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1 EASTERN AND WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE

2 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

3 Chief Peter John Tribal Hall

4 Fairbanks, Alaska

5 February 22, 2000 - 9:00 o'clock a.m.

6 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

7 EASTERN INTERIOR

8 Charles Miller, Sr., Chairman

9 Nathaniel Good

10 Gerald Nicholia

11 Calvin Tritt

12 Knowland Silas

13 Craig Fleener

14 Lincoln Tritt

15 David Jones

16 Jim Wilde

17

18 WESTERN INTERIOR:

19 Ronald Sam, Chairman

20 Raymond Collins

21 Jack Reakoff

22 Angela Demientieff

23 Michael Stickman

24 Benedict Jones

25 Samson Henry

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2
3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Vince, we're ready for
4 roll call.

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, are we ready to go. I
7 think we're ready to start, I don't know if this is
8 working. Hello. All right, it's working.

9
10 I'll start with Eastern Interior. Chuck Miller.

11
12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Here.

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Nat Good.

15
16 MR. GOOD: Here.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Davey James.

19
20 MR. D. JAMES: Here.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Craig Fleener. I know he's
23 in town but he's not here. Knowland Silas. The air
24 carrier took a holiday yesterday so we couldn't get him in.
25 He's coming in today at noon. Gerald Nicholia.

26
27 MR. NICHOLIA: Here.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Lincoln Tritt.

30
31 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Calvin Tritt.

34
35 MR. C. TRITT: Here.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Jim Wilde.

38
39 MR. WILDE: Here.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, we have one, two,
42 three, four, five, six, seven members, so we have a quorum
43 for Eastern Interior.

44
45 Western Interior. Ron Sam.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Here.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Ray Collins.

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1 MR. COLLINS: Here.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff.

4

5 MR. REAKOFF: Here.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Carl Morgan couldn't make it
8 due to his actions in Juneau. So he's an excused absence.
9 Angela Demientieff.

10

11 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Here.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones.

14

15 MR. JONES: Here.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Henry Deacon. I talked with
18 him, I think we have a wrinkle in his travel and he's
19 possibly coming down with a cold so he's absent but he may
20 show up today or tomorrow. Michael Stickman.

21

22 MR. STICKMAN: Here.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Sam Henry.

25

26 MR. HENRY: Here.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we have one,
29 two, three, four, five, six, seven members also for Western
30 Interior so we do have a quorum. We do have quests,
31 members from other Regional Councils. I don't know if the
32 Chairs would like to introduce them or I can introduce
33 them.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, go ahead, Vince. We
36 invited them and they are our special guests so introduce
37 them.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. What Ron Sam is
40 getting at, the special guests were from Yukon-Kuskokwim
41 Regional Advisory Council and they were invited here to
42 talk over issues, particularly on fisheries. Eastern
43 Interior invited a representative from Southcentral
44 Regional Council because of the overlap. Gilbert Dementi
45 was invited here because of the overlap of wildlife issues
46 with Southcentral, so Gilbert Dementi. The three council
47 members are off over on the other side by Tina, the court
48 recorder. So we'll be calling upon them throughout the
49 meeting.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Vince, could everybody
2 use your microphone and speak close to the microphone. I
3 do have one other announcement, they will be serving lunch
4 here, I checked at the office. You can obtain lunch here
5 at 11:30. So use the microphone and use your name and the
6 organization you represent.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Since you have quorums that
9 brings us up to the introduction of Council members. I
10 don't know how we're going to want to deal with agency and
11 Staff and honored guests. I do need to see if -- we were
12 negotiating with Fairbanks Native Association to have a
13 guest elder here so if someone's here from -- oh, we do
14 have one, okay, great, and we'll work on that. So at this
15 time would be introduction of Council members. And for the
16 audience, this is the first time we've had a joint meeting
17 of two Councils, so until we get our rhythm down there's
18 going to be pauses and trying to figure out how we move
19 forward on some of this.

20
21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Hey, Vince, Ron and I was
22 just talking and we decided instead of doing the
23 introduction of Council members now, we'll wait until we
24 get down to Council member concerns.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

27
28 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You know, since we got
29 two Councils here it would take the best part of an hour if
30 we were all to introduce ourselves. So maybe we'll go
31 ahead and just have the Staff do their introductions.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, I'll start that off
34 since I'm up here at the table, I'll introduce what we call
35 the Interior team. I'm Vince Mathews, the regional
36 coordinator for Eastern and Western Interior.

37
38 MR. SHERROD: I'm George Sherrod, the
39 anthropologist for the Interior.

40
41 MR. DeMATTEO: Pete DeMatteo, biologist,
42 Interior Region, Anchorage.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: I think we'll go to the State
45 and I think it would be best if one person from each agency
46 might take the lead to introduce.

47
48 MR. HAYNES: Terry Haynes, Department of
49 Fish and Game, Subsistence Division. I'm the liaison to

50 the Federal Subsistence Program. There's several

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1 department staff here today. Keith Schultz and Bonnie
2 Borba from the Commercial Fisheries Division. And I think
3 those are the only Department of Fish and Game staff here
4 this morning. Wildlife and subsistence staff will be here
5 on and off during the meeting. They're busy getting ready
6 for the Board of Game meeting that starts next week so
7 they'll be here as needed. And if questions come up and
8 they need to get here on short notice, just let me know and
9 we'll do our best to get them here.

10

11 MS. FOX: Hi, I'm Peggy Fox from the Office
12 of Subsistence Management, Fish and Wildlife Service. Good
13 morning. And I will introduce the people from the Office
14 of Subsistence Management but I will let the Refuge staff,
15 their supervisors introduce them.

16

17 First of all, there's Chuck Krueger, he's with our
18 new division, Fisheries Information Services. Taylor
19 Brelsford, who, I'm sure many of you know. Greg Bos is
20 Staff Committee member now for the Fish and Wildlife
21 Service, he's replaced Tom Eley. Jerry Berg from our
22 office. Tim Jennings is new, he's the Resource Division
23 Chief. He supervises, at this time, all of the resource
24 teams, so he supervises George and Vince and Pete. I don't
25 think I've missed anyone from our office, have I?

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Michele.

28

29 MS. FOX: Michele, where is she -- oh,
30 there's Michele, oh, yes, Michele Chivers. I'm sure many
31 of you know her, too, she's been to a number of the
32 meetings. Thank you.

33

34 MR. HEUER: Thank you. I'm Ted Heuer, I'm
35 the Refuge manager of the Yukon Flats National Wildlife
36 Refuge. And we also have here today Greg McClellan, who is
37 the subsistence coordinator for the Arctic, Kanuti and
38 Yukon Flats, and we have Paul Williams who's the Refuge
39 information technician from the Yukon Flats.

40

41 MR. SIMMONS: I don't have a staff, but --
42 at least here today. My name is Rod Simmons. I'm with the
43 Fisheries Office here in Fairbanks with Fish and Wildlife
44 Service.

45

46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Excuse me, sir, what
47 branch of fisheries office was that?

48

49 MR. SIMMONS: We have a separate Fisheries

50 Division within Fish and Wildlife Service and we have

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1 several field offices located.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I mean subsistence,
4 sports, commercial?

5

6 MR. SIMMONS: Just fisheries.

7

8 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Just fish in general?

9

10 MR. SIMMONS: Yeah. So we're primarily the
11 Staff support for the National Wildlife Refuges, sport
12 fisheries. A few refuges within Alaska do have fisheries
13 biologists on staff but for the most part we sort of
14 maintain a technical staff within a specific office to
15 address fisheries issues on Refuges.

16

17 MR. WILSON: I'm Curt Wilson. I'm with
18 BLM, the Staff Committee representative. And we've got
19 several BLM people here. We've got Bob Karlen, Tim Craig,
20 Ruth Gronquist and Jeff Denton. The first three are from
21 Fairbanks. Jeff's from our Anchorage field office.

22

23 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Gene Williams.
24 I'm the Refuge manager for Koyukuk and Nowitna Refuges out
25 of Galena. Also with us today representing refuges is Bob
26 Schulz, the deputy manager from Tetlin National Wildlife
27 Refuge. And we also have Barry Whitehill who is the deputy
28 manager from Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge.

29

30 MR. CEGELSKE: Jerry Cegelske with U.S.
31 Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Law Enforcement
32 based in Fairbanks here.

33

34 MR. ULVI: Good morning. Steve Ulvi,
35 Management Assistant at Gates of the Arctic National Park
36 and Yukon-Charlie Rivers National Preserve. I'm no longer
37 in the subsistence job but Jeff Maw will be here, hopefully
38 tomorrow, but I wanted to introduce the other Park Service
39 folks that are here. We have Clarence Summers, many of you
40 know, from our regional office. Judy Gottlieb, associate
41 regional director from our regional office. And we have
42 Hollis Twitchell from Denali Park. Glad to be here.

43

44 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
45 Committee member. And for your information, Judy Gottlieb
46 is a Board member.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: And the Regional Council
49 should note that Craig Fleener has arrived so you now have

50 eight members. And Bob Stephenson, area biologist for

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1 Alaska Department of Fish and Game is present. And Dan
2 Albrecht with the Yukon River Fisheries Drainage
3 Association is present. We need to encourage everybody to
4 do the sign-in sheet, it helps with transcriptions, it
5 helps with note taking and a lot of other things so please
6 do sign in. Is there anyone else we missed as far as
7 agencies, that includes beyond State and Federal? Nope,
8 that must be it.

9
10 This would be the time to introduce the guest elder
11 to open the meeting.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Would you have her
14 come up -- he, who or whoever, come up here and address us
15 from the podium up front.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: I think I might have Ida
18 introduce her.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS:because I didn't have
23 the pleasure of meeting her yet. I've seen her at
24 different meetings but it might be easier to have someone
25 else introduce her. For those that have never been to a
26 meeting we generally open the meeting with a guest elder
27 from the community. We are obviously in Fairbanks so we
28 did consult with the Fairbanks Native Association.

29
30 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman, this is Ruth
31 Grant, originally from Minto she lives in Fairbanks, is a
32 member of the Fairbanks Native Association, Tanana Chiefs,
33 Doyon, et cetera, and she's here to do your opening prayer.

34
35 MS. GRANT: I'm very pleased to be here. I
36 encourage each one of you that I want you to know that God
37 gave us all this freedom at the beginning. I remember when
38 I was a little girl, we used to go fishing. We'd go out
39 and get what we want to eat and nobody bother us but it's
40 not like that today. For everything we go through in this
41 world, we need not to be too proud and ask God to help us.
42 With God on our side we can fight anything. I just want to
43 say this because I want all you men and womens to learn to
44 depend on God for these problems we have today. And I
45 thank whoever invited me here to represent the elders, I
46 thank them for that.

47
48 And I'll be praying for this subsistence that's
49 going on, and now we can say, God, our heavenly father, we

50 just come to you in the name of Jesus. Father God we ask

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1 you to be with these mens and womens, Lord. Lord, we ask
2 you to take care of this problem for us because you gave us
3 this -- you gave us our fish rights, you gave us our
4 hunting rights at the beginning. And Lord, we ask you to
5 continue to help us in the rights that we need today and
6 give this strength to these people, Lord, as they try to
7 fight for our rights. In Jesus' name, amen.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Rose.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: I think I'll just say the
14 Chairs. The Chairs, this next section is to go over or
15 discuss, I should say, meeting ground rules. This is a
16 large meeting and this is a large hall. We need to set up
17 some ground rules so we can make efficient use of time.
18 The main one that I need to bring up to start this off with
19 is that the hall generally closes at 5:00 o'clock, we can
20 stretch it to 5:30. If we need to go into the evening, we
21 need some lead time on that because the staff here needs to
22 hire a security guard, they must have attended your
23 meetings earlier. But in reality, they just need staff
24 here to protect their interest not to deal with you guys.
25 So if we need to go in the evening it's available but we
26 are going to need a half a day lead time on that.

27

28 Beyond that, I think it would be good to have an
29 open discussion of how we would like this meeting to be
30 conducted since we have issues that affect both regions, we
31 have issues that are only for one region, and with that,
32 I'll stop.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: My first request is to
35 appoint a Chairman, just one to run the whole meeting.
36 Because I think it would be distracting for both, Chuck and
37 I, to throw things back and forth. And I think -- you
38 know, we see this in Tanana Chiefs, AFN, someone to run the
39 whole meeting but then we have lead people for every
40 different issue if need be. I think that will stop a lot
41 of these confusion. I've been traveling too much, as soon
42 as we get done with this meeting the better.

43

44 What's the feeling of the Council members? Do you
45 want both of us chairing because we're flexible. Gerald.

46

47 MR. NICHOLIA: I think Sam is right that we
48 should just have one Chairman so it will create a little
49 less confusion than what we need.

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1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You guys want to
2 entertain a vote for a Chairman or maybe have like Vince
3 chair, something like that; any suggestions from the
4 Council members?

5
6 MR. COLLINS: Why don't the two of you toss
7 a coin or something and then you can defer to the other
8 when the issues relate to their respective Councils.

9
10 MR. GOOD: Or Mr. Chairman, you could
11 alternate days. We have four days going here. You could
12 each take two days.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: That will work.

15
16 MR. GOOD: Chuck, do you want to take the
17 first day?

18
19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, I'll take today.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

22
23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Since I'm tired I'll make
24 sure we go home early tonight.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: So if I understood it
27 correctly you each will take a day on issues that overlap?

28
29 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: It's hard to hear in here so
32 I may have to end up repeating myself.

33
34 MR. GOOD: My understanding is that they'll
35 each take a day but they'll defer to the others on issues
36 that apply just to them.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Right. Let the record
39 reflect that specific issues will be chaired by the
40 respective Regional Chair and then overlaps will be day by
41 day. And today Chuck Miller will be the Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Case by case.

44
45 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, case by case.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Before we go any further, I

50 would like to ask our invited guests if they have any

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1 travel restrictions or do they have to leave early?

2

3 MR. DEMENTI: I can be here all day
4 tomorrow, today and tomorrow.

5

6 MR. GEORGE: We were told that we can go
7 home after the fisheries were discussed.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: The fisheries, the main
10 discussion of fisheries will take place today. Well, I'll
11 just bring it up, the State has requested the discussions
12 on Area M and intercept fisheries be pushed to Thursday.
13 But the main discussion of where we are with planning and
14 all that will happen today right after we get through just
15 a few items here.

16

17 MR. NICK: I'll be here through that, the
18 Area M and fisheries that will be discussed through
19 Thursday, I'll be here until that is done.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: I may have been too bold
22 there Robert and said that we haven't -- that was a
23 suggestion to put it to Thursday. But when we get into the
24 agenda, that's the possibility. I know, now, let's see,
25 Chuck you're chairing now, Dan Albrecht has a comment on
26 possibly that, I don't know.

27

28 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Come up, Dan, if you
29 want.

30

31 MR. ALBRECHT: Per your request, Vince, I
32 did bring up some handouts on both Area M chum salmon catch
33 and also bycatch of salmon in the Bering Sea trawl fishery.
34 I have to leave at the end of the day so I'd like to hand
35 that out and explain it to folks. And I also one thing --
36 I have the first draft agenda for our annual meeting coming
37 up in Fort Yukon March 16th. So I'd like to do that today,
38 if possible.

39

40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Gilbert.

41

42 MR. DEMENTI: Yeah, I see you got the
43 Southcentral region overlapping proposals on Wednesday, is
44 that about -- they'll be on Wednesday, would it be?

45

46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, that's right
47 Gilbert.

48

49 MR. DEMENTI: No changes?

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1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: We could if need be.
2 Will you be here tomorrow?

3
4 MR. DEMENTI: I'll be here all day
5 tomorrow.

6
7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, so it will be fine
8 where it's at then?

9
10 MR. DEMENTI: Yeah.

11
12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

13
14 MR. DEMENTI: As long as there's no
15 changes.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, you said you had some
18 feelings or requests about changes on the agenda?

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Right. I think if we're okay
21 with ground rules then we'll move on into the work session
22 which would be to go through the agenda and make sure it
23 reflects reality and then, of course, you adopt it later.
24 So are we okay with ground rules? Basically there'll be
25 one Chair for the opposite, you know, for all the Council
26 members you still can work through your Chair during that
27 time if you have a question or concern. It doesn't lock
28 you out of that. And I think what you'll need to do is
29 speak up for the sound system but also you may want to, for
30 the first day, say your name so the other members can learn
31 who you are. Any other ground rules that anyone can think
32 of at this moment? And we will ask Tina to make sure to
33 let us know when she can't hear because we have to have
34 this transcribed.

35
36 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman.

37
38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Robert.

39
40 MR. NICK: One thing in a gathering as big
41 as this, it's always helpful just to have someone appointed
42 as kind of a sergeant of arms to see that, you know, topics
43 and discussions are on track. Maybe the other co-Chair
44 could act in that capacity to keep the Chairman -- to help
45 the Chairman have the discussions on track and on an agenda
46 item.

47
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, Robert, we'll go
49 ahead with that. Did you get that we're.....

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1 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, that we're going to
2 have a sergeant of arms?

3
4 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah. The alternate
5 Chair will be sergeant of arms for.....

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: So in other words all I have
10 to do is call point of order every now and then and get
11 back on track.

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. If we're ready we can
14 go into kind of the work session. This is just to help
15 walk you through the agenda, let you know what materials
16 are before you and then get direction on different items.
17 Let's see, how should we begin?

18
19 You should all have a meeting book. Who does not
20 have a meeting book because of either travel or it wasn't
21 shipped? We may have to get a Staff person to loan their
22 book we have need for one meeting book but it's a blue book
23 like so you should all have. It's the size of the
24 Fairbanks phone book if you misplace it.

25
26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Craig, they're still
27 trying to convert yours into Canadian.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Lincoln, too. So we actually
30 need two books then but they can share and we'll work that
31 out. The meeting book has a table of contents on the first
32 page it generally follows the order of the agenda but not
33 always. So we'll now go through the agenda. Well, I
34 should stop there a second.

35
36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Hey, Vince, maybe what we
37 could do is go through the changes to the agenda.

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

40
41 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I think we've -- except
42 for Craig, we've all had a chance to go through the agenda.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: All right. In addition, just
45 so you know what you have in front of you because we're
46 going to be consulting it, in addition to your blue cover
47 book you each have a green file folder, that's additional
48 material that's come in since the publishing of the book.
49 It's generally in order, we'll try to make sure we can

50 reference it. As a matter of fact the fisheries items are

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1 in there just so you know. And there's additional
2 newspaper articles and stuff that may be of interest. We
3 also fully realize that this material you cannot read all
4 in one day or whatever so it's there to help you down the
5 road as the issues -- as you deal with them over time.

6
7 Okay, the changes to the agenda; where should I
8 begin? First off we need to watch our public testimony.
9 This is a larger meeting than we're normally running with,
10 we have them scheduled for 11:00 and 5:00 o'clock so we'll
11 need to watch that. There may be people here that
12 rearrange their work schedule to come at 11:00 or 5:00 and
13 we need to make sure that we have that. I need
14 confirmation from both Councils that your policy over time
15 is that if the Chair recognizes you on an issue that you
16 can testify. So if someone comes here and they want to
17 testify on whatever issues before them, they need to get a
18 hold of one of the Staff people who then inform the Chair
19 and the Chair then will try to make time for people to
20 testify. That will be within the reasonable nest of
21 keeping on time. I don't know if we're going to have a lot
22 of testimony but we have to let people know that there may
23 be a time where we may need to limit the time lengths of
24 that.

25
26 I think when we get closer to dealing with Board of
27 Game proposals I'm going to suggest that Staff from Alaska
28 Department of Fish and Game and maybe George and the Chairs
29 meet to decide how you want to address those. There are
30 130 plus proposals in there, something to that effect. So
31 you guys may want to meet today sometime to discuss how you
32 want to address those or if you still want to address them
33 I should say. Most of -- both Councils, when they selected
34 this date selected it to have the opportunity to get your
35 comments into the Board of Game.

36
37 Okay. The other agenda changes I'll try to walk
38 through them. Due to other duties the staff that would
39 present the Koyukuk River Moose Plan and associated
40 proposals to deal with the moose management in that area
41 can't discuss that until Thursday the 24th. They would
42 rather do that and, maybe Terry has new knowledge on that,
43 they'd rather do that during agency reports than on the
44 agenda where we have it listed as a regional topic. So
45 with that I'll stop and see if that's still what the State
46 would like on the moose planning. Terry's indicating yes.

47
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, what's the reason
49 behind this Terry.

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1 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the staff are
2 busy getting ready for the Board of Game meeting and since
3 there will be a -- this will give them a little more time
4 to get that information together.

5
6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

7
8 MR. HAYNES: And give the Council a chance
9 to look at the plan itself and perhaps decide if you have
10 questions that you'd like to ask about that. So that is --
11 kind of keep our Department and reports and presentations
12 together as much as possible. If that isn't convenient we
13 can sure try to make other arrangements.

14
15 CHAIRMAN MILLER: No, that's fine. I was
16 just wondering, you know, what was the reasoning.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: And for Eastern Interior,
19 this has been a three year project, for lack of a better
20 term, that Western Interior has dealt with that is finally
21 coming to a plan stage and to an action stage that it's
22 critical that we have the area biologist, Glen Stout here,
23 the planner, Randy Rogers and then David James, I think,
24 will be here which is the regional supervisor to walk
25 through that plan. So for Eastern, they have no idea
26 probably what we're talking about but it's been a three to
27 four year project.

28
29 Okay, fisheries is the next area that we need some
30 direction on. When we put this together we put it very
31 broadly together. We have -- well, let me list the topics
32 and then maybe we can sort them out. The three resolutions
33 that you adopted -- well, you need to adopt officially at
34 this meeting, we need to do that sometime at this meeting,
35 those are the three resolutions that the caucus of the
36 three Councils at the training session in January adopted.
37 It's been requested by Alaska Department of Fish and Game
38 if we could hold off any further discussion on those
39 resolutions and Area M until Thursday because they would
40 like to talk further about your resolutions. Remember
41 those are the three resolutions to deal with studying the
42 affects of marine intercept fisheries. What affect
43 hatcheries has on the Yukon and Kuskokwim. And the
44 caucuses feeling of no hatcheries on the Yukon and
45 Kuskokwim drainages. So that we would have to agree to
46 move to Thursday, a discussion on the three resolutions.

47
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, is there any
49 problem with the Council members on that? Okay.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Some of us were down at the
2 fisheries management training down at Anchorage and you
3 remember those proposals that we brought out. Any problems
4 with moving it -- I mean keeping it until Thursday?

5
6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, seeing none, we'll
7 go ahead and move that.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: We'll move that to Thursday
10 then. The other items on fisheries, I think, and I'll need
11 help from Staff on this, I think we'll just go with the
12 agenda which is comments and perspective on training, if
13 there are any, we'll follow that. It might be better to
14 follow that with follow up items with the January training
15 session. And what I mean by that is we need a discussion
16 on the 2000 projects, the monitoring projects, and if other
17 Staff, if I get this out of order get me back on track, we
18 need a discussion on the MOU, Memorandum of Understanding.
19 We need a discussion on tribal involvement in that. And
20 I'm forgetting the other ones, there's a couple other topic
21 items that I believe Peggy will be presenting on that.
22 I'll stop there because I do have some other items here.
23 Is there an agreement to move like C of 3 up to B, they're
24 all going to fall together once we start getting into it?
25 Okay, it seems like everybody's in agreement on that.

26
27 And then during that discussion we need to talk
28 about the coordinating councils for the Yukon Kuskokwim and
29 possible other areas. I think I need to lay that out just
30 a little bit for Jim Wilde, a new member here. Basically
31 when we're now managing fisheries on the Yukon River and
32 the Kuskokwim River there has been an outcry from the
33 Regional Councils and the managing agencies that it needs
34 to be a coordinated effort. This Coordinating Council was
35 an option of keeping the three Councils together with the
36 basic information and to work towards consensus. So there
37 would be two members from each of the three Councils for
38 the Yukon River. Two from the Yukon-Kuskokwim, two from
39 Western Interior, two from Eastern Interior that would do
40 the coordinating effort of keeping the Councils together on
41 drainage-wide issues. And it's going to be, if the
42 Councils agree to it, try to be based on consensus so we
43 can reach a solution that the Board can work with. So that
44 would come up in that discussion.

45
46 We have letters from one of the local advisory
47 committees, it's one letter from Tanana/Rampart/Manley.
48 Gerald, are you a member of that group?

49

MR. NICHOLIA: Yes.

00016

1 MR. MATHEWS: Maybe I'll have you present
2 that. But we have a letter from them requesting support on
3 a disease study that may be part of the 2000 projects but I
4 don't know for sure. So we have to remember to incorporate
5 that. I don't know if that's an agenda change.

6
7 Stevens Village, during the fisheries discussion, I
8 think, will have staff here. Their natural resources
9 director and the Chiefs might be here. I'm not sure on the
10 Chiefs. They wanted to discuss -- be involved in the
11 discussion of the MOU, tribes and then training for the
12 Regional Council. In particular they wanted to discuss
13 Indian law training. I just bring this up as comments that
14 have come in. I'm not saying you need to or don't need to.

15
16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Maybe Gabe can give us a
17 little more insight as to what the Chiefs wanted to do with
18 that. I see you hiding back there Gabe.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know if Gabe can hear
21 you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: He can hear me.

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: He may not be able to hear
26 you on that because the sound system really echoes and it's
27 kind of hard to hear back there.

28
29 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, there's some talk
30 about some training that Vince said the Chiefs had some
31 interest in?

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: It was Randy Mayo that was
34 interested in it.

35
36 MR. G. SAM: That's Stevens Village.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Just Stevens Village wanted
39 to talk about that.

40
41 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, when you said the
42 Chiefs I thought you meant Tanana Chiefs.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I may have slurred a
45 little bit there, it's just one Chief, one village. But
46 they did want to discuss that. And you wanted to discuss
47 resident fish stocks, Mr. Chair, so I'm just reminding you
48 of that during the discussions to remind Staff of your
49 interest in that.

00017

1 Sometime during today, if possible, I would like to
2 have a caucus meeting of the three Chairs, myself and team
3 members and Peggy to talk about involvement in pre-season
4 planning. So I'm just noting that, we need to talk about
5 that and then out of that discussion bring that whole issue
6 up to the Regional Councils. So if we can, maybe during
7 lunch do that or some break do that.

8
9 Those are the only items that I had for fisheries
10 that needed to be kind of massaged into this agenda.

11
12 Are there any other items because we do have a lot
13 of fisheries staff here. And I have my back turned to them
14 but I don't mean that but if there's other fishery people
15 that feel there needs to be something else added to this
16 discussion of update on Federal Subsistence Fisheries
17 Management. I see none.

18
19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, Vince, in other
20 words what you're saying is possibly hold Thursday for
21 strictly business dealing with fisheries?

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

24
25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I have a feeling we're
26 going to have a pretty long lengthy discussion when we do
27 get into fisheries. So maybe, possibly, we do a day, since
28 we have a four day meeting here. Would that -- I don't
29 know what the feelings of the other Council members would
30 be on that.

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Well, the fisheries will be
33 split in two parts. The Federal part, in general, will be
34 covered today by Peggy and Taylor and Chuck and a couple
35 other people. The State part that they wanted to just
36 dialogue with you on on Area M and your three resolutions,
37 I believe, they wanted Thursday. So it's -- yes, Thursday
38 could go long but it's not all of -- it's not all fisheries
39 discussion. It's mainly the open seas and Area M. I don't
40 know if I'm answering your question or not. I don't think
41 it would be -- we can't shift the Staff into making
42 Thursday an all fish day. It'd be impossible to shift that
43 because we have Staff that are overlapping with other
44 Regional Council meetings. We have State staff that's
45 dealing with Board of Fisheries.

