much more time do you
14 want on this customary trade, all we can do is make
15 recommendations, we do not have to solve the issue at
16 this time.

17

18 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I'll move the
19 adoption of our recommendation.

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert, you had some
24 discussion, sorry to cut you off.

25

26 MR. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, you know,
27 to clarify, too, you know, there is freshwater fish and
28 saltwater fish, too. There is two different species here.
29 So, you know, we know that only salmon is a saltwater
30 fish.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, again, I'm pretty
33 sure that the only thing that we, as the Regional
34 Council, can address is salmon, though. And I just
35 wanted to make that clear and I saw some heads shaking
36 out there. Fred.

37

38 MR. ANDERSEN: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, one
39 thing for your consideration, if you're about to vote on
40 this amended language, it would allow 100 pounds of
41 salmon strips to be sold, is that the intention, 100
42 pounds of strips? If you're talking about 100 pounds of
43 king salmon, that's five or six average adult size kings

44 sold in the round, if you're talking about 100 pounds of
45 strips that's 35, 40 king salmon. I don't know how many
46 people are selling strips, nor do I know how many pounds
47 of strips are sold but if, for example, you had 500
48 people selling 100 pounds of strips, that's 20,000 king
49 salmon.

50
00133

1 Two years ago on the Yukon 20,000 kings
2 was the difference between making the escapement goals
3 and not. You're talking potentially about very, very
4 large numbers of fish taken out of a stock that's
5 severely debilitated right now. These king salmon stocks
6 are on the rocks. So I just wanted to offer that for
7 your consideration, potentially we're talking about large
8 numbers of kings being offered up for sale here. Maybe
9 that's your intention, maybe it's not, I don't know.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Yes, we do
14 have a motion on the floor and I'd like to thank Fred for
15 that clarification and we are in discussion and
16 deliberation. Jack Reakoff.

17
18 MR. REAKOFF: Well, this is strictly
19 between rural and others. In a time of concern, those
20 fish cannot go out of this area. And when there's a
21 depletion in the run those fish would have to be used on
22 the system. So that changes the whole demographics of
23 how those fish are going to be sold. And that's why when
24 there's a stock -- when it comes to a critical not
25 meeting escapement goals, when there's significant
26 subsistence restrictions, that's what triggers the
27 elimination of sale to others, to urban. And that -- and
28 then those fish are going to be used in the drainage by
29 people who would normally harvest them.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Again, when
32 Fred asked for that clarification, I saw a lot of heads
33 on this table agreeing. I would like to know if the
34 Council would like to add or clarify that 100 pounds of
35 salmon, do you want to add strips at the end of that half
36 of that sentence, 100 pounds of salmon strips or not,
37 because I think we should clarify it.

38
39 Robert.

40
41 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, would 100
42 pounds of dried salmon, would that work?

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the feeling of the
45 Council?

46
47 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, you know, I have to
48 agree with Robert, too, because there is some people
49 that, you know, they don't just sell salmon strips,
50 they'll sell silver salmon, too, you know, we smoke
00134

1 silver salmon for what they call chewing fish and there's
2 people in Galena that do that. You know, they don't

3 target king salmon but they target silvers.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. Go back
6 to that 100 pounds of -- let's put -- I think everybody's
7 using the word, processed salmon right now, does that
8 clarify it? I mean is that clear to everybody? And drop
9 the dried and drop the strips. Is this understood by the
10 Council? Okay, with the Council?

11

12 (Council nods affirmatively)

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that our intention
15 would be read and understood when the final language
16 comes out on that. When they do come out with the final
17 language, we do -- or we can call a special meeting and
18 meet again just on this one issue just as YK-Delta did.

19

20 Micky.

21

22 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, I was just
23 wondering, you know, while we're going to -- we're going
24 to adopt this language but I was wondering, you know,
25 like Stanley, you know, are we going to put it out there
26 for public comment?

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that's the intent of
29 getting -- that's why we're putting it on the floor
30 before the Western Interior, so that it comes out to all
31 the villages and we want them to come back to us on this
32 and it will be going back to the Federal Subsistence
33 Board and all the agencies. That's all we're doing right
34 now is making some recommendations so our villagers can
35 comment on this. Robert.

36

37 MR. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, on this
38 letter from Sidney Huntington, too, you know, he has a
39 processing plant and we're using the word processed here,
40 processed salmon. Sidney defines here very accurately
41 what he had to do and how much it cost him to process
42 fish and now -- I'm kind of wondering about this letter
43 here, how it's going to affect the outcome of this?

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'll try to
48 speak as Pete Probasco did but I probably won't do as
49 well. The charge before you is to look at customary
50 trade within Federal regulations. The requirements of
00135

1 the Department of Environment Conservation are out of our
2 control. So they'll be at the Board meeting and, et
3 cetera, to address that. If you go down that path of
4 trying to wordsmith to address Department of
5 Environmental Conservation, I don't think we'll achieve
6 it. I think you need to look at it as it's going on now.
7 Does this reflect customary trade at this moment and has
8 gone on for years before, if it does, then leave it at
9 that. I think that's -- DEC said they're going to
10 enforce but how can they enforce when they haven't been
11 able to enforce it in the past? So I caution you not to
12 worry about DEC because it's an unknown.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

15

16 MR. REAKOFF: Well, Sidney's operation is
17 intended for commercial harvest and this deals with
18 village harvest and customary use. So Sidney's operation
19 was strictly if there was a commercial opening he wanted
20 to process fish to be sold commercially and that wouldn't
21 even enter into this process here.

22

23 MR. WALKER: Okay.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion,
26 deliberation? Dave.

27

28 MR. ANDERSEN: There's one other point I
29 think might be worthwhile, I don't know if it requires
30 wording change or just a clarification from the Council.
31 But on the 50 percent concept, if a household catches a
32 thousand pounds of kings and a thousand pounds of chum
33 salmon, is it your intent that they could sell all the
34 kings and say that's the half of my catch I'm going to
35 sell or did you want that to be specie specific?

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Where would we make any
38 changes? I think that we should make those changes.
39 Jack.

40

41 MR. REAKOFF: Well, just insertion of the
42 words, at least 50 percent of each, instead of all --
43 remove all -- of each fish species.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Okay. Yes, any
46 further changes, recommendations. Emmitt.

47

48 MR. PETERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think
49 the important thing right now is to draw up a plan here
50 and the Board should send somebody to every village and
00136

1 see what they think about it. Otherwise if you put this
2 in it's going to piss everybody off. And it's very
3 important we get the word out to our people whether they
4 decide they like your proposal or whatever. So it's very
5 nice to have somebody here that can word it out so we
6 they can understand. And I think that's a very important
7 thing to do right now.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Sometimes the
12 only time we get reaction from the villages is when we P
13 them off, and that's when we need their input. I see it
14 in every council. We're not intending to do that we're
15 just giving them some recommendations to work on at this
16 point. Any further discussion.

17

18 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Question.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called.

21 All those in favor of forwarding the Western Interior

22 recommendation on customary trade to the Federal

23 Subsistence Board signify by saying aye.

24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

28

29 (No opposing votes)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. The next
32 item on the agenda, Vince.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Right
35 now we're moving into discussion on the North Pacific
36 Fisheries Management Council and Jerry needs to kind of
37 shift gear just a little bit here. He's going to talk
38 about recent actions on the salmon by-catch.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Can we get some lights in
41 here?

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: And it's under -- I think
44 it's under -- I got to look up the tab here for you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jerry.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: It would be under Tab F and
49 Jerry will be presenting that and then I'll be discussing
50 with you the potential tri-Council resolution addressing
00137

1 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this the one for YK-
4 Delta, Western Interior and Eastern Interior?

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. But he's first going
7 to give you an update on what the North Pacific Fisheries
8 Management Council did and then I'll address the
9 resolution.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's on Page 5 under Tab
12 F.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, we got
15 a little bit of confusion so why don't we just go ahead
16 and address the draft resolution, which is under Tab F.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Fine, Page 5.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: It's on Page 5, if we want,
21 if -- well, that might be easier and then we'll group on
22 this by-catch deal; if that's all right?

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. This came out of
27 your tri-Council meeting. What I mean by that it came
28 out after the tri-Council meeting. Gerald Nicholia
29 requested that I draft up a resolution based on a
30 resolution that was being drafted by the Native Village
31 of Tanana. Basically you have it on Page 5 through 7.
32 It is requesting the North Pacific Fisheries Management

33 Council work with the Alaskan villages, tribes and
34 subsistence groups on the high sea salmon by-catch
35 concern. I will not go over all the whereases because
36 you have them in front of you. But the main thing is is
37 that the resolution is asking, by the three Councils, if
38 you adopt it, YK -- Yukon-Kuskokwim has already adopted
39 this, Eastern has adopted it, requests the North Pacific
40 Fisheries Management Council schedule as soon as possible
41 to work in partnership
42 with the villages, the Alaska Marine Conservation
43 Council, the Alaska Ocean Network and various groups to
44 work in partnership with them to reduce or eliminate
45 Alaska salmon by-catch on the high sea for the benefit of
46 all Yukon and Kuskokwim River drainage residents to
47 preserve the traditional subsistence lifestyle.

48
49 Further be it resolved that the three
50 Councils are willing to be the platform or conduit to
00138

1 assist your management council to develop partnerships
2 with this group.

3
4 So in a nutshell, that's it. The other
5 two Councils have adopted it and I will ask Donald, they
6 didn't modify it at Eastern did they?

7
8 MR. MIKE: (Shakes head negatively)

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: And YK did not modify it so
11 it's before you as a resolution for your approval.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: What would the resolution
14 number be by the way, if anything?

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: It will be 01.

17
18 MR. STICKMAN: 02-01.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Right. I'll have Micky get
21 me straight on that because I always get those wrong but
22 I believe it's the only resolution the tri-Councils will
23 have. So it would be 02-01.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair will entertain a
26 motion to adopt Resolution 02-01 addressing the North
27 Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

28
29 MR. STICKMAN: So moved, Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

32
33 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Jack Reakoff.
36 Further discussion. As stated by Vince, the other two
37 Councils have already passed it.

38
39 MR. STICKWAN: Hearing none I call for
40 the question.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called

43 for by Micky Stickman. All those in favor of passing
44 Resolution 02-01 signify by saying aye.

45

46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

49

50 (No opposing votes)

00139

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Next on
2 the agenda, Vince.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, now we'll go
5 back to what the actions of the North Pacific Fisheries
6 Management Council did on the by-catch and Rich Cannon,
7 one of the team members will present that.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Cannon.

10

11 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The
12 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council in an action
13 on February 11th, 2002 made some -- made a decision to
14 basically initiate an analysis of alternatives to control
15 salmon by-catch in the Gulf of Alaska in the ground fish
16 trawl fisheries.

17

18 They're considering, this isn't something
19 that's actually happened yet, they're simply considering
20 establishment of by-catch limits based on historic
21 average by-catch amounts for chinook and other salmon
22 which are generally chum. Attainment of these limits by
23 trawl fisheries would result in closures. This would be
24 like a -- some type of a by-catch cap. And in
25 implementing this the Council will consider prohibition
26 of discarded salmon and an accounting of salmon in the
27 by-catch through the use of observers in plant based
28 processing. They're also calling for a genetic study to
29 determine the origin of these fish using genetic markers.
30 And that's basically what the Council is considering
31 doing and they're looking for public input which has just
32 been discussed with you.

33

34 That's a summary of what's happened. Mr.
35 Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Rich. As you
38 know it's been about five or six years now that we've
39 been trying to deal with salmon. And at one of our first
40 meetings we addressed genetics of -- we requested studies
41 on the genetics of where these fish came from out on the
42 high seas so I am glad they are taking some action on
43 identifying them.

44

45 Jack.

46

47 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair. At our October
48 meeting, the data that was presented showed very
49 significant interceptions north of the Unimak Pass of
50 chinook and I requested when those interceptions took
00140

1 place and I was told they mainly occurred between January

2 and March and I feel that the Council should actually
3 have closure periods restricted area periods when fishing
4 is not allowed. Like these caps are being -- they're
5 fairly high numbers these caps. And I would much prefer
6 the Council to actually have exclusion zones for certain
7 time frames when salmon are going through passage en
8 route through there and allow their trawl fleet to fish
9 at other time frames when salmon aren't so prevalent
10 there.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments on
13 the North Pacific action on salmon by-catch? If not,
14 thank you, Rich.

15

16 MR. CANNON: Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: We've done number 2
19 already, right?

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: What time is lunch
24 scheduled for?

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: I talked to the lodge staff
27 and I said we'd be there around 12:30 so I think we're
28 okay on time if we move into the Yukon, we got all those
29 chairs up there to get everybody up to do kind of a joint
30 presentation on the Yukon. So I think you've got plenty
31 of time.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. While
34 the Yukon River presentation team is being set up, I'd
35 like to call for a five or 10 minute break? Is that fine
36 with everybody while they're setting up?

37

38 (Council nods affirmatively)

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

41

42 (Off record)

43

44 (On record)

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would like to call the
47 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council meeting back
48 to order. The next item on the agenda is Yukon River
49 fisheries and I believe did we move the streamlining up
50 first or what?

00141

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we did. And Rod
2 Simmons will keep us on track on that, on the moving up,
3 that will come underneath the protocol, the Yukon River
4 Salmon Management Protocol. But they will walk you
5 through and for the new Council members, these agendas
6 are drafted way months ahead so sometimes they look real
7 rigid but it's meant just now to get people up here that
8 are key presenters and then I'll try to facilitate, if
9 need be, but these guys are really good at that. So
10 we'll make sure the topics that are listed on the agenda
11 are covered, they may just not be in the order that's

12 here. But the objective is to give you what's going on
13 in the Yukon and what's going on on the Kuskokwim as far
14 as with salmon.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: So we'll now turn this
17 over to Rod Simmons -- no, Ted Bue and.....

18

19 MR. HANDER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.
20 I'm Ray Hander, I'm with the US Fish and Wildlife Service
21 with the Fairbanks Fishery Resource Office and I'm the
22 assistant in-season, subsistence fishery manager on the
23 Yukon. The management staff from the US Fish and
24 Wildlife Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and
25 Game have cooperatively worked to develop this draft
26 information sheet that we laid out during the break that
27 you have in front of you there. It's the draft
28 information sheet for Yukon River salmon fisheries.

29

30 A similar handout was produced last year,
31 you may remember this thing coming around in force. We
32 got some positive feedback on that and we decided to go
33 ahead with the same format again this year. So my part
34 of this presentation will review the 2001 season and some
35 information/management items for you to consider. Mr.
36 Bue will review the draft information sheet after that.

37

38 So here's a brief summary of the 2001
39 salmon season. First off we want you to know that we
40 appreciated subsistence fisheries compliance and
41 participation in helping with the 2001 subsistence
42 fishing schedule since that was a new item that was a bit
43 of a change and took a little getting used to. The 2001
44 season.

45

46 The outlook for 2001 was below average to
47 poor returns for chinook summer chum and fall chum salmon
48 and here's basically what happened. The chinook salmon
49 returned slightly better than expected but the overall
50 return, the overall run return was still below average.

00142

1 For chum salmon, both summer and fall chums returned, the
2 returns were poor. No commercial fishing occurred for
3 any salmon species in the Yukon River during 2001.

4

5 Escapement for chinook was encouraging
6 but both summer and fall chum salmon escapements were
7 quite disappointing. Subsistence harvest of chinook
8 salmon exceeded the recent 10 year average while both
9 chum and fall salmon total harvest were more than 80
10 percent below recent 10 year averages.

11

12 And that kind of wraps up the salmon
13 topic portion and we'll get into some of the actions that
14 occurred last year.

15

16 One of the more controversial actions was
17 for the Federal Subsistence Board to adopt the special
18 action that closed the chinook fishery and summer --
19 excuse me, let me back up. One of the more controversial
20 actions was for the Federal Subsistence Board to adopt
21 the special action that closed the chinook and summer

22 chum subsistence salmon fishery for 60 days. This action
23 affected all users except Federally-qualified subsistence
24 users on all Federal waters in the Yukon River drainage.
25 This action was taken in large part due to the assessment
26 that the salmon returns in 2001 would not be sufficient
27 to meet escapement goals and subsistence harvest.

28
29 And that concludes my review of the 2001
30 fisheries season. Now, I have a couple of informational
31 items for you that are going to be coming up later this
32 year. One of them is coming up really fast here, it will
33 be next week at the annual Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
34 Association meeting. And with this meeting, I hope to
35 provide the Coordinating Fishery Committee members more
36 input into management decisions. And as this first step
37 I'd like to request that the committee members consider a
38 meeting at the annual YRDFA meeting next week, and a
39 proposed date would be the evening of March 25th -- is
40 that still on tab Vince?

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: (Nods affirmatively)

43
44 MR. HANDER: Okay. And that will be at
45 the end of that first day of meetings. And some of the
46 discussion topics that will be addressed will be comments
47 regarding reduced fishing schedules and that would be
48 lower than the Board of Fish schedule and what you liked
49 or did not like about it last year, because I know, you
50 know, when we took action to reduce from that Board of
00143

1 Fish schedule, trying to get some understanding if that
2 worked or if it didn't and some input to the managers
3 would be helpful. You know, weekends versus weekdays,
4 things of that nature. And another topic would be to
5 discuss how the Coordinating Fishery Committee can ensure
6 a broader consensus viewpoint on issues for the Federal
7 Subsistence Board and the in-season managers. And
8 another topic would be dialogue on the Yukon River
9 fisheries monitoring projects and the relationship and
10 priorities that relate to the in-season management. I
11 think there will be some others but those are kind of the
12 main hitters.

13
14 The second informational item I have for
15 you is to inform you that the US Fish and Wildlife
16 Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game are
17 attempting to initiate an in-season subsistence fishery
18 monitoring program this coming year. This program will
19 be -- it's a pilot program and it will be in two
20 villages, one in Emmonak and the other will either be in
21 Kaltag, Nulato or Galena and this pilot project will
22 focus on the quality of harvest rather than the number of
23 fish harvested and would be patterned after the Kuskokwim
24 River in-season monitoring project that started last
25 year.

26
27 This project has come about from a
28 request by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to the
29 US Fish and Wildlife Service and also the need to use
30 subsistence fisheries information that is provided by
31 fisheries on the river during the season to help managers

32 make more informed decisions. And the information we
33 gather will be presented -- during this pilot project, as
34 the season goes along, we'll present this information at
35 weekly -- at the weekly YRDFA teleconferences.

36

37 And that concludes my part of the
38 presentation and I'll turn the floor over to Fred Bue.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Before you do so, you
41 mentioned a committee meeting at the YRDFA meeting, which
42 committee were you alluding to?

43

44 MR. HANDER: It will be a convening of
45 the CFC.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

48

49 MR. HANDER: The Coordinating Fishery
50 Committee.

00144

1 MR. STICKWAN: Ron.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

4

5 MR. STICKWAN: I have a question before
6 we go on.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Micky and then Jack.

9

10 MR. STICKMAN: You talked about a pilot
11 project, your pilot project how are they going to be
12 fishing? Are they going to be using a local with a set
13 net site or a local with -- you know, because in Nulato
14 there's set net sites, there's fishwheel sites and then
15 there's drifting sites, you know, it depends on their
16 family. You know, I mean like me, you know, I have all
17 three -- I mean I have an option of doing all three but I
18 drift net because I catch more fish and I get done
19 faster, so I drift net.

20

21 MR. HANDER: Yes, Mr. Chair, Mr.
22 Stickman. Maybe, I think my wording might have been a
23 poor choice, I said in-season monitoring project, that
24 may conjure up things like test fisheries and things like
25 that. It will be a survey of fishers in these two
26 villages. And what we're trying to capture is, for
27 instance, pre-season, we would try to contact fisheries in
28 these villages to get them to agree pre-season that we
29 could survey them through the course of the season and
30 try to ascertain whether you're kind of on-target for
31 your subsistence needs being met or are you behind as
32 compared to your normal harvest; things like that. So we
33 -- if I understood, I think what you're asking, we're not
34 going to be fishing, it would be persons asking survey
35 questions. Did I answer your question?

36

37 MR. STICKMAN: Yes. You know, I'm glad
38 that you're going to be doing something like this.
39 Because, you know, like for commercial interests, you
40 know, when we have our weekly teleconferences, you know,
41 we do a subsistence report, you know, and as you go down

42 to the lower Yukon and into Y1 and Y2, you know, they get
43 their subsistence fish in one day, you know, so they all
44 group together and they say I got 100 percent, 100
45 percent so Fish and Game immediately open up for
46 commercial fishing before -- you know, have a commercial
47 opening. Whereas, you know, their subsistence need is
48 probably 30 fish compared to 100 for me. You know, as
49 you go up the river it takes you longer and longer to get
50 what you need unless you fish at the rapids.
00145

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: On that pilot program, are
4 you going to be looking for disease and so forth of the
5 catch as to consideration of whether subsistence needs
6 are being met?

7

8 MR. HANDER: I know that any additional
9 comments that we receive from fishers that are noting --
10 that are having problems more -- more fish than normal
11 that they see, for instances, the ichthyophonous problem,
12 we'd certainly -- we want to hear those kinds of
13 information coming back to us so we can -- certainly the
14 management Staff with both agencies are very aware and, I
15 think, very concerned about these kinds of problems, so,
16 yeah, any and all information is welcome.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more questions? If
21 not, Fred Bue.

22

23 MR. BUE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For
24 the record I'm Fred Bue, Fish and Game fall season area
25 manager for the Yukon River. In January 2001, the Alaska
26 Board of Fish recognized the Yukon River salmon stocks
27 were in a serious situation. The designated chinook
28 summer chum and fall chum salmon are stocks of concern on
29 the Yukon River drainage. They laid out management plans
30 and action plans with the intent to spread harvest to all
31 users throughout the Yukon River drainage, to improve the
32 quality of escapement and the result of the meeting was a
33 new subsistence window fishing schedule. And they also
34 increased the State's authority to regulate gear so that
35 abundant species could be targeted while continuing to
36 protect the weak stocks.

37

38 Subject to ANILCA, the State and Federal
39 managers are working cooperatively to manage the Yukon
40 River salmon resource. This information on the sheet we
41 handed out reviews the 2001 season and describes the
42 management of the upcoming 2002 season. So keep in mind
43 this is still only a draft. Some concepts, numbers,
44 fishing schedules are.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Excuse me, Fred, what
47 document are you looking at?

48

49 MR. BUE: I'm sorry, Ray and I were going
50 through this a little bit together.

00146

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

2

3 MR. BUE: So again, we're trying not to
4 distribute this too widely yet but we are still open to
5 suggestions on how to improve the format. We've been
6 bringing it to the RACs trying to get a little bit of
7 input and holding out for the YR DFA to get more of a
8 cross section, everybody altogether in one place with
9 some more ideas.

10

11 The front page essentially summarizes
12 much of the information contained in the rest of the
13 handout.

14

15 We anticipate the trend of poor salmon
16 production since 1998 will continue in the 2002 season.
17 The 2002 chinook salmon run is expected to be similar to
18 2001. And chum salmon runs are difficult to project in-
19 season but based on the continued trend we anticipate the
20 runs will come in poor to below average. Even if the
21 2001 doubles last year it would still only provide enough
22 surplus to meet subsistence needs.

23

24 Harvest outlook. Given the uncertainties
25 associated with declines in productivity, this year's
26 salmon fisheries will be managed conservatively. It is
27 anticipated that enough chinook salmon may be available
28 for escapement goals and subsistence harvest. A small
29 chinook salmon commercial harvest may even be possible
30 but subsistence for summer and fall chum salmon may be
31 less than normal. That's our outlook.

32

33 Touching on management strategies. We'll
34 manage for escapement and spread out subsistence harvest
35 opportunity along the entire Yukon River. The Alaska
36 Board of Fisheries, windowed fishing schedule used in
37 2001 will again be used this season. Given the poor
38 outlook, a preseason emergency order is planned that will
39 reduce the sportfish daily bag limit to one chinook or
40 one chum salmon in the Yukon River. Based on the
41 evaluation of in-season indicators of run strength, the
42 Alaska Board of Fisheries subsistence fishing schedule
43 may be reduced sometime after the quarter point of each
44 salmon run. We're going to hold out until we get a good
45 picture of what is happening before we start making
46 restrictions and cut backs. Other uses could be closed
47 unless escapement go in a specific tributary was
48 projected to be met and a weak stock could be protected.

49

50 There is a chance a small commercial

00147

1 chinook salmon harvest could be allowed near the mid
2 point of the run or later. Typically we would look for
3 10 to 14 day build up of the run with pulses that sustain
4 themselves for several days.

5

6 In the case of the fall chum, we plan to
7 start the season on the same schedule and restrictions
8 where we left off with summer chum. We do this because
9 summer chum are a good indicator of the fall chum run
10 strength. In-season we will present run assessment

11 information and discuss management strategies during
12 weekly YRDFA sponsored teleconferences.

13

14 The next page, it provides a brief
15 summary of the 2001 Yukon River salmon fisheries with
16 some of the same highlights that Ray just pointed out.
17 I'll skip over that portion.

18

19 The third page summarizes our 2002 Yukon
20 River fisheries outlook. The top three boxes characterize
21 our expectations by species. A small commercial fishery
22 may be possible for chinook salmon but none are expected
23 for summer and fall chum.

24

25 We anticipate enough chinook available
26 for subsistence needs, however, fishing opportunity may
27 need to be restricted for the chum fisheries.

28

29 Coho salmon is not listed here but we
30 expect the run to be near average. Even though there
31 will likely be a surplus we do not anticipate a
32 commercial harvest and there may be some subsistence
33 restrictions implemented in order to conserve fall chum
34 salmon that overlap in run timing.

35

36 We're still in the process of updating
37 the portion on the Canadian origin chinook salmon. In
38 managing chinook salmon, the US/Canada Yukon River Panel
39 met at Whitehorse last week or -- yeah, at Whitehorse and
40 decided upon a spawning escapement target into Canada.
41 As some of you may be more familiar with this but at this
42 time they agreed the escapement into Canada would be
43 25,000. If we have a limited commercial fishery, the
44 border passage would be raised to 28,000. What they're
45 recognizing is that the stock is not fully rebuilt yet,
46 they're allowing -- even though the management agreement
47 allows 33 to 43,000, the goal there, they're allowing
48 some opportunity for subsistence and aboriginal harvest
49 during the rebuilding phase rather than complete closure.

50

00148

1 The Yukon River chinook salmon returning
2 to spawn in Canada contributes about 50 percent of the
3 Alaska harvest, of harvest by Alaskan fishermen. The
4 2001 run of 82,000 Canadian origin chinook salmon was
5 very poor indicating unusually low production from parent
6 year escapements that were considered above average.

7

8 Skipping along to the next page,
9 subsistence fishing schedule. It lays out the
10 subsistence fishing schedule by district. The period in
11 length is the maximum allowed by regulation, however,
12 times and days of the week are still somewhat flexible.
13 We anticipate that the 2002 chinook run will be similar
14 to last year, the summer and fall chum runs will be
15 managed using regulatory management plans and these
16 management plans are laid out in the following pages.
17 Note, if it is determined that surplus salmon are
18 insufficient -- that salmon runs are insufficient to
19 provide for escapement and subsistence, then subsistence
20 fishing times will be reduced from the Board of Fisheries

21 schedule as necessary. Subsistence salmon fishing
22 opportunity may be further restricted to Federally-
23 qualified users only. This means rural residents of the
24 Yukon River drainage and also includes the community of
25 Stebbins. This restriction would be rescinded when the
26 salmon run was determined to be sufficient to meet
27 escapement and subsistence needs.

28

29 And that concludes my discussion on the
30 information sheet, Mr. Chairman.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

33

34 MR. REAKOFF: The chinook limited
35 commercial harvest, was any thought put into the last two
36 years when there was a big build up and big shots of
37 chinook started coming and then it looked good and then
38 it trailed off? Have you assessed where that came from?
39 Was that a product of late break up timing and so forth?

40

41 MR. BUE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Reakoff.
42 As far as where it comes from the environment determines
43 that every year and there may be like break up that
44 delays timing or there may be early break up, storms off
45 shore, whatever. There's also other conditions such as
46 debris in the water that may make it so that we can't
47 fish and we can't assess the run early to any
48 satisfaction. But what we intend to do and compensate
49 for that, is to, like I said, delay that until mid
50 season, well into the run managing conservatively.

00149

1 Typical management we would watch the run for seven to 10
2 days, what we're doing is waiting 10 to 14 days, waiting
3 until we have a much clearer picture before we go into
4 looking at options.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
7 Fred Bue?

8

9 MR. STICKWAN: Just one.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

12

13 MR. STICKMAN: You know, I guess I would
14 caution you on as you look forward for in-season
15 management, I would caution you because, you know, if you
16 look back in 1999, in Y1 and Y2 they had commercial
17 openings and then the chinook salmon got to the middle
18 Yukon, to the Y4 area, where I come from and they had
19 subsistence restrictions and that's managing the fish
20 backwards right there. And then if you look at last
21 year, there was no commercial fishing from -- throughout
22 the whole United States side of the river but then when
23 you cross to the other side, they were having commercial
24 openings for chinook salmon in Canada. So you know, I
25 would just caution you to make sure you look at all the
26 users and be fair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

29

30 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, this is

31 kind of a general question as to strategy and management
32 policy and I'm questioning, when we're trying to rebuilt
33 stocks, why would you, at the earliest opportunity, try
34 to open any commercial? Wouldn't it be better to err on
35 the side for at least a year and not do anything and have
36 even higher escapements or something? Because we still
37 don't have a handle on what's happening to those fish at
38 the high seas and maybe our escapement goals are too low
39 to be putting into the system fish that's going to allow
40 us to continue in the future. Why do we monitor and open
41 one at the first opportunity instead of err with keeping
42 it closed for a year or two to see what's going on? This
43 is a general, both on the Kuskokwim and the Yukon, what's
44 our strategy going to be?

45

46 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Collins. Your
47 point is well taken. We feel that we are managing -- our
48 strategy is fairly conservative. Last year we did have a
49 potential commercial surplus. According to our
50 information we did meet most of the subsistence needs.

00150

1 We did have a 15 to 20,000 fish surplus but we did not
2 commercially harvest, the opportunity, we restrained
3 ourselves. There was -- as Mr. Stickman mentioned, there
4 was a commercial harvest, we did pass fish to Canada,
5 there was a small commercial harvest in Canada, that was
6 taken under a commercial test fishery and maybe -- on our
7 part we run test wheels and we do some harvest, they call
8 it a commercial test fishery because they use the
9 commercial fishery to recover tags for their population
10 assessment. And so we're not jumping right into it but
11 we don't want to rule out, if there is something
12 substantial that was unforeseen, that we are presenting
13 it to people that there is a possibility of a commercial
14 fishery.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

17

18 MR. REAKOFF: Another concern I have with
19 the chinook is this ichthyophonous mortalities, these high
20 mortalities of ichthyophonous and I was wondering if the
21 escapement levels have been increased for the indicator
22 that these -- are you going to be checking for
23 ichthyophonous incidents as an assessment as to whether
24 you're going to have certain mortalities up stream.

25

26 MR. BUE: Well, I can try but I'm sure
27 there are others here better than that to answer that.
28 At this point we're not factoring in -- we don't know --
29 we're looking at fish on the spawning grounds. We don't
30 know how successful those are -- those fish are at
31 spawning. And so -- but we are monitoring throughout the
32 run. We do have ongoing studies of ichthyophonous. And
33 we don't have a real good handle on that. We don't know
34 at what level the mortality is before spawning and we
35 don't know how successful those fish are at spawning.
36 There's a lot of assumptions and a lot of those
37 assumptions are going back and forth. Ideas come up but
38 then they're discounted later, so we don't know that at
39 this point.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.
42
43 MR. WALKER: Yes, Fred, Robert Walker
44 from Anvik. Do you have any idea on how many farm fish
45 does go up the Yukon River, chinook, fall chum, chum
46 salmon?
47
48 MR. BUE: Farm fish is -- I hope I don't
49 get myself in trouble.
50
00151
1 (Laughter)
2
3 MR. BUE: But typically the farm fish,
4 the way we would be getting farm fish up the Yukon River
5 is if they were straying. There is a mitigation hatchery
6 at Whitehorse to mitigate the effects of the dam there
7 and that's for chinook and it's not for production, it's
8 just believed to be mitigating what they estimate the
9 loss is through the dam. But so for chinook it's there.
10 For chum salmon it would be a straying effect and at this
11 point we don't know what may be going on.
12
13 MR. WALKER: Okay. My next question,
14 because we had some people catch chinook salmon that
15 didn't have that small little fin behind your dorsal fin
16 and they were kind of wondering and we talked to some
17 people up in Fairbanks that said it probably is a farm
18 fish.
19
20 MR. BUE: Yeah, often -- that's a good
21 point. Often you'll see fin clips on, if they're
22 hatchery origin fish and they may have the adapols
23 clipped off. If you see that and it looks like it was
24 something that was clipped off, maybe healed up, we would
25 be interested in that. A lot of times they'll have a tab
26 embedded in the nose and they can tell where that fish
27 came from. But it's often a secondary mark on the fish
28 to point out that it could be a hatchery fish and I'm not
29 familiar with Whitehorse but it seems reasonable to think
30 that they were doing that.
31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.
33
34 MR. REAKOFF: Well, I would caution you
35 about having a commercial opening. You know, we've had
36 some pretty weak runs and I'm of the opinion that these
37 stocks need some bolstering. And with this ichthyophonous
38 question I would be very cautious about it, I would be
39 very cautious about having commercial openings.
40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.
42
43 MR. HANDER: Mr. Chair, Mr. Reakoff.
44 There are studies going on and if I'm -- I'll stand
45 corrected by someone in the crowd there but there are
46 progress reports and text on that study that, I think are
47 available to the public and those could be gotten for you
48 or I can give you some kind of information of how to get
49 a hold of the researcher in Seattle.
50

00152

1 MR. REAKOFF: I've seen that.

2

3 MR. HANDER: Okay, I just wanted to
4 provide the opportunity. Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
7 Ray or Fred? IF not, thank you. Is that the end of
8 this?

9

10 MR. BUE: (Nods affirmatively)

11

12 MR. HANDER: (Nods affirmatively)

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Rod.

15 MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
16 members of the Council. My name is Rod Simmons, I'm with
17 the Fish and Wildlife Service and serve on the Inter-
18 Agency Staff Committee. I'd like to turn the Council's
19 attention to Tab F, Page 31. What I'm going to present
20 today is a topic of streamlining Federal fisheries in-
21 season special actions.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: What page was that?

24

25 MR. SIMMONS: Page 31 under Tab F. For
26 clarification to the Council, this is an informational
27 item not requiring action, however we certainly would
28 like to hear from the Council on this topic.

29

30 Two years of on the ground management
31 experience in the Yukon River and Kuskokwim River has
32 provided an opportunity for the Federal program to
33 evaluate administrative efficiencies associated with
34 issuing special actions. Special actions are temporary
35 regulations to open, close or restrict subsistence uses
36 of fish and wildlife when resource abundance levels
37 affect harvest opportunities. The Federal special
38 actions are very equivalent to the State's emergency
39 order regulations and have been initiated for each and
40 every adjustment to subsistence fisheries. As example,
41 this past season on the Yukon River 27 special actions
42 were issued, 26 of these were the same as the State's
43 emergency orders.

