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**WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**VOLUME I
PUBLIC MEETING**
February 23rd, 1995
Community Center
7:30 o'clock p.m.
Huslia, Alaska

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- HAROLD HUNTINGTON, CHAIRMAN**
- RAYMOND COLLINS, VICE CHAIRMAN**
- SHARON GURTNER-STRICK, MEMBER**
- HENRY DEACON, MEMBER**
- PHILLIP GRAHAM, MEMBER**
- POLLOCK SIMON, SR., MEMBER**
- JACK REAKOFF, MEMBER**
- HERMAN MORGAN, MEMBER**

Vince Mathews, Coordinator

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(On record; 7:30 o'clock p.m.)

MR. HUNTINGTON: Hello everybody. Welcome to the meeting. I'd like to call the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council to order. We'll have roll call.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Can everybody hear me? Okay. Henry Deacon?

MR. DEACON: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Phillip Graham?

MR. GRAHAM: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Sharon Strick?

MS. GURTLE-STRICK: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Raymond Collins?

MR. COLLINS: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Pollock Simon, Sr.?

MR. SIMON: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff?

MR. REAKOFF: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Harold Huntington?

MR. HUNTINGTON: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Angela Demientieff? She contacted me and has a conflict with employment. Herman Morgan?

MR. MORGAN: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we have eight members out of nine. There's a quorum present.

MR. HUNTINGTON: A quorum has been established. Introduction of council members. Maybe we can just start from this end of the table. Phil, introduce yourself to the -- can

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1 you introduce yourself to the board?

2

3 MR. GRAHAM: Oh, sorry. Phil Graham from Lime Village.

4

5 MR. SIMON: Pollock Simon from Allakaket.

6

7 MR. REAKOFF: Jack Reakoff from Wiseman.

8

9 MR. MORGAN: Herman Morgan from Aniak.

10

11 MR. DEACON: Henry Deacon from Grayling.

12

13 MR. COLLINS: Ray collins

14

15 MR. HUNTINGTON: Harold Huntington from Koyukuk.

16

17 MS: GURTLER-STRICK: Sharon Gurtler-Strick from Ruby,
18 now residing in McGrath.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I'll start off with the staff.
21 I'm Vince Mathews with Fish and Wildlife, Office of Subsistence
22 Management.

23

24 MR. COFFING: My name is Mike Coffing. I'm with Fish
25 and Wildlife out of Bethel.

26

27 MS. MASCHMEYER: I'm Gloria Maschmeyer with the Office
28 of Subsistence Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in
29 Anchorage.

30

31 MR. GUENTHER: I'm Conrad Guenther. I'm with the U.S.
32 Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm your area biologist for
33 Subsistence Division.

34

35 MR. DENTON: My name is Jeff Denton. I'm the Anchorage
36 District, BLM, biologist and subsistence specialist for the
37 Anchorage District.

38

39 MR. YOKEL: Dave Yokel with the BLM Arctic District in
40 Fairbanks.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: If the other staff wants to identify
43 themselves, they can come up to one of the mikes and -- so we
44 just have a record of what staff is present.

45

46 MR. ELEY: I'm Tom Eley, refuge manager, Koyukuk-
47 Nowitna Refuges in Galena.

48

49 MR. ULVI: Steve Ulvi, subsistence manager at Gates of
50

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the Arctic National Park.

2

3 MR. TWITCHELL: Hollis Twitchell, subsistence manager,
Denali National Park and Preserve.

5

6 MR. LIEDBERG: Paul Liedberg, assistant refuge manager
with the Koyukuk and Nowitna Refuges in Galena.

8

9 MR. HUNTINGTON: And all the other guests, welcome.
And also I'd like to extend a welcome to our newest member,
Herman Morgan. He's our newest member on the board. Welcome
to the board there, Herman.

13

14 MR. MORGAN: Thank you.

15

16 MR. HUNTINGTON: We have next on our agenda is the
opening prayer from -- who's the Elder? Do we have someone for
that?