46
47 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. I guess my main
48 concern was, you know, once we do get into fisheries I
49 think there's going to be a lot of, you know, a lot of

50 comments and concerns that are going to be voiced by the

00018

1 Council here so I guess basically just be ready for it.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. All right. The only
4 -- I'm looking here to try to move this along. We may need
5 to deal with some special actions, we'll let you know as
6 those evolve, and those won't take that long. That would
7 be for Eastern Interior and possibly Western Interior but I
8 don't believe so.

9

10 I think, Ron, the request that you had for dealing
11 with the moose hunter working group and the community
12 harvest survey, we may want to wait until we have that open
13 discussion with Fish and Game on the planning process. We
14 originally had it down here as a Western Interior issue
15 earlier in the agenda. I think it might be best to wait
16 until later on that, if that's all right with you?

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Fine with you guys? Go
19 ahead.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I need to explain
22 something, why I'm doing this, I may or may not be here the
23 rest of the week so I'm trying to be real honest with you
24 so that you know what's going to happen. I may be called
25 out due to medical things for my wife so I want you to
26 realize where this is going to be and then hopefully you
27 can follow through if I have to be pulled out for that.
28 Right now it doesn't look like it but I can't predict.
29 Okay, that's that. Then the next thing would be, we've
30 already talked about that, would be to move the working
31 group plan and the moose plan to Thursday.

32

33 We have, under number 8B4, that's on Page -- I have
34 different agendas than you do, it's on Page 2. Western
35 Interior has talked quite a bit about wanton waste and
36 dealing with the illegal guiding, outfitting, air taxi
37 issue. I was hoping that Carl Morgan could be here, one of
38 your Council members, and also I will see if he would be
39 available to teleconference; right now he's not. He has a
40 bill before the State Legislature to deal with wanton
41 waste. It's in your packet of materials. You've also
42 discussed in your planning group, this has not been before
43 -- well, actually it was before the full Council, maybe my
44 team members can correct me on that, I know in the planning
45 it was talked about that there was need for responsibility
46 of those that hire a guide to be responsible for their
47 activities. And for lack of a better term it was nicknamed
48 the John Bill or the John Law. There is a bill before the
49 State Legislature on that and I do have copies of that. So

50 that's the only other addition I had here that would be

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1 discussed underneath Regional Council members reports.

2

3 Okay. That's all I had for changes. There may be
4 other Staff that had changes or clarifications.

5

6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, hold on Vince. You
7 had a question, Gerald?

8

9 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah. I'd like to mention
10 that for the Regional Council member reports, too, I'd like
11 to let you know that Georgianna Lincoln's office is doing.
12 I'm working along with her for the Tanana Tribal Council
13 and Tanana/Rampart/ Manley advisory committee to do
14 something with wanton waste Legislation, too. I have
15 another bill that she's presented to the Senate floor.
16 It's not similar as Carl Morgans but they kind of both mean
17 the same thing. I sent the deals through both Carl Morgan
18 and Georgianna and -- I mean what I sent to Carl Morgan is
19 mostly what we came up with in the Western Interior joint
20 -- when we me and Davey went down to Aniak. We talked
21 about it and we came up with a bill and that's mostly what
22 Carl Morgan has.

23

24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: On that bill that you
25 came up with Gerald, did you -- like in the Carl Morgan
26 bill I read through it and there were some concerns or
27 questions I had on it. And one of them was their
28 definition of edible meat. I mean, you know, they don't
29 consider the head edible. Did you guys do anything
30 different in your bill regarding that or is that.....

31

32 MR. NICHOLIA: No, not really. It's just
33 the edible parts that has to be taken care of so that it
34 doesn't come out of the field in a spoiled condition.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: And I think when we get into
37 that we'll have to lean upon -- we do have some law
38 enforcement people here that may have background into the
39 definitions of edible and et cetera. So I think when we
40 get into that, it looks like we're going to be looking at
41 several different bills and we'll deal with that as we walk
42 through it. I suppose what I need to know on that is it
43 appears to be by the interest of the two Councils, that
44 will be a joint Council topic it won't just be the Eastern
45 or the Western.

46

47 Okay. Any other agenda items that need to be
48 incorporated or addressed? Okay.

49

I don't think I need to -- well, actually I should

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1 probably it would be wise to do that, we already talked
2 about public testimony, people need to be recognized by a
3 Staff person, the Staff person will inform the Chair, the
4 Chair will recognize that person to testify. We generally
5 do the same proposal review procedure for both regions but
6 since we have a lot of Staff here and others that may not
7 be used to that I'll just quickly go through that. I
8 usually introduce the proposal or one of the team
9 introduces the proposal. If the proposal has a major
10 component of it that's wildlife Pete will present it. If
11 it has a major component that deals with anthropology or
12 social cultural, George presents that. Then we usually ask
13 for agency comments. We did provide a space for the State
14 so they could be right in the discussion. Then we have
15 open floor public comments. Then we have a summary of
16 written public comments, and that may be a collaborative
17 effort of different people. Then you deliberate it and
18 pass a recommendation and I usually encourage you to give
19 some justification. So does either Council want to change
20 that order of how we deal with proposals? Okay, seeing
21 none, that's pretty much how we're going to do that.

22
23 We do have maps on the wall of the various regions.
24 We do have overhead maps of the regions. I'm not -- yes, I
25 do. Sorry, I was going to say I don't have one for Y-K.
26 We do have overhead maps for the three regions if that
27 becomes necessary. We have copies of Alaska Department of
28 Fish and Game game management unit maps if you need them.
29 What I'm saying here is if the issue needs it, please ask,
30 we'll get maps to help with the discussion. Each of you
31 should have a regulation book in front of you that also has
32 maps and regulations. The policy of Western Interior has
33 been that you have a copy of Title VIII of ANILCA in front
34 of you. You do have it in your green notebook. We finally
35 made it this year. Thanks, Jack, for reminding me. But it
36 is in there. We do have a full text of Title VIII present
37 in the room somewhere if we do need that.

38
39 What else do I need to cover here? But basically
40 if there's something that makes the meeting more
41 functional, more effective, efficient, please ask and we
42 should be able to provide that within reason. And with
43 that -- I know we do have maps of the fishing districts if
44 that becomes necessary. I don't know if we will need that
45 but it's possible. When we -- if and when we get into
46 proposal writing, I would suggest that we set up subgroups
47 and they take off during breaks or different times and go
48 off with a Staff person or two and then flesh out the
49 proposal and bring it back up. Editing by two Councils

50 will be quite interesting if we try to attempt to do that.

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1 So I think we would charge a subgroup to do that if we
2 decide to write proposals.

3

4 That's about all I can -- oh, one last thing that
5 Michele reminded me of. We need to, at some point, decide
6 if we need to have vehicles over at the hotel to pick up
7 people. There's quite a few private cars and different
8 things like that. So I suppose what I'll do is, if you
9 need a ride, you know, to and from the meeting, to let
10 Michele know that and then we'll have enough vehicles there
11 to do that transporting. And that's all I have, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Nat had a question.

14

15 MR. GOOD: Vince, you serve as our mentor,
16 our guide, you keep us on track and you do a wonderful job
17 for us, now, the only thing I'm worried about here is that
18 we've just gone through a lot of agenda changes and things
19 and if you might be gone I wonder if it would be possible
20 to get that agenda corrected. I know what happened but I'm
21 still a little vague and I couldn't quote what changes just
22 took place.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: That's a great suggestion. I
25 think what's going to happen, though, is by the time I can
26 get the agenda changed you'll already have gone through the
27 topics because it's mainly fisheries. But it is a great
28 suggestion. What we can do on that is if -- I'll consult
29 with the team and that, we have a very large version on the
30 wall back there that we could put notes on that and I can
31 try for the later days to give you updated ones by the
32 computer. But for the main one we talked about fisheries,
33 we're going to be in it in a very short period of time. So
34 I think what I'm really saying to you is you're going to
35 have to lean on the direction from Peggy to pull this
36 fishery thing together along with Taylor, and if it's
37 confusing then stop us and we'll get it in the right order
38 to do that, Taylor and Chuck and et cetera.

39

40 Okay, it sounds like we're done with the work
41 session unless there's something else you need to know
42 about? Nope, okay.

43

44 The next part would be to go into the Council
45 member concerns and topics and then approval of agenda.

46

47 CHAIRMAN MILLER: We'll start off with
48 concerns, topic review and agenda approval. Do I hear a
49 motion to approve the agenda as.....

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1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair, I would wait on
2 that until you hear all the Council member concerns because
3 invariably there may be a -- there usually is an additional
4 agenda item that comes out of those concerns, that, as
5 people start talking about their concerns they go, yes, we
6 need to talk about that.

7
8 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Then we'll go
9 ahead and start with Council member concerns. Let's start
10 off with Lincoln and work our way around.

11
12 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, my name's Lincoln
13 Tritt. I'm from Arctic Village and a member of the Eastern
14 Advisory. This is the only committee that I'm on. And I
15 do this because we need to start thinking about how the
16 animal and the land out there is treated. Just in my
17 village there's a lot of things that goes on with the meat
18 and the animals that when we were kids we were forbidden to
19 do. A lot of this respect that we were taught
20 traditionally are not there anymore. And when the young
21 people go hunting, they don't go out and hunt they just
22 declare war on the animals, you know, they don't watch
23 where they shoot it, they don't watch the meat. And I
24 think that my main object is to start teaching people about
25 the respect that the Natives have for the animals out
26 there, game, and I think it will cut down on a lot of these
27 problems that we have out there. Because mostly it's just
28 all education to me.

29
30 So that's my main concern. I think that should be
31 the beginning of it instead of going in just before it's
32 over, we should start back from the beginning.

33
34 Thanks.

35
36 MR. FLEENER: Craig Fleener from Fort
37 Yukon, sort of. And one thing that I'm concerned about is,
38 of course, the moose population in the Yukon Flats. And
39 about two and a half years ago or so, somewhere around
40 there, Eastern Interior requested that Yukon Flats National
41 Wildlife Service look into problems that we've had with the
42 low moose population and what some of those problems might
43 be. And one of the things the Regional Council identified
44 as well as a lot of other people was predators. And so the
45 Yukon Flats engaged in a two year predator study, it's
46 actually a calf moose mortality study. And last year, I
47 think, survival rates of calf moose were about seven
48 percent and my numbers may not be perfect but somewhere
49 around 75 or 80 percent of that mortality was attributed to

50 brown and black bears. And this year it looks like it's

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1 probably going to be about the same, maybe a little bit
2 more, maybe a little less, we don't know yet. But we have
3 a real big concern about large numbers of predators and I
4 just got through talking to a pilot yesterday, I talked
5 with him, who does a lot of flying over the Yukon Flats,
6 and he says that every time he flies over he notices, in
7 the summer time, of course, more and more grizzly bears.
8 And so the predator study did basically what most of us
9 thought it would do, it would tell us that bears are
10 killing a lot of moose. And we know that we can't have a
11 very stable moose population and we can't have a very -- we
12 can't have a moose population that's going to be expanding
13 when we only have 10 percent, 15 percent or less survival
14 of calves. And so my concern lies with the moose
15 population. It's an animal that we depend on heavily in
16 the Yukon Flats and in other places in Alaska as well.

17
18 But I'd like to see more effort put into looking at
19 how we can go about managing this moose population to meet
20 the needs of local people. And more and more, as time goes
21 on, people talk about the problems of getting moose and how
22 it takes longer and how it costs more and how they have to
23 go further, and it's just becoming quite a difficult
24 situation to go out and get a moose, the moose population
25 is so low. In some places it's as low as one moose every
26 10 square miles, and that makes it real hard to get moose.
27 So I just wanted to share that concern.

28
29 MR. C. TRITT: Hello, my name is Calvin
30 Tritt. I'm from Arctic Village. And my concern is in many
31 areas, mainly in cooperation working with the Federal and
32 Arctic to try to coordinate better understanding and better
33 working relationships. Because I think that's the only way
34 that some of these problems can be taken care of. I think
35 that's one of the most important parts of working together.

36
37 We've been having a lot of problems over at
38 Sheenjuk area which we believe that it affects the caribou
39 on its migration route. And we need to do some studies on
40 that matter. Because we need to know what's going on with
41 the Porcupine Caribou Herd. We need to protect that herd.
42 And we need to express our voice in many areas.

43
44 And when we were down in Anchorage when the three
45 regions got together, I think that's the most effective way
46 to face all our problems because we all depend on each
47 other. And this is one area that's been, I think, been
48 overlooked. I don't know what kind of regulation there is
49 on it but the pollution of the Yukon should be one of the

50 topics in these meetings because if there's no fish what's

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1 the use of talking about fisheries. So we have to be
2 concerned about that.

3
4 And I guess that's all I have.

5
6 MR. NICHOLIA: I'm Gerald Nicholia from
7 Tanana. Some of my concerns to be brought up later is
8 wanton waste. I'd just like to say there's, I guess, there
9 has been like a low decline in moose population around
10 Tanana but compared to the Yukon Flats and other places
11 it's pretty high. My one main concern is there's a lot of
12 wolves and you know how the wolf populations are and the
13 wolf control measures there, it's just -- went to out of
14 hand, and I don't think Tony Knowles should have brought
15 that broad public support up deal, that's just given
16 McGrath a hard time. Tanana and a few areas down there
17 around there, our advisory committee has been backing up
18 McGrath, giving our support, and I'll probably being asking
19 for a lot of support for wanton waste in a couple proposals
20 I'll bring up later.

21
22 But I sure appreciate to see what I've been asking
23 for for a long time, these two Councils to get together and
24 work our issues out that's related.

25
26 MR. WILDE: Jim Wilde from Central. I
27 agree with some of my other Council members on the bear,
28 it's taking more moose in our area. Wolves seem to be
29 concentrating on the increase in the caribou. I'm also a
30 little concerned on the wanton waste. And the king
31 population, too.

32
33 That's about all I have.

34
35 MR. D. JAMES: Yeah, my name is David James
36 from Fort Yukon. I have a couple issues here and one of
37 them is the migratory birds. Are we going to deal with the
38 migratory bird issue here?

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: We're going to have an update
41 on migratory birds. There may be some late information on
42 it but we do have some information on migratory birds. And
43 both Councils have discussed migratory birds so it is on
44 the agenda.

45
46 MR. D. JAMES: My other issues there, you
47 know, when I first got on this committee there we were
48 going through the proposals and as time goes along it seems
49 like our expertise started to expand into besides just

50 looking at proposals, you know, what's the other part of

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1 the management plan that goes with it, you know. I'm glad
2 to see a lot of the members there looking into that area,
3 they're not just only focusing on making their position on
4 proposals.

5
6 We have the -- one of the issues of management plan
7 there is that we also -- we need to be consistent, you
8 know. And that's one of the things that our department did
9 in the Yukon Flats, the CATG natural resource department,
10 we -- we had two moose management surveys this one instead
11 of one every other year. We kind of pushed -- we pushed at
12 that because of the low population of moose there. We
13 wanted to find out more information of where the wolves are
14 coming from and, you know, where they're going, which we --
15 we or the State's don't have that in the Yukon Flats and
16 that's part of the management plan of the Feds there. The
17 education part plays both ways. It plays with the local
18 people and with the outside hunters when they're coming in;
19 there's a lot of wanton waste out there. And I'd like to
20 thank Gerald and also Carl Morgan there for pushing this
21 wanton waste issue there. It's a very important issue
22 there because we -- I analyzed the State statutes, that
23 they're protecting hunters by giving them the edible
24 section in the state law. And I'd like to thank the State
25 Trooper in Aniak that brought this issue up. And this is
26 what we need, more people to step forward there and see how
27 we can all work together.

28
29 And the other part there, I'd like to thank our
30 Eastern Board for sending me down to Aniak. Sending me
31 down there, it makes me grasp the management plan and
32 what's going on down in their part of the country there and
33 seeing the same group of people down there as up in the
34 Eastern part there and my role as a resource management,
35 too, to kind of put this all back together and go back to
36 the office. You know, what went wrong down there and what
37 wrong up here, how can we work this together, you know. So
38 it was a really, really useful trip for me to go down there
39 to see the problems that they're having -- the wolf control
40 problems they're having in their villages there. The
41 hunting people that's coming into their region there. It
42 seems like, you know, all these people travels all over
43 Alaska, wipe out one area and go to another area and wipe
44 them out. So -- and that's why we're here to work out a
45 good plan here so this don't happen no more.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MR. GOOD: I'm Nat Good, I'm from Delta

50 Junction. I've been on Eastern Interior for four years now

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1 and I'd like to say Davey's right as he notes that there
2 has been change and growth over the years. There's been a
3 real development of Federal game management. And I think
4 that this advisory council is becoming more comfortable
5 with what they're doing and they're analyzing issues,
6 they're not just looking at proposals but considering
7 biological imperatives.

8
9 I think we need to expect fisheries to develop the
10 same way that it will evolve with our different Councils
11 over a period of years and I think we want to be careful
12 about attempting to move too quickly. Because sometimes
13 when you try to do things all at once you make mistakes.
14 So my one request would be that please don't expect us to
15 provide instant miracles on the Federal fisheries issues
16 that are in front of us but give us some time to work with
17 them and understand them so that the things we do will be
18 as correct as we can make them.

19
20 So that's it.

21
22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I guess before I voice
23 some of my concerns, I'd like to ask Gilbert if he has
24 anything he would like to say?

25
26 MR. DEMENTI: Really my concern is with the
27 subsistence that the State declared on the Chitina
28 dipnetting. And I couldn't understand why they declared
29 subsistence for thousands of people when they can't declare
30 subsistence just for a few thousand.

31
32 And the other concern is with moose in our Unit 13
33 area, Unit 13(E). There is a lot of snow this year and I'm
34 seeing moose starving now. And I don't know what can be
35 done about that, maybe just let nature take its course but
36 maybe there should be something done, I'm not sure what.
37 And right by my house in Cantwell, about a two mile
38 stretch, there's 52 moose right on the river bed. And some
39 of the calves are not surviving, I can tell already.
40 They're -- you don't see the little calves around anymore
41 you just see the big moose. They're starting to walk on
42 the snow now so it might be pretty good.

43
44 That's all the concern I got now.

45
46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Gilbert.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

49

CHAIRMAN MILLER: My name is Charles

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1 Miller. I've been on this board for six years now, quite a
2 while it seems like. Anyway, I'd like to kind of say the
3 same thing as Gilbert did on that dipnetting thing. I
4 guess I'll just give Terry a little time here so he can get
5 some things together because I'll be bringing it up during
6 the fisheries on Thursday.

7
8 Another one of my things is with this fisheries
9 thing that we've been working on and going through. You
10 hear a lot about salmon, you know, on the Yukon, on the
11 Copper, Tanana, but you don't hear nothing about the other
12 fish out there. I mean, you know, there's white fish,
13 pike, burbot, grayling and, you know, that's a subsistence
14 fish for lots of us, too, especially in the Interior we
15 don't get the salmon like they do on the Yukon. And I
16 guess I'd just like to, you know, see if we can start
17 looking into these other resources, too, and see what --
18 you know, what's going on with those.

19
20 Another issue, that wanton waste thing, you know,
21 that Gerald and everybody's been bringing up, you know,
22 that's always been a main concern of mine. But it's funny,
23 there's an old story my dad used to tell about the
24 difference between telling a Native hunt and a non-Native
25 hunt, our kill site. He said you go to a Native kill site
26 all you see is a spot of blood, you go to a non-Native kill
27 site and you see a bunch of things left over, the head, the
28 stomach, things like that. Now, to me all that is still
29 edible. So, you know, if we're going to do this wanton
30 waste thing right, we should make it to where all edible
31 meat is brought out.

32
33 I guess that's really all I got to say right now
34 and you'll be hearing more from me in the next couple of
35 days.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ron Sam, Western Interior
38 Chair. I would like to start with member concerns, Council
39 member concerns with Sam Henry.

40
41 MR. HENRY: I'm Sam Henry from Allakaket.
42 One of our main concerns is moose population right now.
43 The snow -- we didn't have hardly any snow to start this
44 winter and right now we have so much snow that you can't
45 even hardly walk with snowshoes and it's still snowing. So
46 we're kind of afraid of the calves being killed this
47 winter.

48
49 And another thing is the fish, most of the fish we

50 get up around Koyukuk -- Allakaket around that area, they

00028

1 have little spots in them that we see down the Yukon. We
2 get the same kind of fish they get up in Upper Tanana.
3 Right now there's -- I think there's something wrong with
4 the white fish, there's little spots on the white fish.
5 That's one of the things that we really eat in the fall is
6 white fish, sheefish. We hardly ever eat pike.

7
8 But everything is changing now so it's pretty hard
9 to say what's going to be high or low in a cycle. Like
10 maybe the moose population is going down, the cycle is
11 going down; I don't know. Everything has a cycle. But
12 most everybody's kind of afraid of moose right now because
13 that's the only thing that -- one of the things that we
14 really eat around Allakaket. Caribou is quite a ways from
15 us right now.

16
17 That's about all we have right now.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: You done, Sam?

20
21 MR. HENRY: Yes.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict, your concerns.

24
25 MR. JONES: My name is Benedict Jones. I'm
26 from Koyukuk. My main concern is moose population on the
27 Koyukuk River like for upper Koyukuk, the way this snow
28 fall is now. We just recently had a meeting in Galena for
29 a State Advisory Board meeting and we were concerned about
30 the aerial survey wasn't very accurate. But we're kind of
31 concerned that the moose population is coming down
32 drastically and we're trying to cut the percentage down for
33 sports hunters and non-resident hunters in that area. As
34 you all know we had a really impact last summer, last fall,
35 and quite a bit of moose were taken but our really concern
36 right now is the calf survival as the aerial State and
37 Federal survey last fall indicated, there's only something
38 like three calves per 100 cow survival this year. That as
39 far as I've seen this winter with traveling around with
40 snowmachine, out of a hundred moose I only saw about two
41 calves. A lot of cows with no calves and very few bulls.

42
43 The predators, I don't know what to say about that.
44 Everybody have concern with that. The wolf population is
45 pretty high up on the Three Day Slough area. I think
46 there's a pack of 22 or more in a pack, they were kind
47 scattered this fall because there was no snow but since
48 there's deep snow now they're all packed up together. And
49 also the grizzlies in the fall, they're taking -- mainly

50 the black bears are taking all the calves in the spring.

00029

1 The fishing issue, I'll wait on that until we come
2 up to the topics on that. And our real concern with the
3 moose is that we're trying to cut the percentage down for
4 guide hunters, see if the moose population come down to
5 only 5,000 in our area. We try to get it down to seven
6 percent for sports hunters.

7
8 That's all I have concern, thank you.

9
10 MR. STICKMAN: Michael Stickman, Nulato. I
11 have several concerns. My biggest concern is predation
12 but, you know, as we further restrict people from going up
13 the Koyukuk River and the moose in the GASH area is going
14 down, we're right in the center right there so as we
15 restrict people they move down and people from the GASH
16 area are coming up so Nulato and Kaltag is right there in
17 the center. And so that's one of my main concerns, as we
18 put further restrictions on people, my local hunting area
19 will be, I guess, not available, but people will be
20 thinking it's available.

21
22 On fishing we have some proposals to set forth so I
23 think I'll just talk about fishing when we get to fishing.

24
25 But as far as predation, I sure wouldn't want to
26 see our area get as bad as the McGrath area where they have
27 like .33 moose per square mile.

28
29 That's about all I have to say for now.

30
31 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Angela Demientieff from
32 Holy Cross. I share all the same thoughts about the moose
33 population. Right now in front of our village there's
34 about 40 moose because of the high snow. They're stuck
35 there because the wolves are chasing them in and the wolves
36 are walking in our village and they're not supposed to walk
37 in our village they're supposed to stay on the banks and on
38 the willows. And they're becoming dangerous now. They're
39 starting to attack our people as they're walking by.
40 They're chasing snowmachines. So we have the moose but
41 we're the only ones who have the moose. People in Grayling
42 don't have any. My brother flies a plane from Grayling to
43 Holy and he says starting at Paradise they start seeing
44 moose all the way down to Holy Cross but where is the moose
45 that should be around the Grayling people area for them to
46 hunt? Up around Shageluk they have enough moose up there,
47 there haven't been no complaints about them.

48
49 And then our other concern is too many hunters

50 coming in but they kind of took care of that last fall and

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1 we were worried in February about the hunting again but we
2 were lucky, we had really bad weather. Most of those guys
3 couldn't come up, they couldn't make no trails, nothing.
4 So they didn't invade our country between the 1st and the
5 10th of February.

6
7 The other concern is the fishing. People are
8 worried about the fishing, you know, what's going to happen
9 when Federal takes over. And I tried to let them know that
10 we're really not on the Federal land right now but some of
11 their parts of our area is on Federal so I think we're
12 going to be still fishing the same as ever. As long as we
13 keep our subsistence caches full we'll be fine.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 MR. REAKOFF: I'm Jack Reakoff. I live at
18 Wiseman. I'm on this Council and I'm also on the Gates of
19 the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission and also on the
20 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee for the Koyukuk River. I
21 trap and live a subsistence lifestyle. I have a wife and
22 four kids.

23
24 We have real deep snow up there. The snow got hard
25 on top and the wolves are traveling all over the place and
26 really starting to work on the moose calves pretty hard.
27 Moose calves are having a hard time getting around. But
28 most of the moose looked pretty good and if we don't get a
29 lot more snow, we hopefully won't have a big kill on the
30 adults but we'll probably have poor calf survival.

31
32 I have concerns for wanton waste. I live near the
33 Dalton Highway and there's a lot of hunters that come up
34 and they spend too much time there. They kill moose, they
35 just leave them hanging on a pole for days and days and
36 weeks. And hopefully Carl Morgan's bill will make them take
37 better care of their meat and make sure that it doesn't rot
38 right off of the pole.

39
40 What was brought up by the Chairman and I at the
41 moose hunters working group was that there's a lot of
42 pressure of urban hunters going to rural areas and
43 competing heavily with rural users. What we see is very
44 high moose populations around the urban centers and very
45 little use of their own moose. They run over moose every
46 day around Fairbanks. There are two or three moose a day,
47 killing hundreds and hundreds of moose and they don't
48 harvest their moose, they just run over them with cars.
49 The people who want to see moose, they want to look at

50 moose in their yard eating willows and then they want to go

00031

1 and shoot moose in somebody else's backyard. What we feel
2 is that the urban hunters should start utilizing their own
3 resource first and then stay out of everybody else's
4 backyard, second.

5
6 I also have concerns with the bow hunting on the
7 Dalton Highway. Part of the Dalton Highway goes through
8 the Eastern Interior and I have watched bow hunters for
9 years and there's a very high wound loss with the bow
10 hunters. I asked for wound loss statistics and I'm hoping
11 those statistics have been obtained this winter. A refuge
12 biologist for Kanuti gave me one statistic from a bow hunt
13 that they had down in the states, very controlled bow hunt,
14 very high profile, right in town, and even at best the
15 wound loss was 38 percent, which is twice what Alaska
16 Department of Fish and Game was utilizing for wound loss
17 for the Lower Koyukuk Rifle Hunt. I feel that bow hunting
18 has 200 to 300 percent wound loss rate in the Brooks --
19 along the Brooks Range area because it's open country and
20 people are taking real long shots. So this is a very big
21 concern. This wound loss, these bow hunters think that's
22 catch and release. They shoot at an animal and it runs
23 away, that's okay, no, that's wanton waste. That's one of
24 my concerns that I want the Eastern Interior to also be
25 aware of.

26
27 That's all my concerns right now.