44

45 The issuance of special actions has a
46 considerable amount of administrative paperwork
47 associated with it including posting legal notification
48 in area newspaper and publication in the Federal
49 Register. Sometimes management actions out pace this
50 publication requirement and new regulations are in effect
00153

1 by the time they are printed in newspapers. This, can
2 obviously lead to considerable confusion of the public,
3 subsistence users on what regulations are actually in
4 effect.

5

6 The Federal Subsistence Board is
7 considering streamlining the special action process by
8 limiting them only in situations where Federal actions
9 differ from State management actions. The Board will

10 make a decision on this change at the May 2002 meeting.
11 This will be a temporary action that will be in effect on
12 a trial basis for the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers this
13 season only to evaluate it.

14
15 You might be asking yourself how this
16 administrative change may affect communications for
17 Council members as well as subsistence users. I'd refer
18 you to the diagram on Page 32 that in, a general sense,
19 outlines the communication links between the Federal
20 manager and Council members, the agreed upon action by
21 the State and Federal managers and the primary vehicle
22 for announcements is through a State/Federal joint news
23 release. Many of you, I'm sure, probably saw these faxes
24 coming in to you as far as these management action news
25 releases. That particular communication vehicle stays in
26 tact. The only thing we're talking about changing is
27 that dotted line box, which is primarily an
28 administrative document that is not generally seen by the
29 public. The only aspect of that you ever see is that
30 legal notification in the newspapers which I indicated
31 was problematic, in that, by the time they're printed in
32 the newspaper under public notice, which is a Federal
33 requirement, they're actually falling behind in terms of
34 the pace of management actions.

35
36 In cases where Federal management and the
37 Federal manager [sic] disagree with the proposed upcoming
38 management action that would lead to a divergence and
39 that's sort of outlined as the second part of that
40 diagram of diverging State and Federal in-season
41 management whereby Federal -- a separate Federal
42 management action would require a separate Federal news
43 release and notification in the Federal Register.

44
45 Initial discussions with the Federal
46 Subsistence Board were favorable on this particular
47 modification or streamlining initiative. However,
48 because this represents a temporary change to our
49 regulations, it requires holding a special public meeting
50 and the Board felt that this Council meeting was a
00154
1 logical opportunity to receive input from the Council was
2 well as the public.

3
4 And at this point that concludes my
5 presentation, Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any questions
8 for Mr. Simmons? Micky.

9
10 MR. STICKWAN: I have one. Last year
11 Monty Millard was the regulator for the Feds, who's going
12 to be the regulator for the Feds this year?

13
14 MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chair, Mr. Stickman,
15 that would be Russ Holder. Russ Holder, I don't know if
16 you know Russ but he's stationed in the same location
17 where Monty previously was. He'll be the in-season
18 manager for Federal.

19

20 MR. STICKWAN: Okay, thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions? If
23 not -- oh, go ahead, Jack.

24

25 MR. REAKOFF: I'm all in favor of
26 paperwork reduction so I would agree with this, you know,
27 that only when necessary these publications are made.

28

29 MR. SIMMONS: Thank you. Mr. Chair, I
30 have one final short update on the Yukon protocol to
31 present to the Council.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Rod.

34

35 MR. SIMMONS: Again, Mr. Chair, members
36 of the Council this is an information item. You may find
37 it under Tab F, Page 9. And what I want to present is a
38 very short update of the status of the Yukon Salmon
39 Management Protocol that was presented to this Council at
40 its winter meeting a year ago.

41

42 This protocol was nearly ready for
43 signature at that time but the State legislature became
44 curious of protocols in general that were under
45 development at that time and wanted briefings on them.
46 That aspect of that review slowed down this protocol
47 completion deadline and more or less put them in a
48 holding pattern.

49

50 During that period, the Staff took the
00155

1 opportunity to refine some wording in the Yukon Salmon
2 Protocol mainly associated with wording on the working
3 relationship between the Federal and State fisheries
4 managers as well as the topic of these joint news
5 releases. I'd like to stress that the steps outlined in
6 the protocol on communication and coordination with the
7 Councils and the Coordinating Fisheries Committee members
8 hasn't changed since the last briefing before this
9 Council. The signatories of the State Federal MOA will
10 be meeting in April and they're expected to sign this
11 protocol as a long-term agreement.

12

13 That concludes my short summary on the
14 update of the Yukon Protocol, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Rod. Any
17 questions for Mr. Simmons on the management protocol?
18 Vince.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Mike
21 McDougall did want to testify for the Yukon River Fishery
22 Drainage Association and Rod got a little ahead of me.
23 He did want to comment on the streamline of the Federal
24 fisheries in-season actions. So Mike will come up and
25 we'll encourage Mike on other topics to be available.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, that's fine, he did
28 turn that request in earlier. Go ahead, Mike.

29

30 MR. McDOUGALL: Yes, Mr. Chair, for the
31 record my name is Mike McDougall, I'm with Yukon River
32 Drainage Fisheries Association. YRDFA supports aligning
33 State and Federal regulations where possible.
34 Streamlining is positive as it helps reduce the Federal
35 work load during the in-season fishery and it ensures
36 that timely and consistent information is getting out to
37 the fisheries users.

38

39 That's all I have at this time.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does anyone have any
42 questions for Mike McDougall? Micky.

43

44 MR. STICKWAN: Just one, did they choose
45 a new director yet for -- an executive director for
46 YRDFA?

47

48 MR. McDOUGALL: Yes, Jill Klein is our
49 new Executive Director.

50

00156

1 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions?

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. McDOUGALL: Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings
11 us up to the US/Canada Salmon agreement. I believe Fred
12 Bue might give a update on that and then following that
13 there'll be a brief discussion on the Coordinating
14 Fishery Committee, which pretty much has been touched
15 upon. And then if Yukon River Drainage Fishery
16 Association has any additional items.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Fred.

19

20 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. Again, for the
21 record, my name is Fred Bue. As far as the US/Canada
22 Agreement, I know a lot of you are at different stages in
23 updates here. And so backtracking a little bit to bring
24 you up to speed. After 16 years US/Canada delegations to
25 the US/Canada Yukon River salmon negotiations reached
26 agreement in March of 2001 at Whitehorse. The agreement
27 outlines harvest sharing arrangements and rebuilding
28 plans for the Canadian origin chinook and fall chum
29 salmon and restoration, conservation enhancement programs
30 for shared salmon stocks.

31

32 The agreement has two parts. The
33 US/Canada Yukon River Panel shall make recommendations to
34 ADF&G and DFO, that's Department of Fisheries and Ocean
35 in Canada regarding the conservation coordinating
36 management of Canadian origin salmon. And the other part
37 is restoration and enhancement fund managed by the panel
38 will continue to fund projects that restore and conserve
39 wild stocks and provide support for enhancement when

40 where appropriate. The bilateral R&E fund, restoration
41 and enhancement fund was increased from \$400,000 to 1.2
42 million. And Alaska R&E fund of 600,000 has also been
43 added to the agreement to be implemented.

44

45 Both countries recognize the primary
46 importance of subsistence fisheries in Alaska and the
47 aboriginal fisheries in Canada and the principal goal to
48 rebuild and conserve stocks, derive benefits to fisheries
49 of both countries which means the maintenance of both
50 countries of viable fisheries on the Yukon River.

00157

1 Under the new agreement, Alaska will
2 harvest 74 to 84 percent of the harvestable Canadian
3 origin chinook salmon stocks depending on the run size.
4 And that's an average reduction of five percent. Also
5 Alaska will harvest 65 to 71 percent Canadian origin of
6 fall chum stocks depending upon the run size and that's
7 an average reduction of 10 percent. I believe yesterday
8 there was a point in one of the earlier reports
9 questioning whether that fall chum component was 55 to 71
10 percent and here it is -- I looked it up and it is 65 to
11 71 percent, the higher number that was in parenthesis,
12 Vince.

13

14 The spawning escapement objective in the
15 agreement for rebuilding chinook salmon stocks shall be
16 33 to 43,000. The agreed to objective of the 2001 was
17 18,000 chinook salmon, recognizing the decreased run size
18 and the importance of subsistence and aboriginal
19 fisheries. The spawning escapement for rebuilding fall
20 chum salmon is greater than 80,000 fall chum in the main
21 stem, and 50,000 to 120,000 in the fishing Branch River.
22 That's a tributary to the Porcupine River.

23

24 Presently the agreement remains unsigned.
25 However, it's felt that it will eventually be signed when
26 the French version is complete. Part of the problem was
27 associated with making contacts in the State Department
28 after the September 11th events. However, Congress did
29 pass the Yukon Salmon Act which outlines the funding for
30 the agreement. It authorizes Congress to appropriate a
31 total of \$4 million. Canadian R&R fund, they breakdown
32 is 1.2 million, the Alaskan R&E fund is 600,000. The
33 panel and JTC expenses is 400,000. And there will be
34 research and management of 1.8 million.

35

36 Under terms of the agreement, the panel
37 is responsible for management of the shared stocks and
38 administration of the restoration and enhancement fund.
39 Projects supported by the R&E fund are to conserve,
40 restore and enhance chinook and fall stocks. A little
41 bit of a timeline, what happened over this last year, in
42 December the panel reviewed 108 conceptual proposals,
43 they amounted to approximately 2.3 million dollars, US
44 currency. That was twice the funding available. 71 of
45 those conceptual proposals were advanced to the full
46 panel for review. And just March 4th and 5th, I'm not
47 sure if Angela was there at Whitehorse, but the panel did
48 meet. I have a list of the US projects that were funded.
49 It's fairly short so I'll go through it.

50

00158

1 The radio tag recovery project was
2 funded. Mountain Village fall season gillnet test
3 fishery was funded. Salcha River counting tower. Kaltag
4 fall chum and coho test fishery. Subdistrict Y5(A) coho
5 chum test fishwheel. Ramparts Rapid fall chum salmon.
6 In-season management teleconferences. And continue the
7 ichthyophonous chinook study.

8

9 Another issue that was discussed there
10 was last year Eagle got -- received money to purchase
11 coho salmon from hatchery to reduce what they would have
12 taken with their subsistence harvest fall chum. There
13 was -- I wasn't at the meeting but considerable
14 discussion was why should money go to one group when
15 stocks are low, where everybody else should benefit and
16 so the conclusion was that this -- they will fund that
17 but it's a continuancy project to be acted in the event
18 that there's an opening of subsistence fishery in the
19 area. The idea being that if there are subsistence fish
20 to be caught, they would provide that money to Eagle to
21 forego their harvest and pass those fish on to Canada
22 rather than if everybody was closed.

23

24 They also set up a time line for
25 continued proposals, R&E proposals evaluations. July 1
26 to September 1st would be the proposal period with a
27 deadline of September 30th. Also ongoing is a strategic
28 planning process that has been initiated which is
29 intended to identify data gaps and prioritize projects on
30 the Yukon River.

31

32 I believe I touched on the border passage
33 in the information sheet already so, that concludes my
34 update Mr. Chairman.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Fred. Any
37 questions for Fred? If not, Vince.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, on the
40 agenda we kind of bounced over, you requested that there
41 be a discussion about the seven day subsistence fishing
42 schedule on the Koyukuk River. So I don't know if you
43 want to revisit that. The fishing schedule as I see it
44 here does have a seven day fishing schedule for the
45 Koyukuk River so I didn't know if you wanted to discuss
46 that. I think what you were getting at, is that, if it
47 was restricted below the seven days, you had, I think
48 input from communities as to what days that it should be
49 open but I'm not sure.

50

00159

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. The
2 only thing I wanted done on this issue is that if there
3 are any changes, that that seven days, 24 hours a day be
4 approved every year because we believe that they have
5 enough emergency orders to close it at any time and they
6 have been doing that every year up on the Koyukuk. If
7 it's already approved at the seven days a week, 24 hours
8 a day I'd like to just leave it at that. And I intend to

9 revisit this issue at the YR DFA meeting. So we can just
10 keep moving on.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman. That
13 brings us up to the Coordinating Fishery Committee and
14 Ray Hander already covered that pretty much, is that, the
15 Yukon River Coordinating Fishery Committee for the new
16 Council members is a committee formed from the three
17 Regional Advisory Councils on the Yukon, Eastern
18 Interior, Western Interior and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.
19 They have two members per Council so the two for Eastern
20 Interior are Gerald Nicholia and Virgil Umphenour. For
21 Western Interior is Benedict Jones and Micky Stickman.
22 And for Yukon-Kuskokwim is Lester Wilde and John Hanson.
23 So those are the six members. And they will be traveling
24 to the Yukon River Fisheries Drainage Association meeting
25 in Nenana to work closely with them as well as Fish and
26 Game and Fish and Wildlife and other agencies at that
27 meeting. For the new members, their role is to work
28 towards consensus between the three Councils. They are
29 on-line throughout the whole in-season time. Micky can
30 share with you how many phone calls he's been on and they
31 do get all the faxes which Rod now has kind of
32 streamlined down but there will still be a lot of faxes
33 on the actions. For the rest of the Council, Ron Sam has
34 played a very active role as the Chair in that so he's
35 also kept in that loop. But they're basically your eyes
36 and ears for in-season and they are to work out consensus
37 across the drainage.

38

39 So that's the update on the Coordinating
40 Fishery Committee. And at the last meeting you affirmed
41 your appointments of Benedict and Micky to that. So I
42 don't know of any other issue for the Coordinating
43 Fishery Committee for the Yukon.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Do we
46 foresee any need for alternates to this committee?

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: I didn't catch you there?

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we foresee any need to
00160

1 appoint an alternate, I believe the YK-Delta did.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, your Council,
4 over the years has kind of avoided alternates because of
5 consistency. Micky can very well explain that, as this
6 moves along you kind of need to know what happened at the
7 first step to understand the 10th step. And what we've
8 done -- well, put it this way, you've been basically the
9 alternate because you've actively participated. And so,
10 for instance, if Micky or Benedict could not make it then
11 I consult with you. But it's the wishes of the Councils,
12 if they want an alternate, but the person that they're
13 alternating for would need to keep that person up to
14 speed so when they engage in-season, there's not a lot of
15 time to educate somebody -- there's just not a lot of
16 time. So it would have to be that the standing member
17 would have to brief them on what has transpired. If that
18 all makes sense.

19

20 I know that the YK did that, John Hanson
21 could not attend the meeting in Nenana because of
22 conflicts, he originally could and then something
23 conflicted. Their alternate lives in the same village so
24 they'll be able to really do that. But it's up to the
25 Council if you want an alternate.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Oh, I think I would like
28 to leave it at that unless the Council would want to
29 appoint an alternate. Seeing none, I think we'll just go
30 ahead and leave it at that.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings
33 us up to the Yukon River Fishery Drainage Association. I
34 don't know if Mike has more to say, he may have.
35 Remember these agendas are created earlier and it's to
36 allow notes or a point there where people could share.
37 It doesn't require that they have to, it's just to make
38 sure we don't leave someone out. Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Mike.

41

42 MR. McDOUGALL: Yes, thank you, Mr.
43 Chair. Just briefly I have a couple of information
44 items. We would like to invite the Regional Council to
45 the YRDFA annual meeting March 24th through 27th in
46 Nenana. We will be discussing customary trade among
47 other things.

48

49 And secondly, I'd like to announce that
50 YRDFA is also going to be sponsoring the weekly
00161

1 teleconferences, the in-season teleconferences again this
2 year. They're going to be once per week in-season on
3 Tuesday for one hour long but we don't have a set time
4 for that yet. The purpose for this is to bring the
5 agencies and public together to discuss the in-season
6 fishery. And we will be sending out more information on
7 this in about a month or so so you might want to be on
8 the lookout for that.

9

10 That's all I had.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any questions
13 for Mike? Go ahead.

14

15 MR. STICKWAN: You know, it didn't happen
16 last year but the year before when we got a good report
17 going on the teleconference, there was a concern of time
18 and even when Senator Georgiana Lincoln wanted to pay for
19 the time she was cut off. So, you know, just so you're
20 aware of it, you know, that's something that happened to
21 the Senator and it happened not only to her but to all
22 the villages that were in attendance on the
23 teleconference. And here was a person who was willing to
24 pay for the time but because, I guess it didn't go with
25 YRDFA's policy or with their way of thinking and they
26 were in control of the conference operator, they cut us
27 off.

28

29 MR. McDOUGALL: Yes, that's something
30 that we could address at the annual meeting is the
31 funding and the timing, how much time we're going to
32 allow for the teleconference.

33
34 MR. STICKWAN: All right, thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I would like to see
37 that addressed at the annual meeting. Because we finally
38 got some of our villages involved in the upper and middle
39 Koyukuk and they really like this program but, yet, while
40 we still had some unanswered questions we were cut off.
41 Did you have something, Vince?

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Yes Mr. Chairman, I
44 encourage all the Regional Council members that in their
45 home village or villages that they deal with that they
46 encourage people to participate in these teleconferences.
47 The reason I ask that is that you need to participate
48 from the first one because that's when the fish start
49 entering the river. If you wait to participate when the
50 fish get to your community which may be further up river,
00162

1 there's not a lot of flexibility within management, so I
2 encourage those on the Yukon, if possible, talk to
3 others. Now, don't leave it just to your CFC members, if
4 you know of it, talk around and maybe you can't make it
5 but someone else from the community can get on line.
6 It's only productive, in my opinion, YRDFA will share
7 their own, that we have a good cross section of the whole
8 drainage on line from the beginning so they can
9 understand what the managers are dealing with datawise,
10 what their strategy is because as it goes up river, their
11 strategy is less flexible, in my opinion.

12
13 So anyways, I encourage you guys to try
14 to get the communities that you're dealing with to plug
15 into that system. It's the only way that in-season
16 changes can be worked out.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince.
19 Anything else for Mike? If not, thank you.

20
21 MR. McDOUGALL: Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that switches
26 gears over to the Kuskokwim and my list is getting out of
27 date of who all will be up there. But I'm sure it will
28 be Jerry Berg and there'll be other Staff and I think
29 they'll just introduce themselves on the Kuskokwim.

30
31 Now, for the two new members, I know
32 you're on the Yukon but the Western Interior has a major
33 portion of the Kuskokwim River, it does contain Federal
34 lands -- Federal waters, excuse me, that are part of the
35 Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge so this is the
36 reason why you're being briefed on that, for the new
37 members. The older members already know this. But you
38 had jurisdiction on two major drainages.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, before we begin I
43 would like to call a quick five minute break, a quick
44 one.

45

46 (Off record)

47

48 (On record)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would like to reconvene
00163

1 our meeting. I'd like to call the meeting back to order.

2 We're going to the Kuskokwim River reports and

3 information. Jerry Berg.

4

5 MR. BERG: Actually I think Paul's going
6 to go first.

7

8 MR. SALMEN: Mr. Chairman, thank you. For
9 the record my name is Paul Salmen, I used to be an
10 assistant area management biologist and I've just
11 recently transferred to the Yukon to be the assistant
12 area management biologist for the summer season, chums
13 and kings. Right now I'm going to deal with the
14 Kuskokwim. A brief summary for last year and an overview
15 of what we expect or what we anticipate to happen this
16 year.

17

18 I've given each one of you a handout so
19 you can refer along as we go through it. Basically, last
20 year ADF&G and Fish and Wildlife Service implemented a
21 Kuskokwim River salmon rebuilding management plan.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pardon me, sir, do you
24 have another one? Oh, Ray's got it, he's got it.

25

26 MR. SALMEN: Yeah, I thought I gave
27 everybody one. Okay, I'm just going to go briefly
28 through and highlight some of the things here. You can
29 delve into it in more detail on your own after. Last
30 year we instituted the rebuilding plan as laid down by
31 the Board of Fisheries. Basically it was a cooperative
32 thing between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the
33 Department. Prior to the season we had a conservation
34 appeal, we appealed to the community to reevaluate their
35 needs for chinook and chum salmon based on our very poor
36 outlook for the 2001 season.

37

38 The Federal Subsistence Board issued a
39 preseason special action that limited chinook and chum
40 salmon to Federally-qualified users. This special action
41 expired July 31st. The purpose of the schedule that we
42 implemented last year was to improve the quality of
43 chinook and chum salmon escapements and to spread harvest
44 opportunity throughout the entire drainage. The schedule
45 was in place for four consecutive days on and three days
46 off and it began June 3rd in the lower river and stepped
47 up river as the season progressed.

48

49 Information was collected in-season for
50 subsistence fishers who qualitatively assessed the timing
00164

1 and the relative strength of the salmon runs last year.
2 The surveys generally indicated that the salmon -- the
3 subsistence fishing was better in 2001 than it was in
4 2000, however, we don't really have the firm numbers in
5 yet from the post-season more formal survey. Those
6 should be out any minute now, I'm promised.

7
8 There was no commercial fishery, just
9 turning to Page 2. There was no commercial fishery for
10 chums in the Kuskokwim River during June and July. The
11 August coho fishery was conservative and resulted in a
12 below average harvest partially due to processor capacity
13 but also because there was another fairly poor run.
14 There are harvest statistics there and you can refer to
15 those at your leisure. Harvest for cohos was 192,000 and
16 average is 450,000.

17
18 With that, I'm going to let Mr. Lafferty
19 speak to the sportfishery.

20
21 MR. LAFFERTY: Just for the record my
22 name is Bob Lafferty, I'm with the Division of Sportfish,
23 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. In 2001 on the
24 Kuskokwim we issued a preseason EO restricting the
25 sportfishery from a bag limit of three to a bag limit of
26 one chinook or one chum salmon. Additional sportfishing
27 restrictions would have been based on in-season abundance
28 following direction from the Board of Fisheries with the
29 rebuilding plan.

30
31 There was additional restrictions within
32 the Aniak River, there was a bag limit of two chinook
33 salmon per year, this was new with the last Board meeting
34 a year ago, January.

35
36 During the season the Kuskokwim
37 sportfishery for chum salmon was closed on July 12th for
38 conservation concerns and it remained closed for the
39 remainder of the year.

40
41 In the George River, the chinook fishery
42 was closed on July 14th because of low chinook
43 escapements. Once again, action in-season.

44
45 Additionally, in 2001, just for the
46 Council's knowledge, is that there's a spawning season
47 closure for the sportfishery of July 26th throughout the
48 Kuskokwim.

49
50 And I'll just hand it back to Paul here
00165

1 to deal with the 2001 Kuskokwim escapements.

2
3 MR. SALMEN: Mr. Chairman, this is Paul
4 Salmen of Fish and Game again. The chinook and chum
5 escapements that we got last year in the Kuskokwim River
6 were two to three times the levels we observed in 2000.
7 And we're characterizing them as adequate. Where we had

8 goals in place we were either at or very close to the
9 escapement goals for chums and for kings. And basically,
10 we got a much better return than we were expecting.

11
12 With that, I'm going to step into
13 Kuskokwim Bay here and just kind of lightly treat that a
14 little bit. We haven't got a subsistence harvest survey
15 for the Bay fisheries, which is Kanektok and Goodnews, W4
16 and W5, but we think that they were adequate harvest for
17 subsistence there.

18
19 For the commercial fisheries, the numbers
20 are on your page there for you to refer to. Everything
21 was below averages and that was mostly due to processors
22 limiting what we could catch. And our feeling about the
23 escapements in Kuskokwim Bay were that they were pretty
24 good, the exception was that we had kind of a low run at
25 the Middle Fork Goodnews, it was only 79 percent of the
26 escapement goal -- or excuse me, it was 11 percent below
27 the escapement goal. However, the North Fork had a
28 pretty substantial run of sockeye salmon in it.

29
30 That concludes a brief treating of last
31 year. I'm going to step into next year unless Jerry
32 would like to interject something or Bob, at this point.
33

34 MR. BERG: I guess I'll just maybe add a
35 little bit. I think Paul did a good job with the
36 summary. There were certainly a lot of actions taken
37 last year to help reduce harvest and conserve the fish to
38 try to rebuild the runs and that kind of kicked off with
39 the Board of Fish meeting that some of you attended.
40 There certainly were a lot of efforts made all the way
41 from the False Pass fishery all the way up for the people
42 in the river. And we do have some escapement numbers,
43 they're not in your reports, we have them here, we have
44 copies of graphs if you guys are interested in some of
45 the data displayed graphically. We can hand that out.
46

47 And also I just wanted to mention that
48 last year was the first year that we had two Council
49 members on the Kuskokwim Working Group, Ray Collins and
50 Robert Nick from the YK Council, and they were very
00166

1 involved and I think the Working Group was very
2 appreciative of their efforts last year to be involved on
3 the Working Group. And that working group is very
4 involved with setting the days of the schedule during the
5 week which was a cooperative effort in contacting the
6 villages and then it went through the Working Group.
7

8 But anyway, that's all I had to add to
9 Paul's presentation. Thanks, Paul.
10

11 MR. SALMEN: Okay. There's something else
12 that needs to be mentioned at this point and that's we
13 asked the communities to do some things last year and
14 it's very hard for us to quantify the results of some of
15 the actions that we asked for, however, a combination of
16 the actions that the communities took and some other
17 factors resulting in us accomplishing at least Part I of

18 what we wanted to do and that was to increase
19 escapements. We got reasonable escapements last year and
20 that's the first step in turning this thing around. But
21 the communities need to be acknowledged for their
22 efforts. Again, it's hard for us to understand what
23 individuals did on their own, we appreciate the position
24 that people are in and having to make decisions, we just
25 don't say much about it come this time of year. But it
26 needs to be acknowledged that the communities contributed
27 to this, to the success of it.

28

29 Mr. Collins asked a question a little
30 while ago that has a bearing on both the Yukon and the
31 Kuskokwim and I'd like to readdress that for a second and
32 it has to do with why the rush to deal with the
33 commercial fisheries issues. And as managers, we're kind
34 of in a tough spot, we have a balance to strike. And the
35 reason that we want to offer an opportunity for a
36 commercial fishery, if one exists, is so that we can
37 maintain the processors presence in the community and
38 maintain their ability to turn around and sell the fish
39 in other places. With the advent of the farm fisheries
40 that have occurred, much of the Alaska salmon markets
41 have gone away because they have been displaced by other
42 markets. And it's not a guarantee to anybody that we're
43 going to go fishing but in order for a fishery to happen,
44 should a surplus be available, it's important that all
45 the pieces are in place, so the processors need some lead
46 time to put their people on the grounds and to get their
47 plants and their storage facilities and their shipping
48 pipelines established. And they can't do that overnight.
49 That's why it's important to at least acknowledge there
50 might be a potential for a fishery. If that makes sense.
00167

1 Does that address what you asked, if you can remember
2 that?

3

4 MR. COLLINS: (Nods affirmatively)

5

6 MR. SALMEN: Okay. Stepping into 2002.
7 Management of the Kuskokwim area salmon fisheries will
8 follow the guidelines of the Kuskokwim River salmon
9 rebuilding management plan and the District 4 for the
10 Kuskokwim Bay Kanektok fishery area management plan. The
11 Kuskokwim area has no formal forecast for salmon returns.
12 Broad expectations are developed based on an evaluation
13 of parent year escapements, trends in harvest and
14 productivity and in-season information.

15

16 For 2002. The Department expects the
17 2002 chinook and chum salmon runs to be similar to the
18 2001 runs. And actually, what we're trying to do with
19 that is we're going to gage the incoming 2002 run
20 compared to the 2001 run. We have a cause and effect
21 with 2001. We know sort of what we got based on what we
22 were seeing and we're going to try and apply that to
23 2002.

24

25 In 2001 we feel the chinook and chum runs
26 provided for adequate escapements throughout most of the
27 drainage, however, there wasn't enough of a surplus for

28 the directed chum salmon fishery. We expect that the
29 2002 run size will not support a directed commercial chum
30 fishery and regulations do not provide for a directed
31 fishery for either
32 chinook or sockeye, the other two fish. Cohos, we do
33 anticipate that there will be a modest opportunity to
34 harvest fish commercially in 2002. The fishery could
35 begin in late July or early August, depending on chum
36 salmon abundance. And that means if we still have
37 concerns for chums in late July, we'll probably delay
38 opening the fishery for cohos until after the majority of
39 the chum run has passed the commercial fishery fishing
40 districts. The harvest is anticipated to be within a
41 range of 100,000 to 300,000 fish and a historical median
42 is 170,000, just for some reference.

43

44 Management strategy for 2002, the State
45 and Federal fishery managers will continue to follow the
46 guidelines as provided in the rebuilding plan. We don't
47 expect a commercial fishery for chums. We do expect a
48 commercial fishery for cohos. And we'll try to work with
49 all the parties involved so that we can line up all the
50 pieces should we have the opportunity to go fishing.

00168

1 Okay, the subsistence fishery. The
2 regulatory subsistence salmon fishing schedule for the
3 gillnet and fishwheel gear will be used again in 2002.
4 Something that we have not been particularly good about
5 is acknowledging or notifying folks that this schedule is
6 now in regulation by the Board of Fisheries, it has been
7 adopted. The only way it can be changed or removed is
8 through another Board of Fishery action. So for the
9 foreseeable future we will have a schedule in place on
10 both the Kuskokwim and the Yukon.

11

12 Again, the schedule will provide for four
13 consecutive days of fishing per week during June and July
14 unless modified in-season based on run strength. And
15 what that says is if we don't see the numbers of fish
16 that we'd like to see, we may reduce it. But that's all
17 going to be based on in-season information. The schedule
18 can only be modified because of conservation concerns.
19 The schedule, like last year, will begin the first week
20 in June in District 1 and then move sequentially up river
21 as the run does.

22

23 Details identifying the days of the
24 schedule will be determined, again, after a consultation
25 with the communities along the river. So the same days
26 may not be in effect as they were last year.

27

28 The rest of the regulations are similar.
29 During closures all gillnets with four inches mesh --
30 four inches or greater must be removed and fishwheels
31 must be stopped.

32

33 And I'm going to let Bob deal with the
34 sportfish issues again for 2002.

35

36 MR. LAFFERTY: For the record, Bob
37 Lafferty, Sportfish Division. In 2002 we're going to

38 approach the sportfishery like we did last year in 2001
39 with a preseason EO restricting the bag limit from three
40 to one chinook or one chum salmon. What this actually
41 does is effectively cuts the harvest in half. The sport
42 harvest in the Kuskokwim has been ranging about a
43 thousand fish on an annual basis with the bag limit of
44 three. But the reduction to one chinook salmon is going
45 to cut that significantly, most likely more than half so
46 we're looking at, with this kind of regulation package,
47 of a harvest of about 500. And that even includes
48 delayed mortality.

49

50 If additional restrictions are needed,
00169

1 like we did last year, we would go ahead and take those
2 actions in the sportfishery like we did in the George
3 River and we did with the chum fishery. If we see there
4 is weak returns then we will take action.

5

6 Additionally, the spawning season closure
7 of July 26th, that means no sportfishing for chinook
8 salmon after that date throughout the drainage would
9 remain in effect. And the annual bag limit of two
10 chinook salmon annually in the Aniak River would remain
11 in effect. The actual bag limit is one a day so a person
12 must remove that fish from their bag limit to actually
13 harvest the second one. So they're very restrictive
14 regulations right now as far as what we're hoping to move
15 into the sportfishery in 2002.

16

17 And once we're done with our presentation
18 I'll be happy to answer questions and that way I'll just
19 turn it back to Paul.

20

21 MR. SALMEN: For the record again, this
22 is Paul Salmen. Just for reference we're up to Page 5,
23 the conservation appeal. Right now we do not feel we're
24 going to initiate a special appeal preseason, that means
25 before the season. We're going to go into it just with
26 the schedule in place as of this second. However, if the
27 numbers are drastically low we may do an in-season appeal
28 for folks to reevaluate their needs.

29

30 Escapement monitoring for 2002, we'll
31 have the same suite of weir projects in place, the Aniak
32 River sonar will also be operational. In addition, we
33 have some new projects on line to try and get a better
34 handle on population numbers and they include a radio
35 tagging project, radio telemetry project and a regular,
36 just a tag fish project where there's no radio involved,
37 it's just a spaghetti tag and that will be in the main
38 stem of the river below Aniak.

39

40 Cooperative efforts to survey subsistence
41 fishers and to monitor the subsistence salmon fishery in-
42 season are planned for around Bethel, Aniak and McGrath,
43 similar to what we did last year, the same type of a
44 program.

45

46 The Kuskokwim Bay outlook, and I'll just
47 go through this rather briefly. We expect near average

48 chinook run in the Kanektok fishery and in the Goodnews
49 Bay fishery. Sockeye we're looking for average to below
50 average runs in both W4 and W5. For chum salmon we
00170

1 expect the chum runs to be below average next year in
2 both W4 and W5. And for coho, it's looking like we're
3 looking at a little bit below average. But these are all
4 just preseason guesstimates.

5

6 For the management strategy for Kuskokwim
7 Bay, again, we're going to work closely with buyers and
8 fishermen to try to manage the fisheries the best we can
9 for quality and market demands within biological
10 constraints. W4 management plans will be used to manage
11 W4. And W5, a normal fishing schedule is anticipated but
12 that all depends on processor capacity.

13

14 The 2002 Kuskokwim Bay subsistence
15 fishery, no subsistence schedule is anticipated in W4 or
16 W5 beyond the normal closures around periods.

17

18 You want to touch the sportfishery there?

19

20 MR. LAFFERTY: Yeah. The sportfishery
21 regulations are what's published in State statute and
22 it's basically the bag limit is three a day with two over
23 28 for chinook and the bag limit for other salmon is
24 five. And that's basically for the sportfishery in Kusko
25 Bay systems.

26

27 MR. SALMEN: And for escapement
28 monitoring, we'll have weirs on the Middle Fork and the
29 Goodnews and on the Kanektok.

30

31 And Mr. Chairman, that concludes my
32 presentation at the moment and I'll stand by for
33 questions.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

36

37 MR. REAKOFF: My question on the
38 sportfishery, what's the delayed mortality, do you have
39 any kind of delayed mortality ratios for caught and
40 released fish?

41

42 MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman. There are a
43 number of studies that have been done on species of
44 salmon in the sportfisheries in the state of Alaska
45 addressing that. The most prominent study is done by
46 Terry Bendock in the Kenai River from 1989 through 1992.
47 The basic findings from those studies, it was across
48 different gear types, the Kenai has a myriad of
49 regulations and other issues, but to answer your question
50 is that artificial gear, single hook artificial lures
00171

1 from Mr. Bendock's study basically has a delayed
2 mortality of about four percent. For when the Kenai
3 fishery was operating with bait, there was a delayed
4 mortality in excess of 10 percent. I believe it was up
5 to 12 at one point.

6

7 So if we look at delayed mortality and
8 just take a range, we have a high and a low range, using
9 four to 10, those are basically the indices and numbers
10 that I have used as far as calculating delayed mortality
11 associated with chinook salmon fishing.