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: There may be someone here that would like
to do that, Mr. Chairman, but we did have -- oh, we do? Okay.

22

23 MS. ATTLA: Katherine Attla.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Would Katherine like to come up and have
an opening prayer for our council meeting?

27

28 (Opening prayer)

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the next item there I need
to explain. And, as you know, and the public may not know,
there are ten regional councils. They're generally made up of
seven -- I mean nine to thirteen members. The Seward Peninsula
Regional Advisory Council, one of its members was traveling
between villages, not on council business, but on resource
management business, he was actually going from a co-management
meeting back to his home village and the plane crashed and all
were killed in that plane. To my knowledge, the councils
across the State have taken a moment of silence for Mr. Roy
Osten that died in that crash, who was a member of the Seward
Peninsula Regional Advisory Council.

42

43 (Pause)

44

45 Mr. Chairman and Council, at -- I think it was at the
Eastern Interior Meeting, they added this agenda item, No. 4,
and this was sent to you in a draft one and I discussed it with
your Chair, Mr. Huntington, that they felt that they needed a
segment in the agenda where they could just talk about

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Something that was concerning them. And this would be an opportunity for council members to share some concerns that would relate to subsistence management or subsistence in general. It's an open period for you to share something that may not be on the agenda that you would like to share.

6

7 MR. HUNTINGTON: Anybody's free to speak on the concerns. Any council members have concerns or -- you don't have to bring it up now, but as we go along and maybe toward the end of the meeting, we can have it brought up again and after we'll have a better idea, you know, what's going on, really. So, we don't have to discuss it now, I think, unless someone really....

14

15 MR. DEACON: I don't know if this is a concern, but I want more information on this salmon fishing, subsistence fishing. I heard through the State last year that you can't dry (ph) fish anymore; that they're going to outlaw that drying (ph) fishing, like how we used to do it all the time. That's what we heard last year, that within years to come, they're going to outlaw that. And it is a concern for our people along the Yukon. So I'd like to get more information on that.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, two things: One, at this present time, the Federal Subsistence Management Program does not extend to navigable waters or open seas. But, Mr. Morgan (sic), you remember at the last meeting, you approved the adoption of a resolution on factory trawlers that was written by the Eastern Interior. That was sent to -- which is further on the agenda, but that was sent to both secretaries that are involved with fisheries. We've received no response on that, but at present, fisheries are not part of this program, especially the salmon fisheries unless there's extenuating circumstances. So, I have nothing to report and I don't know if there is staff here that can give an update on the salmon issue because the Board of Fisheries is meeting as we are meeting now, the State Board of Fisheries.

38

39 Mr. Chairman and Council, as you know, at the last meeting, you have options to comment on different issues. What might be appropriate, if Mr. Morgan wants, we can -- when we get to additions or corrections to the agenda, add that to the agenda, but as it stands now the jurisdiction does not apply, but neither did the resolution that you adopted apply. So 45 -- you know, I mean we are under the philosophy that you had, that you will not look always at jurisdiction and take action, realizing your action may not come back with a response 48 resolution.

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1 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman? You're calling Herman or
me?

3
4 MR. MORGAN: You're addressing him or me?

5
6 MR. COFFING: Henry was the one that spoke to that.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, I'm sorry. Mr. Deacon. I'm sorry,
I'm sorry. Let me correct that. I was talking with Mr.
Deacon, and he was requesting information on salmon fishery
issues, not Mr. Morgan. I will wake up soon.

12
13 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I had a concern. Around Unit
14(A), there's a lot of wolves nowadays 'cause there's a lot
of caribou, you know, and a lot of them, they're killing a lot of
moose. And I was wishing maybe this committee can come up with
something to help control the wolves, maybe like a bounty or
support. Do they have anything on bounty and that in Juneau,
you know? And you've got to do -- you've got to do something
about all them wolves 'cause as long as there's a lot of
caribou, there's going to be a lot of wolves and they're -- the
moose are suffering around Aniak and we need the moose, you
know, us people and we should kind of address that problem,
too. Too many wolves.