28
29 MR. COLLINS: Ray Collins. I'm a resident
30 of McGrath, long-term in that area. I guess if I'd
31 summarize my concern it's to see us develop a management
32 system that makes good use of traditional knowledge and
33 builds that into this system. That uses good biology and
34 make sure that we've got access to subsistence resources in
35 the future for our children. And I'd like to see more
36 flexibility built into the system. I've heard a couple
37 things here, you know, right now moose are going to be
38 starving in some areas because they're starving up and
39 there may be subsistence people that could use some of
40 those for food, why aren't they able to harvest those if
41 that's the case? If they're going to die anyhow.

42
43 I guess an ideal system would be more like what was
44 done at Lime Village but that won't work everywhere. They
45 were given a 40 moose limit for the village and they could
46 hunt them whenever they want, all they have to do is report
47 the kill. And that's more what traditional hunting was
48 about. I know in the Nickoli and McGrath area 30 years ago
49 or so, people get tired of eating fish in the summer so

50 somebody would go get a moose and they'd pass it around and

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1 they'd all have a meal of fresh moose. In the spring time
2 you cleaned up most of the winter resources, the fish
3 aren't here yet, the birds aren't back, somebody'd go get a
4 moose and they'd pass it around the village and everybody'd
5 have a meal of fresh meat. But yet the annual take of
6 moose in that village didn't change from year to year.
7 People just took what they needed, they weren't wasting it
8 but they took it when it was appropriate. But how do we
9 develop system that has some of that traditional wisdom and
10 knowledge and flexibility built in so people can use the
11 resources that are out there appropriate and not waste
12 them. We get all tied up with seasons and bag limit.

13
14 I guess one concern I have with the Federal system
15 is it takes so long to get something in place and then as
16 soon as it's in place it's out of whack with the State or
17 with the situation or the biology and we got to go through
18 changing it again. I hope we can get better at what we're
19 doing in managing resources with our combined wisdom. And
20 the wisdom of the elders is a strong component of that, I
21 think.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. At this
26 time I would like to recognize our invited guests from Y-K
27 Delta. Fritz.

28
29 MR. GEORGE: Our elders tell us that a long
30 time ago, like maybe 200 years ago or more there were
31 plenty of moose on the Delta and they say they arrive with
32 the beaver. And they tell us that they're going to be gone
33 again no matter what we do. And one thing they tell us
34 that whatever the beaver's urine contaminated in the lakes
35 or the streams they dammed, even the dogs cannot eat the
36 black fish. It's how strong they are. And maybe what
37 happens is the beaver poisons the moose or they eat all
38 their food and let them starve or they swim out into the
39 ocean become something else.

40
41 Another concern is it seems like no matter how much
42 we tell our young people back in the villages back home
43 about when they change the motor, outboard motor gear oil,
44 they just dump it in the water instead of collecting it in
45 a can and pouring it into the dump. They just continue to
46 dump it in the water and maybe that's why all the diseases
47 are catching up on the fish and also the batteries. I like
48 what they did in the Yukon, the villages got together and
49 discussed about cleaning up the river, collect all the

50 batteries and shipping them out to recycling centers.

00033

1 Maybe that's what we need to do in the Kuskokwim.

2

3 That's my concerns, thanks.

4

5 MR. NICK: Thank you, Ron. It's a pleasure
6 to be here in your joint meeting. I was listening to the
7 first speaker, Lincoln, was talking about our younger
8 people not doing the things we did when we were growing up.
9 I, myself, was taught well by my father and others in the
10 community, the elders that we should appreciate our
11 catches, our fish and our game and utilize all the edible
12 parts of it. I was taught so well that I even -- I take
13 everything home when I go hunting. My family and my
14 children, I taught them the same things that my father
15 taught me, and they appreciate and eat all the edible parts
16 of the fish and the game.

17

18 One of the things that we, in the Lower Kuskokwim
19 School District do, is we have a very well planned cultural
20 program where we utilize our elders, bring them into the
21 schools as resource people. And they teach their -- the
22 curriculum is with the season, you know, in the fall time
23 they teach them how to catch fish, how to dress fish and
24 when it comes to hunting time they take them out hunting.
25 Local people, they take the students out, you know, to
26 actually do the hunting. And one of the things they do is
27 to let them learn the fish is food for us. You know, that
28 we get what we need and even if we see more game and more
29 ducks, you know, we just stop. Because now days, you know,
30 when our children go out they bring along like five boxes
31 of shotgun shells and then all day long as long as they are
32 out they kill. They shoot at everything that flies. And
33 in my day I had a .22 single shot and my dad gave me five
34 shells and I went out and I got to the point where he gave
35 me five shells and I'd bring home five ducks. But we need
36 to -- my concern is to let our children understand the
37 resource, appreciate the resource and share the resource.

38

39 As Fritz indicated, my people, my elders tell us
40 the same things, that game, you know, comes from mainland
41 towards the ocean and then eventually disappears. And as I
42 observe the muskrat, the beaver, the mink, it occurs. And
43 also the climate. You know, we try to have our elders tell
44 our school kids about what the weather does, you know, how
45 to tell the weather by the morning twilight, you know, the
46 daylight, by the moon because that does affect our
47 harvesting especially with the drying of our fish.

48

49 Last summer many of our fishermen got their

50 subsistence catches but they waited a little too late and

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1 then the wet weather, rain caught them so a lot of them had
2 their salmon harvest -- they didn't dry so good. But they
3 still eat them, you know, they put them away. My other
4 concern is that we teach our children, our kids, the next
5 generation the proper ways to dress salmon, game.

6
7 My other concern is with the State Fish and Game
8 advisory groups and our groups, advisory groups working
9 together. Like in the Lower Kuskokwim, Lower Yukon area, I
10 was just told that on March 2nd or 3rd, I think the State
11 Fish and Game Advisory Committee is going to be meeting
12 probably in one of the villages. And then 20 days later,
13 you know, 18 days later or 19 days later we will be meeting
14 with our Federal Regional Advisory on the 21st, so my
15 concern is that, you know, that the two groups would work
16 together and recognize the same priorities and have good
17 information.

18
19 We have many years of study of the resources, of
20 fish resources, of game resources, so we should be able to
21 -- you know, some people that are charged with a job should
22 be able to make a well educated estimate of the resources.
23 So we need to have that to help us make good decisions in
24 our decision-making.

25
26 I appreciate that you invited us. I think looking
27 at the salmon that goes from the ocean to the mouth all the
28 way up into this Interior country and the moose is out
29 there in my country now and we all share the same food and
30 I think we all should be concerned about the decline in the
31 resources.

32
33 I was really pleased when we had the opportunity to
34 meet and discuss the fish issue at our Federal fisheries
35 training session in Anchorage because we passed some pretty
36 important resolutions there. And we all recognized, based
37 on statistics and happenings and observations and reports
38 of some of the reasons on the decline of salmon. I also
39 agree that salmon is not the only resource that we eat in
40 my area. Especially in my area, the tundra region away
41 from the Kuskokwim, we have the white fish, the sheefish,
42 the lush fish, the pike, and then the black fish, our
43 favorite. It's only that long but we can't live without
44 it.

45
46 And I'll end with a little joke, when religion came
47 to my region there was some -- there was a preacher that
48 came to a community near my village, you know, but he spoke
49 in a sod house, a (In Native), about religion and he talked

50 about heaven, hell, and how to get there and then an elder

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1 -- the audience was elders. So when he got done about this
2 heavenly place and what people will do to get there, that
3 they will never hunger, they'll always be happy, there will
4 be no more tears, no more sorrow, one of the elders asked
5 him, through an interpreter asked the preacher, and he
6 said; in this wonderful place of happiness is there black
7 fish there? And the preacher responded and said, no, you
8 know, you will not hunger for the foods that we eat today.
9 So the only response this elder gave to this preacher was
10 that, if there is no black fish in that wonderful place
11 there is no point in trying to get there.

12

13 Thank you, Ron.

14

15 MR. GEORGE: Can I have one more?

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: A short one, Fritz, we're
18 going on a break right after I give mine.

19

20 MR. GEORGE: Like three years ago during a
21 health board meeting back home, a scientist from, I think
22 Canada came around and do a presentation and told us that
23 what they found in pregnant ladies in Baffin Islands,
24 that's northern Canada, they're finding DDE. It's some
25 kind of a breakdown of DDT. Some kind of a powerful
26 pesticide. And I approached him and asked him, what about
27 us here, you know? And he said you're too far away from,
28 you know, industrialized cities and, you know, you're from
29 a pristine area and you don't worry about it. You guys
30 have tough people. Then last year he came around again and
31 did a presentation again and he said the year before Canada
32 gave the scientist in Alaska \$100,000 to do research on 50
33 pregnant ladies. Like they took a piece of meat from the
34 umbilical cord and do some kind of study and they said our
35 ladies back home are contaminated two times more than they
36 detected in Baffin Islands. They tell us they don't know
37 where the DDE is coming from. Maybe it's coming from the
38 salmon or maybe the birds that are coming up. Maybe it's
39 falling out and the moose and caribou are eating it and
40 we're getting it from our food.

41

42 I thought this is an important enough subject to
43 bring up. Thank you, Ronald, for inviting us and giving us
44 the opportunity to talk.

45

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again, Fritz and
48 Robert. We invited them to this meeting and most of my
49 concerns have been expressed but I'd like to iterate -- or

50 elaborate on a few of them.

00036

1 One of the main ones is that while Dan Albrecht is
2 here -- would you raise your hand please, when we were at
3 that training down at Anchorage, it was really adamant in
4 trying to intercept our salmon out in the high seas and
5 identify which fish goes to where and there was only one
6 that they thought they could identify was the Yukon River
7 fall chum. And I know that you're having a YRDFA meeting
8 in Fort Yukon from the 6th to the 9th of March, and I'd
9 like you to go ahead and pursue the issue of trying to
10 identify fish out on the high seas. And we will send some
11 delegations from this body, from both the Eastern and
12 Western. I've got some conflicting schedules or else I
13 would be up there myself.

14
15 Another thing I would like to expand on is what
16 Jack Reakoff said. We were trying to liberalize the
17 seasons, especially for subsistence around the urban areas
18 because every night on the news you hear about five or six
19 more moose killed, whether it's on the road, railroads or a
20 moose trying to kill a person in this area. And that's the
21 reason that we brought this out, we want to liberalize this
22 harvest within the urban areas, especially for subsistence
23 use. That will save a lot of money for some of our people
24 trying to fly home and then go out.

25
26 We have funding for door to door surveys which I
27 think is one of the most important things that we have to
28 deal with. And we'll ask for some resolutions to seek
29 fundings for not only that, but to seek funding for -- to
30 keep the Koyukuk River Moose Working Group together for a
31 few more seasons.

32
33 Again, like I said, most of the other concerns were
34 already expressed so at this time I'll give it back to
35 Chuck.

36
37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, let's go ahead and
38 take a quick 10 minute break here so we can stretch our
39 legs.

40
41 (Off record)

42
43 (On record)

44
45 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, we'd like to call
46 this meeting back to order, please. Could I get the
47 people in the back to find their seats. Okay, next on the
48 agenda is the approval of the agenda.

49

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, and also I

00037

1 got an update on Henry Deacon and his health -- his cold
2 has gotten worse. He'll keep us informed if he's going to
3 make it later in the meeting. And also we may have two
4 classes from the University here, one on Wednesday and
5 maybe one today so we may want to, when they come in, give
6 them hard time. No, we may want to recognize them because
7 they'll be the future leaders of this whole program. So
8 when they come in, if someone recognizes them, please make
9 sure the Chair knows that. I believe one of them, the
10 teacher is Benedict Jones' daughter. So maybe he'll be
11 able to introduce her and then she can introduce the class
12 if they are able to pull that off. It'd be from rural
13 development classes.

14
15 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Do I hear a motion
16 to approve the agenda?

17
18 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion.

19
20 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Second.

21
22 MR. NICHOLIA: Second.

23
24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: The motion has been made
25 and seconded. All in favor of approving the agenda
26 with.....

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Clarifications would be the
29 best term.

30
31 CHAIRMAN MILLER:with the
32 clarifications.

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: I really didn't change
35 anything now that I went through it but.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. All in favor
38 signify by saying aye.

39
40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41
42 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

43
44 (No opposing votes)

45
46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, the agenda's
47 approved. Okay, let's move down to approval of meeting
48 minutes. And I talked this over with Ronald earlier, and
49 instead of reading the minutes we'll just go ahead and

50 approve them by Council.

00038

1 MR. MATHEWS: And you should have both
2 received them in the mail. They're under Tab M as in
3 McGrath and N as in Nenana. You've both gotten them in the
4 mail. The versions that are in front of you there, what is
5 struck out, the line through it, is being removed. What is
6 in grey text is being added. There is several people that
7 helped me with editing on different agencies and these are
8 basically changes in grammar or misspelling and one or two
9 clarifications. So they're in front of you there. But I
10 don't remember any of them being a major addition or
11 subtraction.

12
13 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. What we'll do is
14 we'll go ahead and approve the Eastern Interior minutes on
15 the Eastern side and then I'll turn the Chair over to
16 Ronald and he can do the same for the Western side. Has
17 everybody had a chance to look the minutes over?

18
19 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman, I move that we
20 approve the minutes of the Eastern Interior for October
21 5th, 1999 as corrected.

22
23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. It's been moved by
24 Nat Good, do I hear a second?

25
26 MR. C. TRITT: Second.

27
28 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Seconded by Calvin. All
29 in favor of approving the minutes signify by saying aye.

30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32
33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

34
35 (No opposing votes)

36
37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, the minutes are
38 approved. Now, I'll go ahead and turn the Chair over to
39 Ron.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to entertain a
42 motion to approve the minutes as presented and corrected.

43
44 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

45
46 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved and
49 seconded. And I do -- I see a few hands up. Ray, I

50 understand you have another correction.

00039

1 MR. COLLINS: Page 9. The second to the
2 last paragraph there, it says, Collins shared the past
3 trapping courses did help and it says, reduce wolf numbers,
4 I'd like that changed to increase wolf harvest. It's a
5 subtle, but I think it's an important difference. I don't
6 think I said it reduced the numbers. Because what happens
7 is you increase the harvest during the winter, the next
8 spring when the pup crop comes out, you may have the same
9 number of wolves, total, you see what I mean, in a year?
10 And some people will latch on to that and they'll say oh,
11 trapping's doing the business, see, it can reduce the wolf
12 numbers but it may not overall. So did help -- change the
13 word reduce to increase wolf harvest.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any further
16 corrections or deletions?

17
18 MR. JONES: Question.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called, we
21 do have a motion before us to adopt our minutes as
22 corrected. All those in favor of the motion signify by
23 saying aye.

24
25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed same sign.

28
29 (No opposing votes)

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries. Western
32 Interior minutes are adopted.

33
34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Moving down the agenda,
35 update on Federal Subsistence Fisheries Management and
36 Process on Implementation Plan. Go ahead Vince.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: You're going to need your
39 green notebook in front of you and we'll walk you through
40 the materials. And as I said earlier, we apologize for the
41 volume of material that is in front of you and possibly the
42 lateness. It is there to help you with the issues down the
43 road and there will probably be other Staff that will need
44 to come forward so we'll just keep working on it.

45
46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Excuse me, Peggy.....

47
48 MS. FOX: Yes.

49

CHAIRMAN MILLER:before you get

00040

1 started, I think Dan had a question. Could we go
2 ahead.....

3
4 MR. ALBRECHT: I just had a request that if
5 I could just do my handouts here before lunch. There
6 wasn't really a place over the next few items for fish --
7 generic fish stuff, so I just wanted to see if I could do
8 it now, it will only take about 10 minutes, maybe?

9
10 CHAIRMAN MILLER: If it's not a problem
11 with the Board, I don't personally have a problem with it.
12 Is it okay? Okay, Dan.

13
14 MR. ALBRECHT: Okay, there are two handouts
15 going around here. One is the agenda, I've got like 25
16 copies which should be enough. And the other is a handout
17 on the Area M issue and the trawl bycatch issue.

18
19 Just to go over the agenda here for the meeting
20 in.....

21
22 REPORTER: Wait a minute, you need to come on over
23 here.

24
25 MR. ALBRECHT: Can't do the Donahue?

26
27 REPORTER: Not today.

28
29 MR. ALBRECHT: Okay.

30
31 REPORTER: Thanks. Can you please state your name?

32
33 MR. ALBRECHT: Okay, sure. For the record,
34 Dan Albrecht, Executive Director, Yukon River Drainage
35 Fisheries Association. The first handout is a three-page
36 draft agenda for the 10th annual meeting of the Yukon River
37 Drainage Fisheries Association in Fort Yukon, March 6th
38 through 9th. The meeting will start around 4:00 in the
39 afternoon on March 6th. The first thing I'd like to say is
40 all of you are invited to come to the meeting. If I can't
41 help get you there then perhaps Vince can help -- have some
42 discretionary travel funds to help get people to the
43 meeting. I do have Gerald Nicholia coming to the meeting
44 already as part of his representing the Council and
45 himself. Angie Demientieff is one of my board members,
46 she'll be coming to the meeting. She represents District
47 Y-3, Holy Cross, Russian Mission area. Davey, do you know
48 you're going to be around or will you be over at the game
49 meeting?

00041

1 MR. D. JONES: I'll be there.

2

3 MR. ALBRECHT: Okay. So David will be
4 there. Right now for the Western Interior folks, I do have
5 room on a charter, a Beech-1900 that's kind of going Holy
6 Cross -- picking up at Holy Cross, and so I need people
7 from like Grayling or Shageluk -- couldn't get a hold of
8 the Shageluk folks the other day, and then the plane is
9 also stopping in Galena so if there's people from Koyukuk
10 or Kaltag or Huslia, I can put you guys -- hop you over on
11 the mail plane in the morning over to Galena and then the
12 Beech will pick you up in Galena or, you know, somebody
13 from Ruby can hope on as well, the sort of middle Yukon
14 area, I've got a couple of seats empty right now on that
15 plane. So basically the sooner I hear from people it's
16 good for me because I can fill up that plane. And the
17 accommodations, of course, will be with families there in
18 Fort Yukon and the meals will all sort of pretty much be
19 taken care of. We're buying a bunch of food and having it
20 shipped in.

21

22 The basic outline of the agenda, Monday afternoon
23 and evening is kind of just in-house stuff, tinkering with
24 the by-laws, going over the agenda, kind of a work session
25 type stuff. And then Monday evening, just a kind of review
26 of what the Association's been doing the last year.
27 Tuesday morning we get into sort of describing the things
28 that we want to do at this meeting. April 10th is the
29 deadline to the State Board of Fisheries and March 24th is
30 the Federal deadline, Federal subsistence deadline. So a
31 lot of what we're going to talk about at this annual
32 meeting is proposals to the State Board of Fisheries and
33 proposals to the Federal Subsistence Board. Just you see
34 there at the bottom of Page 1 of the agenda, these are the
35 issues that we have to deal with, reauthorization of the
36 fall chum plan, reauthorization of the coho plan,
37 reauthorization of the Subdistrict 5(A) management plan,
38 reauthorization of the Toklat plan, reassessment of the
39 Board of Fisheries policy concerning feeding subsistence
40 caught king salmon to dogs which we talked about in
41 Alakanuk last year but now we have to talk about it again.
42 And then Keith Schultz who is a whiz at going through old
43 regulations and finding ones that are outdated, has once
44 again -- well, I'm don't know if it's really outdated ones
45 but Keith is always a good policy person, he has found, yet
46 another batch of proposals that need tinkering with and
47 fixing. Either out of date proposals or inappropriate
48 proposals.

49

There's also consideration of proposals to Federal

00042

1 Subsistence Board concerning -- currently there's, I
2 believe, a policy in the Federal Register published
3 regulations for the Federal regulations that restrict the
4 ability of subsistence users who also hold commercial
5 fishing permits from engaging in some trade and barter
6 activity. And also I know that there is concerns about
7 reopening subsistence opportunity to in the Birch Creek
8 drainage. Both CATG and the Yukon Flats advisory committee
9 have brought up that issue, that currently, I think in the
10 Birch Creek drainage there are subsistence closures there.
11 And then we've got a whole bunch of other resolutions to
12 work on.

13
14 Tuesday afternoon is all the heavy discussion about
15 habitat issues and salmon restoration. We'll have Chris
16 Maesh, some of you may know, he used to work for Tanana
17 Chiefs Conference, as the forestry person, he's now the
18 State Department of Natural Resources forestry person,
19 he'll be there. Nancy Fresco with the environmental group
20 from Fairbanks will be there. The new executive director
21 of the Watershed Council, hopefully, will be there.
22 Habitat Division, BLM folks will be there. BLM recently
23 received a good chunk of change from Congress to work on
24 Yukon salmon work. Tuesday evening or late in the
25 afternoon we will be going over the U.S. Canada Salmon
26 treaty negotiation issues. Tom Kron, Fish & Game, Dick
27 Paspahala and hopefully the person from the State
28 Department will be there.

29
30 Wednesday is pretty much all the research projects,
31 Wednesday morning with all the different groups, starting
32 with CATG, Bering Sea, AVCP, Kaltag, Fish and Wildlife,
33 Fish and Game, so on and so forth, all the different folks.
34 And then Tuesday -- I forgot to mention this, Tuesday night
35 will a potluck dinner and sort of all around -- no meetings
36 on Tuesday night, just potluck, fiddling, dance, et cetera,
37 whatever -- whatever happens. Wednesday afternoon and
38 evening is pretty much our knock down, drag out session to
39 vote on all the proposals to the Board of Fisheries. And
40 then just wrap up Thursday morning with resolutions,
41 awards, things like that.

42
43 Any questions about that agenda so far? We will
44 have a discussion of the Federal subsistence management
45 issue, and I'll probably put it on Tuesday mid-day around
46 the -- say around lunch on Tuesday we have both the chinook
47 management plan and the fall chum management plan, both
48 before lunch and after lunch, so we'll put Federal
49 subsistence in there. I didn't put it in yet because I

50 hadn't confirmed with Taylor on what Staff might be there

00043

1 but I've got the information on that now.

2

3 So that's about it. Are there any questions on the
4 agenda there?

5

6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Not the agenda there,
7 Dan, but I do have one question.

8

9 MR. ALBRECHT: Yeah.

10

11 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Does your association
12 plan on implementing other types of fish stock in your
13 studies? I notice you're working strictly on salmon right
14 now.

15

16 MR. ALBRECHT: The funds that we have are
17 -- they're salmon funds. Not to say we wouldn't like to do
18 more but in some ways a lot of the -- you know, a lot of
19 the fresh water issues is more of a local issue, you know.
20 Since salmon are so migratory, it's appropriate for us to
21 work with that. But if somebody wants us to try to help
22 out maybe we could but our funds are limited to salmon
23 right now.

24

25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: One of the reasons I
26 brought this up is I just don't want to see what's
27 happening with the salmon population has now happened to
28 the other resources.

29

30 MR. ALBRECHT: Right.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: I mean, you know, try to fix
33 it before it's broke type of thing.

34

35 MR. ALBRECHT: Right.

36

37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Any other
38 questions.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. I'd like to thank Dan
41 for coming in. I know this is going to be an important
42 meeting and I'm glad we are taking part through the Eastern
43 and Western. I just wanted to ask Micky, are you attending
44 this meeting?

45

46 MR. STICKMAN: I don't think so. I got
47 chosen to be on the Governor's negotiating team so I think
48 I have a conflicting schedule there.

49

CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, before we close the

00044

1 Western Interior part, I think that we should discuss
2 sending someone up there. I do have conflicting schedules,
3 too. I know Angela is going to be there but we'll discuss
4 this later on within the Western Interior.

5
6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any other questions or
7 comments. Well, thank you for your time there, Dan.

8
9 MR. ALBRECHT: Okay, let me just go over
10 this handout, it will only take a second. I won't really
11 go into detail. If anybody does want to hop on the plane,
12 my 800 number is listed right there at the top of the
13 agenda, 800-328-9437. Please try to give me a call this
14 week or early next week at the latest so I can fill up that
15 plane.

16
17 The last handout here, just some information for
18 you guys if you do do more stuff on the trawler bycatch
19 issue or the Area M issue. This first graph shows the
20 bycatch of chinook salmon in the Bering Sea. There's two
21 things. One there's just the statistics on how much
22 they've caught which is down quite considerably in 1999.
23 The other page here shows the regulation that went into
24 effect actually beginning in the year 2000, what's called a
25 bycatch trigger level. So if the pollock fleet catches a
26 certain amount of king salmon in a calendar year, they're
27 kicked out of fishing for the remainder of that year, if
28 they hit certain trigger levels. And what you'll notice is
29 that trigger level keeps getting lower and lower and lower
30 over time, so that by the year 2003 their trigger would be
31 down to 29,000 chinook.

32
33 This area, and I apologize for this, I was on the
34 web last night but that commercial fishery download was too
35 slow, I never did get the data. This shows you the June
36 and post-June catches of chum salmon in Area M. I guess
37 what's significant is that in 1998 and 1999, both as a
38 function of their being less chum salmon and as a function
39 of their new restriction management plan down there, the
40 chum catch in June was down below 300,000. And
41 unfortunately I don't have the numbers for 1999, July 1st
42 and onwards catch. But it's just for reference for you.

43
44 MR. COLLINS: Dan, a question. What are
45 they doing with the bycatch, are they salvaging that or are
46 they dumping it?

47
48 MR. ALBRECHT: Some of the -- by law they
49 have to dump it overboard. On some of the vessels they're

50 working in cooperation with food bank programs. So there

00045

1 are a fair amount that are saved and used, the exact
2 numbers I do not know.

3
4 MR. COLLINS: How much assurance do we have
5 that they're actually getting a count on that, that it
6 isn't being dumped without being counted?

7
8 MR. ALBRECHT: The estimate is made up of
9 -- some of it is very good data, some of it's a little
10 sketchier. The way it works is basically an extrapolation
11 from a rate. So if they sample king salmon and they -- the
12 trawl captains have problem -- and the question is when you
13 have 100 tons, okay, you got a boat and it's pitching and
14 there's a hundred tons of stuff that comes on deck how do
15 you count it? The good way is you look at the whole entire
16 sample. You look at all 100 tons on a conveyor belt as it
17 goes by and you pull out the kinds and the halibut and the
18 crab. The less accurate way is you take, you know, hundred
19 pounds from here and a hundred pounds from there, that's
20 what's known as the basket sample. It works good for like
21 crab or smaller fish but if that one sample has one king on
22 it you multiply that by a thousand or something or a
23 hundred -- so the trawl captains don't like that. The
24 factory trawler boats all have 100 percent observer
25 coverage at all times. And the smaller boats don't. Only
26 30 percent of the time are they observed and it's mostly a
27 logistical thing with the crew. Factory trawlers it's
28 easier to hold observers. Find a bunk for them and feed
29 them and all that stuff.

30
31 So the data has gotten a lot better. It gives you
32 -- one thing you can say is that the methods of estimating
33 are consistent from year to year. So the exact numbers,
34 yeah, is it 50,000 or was it 45,000? Who knows. But the
35 trends from year to year, you can track.

36
37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any other questions for
38 Dan.

39
40 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, they still call
41 themselves factory trawlers?

42
43 MR. ALBRECHT: Well, it's actually called
44 the at-Sea Processors Association.

45
46 MR. L. TRITT: I understand for some legal
47 reasoning sometimes they call themselves something else.

48
49 MR. ALBRECHT: Well, they're technically

50 called -- regulators call them catcher/processors.

00046

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, we got a couple
2 more questions. Go ahead.

3
4 MR. NICK: I have a question for Dan, I
5 haven't been able to ask of anybody else. Recently there
6 was some publications or news about the CDQ (ph) city
7 having to purchase a percentage of the trawlers industry in
8 the Seattle area and then that puts our own CDQ villages
9 kind of in the realm of bycatch.