12
13 As far as the regulations go in most of
14 the Kuskokwim tributaries, they are single artificial
15 hooks only because of the Southwestern Rainbow Trout
16 Management Plan. That plan protects rainbow trout stocks
17 with single hook artificial lures and by default protects
18 all other resident species and those upper areas of those
19 tributaries for the sportfisheries to single hook
20 artificial lures. If you're interested in the report, I
21 can assure that you get a copy of it.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Jack.

24
25 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, this question comes
26 up on these catch and release sportfishing issues, you
27 know, when there's a stock of concern, that those
28 mortalities are very important as to trying to get fish
29 up on to the spawning ground and not be basically
30 harassed. Angela's got a thing here from Aniak,
31 sportfishing, they're catching multiple fish per day
32 there, you know, 10 to 20 kings per day as part of their
33 draw for their clients. And some of this, when there's a
34 stock of concern, I'm concerned about that type of --
35 have you ever considered putting a cap on catch and
36 release, like, you know, catch two a day and, you know,
37 that's it?

38
39 MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Reakoff.
40 There's been many gyrations of sportfishing regulations
41 that have been out in front of the public from times of
42 conservation concerns to times when things have been very
43 liberal. I believe it's the Board's aspect to try to
44 maintain something consistent. Sportfisheries are
45 managed for something completely different. They are
46 managed to provide for a very low harvest potential over
47 a long period of time. Wherein a commercial fishery you
48 have a very efficient piece of a gear that's operated
49 generally in a very short period of time. So the
50 philosophy of sportfishery is substantially different
00172

1 than what many folks are aware of.

2
3 You're absolutely correct. The State and
4 the Board of Fisheries are very concerned about delayed
5 mortality within sportfisheries, they've done and taken
6 steps to where they've restricted areas to the gear that
7 is the most -- least effective as far as providing
8 delayed mortality. That's why you'll find that there's
9 not many bait fisheries associated now days. And they
10 only do liberalization of bait when they feel that
11 they're making escapement and there's a very viable
12 surplus to do so.

13
14 I hope that helps.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.

17

18 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I have
19 a question on the method, or ways and means, has the hook
20 and line, as a subsistence tool been initiated throughout
21 the Kuskokwim drainage now? Because I know there was
22 concern up here, there were subsistence fishers that were
23 using that but it wasn't allowed, I think you did it by
24 emergency action last May. What's the status this year?
25

26 MR. SALMEN: Mr. Chairman, this is Paul
27 Salmen, Ray, Mr. Collins. That is currently under
28 consideration by the Board as we speak. I believe today
29 is the day it's supposed to go into deliberations and I'm
30 not sure what the outcome is going to be at the moment
31 but the committee, the subcommittee that was in charge of
32 reviewing that supports it. So I suspect that we'll be
33 hearing about that fairly quickly. That's for a
34 permanent regulation.
35

36 MR. COLLINS: Then a related question, I
37 heard from people down river who had concerns down there
38 where they normally, subsistence taken by driftnet and so
39 on, the fact that because all Alaskan residents are
40 subsistence users now, some of the people who were
41 formerly sportfishing now just go out as a subsistence
42 fisher using hook and line as before. Is there any
43 monitoring or getting handle on that of the streams down
44 around the lower river?
45

46 MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Collins.
47 As a matter of fact we conducted a study last year on the
48 Aniak which was funded from your very organization, from
49 OSM, to look at the rod and reel fishery and to look at
50 participation from both subsistence rod and reel users
00173

1 and sportfish rod and reel users in the Aniak River. You
2 bring up a very complicated issue and it's important that
3 people recognize that. An Alaskan resident can double-
4 dip. He can participate in the sportfishery and if they
5 so choose to come to the Kuskokwim to participate in the
6 subsistence rod and reel fishery. That action has been
7 recognized by the local AC of the Central Kuskokwim where
8 they actually developed an Aniak River Management Plan,
9 where they actually have Aniak subsistence plan where
10 you're allowed three salmon a day in the Aniak River by
11 rod and reel. You're also allowed three resident species
12 by rod and reel. If you're a sport angler and wanted to
13 participate in the fishery in Aniak River, you're allowed
14 three salmon a day but only one could be a chinook salmon
15 and it's an aggregate bag limit. So it has to be
16 combination based by species. If you wanted to
17 participate in the resident fish fisheries of the Aniak
18 River, you're allowed an aggregate bag limit of three
19 also, but only one of each species.
20

21 So there are people who have recognized
22 in rural Alaska that this is a very interesting dilemma
23 as far as we approach the issues between resident double-
24 dipping and sportfishing regulations versus subsistence
25 rod and reel regulations.
26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

28

29 MR. REAKOFF: Another question is, what
30 type of volume are we talking about on the Kuskokwim for
31 sport catch and release, I mean how many people are
32 participating in that, do you have some rough numbers?

33

34 MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Reakoff.

35 For the most part we're looking at, in the Kuskokwim
36 River, of about a thousand anglers that come out and
37 participate. Now, of course, they participate
38 approximately for a week, okay. So the Aniak fishery is
39 the biggest sportfishery in the Kuskokwim. It annually
40 harvests about 400 king salmon. Harvests. That's with a
41 bag limit of three. The catch of chinook salmon in the
42 Aniak River with that kind of volume generally varies
43 between three to 4,000 when you have those kind of
44 situations. That's the average. That's the biggest.

45

46 If I were to characterize the
47 sportfishery within the Kuskokwim, approximately 750 king
48 salmon are harvested from the Aniak River downstream,
49 that includes all the other smaller tributaries of the
50 Kisaralik, Kwethluk, Kasigluk, so forth. With the
00174

1 harvest of 400 once again, the 500 in the Aniak. Above
2 the Aniak, we're looking at a harvest of king salmon, you
3 know, very rarely over 150 harvest, that's with a bag
4 limit of three. With the reduction of bag limit to one,
5 we're looking at significant savings as far as those
6 harvest levels go in the sportfishery, they're
7 contributing to the rebuilding.

8

9 So we're looking at about a thousand
10 anglers over the whole river, we're looking at about 750
11 king salmon, we're looking at a catch of less than 5,000
12 throughout the whole drainage.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

15

16 MR. STICKWAN: I have one. I was just
17 looking through your preliminary outlook and your
18 management strategy for 2002, right off at the top it
19 says you're going to follow the guidelines of the
20 Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan and the
21 District 4 Salmon Management Plan, I was wondering what's
22 the reason for using two plans? Is there one plan for
23 commercial or is there a plan for subsistence or is there
24 a plan for sport, or I was wondering what's the major
25 differences in the two plans?

26

27 MR. SALMEN: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Stickman.

28 The major difference in the two plans is one applies
29 specifically to the Kuskokwim River, that's the
30 rebuilding plan. The other one applies specifically to
31 District W4, which is essentially the Kanektok River
32 fishery. That's the main difference, okay. And the W4
33 plan specifically deals with commercial fisheries. The
34 Kuskokwim Salmon Rebuilding Plan deals with a broader
35 scope of issues and all fisheries within the Kuskokwim
36 River. If that makes sense. Basically it's a river

37 versus the District W4, which we call Kuskokwim Bay
38 sometimes but that's misleading because Goodnews Bay is
39 also a Bay. W4, basically, the Kanektok River fishery
40 is what that deals with. If that makes sense.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.
43 Jerry.

44

45 MR. BERG: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I just wanted
46 to point out, you know, that the draft in front of you is
47 the best information we have available and kind of what
48 people have come up with to date. But if you look
49 through your data for the Kuskokwim, you can see that
50 there's a lot of efforts being put out to try to get more
00175

1 data. We still don't have a total assessment of run
2 strength in the Kuskokwim, you'll hear more about the
3 projects that are being funded this afternoon from Rich,
4 but it's just important to keep that in mind that there
5 are still ongoing discussions, I guess, as far as how to
6 proceed this summer. And that this draft plan will go
7 before the Kuskokwim Working Group, I believe it's April
8 8th is the meeting, so anyway, I just wanted to mention
9 that. I mean you can see the draft printed all over the
10 document here.

11

12 But anyway, that's all I had to add.

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
16 questions for -- one more.

17

18 MR. STICKWAN: Just one last one. You
19 know, I don't understand this, you know, you have a
20 separate management plan for the same fish, just area
21 specific?

22

23 MR. SALMEN: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Stickman.
24 Currently the stocks of concern are on the Kuskokwim
25 River, kings and chums. There is some unknown level of
26 mixing of Kuskokwim River stocks with the Kanektok River
27 fishery, primarily we feel that the majority of those
28 fish are headed for the Kanektok and so far we don't have
29 any kind of stock of concern designation for Kanektok
30 River fish. They primarily target we feel Kanektok
31 River. It's a separate fishery from the in-river W1, W2
32 fisheries. There's a geographic separation between the
33 two areas so you can't include them in one umbrella plan
34 and be able to be flexible enough to make decisions that
35 will affect just the one fishery. Does that make sense?

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

38

39 MR. STICKMAN: No, it doesn't make any
40 sense because it seems like you're either going to manage
41 fish for one are or you know, it seems like -- well, you
42 said yourself you don't know if it's the same fish or you
43 don't know of there's mixing so it seems like it would be
44 simpler just to completely separate those two areas.

45

46 MR. SALMEN: Mr. Chairman, that's

47 essentially what's happened with the two different
48 management plans. W4 has a very specific plan. It's
49 very different from the Kuskokwim River plan and they are
50 separate in terms of actual management strategy. Now,
00176

1 maybe this is a little confusing. The W4 plan will not
2 apply to the Kuskokwim River, nor will the Kuskokwim
3 River plan apply to the W4 area. Is that a little bit
4 clearer? They are definitely separate and distinct
5 fisheries and they do have separate and distinct
6 management plans.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: It is now 12:16. Any
9 further questions?

10
11 MR. STICKMAN: I guess my last question
12 would be, if they're two separate plans why do you have
13 them lumped together in your report?

14
15 MR. SALMEN: Simply because this deals
16 with the Kuskokwim area and those two extra areas are
17 part of the Kuskokwim area. Now, maybe it's not as
18 important to folks up river here, but they're part of the
19 management area that the Kuskokwim Staff has
20 responsibility for so we present the information.

21
22 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, Micky. I can
23 speak to that from the committee's standpoint. In the
24 river, the people want to know what's happening, where
25 those stocks are mixed out there, that's why we at least
26 look at that plan and see what's happening because people
27 want to know how many of the Kuskokwim fish are being
28 intercepted. So the committee itself wants to know
29 what's happening in that plan and in those fisheries for
30 monitoring purposes.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks, Ray. Any further
33 questions on the Kuskokwim? If not, I think we lumped a
34 whole bunch of stuff together, where are we on the
35 agenda, Vince?

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings
38 us up to Coordinating Fishery Committee, and I don't know
39 if Ray has anything to add, it was just a footnote for if
40 the committee has something to talk about as well as the
41 working group. So I know of nothing that's additional to
42 what's being talked about because they're meeting in
43 April. For the new members, Ray Collins and Carl Morgan
44 are your representatives to that committee and it's
45 already been said that Ray Collins and Robert Nick for YK
46 are now voting members on the working group, so we have
47 an actual link. In summary that's it. So I don't know
48 of anything unless Ray does or another member?

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for clarifying
00177

1 that. And just for our new members it took us about
2 three or four years to get voting status for both Ray and
3 Carl on the Kuskokwim Working Group on fish. And -- go
4 ahead, Ray.

5

6 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, this
7 isn't on the management teams but I think it applies to
8 both the Yukon and Kuskokwim since we're on fisheries
9 right now, let me at least mention it. There's a spring
10 fishery out here for grayling on this river and I know on
11 the Yukon it came up before there's some fall fisheries
12 on grayling and so on for subsistence purposes, villages
13 have been wondering what's happening in the management of
14 that? Is there still subsistence concerns by -- I know
15 there was concern here because people were being checked
16 to see if they had a fishing license and so on and it's
17 kind of a traditional thing to go catch some of those in
18 the spring. So we need to be aware of that maybe and
19 watch regulations on that if it's impacting users.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Anything
22 else on coordinating committee? If not, we'll go into
23 number 4.

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that's
26 essentially a follow up. When the agenda's put together
27 we want to give opportunity for Fish and Game or the
28 working group wanted to present something that they
29 wanted to advise the Council. I will ask if Department
30 Staff have anything to say about the working group other
31 than the meeting that's forthcoming? It's trying to keep
32 it on the agenda so you're constantly updated, I don't
33 know of any updates from the working group unless Paul
34 has some or Mike.

35
36 MR. SALMEN: (Shaking head negatively)

37
38 MR. LAFFERTY: (Shaking head negatively)

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Nope, all the heads are
41 shaking in a vertical direction, so no, or a horizontal,
42 I mean.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: I know we were sideways
47 sometimes. Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program reports
48 and updates or do you want to go to lunch, it's now 20
49 after 12:00 and lunch will be ready at 12:30?

50
00178

1 MR. REAKOFF: Let's go to lunch.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, lunch. What time do
4 you want to return, 1:30 -- yeah, try to return and
5 reconvene at 1:30.

6
7 MR. COLLINS: And I do have a little food
8 left if some want to come help me eat it up over at the
9 house, it's the leftovers.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Lunch break.

12
13 (Off record)

14
15 (On record)

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Call the meeting back to
18 order. Vince.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I want to
21 apologize I didn't tell you before lunch that you had
22 modified the agenda to bring up the special actions,
23 special action by Robert Nick. For the Council members,
24 because of the way that they're worded, we're splitting
25 them into the Yukon and Kuskokwim, so you need to find
26 this sheet here. You all should have copies. If the
27 public needs copies, I have a few more here. And Tom
28 Kron is going to cover the Yukon River portion with other
29 Staff from Fish and Game and others, and Jerry Berg with
30 cooperative effort will cover the Kuskokwim. So if you
31 could find that page, if you don't have one I'll make
32 sure you get one.

33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have a lot of copies
37 handy?

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: We're getting them now.
40 Okay, before I go any further, I go to make sure the
41 record is clear. To my knowledge and the Program's
42 knowledge these have not been submitted as special
43 actions, they're just language that was provided
44 originally at the Tuntutuliak meeting of the Yukon-
45 Kuskokwim Delta. So we're just providing this
46 information to you and the expertise to review this
47 issue. Obviously, I would think Robert Nick may want you
48 to support these special actions but we're just providing
49 you expertise on the issue that's in there, so I want to
50 get that clear on the record, these are not -- to my
00179

1 knowledge, been submitted to the Federal Subsistence
2 Board for any type of action.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, go ahead, Tom.

7

8 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, members of the
9 Council. OSM asked that we provide some introductory
10 comments for you when you consider these requests for the
11 Yukon and the Kuskokwim. I'll be providing comments for
12 the Yukon and also we have the Yukon managers at the
13 other table and they may have additional comments as
14 well.

15

16 First of all, salmon runs are difficult
17 to forecast pre-season and they're difficult to manage in-
18 season. You'll recall from the pre-season outlook for the
19 Yukon River salmon return last year that that outlook was
20 for a very poor return. During the spring Regional
21 Council meeting in 2001, it was noted that the 2001
22 harvest might be so bad that subsistence users would only
23 get half or less of the fish that they needed. Pre-season
24 there were also serious concerns about whether or not
25 escapements would be achieved last year.

26

27 The preseason concerns that escapement
28 and subsistence needs would not be met provided the
29 foundation for a Federal preseason special action that
30 limited Yukon fisheries to Federally-qualified users on
31 Federal conservation units. Thankfully, the Yukon
32 chinook run in 2001 came in better than expected and most
33 fishermen along the Yukon River were able to meet their
34 subsistence needs for chinook and most chinook salmon
35 escapements were also achieved.

36

37 The preseason for this coming summer is
38 better than it was last year. State and Federal managers
39 jointly reviewed the draft 2002 information sheet, that's
40 this sheet with US Fish and Wildlife Service and ADF&G
41 logo's at the top for the Yukon, they reviewed that for
42 you earlier today.

43

44 I'd ask you to focus again on the front
45 page, the section that talks about harvest outlooks there
46 in the middle. Subsistence harvest for this coming year
47 are expected to be in the range of normal, we expect that
48 the run will be good enough to provide for adequate
49 subsistence as well as escapement goals. That's the best
50 guess at this time that Staff have come forward with and,
00180

1 again, is documented there in that draft information
2 sheet.

3

4 Subsistence harvest of summer and fall
5 chum may be less than normal. Given the uncertainties
6 associated with declines in salmon production since 1998,
7 salmon fisheries will be managed conservatively this
8 summer. There were some Council discussions specifically
9 about this issue this morning.

10

11 I guess another comment, refer you to the
12 portion of the document that's labeled subsistence
13 fishing schedules, the paragraph, the latter portion of
14 the paragraph in the middle, it basically points out and
15 recognizes that based on in-season information,
16 subsistence salmon fishing opportunities on Federal
17 waters may be further restricted to only Federally-
18 qualified users, if that in-season information points us
19 in that direction.

20

21 The draft special action request before
22 you would restrict fishing to Federally-qualified
23 subsistence users on the tributaries but not on the Yukon
24 River mainstem. And again, the request is to implement
25 it preseason based on the information that we have before
26 us now. It is unclear whether it would be possible to
27 implement such an approach. That is, to basically just
28 do it on the tributaries but not on the mainstem itself
29 -- but not on whole drainage.

30

31 The Federal program provides a priority
32 for subsistence fisheries. Sport and commercial fisheries
33 are grouped as non-subsistence fisheries and are
34 addressed as a unit. It may not be appropriate to request
35 a closure on the tributaries based on a conservation

36 concern without addressing the issue on the mainstem as
37 well. Management efforts are normally focused across the
38 various areas where harvest occur, on the Yukon.

39
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Mr.
43 Kron? Jack.

44
45 MR. REAKOFF: Did they give a reason why
46 they were requesting just the tributary management and
47 not the mainstem management or was that to allow
48 commercial harvest in the mainstem and conservation
49 upstream?

50
00181

1 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Reakoff. I
2 have not heard a reason. You know, one could speculate
3 but I guess I would prefer not to do that. It would be
4 probably best to ask them what their reasoning was.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, just for the
9 Council's information, this was introduced down at the
10 Tuntutuliak meeting. However, being pressed for time
11 this wasn't discussed it was just introduced and I think
12 they are deliberating this issue down at Bethel right now
13 as we speak. So there's no real reasons given and I
14 haven't heard anything since.

15
16 My first feelings were no way Koyukuk,
17 the whole Koyukuk River is a tributary, I mean that was
18 just my initial reaction, but I'm still trying to find
19 out why this stand and where they stand. Jack.

20
21 MR. REAKOFF: I would be very opposed to
22 this language. I feel that if there's a need for
23 conservation that the entire drainage, including the
24 mainstem be included in that conservation effort and not
25 a tributary -- put the burden of conservation on the
26 people who live on the tributaries and I've very opposed
27 to this type of language.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Very comments or questions
30 from the Council. Did we have anything more on that,
31 Tom?

32
33 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, I guess, again,
34 both Fred Bue from ADF&G and Ray Hander from US Fish and
35 Wildlife Service are here, you talked with them this
36 morning but they may have something to add as well.

37
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mr. Kron.
41 Fred.

42
43 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman, I don't have too
44 much to add. But to just repoint out, I earlier I passed
45 out a graph with subsistence harvest on the Yukon, in the

46 square boxes is the subsistence chinook harvest and using
47 last year as an example with our doom and gloom forecast
48 we ended up with a normal chinook harvest. Typically the
49 way subsistence chinook fisheries usually happen is a lot
50 of the major portion of the chinook harvest is taken in
00182

1 the early portion of the run, it's the first fish of the
2 year and fishermen are eager to get out. Typically fish
3 -- most of their effort is to fish on the first chinook
4 that come up, a lot of times they're in better condition
5 and such. And so with a special action early in the
6 season, prior to when we got a good assessment it may
7 reduce some of the opportunity to take those early fish
8 for subsistence fishermen. So not that they may not make
9 it up later but it is an opportunity that they may miss.

10

11 Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

14

15 MR. REAKOFF: I was very pleased with
16 that window of opportunity for fish to make passage up
17 and I feel that those fish are a major component of that
18 up river stock. And yes, they're fatter and they're a
19 highly sought after fish but I feel that those fish
20 should be disseminated throughout the subsistence harvest
21 all the way up stream and are a major spawning component
22 in that Canadian portion so I was real happy the way that
23 those fish were actually windowed through there and yet
24 people still obtained their typical subsistence harvest.
25 So I was real happy with the way that worked out.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further questions for
28 Fred. Ray, did you have something to add?

29

30 MR. HANDER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think
31 I'd just like to take a minute to go back over the Board
32 of Fisheries sustainable salmon fisheries policies that
33 they have gone by to declare Yukon River fall chum and
34 chinook chum salmon yield concerns and that the Yukon
35 River summer chum are considered management concerns. I
36 could briefly touch on what those two types of concerns
37 were to just kind of reiterate this.

38

39 The yield concern for fall chum and
40 chinook, it's the first level of concern. It's a concern
41 rising from the chronic inability, despite using the use
42 of specific management measures to maintain yields. So
43 whether harvest of any type -- and the management concern
44 where the summer chum lie, it's a second level concern.
45 And it's a concern rising from chronic inability, despite
46 use of specific management measures to maintain
47 escapements.

48

49 So just to refresh your memory and where
50 the management certainly takes this into consideration

00183

1 and we hope very much to use in-season management and the
2 Board of Fish schedule to address these matters.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: So when you take this
7 under consideration, you look at the whole picture, you
8 do not look at the main river and -- you do not look at
9 the tributaries alone or the main river, alone, you look
10 at the whole picture, right?

11

12 MR. HANDER: Mr. Chairman. Yes, we try
13 to look at the whole picture because there are -- the
14 tributaries, I think, are very important, because on some
15 of them, like the Andraefsky, for instance, they have a
16 monitoring project, there's a weir there so some of that
17 information is very critical to understanding what the
18 returns are. And as best real time as we can understand.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further questions. Tom.

21

22 MR. KRON: Just in response to Mr.
23 Reakoff's last comment, I just wanted to comment that two
24 of the primary reasons that the schedule was originally
25 put in place by the Board of Fisheries a year ago January
26 were to allow fish to distribute throughout the drainage
27 so that, you know, subsistence fishermen at the mouth and
28 at the headwaters would have an opportunity to meet their
29 needs. And also to provide for escapements. And within
30 escapements, part of that is quality escapements, getting
31 some of those larger females up to the spawning grounds.
32 So those were two of the key components.

33

34 You'll remember in 2000 that the run was
35 very poor when we looked at subsistence harvest.
36 Essentially the harvest in the lower river were similar
37 to what had occurred in prior years but by the time the
38 fish got to the upper portion of the drainage, people
39 weren't getting their needs met. The harvest were
40 considerably down, escapements were poor and in response
41 to that the schedule was put in place. And the hope was
42 to be able to, again, distribute the available fish to
43 all the subsistence users in the drainage from top to
44 bottom and to provide for quality escapements.

45

46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Tom, I got a
49 question, too. And if I understand this request right,
50 they're identical for both the Kuskokwim and the Yukon?
00184

1

MR. KRON: Mr. Chair, I believe there is
2 a difference and I think Jerry can address the Kuskokwim.
3 But for the Yukon, it focuses, the special action, on the
4 tributaries and not the mainstem but I think on the
5 Kuskokwim it's the mainstem and the tributaries. And
6 maybe Jerry can correct me if I'm wrong but there is a
7 difference.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, for the new
14 members, we did talk about this during training. This is

15 a special action, it's not been submitted but we're
16 preparing you in case it is submitted. That means it's a
17 request kind of within cycle, that some emergency action
18 needs to be taken and the Board has further defined what
19 a special action is but it's basically to ensure fish and
20 wildlife conservation, continued subsistence uses or for
21 reasons of public safety. But there need to be
22 extenuating circumstances that include unusual and
23 significant changes in the resource abundance. So what
24 we're trying to do is get this information in front of
25 you, special actions, we inform the Regional Councils of
26 but we're not always able to have a full Council meeting.
27

28 And again, I want to repeat for the
29 record, to my knowledge, no special action has been
30 submitted. We're discussing the issue to get your input
31 in case there are actions submitted. At this moment or
32 on Friday, the YK, Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Council will
33 be taking up Robert Nick's request.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tom.

38
39 MR. KRON: Well, maybe just real quickly
40 to follow up on the things that Vince was pointing out.
41 Again, you know, these are drafts before you, they have
42 not been submitted. You know, it's your prerogative as a
43 Regional Council to proceed as you choose and as you see
44 fit.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I would like
49 to make a motion, if these management strategies are
50 deemed by the Board to be special action implemented that
00185

1 they be done on the entire drainages of the Yukon and
2 Kuskokwim drainage and not on the tributaries of only the
3 Yukon. And I'd make that as a motion.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Is there a
6 second?

7
8 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Micky
11 Stickman. Further discussion or deliberation on the
12 requested Yukon River special action. If not, all those
13 in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye.

14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those opposed.

18
19 (No opposing votes)

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. And that
22 was just to include the whole mainstem of the Yukon River
23 including tributaries. Kuskokwim River.

24

25 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chair, I'll address
26 some of the concerns on the Kuskokwim River. They are
27 two separate special actions that have been drafted up
28 and that's exactly what they are is drafts. They wanted
29 the opportunity for the Western Interior Council to
30 review these. And maybe just to kind of go over a little
31 bit of how this came about last year, there was obviously
32 a big concern for the runs last year and so there was a
33 special action submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board
34 last year. We did have, of course, the schedule in place
35 and the rebuilding plans. The Federal Subsistence Board
36 did take action and restricted use to only Federally-
37 qualified users and basically they were taking action to
38 assure the continued viability of fish and wildlife
39 population so the feeling that every fish we could get up
40 on the spawning grounds we needed, given the outlook we
41 had last year was for a very poor run. And also to
42 provide for subsistence uses as a priority over other
43 consumptive uses.

44
45 And then as you've heard, the returns
46 last year were better than we expected and for the
47 Kuskokwim, we did meet escapements for the most part for
48 chum and chinook. There were a lot of efforts made to
49 get that many fish up on the spawning grounds and I think
50 it did pay off. We got better, the pulses of fish
00186

1 allowed by the fishing schedule, allowed for better
2 escapements and also to get more fish for the subsistence
3 users upstream. I think that's widely accepted that that
4 was accomplished.

5
6 And this coming year, you know, I think
7 every fisherman out there always hopes for a better run
8 the coming year and, you know, the outlook in front of
9 you is our best guess at this time as to what may happen.
10 But, of course, we don't know for sure, we're never sure
11 what's going to happen, but it's just our best guess.

12
13 I would also say that there is still
14 ongoing discussions as to the management for this coming
15 season. As I stated earlier, we're going to be talking
16 with the Kuskokwim Working Group, we're going to be
17 trying to assess what kind of schedule should be in place
18 and we're also still waiting for the subsistence harvest
19 data on the Kuskokwim. So we don't have all the
20 information in front of us to really assess, I think, at
21 this point, for the Kuskokwim.

22
23 The special action that Robert Nick has
24 presented, I guess a couple of points I'd like to make is
25 that it does apply to the mainstem and all the
26 tributaries. And one of the issues that came up last
27 year was that because of this special action people that
28 lived on the Yukon who maybe had families on the
29 Kuskokwim and come over to fish were not allowed to do
30 that under the special action that was in place last
31 year, and that's because of the customary and traditional
32 use determination. It was restricted to only Federally-
33 qualified users for those areas, for both the Yukon and
34 the Kuskokwim. So that was a bit of an issue. It does

35 also prevent people from Anchorage from coming out to
36 fish but it also prevents people from the Yukon going to
37 the Kuskokwim and vice versa. So that's one issue for
38 you to take into account.

39
40 And then you've heard from Bob Lafferty,
41 the sportfish actions that they've already taken to
42 curtail the sportfishery. And I guess I would just
43 suggest that you can submit a special action, either the
44 same one that Robert Nick has drafted up here or one on
45 your own, you could do it today, you can submit a special
46 action any time, you don't have to do it today, you can
47 do it any time coming up to the season.

48
49 I guess that's all I have to say at this
50 time unless Paul has anything to add.
00187

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

2
3 MR. SALMEN: Mr. Chairman, I have nothing
4 to add to that, I'll just standby for questions if there
5 are any.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray, did you have
8 something to add?

9
10 MR. HANDER: Just one extra thing.
11 Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to kind of reiterate
12 another point that may have been brought up back in time
13 here. But the Federal in-season manager does have the
14 authority to institute a Federally-qualified user special
15 action in -season. It doesn't just have to come from the
16 Federal Subsistence Board, just so you're clear on that
17 that there is that flexibility in-season by the manager.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this understood by the
22 Council, that the in-season managers can act on their
23 own?

24
25 (Council nods affirmatively)

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
28 Jerry or Paul or Ray? Micky.

29
30 MR. STICKWAN: Just one. I was
31 wondering, you know, how would this special action, what
32 affect it would have on Angie's concern with the Aniak
33 River?

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Bob.

36
37 MR. LAFFERTY: Yeah, for the record, Bob
38 Lafferty, Sportfish Division. I'm a little bit confused
39 on the affect of -- the sportfishery, if a special action
40 was invoked it would basically close the sportfishery
41 throughout the drainage for -- excuse me, let's back up
42 here a minute.

43
44 It's going to -- a special action is

45 based on Federal waters. The Aniak -- now, I see where
46 you're going. The Aniak is a composite of State and
47 Federal waters. Last year, the special action was
48 enacted so sportfishing was not allowed within the
49 Federal waters within the Aniak drainage. So the lower
50 approximately 45 miles was not open to other people who
00188

1 do not Federally-qualify for chinook or chum salmon.
2 However, people could participate in the sheefish,
3 northern pike, grayling, rainbow trout fisheries within
4 those Federal waters.

5
6 In the State waters, the preseason action
7 of one chinook or one chums salmon remained in effect.
8 Does that help?

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that's the part
11 that I've been trying to -- that one part bothers me. If
12 we have jurisdiction only on Federal waters and it's open
13 all around you, I mean why introduce this special action
14 in the first place, that's all.

15
16 MR. SALMEN: Mr. Chairman, this is Paul
17 Salmen with Fish and Game. The comment I had to make,
18 you partially covered it, in that, last year the special
19 action effectively closed off a big chunk of the Aniak
20 River. And what it did was it diverted the effort that
21 normally would have gone to the Aniak River where the
22 salmon population probably can handle a harvest of the
23 level that is occurring on the Aniak, and it focused it
24 to other rivers. We know that there was some extra
25 effort on the George River last year because we have a
26 project there. We don't know how many of the other
27 smaller rivers in the vicinity had extra effort targeted
28 at them because of the Federal closure. But what we did
29 is we took a population that probably could handle some
30 fishing effort and we redirected the effort to
31 populations that probably can't stand as much of the
32 effort.

33
34 Part of that's speculative on my part
35 because we don't know where everybody else went. We have
36 information from one of the smaller systems. Just a
37 comment for the committee to consider. Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any comments for Paul or
40 Jerry? If not, I'm kind of leery of the action that we
41 took. I would like to clarify that action, as we would
42 enact it only if the special action was put into place,
43 is that understood by everyone? Jack.

44
45 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, that was my intention
46 of that motion, that if there was an extreme conservation
47 need, that the special action would go into place for the
48 protection of the escapement goals and I feel it should
49 be throughout the entire drainages.

50
00189

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, again, I stress the
2 point that -- for the record, that this would go into
3 effect only if the special actions go into effect.

4 Micky, you have something?

5

6 MR. STICKWAN: Yeah, that's exactly what
7 I was going to say. I mean it's just a request, it's not
8 a -- you know, it's not set in stone.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Vince.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. My understanding of
13 the motion was, is that, if the Board did receive this
14 special action and they are deliberating on it, that this
15 Council would like it not to be limited to the
16 tributaries, that it would be the entire drainage.
17 That's my understanding of the motion.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: That was it.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, then we're okay.
22 That's it, we're fine.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's all I wanted to
25 clarify. Do we need action on the Kuskokwim because
26 they're already covering the mainstream and tributaries
27 up to Aniak River, do we need any action on that?

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman. We
30 provided this because it was a developing issue and
31 you've been informed on it and that's about all you need
32 to do on it, if you just want to be informed of it.
33 What's happening here is we're trying to inform you of an
34 issue that really hasn't been submitted. And so I've had
35 a lot of bosses breathing down my neck on this one, but
36 we wanted to take the opportunity to get your input on
37 this so the Board would be fully aware of it. But
38 nothing has been submitted to date. We're anticipating
39 that. And anticipation may not produce.

40

41 So again, that explains for the record.
42 So no action is required from you. The Staff is not
43 asking you to take any action.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, we are aware of that
46 and that's why we were trying to cover it. Jack, you had
47 something.

48

49 MR. REAKOFF: Yes, I appreciate you
50 bringing this to our attention, we don't want to be left

00190

1 out of the loop because they're going to meet after we
2 do. So I appreciate you bringing this to our attention.
3 And I think that my motion addressed both drainages, the
4 Yukon and the Kuskokwim, so we've covered that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did we address both
7 drainages on the motion?

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, with the
10 concurrence of the second, if they felt that that's what
11 the motion was I don't think we have to revisit the whole
12 thing.

13

14 MR. STICKWAN: (Nods affirmatively)

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the record reflects
17 that Micky agrees that that was the intent of the motion.
18 Do any Council members object to that clarification?
19 Seeing none, then it applies to both drainages, that it
20 would be the full drainages that you would like the Board
21 to look at not tributaries thereof.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, again, I wanted to
26 clarify that we're not trying to force anybody to take
27 action or put this special action into play. This was
28 more of a preventative move than anything else. That's
29 all I wanted to clarify. Next on the agenda.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings us
32 up to a very important topic that you've been dealing
33 with for quite a few years and this is the Fishery
34 Resource Monitoring Program reports and updates. I
35 request the Council just kind of slow down a little bit
36 and listen closely to what they're saying because it is
37 important, what's going on here, because this is
38 addressing the monitoring projects that are going on --
39 presently going on and the future projects also that may
40 address some of the concerns you've been working through.
41 And then the Coordinating Fishery Committee will be
42 addressing similar topics, too. So with that Rich Cannon
43 and Cliff will be presenting that and I think we have a
44 couple of handouts.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

49

50 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chairman, my name is
00191

1 Cliff Schleusner, I'm a fisheries biologist with the
2 Office of Subsistence Management. Today Rich Cannon and
3 I are going to be giving you an update on the Fishery
4 Resource Monitoring Program. Right now they're passing
5 out a couple of handouts on the Yukon which I'll be
6 speaking on. I'd like to draw your attention to Tab E,
7 Page 20 in your Council books. We've included for your
8 review the issues and information needs for the Yukon and
9 Kuskokwim Rivers.

10

11 Did you find that Emmitt, Page 20, Tab E.

12

13 MR. PETERS: Tab D?

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: It doesn't look right, d
16 you have the wrong tab?

17

18 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Page 21.

19

20 MR. PETERS: Yeah, okay, that's right.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's Tab F, that's what I
23 got it under.

24

25 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Tab F, okay, sorry about
26 that.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Page 21.