25
26 MR. HUNTINGTON: I think it was brought up at the last
meeting in McGrath. There was a concern about wolves were kind
of out of control and we needed a little more study on their
habits and stuff. And I think it was the Holy Cross area, but
might be extended to -- throughout most of the western, I
think. Maybe Vince has some update on that.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Yes and no. I'm having difficulty
bearing you. The issue that's on the table now is discussing
how to deal with wolves and the fact that there is not enough
moose in the area because of wolf activity? Is that correct?
The last meeting, you requested a moose predator/prey study to
be done in 21(E). That was submitted and has been sent to the
refuges, to BLM, and to the Board. But the Board and those
agencies have not responded yet. There'll be -- there hasn't
been really a lot of time for them to respond. As far as the
question of bounties and that, that -- I don't know what
status the State bill is at in the State legislature on
bounties, so I have nothing to share other than what I read
slightly in the paper, that there's a bill to re-establish
bounties, but I don't know if that's in committee, out of
committee or dead. Maybe someone else can discuss bounties. I
don't know if the biologists have anything to share or the
State biologist has anything to share on that or not. That

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doesn't mean it's not an issue before this council. No response doesn't mean that. It's just saying that, in response to your question, we don't have any response. So, we can -- the council has a full ray of tools in its packet to deal with.

5

6 MR. MORGAN: If the State doesn't want to put a bounty, maybe the Federal government can put a bounty, you know. Maybe not \$400. Some are saying that it's too much. Maybe like 200, because that would give a lot of people an opportunity to make some money there and control the wolves. And the State or Federal government, they wouldn't have to do it. You know, it'll help the people, it'll help the resource, you know, what's wrong with that? So, would the Federal government ever consider a bounty like \$200 for a wolf or what would it take? A resolution from us or something?

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you're really putting me on the spot here. You know, that's a possibility. The possibility of that being implemented is very, very slim, if I can be that honest. The political climate nationwide is not sympathetic to a bounty. I don't know if someone else wants to add to that. But you would just have to look at what happened with the recent wolf management programs that have been attempted with the State to see your answer on that one.

25

26 MR. MORGAN: It seems like we're getting the short end of the stick. You know, it seems like those people, they think the wolves have more rights than us subsistence users. You know, it's not right and I think we, as a committee, should address that. And, you know, even though you're saying it won't do much good, you know, we could still make a resolution saying that the subsistence users have more rights than the wolves, you know.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it -- there's -- the options would be at this time -- and I'm not mentioning them as a delaying, I'm just bringing them out, would be that in the next meeting we fall when proposals are to be written, that this council seriously look at if there is any way of liberalizing the wolf seasons in your area, to pursue that or to pursue other things. The other option is to have this component of your '95 annual plan which is a -- I mean your Annual Report, excuse me. I slipped there. It's an Annual Report, that you would mention the concern about the wolf problem and discuss it there.

45

46 MR. HUNTINGTON: Tim? Question?

47

48 MR. OSBORNE: Yes. Well, another option would be for this council, if they wanted to, could actually approach it

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through State SB77 law which now entails intensive management and it would require the State to conduct intensive management in areas where there have been substantial reductions in seasons and bag limits for big game species. I think Ray is fairly familiar with that. In the McGrath area, it's been requested. And you could request the same thing in your area down there in Aniak.

8

9 MR. MORGAN: Could you clarify that?

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: He mentioned Senate Bill 77. Correct?
12 brought a copy of that here, well, it's a review of it. I
13 don't have a full copy of it. But I didn't catch the part
14 about where the -- it has passed, so it would be a process that
15 you would have to go through under the State Board of Game and
16 right now there's no call -- is that -- Tim, is that through a
17 Call for Proposal process?