10
11 MR. ALBRECHT: Yep.

12
13 MR. NICK: So I'm correct?

14
15 MR. ALBRECHT: Yeah, that's.....

16
17 MR. NICK: My assumptions are correct?

18
19 MR. ALBRECHT: Yeah, there's involvement now
20 of Western Alaska Native villages CDQ groups being part
21 owners in both factory trawl boats and shore-based
22 trawlers.

23
24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Jack.

25
26 MR. REAKOFF: I see a chinook bycatch but
27 do you have chum bycatch for these trawl fleets?

28
29 MR. ALBRECHT: Yeah. The chum bycatch, I
30 don't have the numbers here with me but there was a year,
31 1993, when they caught about 300,000 chum or '94 when they
32 caught 300,000 chum. And right after that the Board
33 adopted regulations that -- you see that map here, that
34 area that's got the cross-hatching in it, that big area,
35 also known as the catcher vessel, that whole area is closed
36 during the entire month of August when these juvenile --
37 these immature chum salmon, three year old, two year old
38 chum salmon are swimming around. And they close that area
39 and that's brought it way down. They catch about maybe
40 about 50,000 chum a year and half of those are actually
41 Asian chums. The immature chums are -- I should say that
42 the kings are mostly Western Alaska.

43
44 MR. REAKOFF: Are they allowed to fish in
45 there during the late May and June migration period?

46
47 MR. ALBRECHT: They don't because there's
48 no pollock there -- there's no pollock season there so they
49 don't fish there.

00047

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any more questions for
2 Dan. Well, thank you for your time, Dan.

3
4 MR. ALBRECHT: Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Back to you, Peggy.

7
8 MS. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm Peggy
9 Fox. I'm the Deputy Assistant Regional Director for
10 subsistence with the Fish and Wildlife Service. and my
11 purpose here today is to update you on the status of
12 several key subsistence fisheries management issues.

13
14 As I noted on the flip chart over here we have five
15 issues that we would like to address with the Council. The
16 first one is inseason management. And you do have briefing
17 papers on these subjects in that folder that Vince
18 mentioned, your green folder. With regard to inseason
19 management, the status of this -- I want to provide you the
20 status of our thinking, too date because it is evolving.

21
22 I secondly want to talk about tribal involvement in
23 the Federal Subsistence Program. And this is a follow up
24 to your January training session discussions with the
25 Regional Council caucuses.

26
27 Thirdly, I mailed out to you a copy of the State's
28 sustainable salmon fisheries policy and that was mailed on
29 February 7th and I was hoping that the Councils may have
30 some comments on that because we do want to provide
31 comments back to the State and they're taking their final
32 comments March 17th in Anchorage.

33
34 Fourthly, is the Federal/State MOU and it's being
35 proposed that it be called an MOA, a memorandum of
36 agreement. That's why you're seeing both of those terms.
37 And Greg Bos, who is a member of the work group on the
38 Federal side is going to brief you on the second draft
39 based on comments received from the Regional Advisory
40 Councils at the end of January.

41
42 And lastly Chuck Krueger and Taylor Brelsford are
43 going to brief you on what we call the Unified Resource
44 Monitoring Program. And you heard about that first, again,
45 in January where they presented what we call the February
46 list of projects for comments from the Councils, and
47 they'll be talking to you about a number of new proposals
48 that are being looked at for April decision-making. And
49 they will also initiate the 2001 process to identify

50 projects.

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1 I'm going to take each one of these subjects one at
2 a time and then after that subject take questions and
3 comments before we move on to the next one, and we may well
4 just get through one before the lunch break. I also wanted
5 to note that there have been several questions about
6 whether or not we're just -- if anybody is just focusing on
7 anything else besides salmon and I guess direct your
8 comments to the presentation that Chuck and Taylor are
9 making where there are studies being proposed for other
10 species, and so they can certainly highlight what's going
11 on around fish other than salmon.

12
13 So with that, I'll start with inseason management,
14 if that's all right?

15
16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

17
18 MS. FOX: Okay. The Board is concerned
19 that we make a smooth transition and provide for
20 participation in the inseason management process for this
21 first year. For this season we will have, however, at what
22 we are calling an interim inseason process that will
23 involve the Regional Advisory Councils, however, since we
24 had to wait until October 1st to implement any definitive
25 action with regard to Federal management, we're not ready
26 for full Federal involvement this year, and that's probably
27 not at all a surprise.

28
29 The Federal agencies won't have the information
30 management infrastructure we call it, we're even developing
31 position descriptions now, to staff what we call the
32 fisheries information service that will be able to
33 effectively support analysis of what's happening with the
34 fisheries for inseason decision-making. So we don't have
35 those people on board, and we don't have the communications
36 worked out with the State. So that's going to take a
37 little bit of a while to get to a place to where we're
38 fully involved.

39
40 The potential for the need to intervene in
41 emergency order management has been looked at over the
42 State from a Federal perspective and we've categorized
43 different regions by high, medium and low risk. The Yukon
44 River region is considered the highest risk area,
45 statewide, for Federal intervention. Areas categorized as
46 medium risk are the Kuskokwim, the Gulf of Alaska and the
47 Southeast regions. To-date what we're calling low risk
48 areas we've identified as the Arctic, Kotzebue, Norton
49 Sound area, the Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula and the Cook

50 Inlet regions. These risk categories were based on a

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1 number of considerations such as, again, in this case, we
2 are primarily focused on salmon because there isn't much,
3 if any, emergency order management of other species.
4 Anyway, so these considerations are based on the abundance
5 of salmon, the amount of commercial fishing occurring with
6 the administrative boundaries of Federal conservation
7 units, the number of villages in the region and the number
8 of emergency orders that have been issued in the past.

9
10 One of the elements of inseason management is
11 deciding who is going to be involved in the decision-
12 making. And a couple of years ago the Board thought ahead
13 and decided to change the regulations so that they could
14 officially, formally, delegate decision-making on special
15 actions to managers in what we call the field who are more
16 local to the issue and more local to the information. So
17 our regulations now provide for that and you may well see
18 some more of that occur in the wildlife area. But more
19 specifically it's a definite need for fisheries management.

20
21 So we're looking at two approaches to implement
22 statewide. One is to delegate authority to a specific land
23 manager, such as a refuge manager, a park superintendent or
24 a district ranger with the Forest Service when an emergency
25 order has the potential to affect or where they have taken
26 place and will affect a single conservation unit. It's
27 logical that we're just working with one manager. However,
28 in an area such as the Yukon River where we have a number
29 of jurisdictions, we have the Fish and Wildlife Service
30 with refuges and we have BLM districts and we have parks,
31 the approach will be probably to work with one manager who
32 represents all of those jurisdictions.

33
34 And what we're thinking, for example, along the
35 Yukon River, is one manager would focus on chinook and
36 summer chum salmon and the other would focus on coho and
37 fall chum salmon. And this organization and again, these
38 are all ways in which we're thinking and no decisions have
39 been made but this organization parallels the present
40 structure used by the state of Alaska. Guidelines will be
41 developed by the Board to these delegated officials
42 to help them to know where the boundaries of their
43 decision-making lie. And we would define admissible
44 circumstances for considering, for reviewing an emergency
45 order. Also certain requirements will need to be met with
46 regard to information analysis. And certain requirements
47 will be provided around consultation to make sure that all
48 the appropriate parties are involved in the decisions.

49

So that's the thinking in terms of our delegation.

00050

1 As I indicated, we haven't made a lot of decisions but
2 we're getting closer. But what's really needed, we feel,
3 in terms of inseason management, is a focus on prevention
4 and trying to reduce the actual number of times that the
5 Federal government needs to intervene with the State's
6 emergency order process. And so what we've done is to
7 identify a number of ways in which we can proactively
8 manage to reduce direct involvement with inseason
9 management. And because we're concerned about the affect
10 of our decisions overriding, in certain cases, a State
11 decision, there can be significant affects on resource
12 conservation, disruption to users, interagency
13 relationships, litigation and public perceptions. What we
14 want to do is work things out before we get to a point
15 where we have to formally disagree.

16
17 We've identified a number of strategies to do that
18 and that is, where the Councils, in particular, start to
19 get involved. One of the first ones is to participate in
20 pre- and post-season planning and evaluation so that
21 subsistence concerns can be communicated and considered.
22 Another one is to participate directly in the emergency
23 order decision-making process before a final decision is
24 made.

25
26 We also are very interested in participating in
27 long-term fishery species and river plans that establish
28 escapement goals and trigger inseason decisions so
29 subsistence fisheries needs on Federal lands are included
30 in planned development. We want to do a lot of work
31 obtaining local knowledge of current concerns to
32 subsistence users and make sure that those are surfaced at
33 the appropriate times.

34
35 We're considering restricting special action
36 requests to only addressing conservation and subsistence
37 harvest issues. Requests related to user conflicts, we are
38 considering directing towards the annual regulatory process
39 and seeing that worked out in a different way. Special
40 action requests should also, when we're talking about this
41 inseason management, be required to have a burden of proof,
42 that extenuating circumstances exist that mandate Federal
43 intervention. And of course, there would be a time
44 requirement on that based on the time requirements that are
45 necessary for effective inseason management.

46
47 So more or less in summary, the considerations for
48 the 2000 fishing season, which, again, as I indicate, that
49 we're thinking about as an interim step are to focus on

50 prevention, the agencies that -- or excuse me, one of the

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1 things that we want to consider is agencies are determining
2 the feasibility of adding inseason decision-making to
3 existing responsibilities to current field officials. Now,
4 that's adding to what is already a full plate of things to
5 manage. And so their ability to handle and participate in
6 inseason decision-making has to be evaluated and
7 considered. The Board would need to identify and designate
8 by region a lead Federal agency, specific personnel, to
9 whom the delegation would occur and design some technical
10 support for those people to effectively participate in
11 inseason management.

12
13 We haven't got a number of key positions filled so
14 we're -- if we go this way we're going to need to rely on
15 current people. The second important consideration is to
16 defer special action requests, as I indicated earlier, to
17 only -- either to only conservation or subsistence harvest
18 issues or another alternative is to defer them altogether
19 until next year. Without adequate technical support and
20 key staff in place the Board will find it very difficult or
21 impossible to constructively respond to special action
22 requests after an emergency order has been issued.

23
24 Now, the last consideration that I wanted to
25 present to you is the role of the Regional Advisory
26 Councils in this process. And as Vince indicated, we've
27 already been making the coordinators aware and hopefully
28 the Council members aware of pre-season meetings that are
29 going on and inviting your -- and supporting your
30 participation in those pre-season meetings. And this is, I
31 guess, the key way in which we can participate and be
32 involved in the decision-making. For the long-term we're
33 definitely planning on having Councils involved in pre-
34 season, inseason and post-season decision-making processes.
35 And you'll see that in the Federal/State MOU second draft
36 when that comes before you later on.

37
38 Participation in consultations prior to the
39 announcement of a decision is also another important way to
40 try to prevent problems later on after an emergency order
41 has been processed.

42
43 And lastly, the Councils are being invited to
44 participate in the protocol development and that's working
45 with the Federal and State group to work out the specific
46 details for inseason management for the long-term. And
47 again, that's another topic of the draft Federal/State MOU
48 process.

49

That concludes my briefing on inseason management

00052

1 and so this is the time for questions and comments.

2

3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, is there any
4 questions?

5

6 MR. GOOD: Yeah, I have one.

7

8 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, I'll go to Craig.

9

10 MR. FLEENER: I'll defer to my elder.

11

12 MR. GOOD: Well, as your elder, just
13 looking at under the considerations, number 1, it seems
14 like we're getting -- well, maybe first I'll say that
15 Eastern Interior has been involved with emergency orders, I
16 think, probably as -- maybe even brought them about to some
17 extent with our concern for caribou and caribou harvest on
18 -- well, with both the Fortymile and with the Nelchina herd
19 coming across on the Tetlin area there. But I'm looking at
20 this emergency order and I guess the concern I have is that
21 if we haven't got something established yet and it looks
22 like we're behind the eight ball on this one as far as
23 emergency orders, now are we talking about opening and
24 closures of subsistence here, strictly, or would we be
25 looking at other types of openings and closures? Say
26 commercial?

27

28 MS. FOX: Well, first of all, yes, we are
29 behind the powerball. However, we are trying to get our
30 thoughts together and based on whatever Council comments we
31 receive prior to March 9th to present the Board with some
32 strategies on how to proceed. So that at that time if they
33 do decide to delegate two field people, field managers and
34 so on, that that decision will be made and those
35 individuals will be identified to begin to start attending
36 these pre-season meetings and so on. So March 9th is a
37 target date working with the Board to make some decision
38 and I'm sharing with you some things that we're thinking
39 about before we go to that meeting.

40

41 Secondly, the second part of your -- well, that was
42 a comment, and then the second part of your comments was a
43 question. The focus will be on subsistence and on closures
44 that affect subsistence.

45

46 MR. GOOD: Then just as a final comment, I
47 think that emergency orders are very important and somebody
48 that can make those decisions. That it is very important
49 to meet the needs of the local people and make those

50 decisions on a local level and reflect their needs.

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1 Because I think that what we had in the past -- I guess I
2 should use the microphone -- that what we had in the past
3 may have been a bit too cumbersome. That in order to get
4 an emergency order, as I recall, it didn't simply go to say
5 a refuge manager, it had to go all the way to the Board to
6 make a decision and then be signed off and it seems like
7 the emergency order could be too late in coming. And I
8 think this new approach here, I think, would be very
9 effective where the old one was just too cumbersome, the
10 old approach.

11
12 MS. FOX: Yes, we agree. We are very aware
13 that it very cumbersome. There's an awful lot of
14 consultation involved and a lot of analysis before it gets
15 to the Board. And recognizing that we needed to have
16 something much more immediate, I mean within hours. And I
17 am distinguishing between the emergency order that the
18 State issues versus the special action, that's what we call
19 our emergency action process, is a special action. Anyway,
20 so there's this tension between the emergency order process
21 that the State has and our special action process, and we
22 need to have a system in place that parallels theirs. So
23 we're intent on delegating that decision-making which would
24 be much more effective.

25
26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Lincoln.

27
28 MR. L. TRITT: These emergency orders, are
29 they for you to get right into action or is it preventable
30 -- can you do preventable actions?

31
32 MS. FOX: Well, our hope is that we will be
33 successful in terms of preventing emergency or concerns for
34 conflicts around emergency orders that the State issues.
35 That's where we're hoping the Councils will be directly
36 involved with the State and with others in that process
37 before they issue emergency orders and that subsistence
38 needs will be considered.

39
40 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, because a lot of times
41 we can tell what's going to happen just by the animal
42 behaviors, you know.

43
44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, go ahead, Craig.

45
46 MR. FLEENER: Just sitting and listening to
47 your presentation it seemed like I couldn't help myself but
48 I was getting angrier and angrier as time went on because
49 so many things that we haven't prepared for but we should

50 have been preparing for all along. We expected to assume

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1 management of fisheries for quite some time now, I don't
2 know the exact date, but I think it's been several years
3 that we've been expecting to assume management of fisheries
4 and we don't even have the job descriptions, we're just now
5 working on job descriptions for these people. And I don't
6 want to turn this meeting into something negative but boy
7 that sure is something that gives me a hot feeling inside.
8 I think that a strong word from our two Councils to whoever
9 should have been doing this all along, a strong word needs
10 to go out from us because we shouldn't be sitting here a
11 few months into having received the money and having
12 received the ability to manage these resources, we
13 shouldn't be sitting here now saying well we better go get
14 some job descriptions; we should have done the job
15 descriptions two years ago upon the time that we thought
16 that we were going to take over this responsibility. And
17 it just really irritates me, very much, that we're not
18 prepared. And it's not someone else's fault that we're not
19 prepared, it's our own fault. How long does it take to
20 prepare some job descriptions? I'm not saying post them,
21 I'm not saying put them up but, boy, we should have -- by
22 this time we should be hiring people. We should have
23 people on staff and now we're going to look for people and
24 we're months into starting to manage. And here we have to
25 sit back and say to the State, we're not fully capable of
26 doing this so we're still going to go with the State system
27 with just a few minor adjustments.

28
29 Maybe we shouldn't have it at all if we're not
30 prepared to do it. We've got \$11 million and we're going
31 to be getting more in the coming years and here we don't
32 even have job descriptions. And it's very irritating.

33
34 MS. FOX: I might just respond, not in
35 defense of the program or anything like that, but more, I
36 think, by way of explanation in the way this thing evolved.
37 Yes, we have known since 1995 that this was going to be a
38 responsibility. However, we've also been prevented from
39 doing anything by Congress for three years. We've been
40 under a moratorium. There's been specific language in the
41 law, in the appropriation law, that we were not to do
42 anything except prepare regulations. And that went right
43 up to October 1st of 1999. We were not allowed to do
44 planning, beyond develop those regulations. We also were
45 not provided any funding to pay people to develop
46 descriptions or to even think out what the program -- how
47 you would implement in terms of my latest subject here,
48 inseason management or a number of the very, very important
49 complex matters involved in managing fishing.

00055

1 So once we get the money and once we get approval
2 -- approval is another thing that's been delayed. We
3 didn't get an approved staffing plan until about a month
4 ago. We were not allowed to even know what our staffing
5 would be until about a month ago and then it was a matter
6 of writing the job descriptions. We've had to go through
7 Washington, step by step, to get approval and that's the
8 way the system worked.

9
10 MR. FLEENER: What level of, I guess, just
11 at what level were we told that we couldn't proceed with
12 this? Is it someone in the state, out of the state?

13
14 MS. FOX: Secretary's office. Secretary of
15 Interior.

16
17 MR. FLEENER: So it came directly from the
18 Secretary of Interior.....

19
20 MS. FOX: Yes.

21
22 MR. FLEENER:that we were not to
23 proceed?

24
25 MS. FOX: And then as I indicated in terms
26 of working on it, Congress, and it was Senator Stevens'
27 language, you know, again, the intent was that this would
28 go back to the State. We were not to invest a lot of time
29 or -- well, time is the main thing that we had since we
30 didn't have any money, but invest a lot of time in
31 developing a program that may go over to the State. I know
32 that was the hope.

33
34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: So in other words, the
35 Feds didn't really want fishing.

36
37 MS. FOX: Oh, no, oh, no. And, you
38 know.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I think that kind of
41 answers Craig's question right there.

42
43 MR. FLEENER: That just gets me even more
44 mad.

45
46 MS. FOX: Well, maybe we better change
47 topics.

48
49 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, do you want to move

50 it over to.....

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1 MR. FLEENER: Go ahead, I'll cool off for a
2 few minutes.

3
4 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Robert.

5
6 MR. NICK: I think this situation only
7 affects the Lower Kuskokwim. With your plan for the 2000
8 season of using these Fish and Game to manage the
9 commercial fisheries and subsistence, we have a group of
10 local people in Bethel called the Fish Working Group, and
11 they probably will be there this summer again. And I was
12 just trying to figure out in my mind, you know, that group
13 would go around the advisory councils.

14
15 The other comment I was going to bring out is --
16 you know, Craig brought it out, and what worries me now,
17 you know, this is almost March and fishing season for us
18 will be in about four months, and what worries me now is in
19 all this planning for inseason management of the fisheries
20 is a big question, what if? The appeal, what if?

21
22 MS. FOX: The Katie John appeal?

23
24 MR. NICK: Yeah.

25
26 MS. FOX: What if that is successful?

27
28 MR. NICK: Yes.

29
30 MS. FOX: I'm not sure what affect it has
31 on us. I'm not sure, it will depend on what the decision
32 is, what -- I don't know if anybody else knows but I don't
33 know what affect that would have.

34
35 MR. NICK: Okay. How about the working
36 group?

37
38 MS. FOX: The working group, you're
39 indicating that that will -- it's already a part of the
40 Lower Kuskokwim decision-making process in terms of the
41 commercial openings and closings and so on. Well, the
42 Council would be a partner, we would work this out with the
43 State, at least, to the point where Councils will be
44 recognized as a partner in that process. And, we're, like
45 I say, encouraging Council representatives to attend those
46 meetings and be representing the Council's interest in that
47 decision-making process. And how the Council works with
48 that group, I can't really say right now, I'm not really
49 familiar with what the decision-making is and I am talking

50 in general concepts. I don't have specific answers but I

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1 think that's something that will have to evolve at those
2 first meetings. Talk about your relationships to these
3 other groups.

4
5 MR. NICK: Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Peggy, I got a comment
8 here on this, on Page 2 under five there, restrict special
9 action requests to only addressing conservation or
10 subsistence harvest issues.

11
12 MS. FOX: Yes.

13
14 CHAIRMAN MILLER: How do you, I mean user
15 conflict and subsistence has always been hand in hand, how
16 is that going to -- I mean the next sentence, you know,
17 request related to user conflicts or other issues should be
18 considered through the annual regulatory process.

19
20 MS. FOX: Yes. We are considering
21 narrowing the scope of special actions, just as it
22 indicates here, for fisheries because of the rigid
23 requirements -- the very short time frames and the rigid
24 requirements that those time frames be adhered to, I think
25 the Board finds it -- to really narrow down what is really,
26 really important that we get directly involved in, and that
27 is the two main purposes for which the Board is really
28 focused on in terms of managing harvest and that's if
29 there's a conservation issue or if there's an issue around
30 subsistence harvest. Other things such as user conflicts,
31 we feel, probably deserve more time and more consideration
32 and should be postponed and become a proposal in the
33 regulatory process for fuller deliberation by Councils and
34 by others. But where there's a conservation concern or a
35 harvest concern, we feel those are deserving of a very
36 concerted effort to try to get that dealt with right away
37 and we're talking within hours of the emergency order being
38 issued.

39
40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. So you're talking
41 like in order for closures and stuff like that?

42
43 MS. FOX: For fisheries, yes, and I'm not
44 talking about wildlife. This is very specific to
45 fisheries. The special action process for wildlife remains
46 the same as it has been.

47
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

49

MR. GOOD: The one thing I'd like to just

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1 address quickly is we're not talking about just closing
2 seasons, we could also be talking about opening for
3 subsistence purposes as well. And this approach should be
4 more locally responsive and hopefully will allow
5 subsistence priorities to be met. It's not -- you know, it
6 seems like we're almost addressing the negative aspect, it
7 could have very positive benefits to subsistence users as
8 well.

9
10 MS. FOX: Oh, yes.

11
12 MR. GOOD: In the case of a season being
13 closed, it can also be reopened for subsistence purposes.

14
15 MS. FOX: Right. Right, absolutely.

16
17 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

18
19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Jack.

20
21 MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering if the
22 Federal program is assessed the State's escapement figures
23 which incorporate the subsistence harvest passage as
24 whether there's the levels of need are being met and
25 whether those need to be adjusted this year for inseason
26 management?

27
28 MS. FOX: We have not done that yet and we
29 probably would initiate a process of reviewing fishery
30 management plans next year. Again, we need to have Staff
31 on board to be able to initiate that kind of a review. And
32 we would want to take that to the Councils, so we'd want to
33 do it working with the Councils to look at these fisheries
34 management plans and look at the allocations and advise us.
35 It's hard for us to say whether there is an issue on
36 allocation. We need to hear that from the Councils. But
37 that's a process I envision as starting next year.

38
39 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, go ahead.

40
41 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: These two pages that
42 you've given us and we've read along as you've spoken, some
43 of the language is pretty high class language in there.
44 How are we going to break it down so that if I brought it
45 back to my community and I gave the piece of paper to an
46 elder to interpret all these fancy words you're using in
47 your presentation? Is there going to be another paper
48 coming out with easier language so that all people could
49 understand it?

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1 MS. FOX: We could provide that after the
2 Board meeting on March 9th, where we have an actual
3 decision. If you need something else before then, I can
4 provide you something.

5
6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any more questions on
7 this part. Go ahead, Fritz.

8
9 MR. GEORGE: Yeah, thank you. It's sort of
10 regarding the sports fishermen, you know, when they come up
11 to the rivers to go fishing, they sort of float from the
12 lakes like interfering the spawning salmon. Can this EO,
13 emergency order, affect like -- can the agency restrict
14 fishing, sports fishers not to fish in the spawning
15 grounds? Let them do it where they're not spawning, you
16 know, like in the mouths.

17
18 MS. FOX: I think the way we could approach
19 that is working with the Board of fisheries on that type of
20 an issue. But this program is focused primarily on harvest
21 and, you know, that's our regulator process is to focus on
22 the harvest of wildlife or the harvest of fisheries. And
23 whatever it takes to get good decisions around harvest,
24 working on problems around spawning or escapement or
25 conflicts with sport fishing we'd probably need to work
26 with the Board of Fisheries.

27
28 MR. GEORGE: Like right now, the salmon are
29 in trouble, they're not coming back in good numbers.

30
31 MS. FOX: Right. The first thing we need
32 to do is try to identify exactly what is the cause of that.
33 And if there are -- and what you're saying, I'm hearing is
34 that does affect subsistence harvest. We wouldn't get
35 involved in the regulatory side of that, regulating sport
36 fishing. But we could perhaps fund a project to study
37 something like that and determine what the affects are.

38
39 MR. GEORGE: And it seems like what
40 happened, the Kuskokwim subsistence fisheries was closed
41 several times and it seems like even though it was closed
42 to us, you know, sport fisheries continued and it seems
43 like it wasn't fair.

44
45 MS. FOX: Yes, I hear that.

46
47 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any more questions.

48
49 MS. FOX: I guess one thing I forgot to

50 mention just in terms of Regional Advisory Council

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1 participation. It puts a burden on those that do
2 participate in those meetings to effectively communicate
3 with others on the Councils because it doesn't mean that
4 the entire Council is going to be involved in those pre-
5 season or inseason or post-season meetings. And so this is
6 going to get a lot more complicated, I think, and time
7 consuming for the Councils to participate in this process.
8 So I just wanted you to know we're aware of that and we'll
9 support you in whatever way we can in terms of travels and
10 communications. But those communications are going to
11 depend a lot on the people that are representing the
12 Councils.

13
14 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ron.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Peggy, are you
17 addressing Willie Goodwin and Dan O'Hara, is that it?

18
19 MS. FOX: Am I addressing them?

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: I mean are those the people
22 that you're naming right now?

23
24 MS. FOX: No. No, I'm talking about for --
25 for example, you received notification of some meetings,
26 the YRDFA meeting was one and some other ones that Vince
27 mentioned that we sent out for him to work with you to get
28 Council members, and these are meetings that have to do
29 with the Yukon and the Kuskokwim, to help identify a couple
30 of Council members or a Council member, the Chair or
31 whoever the Chair designates to attend these meetings and
32 start getting involved in those decisions that affect your
33 regions. It would not be Dan and Willie.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, that's what -- when I
38 was talking about that we would need a caucus of the
39 Chairs, we were going to discuss those but what she's
40 getting at is there's planning efforts within Fish and Game
41 for the Yukon River on March 13th and 14th for the
42 Kuskokwim, March 28th and 29th, the working group that
43 Robert and Fritz were talking about is February 28th and
44 March 1st. Ron's been very busy traveling for this program
45 and there wasn't time to coordinate it but we need to make
46 a decision -- well, decision is not the right term, we need
47 to discuss what level involvement, now, you want to be
48 involved with and then in the new future discuss what level
49 of involvement you want in the future on it. So there's a

50 dual approach. What do we want to do immediately and what

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1 do we want to do down the road. Because there's going to
2 be overlaps on time and we could share that through
3 delegation of members. But some of you only live on
4 certain drainages so you're kind of automatically locked
5 in.

6
7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Hearing no more questions
8 -- oh, go ahead.