29

30 MR. SCHLEUSNER: All right, this document
31 was developed by the three Yukon-Kuskokwim River Regional
32 Advisory Councils in 2000 and is annually reviewed and
33 updated. It's a list of regionally important subsistence
34 fisheries issues and needs that you have identified.
35 This document is included in the OSM annual call for
36 fisheries resource monitoring proposals and it's in here
37 for your review.

38

39 After that document, we've got, on Page
40 -- I'm afraid to say now, 27 it was in mine, yes, we've
41 got a 2003 request for proposals. This request for
42 proposals requests on the continuation of projects
43 initiated in 2000 and 2001 that are high priority with
44 funding ending in 2002. It is anticipated that
45 approximately 1 million statewide will be required to
46 continue these high priority projects leaving between
47 three and 600,000 available for new project starts
48 statewide.

49

50 As of February 15th, that was our
00192

1 deadline for receiving proposals on this call, we had
2 received 55 project proposals requesting over 3.7 million
3 dollars in funding. 19 of those project proposals were
4 from the Yukon River, three of them addressed harvest
5 monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge
6 requesting over 450,000 in funding. 16 were on stock,
7 status and trends and requested over 800,000. Funding
8 requests for the Yukon alone was approximately 1.3
9 million.

10

11 That was just an update for your
12 information on the RFP and the issues and information
13 needs. I'd like to draw your attention to the handout
14 entitled overview of the status and future direction for
15 the Fishery Resource Monitoring Program, Yukon, it has
16 bar graph on the front page. That graph on the bottom of
17 the page shows the financial history of the Fishery
18 Resource Monitoring Program. The plan was initiated in
19 2000 with a budget of 2.5 million and funded projects for
20 up to three years. The second and third year funding
21 commitments are color coded.

22

23 In 2001 7.25 million was added to the
24 program and is the anticipated level for future funding.
25 Two things are happening in 2002, the Partners Program
26 will begin with an annual funding commitment of 1.05
27 million and the funding agreement for projects started in
28 2000 will expire.

29

30 In 2003, approximately 1.3 million will
31 be available to fund new subsistence fisheries projects
32 statewide. Funding for projects in 2003 will be for only
33 one year. This will free up the majority of funds in

34 2004 as seen in the graph and allow for a comprehensive
35 analysis of the continuation funding needs.

36

37 We have begun this analysis by asking
38 four questions of the Fishery Resource Monitoring
39 Program. This is on Page 2 of that handout.

40

41 Question No. 1, how well have the project
42 selections addressed Council issues and information
43 needs? Which issues and information needs will require
44 the annual collection of long-term data sets? How
45 effectively has the Fishery Resource Monitoring Plan
46 coordinated with other Fishery Resource Monitoring
47 Programs? And finally, what are the project results to
48 date?

49

50 The fourth question is partially answered
00193

1 in this document that we passed out titled Yukon River
2 Project Updates. This handout contains information on
3 all the Fishery Resource Monitoring plan projects funded
4 on the Yukon River since 2000. A total of 25 projects
5 are scheduled to operate in 2002. 18 projects were
6 initiated in 2000 and 2001, along with seven new projects
7 recently approved by the Federal Subsistence Board. The
8 total funding commitment for the 2002 Yukon River Fishery
9 Resource Monitoring Plan is approximately 1.4 million.

10

11 At the end of this project is a list of
12 16 -- or at the end of this document is a list of 16
13 projects that have been completed or are finalizing their
14 reporting requirements. Final reports can made available
15 through Vince and investigators may be provided to
16 present their results at future Regional Advisory Council
17 meetings, if requested.

18

19 One project was cancelled through the
20 mutual agreement between the investigators and the Office
21 of Subsistence Management Staff, Project 01-025, the
22 Ethelen River subsistence fishery study.

23

24 Also Mr. Reakoff was asking about the
25 ichthyophonous, on Page 4, Project 01-200, a brief update
26 on that project is provided which gives the status of
27 that and as previously mentioned by Fred Bue, the Yukon
28 Panel through the R&E funds has recently approved
29 additional funding in support of this project.

30

31 For question No. 1, how well have the
32 project selections addressed -- we're back to this
33 original document, how well have project selections
34 addressed Council's issues and information needs? Issues
35 and information needs were identified under eight broad
36 categories by the Regional Advisory Councils. On Page 3
37 of your handout is a beginning of a list of the
38 identified issues and the fisheries projects funded to
39 address those issues to date. Projects in bold type have
40 been identified as preliminary list of potential projects
41 that have funding needs for data collection that extent
42 beyond their current three year funding agreements with
43 the Office of Subsistence Management.

44

45 Project selections to date address the
46 vast majority of issues and information needs identified
47 by the Councils that are within the jurisdiction of the
48 Subsistence Management Program Fishery Resource
49 Monitoring Plan.

50

00194

1 Rich Cannon will provide an overview of
2 programs available to fund issues and needs identified
3 outside the scope of the Fishery Resource Monitoring
4 Program.

5

6 For question No. 2, which issues and
7 information needs likely require annual collection of
8 data sets? Ten existing projects have been identified as
9 potentially fitting the criteria for continued funding.
10 Under subsistence harvest assessment, one of the existing
11 harvest monitoring projects will be considered for long-
12 term funding at an annual cost of 31.5 K. And again,
13 this is just a preliminary list for our analysis, there
14 has not been any final funding decisions made.

15

16 Under distribution, abundance and life
17 history of fish species, one project will be considered
18 at an annual of 88.4 thousand. And salmon stock
19 assessment. Providing data to the managers of the
20 subsistence salmon fisheries has been the single largest
21 commitment of the Yukon Fishery Resource Monitoring Plan.
22 The value of data sets are only fully realized if they
23 span multiple life cycles. Eight of the existing salmon
24 stock assessment projects will be considered for long-
25 term funding. The annual cost of these eight projects is
26 estimated to be approximately 583,000.

27

28 For the third question, how effective has
29 the Fishery Resource Monitoring Plan been coordinated
30 with other Fishery Resource Monitoring and study programs
31 to optimize the use of funds to address issues and data
32 needs? Well, given the limited funding available for
33 Yukon Fishery Resource Monitoring, there is a high
34 priority need for strategic planning. This will
35 encourage financial partnering and coordination with
36 other fisheries monitoring and studies program to achieve
37 the greatest benefit from the Fishery Resource Monitoring
38 Program. Two planning processes are being developed that
39 will help coordinate research efforts and identify data
40 needs in the Yukon River.

41

42 As previously mentioned by Fred Bue, in
43 2002 the Joint Technical Committee for the Yukon River
44 Panel is initiating a strategic planning process to
45 address research and monitoring needs basin wide for
46 salmon stocks on the Yukon River. The AYK Coalition
47 Strategic planning process will also begin in 2002. This
48 effort will design and implement a Bering Sea salmon
49 research program. The strategic planning process will
50 include all life stages and will link freshwater

00195

1 estuarine and marine ecology of Bering Sea salmon.

2

3 For the Yukon region it is estimated that
4 the annual continuation of just the existing projects
5 which should be considered for long-term funding would be
6 over \$700,000 leaving little additional funds to address
7 anticipated new issues and data needs. It is critical
8 that the strategic framework for the 2004 request for
9 proposals include the highest priority issues and
10 information needs identified by the Councils involve
11 coordination with existing monitoring programs and data
12 needs identified in ongoing strategic planning processes.
13 Information from the strategic planning processes may be
14 available as soon as 2004. In the interim, we propose to
15 work with the Councils and in-season managers through the
16 Coordinating Fisheries Committee to identify the highest
17 priority issues and information needs.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions for Cliff. Go
22 ahead, Vince.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair, I just want to
25 reiterate what Cliff just said, the Coordinating Fishery
26 Committee will be working on, I don't want to say
27 reprioritizing but further refining the issues and
28 information needs and that will be back before you in
29 fall for the full Council. So they'll be kind of the
30 working group on this and will work it through for you.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Cliff is this coming
35 up on the floor at the YRDFA meeting?

36
37 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chairman, it's
38 actually going to be meeting Monday evening, it's not
39 going to be part of the actual YRDFA meeting, it's going
40 to be an after hours meeting.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: So all of our Coordinating
43 Fisheries Committee members make this meeting, will you
44 remind everyone at the YRDFA meeting that we are meeting
45 in the evening?

46
47 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Yes.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Rich.

50
00196

1 MR. CANNON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. This is
2 Richard Cannon, also with Office of Subsistence
3 Management. I wanted to just make a comment now because
4 it will be relevant to both the Kuskokwim and the Yukon
5 and that is, we're really going through sort of a
6 transition in this whole program.

7
8 The first three years are an attempt to
9 get projects funded to see how they might work. We're
10 trying to encourage a great deal of cooperation, capacity
11 building in the various projects. But that information
12 now is only coming back to us. We put the money out and

13 now we're getting information back. So now the real work
14 begins.

15

16 Part of the job is to make sure that
17 information is really focused on the real needs, that
18 it's addressing the needs for management. And that
19 information also has to be disseminated, has to be gotten
20 out to the agencies, the tribal groups that are involved
21 with this as well as back to the Council. And we're
22 looking for ways to do that effectively and we're going
23 to be trying some different things. One of the things we
24 did last fall was to bring back some special
25 presentations to the Councils on things we felt you would
26 be interested in, the ichthyophonous report, the report on
27 interactions between beavers and whitefish up on the
28 Yukon Flats. We had a special report on the internship
29 program that's going on in the lower Kuskokwim. So this
30 is one avenue of essentially getting some feedback to you
31 and your Council.

32

33 We'd like to get some, you know, we'd
34 like to get some feedback on that from you as well, is
35 that the sort of thing that you would like to see us do?
36 Are there other topics you'd like to see us address? And
37 so that's something that you can work with Vince on, your
38 coordinator, to get that information back to us. I'm not
39 asking this as an action item today but it's something
40 that you may want to think about as you're planning the
41 next Council meeting.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would then request that
46 if you come up with any kind of draft on any kind of
47 projects, that are proposed, that you get it to Vince's
48 office as soon as possible.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, what
00197

1 he's saying now is we're closing the circle. The
2 projects are finishing up and there's going to be reports
3 that are coming out. And you guys made it clear early on
4 that these projects were there to help the managers as
5 well as you to make wise decisions or you to make
6 recommendations and the managers to make wise decisions.
7 Rich, is kind of asking you, how do you want to make that
8 available to you?

9

10 Last meeting, like he said, had people
11 come in and present, they were well received. You don't
12 have enough time in your agenda to bring in everybody,
13 but we can do that. There's other avenues that are
14 there. The reason we want to do that is, one, to close
15 the circle and two, to keep you informed. Obviously when
16 the issues come up, Staff are going to use the
17 information for analysis but it's a lot easier for you to
18 understand the analysis on an issue if you knew how it
19 got there. So we're not asking you to -- well, you can
20 give us suggestions now, but we're kind of asking, how do
21 you want to get that information back to you and then you
22 guys represent areas, how do you want to get an

23 understanding to the communities because I think a lot of
24 the communities think there's nothing going on out there,
25 well, if you look at these figures there's a lot of
26 things going on. So those are ideas.

27

28 One idea that's been approached to me is
29 the posters that you see behind you. Those were not
30 funded through this program, so I don't want to say they
31 were funded through this program. That is one way of
32 doing it. So just think about it. We can do what we
33 can. We don't want to send out a lot of material that's
34 not going to have any use. So we're asking you to kind
35 of do that and if you got time, let us know, but it's
36 starting to come in and the worst thing is to have it on
37 the shelf and then you guys say well, we didn't know and
38 couldn't act. We're not saying that, we want to figure
39 out a way of getting it to you but we want to make sure
40 it's functional.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Rich.

45

46 MR. CANNON: Just a follow up on that. We
47 are going to be putting this information in places that,
48 you know, you would expect, in the library and try to get
49 it into regional libraries, trying to get it out to the
50 Refuge offices, any group that's affected by the
00198

1 information will certainly get a copy of this
2 information, that's a given. A lot of it will be
3 available through the Internet. I'm not sure -- well,
4 assuming that we will have access to the Internet at some
5 point in time, and that's being planned. But I have a
6 feeling that we have to do more than that and that's why
7 I'm asking for some other suggestions.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, well, I was trying
10 to address this issue a little while ago, one of the ways
11 that I would like to see this issue addressed is through
12 the Coordinating Fisheries Committee for one thing. And
13 that would be one of my main suggestions at this time.
14 Jack.

15

16 MR. REAKOFF: I enjoyed some of those
17 presentations that we seen last October. And I feel that
18 the information that has the most application to the
19 management, what had significant results that could be
20 applied should be portrayed to this Council so that
21 information can be -- made -- can be significant impacts
22 on resource management, I would very much enjoy seeing
23 those in our fall meetings.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Ray.

26

27 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I
28 think one thing, since this is just starting to come
29 back, this information, we need to think long-term, what
30 kind of data base is this going to go into. Because I
31 know when we get a whole report there, they get scattered
32 but if there's summations that are going into a database

33 like on escapement projects or weir projects or something
34 like that so you can look at the Kuskokwim River, what
35 have we learned over the years? Because I get that stuff
36 in the fisheries each year on what happened this year and
37 so on but pretty soon it gets to be volumes. So if you
38 created database now that deal with whitefish or deal
39 with whatever, then new members coming on could look at
40 that and kind of see what do we know and where can I go
41 then to get the full report? That would be a useful tool
42 to create, I think.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments or
45 questions? Rich.

46

47 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, Council
48 members. I will be updating you on the Fishery Resource
49 Monitoring Program supporting subsistence management for
50 the Kuskokwim. If I could, I'd like to have Cliff kind
00199

1 of help me pass out some materials to you. I know you've
2 got heavy -- probably have more paper than you'd like but
3 I've got a couple of reports that I would like to provide
4 for you -- why don't you pass the salmon colored one out
5 first because that's the one I'll be talking about.

6

7 Okay, the report I've just handed out
8 and, again, I'm talking about the larger document. The
9 title is the Fishery Resource Monitoring Final Plan,
10 Kuskokwim Region, 2000 through 2002. And what this is is
11 a reference document for the Council that has in it all
12 of the -- a little summary of all of the projects that
13 have been funded for the Kuskokwim region up to this
14 point in time, through 2002. So I'm hoping this will be
15 a handy reference for you as your constituents ask you
16 questions or you have questions, you can refer to this
17 document and kind of get a background of what the project
18 was supposed to accomplish. There's sort of an executive
19 summary at the beginning that talks about the budget and
20 projects that have been completed. And it talks also
21 about some of the things we hope to do in the future as
22 far as planning efforts that I'm going to be talking to
23 you about in my presentation today.

24

25 So this is just a reference document for
26 you.

27

28 The other document that was handed out is
29 a similar format to what Cliff just presented to you for
30 the Yukon. So it should say Kuskokwim region but it will
31 look similar to what you just looked at for the Yukon.
32 This report is our first attempt to begin to answer those
33 questions about how well are we doing with our program,
34 the Fishery Resource Monitoring Program and it asks those
35 same four questions. And I'm not going to spend a lot of
36 time going over those details, a lot of it's pretty self
37 evident.

38

39 With regard to the budget which is talked
40 about in the first section, the basic message is that
41 we've funded a lot of projects on the Kuskokwim for about
42 three years, we would fund them out three years. And

43 those commitments use up money each year. So we're at a
44 point now for FY 2003 where we've had a fair amount of
45 commitment. We're still committing -- we're going to be
46 committing between \$700,000 and a million dollars of
47 funds for fisheries on the Kuskokwim. For 2003, that
48 means that we'll only have about \$200,000 to continue
49 projects that we started in 2000 because they're running
50 out of money.
00200

1 Now, for weirs and other types of
2 projects, you know, doing escapement harvest monitoring,
3 those are things that, in order for them to be effective,
4 you have to make a longer term commitment because you're
5 looking for change, trends in that information. There
6 are three projects that are going to be essentially not
7 funding, they don't have any other source of funding that
8 are coming back to us for 2003. One on the Goodnews
9 River, an extension for cohos, the Kwethluk River weir
10 which is a project involving the tribal council and the
11 US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Taklqsuit (ph)River
12 weir, which is a project that's really heavily -- it
13 involves the Department of Fish and Game but it's largely
14 run by KNA. Those are important projects, we need those
15 types of projects to be able to evaluate escapement. As
16 we get more information for those specific projects we
17 can begin to develop biological escapement goals, begin
18 to understand more about those specific stocks; so those
19 are important projects.
20

21 New projects for 2003, as Cliff said,
22 we've only got about three to \$600,000 statewide. We
23 have five new projects proposed for the Kuskokwim and I
24 think the total on that was about \$400,000 so obviously
25 we probably aren't going to be able to fund all of those
26 but we'll be taking a hard look at the priorities for all
27 the regions and hopefully there'll be some additional
28 Kuskokwim projects funded. There's some -- I think one
29 actually coming in from McGrath for starting an
30 internship program here, which I'd like to see funded.
31 We'll have to weigh all the priorities as we look
32 statewide.
33

34 Obviously it would be good if we had more
35 money to spend but we have to work with what we have.
36

37 If you look through the document, I'd
38 refer you to Page 3. In this part of the document we're
39 trying to get a very quick, quick look at how well have
40 we sort of done as far as meeting the issues and data
41 needs that you've developed. And we've just done that by
42 organizing the various projects by category. So as you
43 look down through that on Page 3 and it goes over onto
44 Page 4, you can see that we've provided, within each
45 category, we've got some projects that are beginning to
46 address those needs. We certainly haven't arrived, we've
47 got a lot more to do but it's a start. You can see
48 there's three there for TEK. I've also added an asterisk
49 to some of the projects for harvest monitoring because
50 they also involve TEK. So as you look through that,
00201

1 you'll see harvest monitoring projects, the salmon

2 assessment escapement projects and so on. Capacity
3 building, I know a lot of people are very interested in
4 that and we've done very well on the Kuskokwim, I feel,
5 in addressing this. We've got a lot more to do but there
6 are a number of projects that really focus on trying to
7 provide more core capacity, more opportunity for people
8 in tribal groups to get involved with fishery projects
9 and I think this is a real good thing.

10

11 The second question, I wrote a lot of
12 words about it but probably the quickest way, and that's
13 with regard to how many long-term projects, you know,
14 that may need long-term funding are included in what
15 we've already started and to make that simple, I just put
16 those in bold, there are 16 of them. As you look down
17 through that list and if you added up all the money that
18 it would take to fund those things, over a longer term it
19 adds up to about a million dollars a year. That's more
20 money than we've got to spend.

21

22 And that brings up the need for strategic
23 -- some strategic thinking and strategic planning. And I
24 think one of the really good things, really beneficial
25 things that we have going on the Kuskokwim, is the
26 tremendous working relationship that we have between the
27 State managers and biologists there locally as well as
28 the Refuge Staff on the YK-Delta and all the tribal
29 groups. That's been a real strength. They've worked
30 very closely with the Kuskokwim Working Group. They
31 formed their own technical panel called the -- it's a
32 fisheries resource coalition, a real grassroots effort to
33 sit down and figure out how they could use their combined
34 funds to make the most of what they've got to do with the
35 fisheries. They don't always agree but they agreed to
36 work together. And it's really helped our program
37 because they really work through a lot of the tough
38 issues before it ever comes to us.

39

40 Yes.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we need to take any
43 action other than the same action that we took on the
44 Yukon?

45

46 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, no, I'm just
47 trying to give you some information. I'm sorry, no, this
48 is for your edification. And I'll try to shorten it up,
49 okay?

50

00202

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: (Nods affirmatively)

2

3 MR. CANNON: So the coalition has been
4 very instrumental and we certainly hope that they will
5 continue working with us. They're interested in doing a
6 strategic plan, we're hoping to support that effort with
7 funds and Staff assistance and there's sort of a draft
8 scoping document that's being reviewed right now to
9 accomplish that.

10

11 The third item that we're looking at in

12 terms of our assessment here is what other things are
13 being done that affect fisheries that we need to be
14 coordinating our program with? And I'll focus on that
15 for the rest of my presentation.

16
17 The fourth item, there's a table at the
18 back here that talks about an update. You can look
19 through that. There's really no major news from what I
20 told you in October. The only thing that I would point
21 out is if you look on -- there's one project that you
22 approved for 2002 and that's project 02-014, that's
23 changes in subsistence salmon fishing patterns in the
24 lower Kuskokwim since statehood, that project has been
25 withdrawn by the investigators, so that one won't go
26 forward. They simply have too much to do and they've
27 withdrawn that project. That's the only real substantive
28 news I had for you about that.

29
30 Okay. The rest of my presentation and, I
31 will be brief on this, I want to talk to you about some
32 things that I know that the Councils are interested in
33 but they're not things that we necessarily fund, they
34 deal with marine research, salmon, what happens to salmon
35 when they leave the freshwater environment in the
36 Kuskokwim and the Yukon Rivers? And that discussion
37 begins on Page 6 of the report and I have a few notes
38 here and I'll just kind of go through that.

39
40 The first thing is we've already talked
41 about and that's the actions of the North Pacific
42 Council, we won't dwell on that anymore. There's a
43 related matter and that has to do with this overview of
44 salmon by-catch in Alaska ground fisheries. I'm on Page
45 7 now, do you see that. All right, and you can read
46 about it, but, basically what that is all about is the
47 National Marine Fisheries Service has agreed to begin
48 providing reports on an annual basis of by-catch in the
49 Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea on Western Alaska
50 stocks. And I think that's something you'll be very
00203

1 interested in. As we get that information, as we work
2 with the Council, we can attempt to distill that
3 information and get it to you so that you have the
4 benefit of knowing about what's actually being harvested
5 in these areas that salmon from Western Alaska are
6 traveling through.

7
8 The next thing that Cliff mentioned, the
9 AYK Coalition Strategic Planning and Science Plan, \$5
10 million congressional appropriation. There's been a
11 cooperative agreement signed. AVCP, Kawarek, Tanana
12 Chiefs, National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and
13 Wildlife Service and the State all working together to
14 try to put together a long-term vision for salmon
15 research and studies that link the freshwater and marine,
16 life histories of salmon for this area. We'll be a part
17 of that but I think this is a very positive development.

18
19 The next thing is the Bering Aleutian
20 Salmon International Survey. This is part of the marine
21 studies part of it. It's called BASIS and this work will

22 join the efforts of Canada, United States, Russia and
23 Japan and their scientists will be setting up marine
24 transects where they'll be sampling for juvenile salmon
25 as well as collecting ecological information,
26 oceanographic information so we can begin to understand
27 what is happening out in the Bering Sea.

28

29 The other program is North Pacific Marine
30 Research Program. And this program is, again, maybe some
31 of you are familiar with, it's been around for a few
32 years. It also has -- it's largely run through the
33 University of Alaska but it's funding research in the
34 Bering Sea. It will focus on salmon and other
35 conservation needs. And in 2003 the amount of money
36 could be almost \$12 million for marine research.

37

38 Yes.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: How much more do you have,
41 how much more time?

42

43 MR. CANNON: I just have a couple more
44 things to talk to you about regarding contaminants. If
45 you don't want to have that information you could
46 certainly just read about it.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead. I've heard it
49 but.....

50

00204

1 MR. CANNON: At the other Council
2 meetings?

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. But these three
5 people need to hear it, too, but just briefly because we
6 can read about it, too.

7

8 MR. CANNON: Yeah. There is things here
9 you could read. Contaminants in salmon, that first one,
10 actually if you look at the posters that's what this is
11 all about. And I handed out an update on that
12 information. Yukon/Kuskokwim sampling that's being done.
13 And that information will be reported out here over the
14 next -- I guess by probably sometime this summer.

15

16 Alaska wild food safety program, that's a
17 \$3.9 million that's being put forth by the Alaska Native
18 Science Commission. And again, a cooperative effort and
19 it will look at not only the fish but also the effect of
20 contaminants on human health.

21

22 Then the last one is this fisheries
23 contaminants monitoring program by the State of Alaska,
24 where they'll be looking at contaminants in fish
25 throughout the state of Alaska, both in subsistence and
26 commercial fisheries and that will begin again this
27 summer.

28

29 That concludes my report, Mr. Chairman.

30 I'd be happy to take any questions.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I don't know
33 why if it bothers me or not, I hope not, but why is it
34 that it seems that we spend far more on the Kuskokwim
35 than the Yukon even though we have international border
36 lines and farther distances to go; is that because of
37 YRDFA and is that because of the Canadian government who
38 is contributing to us, too, or what?

39

40 MR. CANNON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there is
41 vastly more opportunity for funding for the Yukon than
42 there is the Kuskokwim because of the international
43 implications of Yukon salmon and Canada/US.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
46 Rich, from the Council? Jack.

47

48 MR. REAKOFF: Just a comment. I am very
49 happy to see that these coalitions are working together
50 to prioritize and identify needs and then bring these to
00205

1 the attention of the Councils. I appreciate that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. If you're
4 looking for suggestions like you were for the Yukon
5 River, I think the only suggestions I could make is again
6 the Coordinating Fisheries Committee members and KNA,
7 they seem to get information out instantly through the
8 radio stations, local radio stations. Anything further?
9 Go ahead, Cliff.

10

11 MR. SCHLEUSNER: I just wanted to say
12 thank you. I'll make a note of that and bring it up at
13 the CFC.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Before you go, any further
16 questions?

17

18 MR. STICKWAN: I have one.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

21

22 MR. STICKWAN: Just I'm a member of the
23 committee so I was just wondering is this the same report
24 we're going to have for YRDFA?

25

26 MR. SCHLEUSNER: No. This is a different
27 agenda.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Micky, this is for
30 KNA and the Kuskokwim. Ray, did you have one?

31

32 MR. COLLINS: (Shakes head negatively)

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: No. Any further
35 questions? If not, thank you. Go ahead, Ray.

36

37 MR. COLLINS: One quick comment. You're
38 talking about not being able to continue these on. Is
39 somebody in your Staff going to take a look at all of
40 these and say, okay, if we can't have weirs on every one
41 of these, looking at past datas, can we identify the ones

42 that if we just had those we could come up with the same
43 results on seeing whether escapement's being met? In
44 other words, target the key ones in there. It's a data
45 sorting kind of thing.

46

47 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, Ray. Yeah,
48 that's exactly what we're trying to do with this
49 strategic planning process, take the money we have and
50 trying to optimize any kind of data collection that we're

00206
1 doing.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, thank you. Vince,
4 where are we on this agenda? Are we done with this?

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we are done with the
7 Fishery Monitoring Projects. That brings us up to the
8 Federal/State Coordination Protocol and I believe Dan
9 LaPlant is going to present that. It's an informational
10 item but it is important and he'll give you an idea of
11 how it's evolving and then we'll go into the annual
12 report.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have this in our
15 book?

16

17 MR. LaPLANT: Yes, Mr. Chairman, under
18 Tab G, Page 1. I'll be real brief here. This is, again,
19 just a briefing for informational purposes only and we're
20 not asking for any Council action at this time. It's
21 intended here just to update you on the coordination
22 between the State and the Federal programs and let you
23 know where we are with the development of protocols that
24 clarify the coordination between the State and Federal
25 programs.

26

27 This is primarily -- again, for the
28 record, excuse me, my name is Dan LaPlant, I work for the
29 Office of Subsistence Management.

30

31 Primarily, I want to emphasize a few
32 points here in the State and Federal coordination,
33 primarily for the benefit of the new Council members.

34

35 And, I guess the first thing I wanted to
36 mention is that we have a Memorandum of Agreement between
37 the State program and the Federal program. It was agreed
38 to by the leaders of the agencies and the Chairs of the
39 Board of Fish, Board of Game, Commissioner of Fish and
40 Game Department and this was agreed to in April of 2000.
41 In addition the Chairman of the Federal Subsistence Board
42 is also a signatory on that agreement. And we call those
43 individuals the leaders of the agencies, Federal and
44 State agencies, they refer to them as the MOA
45 signatories.

46

47 Again, the purpose of the MOA is to
48 establish guidelines for coordination between the State
49 and Federal agencies and the management of subsistence on
50 Federal public lands. These organizations that are part

00207

1 of this have developed an MOA working group which
2 consists of Staff members of the various agencies. Under
3 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game it includes Staff
4 members from Sportfish Division, CommFish Division,
5 Subsistence, Board Support and Wildlife Conservation and
6 these Staff members are developing protocols to describe
7 how we will work together to accomplish the common
8 objectives.

9

10 So I just wanted to update you, there's
11 six protocols that have been developed and just kind of
12 show you where we are with those.

13

14 The first one is the subsistence
15 management information sharing protocol. And what we
16 have with that one is a draft protocol that's been
17 developed and it's ready for signatures by the MOA
18 signatories. The agency leaders are going to be having a
19 meeting in Anchorage in April, April 23rd, so we expect
20 them to sign that protocol at that time. So that's the
21 subsistence management sharing -- excuse me, information
22 sharing protocol. That basically describes how the
23 agencies will share data, survey information, reports and
24 so on.

25

26 The second one is the Yukon River
27 Drainage Subsistence Salmon Fishery management protocol.
28 And you received a little report on that from Rod Simmons
29 this morning where we are with that one and that one, as
30 Rod told you this morning, is also ready for signature
31 and we hope that will be signed on April 23rd as well.

32

33 The third protocol is Regulatory
34 Coordination. That protocol, where we are with that is
35 the development of a subcommittee or actually four
36 different subcommittees. And there's a little bit more
37 detailed information on that behind Tab G also. So you
38 can look at that in your leisure but I won't go into it
39 in detail at all. But it just describes when the
40 protocol is completed it will describe how the agencies
41 will work together in terms of the Federal Subsistence
42 Board coordinating with the Board of Game and the Board
43 of Fish, how the Councils will coordinate with the local
44 Advisory Committees. Perhaps how the regulatory
45 schedules will be adjusted to provide a little bit more
46 coordination in streamlining of the processes. So that's
47 the regulatory coordination protocol and where we are
48 with that. We hope to have that completed in 2003. So
49 we're just kind of getting into that one.

50

00208

1 The other one's Fisheries Regulatory
2 Management Planning protocol. The MOA working group is
3 just identifying the draft charge or the outline of where
4 we're going with that protocol and we have no schedule
5 for completion on that one yet. And that's the same
6 situation with the Statewide In-Season Subsistence
7 Fishery Management protocol. Again, the charge is being
8 developed by the MOA working group and we don't have a
9 schedule for completion.

10

11 The last protocol is the Subsistence Use
12 Amounts protocol and that subcommittee met on February
13 7th and they've developed some initial information and
14 you will be receiving some more information about that in
15 the not too distant future.

16
17 I guess the only other thing I wanted to
18 say, Mr. Chairman, is that the Council members that are
19 participating in these protocols are very much
20 appreciated and we hope the Councils continue to work
21 with the agencies in this process. For example, under
22 the Regulatory Coordination protocol, Bill Thomas and
23 John Hanson have been on that committee and have been
24 meeting with the agencies. Under the Subsistence Use
25 Amounts protocol, Gerald Nicholia and Harry Brower are on
26 that committee and, again, that one met for the first
27 time on February 7th. So looking forward to continuing
28 that work.

29
30 Mr. Chairman, that concludes my briefing.
31 I'd also like to say, though, that this is a coordination
32 between State and Federal so if the State agencies have
33 anything additional to add, I'd welcome their comments as
34 well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Dan. Anyone
37 from ADF&G have any comments? Thank you. Any questions
38 for Dan? I think we've gone through this MOA protocols
39 for quite some time. Seeing no questions, thank you
40 again.

41
42 MR. LaPLANT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, it might be,
47 in light of the time, it might be a good idea to maybe
48 move agency reports up. The items that are coming up
49 next, your annual report, Council charter and
50 appointments and statewide rural determinations could go
00209

1 later than agency reports. We have some Staff that have
2 other commitments that are requiring them to leave. So
3 it's a possibility we could switch the agency reports if
4 you desire that, it's up to you?

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: That would be my desire.
7 Is there any opposition from the Council? If not, why
8 don't we get that -- who's our first one?

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the way it's
11 laid out, would be that any of the Native corporations or
12 village corporations or tribal councils that have
13 representatives here are the first on the list, if they
14 have an item that is timely that needs the Council's
15 attention and that would be followed by Alaska Department
16 of Fish and Game and then on down the list.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Before we go
19 into agency reports, I'd like to take a five to 10 minute
20 break. I would really like to move these reports up. It

21 seems like we've always put our local Staff on the back
22 burner and they seem to leave us one by one as they make
23 their reports. So if that will be fine with everybody,
24 we'll take a break and start with the agency reports
25 starting under 16. Five, 10 minute break.

26

27 (Off record)

28

29 (On record)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to call the
32 meeting back to order. Where are we on the agenda,
33 Vince?

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we're on
36 agency reports. I was told that Theresa, I don't -- I
37 think it's Williams would like to speak as a
38 representative of the McGrath Tribal Council -- no,
39 Stanley doesn't know for sure on that -- there she is.

40

41 MS. WILLIAMS: Where do you want me?

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Right there. Theresa, let
44 me explain real quickly, we have on the agenda agency
45 reports and this Council's requested that the Native
46 Corporations, village, regional, tribal, et cetera, would
47 be the first to present reports, it's items that the
48 Council needs to know and then they go into other agency
49 reports.

50

00210

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

4

5 MS. WILLIAMS: I am Theresa Williams, the
6 tribal administrator for the McGrath Native Village
7 Council. If you'll bear with me, they just asked me like
8 two minutes ago to give you a quick report, so it should
9 only take an hour.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 MS. WILLIAMS: I started last summer mid-
14 season here at the village council and we have a contract
15 with the Office of Subsistence Management Federal
16 government. We have a fishery tech position that
17 provides in-season data to the working group. Our fish
18 tech collects scale samples from the kings in the region
19 and also interviews the fish people, the subsistence
20 fishers in the region, around the area. Last summer it
21 was a short season, there was a lot of work here in
22 McGrath and then also I think we didn't have that much
23 subsistence fisher people because the nets were having to
24 be pulled every week, I think that also influenced people
25 putting their nets in the water and not wanting to pull
26 them out every few days.

27

28 So this summer I'm gearing, we're going
29 to be having a fish tech person and more of the work will
30 be gearing people -- getting the community involved and

31 learning how to do the scaling and providing more
32 information. So hopefully we'll get more sampling scales
33 this summer. And then we're also working on for
34 2003/2004 a student internship program. Taking students
35 from McGrath, Nickoli and Takotna and placing them at the
36 Takotna weir. Our fish tech also helps with the Takotna
37 weir in installing it and taking it out for the season.
38 And I'm gearing of this because hopefully in the future I
39 would like to see a Salmon River fish weir. I know the
40 Takotna fish weir helps -- when some of the fish that
41 goes by here, McGrath, but I know a lot of the fish that
42 go by here end up at Salmon River so for the McGrath
43 community, I would say those numbers helping manage the
44 fish that come by here.

45

46 And that's all I have. Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's some questions.

49 Jack.

50

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1 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: Where's the Salmon River

4 at?

5

6 MS. WILLIAMS: It's a river up by

7 Nickoli, at the top of the Kuskokwim.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions? If
10 not, thank you.

11

12 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Who's next?