18

19 MR. OSBORNE: That's correct.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Yeah, I think he'll correct me if
22 I'm wrong. There's no Call for Proposals open right now. You
23 would have to do that at your fall meeting. Correct?

24

25 MR. OSBORNE: No, it's open any time for any State Game
26 Board meeting, so, consequently, in the State book for the
27 March Board of Game meeting that's coming up, there are three
28 proposals in there. I believe there's one from the Delta area
29 and there's one from the Nelchina area, and they can be
30 requested either by through the State system or this council,
31 if they wanted to, could put in a proposal like they have on
32 the State book for the other things. I know you have one there
33 for 21(A) and (E) for moose.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: We do have copies of the Board of Game
36 proposals. Again, we're approaching an issue that should be
37 added or put on the agenda. So, I think we may want to wait
38 and have further discussion on that to see if it becomes an
39 agenda item. But that's a possibility to do that.

40

41 MR. MORGAN: We'd have to request that it be an agenda
42 item or wait to become an agenda item?

43

44 MR. COLLINS: I -- the next item is Adoption of the
45 Agenda. Or, no, excuse me, it's -- yeah, Approval of Agenda.

46

47 MR. HUNTINGTON: Well, we can add it on, I guess, if --
48 it'll be on discussion.

49

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1 MR. MATHEWS: It seems to be that the council is beyond
2 sharing of concerns; that it looks like they're ready to look
3 at the agenda and see if they want to add some items to it,
4 unless there are some other concerns. I don't want to override
5 somebody, but....

6

7 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman?

8

9 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yes, Jack?

10

11 MR. REAKOFF: Recently, the Park Service has made a
12 proposal to the Federal Register to not allow same-day airborne
13 hunting in Park Preserves and then amend -- and a rider on that
14 proposal to not allow shooting of free-ranging furbearers on a
15 trapping license. And what that means is that when a trapper
16 is out trapping, he has a no-limit for wolverine, he has a no-
17 limit for wolves in most of these units. And -- but now
18 under -- in Park Lands, the Park Service is trying to make some
19 vague interpretation that you couldn't shoot a free-ranging
20 furbearer; you would have to shoot it under your hunting
21 license which then changes all the seasons and the bag limits
22 because it's one wolverine up in Unit 24 where I -- up -- live
23 a priver here instead of no-limit. It changes it to five
24 wolves. And we've seen this same type of Federal agency
25 initiative to change the regulations through publication
26 through the Federal Register, and I feel that this is getting
27 out of -- it's going to get out of hand.

28

29 I feel that if any proposal to change any seasons or
30 bag limits, if an agency has a proposal, they must go through
31 this Subsistence Management Program. That's what this
32 Subsistence Management Program is set up to do, is so that
33 people will have a meaningful role in the formulation of those
34 processes. And my concern is that U. S. Fish & Wildlife did it
35 last year and the Park Service is doing it this year, pretty
36 soon every Federal agency is just going to start publishing
37 their own regulations and what's -- what is our position going
38 to be? Mute. And I feel that this council should write to the
39 Secretary of Interior and to the Federal Subsistence Board and
40 protest that avenue. If it deals with seasons and bag limits
41 affecting subsistence, those proposals should go through this
42 Federal Management Program, the councils, the Regional Councils
43 and the public comment, and then the Federal Board and the
44 deliberation of that board and then the final outcome. That's
45 one of my concerns. I feel it's very dangerous to the
46 subsistence users to allow this form of promulgation of
47 regulations by agencies at will. That's all I have to say
48 about that.