9
10 MR. D. JAMES: I'm sort of confused here.
11 Are you talking about, you know, at the last meeting there
12 the Council elected me and Gerald to sit on this fishery
13 planning meeting and go down to Aniak and sit on their
14 board there and listen to them. Are you saying two from
15 each Council?

16
17 MS. FOX: No, I'm not saying how many. I'm
18 extending an invitation for the Councils to attend these
19 pre-season meetings. The Councils can decide on how many
20 and who. This is separate -- or it could be the same as
21 the people that are identified to participate in your
22 Coordinating Council. That's up to the Council. I'm just
23 saying, we'll provide support in terms of travel and
24 communications if there's a need for Council
25 representatives to work with the groups that are making --
26 or the individuals that are making decisions on fisheries
27 within the Yukon and within the Kuskokwim.

28
29 MR. D. JAMES: So like for if you're going
30 to make decisions, if you're going to close the seasons or
31 you're going to open it, like in June, when the fish is
32 coming up you mean.....

33
34 MS. FOX: Uh-huh.

35
36 MR. D. JAMES:like you need to meet
37 right away?

38
39 MS. FOX: The State has a system and I
40 think there's people here that have been directly involved
41 in that but the State has a system of a series of meetings
42 during the year where they track what's happening with the
43 salmon, for example, on the Yukon and those meetings start
44 in March. And so what we're suggesting is that the
45 Councils get involved with those meetings right away and
46 start working with the State and others who participate in
47 that to have subsistence needs represented in that
48 decision-making process when they decide on openings and
49 closures and run strength and so on, that you're right

50 there.

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1 MR. D. JAMES: Okay. So this is where your
2 manager is going to be coming into play, uh?

3
4 MS. FOX: The manager, yes, will also be
5 there.

6
7 MR. D. JAMES: Okay.

8
9 MS. FOX: We're just inviting the Councils
10 to join the manager.

11
12 MR. D. JAMES: And my other question is,
13 these managers for the fall chum and the king salmon,
14 you're just talking about the Yukon and Kuskokwim, for one
15 manager for the Kuskokwim and Yukon?

16
17 MS. FOX: Let's see, it's just one for the
18 Yukon.....

19
20 MR. D. JAMES: For both, uh?

21
22 MS. FOX: Two for the Yukon.

23
24 MR. D. JAMES: Uh-huh.

25
26 MS. FOX: And they're separated by the
27 species like you were just noting. One would handle, for
28 the Yukon, two, one would handle the chinook and the summer
29 chum, the other one would focus on coho and fall chum
30 salmon runs.

31
32 MR. D. JAMES: Okay. So this will go back
33 to Craig Fleener's question, you're going to have these job
34 descriptions if you were to advertise for these positions
35 or.....

36
37 MS. FOX: We don't have approval for those
38 positions as of yet.

39
40 MR. D. JAMES: Oh, okay.

41
42 MS. FOX: We're still trying to get it from
43 Washington. We don't have approval for any of the field
44 positions.

45
46 MR. D. JAMES: Okay.

47
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Gerald.
49

MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, Peggy.

00063

1 MS. FOX: Yes.

2

3 MR. NICHOLIA: I was just wondering if
4 since we're just going to handle subsistence fisheries on
5 the Yukon and Kuskokwim, I was just wondering if our
6 regulations and management schemes are going to match those
7 of State's subsistence fisheries program?

8

9 MS. FOX: Certainly as we start this
10 program we start working with the plans and the programs
11 that the State has. We work with those and then as I was
12 indicating, for example, we start to look at fishery
13 management plans, reviewing those and talking with the
14 Councils and identifying whether or not changes are needed.
15 We start doing projects that contribute to the information
16 about fisheries and hopefully we learn and refine the
17 program to have it better represent and better meet the
18 needs of subsistence users, where there are problems. But
19 we do start with whatever the State has in place and we're
20 hoping to add to that, add the information and participate
21 in their decision-making.

22

23 MR. NICHOLIA: I guess what my question was
24 is one side -- where the line is drawn and one side is
25 Federal and one side is State, is that -- are those
26 regulations going to mirror each other so these fishermen
27 don't get mixed up?

28

29 MS. FOX: They do right now. And a lot of
30 that has to do with as proposals come before the Councils,
31 what you recommend, if they should be different or if they
32 should stay the same as well as a lot of other analysis,
33 you know, our regular proposal process. But a lot of
34 weight will be given to the Council recommendations on
35 that.

36

37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Lincoln.

38

39 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, I got one more. You
40 know, you've heard people talking about the spots on the
41 fish and all that, you know, when you regulate all this
42 fishing and all that stuff, do you take all that into
43 consideration?

44

45 MS. FOX: Well, I don't think -- well,
46 certainly we don't right now but I think that, again, we
47 are basically dependent on the State to have a lot of this
48 type information. And hopefully we're adding to it, but I
49 don't -- I'm not exactly sure of everything the State takes

50 into account when they're looking at harvest, you know,

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1 what the numbers are that are going up, if they're using
2 fish or if they're diseased fish, I'm not sure if they
3 include that in their allocations or not.

4
5 MR. L. TRITT: Yes, because that would have
6 an affect on it, you know.

7
8 MS. FOX: Yes.

9
10 MR. L. TRITT: I mean useless fish is like
11 having no fish at all. So that should be a part of this
12 inseason and all that stuff.

13
14 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

15
16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

17
18 MR. REAKOFF: At this time I'd like to make
19 a motion that a letter be drafted to be transmitted to the
20 Secretary of the Interior requesting the acceleration of
21 the staffing for these positions.

22
23 MR. GOOD: I'll second it.

24
25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Seconded by Nat.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question.

28
29 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Question's been called.
30 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

35
36 (No opposing votes)

37
38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Motion carries. And do
39 you understand what he was saying there, Vince?

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I understand. My ears
42 are red but I understand.

43
44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Davey.

45
46 MR. D. JAMES: You brought up the wording,
47 allocation.

48
49 MS. FOX: Allocation.

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1 MR. D. JAMES: Yeah, allocation. I think
2 that's, you know, something that we -- you know, the Boards
3 need to go over and like the rest of the organizations like
4 the Yukon River Drainage Association and the International
5 Salmon Treaty people, start addressing the allocation, you
6 know, the more closer we come. Understand it a little
7 more, have a common ground and agreement on it.

8
9 The other one is, you know, your emergency order
10 question -- petition to the Board for conservation and
11 subsistence harvest opportunity. I'd kind of like to more
12 like break that down to a more defined answer, you know,
13 what is conservation and subsistence harvest opportunities,
14 you know? I mean kind of break it down to a more defined
15 simple answer -- simpler questions and answers to that. I
16 don't really understand, you know, what's your high or low
17 in conservations, in the Feds. Or the other one there,
18 too, is your sustainable yield, you know? How are you guys
19 going to blend those two wordings together? What's your
20 plan?

21
22 MS. FOX: Okay, if I may, I'd like to ask
23 Greg Bos to come up here who has a closer knowledge of how
24 that works. I can give you general answers but that's not
25 going to be satisfactory at this point. So is it all
26 right, Mr. Chair.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes, go ahead.

29
30 MS. FOX:if Greg comes up and answers
31 that? Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: For the whole Board's
34 understanding, we are coming up on sustainable salmon
35 fisheries, so that's part of the agenda that Peggy is also
36 covering a little later on, right?

37
38 MS. FOX: Yes.

39
40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Do you want to wait to do
41 that then?

42
43 MR. BOS: Mr. Chairman, my name is Greg
44 Bos.

45
46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Excuse me, Greg, maybe
47 we'll just wait until we get underneath that sustainable
48 salmon fisheries policy.

49

MS. FOX: Well, that policy is the State of

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1 Alaska and I'm just taking comments on that. But the
2 question that David James has is more to the Federal
3 program.

4

5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, I thought he asked
6 what the difference was between.....

7

8 MS. FOX: Well, he got into two -- it
9 was.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN MILLER:sustained yield.....

12

13 MS. FOX:yeah, a two-part question
14 really.

15

16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, go ahead.

17

18 MR. BOS: I'll give it a try, David. I
19 think you're asking for clarification of what we mean by
20 those terms, conservation concerns and subsistence harvest
21 as points to consider whether a Federal special action
22 should be taken. I think conservation concerns are really
23 talking about are we getting the escapement that we need to
24 maintain those populations in a healthy state? So if
25 there's a problem in reaching those escapements the Board
26 would look very closely at the kinds of actions the State
27 is taking or that the Federal program would need to take to
28 ensure that we get the adequate escapement of those salmon
29 stocks.

30

31 On the subsistence harvest, I think we're looking
32 at a situation where there are significant -- or maybe
33 significant interference for the opportunity to harvest
34 subsistence fish. Not enough fish are getting up the river
35 perhaps for whatever reason, maybe commercial harvest down
36 river and, you know, maybe the conditions of the water, the
37 timing of the runs, that subsistence users may need
38 additional fishing time. So there are -- when those
39 concerns are raised, the Board would want to take a look
40 and see what the status of the subsistence harvest have
41 been, if the people are catching the fish they need and if
42 not, what kinds of actions might be taken to provide the
43 opportunity that they need. Keeping in mind, though, the
44 uppermost goal is achieving the escapements -- spawning
45 escapements that are needed to keep those fisheries going.

46

47

48 And looking at sustained yield, we're really
49 talking about to have sustained yield you have to have

50 healthy populations of fish. So to maintain the yield you

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1 have to maintain the fish stocks. We want to have the
2 continued opportunity for the subsistence uses that you've
3 had in the past. And so I think that the terms are very
4 closely related, that is, maintaining subsistence
5 opportunities means providing for sustained yields and that
6 depends on healthy fish populations.

7

8 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Does that answer your
9 question there, Davey?

10

11 MR. D. JAMES: Well, I was just thinking
12 about how I'm going to play this sustained yield in our
13 Upper Yukon River management plan, you know. And you know,
14 that's something that's going to keep on coming up but
15 that's something that we're having -- we're having a
16 fisheries -- the Yukon Flats is having a fisheries workshop
17 and these are some of the questions that came into our
18 office, you know, things that we need to discuss at our
19 fisheries workshop in Stevens Village. And especially the
20 Fish and Game Advisory Committees are having a hard time,
21 you know, understanding these -- and that's part of our
22 department is to get these people to understand more of
23 these wordings so they can be more.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any other questions.
26 Comments. Concerns.

27

28 MR. GOOD: I'll make one comment if you
29 want?

30

31 CHAIRMAN MILLER: No.

32

33 MR. GOOD: In terms of sustainable yield,
34 you want to take what you can and still have enough fish
35 come back to spawn, what you really run into here is you
36 have some idea what is left the spawning bed and what we're
37 all aware of here is the problem is really occurring at
38 sea. We don't know what's going to come back of what
39 leaves here. And so by the time they come back here, we
40 don't know what we can take in order to have a sustainable
41 yield in order to have enough spawners return to the
42 spawning grounds. We don't know what we've lost at sea.

43

44 In fact about a month ago there was a story in the
45 Anchorage paper that referred to possible current changes
46 and 20 year cycles. And according to that story and there
47 seemed to be controversy on that story, I don't know if you
48 had the opportunity to read that, but it indicated that
49 we're entering a cycle that should be good for pollock and

50 sea birds and not very good for salmon. And I don't know

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1 if you had an opportunity to see that but I don't know. We
2 have real problems with sustainable yield once the fish
3 come back because we don't know what has come back. We'll
4 have an idea of what's left but it doesn't seem to work to
5 predict, based on the numbers of salmon returning to the
6 ocean as to what's going to come back.

7

8 Just a comment.

9

10 MR. BOS: That certainly is a concern.
11 Particularly the Yukon fishery is a very complicated
12 fishery to manage. There's some unknown variables on ocean
13 survival, so the predictability is fairly low on run
14 strengths. I think the Department of Fish and Game manages
15 with as good as understanding of that as we can, you know,
16 on a scientific basis and what we need to have is a
17 flexibility in managing the fisheries to, first of all, do
18 our best to ensure enough fish get up the river to spawn
19 and maintain those stocks. Secondly, to provide for the
20 subsistence needs of people. And that's, you know, for
21 sustained yield, once you have escapement needed to produce
22 fish and based on the returns that you're monitoring when
23 they're coming up the river is to factor in the needs for
24 subsistence and provide for those. And then if there's
25 surpluses beyond that, that's available for other uses.
26 But that's pretty tricky when you have over a thousand
27 miles of river and trying to manage at the mouth on
28 subsistence and commercial uses going on there. In some
29 cases it's weeks before the fish arrive at upper river
30 villages, you know, you really have to rely on the
31 experience and knowledge that the State has built up over
32 the years in providing for those uses and it's not always
33 perfect but I think, in general, the State has done a very
34 good job, you know, of managing fisheries. There are some
35 things that are going out in the ocean that are just beyond
36 our control.

37

38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ronald.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, in other words, until
41 we can gain some kind of control over high seas fisheries,
42 there's no way in hell that we can guarantee sustainable
43 yield, especially the Yukon salmon, right?

44

45 MR. BOS: Well, you know, the high seas
46 fishery is really beyond the jurisdiction of our immediate
47 control under the Federal subsistence program. I think the
48 high seas bycatch issue, you know, certainly is a
49 contributing factor to the status of runs and the number of

50 fish that come up the river and are available for harvest.

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1 How significant that is in relation to other mortality
2 factors, you know, survival, for those fish, you know, I
3 don't know the answer to that and I think you'd need to
4 hear from fishing experts.

5
6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Who is responsible for
7 high seas fisheries?

8
9 MR. BOS: Excuse me?

10
11 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Who is responsible for
12 the high seas fisheries? I mean who can you talk to or
13 deal with to.....

14
15 MR. BOS: That would be the National Marine
16 Fisheries Service.

17
18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Because we came to the
19 understanding at our last meeting in Anchorage that, you
20 know, the main problem is out there, the fish just ain't
21 coming back. I mean no matter what you do they're not
22 there. And all you're doing is just managing fewer and
23 fewer and fish. I mean if they're not coming back there's
24 less to manage. So I mean, you know, we can sit here and
25 talk about this for a week but if the fish ain't there we
26 can't manage them.

27
28 Go ahead, Ronald.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, we've
31 spent a good part of an hour just discussing the first
32 issue. At this time I would like to call a one hour lunch
33 break and hit the other four after -- Vince.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we had -- there's an
36 announcement here that the Howard Luke, Alaska Native
37 Leadership Club is having a bake sale across the street at
38 the TCC building. They would like your support to raise
39 money for gathering -- so they could attend the gathering
40 of nations in Albuquerque. So that's next door just so you
41 know. And there is lunch here, menu, et cetera, I don't
42 know exactly how it works but it's not part of the meeting
43 package, it's on your own. But there is lunch here. And
44 did you say an hour from 12:30?

45
46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes, we'll reconvene at
47 1:30.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: 1:30, thank you.

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1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Call the meeting back to
6 order. Randy Mayo. He was just here.

7

8 MR. GOOD: He just stepped out.

9

10 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, we'll go ahead and
11 we'll start back with Peggy then and we're moving down to
12 tribal involvement.

13

14 MS. FOX: Thank you. During the January
15 training session, three letters on the subject of tribal
16 involvement were distributed to the Regional Advisory
17 Council members. And these letters were sent from AVCP,
18 AFN, and AITC and RuralCap, joined together in writing one
19 of the letters.

20

21 Our purpose in sharing them with you at the end of
22 January was to get your advice on how the Regional Advisory
23 Councils and the tribes should interact. Comments received
24 during the Council caucuses were sent to each of the
25 Council members, and I don't intend to review those right
26 now. But some of the Councils asked that we revisit this
27 topic at the winter Council meetings so that's why it's
28 coming before you again.

29

30 The Board met with representatives of AVCP, AFN,
31 AITC and RuralCap on February 3rd. And we wanted to give
32 them an opportunity to listen to their concerns and promote
33 some discussion between the Board and their
34 representatives. Willie Goodwin and Dan O'Hara were both
35 invited to join and hear those concerns. Willie Goodwin
36 was able to make it in the morning, Dan O'Hara joined us in
37 the afternoon after they had left but for further Board
38 deliberations he was there to participate.

39

40 The Board emphasized with these groups the role of
41 the Regional Advisory Councils and their large contribution
42 to the success of this program and indicated that that is
43 the core of our program and the way in which we have been
44 working and have been encouraging tribes to work through
45 the Councils statewide.

46

47 Now, the way that we have worked with the tribes
48 and we conveyed this to them was through our mass-mailings,
49 whenever we do mailings on what's going on with the

50 program, announcements of opening of -- the opportunity to

50 we could, at least, reaffirm the position that we support

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1 as much tribal involvement as possible in management of
2 resources. And I guess it's not necessary for a motion or
3 anything like that but I think it would be important that
4 Vince or something, at least, note that we wholeheartedly
5 support this and it's certainly well within the trust
6 responsibility of the Federal government that they work
7 with tribes and we get full involvement in management
8 planning and decision-making and in regulations.

9

10 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ron.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, during my speech at the
13 latest AFN convention I also reiterated we are tribal
14 members and we are tribal council members, we are tribal
15 council chairs, presidents and we are totally involved in
16 the tribes at home in all of our villages. Every village
17 that we've held Western Interior Council meetings we've had
18 very little, if any, participation, with all the advanced
19 notices that we've given. If anyone shows up we
20 automatically give them the floor, especially the elders.
21 And until we get more participation we'll have to be
22 recognized as tribal members because I still want more
23 participation when I hold meetings out there.

24

25 And like Craig Fleener says, anybody that shows up
26 will be automatically recognized from these tribes and we
27 have been recognizing people from AVCP, Tanana Chiefs and
28 whatever other local committees that care to appear before
29 us. We recognize them and give them the floor at all
30 times.

31

32 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

33

34 MR. D. JAMES: Peggy, I want to thank you
35 and your Staff for addressing tribal involvement there.
36 And I think that should be one of your upper-most
37 objectives or priorities. As I stated down in Anchorage
38 last month, to have a success management plan, you know, we
39 definitely do need -- we must have the tribal involvement
40 in there because they're the ones that are living off the
41 resources, you know.

42

43 So thank you.

44

45 MS. FOX: You're welcome.

46

47 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Lincoln.

48

49 MR. L. TRITT: Like I said earlier, a lot

50 of things -- a lot of times when we talk about the fish and

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1 wildlife or what have you, we're always talking about
2 taking fish and taking animals and all that, we never talk
3 about keeping people from killing them off unnecessarily,
4 you know. And like I said, I kind of see myself as trying
5 to protect what's left out there. I mean it's a mess out
6 there. Everything's been touched, the air, the water, the
7 weather, all the animals.

8
9 And if we're going to have a tribal involvement, I
10 think we ought to do it tribally instead of getting into
11 political stances and all that stuff. We need to deal with
12 these as Native people and then that way we stay away from
13 all these political rhetorics and trying to figure out
14 which one to believe and all that.

15
16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, Robert.

17
18 MR. NICK: It's been about two weeks since
19 the AFN convention and when I returned from the convention,
20 I called a meeting of the tribal council and we had a
21 quorum but there was still some missing. But I have not
22 been able to gather my community to talk about the actions
23 and resolutions that were addressed by the convention. I
24 agree that the people that are -- the direct beneficiaries
25 of this program should be involved in the development of
26 the process of how they will obtain their fish because
27 we're talking about the livelihood of the people. At home
28 during the convention there was satisfaction in the fact
29 that 86 percent of the tribal representatives were present,
30 there was only four of us from my community. There's 434
31 people in my village so when I voted with my association to
32 pass those resolutions, I voted with three other people and
33 there was 430 people at home that needed to understand the
34 process and the actions that were taken and the efforts
35 that will be taken by the Federal for the subsistence
36 lifestyle that we currently enjoy in the villages. So I
37 think the current process -- when I first -- attended the
38 first Regional Council meeting after I was appointed, a
39 friend of mine, he was on the Board before me came to me
40 and said we got to do this and we got to do that, all this,
41 we got to go through some agency or someone else, you know,
42 other than us to try to obtain some programs. I told him,
43 you know, this is it, we are it. So I believe that the
44 Regional Councils, I'm sure that most of you sit on tribal
45 councils at home like we do, so we do have that avenue.

46
47 But I think we need to produce the MOU -- or MOA,
48 proposed MOA, and then I was satisfied with the addressed
49 concerns that were made at our training meeting. So I

50 think we're doing okay. We're doing the right thing. I

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1 think we should continue it, continue to have consultations
2 with the tribes but we still need to keep the program
3 going. ANILCA Title VIII established us to give advice to
4 the Federal Board, and I think we have ably gone through
5 that process.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I'd like to take this
10 time, if you don't mind, to recognize Steve Ginnis, the
11 president of Tanana Chiefs.

12

13 MR. GINNIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You
14 know, there's a lot of familiar faces here. I've had an
15 opportunity to serve on the Eastern Regional Council
16 myself, I forget how many years but it's good to see all of
17 you. Thank you for allowing me just to say a few words.

18

19 First of all, I have to agree, that tribal
20 involvement, tribal involvement in fisheries and in game is
21 something that I've been advocating for quite some time.
22 Those of you that know me know that I've been advocating
23 that. I think some of this stuff is actually beginning to
24 happen. In terms of fisheries, I guess I just want to
25 emphasis, this is more than just consultations we're
26 talking about. We're talking about also looking at being
27 involved in the management of these resources. So it's not
28 just consultations that we're seeking from the Federal
29 people but we're also seeking to look at ways to be
30 involved in the management of those resources.

31

32 The other thing I wanted to just say is, you know,
33 last week at the Alaska Federation of Natives, you know,
34 there's been a real shift here, and I think people need to
35 understand that. There's been a real shift from where AFN
36 has been in the past. One thing is that they abandoned the
37 Governor's Constitutional amendment. It's something that
38 I've been advocating also for a long time, not only myself
39 but other tribal leaders throughout the state as well. You
40 know, when you're pushing a constitutional amendment that
41 has permissive language, you know, that they may consider
42 our customary and traditional use, it doesn't go far enough
43 to protect our interests. Especially when you're looking
44 at it with the Republican Legislature that we're currently
45 dealing with. There's just no way under the sun that you
46 can expect anything coming out of those folks. So the
47 other shift here is other than abandoning the Governor's
48 Constitutional amendment, the focus is going to be on
49 Washington, D.C. And the main reason for that is mainly

50 because under Federal law, under Title VIII, we have those

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1 protections. And so the shift there is we're going to
2 concentrate more on getting the Interior Secretary,
3 hopefully the Congressional Delegation to support us in
4 this effort. But, you know, I think the Delegation has
5 always had this attitude that Alaskans must solve this
6 problem. But for Alaska Native peoples, we've tried that
7 politically, we've tried it through courts. As you know
8 the Katie John case was applied. I mean, I think, we've
9 tried every avenue possible to advance our issues and
10 concerns and it just hasn't been working for us. So I
11 guess I have a little difference in opinion with the
12 Congressional Delegation that we must solve this here in
13 the state, for Alaska Native peoples, I just don't think
14 that that's going to work.

15
16 The other thing that there's been a major shift in
17 as far as AFN is concerned, is the reclassification of
18 ANCSA lands, that's Indian country. That's a major shift
19 my friends from where they've been. And I think there's
20 some pretty obvious reasons for that. You know, we want to
21 have a little more control over our lands and the resources
22 that are on them. So that's a major shift there as well.

23
24 And so I give a lot of credit to the tribes for
25 putting on the pressure. And I think you ought to all kind
26 of pat yourselves on the back for putting that pressure on.
27 It's been a long time in coming to finally get our voices
28 heard by one of the largest advocacy organizations in the
29 state. It took some time but I think we're all on board on
30 this thing here now. And certainly you folks that are
31 leaders out there in your villages we need you help as
32 well.

33
34 In regard to your functions here, I just have to
35 say that under Federal management, my view is that we have
36 input, we have a say. We also have on the Federal Board
37 representatives of Native peoples that I think understand
38 our concerns and I think you're seeing some results of your
39 work, your involvement here. I know it's frustrating
40 sometimes to try to get our message across. But I want to
41 encourage you to continue your involvement on the Regional
42 Councils.

43
44 I guess in terms of fisheries, one thing, on the
45 upper part of the Yukon River where I came from, Fort
46 Yukon, you know, there's a lot of times people
47 misunderstood me. I recognize that, you know, up and down
48 the Yukon River there's different peoples that, you know,
49 that have commercial interests and there's folks that have

50 subsistence interests. I just happen to come from further

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1 up the Yukon River and my thinking has always been this is
2 a question of fairness, it's not a question of Native
3 against Native issue. And nobody should ever paint that as
4 such. I respect those people who sell fish down river.
5 But I would also like them to respect the fact that we're
6 not getting our fair share up on the upper part of the
7 Yukon and that's what this whole thing comes down to in my
8 view, is it's a question of fairness, it's not a question
9 of whether you're a commercial interest or you're a
10 subsistence user. Because believe me, you know, in this
11 political world, people will work as hard as they can to
12 pit ourselves against each other and that's the worst thing
13 we can do, looking at the resources and the needs for our
14 families.

15
16 So again, I want to thank you very much for just
17 giving me a few minutes and I wish you well. This is going
18 to be a new challenge for all of you when we're talking
19 about getting involved in this fisheries. And I encourage
20 you to, you know, learn as much as you can about it and try
21 to make the best of it. And not only that but, again,
22 management of this resource is something that I think we're
23 all interested in.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 (In Native)

28
29 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Steve. Excuse
30 me, Peggy.

31
32 MS. FOX: Yes.

33
34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I notice Randy's back in
35 the room here. Did you want to go ahead and do your
36 testimony now Randy?

37
38 MR. MAYO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good
39 afternoon Board. Randy Mayo, First Chief Stevens Village
40 Tribal Council.

41
42 I just sit on this Board also along with Steve here
43 a few years ago. And, you know, picking up on some of the
44 discussion going on here, you know, tribal involvement so I
45 just wanted to offer, you know, some tribal government
46 perspective on this whole issue and where the tribes are in
47 Alaska in regards to the systems we have to work in here
48 with, you know, being on advisory councils. I brought
49 along here my tribal natural resource director, Mr. Dewey

50 Schwalenberg and a map of our traditional lands there and a

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1 copy of our tribal constitution. And we'd like to read
2 from a few sections of the constitution, and, you know,
3 just out of curiosity how many Board members on this joint
4 Board here belong to tribal councils or are tribal council
5 chairs?

6
7 (Pause)

8
9 MR. MAYO: You know, that's quite a few.
10 You know, to be quite honest the reason why I'm not getting
11 back on this Board as a tribal chairman it was very
12 frustrating for me to work as an advisor, you know,
13 regarding something so important as our livelihood out
14 there. And you know, to kind of back up a little bit, back
15 in the 1930s we were chartered as an IRA tribe and back
16 then the tribal council petitioned the Secretary of
17 Interior to create a two million acre reserve for us of our
18 traditional land and there was supposed to be a lot of
19 other reserves created in Alaska but because of resource
20 extraction efforts, that was blocked if you look at the
21 archives. And consistently up until the 1980s, the tribe
22 still sought the tribal land be put under Federal trust to
23 guarantee us, you know, under the Constitution regarding
24 Indian tribes, you know, the hunting and fishing rights and
25 the authorities and jurisdictions that other, you know,
26 governments enjoy.

27
28 And you know being a tribal government or Native
29 people, I see a lot of things up here that, you know, a lot
30 of Native organizations but, you know, I think we really
31 have to put the tribal governments back up where they
32 belong because the way I understand it, you know, ANCSA and
33 ANILCA did not do away with our tribal constitutions.
34 That's why I asked how many tribal council people sit on
35 this Board that, you know, you should go back and look at
36 your tribal constitutions and see what's guaranteed under
37 the constitution.