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I don't know
17 if there's any other Native corporations -- yes, Stanley
18 would like to speak and if there's others and then I'll
19 ask Department of Fish and Game.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Stanley.

22

23 MR. NED: For the record my name is
24 Stanley Ned, Tanana Chiefs. We have only one project
25 going right now, it's a cooperative agreement with Alaska
26 Department of Fish and Game which is to do TEK study on
27 the Koyukuk River including Alatna, Allakaket, Hughes,
28 Huslia and Koyukuk. And we're about at the half-way
29 point and it will end next year. And there are other
30 grant monies we are searching for to do more studies in
31 different parts of the region. And that ends my report.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Stan?

36 Just one brief one, how far along are you on that TEK
37 project?

38

39 MR. NED: We're about the half-way point

40 now.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

43

44 MR. REAKOFF: Are you having good success
45 with keeping your employees in all those villages going?

46

47 MR. NED: It's working way better than we
48 expected.

49

50 (Laughter)

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1 MR. NED: I think Alaska Department of
2 Fish and Game will probably give a detailed report on it.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any more questions
5 for Stanley? If not, thank you for bearing with us, too.

6

7 MR. NED: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any other Native
10 corporations or villages? If not, Vince.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Next would be Alaska
13 Department of Fish and Game and I believe Dave Andersen
14 is going to kind of corral the people and put them in
15 order from there maybe or he gave you a list -- I'm
16 sorry, he already gave you a list.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I've got the list.
19 Under ADF&G reports, we've got Randy Rogers on GASH Moose
20 Working Group. While we are getting the handouts, again,
21 I would like to thank all the local agencies and all the
22 people that are working with our local people for bearing
23 with us. You're always last on the list but yet whenever
24 everyone leaves we're hollering to you most of all,
25 especially Kanuti, Koyukuk and Innoko and Nowitna
26 Refuges. Thanks for bearing with us.

27

28 MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
29 I'm Randy Rogers with Division of Wildlife Conservation.
30 I'll try to keep my report fairly short here, we've
31 touched on several of the subjects that I've been
32 involved with here as the meeting's been progressing.
33 I've passed out a couple of handouts and one is a little
34 bit of information, some of the season summary data from
35 the Koyukuk Controlled Use area, a moose hunt from last
36 fall. The other sheet is an informational sheet put
37 together by Sportfish Division Staff which relates to the
38 meetings plan for the Anvik, Holy Cross, Shageluk,
39 Grayling area here in a few weeks from now. That's just
40 kind of informational for you.

41

42 I guess I'll start off here with a little
43 bit of an update on the Koyukuk moose situation.
44 Starting first with a little bit of an overview of how
45 the season went last fall, several of you have already
46 gotten this information in your Advisory Committee
47 meetings or the Koyukuk Moose Hunter Working Group
48 meetings so I'm not going to spend a lot of time on it.

49

50 Just a couple of the key facts, it seems

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1 to me, is that this year when you compare -- and the
2 sheet you have doesn't compare 2000 to 2001 so I'm going
3 to point out some of the changes there. In terms of
4 overall harvest, the harvest went down fairly
5 significantly between 2000 and 2001. The preliminary
6 results which aren't quite exactly the same as the
7 numbers on the sheet that you go were 278 moose taken in
8 2000 and 166 in 2001.

9

10 In terms of the subsistence permit hunt,
11 the number went up from 355 permits issued to 394. And
12 that's pretty much entirely non-local Alaska resident
13 hunter increase. So that's an item that is of concern
14 that we want to watch real closely.

15

16 In terms of the local harvest and
17 success, from the initial reported harvest, the harvest
18 went from 72 down to 35. And I think overall, as you're
19 aware, that the moose season was fairly low this fall in
20 most of Interior Alaska. In terms of the drawing
21 permits, as you recall there had been a decision to issue
22 the same number of permits for 2001 as there had been in
23 2000. And we have the exact same number of people who
24 drew permits but never registered to hunt, which was 103
25 and that's a pretty significant portion of people drawing
26 permits have not gone down to the river. And actually
27 with the increasing number of subsistence permits there
28 we were probably a little bit lucky that the harvest was
29 low and we did get enough hunters that, had conditions
30 been right, it could have been a situation of concern and
31 as you know, Glenn Stout, the area biologist goes into
32 the season prepared with an emergency order to shut down
33 if necessary.

34

35 The drawing permit harvest went down from
36 109 to 56 moose. So whether it be luck or whatever, we
37 stayed within the harvest parameters of the Koyukuk River
38 Moose Management Plan.

39

40 So following that, in the fall, Glenn did
41 succeed in doing moose surveys in the lower Koyukuk. He
42 estimated a four and a half percent decline in the
43 Koyukuk Controlled Use area moose population from the
44 2001 estimate. And based on the formula that is in the
45 plan, Glenn recommended issuing 198 general permits for
46 the 2002 season which is 60 less than were issued in
47 2001.

48

49 The number of subsistence permits went
50 from 355 to 394 in 2001. And as I said, the moose
00214

1 harvest went down there.

2

3 There is a concern that if these hunters
4 continue to increase and we get favorable hunt
5 conditions, we'll have a higher harvest and there may be
6 no harvestable surplus for the general hunt. And as the
7 working group knows there was concern that if this trend
8 continues it could lead to a Tier II situation. Glenn
9 and I have talked about it and are planning to send out a

10 newsletter to Koyukuk hunters, again, this spring to lay
11 out some of the data and hopefully use the information
12 education approach to dissuade people from taking
13 advantage of those subsistence permits. One of the
14 things that occurred at the Board, Glenn informed the
15 Board, based on the recommendation from the Koyukuk River
16 Advisory Committee, that the Department will not only saw
17 off the palm in the RM832 subsistence hunt, but will
18 retain that to further discourage piecing those together
19 and using them for trophy purposes. So we're just
20 implementing the recommendation of the Advisory
21 Committee.

22

23 The Koyukuk River Moose Hunter Working
24 Group met January 4, concurred with Glenn's
25 recommendation on numbers of permits. The group had
26 consensus to support Jack Reakoff's proposal to establish
27 a drawing hunt for moose in the Dalton Highway Corridor.
28 And as you guys are aware, there has been concerns about
29 the strength of the plan in the upper Unit 24 area. So I
30 think some of those are beginning to be addressed.

31

32 One other point that's significant is
33 Brett Gibbons, with Fish and Wildlife Protection reported
34 that wanton waste of moose is way down in the Koyukuk and
35 most of the violations occurring right now are minor
36 permit violations or minor waste cases and that this year
37 he didn't see a single case of an entire moose being
38 wasted. And some of that's attributable to cutting off
39 the antler restrictions. But I think, to a large degree
40 is a reflection of the success of the group and the
41 information education efforts associated with it.

42

43 Now, I had a summary of Board of Game
44 actions but most all of those we've been through so I
45 might just hit a couple highlights on them. The Board of
46 Game did go ahead and establish the limited permit
47 drawing hunt for the Dalton Corridor. And so that, you
48 know, will hopefully help to address a concern up in that
49 area.

50

00215

1 The Board did not approve a wolf
2 predation control plan for Unit 24 which was proposed by
3 the Allakaket Tribal Council.

4

5 The Board had initially made a minor
6 adjustment to -- well, did make a minor adjustment to the
7 Koyukuk Controlled Use area boundary but otherwise left
8 the boundaries of the Controlled Use areas intact.

9

10 And as many of you know, at one point
11 they had gone ahead and revised the boundary of the
12 Kanuti Controlled Use area and on your handout, you can
13 see the presentation to the Board on that, where they
14 were basically going to cut a slice off by -- I don't
15 have it in front of me but Todatonen Lake, and they
16 passed that action not being fully aware of the
17 significance of that to the integrity of the concerns of
18 people in Allakaket, Alatna and this Council. So based
19 on conferring with Jack, which we really appreciate his

20 effort to attend that Board meeting, I was able to talk
21 further with several members of the Board of Game, get
22 that proposal brought back up for reconsideration where
23 it did finally fail. And I would add that one of the
24 main reasons it failed was the Board understanding the
25 significance of that to the Western Council and the
26 Western Council's active role in supporting that plan.
27 So I think it's a good situation, it's kind of working
28 both ways.

29
30 In terms of some of the other planning
31 projects that we have under way right now -- and I'd be
32 happy to answer questions about Koyukuk or others, but
33 we've been involved in the Western Arctic Caribou
34 planning process. The next meeting for that is scheduled
35 for Fairbanks, April 9th and 10th. And I think that it's
36 likely we'll come out of that meeting with an agreed
37 draft plan for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and that
38 that will be going out for pretty broad public review.
39 And I would guess that we're going to need a long public
40 review time to try and get information out to all the
41 villages out in the range of the herd there. As you
42 know, Benedict Jones is involved in that group
43 representing this Council and he's been very helpful.

44
45 With regard to our Grayling, Anvik,
46 Shageluk and Holy Cross planning project, as you know,
47 we've been cooperating with Innoko National Wildlife
48 Refuge and our Sportfish Division. And the initial step
49 that we're all working towards is holding community
50 meetings during the week of April 9 to 12. The Innoko
00216

1 Refuge has taken the lead on that and we really
2 appreciate their efforts as I've been tied up with some
3 other things and really haven't been able to focus on
4 that as much as I'd like to.

5
6 What we look at is once we get through
7 these initial community meetings where we really are
8 going more to share information about what agencies do
9 and hear their concerns, that this will split off and
10 we'll decide what we need to do to deal with moose and
11 then the pike issues will also be dealt with in a
12 separate avenue. And I'd want to emphasize that these
13 meetings aren't really the beginning of a planning
14 process but sharing information among the communities and
15 we hope that they lead to a planning process in the very
16 near future.

17
18 You know, as you know, we're also facing
19 real critical problems with the moose situation down in
20 19(A) and (B) and I see that's reflected in the Council's
21 annual report. And so we're struggling with figuring out
22 how we can best respond to all the needs out in this
23 region of the state and, you know, we'll be looking to
24 how we can move forward in as many of these areas as
25 possible in the near future. And not to forget, 19(D),
26 itself where we are right now. I really hadn't included
27 much in my report on that issue because we haven't heard
28 much since it was basically -- the project was put on
29 hold for political reasons last fall. But the Division,

30 itself is hoping to move forward with that project
31 whenever the conditions are right.

32

33 I guess in conclusion, I'd suggest that
34 it might be timely if this Council, when you get to your
35 appointments a little later could at least identify some
36 contacts for working with us for both the GASH area moose
37 planning and Unit 19(A) and (B). I would hope that by
38 the time you meet again next October, September/October
39 looking at your calendar with the open windows you have,
40 that we'll have at least some organizational meetings and
41 ready to go into full board planning into next winter.

42

43 So that's kind of where we are and if you
44 have any questions I'd be happy to try and answer them.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Randy. When
49 you hold these meetings in these four communities, I
50 would suggest that you do the same thing that we did up
00217

1 on the Koyukuk, that you look into the possibility of
2 including all the conflicting users and I would like you
3 to bring this up in these four meetings. Any questions
4 for Randy? Jack.

5

6 MR. REAKOFF: Just one comment, at the
7 Game Board deliberations there was a little subcommittee
8 formed with two Board members about that Koyukuk
9 Controlled Use area and there was the Fairbanks AC, the
10 Koyukuk AC, Middle Yukon AC and the Ruby AC and the main
11 concern in the Koyukuk Controlled Use area was the total
12 destruction of the trophy value and we had absolute
13 agreement between all of the ACs, even the Fairbanks AC
14 on destroying that trophy value by retention of that top
15 portion of the palm to make dissincentive to use the
16 subsistence hunt, which would totally circumvent the
17 drawing hunt and the Board understood that. But we
18 wanted to assure that the area biologist wasn't going to
19 get in hot water when he started retaining that palm and
20 I was very happy the Board was very receptive to that.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Randy.

23

24 MR. ROGERS: Just in response to your
25 comment about including all the interests in the
26 meetings. At this point the meetings that we're
27 intending to hold down in the GASH villages are really
28 more information exchange and when we do start the formal
29 planning process, we intend to bring in all the
30 stakeholders into that. And one of the things that
31 we're, you know, a little concerned with is we don't want
32 to convey the impression that we are only working with
33 those four villages. And we've discussed the possibility
34 of it might be good for passing information through,
35 maybe the YK Council that, you know, we're doing these
36 informational meetings and wanting to improve
37 communication but that we want them to understand that
38 once we really do get into the process they will be fully
39 involved as will all stakeholders, according to your

40 suggestion there.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Are you
43 including the McGrath area in any of this or not, the
44 GASH area?

45

46 MR. ROGERS: I would say at this point we
47 really haven't identified McGrath as key stakeholder in
48 the issues involved there. I mean we're initially looking
49 at the four villages. We understand the importance of
50 bringing in folks from down river. We probably will need
00218

1 to have representation from commercial operators, guides
2 and/or transporters. And, you know, we need to continue
3 talking with folks to identify who those key players,
4 stakeholders are and make sure that we do start off, you
5 know, involving everybody that needs to be involved.

6

7 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. Randy, I
8 think it might be important that even in these initial
9 meetings that you think about including maybe Russian
10 Mission and Paimiut since they have the use of that lower
11 part of the unit so it doesn't look like that it's the up
12 river people ganging up -- you see what I mean, because
13 they are stakeholders in that Paimiut. So maybe there
14 should be a similar village meeting down there since they
15 are ones that have used, at least, that lower portion and
16 it won't look like they're being ignored in the process.
17 Just a comment.

18

19 MR. ROGERS: Well, I think that that's a
20 good consideration Ray. And again, what has happened
21 here a little bit is that we've rushed into this before
22 we, in Fish and Game, Wildlife Conservation have had a
23 chance to be completely prepared. You know, Fish and
24 Wildlife Service wanted to make sure that as of this
25 meeting we had something going to respond to what you
26 folks have been requesting. And, you know, we just
27 haven't been able to get to the point where we have a
28 fully set planning process ready to go.

29

30 But your concern and suggestion is a
31 really good one. It's not in the scope of what is
32 planned right now but maybe can be added so we'll
33 consider that. You know, we met last night at the end of
34 the meeting, we got together at 8:00 o'clock this morning
35 to try and flesh out plans for these meetings a little
36 bit better, we'll have a teleconference next week so
37 we're trying to get this going full board right now. And
38 that is a good idea.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
41 Randy? If not, thank you.

42

43 MR. ROGERS: Thank you. I think Toby
44 would like to go next and then Dave has some information
45 also. So I think they'll be relatively brief.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. Brendon Scanlen,
48 GASH area pike.

49

50 MS. SCANLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
00219

1 members of the Committee. My name is Brendon Scanlen.
2 I'm the fisheries biologist with Sportfish Division in
3 Fairbanks, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm just
4 going to talk to you real quickly about a northern pike
5 project we're going to be getting this year on the
6 Innoko, on the lower Innoko.

7

8 The impedes for this project is because
9 concern has been expressed recently on the increasing
10 sportfishery in the lower Innoko River and any potential
11 conflicts it may have with the subsistence fishery. The
12 sportfishery is still small, the harvest is still
13 relatively small but it is growing and there's now at
14 least three guides that work on the Innoko. One of them
15 has a houseboat as you probably know and covers a lot of
16 water. And what we'd like to do now is get a handle on
17 what's going on when things are considered health so when
18 things -- if things do change, we'll have an idea of what
19 the potential of the system will be.

20

21 The objectives for this research project
22 this year are to document the movements of northern pike
23 throughout the year for two years using radio tags and
24 define a degree to which subsistence fishery and the
25 sportfishery use the same or different stocks of fish and
26 describe the location of the subsistence fishery
27 throughout the year and the summertime sport fishery.

28

29 Also in spring of 2003 and 2004 we'd like
30 to come down to Holy Cross and, with the help of
31 residents down there hire a couple technicians and rent
32 some snowmachines and sample the subsistence catch
33 through the ice. I understand there's a derby that goes
34 on in the spring there and we'd like to sample these fish
35 for length and age and sex to help us get a better idea
36 of the composition of the harvest. And we will also be
37 putting out plastic spaghetti like tags in the summer and
38 we'd like to see how many of these tags show up in the
39 subsistence fishery.

40

41 If you look at the map on Page 2, we have
42 what we call Holy Cross, Area 1, and based on our best
43 information from John Burr who is the sportfish area
44 manager in the Yukon and Polly Wheeler from Subsistence
45 Division. This is our best guess of where the summertime
46 subsistence fishery is for northern pike for the
47 residents of Holy Cross and there's quite a bit of
48 sportfishing that goes on in this area. The houseboat is
49 parked on Reindeer Lake and they generally start there in
50 the spring fishing with clients and they stay in the

00220

1 lower river until fishing success goes down or the slough
2 up by Holichuck starts to flood from the Yukon and the
3 water gets turbulent then they generally move up river.

4

5 But we'd like to use this area as a place
6 to put radio tags out and measure length and age of fish
7 and that's where we'll begin our tracking from.

8

9 If Mrs. Demientieff or Mr. Walker have
10 any better ideas of where the subsistence fishery goes on
11 and could help me out in terms of defining a better study
12 area, I'd really like to know I haven't seen that place
13 when the water's been open yet. We will get down there
14 about the first of June and stay for about three weeks
15 and sample fish just after they spawn and we'll track
16 them seven times throughout the year beginning in late
17 June. We will also monitor the sportfishery and
18 movements of the guides and try to sample their catch.

19
20 Questions that are logistic help that we
21 could probably get from the folks in the GASH community
22 are we'd like to find a cabin somewhere on Reindeer Lake
23 or close by in Paimiut Slough that we could rent for
24 about a month or so while we're doing our summertime
25 sampling and we'd also like to see how feasible it is to
26 rent some snowmachines in Holy Cross for a couple weeks
27 in spring each year and maybe hire a couple technicians
28 that would be willing to take us around with the
29 participation of fishers, sample catch.

30
31 That's all I got right now but I'd be
32 glad to answer any questions.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

35
36 MR. REAKOFF: How many radio tags are you
37 going to put on these fish?

38
39 MR. SCANLEN: 60 tags and we can
40 accomplish our objectives with the precision we want if
41 up to 18 of them fail. The limiting factor right now is
42 the radio tags cost about 250 bucks a pop.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions?
45 Robert.

46
47 MR. WALKER: Yes, you could contact the
48 Holy Cross City Office or the Holy Cross Tribal
49 government and they could post this for you here to rent
50 snowmachines, hire two technicians or whatever and rent
00221

1 the cabin at Reindeer Lake and just leave an address or a
2 phone number or an email or whatever and they can
3 probably get back with you. That would be a lot quicker
4 than, you know, us trying to run around doing it for you.

5
6 MR. SCANLEN: That's helpful, thank you
7 very much.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further for
10 Brendon? Go ahead, Robert.

11
12 MR. WALKER: One more question. On these
13 boats that fish here, what was it, that Midnight Sun boat
14 that travels up and down, one of the questions that has
15 risen in the past is where do they dump their trash and
16 their waste? Do they dump it into the river or do they
17 throw it on the bank? Is there a law that they have to
18 pump it out somewhere where they can dry out or what?

19

20 MR. SCANLEN: No, that's a good question.

21 In fact, I spoke to the guy several times about that.

22 What they do, what they tell me is they have an
23 incinerator toilet on the boat and they torch all their
24 human waste and it goes on their plane. They have a
25 helio and a mall that come in and out and fly clients in
26 and out. That waste and their garbage gets flown out to
27 Aniak and gets thrown in the dump is what they told me.

28

29 MR. WALKER: Yeah, I'd like to have
30 somebody to monitor that and make sure. I mean I could
31 say anything, you know, don't do this, you know, I mean
32 you know it as well as I do.

33

34 MR. SCANLEN: Well, that's a fair
35 question. We'll certainly bump into them a few times and
36 we could just go up to them and speak with them and take
37 a look around and we could let you know.

38

39 MR. WALKER: Fine.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: In any further questions?
42 Go ahead, Jack.

43

44 MR. REAKOFF: On those tags, are those
45 going to be -- are they going to be internal tags
46 implanted internally or down their throat?

47

48 MR. SCANLEN: No, they'll be implanted in
49 the body cavity. These tags are -- they're called coded
50 radio tags and they'll have a whip antenna that will come
00222

1 out the body cavity. The surgery procedures used on
2 northern pike has been used several times and it's very
3 successful. Pike are very tough and hearty fish as you
4 well know. And the success of these fish living after
5 these radio tags put in has been pretty high. We've done
6 this type of work in the upper Yukon near Dall River and
7 Minto Flats, Nowitna and farther up the Innoko, up by
8 Kaiyuh Flats and we're pretty good at it.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Angie.

11

12 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 I have another question for you, could you tell me again
14 what areas on the Innoko you're going to be at, how far
15 up the Innoko are you going to see these sportsfishers?
16 The reason I'm asking you that is because last spring I
17 was coming back from the Board meeting here in McGrath
18 and we flew from McGrath to Shag to Grayling, between
19 Shageluk and Grayling there was these fishermen's boats
20 out there trolling for pike and that's on the Yukon
21 Slough there between Shageluk and Grayling

22

23 MR. SCANLEN: They were on the slough
24 between Shageluk and Grayling off the mainstem?

25

26 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah, uh-huh.

27

28 MR. SCANLEN: To be honest with you, we

29 hadn't planned on driving boats that far up, we're kind
30 of limited on funds for boat gas and everything but what
31 I will be doing is three times throughout the summer
32 tracking the fish with a float plane and if there's a
33 spot where I can land I would like to land and talk to
34 these sportfishermen and see if I could sample the catch
35 and see what's going on with them. But while we're down
36 there in June we're pretty limited, resource wise, to
37 staying down here in this Reindeer Lake area but we'll do
38 the best we can.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
41 Brendon? If not, thank you.

42
43 MR. SCANLEN: Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Toby Boudreau, McGrath
46 area biologist.

47
48 MR. BOUDREAU: Yes, my name is Toby
49 Boudreau and I'm the McGrath are wildlife biologist for
50 Department of Fish and Game. And I just wanted to
00223

1 briefly go over my -- some information from density
2 estimates that I've done over the past year. The moose
3 calf mortality study from here in 19(A) and then my plans
4 for this coming year.

5
6 We conducted two density estimates in my
7 area, one in 19(A) in March of last year and found .7
8 moose per square mile in the lower Aniak River, basically
9 from the Salmon River down to the mouth and 11 percent
10 calves, which you can't tell how many bulls, of course,
11 there are in the spring but 11 percent calves isn't too
12 bad, but it isn't wonderful.

13
14 In 19(D) in the fall of 2001 we conducted
15 our fourth density estimate and found 0.4 moose per
16 square mile in an area of about 5,200 square miles. We
17 also found 18 bulls per 100 cows in the area that's
18 mostly hunted between McGrath and Vensele and overall 37
19 bulls per 100. We also had 29 calves per 100 cows. The
20 population in 19(D) is still low. The density estimate
21 was higher than the 2000 estimate which was actually
22 0.16. Probably the biggest reason was is we put a lot
23 more effort into the sampling and we also had a lot
24 better conditions for surveying. However, even though
25 it's at .4 and that's higher than .16, it's still the
26 density that we had back in 1996 when the Board of Game
27 first adopted the wolf control implementation plan for
28 19(D) east so things have not gotten better in the long-
29 term.

30
31 As far as trend area counts that I've
32 done, this past fall in 19(A) conducted one in the
33 Holitna and the HoHolitna and found very discouraging
34 bull/cow ratio of six bulls per 100 cows. And only eight
35 calves per 100 cows with an overall number of sampled
36 being about 196 moose which is about half of what was
37 averaged sampled through the mid-1990s.

38

39 In 19(C) we conducted another trend area
40 count up near the Fairwell area and found a further
41 decline in the bull/cow ratio. A fairly low yearling
42 bull/cow ratio which is showing a little bit lower
43 recruitment in the bulls and a fairly still stable
44 calf/cow ratio of 25. The bull/cow ratio is 25 bulls per
45 100 cows and the calf/cow ratio is 25 calves per 100
46 cows. So at this recent Board of Game meeting we
47 actually got the season reduced by five days to stabilize
48 the bull/cow ratio decline that's basically over the past
49 six years had gone down from over 50 bulls per 100 now
50 down to 25.

00224

1 In 19(D) we also conducted a trend area
2 count just after the density estimate and found that in
3 the local area around McGrath the bull/cow ratio
4 continues to be extremely low. It was only -- we
5 measured six bulls per 100 cows in an area of about 60
6 square miles just west of McGrath.

7
8 As far as our calf mortality study, we
9 started that last spring. I went out and collared 25
10 adult moose cows and 15 yearlings. The cows you look for
11 pregnancy rates and then you have a known sample of known
12 individuals that are going to calve so we followed those
13 every day during the calving season. We ended up
14 collaring a total of 66 calves of which as of February
15 21st, 47 of them were dead. That's 73 percent of it that
16 was due to predation -- 73 percent of the total number of
17 calves. And based on the investigation of the mortality
18 sites, 10 were due to wolves, 18 were due to black bears,
19 17 were due to brown bears, one was an accidental
20 drowning and one mortality the cause is unknown.

21
22 As far as my plans for 2002, we're going
23 to repeat the calf mortality study here in McGrath and
24 concentrate a little bit more on the area downstream of
25 Big River, between Big River and Mineselia Slough. And
26 we're also going to initiate a black bear research
27 program. We're going to put 20 satellite radio collars
28 on black bears as a project in cooperation with Penn
29 State University and look at black bear predation on
30 moose calves and hopefully get an idea of what the
31 proportion of male versus female predation is on calves.

32
33 We're going to continue to maintain 30
34 adult collars on moose to look at reproduction over time
35 and continue to keep maintaining the sample. And we're
36 also going to be radio collaring the yearlings -- I'm
37 sorry the calves that did survive -- of the 19 calves
38 that did survive, we're going to collar all the female
39 calves and monitor those for first stage of reproduction.
40 We'll also be collaring all the female calves that lived
41 from this years calf mortality study to continue that
42 first stage reproduction work.

43
44 As far as the planning processes that
45 Randy had overviewed my role is going to be to provide
46 the best biological data that we have and, you know,
47 where we have gaps try to collect what we can to give the
48 planning processes the best information possible.

49

50 And I'd also like to say that for

00225

1 probably the next go around for your proposals, I'll
2 probably submit a proposal to align the subsistence
3 seasons in 19(D) with the State seasons. They're pretty
4 far out of alignment so I'd like to submit a proposal to
5 get those maybe a little bit closer.

6

7 I'm ready for questions if anybody has

8 any.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions for Toby. Go
11 ahead, Micky.

12

13 MR. STICKWAN: I guess is this like a
14 Tier II hunt in the area? No?

15

16 MR. BOUDREAU: No, this area is not a
17 Tier II hunt area yet, we've gone to a registration hunt
18 with a limited time period for issuing the registration
19 permits. But that's as far as we've gotten.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Emmitt Peters.

22

23 MR. PETERS: Yeah, I'm kind of curious,
24 how many guys do you got working for you and how do you
25 do your research, you're going by boat or how are you
26 doing that?

27

28 MR. BOUDREAU: Well, actually up until
29 December I was a one-man show and I now have an assistant
30 area biologist, Shelly Zipanski that's sitting in the
31 audience trying to look, probably inconspicuous right
32 now.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MR. BOUDREAU: Most of the moose surveys
37 are done with supercubs. The moose capture operations
38 use mostly helicopter captures including the calf
39 mortality study where you go in and capture brand new
40 calves with helicopters and we use riverboats a little
41 bit to pick up the mortalities but it's too hard to get
42 around in a reasonable amount of time by boat,
43 unfortunately.

44

45 MR. PETERS: Thank you. Thank you very
46 much,

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
49 Toby? Jack.

50

00226

1 MR. REAKOFF: Your black bear collaring
2 project, that's to document male bears killing moose
3 calves then?

4

5 MR. BOUDREAU: Well, Jack, actually,
6 there's been some evidence from actually Yukon Flats
7 research project dealing with calf mortality that showed

8 a high proportion of the mortalities were caused by male
9 black bears on calves. And we'd like to look at that by
10 collaring 10 females and 10 males and we're also, from
11 each kill site, taking hair samples and sending them off
12 to a lab to have them analyzed for DNA and they can
13 actually identify the hair samples, of course, the
14 species and sex and some of them even to individual DNA
15 fingerprinting on the samples that are healthy enough and
16 so we've collected that from last year's mortality study
17 and I haven't got the -- the information should be coming
18 back in the next couple of months from last years
19 samples. And then we'll be collecting those from this
20 years samples from all the mortality sites that were
21 involved to look at that. Because it could be an
22 important piece of information in regulating predation by
23 black bears if you knew that it was males.

24

25 And also we'll be looking, by having the
26 satellite collars on there, we'll also be looking at
27 movements of those black bears and if they are moving
28 into those areas that have, you know, what I would
29 consider concentrated calving areas from areas outside
30 the local area or if they're just all resident bears.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.

33

34 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Toby, do I understand
35 from your comments then that they'll be able to give a
36 picture and be able to say that these were killed by X
37 numbers of bears or that there is one bear that's killed
38 three of them and another bear's killed four, by the
39 fingerprinting? Will they get that fine of knowing how
40 many different bears are killing how many different
41 calves?

42

43 MR. BOUDREAU: Well, Ray, that's
44 completely possible. Last year samples, some of them
45 probably are not significant enough to get that
46 information from, however, they've recently developed the
47 ability to take and identify and DNA fingerprint from
48 scat samples alone. And if you've ever seen a moose calf
49 kill there's always a sign there. So I think we'll have
50 a better idea from next years. And yeah, we could
00227

1 actually identify individuals at different kill
2 locations. It's very possible that there is one bear,
3 you know, killing several calves. I know that in the
4 calves that died up in the Pitka Flats last year from
5 grizzly bear mortality, you know, we were able to
6 identify one individual bear that killed at least five of
7 the moose up in that country.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Jack.

10

11 MR. REAKOFF: One bit of anecdotal
12 information from up where I live. I've seen adult sows,
13 even with cubs, chasing moose around and I know of adult
14 sows that do a lot of moose predation. So I know that
15 grizzly bear sows in our country hunt pretty extensively
16 for moose. So I'm not sure about black bears, but
17 grizzly bears, I know certain sows that do a lot of moose

18 hunting.

19

20 MR. BOUDREAU: Well, that's interesting.

21 And, you know, that's one of the big reasons why we want

22 to collar an equal sample of females and males and also

23 get this sex and species identification from the hair

24 samples at the kill sites to get a better idea. You

25 know, we had that one data point from the Yukon Flats, it

26 will be interesting to corroborate that or see what the

27 proportion of sex ratio is on mortality of calves.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions?

30 Robert.

31

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

33 You know, you talked about this year alone, your

34 mortality rate for your calf, 73 percent, what about last

35 year and the year before? Was it just as extensively or

36 is this the first year it has really suffered a lot?

37

38 I know in our area we've caught black

39 bears killing calves up the Anvik River, down the

40 Bonasila River, we'll have a big male bear holding a cow

41 and a calf out in the water, you know, when we came

42 around the bend, I mean, what do you do, shoot them or

43 let them go? We let them go?

44

45 MR. BOUDREAU: Yeah, Robert, actually 73

46 percent mortality due to predation is not extremely high

47 predation rates. The work that other people have done on

48 the Koyukuk and Nowitna Rivers in the late '80s and early

49 '90s showed almost as high predation rates on calves.

50 And the other thing is is that this study, you know,

00228

1 we're not even through one year yet and -- so we don't

2 know what the end result of one year worth of mortality

3 is going to be.

4

5 But this is the first year that mortality

6 studies and this is the year we've ever done it out in

7 this area, so this is the number we came up with and

8 that's why we're going to do it for a second year.

9

10 MR. WALKER: Toby, will you be doing this

11 in other 19(A) or 19(C), 21(A), move over to our area,

12 21(A), would you be in the future doing this also?

13

14 MR. BOUDREAU: Right now there are no

15 plans to do that. It's a pretty expensive thing to

16 undertake. I know that based on my calf surveys, twinning

17 surveys from 21(E) that there is quite a few black bears

18 over there. In fact, 21(E) still has my record of

19 counting the most number of black bears during a calving

20 survey and that's 21 in a four hour survey so, yeah, I'm

21 sure that black bears are a big part of it. I think that

22 in -- I think we don't have any plans right now to

23 conduct any more calf mortality studies but anything

24 could happen.

25

26 I honestly don't know.

27

28 MR. WALKER: Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more questions for
31 Toby? If not, thank you. Fred Bue. Go ahead, Fred.

32

33 MR. BUE: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I didn't
34 plan on taking up your time. What we handed out was a
35 very preliminary subsistence harvest survey. And what I
36 handed out previously, you saw, the chart was our total
37 subsistence harvest for the drainage. This breaks it
38 out, the difference here is it breaks it out by community
39 and there's a lot of information there and I'm not going
40 to go into how it breaks out, you can make your own
41 comparisons at this point. But it is very preliminary
42 and so use it for generalities. The specific numbers may
43 still change as we do our expansions and estimates. But
44 I did see value in giving it to you now so you could be
45 informed. Because we probably won't have much
46 opportunity later, before the season, talking about last
47 years subsistence harvest.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any questions
50 for Fred. Robert.

00229

1 MR. WALKER: Yes, Fred, if you go down
2 and look at District 2, subtotal Shageluk and you move
3 over to the chinook here, they caught 232 and last year
4 when we had a real low run on the Yukon over in Anvik we
5 weren't catching very many, the people in Shageluk were
6 catching 10 and 20 in setnets and dog fish. I mean they
7 just had king salmon that was going up the river that was
8 unreal compared to going up the Yukon River. I mean what
9 happened here? Did something happen here, were they
10 transplanted over there or what?

11

12 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Walker. I'm
13 not that familiar with -- being new to the Yukon, I'm not
14 familiar with the subsistence, how this number compares
15 to previous years. But I suspect the Shageluk, if it's
16 uncommon for salmon to be harvested over there, it may be
17 the way we stratify our survey in that region. And so it
18 may be a sampling problem. Does this number seem low to
19 you?

20

21 MR. WALKER: This number is really
22 amazing. Because usually you hear incidental catch, like
23 two or three or maybe five a year over there. But to
24 have like 232, that's only when it's recorded, what about
25 when it's not recorded?

26

27 MR. BUE: Okay. So this past year was
28 high and so this 232 does indicate that, yeah, it was a
29 good year at Shageluk, they did harvest more and the
30 survey reflects that, is that what you're saying?

31

32 MR. WALKER: Yeah, that's what I'm
33 saying.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Angie.

36

37 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38 I've said it at other meetings and I'll say it again.
39 This was the first -- 2001 was the first year Shageluk
40 people did not come down river to Holy Cross to get their
41 king salmon. In the summertimes they come to Holy Cross
42 and they borrow our nets and our boats and they get their
43 kings and bring them back to Shageluk. This past summer
44 is the first time they didn't have to come down and we
45 wondered why they didn't come and we called up there and
46 they said, we don't need to come down, we're getting all
47 the fish we want up here now. So they're finally getting
48 back the fish that they lost 60 years ago, 70 years ago
49 because of the mining activity up in Flat. The rivers
50 are finally getting clean enough and they're getting
00230

1 enough king salmon going up there and staying up there
2 and having a good grounds for their eggs and stuff. So
3 Shageluk people are very happy with the results of last
4 summer.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
9 Fred? If not, thank you. Dave Andersen, Subsistence
10 Division.