38
39 You know, if I could read a few sections of our
40 constitution here, under Section 3, one of the sections
41 here -- I'll kind of back up a little bit, our constitution
42 was amended in 1990 -- 1991, the Secretary of Interior
43 approved it and under Article 2 of Territory. The
44 territory of Stevens Village shall extend to and include
45 all lands customarily and traditionally used or owned by
46 the Koyukon people of Stevens Village since time and
47 memorial. Included within such traditional lands, all
48 lands withdrawn for selection by the Denja Corporation or
49 Doyon, Ltd., pursuant to the terms of Alaska Native Claims

50 Settlement Act of December 18th, 1971. As hereto and

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1 hereafter amended as well is all lands acquired by Denja or
2 Doyon plus lands withdrawn as the Stevens Village Federal
3 townsite under the terms of Alaska Native Townsite Act of
4 May 25th, 1926. And all fee lands and allotments within
5 the traditional lands of Stevens Village, that, you know,
6 that includes that whole two million acres that the
7 Secretary had to agree on. So this is, you know, this is
8 on the books here. And somewhere along the line we passed
9 each other.

10
11 You know, jurisdiction. Stevens Village will have
12 jurisdiction to the fullest extent possible over all lands
13 and people within its territory.

14
15 Under other council powers. In addition to all
16 power vested in the village or the council by existent law
17 and this constitution, the village acting through the
18 council shall have the following powers to negotiate with
19 Federal, State or local governments and others on behalf of
20 the village and to advise and consult with the
21 representatives of the Secretary of the Interior on all
22 activities which may affect the village. To promote and
23 protect -- no, that's -- another section, except as listed
24 by this constitution to manage, lease, exchange, acquire or
25 otherwise deal with village or other property and to
26 protect and preserve the village property and the wildlife
27 and natural resources within those areas under the
28 jurisdiction of the tribe. To regulate and control the use
29 of natural resources within those areas under the
30 jurisdiction of the tribe. To negotiate agreements with
31 other governments and international agencies not
32 inconsistent with Federal law. To enact ordinances,
33 procedures and regulations necessary to give effect to any
34 provision of this constitution and to exercise any power
35 not prohibited by Federal law.

36
37 These are some of the guarantees that are still out
38 there and valid. I think that, you know, these boards and
39 these agencies really have to set aside some time, you
40 know, on tribal -- you know, Federal Indian law training
41 for the agencies and the council people here.

42
43 So I just wanted to read some of those sections
44 from our tribal constitution which this last January,
45 that's one of the priorities that, you know, we have to
46 amend it again and we passed some ordinances that will be
47 attached to it, you know, along with building up our
48 infrastructure, our tribal natural resource program, you
49 know, and working and seeking agreements with all of the

50 agencies that have taken up some of our land through the

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1 integrated resource management grant there, IRMP process.
2 We have been talking to the agencies on, you know, reaching
3 some kind of interagency tribal agreement. And, you know,
4 on the bigger picture, I really think a lot of these laws
5 have to be -- you have to go back to your IRA charters,
6 that, you know, ANCSA, the way I understand it was just a
7 land statute. And ANILCA, you know, I feel doesn't afford
8 the tribes the full jurisdiction and authority over its
9 traditional lands. That, you know, I believe the tribes
10 really have to push for that to be amended and a tribal
11 land claim has to try to be reached.

12
13 You know, you remember that, you know, as far as my
14 own tribal council goes, back when ANCSA and ANILCA were
15 both being passed, our tribal council chief was not at the
16 table, was not in consultation and, you know, not in
17 agreement with these major laws that really stripped us of
18 a lot of these powers and authorities to regulate our
19 tribal members. You know, Alaska is a public law 280
20 state, concurrent jurisdiction over certain issues and, you
21 know, this is what we're working towards here. You know,
22 it's not to say that we don't use the State and Federal
23 systems, you know, that's the reason for us being here is
24 that we do have some proposals before the Board. But I'd
25 just really like to stress that, you know, under true
26 Native participation, you know, my respective tribal
27 members elected me to go out and represent them for their
28 best interests. And, you know, coming from a tribal
29 government to any other State or Federal government is the
30 proper protocol, organizations and individuals, you know,
31 to me otherwise, that that just knocks it down into, you
32 know, like a rural minority state citizen. And the tribal
33 governments had come by these contracts for a reason. That
34 at one time we were nations, equal to, you know, the
35 incoming governments. And these contracts still stand.
36 They're the law of the land, you know, we can't forget
37 that.

38
39 So what I would really push for and like to see
40 this type of training for these kinds of -- for the Board
41 and for the Federal agencies here. Look at some of the
42 models that these intertribal fish and game commissions.
43 And you know, this is what I believe where the tribal
44 governments can come in and start exploring some of these
45 different successful models and come into agreement with
46 the State and Federal system, you know, through the
47 political method and back that up with technical capacity
48 that every tribe should be a priority and start building in
49 their respective tribal homeland, you know, out in their

50 areas there and really come to, you know, an agreeable

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1 solution. But again, it can't be agreeable if, you know,
2 the tribal councils are not involved fully other than in
3 the tribal capacity but at the real upper level decision-
4 making levels there.

5
6 So over here I have a map here and I'd like to have
7 my natural resource director explain some of this here.

8
9 MR. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you. The map
10 represents one section of land around the Yukon River
11 crossing with the Dalton Highway. The center of the map
12 shows kind of a serpentine pattern of maroon colored land.
13 That's the land that currently is owned by the Denja
14 Corporation which Randy was talking about. The entire
15 block there represents approximately the original request
16 by the tribe for 2.3 million acres of land to be put into
17 reservation status back in the 30s. So you see what's
18 happened is the tribe has 500 acres of land, Denja
19 Corporation has 126,000 acres. That's what Randy's talking
20 about, the original request from their ancestors who
21 understood where the traditional area was was 2.3 million
22 acres. Those people understood at that time that it would
23 take that kind of land base to continue to provide the
24 opportunity to do their subsistence traditional hunting and
25 fishing and gathering. So what's in reality happened with
26 no participation by the tribes directly is the fact that
27 they now are on 500 acres of land. They have access to
28 126,000 acres of land but, in fact, that's not nearly
29 enough area for the local people to meet all of their
30 needs. So that's the land status.

31
32 Now, Stevens Village did do a comprehensive land
33 use plan which identifies the total traditional lands. It
34 does under its constitution claim authority for co-managing
35 those lands. It recognizes the authority of the
36 subsistence councils, the Board of Game, the Fish and
37 Wildlife Service, the Refuge, all of those other entities
38 but it also claims to have co-management jurisdiction and
39 authority. So what Randy's really trying to do here today
40 is to separate the political action that he discussed
41 earlier with the technical action which I'm discussing. So
42 what happens is these different levels have to be melded.
43 Everybody sitting around this table here has a
44 responsibility to take the Federal law that created these
45 councils, meld them with the law of the constitution of the
46 tribes and with state jurisdiction and come up with some
47 kind of a meaningful action plan. That's why Stevens
48 Village hired me as a professional resource manager. My
49 job is not to dabble in the politics, my job is to come up

50 with some recommendations for what kinds of technical

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1 management plans would work. And that's why we're sitting
2 here today.

3
4 We have made attempts over the last year to bring
5 together State, Federal and tribal issues in recreational
6 fisheries, subsistence fisheries, moose management, brown
7 bear management and community harvest quota systems. You
8 recall last year we gave testimony before you that said we
9 had a community quota system in place in Stevens Village.
10 We recommended what that system should be. Now, here's
11 where the rub comes. As other agencies and the State and
12 Federal people look into their constitution, look into
13 their regulations they start seeing differences. They talk
14 about whether or not a tribal management can actually work
15 for non-Native people. So there a lot of things that are
16 going to have to be developed here and coordinated to make
17 this all work. Again, we're trying to use the existing
18 systems.

19
20 The system that you just heard discussed the
21 fisheries management system with the new Federal funds is
22 currently one of our failures for this year. We have been
23 working on a northern pike recreational subsistence fishery
24 management project the last few years with the State and
25 the Federal agencies and we submitted a proposal this year
26 saying, okay, a lot of people are working on salmon, of
27 course, it's very important, extremely important. Other
28 people are working on white fish, yes, that's important.
29 But is anybody working on the relationship between the
30 recreational fishery that's going on, creeping up the Yukon
31 River or especially around Stevens Village and the
32 subsistence needs. Remember, last year we testified that
33 Stevens Village had their subsistence fishery wiped out by
34 State regulation prior to two years ago because of no
35 participation and involvement. So we did put a proposal in
36 and in all honesty, I don't see that proposal surfacing for
37 funding for this year. So that means that we will have to
38 do a reduced effort this year instead of what we had
39 originally planned on doing.

40
41 So this tribal consultation that people talk about,
42 I mean, when you have a tribe that stands up and can tell
43 you what it wants to do, I mean, obviously that should be
44 very important. If a tribe gets to the level where they
45 want to participate and tell you what they want to do, that
46 has got to be a top priority as far as tribes are
47 concerned. Because that's where your real information is
48 going to come from for developing management systems that
49 are actually going to work.

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1 So the things that we're talking about this year,
2 both with the State Board of Game and Fish and the
3 Subsistence Councils will be the moose management proposal.
4 One quick comment on the moose management proposal and
5 community harvest proposal that's being submitted at the
6 State level, we have to take exception with the one
7 provision in that proposal that states that the State will
8 allow any local community member to be a harvest
9 administrator which means this is a group harvest. That's
10 what the State's advocating for. Anybody can get a harvest
11 administrator permit and under that permit so many animals
12 can be taken. Well, in our estimation this undermines the
13 authority of the tribal government. Tribal government, as
14 Randy just stated, has the authority to manage its members.
15 When the State tries to interject laws that allow people to
16 go out and do these types of things, that was not the
17 intention. The intention was to have the tribal
18 governments to exercise the authority within that community
19 to administer these hunts, set quotas, to do harvest data
20 collection, all of the things that a tribe is capable and
21 interested in doing. So we're going to take exception to
22 that one provision that would allow anybody to be a harvest
23 administrator. I think that has got to be a tribal
24 government's responsibility to do that.

25
26 The other provision is the lack of harvest of cows.
27 We've discussed this and argued this point over the years
28 saying that cows are being taken. That Federal and State
29 agencies have to recognize that harvest. And currently the
30 Federal agency is not willing to recognize a legal harvest
31 of cows and the State agency has told us, at least, that
32 they will recognize a cow harvest under a traditional and
33 customary hunting practice. So with our harvest data that
34 we have been collecting, we indicate that up to 20 cows
35 have been harvested annually by the three communities so we
36 think that needs to be put into a provision in Federal and
37 State law that recognizes that harvest. But we would add
38 that we think the cow harvest, because it's under cultural
39 and traditional practices, should be given to the tribal
40 council to make the appropriate decision on who is going to
41 go out and harvest these cows and for what purposes. So
42 that's not much of a change from our position last year.

43
44 And the last one is the brown bear, that is a State
45 issue. The State season does not link up with the Federal
46 season as it currently stands. And other issues such as
47 how many permits should be issued by the Federal and State
48 agencies, I think everybody's pretty much in agreement with
49 that, we're going to try to get those seasons consistent.

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1 Now, what will eventually happen if all of this
2 works is, as Randy mentioned, the tribal government has had
3 a referendum with its annual membership meeting and five
4 ordinances were passed by the local members. They're now
5 on the books. These were primarily land ordinances and
6 leasing of land ordinances and environmental solid waste
7 ordinances. The next position the tribe will take will be
8 to have natural resource ordinances. So we'd sure like to
9 see all of the State, Federal and tribal ordinances be
10 consistent instead of different land, different season,
11 different harvest, different bag limits and those types of
12 things. So that's really what we have been pushing for is
13 a consistent management plan and strategy by the three
14 governments to come to grips with the difficult problems
15 looking at that checkerboard up there and people trying to
16 figure out where they're going to hunt and gather.

17
18 So that's pretty much our testimony right now
19 unless anybody has questions or if Randy has something else
20 I need to discuss.

21
22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any questions
23 for them?

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just one.

26
27 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ron.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you going to be around
30 to discuss these proposals?

31
32 MR. MAYO: Yes.

33
34 MR. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, according to the
35 way the schedule is up there I think we should be
36 available.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. That's when we're
39 going to be calling on you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I got one question here.
42 When you had your tribal meeting, how was the attendance at
43 that meeting? Did you have the full attendance, half?

44
45 MR. MAYO: Yeah. Our -- you know, we
46 really stress our tribal government and the people at home
47 understand it and take it serious, you know, this is their
48 government and we have overwhelming, you know, all the
49 eligible tribal member vote -- voting members show up, you

50 know, and really get a handle on things and base their

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1 decisions on, you know, good information. But, you know,
2 we push our tribal constitution and we educate or members
3 on it and, you know, I think that the State and Federal and
4 these Boards have to really look at these tribal
5 constitutions because these are law, along with ANCSA and
6 ANILCA. You people have to realize that, that tribal
7 council people sitting here have to go home and if they're
8 not exercising it, dust it off, ask questions, you know,
9 get -- you know, get some legal advice. And like I said,
10 we're -- this constitution was amended in 1990 to get this
11 land inserted into it to back up the other sections I
12 talked about. But now, even between 1990 and now it's
13 outdated and it needs to be overhauled again. So it's an
14 ongoing evolution, you know, that this constitution
15 precedes the State constitution. You know, this is our
16 contract with the Federal government, you know, in exchange
17 for everything that was given up except that trust
18 responsibility, which, again, the people here -- agency
19 people and Board people, have to realize that the tribes
20 still have that relationship with the government through
21 the Department of Interior. And also some sections of the
22 State law, you know. The way I understand it, some of the
23 Federal supremacy clauses and some of the other State
24 Constitutional laws that I think if these were really
25 looked at and researched and good legal summaries were put
26 out there, that people would begin to start realizing what
27 these tribal constitutions really mean in relationship to
28 the the work that's being done here.

29
30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any other
31 questions. Okay, thank you for your time, Randy.

32
33 MR. MAYO: Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Gerald.

36
37 MR. NICHOLIA: I was just wondering what
38 the State was doing with your brown bear deal or are you
39 guys going to be there? Have you heard anything yet?

40
41 MR. SCHWALENBERG: No, we haven't heard
42 anything but we will be at the Board of Game hearings. And
43 incidently, here's another quick interesting point, we have
44 had some interesting discussions, to say the least, with
45 the Federal and State agency people and one of the things
46 that came out really kind of hit me by surprise. Some of
47 the agency people were feeling that this was a negotiation
48 process that we were going through. And I think that maybe
49 is a feeling that a lot of people have is that they're

50 negotiating over fish and wildlife. That certainly is not

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1 our position, it never has been a tribal position.

2 Last week, Randy and myself and other tribal
3 leaders spent time in Anchorage going over whether there
4 was going to be a negotiation panel to sit down with the
5 State and the overwhelming consensus of those people was
6 tribes are not negotiating. I mean when we talk about a
7 moose management plan, we don't say, well, you know, if you
8 give us 10 days of a season we'll give you two cows, you
9 know, that's not what this is about. This is not
10 negotiating over fish and wildlife. So the tribal's
11 position is they are going to harvest 20 cows. We want to
12 see that made legal in your systems. The tribe can make it
13 legal in its system in an instant. I don't think anybody
14 in Stevens Village, a tribal member would vote against
15 harvesting 20 cows at this stage. Now, whether it's good
16 science, good biology, good natural resource management,
17 that's what this technical group has to figure out.

18
19 But by not recognizing that there is a harvest
20 going on, how can you manage? You just say, well, we don't
21 recognize there's a harvest of cows; well, that's been our
22 point all along. So this is not negotiation. And people
23 should not get frustrated with the tribal position when we
24 say, oh, we -- we suggest you do this, this and this,
25 people should not think, well, if they can do three of them
26 then they'll give up two.

27
28 I was involved in the tribal state negotiations in
29 Wisconsin during the big treaty case down there. I was the
30 lead biologist for the tribes. There never was
31 negotiations. The tribes position was laid out, the
32 State's position was laid out and believe it or not, most
33 of the times, those positions were pretty much the same.

34
35 CHAIRMAN MILLER: But then didn't Wisconsin
36 recognizes tribal governments as a government-to-government
37 basis, don't they?

38
39 MR. SCHWALENBERG: Nope. Not to this day.

40
41 CHAIRMAN MILLER: So it's the same as the
42 State here then?

43
44 MR. SCHWALENBERG: That's right. They
45 never -- when the tribes -- the only difference the tribes
46 won a treaty case which the courts then enforced and forced
47 the state and the tribe to sit down and develop some sort
48 of a co-management regime. That was the one major
49 difference.

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1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: And that was still
2 negotiating though.

3
4 MR. SCHWALENBERG: Well, it was not
5 negotiating in the sense that the tribes were giving up
6 something. See the court had decided that the tribes were
7 entitled to 50 percent of all harvestable resources. They
8 started out with 100 percent, the first court decision said
9 100 percent. That's what you're really dealing with. The
10 Northwest Indians, in their case, same thing, 50 percent of
11 all harvestable resources was established by court. And
12 the reason it said 50 percent was because all the treaties
13 down there said, this was being held in common -- the
14 tribes held it in common with the rest of the residents --
15 or the rest of the people.

16
17 So a negotiation process, we choose to use --
18 there's going to have to be some co-management discussions
19 but as far as, well, if you give something, you know, we
20 will give something. It's not the same. Tribes that I've
21 worked with and know of, they don't negotiate. They come
22 from a position of sovereign authority where they basically
23 know what they can do and that's how they make their
24 decisions.

25
26 So allocation is a different thing. What you're
27 really saying is there was allocations. If there was
28 300,000 deer could be taken or if there's 150 moose, yes,
29 they should be allocated amongst the tribes and then other
30 user groups that legally have the right to be there. But
31 negotiation, no, I'm going to throw in an extra -- well,
32 I'll give you one quick example. The first time the tribe
33 sat down, they didn't understand this process and the State
34 was coming cold and didn't understand it either, so the
35 very first tribal representative was talking to me and he
36 says, how many deer do we need, and I said, well, you have
37 nine bands and you have 9,000 members so, you know, we
38 figured about a thousand deer. And he says, okay, we'll
39 ask for 16,000. And I said, well, why would you want to
40 ask for 16,000 if you're only going to take a thousand.
41 You own all of them, all the harvestable surplus but let's
42 put an allocation on the table that's realistic because
43 that will change from year-to-year.

44
45 So the allocation thing, you're absolutely right,
46 there's give and take in that process but no negotiations
47 is, I believe, my direction from the tribal leadership so
48 we don't want to get into that negotiation posture.

49

CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any more

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1 questions here.

2 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just one. It's quite
3 apparent that you never attended the annual meeting of the
4 Federal Subsistence Board. There's about 30 or 40
5 proposals that all we do is change dates to match the
6 State's existing one or match the State proposals to match
7 our subsistence ones as we prioritize. And if you attend
8 all 13 -- 10 days of this Board of Game meeting here you'll
9 see that they realign a lot of those proposals and seasons
10 to avoid all that confusion. And I'm glad you'll be
11 attending that.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thanks for your time,
16 Randy. Shall we try this again, Peggy?

17

18

19 MS. FOX: I'm ready when you're ready.

20

21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ron.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Chair, Peggy has a plane
24 to catch a little earlier than we thought and I would like
25 to continue with the next three items and without
26 interruption and then take a break.

27

28 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Okay, we'll
29 continue on with the sustainable salmon fisheries policy
30 for State of Alaska.

31

32 MS. FOX: Thank you. This policy was
33 mailed out to each Council member on February 7th. I don't
34 know exactly when everyone received it. But I guess what I
35 -- my purpose is to see if there are Council comments on
36 the document that we can incorporate into the Federal
37 Subsistence Program's comments back to the Board of
38 Fisheries before they take action on it on March 17th. I
39 wanted to give you this opportunity to discuss it among
40 yourselves and give me comments. I also indicated that you
41 could submit comments to me on or before March 3rd, so that
42 as I collect everybody's comments I can consolidate them
43 and send it to -- or I'm actually going to be attending the
44 Board of Fisheries meeting March 17th and relay our
45 comments and concerns.

46

47 I hope people had a chance to look at it. But like
48 I say, if you didn't, I can still take comments at least
49 through next week and probably even a few days after that

50 and pull those together. So that's all this topic was

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1 about was to hear from you.

2 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ron.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have an 800 number
5 that we can call in our comments on?

6

7 MS. FOX: Yeah. You can use the 800 number
8 calling into our office. You can also forward any comments
9 you wish straight to the Board of Fisheries, they don't
10 have to go through our office. But I guess those are the
11 two avenues. We are trying to answer our 800 number not
12 just take messages.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. yeah, the reason I
15 ask is just I've been traveling and to tell the truth I
16 haven't really looked at this other than what we covered
17 down at Anchorage.

18

19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Does anybody have any
20 comments?

21

22 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

23

24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: I have a comment on Page 5 of
27 the sustained salmon fisheries policy at the top of the
28 page under D. I have a problem with this mandate. An
29 understanding of the proportion of mortality inflicted on
30 each stock by each user group and an allocation of the
31 burden of conservation across user groups shall be promoted
32 and achieved. And I distinctly disagree with that stance.

33

34 Subsistence should have the highest priority under
35 State law and under the rural preference under Federal law,
36 and that statement is totally erroneous under both
37 management regimes. So I take exception with that
38 statement and feel that both, Federal and State Board
39 should strike that.

40

41 MS. FOX: Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any other
44 comments?

45

46 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Robert.

49

MR. NICK: Peggy, on the first page, the

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1 title, sustainable salmon fisheries, there's some villages,
2 especially in my immediate areas that some families in the
3 villages that subsistence on white fish, pike, sheefish,
4 but not salmon. So I'm wondering how in this policy those
5 fish species would be included. Because of the next page,
6 Page 2, C and E.

7

8 MS. FOX: Page 6 did you say.

9

10 MR. NICK: No, Page 2.

11

12 MS. FOX: Page 2.

13

14 MR. NICK: Because of C and E, I'm asking
15 how white fish, pike, black fish, my favorite fish, would
16 be included in this policy? This is a general statewide
17 policy. And then I think those -- there's probably about a
18 total population of 3,000 people there a lot of whom do not
19 fish for salmon but they fish for white fish, pike, shee,
20 black; I'm just wondering how they could be included?
21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Do I hear anymore --
24 okay, Craig. I knew you had a comment.

25

26 MR. FLEENER: Is there a reason why this is
27 just limited to sustainable salmon fisheries? Is there
28 supposed t be a sustainable white fishery and sustainable
29 grayling fishery policy as well coming out?

30

31 MS. FOX: And I don't know the answer to
32 that question. Terry, do you know or is there anyone here
33 who could answer that?

34

35 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I don't have the
36 answer to that question. Obviously salmon is a very
37 important species around the state.

38

39 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, I brought that
40 issue up earlier today, you know, with the other species of
41 fish. And I don't know, the only thing I could surmise out
42 of it is they're waiting until they're on the down side and
43 then they're going to start doing research. Unless we can
44 change something here. But I agree with you guys on this,
45 I think we need to start doing something before it happens,
46 not wait until after they're gone.

47

48 MR. FLEENER: Well, as several of the other
49 Council members here have pointed out, a lot of people

50 don't harvest salmon and in some places thousands and

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1 thousands of white fish are caught and in comparison to the
2 Upper Yukon where a family might be happy to catch 20 kings
3 they can easily catch 50 white fish. So to say that salmon
4 is more important -- it certainly is more important to the
5 commercial fishery industry and maybe to some people down
6 at the mouth who have access to hundreds of king salmon but
7 the further and further away you get from the mouth or the
8 ocean, not that it's not an important resource but there
9 are also other fish that are important. And I'm just --
10 I'm wondering how applicable all this could be to other
11 stocks, other wild stocks of fish?

12
13 Is this document written so that other species
14 couldn't be included? It doesn't seem like it. Like on
15 Page 1 under A1, it says, salmon habitat should not be
16 perturbed beyond natural boundaries of variation; that
17 could easily say white fish or black fish for that matter.
18 And it seems to me that it's pretty important to quite a
19 few people on the Council that maybe we should be looking
20 at a more overall sustainable fishing policy for the entire
21 state. Not that this isn't important and maybe this is
22 just a first step and we could pursue it later but I think
23 that it sounds fairly important to an awful lot of Council
24 members that we pursue sustainable fishery policies for all
25 of our fish.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Terry, you had something
30 to say.

31
32 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I think what you
33 can do with this policy is look at it as a blueprint for
34 developing similar kinds of policies for other species over
35 time. If you see this as a good approach for salmon
36 management, parts of it may well apply to freshwater
37 stocks, some of it won't be applicable.

38
39 So I think look at it as something that you can use
40 as a tool for other fisheries rather than something that
41 might not cover everything you'd like to see.

42
43 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I think one of the points
44 we're trying to get across here is are we going to do
45 something now or are we going to wait until they start
46 declining before we start doing any studies on them? Is I
47 think kind of what we're -- or at least that's what I'm
48 trying to find out. Is there anything, are they going to
49 do any fish counting or anything, testing now, on the

50 different species of fish or are they going to wait until

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1 they start really declining before we start trying to do
2 something?

3

4 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I think under
5 the proposals that are being funded for study there are
6 some proposals that are funded in this initial money that
7 deal with looking at white fish and other things.

8

9 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

10

11 MR. COLLINS: So that's already in the
12 works. Am I right in that, Peggy?

13

14 MS. FOX: Yes. Yes, and you'll hear more
15 about that from Chuck and Taylor when we get to the last
16 item.

17

18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Okay, we'll start
19 with Knowland.

20

21 MR. SILAS: I'm Knowland Silas. For the
22 last few years on the Minto Flats we had a drastic decline
23 in the white fish and we've been asking for studies on why
24 it is. There's an emergency order from the State fisheries
25 biologist and State game that fish -- there won't be any
26 more white fish spearing on the Chatanika and this has
27 been, I'll say about three or four years and we haven't
28 seen the results of it. The fish aren't back. And we've
29 noticed a decline in the pike out in the Flats, a drastic
30 decline over what it used to be.

31

32 We've been asking for these studies for a long time
33 and I've been talking to the State and they're going to do
34 a little one but I think that an overall study has to be
35 taken on there because of the influx of all these large
36 mines that are coming up on the Chatanika and adjacent to
37 all the streams to Minto. As we go on with fish it's going
38 to keep happening all over the state, that the fish are
39 disappearing and we all know that. It's what actions we
40 take today that's going to bring them back if they're going
41 to come back.

42

43 But I think that's where most of our aim should be
44 is to be studying these fish, why are they declining? I'm
45 working on some people -- the Federal government working
46 with Natives to do fish studies, to study the toxin in the
47 fish and water quality. And I think if anybody wants to
48 get along with me and pursue this avenue, there's training
49 for this in Anchorage in April and in August and September

50 to do some studies on this and learn more about what's

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1 happening to our waters and streams and fish. So you can
2 talk to me later on this if you want to follow that up.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Gerald.

7

8 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I have a comment about
9 this salmon fisheries policy. Just the first line there it
10 says, the Alaska Board of Fisheries recognizes that
11 although Alaska salmon fisheries are healthy and
12 sustainable. I've been fishing for the last 35 years with
13 my father and I'll tell you right now I don't think they
14 are healthy and sustainable. And that abundant pristine
15 habitat, what the Yukon Watershed Council is doing, I don't
16 think they're -- they do have abundant pristine habitat due
17 to all the mining activities that's going across the
18 border, raw sewage being dumped into the Yukon River across
19 the border and a lot of mining activities that -- on for
20 the last 150 years. I don't think it's really pristine.
21 The only thing that's really making this pristine is what
22 we're doing now and what we should have done before. I
23 think the State should rewrite this thing right here
24 because I've been living on the Yukon River fishing for
25 almost all my life since I was six or seven years old and
26 it's not abundant and it's barely healthy. You could look
27 at all the diseases in the salmon and we're even finding
28 some in the chums and stuff. I don't think this is true
29 right here.