11
12 MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
13 did want to talk about three projects we have going that
14 are in your Council's region. They're Federally funded
15 projects. Stanley alluded to one of them. Stanley and I
16 have teamed up on the Koyukuk River to do the traditional
17 ecological study there on non-salmon fish species and
18 that one is going really well. The in-depth interviews
19 we've done with elders in communities so far have
20 produced an amazing amount of information from these old-
21 timers about how they used to catch the fish and make the
22 traps and the seasonal movements of all these fish. And
23 it's amazing to see and hear from them the focus that
24 they put on these non-salmon species in an area where
25 salmon were not a real big deal. And I'm finding,
26 listening to those tapes and transcribing them to be one
27 of the more enjoyable projects that I've been working on
28 lately.

29
30 We're just at the starting at the front
31 end of year number 5 of our big game harvest survey that
32 we've done on the Koyukuk and Middle Yukon Rivers, 10
33 communities there. And information coming out of that
34 survey the last few years has been really important to
35 the planning process on the Koyukuk River. It's one of
36 the only sources of realistic harvest information from
37 that section of the Yukon and the Koyukuk and the only
38 source of harvest information for bears. We ask hunters
39 about their harvest of moose, caribou and bears on that
40 study. And I've currently got people signed up,
41 employed, ready to go to do year number 5 on that one
42 starting April 1.

43
44 The other project that we're getting to
45 team up with Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife on is
46 a baseline study in this area out in Nickoli. So we are
47 going to -- and we're going to do some TEK fisheries

48 studies, much like we're doing on the Koyukuk River out
49 in the Nickoli area as well. And we're just getting
50 going on that. I was in Nickoli about three weeks ago,
00231

1 came down with the Park Service and got community
2 approval to do that project. The community seems pretty
3 excited about it. And that's something we're going to be
4 working on over the next year.

5

6 Those are the only three projects that I
7 wanted to bring the Council up to speed on. I'd be glad
8 to answer any questions.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

11

12 MR. REAKOFF: When I was at the Board of
13 Game meeting there was a request for big game harvest
14 information and it was sadly lacking in this Unit 19 area
15 and is there plans to do household harvest, big game
16 harvest surveys in Unit 19 at all?

17

18 MR. ANDERSEN: Unit 19 is split between
19 our Bethel office, Bethel handles the 19(A) portion of it
20 and 19(D) kind of falls in my area. Mike Coffing in our
21 Bethel office just completed a baseline study in a couple
22 communities, Akiachak and Kwethluk down in Unit 18 that
23 dealt -- that did some land use mapping and showed uses
24 up into 19. We don't have -- as far as I know, we don't
25 have a current plan to do household surveys. It is a
26 very labor intensive -- I mean I would like to do it
27 statewide, it's very expensive and it's very labor
28 intensive to go to all these communities. We actually
29 physically knock on every door in a community and bother
30 people and survey them and ask them all these questions.
31 It's the only way we can get good information but it's
32 not easy to do. So we just can't do it everywhere. I
33 don't know of any plans to do it throughout 19.

34

35 MR. REAKOFF: Hearing that, I would like
36 to comment that I feel that this information is very
37 important to the subsistence users in this unit of the
38 Western Interior and I would like somehow that this
39 information to be derived and I would like the Federal
40 program to investigate a funding source to get this
41 information for residents of Unit 19.

42

43 I watched at the Game Board meeting, some
44 very "soft" numbers being tossed around and certain Board
45 members tried to utilize that against the subsistence
46 users and I feel that the Federal program should look
47 into coming up with a funding source for this big game
48 harvest survey that Dave Andersen is doing here and he
49 does a real nice job.

50

00232

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Vince,
2 at our fall meeting we introduce proposals on game or is
3 it just on fish?

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: You lost me there. You
6 introduce proposals to who?

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: In our September/October
9 meeting, which proposals do we introduce or work on, is
10 it fish proposals or game proposals?

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: There are only fish
13 proposals that you addressed and Rich Cannon gave you
14 kind of a summary of it today. Those are only fish
15 proposals. And the land make up in 19(A) does have
16 Federal lands but not, you know, I mean it does have
17 Federal lands but they're broken up in different areas,
18 just so that's clear.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, were you thinking
21 about proposals to fund anything?

22

23 MR. REAKOFF: I mainly want an
24 investigation for a funding source to be located possibly
25 to do a comprehensive big game harvest survey in this
26 unit, in this Unit 19 to get real clear documentation.
27 It's critical to the subsistence users in this region and
28 in this unit, in particular, that this harvest survey
29 information, as far as -- especially on moose harvest,
30 it's critical as to meeting subsistence needs.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. I agree
33 with that also. Before these studies were introduced and
34 put into use, a lot of these -- we lost a lot of good
35 proposals because we had no numbers to back them up with.
36 And then when we instituted this door to door gathering
37 of information and like Dave said, you pound on every
38 door and you ask these questions pointedly, we had the
39 numbers to present before the Board of Game. And I must
40 say that our moose harvest on the Koyukuk never varies
41 very much from 490 or 495 or something like that in that
42 whole area that you conduct these household surveys. And
43 I really believe in these household surveys and that's
44 why I was looking for, maybe looking at possible
45 proposals later on.

46

47 Vince.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you can
50 probably strengthen the section in your annual report to
00233

1 address that. You know, because you do serve the Board
2 and the land make up in that area is potentially -- the
3 Federal land is mainly Bureau of Land Management land so
4 maybe the Board would support you in seeing if funding
5 sources do exist to do those surveys. And a portion of
6 that land in 19(A) does fall within the Yukon Delta
7 Refuge, so you could add that and strengthen it in your
8 annual report. That's one avenue for you to address
9 since it falls outside of proposals, of regulatory
10 proposals. And make it clear for the record that the
11 other proposals that you were talking about deal with
12 fishery monitoring on the Koyukuk, not wildlife
13 monitoring.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Weren't these house
16 to house surveys instituted by the State?

17

18 MR. ANDERSEN: You're talking about the
19 ones specifically that we do on the Koyukuk? We did
20 that.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, on the Koyukuk and
23 the middle Yukon, weren't they instituted by the State
24 Department?

25

26 MR. ANDERSEN: Our Division decided that
27 there was a data gap in that area on moose and we could
28 see some things -- we were moving into a planning effort
29 there that we needed better information for. Our
30 Division did year one with our own funds. We had no
31 plans to follow that up with a second year and we got
32 Federal funds -- people liked the data set, we got
33 Federal funds to do year two. Every since year one it's
34 been a Federally -- at least half Federally funded. The
35 last two years have been completely Federally funded.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, I, too, feel this is
38 an important tool that can be used in this area so since
39 you all heard that the State funded a good part of this,
40 the State began this study, so I would like to see this
41 issue pursued. Jack.

42

43 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to express my
44 displeasure with the legislature on cutting the funding
45 of the Subsistence Division. The Subsistence Division
46 has been a critical cog in the wheel of subsistence use
47 in the Western Interior.

48

49 And having said that, I would like to
50 make a motion to incorporate location of a funding source
00234

1 for a big game harvest survey to be done in Unit 19 of
2 the Western Interior. And I make that as a motion.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

5

6 MR. STICKWAN: I second.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Micky
9 Stickman. Discussion. Didn't we address part of this
10 issue earlier? I'm kind of confused now.

11

12 MR. REAKOFF: No.

13

14 MR. COLLINS: No.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, okay.

17

18 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, we didn't.
19 But I think also when we prepare an annual report we
20 should identify issues about where we have data gaps and
21 so on and so we could bring this up in that report and
22 there's some other kinds of things for data that I have
23 comments on when we get to that.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: So do we have a
26 parliamentarian? Is this motion in order?

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm
29 reading Jack across the room that I think his motion is
30 intending to locate a funding source and the mechanism to
31 move this forward would be the annual report, if that's
32 the understanding of the mover and the second of the
33 motion, so it would be a proper motion.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, clarify. That was a
36 motion wasn't it, and it has been seconded, repeat that
37 motion please?

38

39 MR. REAKOFF: I made a motion to locate a
40 funding source -- to be inserted into the annual report
41 to locate a funding source to do a big game harvest
42 survey in Unit 19 of the Western Interior.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. I was just
45 wondering where we forwarded this action to, but if it's
46 going through our annual report everything's in order.
47 Any further discussion on the motion?

48

49 MR. WALKER: Question.

50

00235

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called.
2 All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye.

3

4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Did you
11 have anymore Dave?

12

13 MR. ANDERSEN: Well, Mr. Chair, I wanted
14 to thank you on the record for your comments about being
15 concerned over the funding for our Division, that's nice.
16 And Hollis handed me something to remind me that the
17 Nickoli project we're going to work on also has
18 components that will include Talida and Lake Minchumnia
19 as well. So we're doing some work out in that area.

20

21 I had one other item, I don't know if
22 this is the appropriate time, but yesterday I was asked
23 on the record -- there goes the roof.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Walker, on the record
28 asked me, yesterday, to get some more information
29 following up a discussion on Proposal 31. I was able to --
30 I tried to contact Mike Coffing this morning, he was at
31 the Board of Fish but I did get ahold on the lunch hour,
32 Terry Haynes and we talked a little bit about, the issue
33 was did we have any information on the seasonal use of
34 communities outside of 21 coming in, whether they were
35 hunting in the winter or the fall season? We have very
36 little -- we've done very few baseline -- subsistence

37 baseline studies that involve detailed information on the
38 holistic communities that was up for consideration of
39 getting C&T use in 21(E). There are a handful that we
40 have done and when we look at those, it looks to us like
41 there are -- there's a mix. And basically the farther
42 away from Unit 21(E) you are, the more likely you're
43 going to be using a snowmachine to get in there,
44 especially from the Kuskokwim villages. So a lot of the
45 Yukon River villages look like they're coming up by river
46 boat and taking advantage of the fall season. The ones
47 on the Kuskokwim look, to us, like there's a winter
48 pattern of use in there.

49
50 And the only reason we suggested that is
00236

1 that the Staff analysis took you through the eight
2 criteria you're supposed to consider for C&T use.
3 Criteria two, specifically asks you to look at
4 patterns of use recurring in specific seasons of the
5 year. And all we were suggesting is that if this Council
6 was going to -- at this meeting was going to get into
7 what would have been very difficult discussions about
8 this community should be in and this community should be
9 out, we were suggesting that you might want to look at
10 the seasons of use as one of your criteria for deciding
11 that.

12
13 Given what you've done with Proposal 31,
14 I guess it's kind of irrelevant.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have anything else
17 for Dave?

18
19 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Dave.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: That was the end of the
22 list from ADF&G that was given. However, time is running
23 short and it looks we will go over 5:00. Since we do
24 have a Federal Subsistence Board member here, I asked him
25 if he wanted any time to address the Council and I think
26 it would be appropriate at this time to introduce Gary
27 Edwards to address the Council on anything he wants.

28
29 MR. EDWARDS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30 I'll make this brief because I know the hour is getting
31 late. But I just wanted to thank you really for the
32 opportunity of getting to come up here. I've been
33 serving on the Board now for a couple of years and I've
34 certainly had an opportunity to work with the Chairs and
35 with various Board members when they do come into town.
36 But this is really, for me, a very great experience to
37 come up and really see where the important work really
38 gets done.

39
40 I salute each of you for your commitment
41 and your willingness to do this. Because I can assure
42 you that it's a very important task. And the Board puts
43 a lot of stake into what comes forward from our various
44 Regional Councils. And while the Board may not always
45 vote along the lines that the Councils would like, again,
46 I can assure that, you know, we don't take any of those

47 decisions lightly. And so I really appreciate.

48

49 Ray, I particularly appreciated the
50 hospitality the other night at your house. That was a
00237

1 really nice opportunity, an opportunity to meet everyone.

2 And I guess I can assure you one of my goals will be is
3 to try to start visiting as many of the Council meetings
4 that I can. Because I think it does provide some insight
5 on some of the issues that at times it's often difficult
6 to get in the heat of the moment when we're at these
7 bigger public type of meetings and it provides really an
8 opportunity to ask some kind of specific questions and
9 ask questions of people who can give their perspective
10 from, you know, their historical perspective on these
11 issues.

12

13 So I've really enjoyed and I appreciate
14 having the opportunity.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Gary. We, too,
17 appreciate your presence here and glad that you see what
18 we go through at most of our meetings. And thank you,
19 again, for your comments. Bureau of Land Management.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The
22 Bureau of Land Management, there'll be several people
23 coming up to talk about that and there will be an
24 additional handout that they'll be referring to with an
25 overhead.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any time you're ready, go
30 ahead, Jeff.

31

32 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Council
33 members. My name is Tim Craig. I work for BLM as Vince
34 said in the Northern Field Office as a wildlife
35 biologist. To my right is Jeff Denton, he works in the
36 Anchorage Field Office. And to his right is Ingrid
37 McSweeney who's a fish biologist in our Northern Field
38 Office. And just as a point of reference if you'd take
39 this map and fold it in half, the northern half of the
40 map is administered by the Northern Field Office out of
41 Fairbanks and the rest of the state, the southern part of
42 the state is administered out of the Anchorage Field
43 Office, all the yellow lands there.

44

45 If I could have the first overhead.

46

47 Each one of us will present our
48 information in our own expertise, our own areas. My
49 comments will be pretty brief. There are several things
50 that either directly or indirectly have to do with
00238

1 subsistence resources in my area, the portion of the BLM
2 that I work in that I thought you might be interested in.

3

4

5 In September of 2001, the Alaska

6 Department of Fish and Game and the BLM cooperated in
7 another herd composition count in the Ray Mountains for
8 the Ray Mountain Caribou Herd. And a summary of these
9 two counts appears, I think on the lower left, if you can
10 see that, you have the handout there. I just have this
11 overhead for the rest of the audience. You can see
12 there's not much of a difference there, not much of a
13 change in the population there. We hope this spring, in
14 cooperation with Fish and Game to replace 20 radio
15 collars that are on cows in that herd, the collars that
16 are currently on those cows, I think, are six years old,
17 seven years old.

18
19 At last years spring meeting in Fairbanks
20 I reported on the results of moose trend counts -- if I
21 could have that other overhead -- that was conducted by
22 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Kanuti National
23 Wildlife Refuge and the BLM. For this count subunits are
24 counted in Kanuti Canyon, Wild River, Henshaw Creek and
25 the Middle Fork Koyukuk as well as some randomly
26 selected units throughout the entire unit. I think
27 Kanuti is going to present their portion of the study.
28 And what I'm showing here is just our small portion of
29 that, that is the lands that BLM administers that we
30 counted in both -- in 2001. And for reference, it's kind
31 of hard to see there, but two different colors on the bar
32 graph indicate the changes in the number of moose per
33 sampling unit between 2000 and 2001 and then there's a
34 little table there that also shows you the total numbers
35 of moose in different categories. Kind of the take home
36 message there is that the numbers declined appreciably
37 over those two years. But again, it's just two years and
38 there was quite a bit of difference in the weather in
39 those two different years that we did that count. We
40 plan to continue this. We hope to do it again in 2002
41 and 2003 and BLM was going to participate both
42 financially and in the field work.

43
44 If I could have the next overhead. I'm
45 kind of rushing through this, if you have some questions
46 feel free to stop me.

47
48 The BLM, in cooperation with other
49 agencies operates a visitor contact facility at Yukon
50 Crossing and at Coldfoot Alaska. And this kind of busy
00239

1 overhead, it shows the summary of visitor use of
2 facilities last summer. And I just direct you to the
3 number on the bottom right-hand corner and you can see
4 that there was a five percent decline in visitor use this
5 year compared to last year. It's probably not
6 significant but it's -- either use is declining or about
7 the same as it was in 2000.

8
9 As I reported in the spring of 2001,
10 construction of the new Arctic Inter-Agency Visitor
11 Center will begin this spring. And the completion date
12 should be June '03, that will be in Coldfoot Alaska.

13
14 Another issue you should probably be
15 aware of, the road improvements on the Dalton Highway are

16 continuing including paving the highway. Related to
17 these road improvements, last spring, Mr. Jones asked if
18 anyone keeps a count on the number of game animals that
19 are killed by vehicles each year on the Dalton Highway, I
20 did some investigation there and it's not -- nobody is
21 keeping a record of that. I asked DOT and also Fish and
22 Wildlife Protection and nobody's keeping a record.

23

24 Again, in relation to the improvements on
25 the highway, the Department of Transportation and BLM,
26 with participation by BLM are planning to construct a new
27 wayside at Gobbler's Nob this summer. We're going to
28 replace the number of outhouses at Finger Mountain and
29 Arctic Circle and put a new one up at the Last Tree on
30 the Upper Dietrich. And BLM is also going to put out
31 several -- interpretative panels at several different
32 locations along the road.

33

34 Also you probably are aware that the DOT
35 is in the planning stages for a new boat launch and
36 related facilities at Yukon Crossing including a
37 campground there.

38

39 Another thing that you might be
40 interested in is that last spring Mr. Reakoff expressed
41 concern about the potential effects of the State bow hunt
42 in the Dalton Corridor, which you've heard quite a bit
43 about already here, and just to let you know that in an
44 effort to generate some interest in that topic, in the
45 scientific community I wrote up a little advertisement in
46 something called the 2001 USGS Biological Research
47 Division Science Information Catalog which is simply an
48 avenue by which agencies let the scientific community and
49 others know about things that they're interested in.
50 It's not an advertisement saying we have funding, it's
00240

1 just saying this is a need that we have. And that's been
2 published and apparently it's getting some distribution
3 because I've had people call me about that already.

4

5 And lastly, in January of this year, BLM
6 Northern Field Office hired a subsistence database
7 technician on a one year appointment and the duties of
8 that person are to collect and store what we're calling
9 legacy information, old information that we have kind of
10 in different little cubby-holes in the office. Sheep,
11 caribou surveys, moose surveys from the past.
12 Subsistence -- anything that has to do with subsistence
13 resources. And her job, in short, is to somehow catalog
14 this stuff and kind of pull it altogether so that it's
15 easily accessible for the rest of us.

16

17 And that concludes my presentation. I'd
18 be happy to answer any questions you might have.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

21

22 MR. REAKOFF: I she going to incorporate
23 those, Carol Scott studies that were done at Wiseman and
24 all that information into that?

25

26 MR. CRAIG: Yeah. Yeah, somehow we'll
27 pull that together as well, as maybe some more recent
28 information that we could maybe gather from Wiseman and
29 other corridor, from people that live in the corridor.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions?

32
33 MR. CRAIG: Thanks.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ingrid.

36
37 MS. McSWEENY: Mr. Chair, Council
38 members. There are two subsistence-related projects I'd
39 like to bring to your attention that will be occurring in
40 Region 6. They were conducted last year and they'll also
41 be conducted this year.

42
43 The first one is the Clear Creek Hogatza
44 River escapement summary. 2001 was the seventh year
45 summer chum salmon escapement was monitored on Clear
46 Creek. Escapement was estimated by using a standard
47 picket style weir and trap. From July 7th to August 2nd
48 an estimated 3,674 summer chum salmon migrated up
49 stream. The 2001 chum return was 93 percent below the
50 six year average of 54,739 fish. And 81 percent below
00241

1 2000 poor return of 19,376 chum. The sex ratio over the
2 run was 68 percent male and 32 percent female. The Clear
3 Creek summer chum salmon return for 2001 accounted for
4 approximately .8 percent of the preliminary Pilot Station
5 sonar estimate for summer chum salmon. This compares to a
6 four year average of 3.5 percent.

7
8 The Bureau plans on operating the Clear
9 Creek weir again this year in conjunction with a
10 cooperative study with the USGS Biological Resources
11 Division. The cooperative study will investigate chum
12 salmon survival during early life stages within the Clear
13 Creek drainage.

14
15 The second project that was conducted in
16 2001 and that will continue this year is the Yukon River
17 Salmon Production Habitat Inventory. This inventory of
18 salmon production habitat is a survey of habitat,
19 fisheries values, associated land uses and basic
20 information about areas important to salmon production on
21 and adjacent to BLM managed watersheds in the Yukon
22 River. This project is being undertaken to document the
23 quality and quantity of salmon production habitat under
24 the management of the BLM. The focus will be on
25 expanding the knowledge base of salmon production areas
26 by assessing streams and portions of streams not
27 cataloged as known anadromous waters.

28
29 This project is a cooperative effort
30 funded through a five year challenge cost share agreement
31 between BLM, ADF&G Habitat and Restoration Division and
32 the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

33
34 In 2001, watersheds inventoried included
35 the Tazitna River, Beaver Creek, Birch Creek, Black

36 River, Preacher Creek, Ray River, Twentymile Creek and
37 Big Salt River. Drainages to be investigated in 2002
38 include the Nulato Hills area, Kaltag through lower
39 Koyukuk River and the Hogatza River area.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions. If not, go
44 ahead, Jeff.

45

46 MR. DENTON: Mr. Chairman and members of
47 the Board, my name is Jeff Denton, wildlife biologist and
48 subsistence specialist out of the Anchorage Field Office.
49 And I'll kind of got through several things that we've
50 been doing here.

00242

1 First of all, our infamous map that we've
2 been working on and requested by you folks, I think,
3 close to five years ago is now being printed up at USGS
4 for the Innoko, Yukon Bottoms area. That will be -- by
5 the schedule, be at, at least in my hands by the end of
6 May and I will get it to distribution centers in the
7 villages and the various agencies before the start of the
8 new regulatory year. It's a pretty extensive map. I'm
9 managed to squirrel \$17,000 to get that done up this
10 year, but I think it will be a very useful map for all
11 users out there, no matter who they are. It's based on
12 some of the regular recreation maps but we also specify
13 and actually delineate all the Native allotments where
14 you folks have been really concerned about the trespass
15 out there on those particular private lands, so those are
16 actually highlighted on it. And all the various types of
17 land status relative to subsistence are also defined on
18 there. So the folks will know what Federal public lands
19 are versus selected lands versus private lands and Native
20 corporation lands. So it should be a real useful map.

21

22 The work that we've been conducting in
23 the area, of course, Lime Village harvest reporting
24 system is now in its seventh year. And you know, again,
25 those folks are having some harvest shortages down there
26 in terms of moose these days. Again, they're harvesting
27 that country. As of the last report they sent into me
28 was still on the average of 40 to 50 percent cows in
29 their harvest which, you know, they're killing a lot of
30 their local reproduction potential, a lot of those
31 resident cows. There's not moose densities right now in
32 this country to be moving in and replacing those
33 mortalities to just kind of fill the holes in. So you
34 know, they're working kind of as a deficit for some of
35 their reproductive population down there. I haven't got
36 the winter reports from December, to date yet. They're
37 probably on their way here in the next few weeks. When
38 they send those in we'll see what this years harvest for
39 the winter season has been. So that's all for Lime
40 Village.

41

42 We've been doing some surveys kind of
43 semi in conjunction with what Toby is doing, covering
44 some of the areas he's not covering in 19(A) and 19(B).
45 Last year we did all the George River country and

46 basically north of the Kuskokwim, clear to Aniak. That
47 was a very disappointing survey. We're talking, you
48 know, several thousands of square miles there and this is
49 not a density estimate, this is more of a stratification
50 level survey so it's not a total population estimate or
00243

1 anything. But our total sample size, in spite of that
2 was only 180 moose in a tremendous area. 11 calves per
3 100 adults. We have some major habitat, real good
4 habitat area, there's a lot of big burns there in recent
5 years, those things are basically unoccupied. There was
6 some fairly deep snows last year. This year we did 19(B)
7 from basically McGrath to the Swift River, again, some of
8 the burns there that are aged eight to 10 years,
9 tremendous forage production, virtually unoccupied by
10 moose. At least in that area we come up with 386 moose
11 in the sample. Primarily along the river bottoms. Very
12 few scattered in the rest of the country. There's just a
13 lot of unoccupied habitat out there. There are some
14 local areas that are a long ways up river that are
15 actually pretty healthy moose populations but they're
16 very local in nature. And then in that area, the total,
17 looking at the whole thing, we ended up with between 18
18 and 19 calves per 100 adults. I need to get with Toby
19 and compare the overlap area we have in there. He had 29
20 calves per 100 adults in the fall, this was a March
21 survey, it'd be worth comparing potential winter
22 mortality comparisons there. But Toby and I need to get
23 together and compare notes when we get the opportunity,
24 basically.

25
26 You know, we've discussed here household
27 harvest reports and BLM supports those. We feel there's
28 some real weaknesses in the way it's been done in the
29 past because it doesn't pinpoint Federal public land
30 contributions to subsistence harvest versus other lands.
31 And as most of you folks know, the distribution of
32 Federal public lands in, at least, the Anchorage Field
33 Office area here. There's virtually no land along the
34 rivers that's BLM land in any significant amount unless
35 you're several miles, in a lot of cases away from the
36 river bottoms. The primary subsistence harvest is
37 associated with the river systems and boat access in this
38 country. BLM lands by and large, are uplands or black
39 spruce bogs with local exceptions. There are some local
40 exceptions where there's some pockets that are
41 accessible, but they are really the exception to the
42 rule. And so we have to find a way of doing these
43 surveys such that we know where the actual harvest is
44 taking place. A prime example, in all the work we've
45 done with Lime Village and the Federal public lands and
46 the confrontations we've gone through there, there have
47 been two moose killed in seven years on BLM lands down,
48 Federal public lands under the Federal program out of,
49 you know, in seven years, you know, 200 moose killed down
50 there and basically we're looking at one percent are
00244

1 taken off of Federal public lands.

2

3 You know, my bosses look at this sort of
4 thing and say, why should we put the money in this

5 situation and why should we putting a lot of manpower in
6 it when we're not a significant player even though
7 there's yellow over the map there, in reality, what is
8 the real contribution towards the subsistence needs of
9 these folks out here. And maybe we should be focusing on
10 the areas that are localized, accessible and are actually
11 providing, you know, important resources for folks.

12
13 So also, I did some fall work in the
14 Innoko country, in your country there Robert and Angela
15 looking at hunter distribution on the rivers. I spent
16 9/11 down in Aniak and I flew out of there for several
17 days, not the days we were grounded but other days. And
18 during that same time I also tried to do, you know, in
19 conjunction with that I actually kept track of what moose
20 I was seeing to try to give some semblance of a fall
21 classification for reproduction and it was pretty
22 predictable. We knew you guys had some spring water this
23 year and it's real consistent out there so when in the
24 '80s, when we've had anybody out there, high spring water
25 years a lot of moose calves drown and the black bears get
26 a lot of them because they're kind of pushed up on where
27 they can move around and the bears hammer them. In years
28 when you don't have that real high spring water
29 reproduction it's superb, you have gobs and gobs of
30 calves. This year, I mean we flew and flew and flew and
31 saw very, very few calves. But it's real predictable
32 that that's how things work in that big river bottom
33 there. We've watched this several times over the last 15
34 years. It's occurred when you have that kind of water
35 conditions. A lot of them drown. We found calves
36 drowned.

37
38 So just kind of informational things of
39 what we've done and where we're at. And what I'm going
40 to do is because we've got the GASH thing coming up, I'm
41 going to try to work up a bunch of these things, write
42 them up, kind of where we've been over the last 10 years
43 or so so we'll have kind of a package for people to kind
44 of look at, what's been done and hopefully those folks
45 can supplement what little we know with a lot they know.

46
47 So any questions?

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

50
00245

1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Jeff, I had one. In
2 Lime Village, its' probably got some of the best data on
3 harvest, you've got seven years there, what's that
4 average? I think they had a limit of 40 moose or
5 something like that that they worked off of and what's it
6 been averaging over the seven years?

7
8 MR. DENTON: The average wouldn't tell
9 you what was really going on, okay. When we started that
10 out they were killing 34 to 38 a year. That lasted about
11 two to three years and then it dropped into the high 20s.
12 Last year it was down to 17. And this year, of course,
13 there's quite a bit of harvest period left for the
14 regulatory years so we're up to, I think 14, this year.

15 So it's kind of declined a little bit.

16

17 MR. COLLINS: Almost half, it looks like
18 from when it started out.

19

20 MR. DENTON: Right. And of course, you
21 know, we have to trust what those folks are giving us in
22 terms of harvest, it's been outstanding information.
23 They're giving us sex. They're giving us very, very good
24 kill location data. And so the pattern of harvest and
25 where hunting efforts going has been outstanding. I mean
26 it's a real, real good effort. It's been well, worth our
27 while.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

30

31 MR. WALKER: Do you have anything on
32 21(E), the early hunt?

33

34 MR. DENTON: Do you mean harvest wise?

35

36 MR. WALKER: Yes.

37

38 MR. DENTON: Not for this year. Fish and
39 Game tracks that data and then we have to wait for that
40 data from Fish and Game from the harvest cards. What I
41 have done in 21(E), though is looked at the last 20 years
42 of data and actually analyzed it by community harvest in
43 moose and actually which of the sub UCU, uniformed coding
44 units with Fish and Game. They're subunits, drainage
45 units within 21(E) where the harvest has been coming.
46 There is a core area where I would say probably 95
47 percent of the subsistence harvest is coming from and we
48 can work out the proportion -- you know, there's very --
49 actually those are the areas along the main rivers and
50 the proportion of Federal public lands is very small.
00246

1 The big blocks of Federal land up at the head of the
2 Anvik country, the head of the Bonasila, the harvest
3 there is almost exclusively non-local residents or non-
4 residents and when you get down to the bottoms it's a
5 pretty big mixed bag down there of communities all across
6 Alaska. Bethel is probably one of the largest harvest
7 communities there. In fact, their harvest over the last
8 20 years is actually greater than most of the local
9 villages in terms of gross numbers of moose harvested.
10

11 MR. WALKER: Outside the controlled use
12 area, right?

13

14 MR. DENTON: Pardon? The harvest, you
15 mean?

16

17 MR. WALKER: Right. This would have to
18 be outside the controlled use area that we have?

19

20 MR. DENTON: No, I'm looking at the
21 harvest across 21(E), within and outside the controlled
22 use area, the harvest for that 20 year period. The Fish
23 and Game data doesn't differentiate the controlled use
24 area from other areas in there.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions? If
27 not, thank you.

28

29 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings
34 us up to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Just a reminder
35 that Micky requested earlier on to talk about the guiding
36 areas, how they're determined. I don't know if that's
37 still a topic that he wanted. But we have down here
38 Refuges. Fisheries. I think fisheries may not have
39 anything. But we'll see as it moves. So whichever
40 Refuge wants to get up first. We didn't organize this as
41 far as which ones.

42

43 I think Kanuti will go first and then
44 we'll go with Koyukuk, and if I leave somebody out, I
45 apologize but you'll just have to get up to the table.
46 Obviously, Innoko, I'm sorry. But we're going to go
47 ahead and just kind of move up to the table. If you have
48 handouts we'll pass them out for you.

49

50 Thank you.

00247

1 MR. SCHULZ: My name is Robert Schulz.

2 I'm the Refuge Manager for Kanuti Refuge.

3

4 MS. BROWN: Wennona Brown. I'm the
5 subsistence coordinator for the Kanuti, Yukon Flats and
6 Arctic Refuges.

7

8 MR. SCHULZ: Kanuti Refuge is going
9 through a rebuilding period. Mary Maxwell has been
10 promoted to assistant refuge manager. Wennona Brown has
11 been recently hired as a subsistence for the three
12 refuges that are based out of Fairbanks. Sam Patton has
13 been recently hired as the fire management officer for
14 the three Fairbanks based refuges. We're in the process
15 of hiring a park ranger. Four months of the year that
16 person will be stationed at Coldfoot to assist with the
17 Inter-Agency Visitor Center up there. The remaining
18 eight months, I have plans for that person to be working
19 on outreach with the communities around Kanuti Refuge.
20 With the vacancy created by Mary Maxwell being promoted,
21 I'm in the process of dealing with the regional office in
22 getting that bio-tech position upgraded to a full
23 biologist position.

24

25 2002, we're going through a biological
26 review. We hope out of this process is to get some long
27 range goals and objectives for the biological program.
28 We're in the process of writing a fire management plan
29 for the Kanuti Refuge. And we're also trying to finish
30 up the land protection plan for the Kanuti Refuge.

31

32 In 2003, we're looking at holding a steel
33 shot clinic in the communities surrounding Kanuti Refuge.
34 And also we're going to be working very closely with the

35 community of Allakaket on a fuels reduction project there
36 where we'll be going in and assisting Allakaket in doing
37 some mechanical thinning and that around their village to
38 help protect it from wildfires there.

39

40 I know last fall I promised you folks
41 that I would work up some harvest data on moose for the
42 Kanuti Refuge area. Because of the amount of work with
43 the Game Board this year, we weren't able to get
44 everybody together and get that data. Hopefully in the
45 near future, now that the Game Board has been completed
46 there, that action has been completed, we'll be able to
47 get Glenn Stout from Fish and Game and get the BLM folks
48 and Fish and Wildlife Service together and get that
49 report finalized and get it out to you. It will be
50 coming shortly, hopefully, it'll be finalized there.
00248

1 That's all I have. Any comments. Any
2 questions.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: I've got two. That fire
5 protection plan, are you including all the local
6 villages, is my first question, in developing these
7 policies?

8

9 MR. SCHULZ: In developing the policies,
10 it will be going out for review, yes.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: But are the local villages
13 involved in the building or writing of these policies?

14

15 MR. SCHULZ: We'll be writing the draft
16 plan and then putting it out to the villages to review,
17 Ron, yes.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: And do they have any real
20 say on this because they've been complaining about it
21 quite a bit in Allakaket?

22

23 MR. SCHULZ: We'll be presenting the plan
24 and asking for their comments on it. And, you know, I'd
25 be willing to sit down once the plan is in draft form,
26 we'll sit down with the Allakaket folks and listen to
27 what their comments and concerns are.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: And you also mentioned,
30 land protection, was this under the same thing, fire
31 protection?

32

33 MR. SCHULZ: Well, the land protection
34 plan has been in the process for a couple of years and it
35 hasn't been finalized because of people in the regional
36 office being put on different projects and that. And
37 basically what that land protection plan does is identify
38 which lands -- identifies ownership of the lands within
39 the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge. And we've got a map
40 developed there and it shows where the Native allotments
41 are, where the corporation lands, the village and the
42 regional corporation lands are. And we kind of
43 prioritized those lands as far as their value. And say,
44 if there's -- you know, if we're looking at protection of

45 those we can enter into a lot of different types of
46 agreement with the village -- various land owners to try
47 to work with them and get the resources protected on
48 those lands. I think it really would have helped -- here
49 a couple years ago, we purchased easement or allotments
50 there and this land protection plan will help us in -- if
00249

1 any of those additional allotments come up we'll be able
2 to have some values or priorities put on those, Ron.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Any
5 further questions? Jack.