30

31 That's just my comment.

32

33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Craig.

34

35 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, I was wondering, maybe
36 Terry could answer. If the Council here or one of the
37 Council's were to come up with a policy similar to this for
38 other fisheries, how likely is it that the State would
39 adopt it? At least, would they be willing to look at it?
40 Because you said we could use this as a stepping stone, a
41 building block. Let's just say that I go home and type of
42 one of these for white fish or freshwater fish in general,
43 what is the likelihood that it would be looked at with the
44 State?

45

46 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I think the
47 first thing to do would be if there's a specific white fish
48 fishery or other fishery that you're interested in seeing a
49 management plan developed or some specific action taken,

50 you have to talk to the appropriate staff in the department

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1 as a first step and figure out, number 1, if the Department
2 can put resources into that fishery, doing research, taking
3 other steps that might be needed. If we can, then I think
4 the next step is this way -- do we need a policy or do we
5 just need to develop some type of a plan of action to
6 address the problem. There may be cases when we can't do
7 much because of limited resources. There may be cases
8 where it's appropriate to take this as an idea to the
9 Office of Subsistence Management and to the Federal Board
10 as well.

11
12 MR. FLEENER: Well, it seems like that's
13 basically what we would do with this document anyways.
14 This is identifying all the salmon fisheries as being
15 important and all these other things we need to maintain,
16 good habitat. I'm sure we're not going to go out, as soon
17 as this document gets approved, I'm sure we're not going to
18 go out and start allocating resources to every salmon
19 stream, every spawning area and start implementing
20 everything in here. It's a policy. It's a guiding
21 principle. And I think we would do the same thing with
22 other fisheries, we would set a guiding principle that says
23 we want to maintain pristine habitat or, I don't even know
24 what it -- I haven't had a chance to look it over myself.
25 But I think it looks to me like it's a guiding principle,
26 not a set of mandates that we're going to go out and
27 implement the day that it's adopted.

28
29 My question really wasn't, we need to identify each
30 individual fisheries problem and try to conquer every one
31 of them. The idea is that we want to set guidelines for
32 management of our fisheries and that's what I think this is
33 trying to do. That's just what I'm asking for other
34 fisheries and I guess that's the point of why is this
35 limited to salmon when we could easily carry this across to
36 slimy sculp if we wanted to. You know, we could use it for
37 all the species.

38
39 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

40
41 MR. GOOD: You know, this is very long and
42 very wordy and sometimes I look at this and I say, well, is
43 this policy being developed, you know, as a result of
44 commercial pressures? Is it an attempt to satisfy them, to
45 show them that something's being done for them? I don't
46 know. But one thing does seem kind of obvious to me,
47 perhaps it is the simplest thing to say that we can only
48 discuss what we can do about salmon in Alaska. But I think
49 some recognition could be in here as to the fact that

50 that's only part of the salmon cycle and that there are

00094

1 parts that we can't control and a lot of the problems don't
2 exist -- I mean much of the problem that we face here can't
3 be controlled by the policy for the management of
4 sustainable salmon fisheries and it is, indeed, totally out
5 of our control.

6
7 MR. FLEENER: He's bringing in the big guns
8 now.

9
10 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, go ahead, Vince.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Not to defer the discussion
13 but you will be discussing this. Western Interior had it
14 in their annual report that the Federal Subsistence Board
15 and agencies give proper attention to resident fish
16 populations. So I just want to remind the Western Interior
17 members that you'll be back visiting this discussion in
18 your annual report because you spent quite a bit of time in
19 Aniak on this very discussion. So it may be something that
20 you want to work on jointly. I'm not deferring it I'm just
21 saying that's an action that you already have pending.

22
23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Jack.

24
25 MR. REAKOFF: On Page 2, under D, it says,
26 the effects and interactions of introduced and enhanced
27 stocks and wild stocks should be assessed. Wild stocks and
28 fisheries on them should be protected from adverse impacts
29 from artificial propagation and enhancement efforts. And I
30 very much agree with that. I feel that the wild stocks
31 should have a priority over the hatchery fish and
32 enhancement fish. And they should be promoted to the most
33 maximum extent.

34
35 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Terry.

36
37 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to ask
38 Keith Schultz to maybe give you a little bit of background
39 on this plan -- on this document, and perhaps that will
40 answer some of your questions as to why it exists and why
41 something else doesn't exist.

42
43 MR. SCHULTZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
44 name is Keith Schultz. I'm the Yukon area management
45 biologist here stationed in Fairbanks. And as I understand
46 it, I am not -- first of all, I'm not part of the drafting
47 committee on this policy statement or this policy. But
48 like you, I received the review draft that I haven't gone
49 through as thoroughly as I should have.

00095

1 But as I understand it, we did have an escapement
2 goal policy, it was a salmon escapement goal policy that
3 this has kind of been spun off. There's reasons to
4 identify and will lay out what sustainable fisheries are.
5 And although, I think it's recognized that white fish,
6 sheefish, pike, all those are very important species,
7 there's data limitations to what you can do. And even
8 applying the sustainable fisheries to the salmon population
9 which is probably our best data sources, and we have our
10 most thorough data available to do this on salmon you're
11 pushing it in a lot of fisheries. I mean the data isn't
12 there to identify the total population, what levels needed
13 to be sustainable and all these other terms that are in
14 here.

15
16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, we're going to have
17 to start some place.

18
19 MR. SCHULTZ: When you apply that to white
20 fish and sheefish for some of these areas there's very
21 little information that's known about that and to apply
22 some sustainable fisheries to those, you need to know some
23 basic items and one of them would be population size and
24 spawning population and all that kind of information. We
25 barely have that for a lot of our salmon species. We have
26 it for very few white fish and other non-salmon species.

27
28 So, you know, basically it's a spin off of the
29 escapement goal policy. It was geared towards salmon in
30 trying to identify a sustainable fisheries policy. I hope
31 that helped and not confused it.

32
33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You made it worse. No, I
34 think one of the things we're trying to get at is, you
35 know, we know we got to start going out and collecting data
36 for these other species, why not try and start now instead
37 of waiting until the populations are starting deplete and
38 then try and figure out, well, gee, what happened, you
39 know, they're all gone now, what happened? You know, maybe
40 if we start now and lets not make the same mistakes we did
41 with the salmon. I mean people thought the salmon were
42 going to be here forever and they're not, you know, so I
43 think that's one of the points we're trying to get across.
44 We're to get -- you know, let's start the process now with
45 the other fish, you know, the data collecting. I don't
46 know, you know, where we could get the funding for things
47 like this, but, you know, it's something that's going to
48 have to be done or else the white fish is going to go the
49 same way the salmon did. One day we're going to wake up

50 and they're going to be gone.

00096

1 Go ahead, Craig.

2

3 MR. FLEENER: Thanks for that history,
4 where this came from. I guess that's important. But I see
5 that with the main chapter headings or whatever you want to
6 call them, paragraph headings in here, they're easily
7 transferable to non-salmon species. You know, it says
8 here, wild salmon populations and their habitat should be
9 protected to maintain resource productivity, you could
10 stick any fish in there. You don't have to have numbers
11 for those. One it says, fisheries shall be managed to
12 allow escapements within ranges necessary to conserve
13 sustainable potential -- I mean you strike the word,
14 escapement, since escapement deals with migratory fish,
15 maybe it does, maybe it doesn't, but maintaining production
16 and normal ecosystem functioning, you don't have to have
17 numbers for that. Page 3, effective salmon management
18 systems shall be established and applied to regulate human
19 activities that affect salmon. You can easily stick any
20 other fish name in there. Page 4, public support and
21 involvement for sustained use, you can stick any fish name
22 in there. And it goes on and on.

23

24 So I think that we -- I don't think we need to
25 really kick this thing around anymore but just pointing out
26 the fact that if we're going to develop a fisheries policy,
27 I would support us also pursuing policies for other
28 species.

29

30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any other
31 questions.

32

33 MR. GOOD: I just have one real quick on.
34 And that's on Page 9, number 11, when you're giving all
35 your definitions, there's a definition for an expanding
36 fishery. I wonder if fishery itself could be defined?

37

38 MS. FOX: What page are you on?

39

40 MR. GOOD: This is on Page 9.

41

42 MR. FLEENER: Page 9, number 11.

43

44 MR. GOOD: Number 11, there are definitions
45 -- see here, a list of definitions. And it says, and it
46 defines expanding fishery. And it says fishery which, I
47 just wondered if fishery could be defined, like in terms of
48 commercial, sport or in our case subsistence?

49

MR. FLEENER: Number 22 has mixed stock

00097

1 fishery but that doesn't really meet what you're looking
2 for, does it?

3

4 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, you're asking
5 for a definition of fishery; is that what you're asking?

6

7 MR. GOOD: Yeah, right. Is there a
8 fishery, it talks about new fishery, what were the old
9 ones? Expanding fisheries. I'm just asking for a
10 definition of fisheries and perhaps that would be
11 commercial, sport, subsistence?

12

13 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I don't think he's
14 asking you to give us one, I think he's.....

15

16 MR. GOOD: No, no, I'm just asking.....

17

18 MR. FLEENER:saying that those would
19 be good to put into here.

20

21 MR. GOOD:why there isn't one here.

22

23 MR. FLEENER: Poor guy's grabbing his
24 dictionary.

25

26 MR. GOOD: No, no, I don't want.....

27

28 MR. FLEENER: Just say, yeah, that sounds
29 like a good idea.

30

31 CHAIRMAN MILLER: That's all we need right
32 now, Terry, just nod your head.

33

34 MR. GOOD: Just think about it.

35

36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any more
37 questions for anybody here? I think we kind of got off of
38 the situation here. Hearing none, let's move down to.....

39

40 MR. STICKMAN: I have one.

41

42 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, go ahead, Michael.

43

44 MR. STICKMAN: With your -- we have a fish
45 counting tower in Nulato and we've been doing it for years
46 with money from Bering Sea Fisherman's Association. But
47 we've been doing it for so long that now that -- we feel
48 that now that we can probably do a better job if we had
49 more money because every year we try to use the same --

50 well, they were kids when they first started and now

00098

1 they're adults. Like the oldest one would probably be
2 maybe 22 years old now. And we figure he has the capacity
3 to run the counting tower himself. And we figure that he
4 can do a better job than anyone the State or the Feds will
5 send to Nulato. But with that kind of capacity and with
6 the methods they have now we figure that they can probably
7 do a better job if they had more money.

8
9 MS. FOX: That would be, maybe, a
10 suggestion you can bring up when Chuck and Taylor come up
11 and they start talking about specific projects and
12 opportunities like you're talking about to enhance
13 information gathering. So I just suggest we bring that up
14 in a few minutes when Chuck and Taylor come up. I'm sure
15 they caught your comment so they'll address it.

16
17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any more questions.
18 Okay, let's move down to number 4, Federal/State MOU/MOA.

19
20 MS. FOX: Thank you. Greg Bos and myself
21 are both part of the Federal group that works with our
22 counterparts in the State in producing different versions
23 of this draft document, and I've asked Greg to give you the
24 update on this subject.

25
26 MS. BOS: Thank you, Peggy. Mr. Chairman.
27 I think everyone has a copy of the proposed revisions.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: You should have them in your
30 green notebook, it should be dated February 11th, it has no
31 letterhead on it, just blank at the top, it says Regional
32 Advisory Council members attached is the second draft and
33 then your comments from your training session would be in
34 that one that Peggy signed that you were looking at
35 earlier.

36
37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I think first I'd just
38 like to ask, have they ever decided whether it's going to
39 be MOU or MOA yet or is that -- it's kind of vague?

40
41 MR. BOS: I think you'll see that we're
42 proposing to change it to a memorandum of agreement.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

45
46 MR. BOS:in response to some of the
47 Council's comments, they felt agreement was a better term
48 to use because it suggested a stronger commitment to what
49 was being proposed under the document.

00099

1 An earlier draft was distributed to Council members
2 before the January orientation session that we had in
3 Anchorage in January. We very much appreciate the effort
4 that the Councils made at that time to comment,
5 particularly given the very short review time that you had,
6 and I think most of the Councils wanted additional time to
7 review the proposed draft, and I'll call it an MOA now and
8 also take it -- go back to their communities and get some
9 opinions from some of the villages that they represent. So
10 that's the reason we're bringing it before you now for
11 discussion. We hope that you had an opportunity to look it
12 over and are prepared to comment.

13
14 The comments you did offer at the January session
15 were carried back to the Federal Board and the principle or
16 substantive concerns that were raised were with the process
17 that was used in developing the memorandum, who the
18 signatories should be and the participation by Regional
19 Councils and tribal representatives or others in the
20 development of an agreement. The Board did discuss those
21 issues and endorsed a more explicit role for the Regional
22 Councils in reviewing and further development of the
23 memorandum of agreement, the development of protocols and
24 the implementation of protocols as well.

25
26 So the revised draft before you show the number of
27 changes in response to the Council comments that we
28 received. Those changes are shown as underlined words for
29 those words or phrases that are being deleted, and the
30 bold-faced type in brackets for wording proposed to be
31 added. I think to sum those changes up, there were
32 numerous specific references included to Regional Advisory
33 Council involvement, participation of tribes and other
34 subsistence interests and groups in many aspects of the
35 management process. In particular, the Regional Advisory
36 Councils will have an important role in developing
37 individual protocols and in implementing those protocols.
38 Some of the changes also include reference to cultural
39 principles being included as well as scientific principles
40 in management planning and decision-making and the use of
41 cultural information and traditional environmental
42 knowledge as an important part of the information basis
43 used in management of fisheries.

44
45 I don't know how you want to proceed on this, Mr.
46 Chair, if you want to go page by page over those changes,
47 if you've had a chance to look at them, maybe you just want
48 to comment to specific ones of interest to you.

49

CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any.....

00100

1 MR. BOS: We're here to answer questions
2 and take additional comments you may have on the draft.

3
4 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Do you have any comments
5 on -- have you guys had a chance to look over the draft?
6 Is there any comments -- okay, go ahead, Ron.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, just one, I stated
9 before that I hadn't really gone through it with a fine
10 tooth but right off the bat I would like to strike the
11 initials MOU forever. Like you said, they'll commit, give
12 you more of a commitment from both sides because you could
13 tell the state, I understand you have a problem or they
14 could tell us, I understand you have a problem and leave it
15 at that, but this memorandum of agreement, that commits
16 both sides to working together.

17
18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I got a question here and
19 maybe Ida can help me with this one. Under Part 3, the
20 guiding principles, we came up with another word for
21 sustainable at.....

22
23 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
24 Committee member. The word that the Council recommended
25 was is a sustainable continued subsistence.

26
27 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes. Could we get that
28 put in please?

29
30 MS. HILDEBRAND: It will be noted.

31
32 MR. BOS: Mr. Chair, at the bottom of Page
33 2, we retained the word, sustainable as it relates to
34 populations, to sustain populations, healthy populations
35 and then we included the words, continued subsistence uses.
36 I think that addressed the concerns that you folks had
37 about putting an emphasis on continuing the subsistence
38 uses that you've enjoyed in the past.

39
40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

41
42 MR. BOS: So it would read at the bottom of
43 Page 2, ensure of management of fish and wildlife resources
44 for sustainable populations and continued subsistence uses
45 through coordinated interagency and so on, if you read on
46 through that paragraph.

47
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, it was just a
49 little simpler the way Ida read it. Go ahead, Gerald.

00101

1 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, on Page 3, number 2,
2 where it says use the best available scientific information
3 and including local knowledge, that's pretty good but what
4 I always been stressing ever since I think I been on this
5 Council is to include local traditional knowledge. Even if
6 it may -- it might even be a non-white person but they're
7 still have local traditional knowledge if they've been
8 there for quite a while. Because I know from my point of
9 view, that we do pass on our traditional knowledge to other
10 folks other than Natives themselves.

11
12 MR. BOS: Yes, I think that's what was
13 intended. It think that's a good suggestion and we'll
14 include the word, traditional, in there.

15
16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Lincoln.

17
18 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah. I saw that, too, when
19 I first got this copy here and to me this thing reads like,
20 including local knowledge is like an afterthought, you
21 know. I think this local traditional knowledge should be
22 in the same level as the scientific knowledge if not
23 superior.

24
25 MR. COLLINS: Would you change the
26 including to and in that and do it.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: So the Council is then
29 recommending to drop the word, including, and add the word,
30 and, then?

31
32 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. And behind local put
35 down traditional.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Chairman.

40
41 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ronald.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, could we go back to
44 guiding principles because I'm confused on the language
45 there again to see where we stand on number 1, Page 2,
46 number 3 guiding principles. Did we add or change anything
47 on this?

48
49 MS. FOX: What we understood from the

50 Councils was that you'd prefer it to read, ensure

00102

1 management of fish and wildlife resources for continued
2 subsistence uses, which was the way you had originally
3 advised, I think it was Ida who was taking notes in your
4 caucus, right? Yeah. Okay, so we'll go back and say that
5 that -- that this revised wording does not follow through
6 in terms of what you intended to see and we'll take that
7 back.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: So we may go back to just
10 sustainable and continued subsistence?

11
12 MS. FOX: Yes, we will revisit that with
13 the whole work group.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, all right thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any more
18 comments on this MOA? Okay, go ahead, Vince.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Peggy, at this point does the
21 Council need to take any official action other than the
22 comments they've given? Do they have to take any action to
23 endorse this or.....

24
25 MS. FOX: If the Council would choose to do
26 that, it certainly isn't a requirement, but if you would
27 like to endorse it I'd be glad to carry back that message
28 as modified by your suggestions today.

29
30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ron.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't think we're going to
33 endorse it right now. I mean, I couldn't because I haven't
34 had time to really go over it. It's been short-term notice
35 just to go down there and have been traveling ever since.
36 I think we, as a Council, in working with the Federal
37 Subsistence Board, that we feel comfortable with whatever
38 you came up with it's just that we might have to fine-tune
39 it later on down the road. I feel that maybe that we've
40 covered this enough for the time being and leave it at
41 that.

42
43 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Jack.

44
45 MR. REAKOFF: I have one more comment under
46 the guiding principles, number 3. I would like to see
47 language inserted that there's agreement in the
48 standardization of the methodology that both agencies use.
49 I read a lot of different studies and surveys and stuff and

50 it gets kind of confusing when they use different

00103

1 methodologies. If they used standardized methodologies
2 then everybody's on the same sheet of music.

3
4 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You're basically saying,
5 use plain English, uh?

6
7 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, that, too.

8
9 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any more questions or
10 comments. Go ahead.

11
12 MR. STICKMAN: I thought at our last
13 meeting that we decided that we wanted to have the tribes
14 included in this MOU.

15
16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I thought they were.
17 Don't we have a part five -- oh, you mean on the first
18 page?

19
20 MR. STICKMAN: On the first page.

21
22 MS. FOX: On the first page.

23
24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, yeah, Davey, that
25 was your input in there.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't think we acted on
28 it. Let me ask Peggy.

29
30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, go ahead, Ronald.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Peggy, I have a
33 question on the first page, like Micky suggested, we have
34 MOA between Coordinated Fisheries, that's the first
35 paragraph, we had between U.S. Fish and Wildlife, that's
36 second, Alaska Department of Game and wasn't there a clause
37 also added to -- or a fourth section added to -- just to
38 name the tribal entities -- tribal entities?

39
40 MS. FOX: That was, as I understand it, a
41 recommendation, again, of your Council caucus. There were
42 differences of opinions among the Councils. IT wasn't
43 unanimous that the tribes be foremost in this document in
44 terms of whether they're signatories and if they were in
45 the front of the document that would indicate that they
46 would be a signatory.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

49

MS. FOX: And that wasn't unanimous among

00104

1 the Councils and the Board considered that and decided that
2 the appropriate role would, again, to be emphasizing the
3 tribes in several sections here and highlighting their
4 involvement in several parts of the implementation of this
5 document but that they not be identified as signatories.
6 And that -- there was another part to that where -- well,
7 maybe I covered it, I think, but they did recognize an
8 appropriate role for the tribes but not as signatories.

9
10 MR. STICKMAN: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, as
11 far as the Eastern and the Western was concerned it was
12 unanimous.

13
14 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, no we had on
15 abstain.

16
17 MS. FOX: What I was indicating that out of
18 the 10 Councils. And the other Councils didn't vote as you
19 did, we took individual comments from Council members. At
20 any rate, there was no unanimity about including the tribes
21 as signatories, and I'm talking about all 10 Councils. As
22 a matter-of-fact there was opposition to that on the part
23 of some Chairs.

24
25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there anything else
26 that anybody would like to add to this MOA or delete or
27 anything else? Let's move down to resource monitoring.

28
29 MS. FOX: And at this point I'll turn it
30 over to Chuck and Taylor, saving the best for last, I think
31 you'll enjoy this presentation.

32
33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Excuse me, Peggy.

34
35 MS. FOX: Yes.

36
37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: We're going to take a
38 quick five minute break before we get started here.

39
40 MS. FOX: Great, okay.

41
42 (Off record)

43
44 (On record)

45
46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I'll call this meeting
47 back to order. Could I get the Board members back up front
48 please. Okay, let's move down to number 5, resource
49 monitoring programs for 2000/2001.

00105

1 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you very much, Mr.
2 Chairman. I'm Taylor Brelsford and my colleague Chuck
3 Krueger will join me in making the presentations this
4 afternoon.

5
6 I think we've come a long way through the
7 discussions this afternoon looking at this new fisheries
8 program and I believe somebody, maybe it was Nat Good who
9 said that we're going to have to do this a little at a
10 time. We're going to make our best effort in the first
11 year but we're going to learn each step as we go. And I
12 think that really applies to this unified resource
13 monitoring program as well. A multimillion dollar research
14 program doesn't come out of thin air. We're going to make
15 a very serious effort at it. We've worked with you and
16 with the Board through January and February to get a good
17 start on it but this is a very large program. And when you
18 think about how universities or research agencies would set
19 up a program of this scope, it takes a little while to find
20 the rhythm, to get it right.

21
22 So our presentation with you this afternoon really
23 has two parts. We want to talk for a few minutes about the
24 rest of year 2000. As you know you looked over some
25 projects, the Board has made some decisions already but
26 there's still some things on the table for the month of
27 April and they're kind of important. They've got some key
28 partnerships on the Yukon River and again on the Kuskokwim
29 River. Partners that -- well, we want to have a holistic
30 program on both the Yukon and the Kuskokwim River so we'll
31 try to take your attention for a minute to look at the
32 April package. And then we want to turn to 2001 and start
33 the process now planning our field season in the spring of
34 2001.

35
36 So with no further opening comments than that, I'll
37 ask Chuck to highlight some of the remaining projects on
38 the table for the April period.

39
40 MR. KRUEGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm
41 Chuck Krueger. And I'll just quickly go over where we're
42 at with the 2000 project process.

43
44 As you know the Board committed to getting some
45 part of the resource monitoring program in place in spring
46 2000, specifically looking at four projects that were
47 already ongoing or existing. Ones that there were clear or
48 urgent needs identified and also ones that where existing
49 consultation with local residents had already occurred. So

50 with that in mind I know that most of you have seen the 17

00106

1 projects that were mailed out in January. Those were
2 discussed at the training session and the Board approved
3 them on February 3rd. That was the package at the training
4 session and came out in sort of this lavender/purple
5 version.

6
7 Within that package, I'll just note here
8 parenthetically because somebody had mentioned other
9 species. There are three projects on char. This is at a
10 statewide level. One project on sheefish. There are two
11 projects on white fish. Those happen to be in the Yukon
12 area of the region. There are several weir projects as
13 well, from which you can gather data well beyond just
14 salmon from. Also mentioned today has been the concerns
15 over disease and there's a project in there for the Yukon
16 specifically on disease and chinook and ectheiafonis.

17
18 With what has been committed at this point -- well,
19 I should say, notably absent from the 17 projects were
20 projects in Southeast Alaska and also in the Gulf of
21 Alaska. I expect that the balance of the approvals -- not
22 the bala -- most of the approval, say, for April will
23 probably be focused in there as well as a few projects
24 further North. Some of the projects that were approved at
25 this point have been focused on stock status and trends.
26 Those are things that to be implemented needed to be
27 implemented in the spring or very early summer whereas some
28 other projects like in the area of harvest, harvest data,
29 don't have the same timing considerations. So occasionally
30 there was a project or two that were deferred for April
31 consideration.

32
33 At this point I would say that about three-quarters
34 of the funds in the Department of Interior have been
35 allocated with this package so there's about a quarter left
36 and then there's a balance of Department of Agriculture
37 money for the Southeast and Gulf of Alaska that remains.

38
39 Jump in if you have any comments here.

40
41 So in developing the April package, I'll move on to
42 that, you were given a handout here, this white one. And
43 on that, on the second page there are two sections sort of
44 at the bottom here and it says draft projects for April
45 consideration and actually a copy attached to that are
46 about seven pre-proposals. Those are 21 through 45 and
47 have numbers to them and plus there are also a number of
48 titles that are specifically addressed to the Yukon and
49 Kuskokwim regions. That's kind of a state of the process

50 of where we are for April considerations for these two

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1 regions.

2 An example of projects would be the Hooper Bay,
3 which is number 27, and if you did take a look at that, 27
4 has to do with a harvest project that we deferred to April
5 for consideration primarily to ensure that local
6 consultation had taken place to see if that could come to
7 full fruition and planning. Specifically there it's the
8 idea of getting after chinook harvest in the ocean as
9 they're coming up along the coastal Yukon area communities.
10 Another example is in the Kuskokwim and that's a couple of
11 projects, to extend the weir operations on the Kanektok and
12 Goodnews Rivers. These were, again, example, existing
13 projects. Those extensions had been funded by other
14 monies. Those monies were lost. Consultation and planning
15 had already been well in place. Those are examples of ones
16 that we're considering for April.

17
18 MR. BRELSFORD: In the list of titles,
19 where we don't have full proposals at this point, I want to
20 be sure that you notice a package of proposals that were
21 offered from the Association of Village Council Presidents.
22 We do anticipate more significant involvement with this key
23 tribal association and its natural resource department.
24 Several of these projects are things that you all have some
25 familiarity with. For example, towards the bottom on the
26 Kuskokwim River it talks about weir operation and education
27 demonstrations. Some of the villages have found it very
28 important, very valuable to visit a weir site and to
29 understand specifically how the counts are done, what the
30 impacts are on migrating fish, what kind of spawned out
31 fish actually come down and have to be cleared off of the
32 weirs. That's been pretty important and everybody in the
33 community as having a concrete or a clear picture of how
34 weir projects can help to assess run strength so that
35 subsistence opportunities can be protected. AVCP has
36 actually helped with KNA and other groups in bringing local
37 people to visit the weirs and have this kind of direct
38 understanding of weir projects.

39
40 So there's several other examples -- several weirs,
41 several of these examples from AVCP and I simply want to
42 say that even though we had to kind of hurry through the
43 planning effort for spring 2000, we wanted to be sure that
44 some of the key regional organizations and the key natural
45 resource departments at the local level were, in fact, part
46 of this program even in the first year. We're going to
47 build on that for next year. We expect a much wider set of
48 partners in the coming year. But even at the beginning we
49 wanted to be sure that we were building those bridges with

50 the local communities and with local -- the organizations

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1 that have technical capacity like that.