6

7 MR. REAKOFF: I have still have concerns
8 about the hunting pressure around the Kanuti Controlled
9 Use area, about air taxis, transporters dropping off
10 hunters around there. And I seen from the Board meeting
11 that there's going to be a necessity for a telemetry
12 study for moose, they don't seem to quite understand how
13 far these moose are moving around there. I feel that a
14 conjunctive telemetry study between Gates of the Arctic
15 and Kanuti Wildlife Refuge may be necessary to document
16 moose movements in the upper portion of Unit 24. And I
17 would -- from preliminary data from the Lower Koyukuk,
18 there's quite an incidence -- high incidence of migratory
19 moose. And so when you do your calculation, preliminary
20 data shows that moose -- 83 percent move 26, 27 miles.
21 So I would like to see an encompassing area around the
22 Kanuti Wildlife Refuge looking at harvest around that as
23 influencing the moose in the Kanuti Flats. And there's --
24 they're pushing on sustainability in that upper unit and
25 I'm getting concerned about that. And I would like the
26 Gates of the Arctic and Kanuti, particularly Kanuti to
27 look at these harvest levels and I appreciate that you're
28 working on that now with Glenn Stout.

29

30 MR. SCHULZ: We're running into some
31 difficulties, I think, you know, from the reporting
32 process, with the uniformed coding units and that.
33 That's one of the problems we've been running into is,
34 you know, how far out of the Refuge boundary and then
35 where, within those coding units are those moose actually
36 being taken. And that's one of the things that Lisa
37 Saperstein, wildlife biologist, wants to work on there,
38 is to try to get some information on the amount of those
39 coding units that are inside the boundary and the amount
40 that are on the outside of the boundary there, is what
41 she wants to work up.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
44 Kanuti Wildlife Refuge? If not, thanks for bearing with
45 us, thanks for your report.

46

47 MR. SCHULZ: Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Who do we have,
50 Koyukuk/Nowitna?

00250

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'll be
2 handing out their report. And in all respect to all the
3 Refuges and other agencies, generally they do submit

4 reports that get in your book but due to our production
5 schedule they did not. So we'll try to get them in there
6 earlier to you. But I just want that on the record, that
7 we're trying to -- our production schedule just didn't
8 match.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 MR. BEYERS: Mr. Chair, members of the
13 Council. I'm Jeff Beyers with the Koyukuk/Nowitna
14 National Wildlife Refuge. I'm the subsistence
15 coordinator out there.

16
17 First off, I guess what I would like to
18 do is I'd like to thank the Council for their interest
19 and their help in conserving the resources that we have
20 out there. I know that you guys go back to your areas
21 and convey a lot of the information that you get from
22 here and we certainly appreciate a lot of your efforts on
23 our behalf.

24
25 I'm just going to -- you've got the
26 report there. There's just a few things I wanted to
27 highlight on there and then you can read the rest of it
28 as you get the opportunity to. As the Council's aware
29 white-fronted geese on the Refuge have been on the
30 decline in the last decade and we wanted to make the
31 Council aware that in July the Central Flyway Technical
32 Committee is going to be reviewing proposals to limit the
33 harvesting of white-front geese in the Lower 48. And we
34 also wanted to express and comment local people on their
35 voluntary conservation efforts with white-fronted geese
36 and their use of steel shot during their goose and duck
37 hunting.

38
39 The Refuge Staff is going to be
40 conducting steel shot clinics in Huslia on April 8th and
41 9th and in Nulato on the 11th and 12th. The clinics have
42 been conducted in the past and we're going to be doing
43 them in 2002 and beyond. They're going to be done to
44 educate residents on harmful impacts of lead shot on
45 waterfowl and the environment. And also we'll be using
46 them to learn ways to combine traditional values with the
47 newest techniques for waterfowl shooting accuracy.

48
49 As Ray Hander pointed out earlier,
50 currently there's a lack of information on the in-season
00251

1 subsistence harvest on the Yukon River chinook and chum
2 salmon and there really is no method in place right now
3 to evaluate whether users are meeting their subsistence
4 needs. Our Refuge is going to be working with the
5 Fairbanks Fisheries Resource Office on a pilot program to
6 collect information from subsistence users in Nulato
7 regarding their in-season harvest. And we'll be having
8 two local hires in Nulato to survey local residents
9 weekly and the information that is gathered will be
10 compiled and presented at the weekly YRDFA
11 teleconference. And there's also -- I wanted to make you
12 aware of the fact that there's a proposal that's been
13 submitted to the Office of Subsistence Management to

14 expand this pilot program in 2003 and if it's successful
15 then it would be potentially expanded throughout the
16 whole Yukon drainage it will give us a good idea of the
17 subsistence harvest throughout the drainage and whether
18 people's needs are being met.

19
20 As the Council's probably already aware
21 Refuge Staff worked with ADF&G personnel Glenn Stout this
22 past fall and censuses the southern Koyukuk Refuge, the
23 Kaiyuh Flats and the northern portion of the Nowitna
24 Refuge and our overall assessment at this point is that
25 population levels are relatively stable but we would
26 point out the fact that recruitment and productivity were
27 low. That information's currently being analyzed by
28 ADF&G personnel and hope to have that analysis completed
29 and presented to us later on this spring or summer. And
30 once we obtain those results we will be passing them on
31 to the Council.

32
33 The last item that I have was in regards
34 to caribou and the recent annual distribution and calving
35 surveys of the Galena Mountain Herd suggests that there's
36 a decline in the herd size and productivity. And we, at
37 this point can't confidently determine the status of the
38 Galena Mountain Herd or any of the potential range
39 overlaps with the Wolf Mountain Herd and/or the Western
40 Arctic Caribou Herd. So a cooperative effort has been
41 put in place with ADF&G and the Refuge to collar animals
42 from the Galena Mountain and the Western Mountain Herd
43 and this is going to be initiated in early April of this
44 year and they're going to try and determine population
45 size, sex, age structure, location of the calving grounds
46 and the winter areas for both the Galena Mountain and the
47 Wolf Mountain Herd.

48
49 And that concludes my presentation.

50
00252

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions. If not, do you
2 have a report, too, Orville?

3
4 MR. HUNTINGTON: No. This is Orville
5 Huntington with the Refuge. I'm an RIT up there. I was
6 just asked to come to answer any questions you might
7 have. Most of my questions I answered outside the
8 meeting but they related to waterfowl and a little bit of
9 moose and a lot of wolf questions that I answered, but I
10 didn't follow up with my study that I did last time.
11 Because most of the people in our area started sealing
12 their wolves after I did my study the first time. And I
13 know of four wolves that were not sealed for potlatch but
14 we didn't have no choice, we didn't have a way to seal
15 them in the village. And with that November 11th [sic],
16 whatever you want to call that, that bombing thing, you
17 know, we couldn't really get our furs in and out of the
18 village anyway. So overall I think compliance of sealing
19 was good. I think people are really starting to work
20 hard to get their furs sealed, especially wolves.

21
22 I did notice there's a really big
23 sheefish fishery there in Huslia. I don't know if it's

24 all the way up the Koyukuk or what. But I never noticed
25 that they really do use hook and line a lot. It's like
26 more than I thought. They take a lot more fish than what
27 I thought they were taking because I actually went out
28 there with some of the subsistence users that
29 participated in that fishery and almost every family was
30 out there at that Dulbi Slough.

31

32 So other than that, that's about it.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: I know you did -- you and
35 Mike Spindler traveled extensively a few years back on
36 this waterfowl issue, do you have any update on that? I
37 missed part of that.

38

39 MR. HUNTINGTON: Actually, I think Jeff
40 just gave an update on the technical committee or
41 somebody who's trying to restrict harvest in the Lower
42 48. I just found out about that today.

43

44 MR. BEYERS: What I mentioned was that in
45 July the Central Flyway Technical Committee is going to
46 be meeting and they're going to be reviewing proposals to
47 restrict the hunting in the Lower 48 with white-fronted
48 geese.

49

50 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

00253

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Orville, I had a
4 question. You mentioned the extensive use of the
5 sheefish there. And one of the concerns I've had that's
6 been raised before is are they catching those under the
7 sport regulations or are they allowed to harvest them
8 under subsistence? Do we need regs on the book to cover
9 what they're actually doing? I think if people would
10 flag that we could be getting proposals in to make sure
11 that they're allowed to do that. Because sometimes when
12 families -- I can remember years ago in Nickoli when
13 families went out, they might go once a year after
14 grayling and they might go catch 50 of them which would
15 exceed probably whatever the local bag limit was but they
16 didn't do it consistently and so we need to be thinking
17 about that in relation to subsistence to make sure we
18 have regs that allow them to do what they normally do.

19

20 MR. HUNTINGTON: I guess, when I was a
21 little boy I remember them going out but they didn't go
22 out quite the way they go out now. It's more -- they
23 take their whole family out and they're pretty much out
24 there all day. And in the past, you know, I'd see them,
25 once in awhile they'd go out with mostly fishnet, like
26 what I use. So going out now, but like you said, with
27 grayling, too, in the fall I notice there's just certain
28 times that they'll go out and they'll do the same thing,
29 they'll take enough for the winter, just at one time.
30 Because you just have that small window where you can go
31 out there before the ice comes in. And the same thing
32 with the sheefish. They just seem to go through it that
33 one period -- we just know when it is, you know, you can

34 just tell when they're coming through and they're just
35 there for a short while and then you can go down a week
36 later and they're just not there.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. One thing about
39 different species of fish, especially whitefish,
40 sheefish, the Koyukuk River has always been more or less
41 dispensed with as far as when it comes to salmon. I mean
42 there never was -- until the salmon shortage hit, that's
43 the only time they paid any attention to the Koyukuk
44 River and start making any kind of restriction on any
45 kind of fish and that was only salmon as far as I know.
46 I think quite a few years back, I think for awhile there
47 that's all we harvested was whitefish, sheefish.

48

49 Micky you had a question.

50

00254

1 MR. STICKMAN: No question. But, you
2 know, just for the Council's knowledge, I was talking to
3 Spindler yesterday or the day before and he said that
4 there was some concern with the white-fronted geese but
5 then, you know, there was two points to the discussion.
6 The one point was that where they all come together. So
7 now even though the white-fronted geese are being
8 targeted a little bit longer, there's other species that
9 are being targeted also so now that this has all come
10 about the entire flyway is having a second look at it.
11 And, you know, the other states that haven't, you know,
12 really cooperated, well, now, there's going to be
13 questions asked and it's going to be looked into.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. Is
16 there any further questions? Go ahead Orville.

17

18 MR. HUNTINGTON: I didn't answer Ray's
19 question as far as -- I just wanted to think about it a
20 little bit, about the legal standpoint. See, I don't
21 know if these people have licenses or not. They're out
22 there -- they've been doing it for years evidently. So I
23 don't want to say they don't have license but it seems
24 like they're under -- they're doing it for subsistence
25 but it might be under a sport regulation. I don't think
26 they know either.

27

28 MR. COLLINS: Right. That's what I'm
29 becoming aware of. And I think one of our
30 responsibilities is to make sure we put in the regs that
31 allows them to do things they've been traditionally doing
32 to cover those kind of things. Because somebody may
33 start to enforce them. Like up here in McGrath, because
34 everybody goes out in the spring and catches some
35 grayling and all of a sudden they were checking to see
36 whether they had a sport license. They didn't even think
37 about it they were just doing what they had been doing
38 every year, going to catch some grayling as they start
39 getting ready to go up into the creeks. So where
40 possible, I think we should have regs in that would cover
41 those activities.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't know about regs.

44 I think every time we develop regs all we do is restrict
45 ourselves. One day I caught 465 grayling and that's
46 something the Alatna River people have always done, every
47 fall. We harvested as many sheefish as we could to trade
48 for salmon strips or any kind of salmon that we can use.
49 And I think it came about in one of the meetings that we
50 had, but we reported it and haven't heard anything much
00255

1 about it anyway. So any further questions? I think
2 that's worth looking into though.

3

4 One last question. I know the Huslia
5 people are more aware of the guiding activities and more
6 concerned, but if these guiding licenses are up for
7 removal we'd like the whole Koyukuk River to know about
8 these because they are beginning to show concern and some
9 real concerns about these guides and numbers that go out
10 there, especially the renewals. So if you could, pass
11 all that information up to us.

12

13 MR. BEYERS: Yes, we can. And also I
14 think that Greg McClellan, the Deputy Refuge Manager from
15 our Staff is probably going to talk to you about the
16 guiding, what the rules and issues are on that.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
19 Koyukuk/Nowitna? If not, thank you both. Innoko.

20

21 MR. SCHAFF: Good afternoon. I'll try to
22 keep this short. One of the primary things that happened
23 on the Innoko Refuge this year that I am the most happy
24 about is we were able to hire our first refuge
25 information technician, Clara Demientieff. Clara's
26 position will be instrumental in working with the GASH
27 villages. She'll be the main conduit for communications,
28 two ways, between the various villages. Hopefully people
29 who have questions will be able to contact Clara and
30 hopefully when we have educational programs we'll be able
31 to utilize Clara for that information also.

32

33 Second issue, the GASH village issue, I
34 was going to give a report on that but I think Randy
35 Rogers has done an excellent job. I'd just like to
36 mention that we are working with Randy on that. The
37 Council's comments were noted while Randy was speaking.
38 I look forward to getting these open house meetings
39 started. We realize it's the first step in an ongoing
40 process but we look forward to that.

41

42 Another thing, as some of the other
43 Refuges have mentioned the Innoko Staff will be working
44 cooperatively with Alaska Department of Fish and Game
45 hosting waterfowl hunter clinics, the steel shot clinics.
46 We'll be hosting three of them. Clara and Thomas
47 Siekaniec will be conducting these in Nickoli, McGrath
48 and Grayling. They'll be coming up the first week of
49 April also. Basically the intent of these clinics are to
50 help local waterfowl hunters reduce crippling loss,
00256

1 reduce problems with lead shot and just hopefully

2 increase the effectiveness of their harvest.

3

4 Some of the other things that we have
5 going on on the Refuge have been mentioned throughout the
6 agency reports. We have cooperative studies ongoing this
7 year with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
8 CommFish Division, Sportfish Division and the US Fish and
9 Wildlife Fisheries Division in Fairbanks.

10

11 We recently, recently as of last Sunday
12 night about 7:00 o'clock, I believe, completed our moose
13 survey for this year. We have not even had a chance to
14 work up the numbers so it's very tentative at this point
15 in time. But that was just completed, we'll be working
16 up the numbers sometime in the next few weeks. We use a
17 double sampling technique that allows us to do a
18 statistical sightability index and so the moose have
19 varying degrees of value as far as where they're seen in
20 relation to the survey line and that allows us to do a
21 sightability index. And hopefully we'll be able to
22 identify the moose not seen or at least do a statistical
23 analysis of the moose not seen as well as the moose seen.
24 The only other thing on the preliminary information on
25 the moose survey that was just conducted, as Jeff Denton
26 mentioned, calf numbers did appear low also but, again,
27 probably understandably with the high flood of last
28 spring. I believe that was all over the valley.

29

30 And in the interest of time that's about
31 it. I would like to introduce Clara to any of the
32 members. I believe everybody knows her but I would like
33 to introduce her. And also Sandra Siekaniec. Sandra's
34 been with us for about a year now. And she's also -- the
35 nice thing about having the meeting this time in McGrath
36 is more members of the Staff could come and be exposed to
37 the Council.

38

39 So do either of you have anything that
40 you would like to add?

41

42 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: For the record my name
43 is Clara Demientieff and my birth home is in Holy Cross
44 and I have lived here in McGrath for 22 years. As Bill
45 said, I'm the refuge information tech and I am very happy
46 to be on this job and also go back to Holy Cross and the
47 GASH villages to work with the people there.

48

49 Thank you.

50

00257

1 MR. SCHAFF: Sandra, say hello.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MS. SIEKANIEC: My name is Sandra
6 Siekaniec and I've been working for the Fish and Wildlife
7 Service for the last 16 years, mostly in the Lower 48 so
8 a lot of this process is new to me. And I'm very
9 interested in getting involved with the villages and
10 getting information that we need to do our jobs.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any questions.

13 Robert.

14

15 MR. WALKER: Yes. What is your moose
16 count up there for that Refuge, Innoko Wildlife Refuge?

17

18 MR. SCHAFF: I'm sorry, was that the
19 moose hunt?

20

21 MR. WALKER: The moose count.

22

23 MR. SCHAFF: The raw numbers and I
24 caution that they are raw numbers, for the northern half
25 of the Innoko Refuge was right around 200. We will be
26 doing a sightability index on that. That was the moose
27 that was seen on the transect lines on the northern half.
28 So as I said, we have not crunched the numbers
29 statistically to extrapolate more of the Refuge area,
30 that was just what was seen on the flight lines. Like I
31 said, they just got back Sunday night so the biologist
32 has not had a chance to do any additional crunching. And
33 I'd like to have a chance before -- you know, I could
34 send you that information when we get the numbers done in
35 a couple of weeks if you would like that?

36

37 MR. WALKER: (Nods affirmatively)

38

39 MR. SCHAFF: Okay, we can do that.

40

41 MR. WALKER: Did you say April 1st you'd
42 be in Grayling for steel shot demonstration?

43

44 MR. SCHAFF: The steel shot clinics will
45 be in, and Clara you can correct me on this, in Nickoli
46 the 5th and 6th, in McGrath, I believe the 7th and 8th
47 and in Grayling the 11th and 12th. And there is a sign
48 up -- the way the steel shot clinics are conducted, in
49 the evening usually from about 7:00 to 9:00 there's a
50 instructional -- indoor instructional time. As many
00258

1 people want can attend that. The next day there's a
2 clinic where they actually go out and shoot, that number
3 is limited to about 20 people due to safety reasons on
4 the firing line. It's also on a first come, first serve.
5 So people can sign up to attend. But we only will
6 probably take the first 20 people as I said for safety
7 meetings.

8

9 MR. WALKER: Did you inform the Grayling
10 people?

11

12 MR. SCHAFF: It's been posted and it will
13 be advertised on the radio as well. I know that the
14 posters were sent over there. And one more thing, people
15 do have to attend the instructional section before they
16 can attend the shooting. So they can't just attend the
17 shooting.

18

19 MR. WALKER: Okay.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions?

22 Jack.

23

24 MR. REAKOFF: What size shot are you
25 suggesting switching from lead to steel?

26

27 MR. SCHAFF: The standard saying is to go
28 two sizes up from what they were used to. So if people
29 were used to using sixes for duck, say, they'd drop to a
30 four. If they were using four, drop to a two. Two to
31 BB's. Two sizes up is the standard recommendation. So
32 it depends on what someone's hunting, what they're used
33 to, how far they're used to shooting, et cetera.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions? If
36 not, thank you.

37

38 MR. SCHAFF: Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any more
41 Refuges?

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I believe that Micky
44 had a question on the guiding areas and that, how they're
45 determined, the process of that, so I think Greg
46 McClellan's ready to give you an overview on that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Greg.

49

50 MR. McCLELLAN: Mr. Chair, this is Greg
00259

1 McClellan, Deputy Refuge Manager for Koyukuk/Nowitna. I
2 think the first answer to Micky's question about the
3 public involvement, I think Mr. Edwards, the Deputy
4 Director was going to address that.

5

6 MR. EDWARDS: I'm going to take off my
7 Board hat and put on my Fish and Wildlife Service hat, if
8 that's okay. I was made aware of this issue when I
9 arrived yesterday and so I did call back and talk to Dave
10 Allen our regional director and Dave's response was that
11 that was a very fair question and that we were going to
12 look into it. I know that they did have a meeting today.
13 They also talked to the solicitor's office about what our
14 responsibilities are for public involvement on this. And
15 my understanding is they're going to meet again tomorrow
16 so we will have a response back to you folks shortly.

17

18 I guess it would help me, since I wasn't
19 here yesterday, maybe if you could frame what you see as
20 the issue so I have a better understanding of exactly
21 what you would like to see.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky, if I remember
24 right, you'll have to correct me but I think your
25 question addressed the issue of renewing these licenses?

26

27 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah. I know there's a
28 guide with his two guide areas coming up for renewal and
29 I was wondering if there was an avenue for a public
30 process because the people in that area -- that's not
31 even my area, you know, I hunt in the area but it's not
32 my traditional hunting grounds but just by talking to the

33 people in that area it's still within the Western
34 Interior Region so it's my responsibility to express
35 their concerns so they were wondering about, you know,
36 the public process for comments and for, you know, just
37 who gets to choose and where can they speak their
38 concerns, you know, to the people who do actually do the
39 choosing.

40

41 MR. EDWARDS: Let me see if I understand
42 this. Were they asking that they wanted to have a part
43 in the selection process or were they more interested in
44 the criteria that was being used to make the selection?

45

46 MR. STICKWAN: No, actually I don't think
47 the criteria would satisfy their concerns. I think they
48 wanted more of a vocal, you know, they wanted to be able
49 to speak their mind to the issue and you know, I guess
50 they have valid concerns but you know, it's just
00260

1 something that they want. You know, they want to be able
2 to speak -- when someone's going to get chosen, they want
3 to be able to speak their mind.

4

5 MR. EDWARDS: My sense is that that might
6 be a little problematic. I mean, when we hire people to
7 work for us, you know, we don't normally go out and ask
8 everybody's opinion whether we should hire them or not.
9 In the selection of guides and all we have specific
10 criteria in which they are ranked and graded by and then
11 the decision is made there. I think it would become
12 pretty difficult, it would seem to me that if you were
13 going to make a selection you would circulate that
14 individual's name and whoever wanted to say, well, we
15 don't like that person, you shouldn't select him. I
16 think that that is probably not possible.

17

18 But I think the broader question is
19 because you would like to think that the criteria would
20 help maybe dictate ultimately who might get selected and
21 it seems to me that that might be a much better way to
22 have public involvement that we would actually be able to
23 address as opposed to having others, you know, make those
24 kinds of selections. It would be very similar to when we
25 got nominations for the RACs, you know, the Board looks
26 at that but we don't circulate everybody's name to see if
27 somebody -- one of your neighbors doesn't think that you
28 should be a RAC member, we look at the application and we
29 get advice from some of the other RAC members but, you
30 know, it's not something that we open up to the general
31 public to be involved in that selection process. I think
32 that's where there could become problems. But I do think
33 in maybe looking at the criteria there might be more that
34 can be done there than has been done in the past.

35

36 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, thank you. I guess,
37 just by looking at the criteria then, you know, to
38 publish the criteria and have the -- you know, if we,
39 here, sitting here can't do anything, you know, at least
40 maybe have it go through the regional Advisory
41 Committees, you know, the like the Koyukuk River Advisory
42 Committee, the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee, you know,

43 at least have those folks an opportunity to express the
44 region's concern.

45

46 MR. EDWARDS: I think that's a fair
47 question.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

50

00261

1 MR. STICKWAN: Thank you. I just wanted
2 to express my thanks on record.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: I know there are some
5 planes leaving at this time, is there anybody else or is
6 it too late to worry about?

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's next, fisheries?

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, if fisheries has
13 anything, I don't know if they do. Again, these are
14 place markers, if there's input, does Bill have
15 something?

16

17 MR. SCHAFF: I was just told that Larry's
18 Flying Service is here so the folks from Fairbanks who
19 are on that flight.

20

21 (Off record)

22

23 (On record)

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: All right, well, that moves
26 us up to the National Park Service. I did talk to them
27 to make sure they weren't waiting for a plane and they're
28 not. But again.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks for asking them.
31 Before we begin, I'd like to thank all the people who are
32 leaving, I think they're cutting it pretty close to their
33 planes. Go ahead, Hollis.

34

35 MR. TWITCHELL: Chair, Council members.
36 I'm Hollis Twitchell. I'm with Denali National Park.
37 It's been an interesting long two days so I'll be very
38 short. I just have a couple of items to mention to you,
39 none of them require any action on the part of the
40 Council so they're simply informative in nature.

41

42 I guess I'd like to just mention one
43 thing when I start for the new members of the Council,
44 that the National Park areas where subsistence use occurs
45 have an advisory commission, which is made up of
46 individuals, such as yourselves who utilize Park
47 resources and they advise the Park and the Secretary of
48 the Interior about subsistence activities on Park lands.
49 And we key very heavily upon those individuals in guiding
50 us in our actions and on Park lands.

00262

1 One of the things that the Commission had

2 asked us to do a couple of years ago was to produce a
3 subsistence user guide because of the many complicated
4 regulations on Park Service lands as well as Federal
5 program in State lands. They wanted something that we
6 could hand out to our local users to give them a sense of
7 what subsistence activities are appropriate on Park
8 lands. What I just handed out was one of those items,
9 that's a user guide we just updated to hand out to our
10 local users. We did one a couple years ago but it's a
11 bit outdated so this is a more current version. And
12 maybe the new Council members who aren't familiar with
13 Park areas might find that helpful when you look at
14 issues coming up on the Park areas.

15

16 One of the things our Commission did ask
17 for, led forward by Ray Collins, was that we do some work
18 in our communities to update our community use
19 information and harvest information as well as historical
20 fisheries work. That recommendation from the SRC
21 advanced a proposal that we did a couple years ago to do
22 Nickoli, Talida, Lake Minchumnia community use profiles
23 as well as historical fisheries work and as Dave Andersen
24 mentioned, we're just beginning on our western
25 communities, that work this year.

26

27 Another thing that was advanced to you at
28 your last meeting was a proposal for the community of
29 Cantwell to have a three year residency requirement for
30 people living in that community before they become active
31 subsistence users in the Park areas. The Commission met
32 last month in February to review comments and
33 recommendations on that hunting plan proposal. They
34 received quite a few comments in addition to Western,
35 Eastern and Southcentral Regional Advisory Councils which
36 all supported the SRC's proposal. We also received
37 comments from the Native Tribal Council of Cantwell,
38 Copper River Native Association, and the Cantwell Fish
39 and Game Advisory Committee, all of those entities also
40 supported the Cantwell residency. We got comments of
41 negative support from the State of Alaska and the Sierra
42 Club. Those were the only two negative comments. We had
43 sort of a mixed comment from the Middle Nenana Fish and
44 Game Advisory Committee, a split vote of three abstained,
45 four opposed and one in favor. And the general sense was
46 they were a little uncomfortable about advising what the
47 Cantwell community should do.

48

49 The end result from the February meeting
50 is the Commission went ahead and approved their initial
00263

1 proposal as was submitted to you in your last meeting.
2 That proposal now will be advanced to the Secretary of
3 the Interior to review it. And then that individual or
4 she will respond back to the Park Service in terms of if
5 that's in support then we will develop our own agency-
6 specific regulation that would guide that activity for
7 Cantwell. So that's where that particular proposal is.

8

9 With that, I'll close and answer any
10 questions you may have.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions for Denali.

13

14 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, I think, you know,
17 we've been working on their proposals and working with
18 you quite closely, especially Ray here who serves on your
19 SRC, thanks for your report. Anybody else? Vince.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Not that I know of unless I
22 missed somebody, that completes the different agencies.
23 Unless YRDFA has -- no, that moves us back up, if there's
24 no other agency reports, back up to your annual report if
25 you want. It's under Tab H and I'll just stop there to
26 give you a chance to look at it. It's the only thing
27 under Tab H.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: What Page?

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: It's under Tab H, Page 1
32 through 3. Tab H as in Huslia. It looks like all of you
33 have found it. For the new members, we talked about this
34 briefly in the evening about the annual report, is one of
35 your products, one of the things you produce. The annual
36 report, as you saw becomes a vehicle for you to address
37 issues that you cannot deal with in a regular proposal or
38 special action cycle. For the new members, your Council
39 develops issues in fall, we try to flesh them out with
40 draft wording and then at this meeting you adopt them in
41 final. It is very obvious to me that you're not going to
42 adopt the final wording at this meeting. So for the new
43 members what you usually do, but you can change it at
44 this meeting, is you usually get the concepts down and
45 then I draft the language and work with key Council
46 members and the final quality check on the whole annual
47 report is your Chair would review it and then sign it.
48 Then that's submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board
49 and the Board reviews the annual report, usually in July.
50 I don't know their schedule at this time but it's usually
00264

1 in July and then they report back to you in the fall.

2

3 So it is a direct channel that you have
4 with the Board to deal with issues. And I'll be honest
5 with you, the Board takes these annual reports quite
6 seriously so it's an important channel that's provided to
7 you.

8

9 So with that, the report you have there,
10 I captured from your last meeting. Monitoring moose
11 harvest levels to manage for sustained yield. Report on
12 moose populations in 19(A) and (B). And you've added to
13 that a request for funding sources for household harvest
14 surveys for Unit 19 similar to the surveys that are done
15 on the Middle Yukon. The GASH planning process is listed
16 there. I've incorporated over the years, a summary of
17 your events, you can review those also but it's just
18 things from your past meetings, highlights of it. The
19 reason doing that is this is shared with -- in the past
20 your policy is this is shared with the Secretary of
21 Interior to keep them informed but it's also kind of a

22 record keeping of what has gone on.

23

24 So with that I'll stop and see if there's
25 comments on what's written. Suggestions on adding. And
26 follow up on process of where do we go from here.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.

29

30 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. I'd like to
31 bring up an issue that I mentioned before that I would
32 like to include in the annual report if the others are
33 concerned. I'm concerned about the lack of depth of
34 information we're getting on some of the issues we're
35 dealing with. And I'll use the example of the customary
36 and traditional over in 21(E) now. Actually I got, in
37 some ways, more information out of the letter from Marvin
38 Deacon than I got through the other reports, in that, he
39 had a map in there that suggested where the communities
40 had traditionally hunted and what his experience had been
41 over time as a resident there. But that's just one
42 individual. But it gave us good information. It seems
43 to me that Federal subsistence Staff should be doing
44 research in the villages on some of those issues so that
45 we would know, okay, people are coming into the area
46 we're told, they use 21, well, what does that mean, 21 is
47 a big area?

48

49 When we sat down, as I said before, with
50 Harry Wilde and some of the others down on the map, they
00265

1 said, well this is where we used and Henry Deacon looked
2 at that and said, well, I don't have a problem with that,
3 they're talking about Paimiut Slough down by Holy Cross.
4 So instead of just spending all the money on the Board's
5 activity, there should be some actual research done that
6 does some mapping and gets more detailed information so
7 that we don't have to be dealing with these and sending
8 them back for lack of data. So somehow addressing that
9 issue in our report.

10

11 MR. REAKOFF: I'd like to reiterate that.
12 I would like to see funding sort of found to find out --
13 send Laura down there in that lower Yukon area to find
14 out where these -- get some real research on where these
15 people actually travel to and from and get a little bit
16 of mapping and so forth.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: So what both you and Ray
19 are asking is for a separate topic heading addressing
20 that issue?

21

22 MR. COLLINS: (Nods affirmatively)

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes?

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: (Nods affirmatively)

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I understand the
31 issue. The issue is you would like more customary and

32 traditional use information, including mapping done for
33 the area of 21(E) or -- well, let's just say 21(E) at
34 this point. I'm understanding that clearly, but as your
35 coordinator I need to advise you that, I'm saddened that
36 Gary's not here, but the Board's policy in the past is
37 that the program does not fund research but that doesn't
38 mean that you can't request it again. I'm just saying
39 the Board itself manages subsistence use not the research
40 of those uses. I know that's confusing after all we've
41 talked about fish, but on wildlife that has been the
42 policy. But that doesn't prevent you from suggesting it.
43 I'm just advising you, in the past that's been the
44 response you've gotten from the Board.

45
46 What they'll take with your response,
47 unless it's different, which they can take -- do
48 differently, but in the past what they did was they
49 referred that to the managing agencies for the area, so
50 they would refer it to Bureau of Land Management and Fish
00266

1 and Wildlife Service and the State of Alaska to look to
2 see if they could find funding for that.

3
4 I'm just telling you that ahead of time
5 so when we come back in fall and if my assessment is
6 correct that you're aware from the get-go. But we can
7 explain in detail why this is necessary. And also --
8 well, as your coordinator, the future of the Division of
9 Subsistence with the State of Alaska is what you've been
10 depending on or we've been depending on and you've been
11 utilizing from our analysis, it is still questionable.
12 So this may be a component that you want to put in here,
13 that you are unable -- well, I'm starting to wordsmith
14 for you so I'll back off here. But you get the idea on
15 that, that you have some strength for your argument, in
16 the past has elected not to deal with research,
17 especially for wildlife issues.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. It's quite
20 apparent that they'll have to spend some money on
21 Proposal 31 anyway, so use that as a tool, do
22 wordsmithing again in our request. So I'd like to see
23 that requested anyway. Especially addressing Proposal 31
24 and try to find funding for this area.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'm not
27 trying to deter you from having it in your report, I'm
28 just giving you an update of the past. I think Laura has
29 more to say about it, but we do have difficulty within
30 our program doing this research because of our role as
31 the analysis or analysts, I never get that right, as
32 analysts in the process. So but that doesn't deter you.
33 You have a job to do. It's fully fleshed out in .805, I
34 don't need to quote from it. I will quote from it in
35 your annual report, but it says in there, that you're
36 supposed to be provided adequate staff, data, et cetera,
37 et cetera, Jack knows exactly where I'm going on that.
38 I'm just advising you that in the past the Board has said
39 that's not in their purview of their policy.

40
41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think the whole Council
44 is quite aware of this but along with -- when we had our
45 little argument with the other Regional Councils, they
46 stated to us, too, that we can do anything -- we can
47 introduce anything that's area specific and regional
48 specific. So they're aware of it. But we're also aware
49 that we can do -- introduce anything that we feel serious
50 enough about. And from what I gather, we would all like
00267

1 to see this incorporated into the annual report.

2

3 Anything else on the annual report?

4 Okay.

5

6 MR. STICKMAN: I have one, Ron.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

9

10 MR. STICKMAN: When we went through the
11 proposals, on Jack's proposal -- well, in the book it was
12 written documented, but no documents were produced, so I
13 would caution them in their proposal analysis, you know,
14 if they're going to put documents -- if they have a
15 document that they should produce because we did vote
16 down a proposal that a person wrote up, and in the book
17 it says document but when we sat down to discuss the
18 proposal we had nothing.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that a new one or would
21 that come under anything else? Vince.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think you
24 want to hear it from Dan LaPlant because I may have --
25 there are other avenues for funding and I think he's
26 going to explain that. I just gave you the Board's
27 policy in itself but there may be other funding that he
28 can share -- other funding sources.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MR. LaPLANT: Mr. Chairman, just for your
33 information, I'm the Staff member with OSM that
34 coordinates the agreements with the Department of Fish
35 and Game to fund some of these projects. And we did fund
36 a project, it just began, the funding just became
37 available the first of March so it's for this coming next
38 12 months for the Subsistence Division to survey harvest,
39 large mammal harvests in the GASH area. So Dave Andersen
40 will be starting that study this year. So, of course,
41 that information isn't available now and it wasn't
42 available for Laura to use in this analysis. But we
43 recognize the need for that information and we're trying
44 to address it. So we do have it in this years agreement.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

47

48 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I had
49 one other example that just came to mind that came up in
50 this meeting, too, of the kinds of things, lack of data;

00268

1 that's on the customary trade. When that Task Force met
2 we had a report that was prepared by the Staff but they
3 had to just go through the existing written documents and
4 then the members there, even now, are getting new
5 information coming out of what that actually consists of
6 up and down the river and if somebody was going through
7 the villages, they could gather this data and we'd have a
8 clearer picture of what's actually going on there from
9 the standpoint of the users. It isn't just strips that
10 we've mentioned, there's some jarring, somebody up here
11 in McGrath, well, I've been buying some jarred fish every
12 year from someone, that's the way I get my salmon, you
13 know, and strips and so on. But we have a lot of
14 anecdotal information without actual people going to the
15 ones that are producing and talking to them about their
16 feelings.