2 CHAIRMAN MILLER: A question here, is there
3 any, say, joint projects between U.S. Fish and Wildlife and
4 the State?

5
6 MR. KRUEGER: That's a good question, I'm
7 trying to think. I can think of several that are joint
8 between the Fish and Wildlife Service and a local regional
9 organization and then between the State and local regional
10 organization. But between the Feds and the State, I don't
11 know, I'd have to review it. I guess I could tell you in a
12 few minutes here, I'll have to take a look at this. I
13 don't recall.

14
15 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

16
17 MR. BRELSFORD: I think examples of the key
18 partnerships.....

19
20 MR. KRUEGER: Oh, the harvest -- statewide
21 harvest survey would be an example.

22
23 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. Well, I want to
24 highlight some of these local partnerships so that ADF&G is
25 working with CATG on white fish and beaver ecology in the
26 Yukon Flats, those are partners. The Alaska Department of
27 Fish and Game Subsistence Division is working with the ONC,
28 the tribal organization in Bethel on inseason and post-
29 season management. Those are the kinds of partnerships
30 that we've really kind of focused on trying to develop.
31 There is, as Chuck noted, a statewide project looking at
32 improving subsistence salmon and other fisheries harvest
33 reported. They are done by calendars in some areas and
34 permits in others. There are tremendous shortfalls in some
35 regions as far as participation so we wanted to have a
36 statewide look at that. The partners in that project will
37 be the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska
38 Intertribal Council will actually coordinate and staff the
39 Native participation in this working group. So I think
40 probably all of the possible combinations are out there
41 somewhere.

42
43 I guess, you know, we felt like our marching orders
44 were to make sure that a significant part of this resource
45 monitoring program builds on local people and on existing
46 expertise in the Department of Fish and Game, the tribal
47 associations and so on and so far so good. We're able to
48 find ready to go projects with partners. We'll need to
49 keep that up in the April package.

00109

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: One more question, how do
2 you get on this list? Is there a form or an application or
3 do I just call you and say, hey, I want to count fish?

4
5 MR. BRELSFORD: The starting point was to
6 ask through all of the Federal field stations and the
7 tribes that came to a meeting in December about projects
8 that were ready to go and had the groundwork of local
9 consultation already in place. We've had some later
10 submissions as this thing has kind of gained a little
11 momentum, people are beginning to hear about it. So we
12 have had submissions in February. We're accepting
13 proposals through February 28th, that would be like the
14 absolutely end point, and then -- let's see we're going to
15 turn around a public review package, we're going to send
16 back to the Councils.....

17
18 MR. KRUEGER: March 17th.

19
20 MR. BRELSFORD:a package in mid-
21 March, on March 17th. So we have a pretty good pool of
22 projects to work with now. It very much oversubscribes the
23 budget. But if there are key projects that are ready and
24 add value, they address a key priority and so on, the
25 door's not closed. The 28th of February was going to be
26 the deadline.

27
28 MR. KRUEGER: Key, also within the planning
29 for this spring 2000 was that the decisions made about
30 these projects were to minimally impact planning for 2001.
31 So there aren't like carryover affects from these projects.
32 2001 which is what Taylor's going to talk about in just a
33 few minutes, it will be larger and it has a clean slate.
34 And identifying specifically the issues and information
35 needs there is going to be really key. That's the
36 foundation then for where new projects can come forward.

37
38 The other -- I'll just draw your attention to a
39 little bit in terms of process. We work off of a one-page
40 pre-proposal as you've already seen and reviewed. If a
41 project gets then selected then we come back and we ask for
42 more details of who does what when and when does the
43 reporting occur, what's the design of the project, having
44 specific detail so there's a real investigation plan that
45 will be behind each of the 17 that were approved.

46
47 As Taylor's mentioned, our intent is to be able to
48 get the final April group that is recommended to be
49 considered for approval by the Board and to have that done

50 by March 17th. That would come out as a mailing to you and

00110

1 what we've planed to do is after a couple weeks there, to
2 have a teleconference in early April to gain your feedback
3 and advice on that package.

4
5 And that's, I think, rather than belaboring more
6 than what has already occurred, any other questions?

7
8 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, do you want to
9 bring that question up again, Micky?

10
11 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. Yeah, my question is
12 about counting tower in Nulato that we've been operating
13 for a while with the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association.
14 We feel in Nulato that we're able to run the project on our
15 own without any outside help. We figure we've been doing
16 it for so long now that with more money we can probably do
17 a better count of the fish in the Nulato River.

18
19 MR. BRELSFORD: I think the spirit of
20 bringing the expertise up in the local community to
21 participate as fully as possible in management activities,
22 that's the guideline, that's what Secretary Babbitt's
23 talking about in making maximum use of the expertise and
24 the experience in local communities. So I feel like what
25 you're describing is the pathway. That's what we want to
26 try and do. More specifically, I think this would be a
27 proposal we'd like to see on the table for year 2001 so
28 that we can really mark down the details, mark down the
29 specifics.

30
31 Micky makes me think of something, on the Yukon
32 River there's a great deal of other funding on salmon
33 restoration or other salmon research this particular year
34 and we have tried to coordinate with Bering Sea Fishermen's
35 Association and with some of the very recent BLM funding
36 initiatives to be sure that we're not both funding the same
37 thing and leaving something good falling in a crack or we
38 wanted to try and coordinate these multiple funding sources
39 particularly on the Yukon River. So in some instances,
40 good projects have ongoing funding from Bering Sea
41 Fishermen's Association. In one or two cases they had
42 pilot funding from Bering Sea and now we're going to pick
43 up this project in Bethel, for example. So we're going to
44 try and make sure all of the parties are working together
45 to get the priorities addressed across both river systems.

46
47 Since our time is short I'll ask you to move on
48 with me then to start looking ahead at year 2001. And if
49 you keep moving through the booklet you'll find a big cover

50 page that says, Resource Monitoring Project Selection

00111

1 Process for Spring 2001. And on the back side of that is a
2 flier. This, again, is very similar to what you had at the
3 Regional Council training program so I will just highlight
4 Regional Council roles real quickly. This was adopted by
5 the Federal Subsistence Board on February 3, 2000. Again,
6 at the very top it says Resource Monitoring Project
7 Selection Process for Spring 2001. And if you look kind of
8 in the main part of the paper it says during the period
9 February 17th through March 30th we will, during the winter
10 Regional Council meetings, be prioritizing management
11 issues and information needs. So this is the ground work
12 for a studies program that will land in the rivers in
13 spring 2001, almost 15 months from now. But the idea was
14 instead of having proposals all across any area, any topic,
15 any geographic focus, we want the Councils and the public
16 and the tribes to help raise up certain issues as being the
17 most critical issues for Federal management in your regions
18 by setting priorities, by setting targets then we have a
19 focus for the proposals for the projects and developing the
20 partnerships. So instead of 200 proposals on the Yukon
21 River we may have 40 because we've already figured out the
22 pressing management issues, the priorities.

23
24 Basically after those priorities are set, then we
25 work up proposals with the partners and we would provide
26 feed back on these pre-proposals. Help focus or develop
27 the methods and so on. We'd put those together in a plan
28 this summer, the Staff kind of makes a first cut, looks at
29 a statewide program, puts it in a draft plan and sends that
30 back to the Councils for review. So you'll see you have
31 another very critical role in the fall Council meetings
32 down here where it says September 15th through November
33 30th 2000, during the fall Council meetings, this statewide
34 plan is on the table for review by yourselves, by the
35 tribes, by other members of the public, by regional
36 fisheries organizations, and the Council has the authority
37 to make formal recommendations to the Board. You will join
38 with us in directing a science program, a studies program.
39 It's a pretty significant responsibility. This is sort of
40 like sharing decision-making on the resource monitoring
41 program. So Council recommendations on that draft plan are
42 really very important and that then goes before the Board
43 in about December for final decisions. And then we have
44 about a four month lead time, six months, to implement,
45 purchase equipment, mobilize people and get projects on the
46 water in the spring of 2000.

47
48 So the following pages say a little bit more about
49 how works, the Staff responsibilities, the technical

50 committee or the review -- the peer review committee that

00112

1 would have the role. We highlight priority setting
2 criteria. And I think we've gone through these with you
3 all in the past but it's important to say that we're
4 focused on the Federal waters and the fisheries that occur
5 in the Federal subsistence area. We want to really pay
6 attention to conservation issues. If there is a species
7 problem, that's a high priority. We want to look at
8 shortfalls of meeting subsistence uses, providing for
9 continuing subsistence uses. That's a reason to raise up a
10 priority. If there's an issue where we don't have enough
11 information, if there's a management problem where we don't
12 have enough information to make wise decisions that raises
13 the priority and finally we have heard loud and clear that
14 even though salmon are quantitatively the most productive
15 subsistence fishery resource statewide they're not the only
16 one. That's far from the whole story. So there are other
17 freshwater fisheries that play important roles, seasonal
18 roles, qualitative roles when you look at the whole of
19 subsistence fisheries. So this is not going to be a salmon
20 resource monitoring program, it's going to look at the
21 whole array of subsistence resources as you guys have said
22 many times.

23
24 Let me stop there. That's just kind of another
25 quick look at how the 2001 process would unfold and
26 entertain questions if you'd like.

27
28 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I have a question,
29 it's about those three resolutions that the Y-K, Western
30 and Interior drew up, are you guys going to address those
31 resolutions to any effect?

32
33 MR. BRELSFORD: Yes, of course. What we'd
34 like to do before breaking today or as you like, but is
35 actually start that first step of prioritizing management
36 issues and information needs. And many of the Councils
37 have already identified critical issues. Sometimes it's in
38 the annual report, sometimes it's been in testimony during
39 fisheries hearings and in this case the caucuses have
40 really elevated the intercept fisheries and related issues,
41 I guess, enhancement and hatchery impacts. So I would say
42 those are like items one, two and three on priorities that
43 this Council has already previously identified.

44
45 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any other questions.

46
47 MR. NICHOLIA: Do you know what resolutions
48 I'm talking about?

49

MR. BRELSFORD: I do. Actually I believe

00113

1 they were sent around in correspondence by your coordinator
2 -- let me stop there, I believe we're talking about -- I do
3 know the ones you refer to.

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, on that, I
6 didn't bring the full list here but we sent it to all the
7 villages on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and 90 plus percent
8 of all the villages in the Interior. In addition we sent
9 it to, I had a selectively pick from advisory committee
10 members and then other organizations. So off the top of my
11 head it was about 350 people it was sent to. We have some
12 responses on those. I'm not discouraged or you should not
13 be discouraged that we've only had two responses, it was
14 only sent out on February 2nd, which it went out in the
15 first week of February. Most of these groups have monthly
16 meetings so realistically we shouldn't expect a lot of
17 response right away. So, yes, you have copies, both in
18 your book and in your green folder of the resolutions you
19 passed -- no, you didn't pass, that the caucus passed. You
20 need to, at this meeting, individually or jointly, adopt
21 these resolutions. That was your agreement at the caucus,
22 that the Councils would not change the wording but would
23 adopt these officially at their public meeting in February
24 or March.

25
26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead there, Lincoln.

27
28 MR. L. TRITT: I've been hearing all this
29 local involvement and subsistence users and all that stuff.
30 But there's a problem with the working relationship between
31 the State, Federal government agency and the village
32 people. Like a lot of Native people don't really like to
33 give up too much information because next thing you know
34 you got some guy on the TV becoming an expert at this and
35 that, you know. And so people are careful about the
36 information they hand out. So I think if you're going to
37 have tribal involvement and all that stuff, I think there
38 should be a very positive working relationship with the
39 Native people. And it should be even communications.

40
41 MR. BRELSFORD: Point well taken. I
42 believe that perhaps we're ready to move on to the final
43 question and that is checking with you to get priorities.
44 Management issues and information priorities for the 2001
45 year recognizing that you have several of those you've
46 already put on the table. So we tried to provide you some
47 Staff material to look at just as an example or two. If
48 you look to the first page that's sideways, it says up at
49 the top, Yukon River Preliminary Information Needs

50 Assessment, and it's dated July 1999. When we were just

00114

1 getting started we tried to check with Federal field
2 stations throughout each fishery area to ask about what
3 have they heard from local people, what have they heard in
4 board meetings or in public testimony about management
5 issues, and we tried to put all of that together. It's
6 kind of rough and the goal today is not to go back one line
7 at a time but just to say there is some ground work here.

8
9 If we look at that first page you'll see that
10 summer chum salmon were considered an issue because the
11 population has declined over the past several years.
12 Refuge stocks are vulnerable to overharvest in intensive
13 mixed stock fisheries. Looking over to the right it's a
14 high priority. And the concerns about interception in Area
15 M area a public comment that's been raised many, many
16 times. In the next several pages you'll see other species
17 and other river systems, tributaries of the Yukon. Many
18 high priorities, a small number of medium priorities and
19 then a very small number of low priorities. On Page 7,
20 about three pages back, you'll see subsistence harvest
21 information needs priorities. And the first one of those
22 it says, on the Yukon River, white fish, northern pike,
23 burbot, sheefish, subsistence harvest information needed to
24 set management objectives, calendar data doesn't address
25 these species, some community profile database information
26 is available. It's a high priority. We need to know
27 relative species importance and whether these harvests are
28 changing over time. So this would be an example of a
29 harvest information need. And then the final type, back on
30 Page 10 in this book, the question of traditional knowledge
31 and what priorities or information needs on traditional
32 knowledge have been raised. And just as a quick example,
33 the first line says, all species, we need to document
34 traditional ecological knowledge on long-term variation and
35 abundance. It's a high priority. That knowledge is
36 available in local residents. Under comments it says,
37 management needs to know over long time scales, over 20
38 years, the variation in stock abundance. And the next one
39 then, below that, says we need to learn from local people
40 from traditional knowledge about the potential causes or
41 explanations for low and high fish abundance that needs to
42 be documented and available to help interpret changes in
43 run strength over time.

44
45 So these would be examples of management issues or
46 information needs priorities and with that, I'd like to
47 stop and start taking notes basically. If you guys have
48 items that you want to add as priority targets for the
49 Yukon River resource monitoring program or again for the

50 Kuskokwim River.

00115

1 MR. KRUEGER: I was just going to offer two
2 things, to get comments that come right off the top of the
3 head today as well as if you had a chance to take a look at
4 these tables and provide any feedback on that as well at a
5 later time. As Taylor's mentioned, it's too much to go
6 through here today. But feedback on this, this is key,
7 this is what's going to build the foundation of the
8 program. It's what will shape the direction that it takes,
9 which projects go forward. So getting in at this level,
10 issue identification, priority information needs is key.

11
12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, go ahead, Vince.

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think looking
15 down the road and I mean beyond 2001, my suggestion to you
16 would be several options. Would be to reestablish for
17 Eastern Interior and establish for Western Interior a --
18 you called it before, a salmon subcommittee. But some kind
19 of subcommittee option to allow your subgroup to review
20 material like this to come forth with your thoughts at a
21 full forum like this. That would be one option. The other
22 option would be an additional Regional Council meeting.
23 And if you notice my back is turned to my bosses and et
24 cetera. But the volume of material here, it's important, I
25 know these are lines of records but they go in more depth
26 than just what's here. So that would be something to
27 consider, how you want to get ahead of the eight ball.
28 What you need to do now is decide how you want to jump on
29 this season now. One would be to try to do this as a group
30 right now or use a subcommittee. And I don't know if
31 Staff's time, if they're going to be back tomorrow or not
32 -- they are here tomorrow. I know that requires extra work
33 tonight but I know of several individuals on each Council
34 that they're comfortable working through these.

35
36 So that's two things. One, future, how do you want
37 to deal with this. One, immediate. Do you want to have a
38 subcommittee group sometime tonight, do this, go over this
39 and then report back to you. I think Taylor and Chuck
40 might be available to help that subcommittee group, I would
41 think or we can try to do it by large group but we have to
42 separate, maybe by regions, I'm not sure.

43
44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I guess the Councils would
45 probably go with the subcommittee.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: For tonight?

48
49 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, for tonight. I

50 just talked it over with Ronald, if we could have a couple

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1 of volunteers that are really into the fisheries issue.

2
3 MR. GOOD: Gerald.

4
5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, we got Gerald here
6 and Davey for Eastern.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any volunteers on
9 Western.

10
11 MR. FLEENER: Vince is buying pizza.

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I might. I might.
14 They won't have anchovies on it, though.

15
16 MR. NICK: If we can talk about a beaver
17 reduction project I'll volunteer.

18
19 MR. FLEENER: Black fish.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: It'd be nice to have two from
22 Western, preferably one on the Kuskokwim and one on the
23 Yukon. There could more than that, two is not the magic
24 number.

25
26 MR. FLEENER: One on Southcentral.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Southcentral
29 they're.....

30
31 MR. COLLINS: Are you talking about one
32 committee meeting doing them all or having the two rivers
33 divided so that there's subcommittees dealing with both?

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: I didn't think that far
36 ahead, Ray. I don't know, I'll return to Chuck and Taylor,
37 if there would be a need to have one per region. Right
38 now, my guess is it would not be needed.

39
40 MR. BRELSFORD: We're not overwhelmed with
41 volunteers just yet so maybe getting one working group this
42 evening would be a good start. You know, we're not going
43 to exhaust this topic tonight or tomorrow morning, we're
44 going to need to leave a little room to grow, to learn. So
45 we'll do our best at it but we don't expect everybody to
46 stay up all night and read the text real closely or
47 something like that. I think a committee process might be
48 a very, very good way to proceed, Vince.

49

MR. MATHEWS: So who for Western would like

00117

1 to.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Since I'm the only one at the
4 head of the Kuskokwim, I guess I should speak for the
5 headwaters but I don't know about fisheries down river.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anyone from the Yukon from
8 Western?

9

10 MR. STICKMAN: I'll do the Yukon.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks Micky.

13

14 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Davey.

15

16 MR. D. JAMES: I guess this would be a good
17 time for suggestions, I mean if you're -- go ahead, finish
18 it off -- suggestions of how the future needs to be done.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: That would be fine to do that
21 and then we need to deal with logistics of place to meet.
22 Do you want me to do the place to meet first?

23

24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: We can't meet here tonight.
27 So the most convenient location would be the hotel. I
28 think we could find some chairs in there since we're
29 talking six people, I think that should work, at the
30 Westmark Hotel. All four members are at Westmark. So now
31 we need to do a time. 7:00 o'clock seems to be a good
32 time. Is that fine with the six people? Micky says, yes.
33 Ray is yes. Gerald is no probably.

34

35 MR. BRELSFORD: 7:00 o'clock tonight?

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: It won't take that long, I
38 just feel that we'd get more -- okay, 7:00. Okay, so the
39 six people 7:00 o'clock Westmark.

40

41 MR. NICHOLIA: Westmark where?

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Just meet in front of the
44 lobby somewhere.

45

46 MR. NICHOLIA: If we do that'd be too many
47 distractions.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: What?

00118

1 MR. NICHOLIA: Would we be being distracted
2 too much?

3
4 MR. JONES: Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

7
8 MR. JONES: What we did we had meetings
9 like this before and from anybody that's in a room, we
10 volunteered a room. About three years ago we did this, we
11 volunteered our room for anyone to discuss our topics.

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: We can also meet at the
14 Federal building if I -- I can give the security key to
15 somebody else, that's another option, I just thought the
16 hotel -- don't want to meet there, bad vibes, okay. If
17 someone wants to give up their room.

18
19 MR. D. JAMES: Why don't we just meet at
20 the lobby at 7:00 and from there we can figure out where
21 we'll meet. Why don't we -- on your -- last year, you
22 know, we talked about a workshop. You know, I think it'd
23 be a good time just to discuss this. Because I think all
24 of this could have been taken care of before we have a
25 formal meeting, where we kind of -- because we could be
26 taking care of the migratory birds and the fish and we
27 could be taking care of a lot of wildlife proposals that I
28 think we should just kind of like have just a workshop, you
29 know, one day workshop. Break up into discussion for one
30 day before a formal meeting comes together and then within
31 that -- one of your project fundings this year is technical
32 training. It's where, you know, a majority of us in here --
33 most of your staff out there are not technical fisheries
34 people. Very few I see out there that's technical
35 fisheries people. So all these are -- these are new stuff
36 to us because we're policy makers, see, so we have to
37 address that. And some of the people out there are only
38 wildlife biologist people there, too, so that's -- we have
39 to address that there so when we do go through these
40 proposals that we have a technical fisheries biologist with
41 us, you know, to go through some of these guidelines. I
42 think that's something that Peggy will consider.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Is there any more
47 discussion here on this. Okay, go ahead, Ronald.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you attending this, too,

50 Robert?

00119

1 MR. NICK: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Craig.

6

7 MR. FLEENER: It sounds like a pretty darn
8 good idea what Davey just brought up and I wonder if
9 someone would be available tonight because if you're going
10 to be discussing projects, it might be good to have some
11 technical person there.

12

13 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, that's what these
14 two guys are for, I think it is.

15

16 MR. BRELSFORD: We will join you this
17 evening.

18

19 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, but Taylor's not a
20 fisheries biologist. I'm talking about a fisheries
21 biologist type person.

22

23 MR. BRELSFORD: That's true, I'm not a
24 fisheries biologist, I have a social science background.
25 Chuck has a Ph.D. in fisheries science and has worked.....

26

27 MR. FLEENER: Oh, okay, sounds good.

28

29 MR. BRELSFORD:in technical research.

30

31

32 MS. FOX: Rod is here, too.

33

34 MR. SIMMONS: Yeah, I'll try to juggle my
35 schedule and see if I can make it.

36

37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Do you want to sit in on
38 it too, Craig?

39

40 MR. FLEENER: Uh?

41

42 MR. L. TRITT: Free pizza.

43

44 MR. BRELSFORD: Our focus, at this point is
45 not entirely on the technical methodology, it's on the
46 management issues. What are the problems in subsistence
47 fisheries? You guys already know those things. You have
48 that expertise in between your ears. So what we want to do
49 is start from the bottom up. What are the things that are

50 not working well in subsistence fishing opportunities in

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1 the communities? What are people worried about that we
2 could set about learning more and resolving management
3 issues? We have a later stage where we work out technical
4 research methods and we do literature reviews to see what
5 else is out there. But for now we want to start by
6 priority setting around the management issues and what we
7 understand to be the data gaps, the information needs.

8

9 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Craig.

10

11 MR. FLEENER: My point was that -- and
12 you're right, and I keyed in on that, but to identify some
13 of these goals and maybe to look at what some of the
14 problems are, to have a technical person there might smooth
15 the road and say, well, this is why there's this problem
16 instead of having six guys scratching their head and not
17 knowing why there's a problem.

18

19 MR. BRELSFORD: Good point.

20

21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any more comments.

22

23 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

26

27 MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering when you came
28 up with this priority list, did you consult with the ADF&G
29 what their projects -- what their wish lists were also?

30

31 MR. BRELSFORD: Last summer, in July, the
32 consultation with ADF&G was uneven. Some folks were away
33 from town at the time we -- we tried to do that where we
34 could. We have gotten a lot more organized about the
35 participation of ADF&G in the year 2000 projects so that
36 we've actually had technical people from Sportfish
37 Division, Commfish Division and Subsistence Division
38 looking at -- well, proposing projects for year 2000 and
39 reviewing methods and overlap with existing data and so on.
40 Those kinds of questions we've tried to have a more robust --
41 a more thorough, more systematic technical review
42 including colleagues from ADF&G.

43

44 This thing looks fat because there were a lot of
45 pages to it. It was pretty quick and dirty. We wanted to
46 get some sense of how important were management issues on
47 the Yukon River compared to the North Slope or compared to
48 Southeast and then start building up a staffing approach
49 and things based on that. So it's pretty rough and we need

50 to, you know, take a look at it but not be bound by it. We

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1 want to start fresh, if you will, in the exercise this
2 time.

3
4 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any more comments.

5
6 MR. D. JAMES: Are you going to bring your
7 credit card?

8
9 MR. BRELSFORD: I think Feds have the big
10 fat check book.

11
12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, go ahead Gilbert.

13
14 MR. DEMENTI: Will you be bringing this up
15 at the Southcentral meeting also?

16
17 MR. BRELSFORD: Yes. Gilbert, basically
18 the same presentation but the examples would be focused on
19 Prince William Sound, Copper River, the southcentral
20 region.

21
22 Mr. Chairman, if we're going to close let me
23 express my appreciation for the care that these three
24 Councils have taken in looking at the resource monitoring
25 issues. The work that you did in your caucus was very
26 detailed, the comments were quite specific, very helpful.
27 And I guess, again, all of us know what -- we have an idea
28 now what it takes to start a management program, it's not a
29 simple thing. It's going to take a lot of hard work and
30 diligence from all of us and I just really appreciate the
31 effort that's represented in all of the members coming to a
32 four day meeting in Fairbanks this time and setting out a
33 committee to work with this so I thank you for that. We
34 want a successful resource monitoring program and that kind
35 of participation is really an important building block.

36
37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you for your -- oh,
38 go ahead Robert.

39
40 MR. NICK: Taylor, I appreciate your
41 comment earlier when you indicated that salmon is not the
42 only -- recognize that salmon species is not the only food
43 source for a lot of Alaska Natives in the villages. And I
44 was going to reemphasize my concern about the white fish,
45 you know, and the sheefish and other species that are
46 freshwater fish. You know, we call them freshwater fish
47 but in probably all the sloughs and little rivers in my
48 area are the spawning grounds for the other species that I
49 named.

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1 About the beaver dam, I was going to offer to bring
2 up five gallons of water from all of the upriver sides of
3 the beaver dam, they're pretty -- they're not good to
4 drink, and that's where we expect to have our salmon
5 spawning.

6
7 So I appreciate your recognition that other species
8 are food products for many village people.

9
10 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, go ahead Vince.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Gerald, when
13 you guys meet tonight can you see if the letter from
14 Tanana, Rampart, Manley Advisory Committee is addressed by --
15 I can't pronounce it, Yukon No. 3, effects of the legal
16 fish pathogen.

17
18 MR. NICHOLIA: It is.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. When that group meets
21 -- well, let me just ask now, Eastern Interior, if that is
22 the case that that is addressed, would you agree that a
23 letter should be sent to the advisory committee to the
24 support that the Council does support.

25
26 I see heads nodding, let the record reflect -- no,
27 one goes the other way, that a letter be sent to Tanana,
28 Rampart, Manley, since they are flagging you for support,
29 that the support does exist from the Council and there is a
30 project.

31
32 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes.

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. So a letter will be
35 correspondent on that. That's all I had because they did
36 want me to bring up the issue and it's already brought up.

37
38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, thank you Taylor
39 and Chuck. And do you want to go into a recess and start
40 at 8:30.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Well, first.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: That's Indian time,
45 right?

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, can we leave our
48 stuff here?

49

MR. MATHEWS: My understanding is yes. The

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1 hall will be locked up.

2

3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: But the other thing is those
6 that needed rides to the hotel tonight see Michele and
7 others will give you rides, too. We need to know for
8 tomorrow and, yes, if the Council could just -- after we
9 recess here could just sit for about five minutes or so, we
10 just got a couple of things to cover.

11

12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. I guess we'll call
13 for recess until 8:30 tomorrow morning.

14

15 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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6

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

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
8 State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
9 certify:

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 123 contain a
12 full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME I, EASTERN AND
13 WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS
14 MEETING, taken electronically by Salena Hile on the 22nd day of
15 February, 2000, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at
16 the Chief Peter John Tribal Hall, Fairbanks, Alaska;

17
18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under
20 my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge
21 and ability;

22
23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested
24 in any way in this action.

25
26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 5th day of March, 2000.

27
28
29
30
31
32
33

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00