17
18 So that's another example of the need, I
19 think, for some research instead of just waiting for Law
20 Enforcement to say, well, there's a problem here or
21 there, well, what is actually happening?

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Hurry up or they'll kick
24 us out of there. Laura, you had something.

25
26 MS. JURGENSEN: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Just
27 I certainly support, there's like so much information we
28 need and in the program, and to be able to manage
29 subsistence, certainly we have to have new and fill in
30 all these data gaps. So I think that's a real -- I'm
31 glad you said that on the record. And then also one
32 thing I wanted to mention is that in 1999 and 2000 we had
33 resolutions coming in from tribal organizations in Unit
34 18, but they were specifically requesting more studies,
35 up to date studies for big game harvest surveys for Units
36 17, 18, 19 and 21. So another avenue is, again, through
37 your tribal councils, you know, coming -- even
38 resolutions coming before the Board for that,
39 corporations is the major land owners, I think will
40 assist that there's a strong need. But I just wanted to
41 let you know that other tribal councils have wanted
42 updated studies and these are villages that have actually
43 been studied quite a bit compared to many others in the
44 state.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Laura.
47 Anything further to add or change on our annual report?
48 Jack.

49
50 MR. REAKOFF: I'm still concerned, we
00269

1 were talking about moose monitoring in Unit 24. I'm
2 getting a more and more stronger feeling that a telemetry
3 study needs to be done in conjunction with that harvest
4 monitoring up there. And I think that the Board should
5 be aware that there's a real data lack in how moose move
6 there. My primary concern is that the Alaska Department
7 of Fish and Game is including a lot of the Gates of the
8 Arctic population in the -- and bolstering the moose
9 population to harvest more. And I'm getting concerned
10 about that, the areas outside the Gates of the Arctic,

11 harvesting beyond sustained yield and I would like to
12 include that in our annual report, the need for a
13 telemetry study in the northern part of Unit 24.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you get that Vince?
16

17 MR. MATHEWS: I'm sorry, I was conferring
18 on another issue.

19
20 MR. REAKOFF: I'll say it again.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Say it again, Jack.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: I'm sorry, I really do
25 apologize but I'm trying to balance another topic that's
26 coming up.

27
28 MR. REAKOFF: Okay. In a nutshell I'm
29 concerned about Alaska Department of Fish and Game
30 utilizing the Gates of the Arctic moose as part of the
31 population that's hunted and I feel that a telemetry
32 study should be done in the northern part of Unit 24 to
33 document actual moose movements so that a true
34 calculation of the population that's hunted can be made.
35 I'm concerned about going beyond sustainability.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Because of that I
38 think it would be wise and I'll try to note it here that
39 I think you'll want your annual report copied to Alaska
40 Department of Fish and Game. The Board would -- the
41 Board is your main one but since you're requesting an
42 area that's not Federal lands and saying the management
43 strategy of Fish and Game is in question here I think it
44 would be wise to copy them, the annual report, if that's
45 okay. I've not done that in the past.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: Yes. I would like that
50 conveyed to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. But
00270

1 I would like the telemetry work to be done in the Kanuti
2 and the Gates of the Arctic so that the movements in that
3 area can be documented.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: I concur.

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did we have anything else,
10 other suggestions on the annual report?

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: The only thing I would
13 suggest and I'm just confirming it on the record that on
14 these items, that I would use your vice-Chair Jack
15 Reakoff as first reviewer and then get it to you as final
16 signator. We will move pretty fast on it, well, you're --
17 well, Jack's the main person that's bringing up these
18 topics that I usually review it with him, for the new
19 members and then it goes to Ron for final signature, just
20 so you understand the process.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything else on the
23 annual report? Do we need any action on this or not?

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, you do Mr. Chair. It
26 would be easier for me to move forward and for the Board
27 to work with your annual report that you would adopt, in
28 concept, the items that are before you under Tab H and
29 the items that you've brought up as additional items.
30 You got to empower me to go forward with this, it would
31 make things better if I had that.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: I so move.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

36

37 MR. STICKMAN: Second.

38

39 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Second, third, fourth.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Question.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called.

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

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

00271

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, as you know,
8 you meet privately with the Federal Subsistence Board
9 with all the other Chairs, you may want to consider
10 talking about research needs for wildlife issues since
11 you have a meeting with the Board in a private session,
12 it's an executive session, it might be a topic that you
13 want to bring up at that time. It will be in your annual
14 report but you have the Board there in a more informal
15 setting so it's an idea that you may want to bring up at
16 that time.

17

18 That brings us up to your charter. The
19 charter is under Tab I as in Iditarod. The charter is
20 any type of advisory group that needs to be chartered
21 under the Federal government. Is it before you as kind
22 of an organic document. You requested last fall no
23 changes to that document. So it's back before you for
24 kind of final approval. It's done in the even years so
25 the Secretary can sign them in the odd years or maybe
26 it's the reverse but it's every two years it's reviewed
27 by the Secretary.

28

29 So at this point, I can go over the
30 different parts of it but generally it's kind of an

31 organic document and you didn't request any changes last
32 fall.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: So are we looking for
35 changes now?

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: You didn't mention any in
38 the fall. So as your coordinator, I don't think you
39 really need to make any changes. The only change you
40 made recently was unexcused absences was added in instead
41 of two consecutive absences, it was unexcused absences.
42 I'll just stop there. The only things you can't change
43 is the name of your group. You can deal with -- I'd have
44 to look in the book, all the other things in there, the
45 removal of members, things like that, that you can
46 suggest for that. But that's pretty much it.

47

48 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, may I.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

00272

1 MR. WALKER: The compensation here, it
2 says that you're only allowed per diem.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Forget it. We've been
7 dealing with DOI for the last 10 years and the Western
8 Interior took action before the whole Federal Subsistence
9 Board and we got concurrence of all 10 Regional Advisory
10 Council, but they have steadfast that they've refused us
11 on compensation.

12

13 Okay, number 7, let's up that figure to
14 one million a year.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, on that
19 figure there that's just a round ball park figure. That,
20 in no way, to my knowledge reflects the full cost of this
21 program. I know other Councils have spent long, long
22 times discussing that amount, we go way over that amount.
23 So that's just a figure for this chartering process.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, for your
26 information, Robert, we have been submitting it every
27 year on compensation and sometimes twice a year, I think.
28 Do you have a question?

29

30 MR. WALKER: Yes, I did, thank you, Mr.
31 Chairman. I didn't see anything here under travel, you
32 know, why we couldn't charter or a direct flight home.
33 It just states that, you know, we can do this and we can
34 do that, but it doesn't say anything about travel.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think it's under our --
37 there's two discrepancies here then because we have a
38 discrepancy on number 8, meeting, too. But can you cover
39 that travel issue, Vince?

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I can. Basically the
42 travel part falls under support services. That's just a
43 sentence there that Fish and Wildlife Service will
44 provide administrative support for the activities of the
45 Council. So that's -- that encharges us to deal with
46 your travel, your per diem and all that. I'm not trying
47 to defer, I know where you're going Robert, but under the
48 charter that's where it's covered.

49

50 MR. WALKER: Yes, but also does it cover
00273

1 us under aircraft, Federal Fish and Wildlife aircraft?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: I missed the last part?

4

5 MR. WALKER: Does this also, support
6 service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, do we get to use
7 aircraft for travel?

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. The support service,
10 number 5, that's where it covers it. I suppose what I
11 would recommend to you Robert, is if we could pass the
12 charter then we can address your concerns on improving
13 the travel difficulties we had with this meeting. If we
14 try to do that within the charter it won't work, I just
15 know it won't. You'll have to trust me on that. It just
16 won't work. This is kind of a guiding document.

17

18 Our policies, the way we do things follow
19 this but it -- I don't think we want to get into the
20 detail in the charter dealing with types of travel. The
21 Secretary doesn't want to know. In a nutshell, this is
22 just reauthorizing this group, I may have misprotrayed
23 it, it also, I think, Congress requires it so it's just a
24 process to keep the -- it's a process to keep the
25 Executive Branch of the Federal Government informed of
26 the status of each Council, it's a triggering mechanism
27 to do that. But we keep the Executive Branch of the
28 Federal Government informed through various processes
29 through the Regional Directors, the Board, et cetera, et
30 cetera. But you could see where some advisory groups
31 with a charter could end up being non-functional and the
32 only way they would know is that the charter wasn't
33 approved. That's one of the functions of it.

34

35 I think you need a full discussion of
36 travel but I don't think it should be part of the
37 charter.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: I've been serving for
40 about nine or 10 years now and my travel hasn't improved
41 any at all, let's just put it that way. Sometimes I
42 don't even have tickets waiting.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: The discrepancy of
47 addressing, under our operational handbook, this comes
48 under number 8, meetings, it doesn't reflect the special
49 meetings, if we need them and they just granted one to
50 YK-Delta and I was just wondering if we should have that

00274

1 included in our charter or would that just create another
2 headache?

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you would go
5 beyond the charter to -- to get your special meeting, if
6 there was one needed, the criteria needs to be presented,
7 I think you would use statute, which would be Title VIII
8 of ANILCA would be your reasoning for asking for a
9 special session instead of dealing with it in the
10 charter.

11

12 What the charter, number 8 does, it says
13 that you will meet at least twice a year, that's the
14 floor. It doesn't tell you what the ceiling is. I'm not
15 saying that the ceiling could go to 20 meetings a year,
16 I'm just saying that that's the floor. Now, the reason
17 they have that floor in there is -- I believe that comes
18 from ANILCA and I'm starting to lose it here, but I think
19 it says that there needs to be annual meetings of this
20 Regional Council. When people designed that process they
21 didn't want a group established and then all of a sudden
22 they don't meet anymore. So I don't think you would want
23 in here an added clause that special meetings could be
24 approved or whatever.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think they are anyway.
27 But thinking back on it I think I would rather leave it
28 in the operational handbook instructions. Do we have to
29 take action on the charter?

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Otherwise Secretary
32 Norton will be calling wondering what your Council will
33 want because we'll get in trouble if we don't get this
34 moved along because there's a whole process in Washington
35 that requires this signature.

36

37 MR. COLLINS: I move to approve the
38 charter as presented.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

41

42 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Jack Reakoff.
45 Further discussions.

46

47 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Question.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called.
50 Thank you. All those in favor of the motion, signify by

00275

1 saying aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

6

7 (No opposing votes)

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, that
12 brings us up to appointments. We're just giving you a
13 head's up on the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource
14 Commission appointments. I did consult with Fred
15 Andersen on this and Clarence Summers from the National
16 Park Service. You appoint one member to the Gates of the
17 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission. For the new
18 members, I don't know if we went over this during
19 training, your sister advisory group, if you'd like to
20 call it that, the National Park Service is the
21 Subsistence Resource Commission. A third of them are
22 appointed by the Governor, a third by the Secretary of
23 Interior and a third by the Regional Advisory Councils.
24 You have one appointment to the Gates of the Arctic,
25 presently it's Pollock Simon of Allakaket. Clarence and
26 Fred Andersen will look into Pollock's desire to continue
27 to serve as well as local Advisory Committees.

28

29 To qualify an appointment from your
30 Council, the person has to be a member of the Council or
31 a local Advisory Committee and a user of the Park. So
32 it's a fairly limited pool of people.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: So?

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: So next fall we'll either
37 have a slate of candidates for you or most likely
38 Pollock's name will be resubmitted to you. But there
39 hasn't been any communication with Pollock.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have to make any
42 appointments at this time?

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: No. I just wanted to
45 inform you that -- I wasn't sure if the Park Service, his
46 appointment expires in November of 2002 so I didn't want
47 to lose it at your next meeting.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Western Arctic
50 Caribou Herd Planning, this is the one I asked for and I
00276

1 asked for an alternate. At times, Pollock, as Chief of
2 Allakaket he is overloaded so I would like to see if the
3 Western Interior Council would like to appoint an
4 alternate but then that would also create a problem if
5 Pollock doesn't inform us ahead of time on whether he can
6 make these meetings. So I think the point may be moot
7 because at times I don't think he can get back -- he
8 makes up his mind at the last second. So maybe we could
9 just go ahead and drop it unless the Council wants to act
10 on this.

11

12 No, okay. Other appointments.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, the other
15 appointments, it was mentioned earlier, I think it was
16 Randy Rogers asking for, at this point to think of some
17 names for the GASH area as that evolves into possibly a
18 wildlife planning process. For the new members,
19 generally we try to get people that are using that area

20 and are very close by. And so Randy asked me to ask you
21 for potential names from your group but also from others
22 in that area as that moves along.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Then I would just
25 go ahead and ask first that we draft a letter because it
26 doesn't seem like this GASH area working group has gone
27 very far, I think just draft a letter and mail it to the
28 GASH area residents and people that may be affected by
29 this. I think that's all we need to do at this time.

30

31 Any other feelings from the Council?

32

33 MR. STICKMAN: Ron.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

36

37 MR. STICKMAN: I think what they're
38 asking for is they're asking for an appointment from this
39 group but, you know, since the area is in the GASH area,
40 you know, my recommendation would be to have Angie and
41 Robert be involved with this planning group.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for the motion,
44 Micky is there a second?

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

49

50 MR. PETERS: I second.

00277

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved and seconded.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: We've done this before,
6 under discussion purposes. We have Jack Reakoff and I
7 sitting on the Koyukuk River Moose Management Working
8 Group without votes, and our travel is funded by the
9 Western Interior Council to attend these even though we
10 don't have votes. We do have Benedict Jones and Micky
11 Stickman on that group because they are representing
12 Middle Yukon Advisory Council along with Pollock Simon
13 representing KRAC. So we just sit at the table as non-
14 voting members making advisory. Would this be okay with
15 both of you?

16

17 MR. WALKER: Yes.

18

19 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, there's a motion on
22 the floor and it was seconded. All those in favor of the
23 motion, signify by saying aye.

24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

28

29 (No opposing votes)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, that
34 brings us up to the statewide rural determination
35 contract unless there's some other appointments that I've
36 forgot about but I don't believe there are. So again,
37 not to slight that process or whatever, on it, Laura will
38 give you a briefing on the statewide rural determination
39 contract.

40

41 It is important to you. As your
42 coordinator, you have worked very well with neighboring
43 Regional Councils. They will have -- some of them will
44 be heavily affected by what comes out of this rural
45 determination process and I'm sure they're going to be
46 soliciting your support so I don't want to place this
47 lightly and also because it's late in the agenda, it is
48 very important, because you have developed strong
49 relationships with other regions as well as other
50 villages.

00278

1 So with that I'll turn it over to Laura.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, before you go into
4 it. If this deals with the focus groups and stuff, does
5 it?

6

7 MS. JURGENSEN: Yeah, I was just going to
8 basically update that all the focus groups were held,
9 yeah. And then when you can expect to see some more
10 reports from the contract.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: As I stated earlier, very
13 briefly, it doesn't seem to be working in our area though
14 because of all the people that were at the last focus
15 group trying to make this determination. So go ahead, a
16 quick update.

17

18 MS. JURGENSEN: Okay, thank you, Mr.
19 Chair. I'm Laura Jurgensen, for the record and the rest
20 of the people that are here.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MS. JURGENSEN: Again, you can read, the
25 briefing is on Page 1 in Tab J. But basically in the
26 subsistence program there's a rural determination
27 methodology or formula and the Federal Subsistence Board
28 requested the Office of Subsistence Management to
29 contract out for an independent, you know, what we call
30 third-party to do some more research and develop new ways
31 to determine what is rural and non-rural communities for
32 Federal Subsistence priority.

33

34 And that contract was awarded in
35 September 2001, it was awarded to the Institute of Social
36 and Economic Research, University of Alaska, Anchorage.
37 And basically it's going along as scheduled and on time.
38 One of the steps we had put into the contract language,
39 myself and I worked with other different researchers from

40 the different agencies and comments that had come out
41 from the last couple of years Regional Council meetings
42 was to hold focus groups in different areas of the state.
43 Areas that were cities, Fairbanks, Anchorage, Juneau,
44 Ketchikan, hub areas, you know, Dillingham, Bethel,
45 Kotzebue, McGrath, I guess, and non-road connected and
46 road-connected rural villages.

47

48 So what we had set up was for six focus
49 groups to be held in certain communities and they would
50 have done all 10 Regional Council's areas and certainly
00279

1 would have done more focus groups, it was more of a
2 funding constraint, and for the contract this required
3 step was just one of six steps. So again, at Regional
4 Council meetings, Council members had spoke up about why
5 doesn't the Federal Subsistence Board ask us what rural
6 is, I'll tell them so that was basically what the focus
7 group was about. And as Ron was saying, I attended the
8 Fairbanks focus group. I got the task of managing this
9 contract and so if you need any information or subsequent
10 reports, I will give those to you directly or however you
11 need them, this is a good open process. But the
12 Fairbanks meeting was the most contentious as far as
13 having a diversity of opinion.

14

15 And all the other groups that have been
16 held, they were held in Ketchikan, Saxman -- excuse me,
17 Juneau -- or not, Juneau -- Kotzebue, Deering and then
18 Kenai, Soldotna, Kenai City, Soldotna and then also the
19 one at Fairbanks. Again, trying to get this variety of
20 different populated areas. And there were eight groups
21 held in total because there were two special tribal
22 meetings held for the Kenaitze for Kenai and also for
23 Saxman because we felt that that was a special -- you
24 have small, you know, cultures or enclaves living within
25 a bigger area so those meetings were attended by tribal
26 members.

27

28 The way the focus group was set up was
29 that one-third of the entire group, like in Fairbanks we
30 had nine people, had to be Regional Advisory Council
31 members. So I'd like to commend Micky Stickman and Ron
32 Sam as representing the Western Interior Council and then
33 also Ron Sam had nominated Jack Reakoff to attend if he
34 could and he spoke by phone and he gave me comments that
35 I forwarded on to the contractor.

36

37 So that task is just to get ideas. You
38 don't have to have a big, you know, consensus idea.
39 Those reports, in fact, I just received them and they're
40 drafts, and I could get you them as soon as they're
41 finalized, have all of the proceedings from all the focus
42 groups. The Federal program now has all of the tapes of
43 all of the focus groups that were held.

44

45 The next step will be the contractor will
46 just be working on three remaining reports and those
47 reports will be done by June 2002, and at that time the
48 Councils, other members of the public and anyone else has
49 the opportunity to review all the documents to make

50 comments or suggestions on what the contractor has said.
00280

1 And also when the Federal Subsistence Board takes up the
2 whole issue about whether they want to adopt a new
3 methodology or formula for determining what is a rural
4 community and what isn't a rural community, they will be
5 -- that's anticipated to occur December of this year,
6 2002, we have two Regional Advisory Council members who
7 will sit with the Board on every deliberation and those
8 members are Gerald Nicholia of Eastern Interior Regional
9 Council and Dan O'Hara, who, for the new members is the
10 Chair for Bristol Bay.

11
12 So that's the status and that's it. Any
13 questions?

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: No. No. No.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Like I said, you bring a
20 diverse group of people in there, everyone can tell you,
21 I can define rural and urban, I just don't think it's
22 going to work. It will help them but not very much.

23
24 Next item on our agenda, future meeting
25 plans.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, you do
30 have correspondence sent and received. You have a
31 summary.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: If they are written I
34 would suggest that our Council members read them at their
35 own pleasure.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, they're in your
38 notebook and you have a summary in your thing. So that
39 does bring us up to future meeting plans.

40
41 You generally give us your first choice
42 and an alternate. If you turn to your calendar, this
43 isn't your reporting calendar this is your regular
44 calendar, under Tab L.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's the last page in
47 here.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, if you look
50 at that list, the window -- well, the window's September
00281

1 9th through October 11th. Eastern Interior is meeting on
2 October 8th and 9th, Southcentral is meeting on October
3 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. Bristol Bay is meeting on September
4 30th and 31. You don't have this in your book, it came
5 in by fax. Southeast is meeting on September 29th
6 through October 1st. In the past I've been advised to
7 inform you but it's difficult for me to do, that we're
8 supposed to avoid you having more than three Council

9 meetings in a week.

10

11 So knowing your past pattern that you do
12 hunt moose to survive and to follow your subsistence
13 lifestyle, please advise which week you want to meet.
14 Staff that you depend on need to attend Eastern Interior
15 as well.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Who's meeting on the week
18 of September 29th, October 5?

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: What was that again, Mr.
21 Chairman, September.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Who's meeting the week of
24 September 29th through October 5th?

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The meetings that
27 I've been informed of, is Southeast will be meeting the
28 Sunday through the Tuesday, so September 29 through
29 October 1. Bristol Bay will be meeting September 30th
30 and October 1st. And Southcentral will be meeting
31 October 2nd to the 4th.

32

33 I don't see any way that you could meet
34 the request from the Staff Committee to avoid three
35 meetings in the week and not jeopardize that you won't
36 have Staff here because they also serve Eastern Interior.
37 Now, if there's extenuating circumstances, we can -- you
38 can request to meet outside the window but it's difficult
39 to keep our production schedule up if we meet outside the
40 window.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: We have a suggestion for
43 the 6th and 7th, but Staff would be going to Beaver the
44 next day, right?

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And then the travel
47 and 6th and 7th is a Sunday and Monday. I don't have any
48 problem with that, there's less flights on Sunday and
49 past Council members have expressed concerns about
50 conflict with church.

00282

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: October 4th and 5th, that
2 will give Staff a couple of days off before the Beaver
3 meeting.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, just so
6 you're aware, the 4th and 5th, that's Friday, Saturday,
7 just so you know. I don't know past Council members did
8 not want to meet on Saturdays because of the flights and
9 other reasons. So if that's the wish of the Council,
10 that's fine.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: How about 3rd and 4th?

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: That's fine. I'm not
15 trying to slow you down I'm trying to say that that means
16 that you'd travel on the 2nd and you'll travel on the 5th
17 depending on where you meet, just so you're aware of that
18 and some may end up -- which is fine, you just need to

19 know ahead of time, that some will be traveling home on
20 Sunday just because of the travel schedules. But we can
21 work that out. That goes back to your travel concern.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any suggestions from the
24 Council?

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, I suggest the
27 3rd and 4th with travel on the 2nd and 5th. I don't want
28 to paint myself in the corner near the end of moose
29 season and I might need to be in the field at that time
30 so I want to avoid that if I can. So I suggest the 3rd
31 and the 4th.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any other feelings on 3rd
34 and 4th, it's fine with me.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, now you need to talk
37 about location with a first choice and an alternate. For
38 the new Council members, we generally, but not always
39 tend to meet where there's a Council member but it
40 doesn't always have to be that. If we do meet at another
41 community, obviously we have to ask to meet there and to
42 be invited, kind of. So I'll leave that to you to select
43 some communities, or community first choice and then a
44 back up community. You do need to, if at all possible,
45 meet within your region.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Aniak's been nominated by
48 Jack. Any further nominations?

49

50 MR. WALKER: Where?

00283

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Aniak. Anything else?

2

3 MR. COLLINS: I wonder in light of the
4 issues that are coming up in the GASH area and so on, if
5 that would -- you know, with the use of that area and so
6 on, if something -- I'd defer to Angela or Robert on
7 that. But that might be a possibility of one of those
8 communities over there because you can get -- the new
9 members can get familiar with -- and so on.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Holy Cross has already
12 been -- somebody suggested Holy Cross but it's been quite
13 awhile. Robert, do you have any preferences? I talked
14 about this with Robert, too, and they do have a lodge for
15 people to stay at.

16

17 MR. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, they also
18 have a restaurant there. I would say Anvik, we have a
19 community building there. Pretty much we'd have to cater
20 the food. That would be fine with me if you want to meet
21 there, I'm not going to say no.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Where's this now, Anvik?

24

25 MR. WALKER: Yes.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

28

29 MR. REAKOFF: Well, Mr. Chair, I suggest
30 Holy Cross because of the hotel, we don't want to be a
31 burden to the community.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for that because
34 we tried that at Allakaket and people were hoofing it day
35 in and day out almost and they have to stay at the school
36 and we barely fed them, too. Holy Cross has been
37 nominated.

38
39 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: I nominate Grayling.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Grayling. Okay, if we
42 pick Holy Cross, Grayling would be secondary, is that how
43 it would work?

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Which was your first one,
46 the first one would be Anvik and then Holy Cross?

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Holy Cross?

00284
1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Holy Cross.

2
3 MR. MATHEWS: And then Anvik is your
4 second?

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, Grayling.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: No, Grayling.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: I haven't talked to Henry
13 in a while, but -- okay, well, that's your wishes so it
14 would be Holy Cross and then second would be Grayling.

15
16 Since I brought up Henry, Henry Deacon,
17 Sr., Ron Sam requested that some type of recognition be
18 given to Henry Deacon. I haven't had a chance to share
19 with Ron or with the Council but that's been approved.
20 So we're putting together a plaque to send out to Henry.
21 I just didn't have time to get the plaque approved
22 through all the paperwork and bring it here so would the
23 Council like to save that for the next meeting to look at
24 or get it out as soon as possible to Henry, a plaque for
25 his long-term service on the Council.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: If we are meeting in the
28 GASH area I think it would be appropriate to present it
29 at that time. And I think I really -- I'd really like to
30 thank Ray for suggesting Holy Cross because we do have
31 some issues there that have to be dealt with.

32
33 Anything further on time and place?

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, you
36 have kind of an unwritten policy that I think to make
37 either place work we need an evening session. Holy Cross
38 made that very clear to us and you made that very clear

39 to me after the Nulato meeting, so I think we need to
40 program in an evening session. Because the community of
41 Holy Cross, the last time we met there, turned out very
42 strongly and enlightened us to a lot of their concerns
43 and shared a lot of information. So for Council members,
44 please be aware that you'll be having an evening session
45 when you're in either community and maybe that will be
46 the policy we want to have. And the evening session
47 could be just a time for them to testify or you could do
48 work.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. We could do some
00285

1 work. That last time, what worked so well with is they
2 testified on everything that they were concerned about.
3 We've got our October meeting in mind. Donald Mike said
4 that we might have a joint meeting or was that just a
5 suggestion -- okay, that was just a suggestion but we'll
6 find out more in February or March, but we'll discuss
7 this again on October 3rd and 4th; is that fine?

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: (Nods affirmatively)

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, last thing, Council
12 members, closing comments.

13

14 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, my closing
15 comments would be that I really think we created a
16 monster today with this fish issue here. This dried
17 fish, strips, whatever. But just talking with Mike
18 Stickman here, we sat down and talked and, you know,
19 we're actually promoting this program here and there's
20 going to be a lot more people who are producing the fish
21 for sale and it's going to be taking a lot more fish out
22 of the Yukon and, you know, it's going to creating more
23 problems. So we came to some kind of consensus, you
24 know, to just bring to the Board, I don't know if we
25 should discuss this in executive session or not or how we
26 should go about this issue. It would only take about 10
27 or 15 minutes, or should we just discuss it openly with
28 everybody here.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: If you want to revisit it
31 that would be my suggestion, just openly discuss it.
32 Before we would, though, how long has customary trade
33 been in the State's book and been legal all this time,
34 right, can somebody -- or did they just know about it and
35 let us go, one of those things or what? Tom.

36

37 MR. BERG: I guess somebody's got to get
38 up here, Mr. Chair. Basically it has been occurring but
39 it's been occurring illegally. It's basically just been
40 ignored to this point. So the Federal Board is trying to
41 define it and trying to make legal the customary and
42 traditional practices without creating a commercial
43 fishery out of the whole deal. So if that answers your
44 question.

45

46 MR. WALKER: Yes, it did. I talked with
47 Stanley, the assistant regional director for Law
48 Enforcement for the Fish and Wildlife Service and his

49 recommendation would be that it go through us and then it
50 goes back to him, you know, if they want to put some sort
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1 of proposal together to give him to where they could --
2 where they could do all this work here without having to
3 create a big problem, put a reward system out or just
4 post it up in each village, you know, you cannot be doing
5 this, illegally, you know. I don't know, what, if we can
6 draw it up and give it to him or pass it off to somebody
7 to write it up to give it to us at our next meeting and
8 bring it up.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I don't see any
11 action being taken before October anyway on this issue,
12 right, it will be -- if they move it would be a little
13 bit too late to put it into effect for this fishing
14 season?

15
16 MR. BERG: Well, they have changed the
17 schedule slightly, they had hoped to have it in place in
18 early June for this fishing season but it's got pushed
19 back now and they're saying that the earliest it can
20 happen is early August for this fishing season. But, you
21 know, the Federal Board will meet sometime this June to
22 take action on the proposed language that you were
23 addressing this morning. They will address it in some
24 way. They may choose, you know, to just leave the
25 current regulation in place or they may choose to move
26 forward. You can review that language on an annual basis
27 but if they do move forward with the language that you
28 reviewed or some version of that that would come out and
29 be effective in early August this year.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: If I understand this
32 right, it would have to be put in legalize and then come
33 back to us for teleconference or something?

34
35 MR. BERG: (Shakes head negatively)

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.

38
39 MR. BERG: No, this is your chance to
40 weigh in on -- it's a proposed regulation now, it's
41 already gone back, it's been published in the Federal
42 Register. So this is your chance to weigh in on what
43 will be -- what could come out this August. You will
44 have a chance to review, again, next year, but what comes
45 out this August, this is your chance to weigh in on the
46 issue at this point.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: How sure are you about
49 this August date?

50
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1 MR. BERG: That's the best information we
2 have right now is that they're shooting for that August
3 date.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Vince.

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The issue before us

8 is if Robert wants to reconsider the action that you took
9 on customary trade, he asks for reconsideration, we go
10 through a reconsideration vote. Because it was done
11 unanimously so it would have to be one member with a
12 second that would say to reconsider.

13
14 I'll just leave it at that and if that
15 goes forward then we'll address it, both the best time to
16 do it and all that.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert, that August
19 approval gives us little leeway because we would have to
20 revisit it sooner than later. Did you really want to
21 reconsider our stand on customary trade?

22
23 MR. WALKER: You were asking for --
24 actually what it was just a Council comment, a closing
25 comment.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

30
31 MR. WALKER: I would like to reconsider
32 this for the fall and see what happens after this round.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

35
36 MR. WALKER: I don't want to have to be
37 stuck with something real -- with something that we
38 created, you know, another subsistence season on top of a
39 subsistence season. You know, we have to be kind of
40 careful here. But again, we'll take it up again.

41
42 I'd like to thank Ray for the dinner last
43 night it was very appetizing and friendly. And I hope
44 you enjoy your house for awhile here, Ray, you better get
45 better. Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Closing comments.

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to also thank
50 Ray for the nice dinner we had over there and I would
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1 like to commend our coordinator for the fine work that he
2 does, he does excellent work and we feel strongly that he
3 should be compensated appropriately.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

6
7 MR. REAKOFF: And without Vince's work
8 and our capable Staff, I also want to commend our Staff
9 that endures with our long meetings and does a lot of
10 work on issues, whether right or wrong.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MR. REAKOFF: But I do appreciate all the
15 work that the Staff does. And I would also like to thank
16 all the agency people that sat through this meeting and
17 made presentations and looking forward to further

18 progress in the subsistence management program.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Did you
21 have something Angela.

22

23 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes. I would like to
24 thank Ray for last night also. Thanks again, Ray. I
25 enjoyed seeing your house again. I thought this meeting
26 went very well, I enjoyed it, except right now I'm not,
27 it's kind of like late and my stomach's a little bit
28 growling and stuff. But I'm glad to see Emmitt and
29 Robert on here as new voices here at our meetings. I'm
30 happy to have them here. That's all.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Angie. Any
33 further closing comments?

34

35 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'll make my comments
36 now. I certainly appreciate your coming to McGrath and I
37 was glad I was able to host you last night. I'm sorry my
38 wife had to be out of town she would have enjoyed being
39 there, too. But I just appreciate your coming to McGrath
40 and I think the Innoko Refuge appreciated having you
41 here, too. We didn't have more public participation
42 because most of the land right around McGrath where
43 people hunt is not the Federal lands for the local
44 residents here. But we certainly are concerned about the
45 issues like the fish in the river and how Innoko is
46 managed and so on.

47

48 Thank you for coming.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Any
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1 further closing comments? Emmitt.

2

3 MR. PETERS: Yes. I want to thank Ray for
4 inviting us over to eat at his place, it was very nice.
5 And next time you do that we'll try to get more of those
6 Native foods over there. And Jack, you done a wonderful
7 job trying to issue out some statements that we really
8 need to catch up on. And Ron for doing a wonderful job
9 of conducting the meeting. And all the Staff members, I
10 think it was really worthwhile coming over here now if
11 they can just get us back safely.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Emmitt. Micky,
18 you had something?

19

20 MR. STICKMAN: I just wanted to thank Ray
21 for the wonderful dinner last night. And I wanted to
22 thank my fellow Board members. And welcome Robert and
23 Emmitt to the Western Interior Regional Advisory
24 Committee. And I wanted to just thank all the Staff
25 members. You know, it's always -- you know, even though
26 it seems like the Staff always outnumber the Council, I
27 think it's very important that the Staff is here because

28 it seems like every single question that we have and all
29 the issues that we have there's always someone that's
30 able to either answer our questions or they assure us
31 that they're going to look into answers for our
32 questions. So I would just like to thank those people.
33 And I wanted to thank Vince. And of course, the
34 reporter, thank the reporter over there.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Again, thank
39 you Ray. I know I am abrupt but even, you notice that no
40 matter how abrupt I am it's still a quarter to 7:00. And
41 again, I would like to thank Tina, too. And the truth is
42 I really liked the input from our two new Board members,
43 for being new, they didn't sound new, let's put it that
44 way, they were very professional and you are more
45 welcome. I, too, would like to see Vince get more
46 compensation because I still think he's being utilized by
47 Eastern and YK-Delta Subsistence Councils. But it does
48 create some continuity rapport instead of us fighting all
49 the time.

50

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1 So thank you. Now, the only closing
2 comment I am looking for is a motion to adjourn.

3

4 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: So moved.

5

6 MR. WALKER: Second.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved by Angie and
9 seconded by Robert. All those in favor of the motion,
10 signify by saying aye.

11

12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

15

16 (No opposing votes)

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

19

20 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

21

22 * * * * *

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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 113 through 290
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 20th day of March 2002, beginning at the hour
16 of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at McGrath, 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 29th day of
27 March 2001.

28

29

30

31

32

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04

33

34