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1 I would like to see somewhere on our agenda, there's
2 some -- there's -- we should discuss that proposal, as this
3 still in the comment period, as far as I know, and that our
4 council should address that, that free-ranging furbearer
5 Federal Register proposal of the Park Service's. I would like
6 to have that as an addition. And, also, there's language in
7 the statement for management of the Gates of the Arctic Park
8 regarding management of lynx and certain other furbearers, and
9 this, again, is management of resources by -- of subsistence
10 users without going through the Federal process. And I feel
11 that if they want to -- their statement for management has any
12 kind of management implications, that those management
13 directives should go through the Regional Council. So, this is
14 what I would like to attach to this agenda because it's -- it
15 could be very important in the future.

16

17 MR. HUNTINGTON: Would we be able to like merge these
18 two concerns into one?

19

20 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah. Well, it's all the same concern.
21 It's these....

22

23 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, these -- but....

24

25 MR. REAKOFF: I'm not sure where we could insert it,
26 maybe under New Business somewheres.

27

28 MR. HUNTINGTON: I think we brought it up before. You
29 brought it up before at the last meeting.

30

31 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, down at Galena, but it's ongoing.

32

33 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

34

35 MR. REAKOFF: They're continuing it.

36

37 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, well, I think we -- if no
38 objections, we may add it under Old Business.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: If I understand correctly, there'd be
41 right now two additions to the agenda; one would be the
42 discussion of the Federal Register by Park Service dealing with
43 free-ranging furbearers, and the second one would be discussion
44 about the draft statement of management for Gates of the
45 Arctic?

46 MR. REAKOFF: Um-hum (affirmative).

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: And I'm not sure if the one that
49 Mr. Morgan had is....

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1
2 MR. COLLINS: Wolf management.
3
4 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah.
5
6 MR. MATHEWS:is also under there.
7
8 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, we'll add that under Old
Business.
10
11 MR. COFFING: Mr. Deacon.
12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Deacon. I'm sorry, Mr. Deacon.
14
15 MR. HUNTINGTON: So, we've got about....
16
17 MR. COFFING: No, it was Mr. Morgan.
18
19 MR. HUNTINGTON:two.
20
21 MR. MATHEWS: So, those three have been approved or do
we have a vote or are there others, I should say?
23
24 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman? Are you going to insert
that under J, Other Old Business?
26
27 MR. HUNTINGTON: Other Old Business I think.
28
29 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.
30
31 MR. HUNTINGTON: Because it's been on the table before
and we've discussed it. So we'll go ahead and put it under Old
Business along with the wolf control study. I think there's
three items we added under Old Business. Is there any other
addition to the agenda? Hearing none, is there a motion to
approve the agenda?
37
38 MR. COLLINS: I move we approve the agenda as amended.
39
40 MR. HUNTINGTON: It's been moved to approve the agenda.
41 Is there a second?
42
43 MR. GRAHAM: I second it.
44
45 MR. HUNTINGTON: It's been seconded to approve the
agenda. Is there any questions?
47
48 MR. DEACON: Question.
49
50

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1 MR. HUNTINGTON: Question been called for. All those
2n favor of the additions to the agenda, signify by saying aye.

3
4 ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

5
6 MR. HUNTINGTON: All opposed, same sign.
7(Pause) Agenda approved with the additions. Next on our
8agenda is No. 7, Reading and Approval of our October 28th,
9th, 1994 minutes of our McGrath meeting. Vince, would
10you....

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman and council, that's under
13Tab 2, is the unapproved meeting minutes from the last meeting,
14and I believe I sent copies to you earlier on these. It's up
15to the council, if you'd like me to read the minutes into the
16record or summarize them or let you look them over and see if
17there's any corrections.

18
19 MR. HUNTINGTON: Does any of the board members need
20more time to look over the minutes of our last meeting? If
21not, is there a motion to waive the minutes of our last
22meeting? Waive the reading with approval?

23
24 MR. COLLINS: I'll move that we -- Mr. Chairman, that
25we move -- that we waive the reading and approve the minutes of
26October 28, 29.

27
28 MR. HUNTINGTON: It's been moved to waive the reading
29of the October 28th, 29th meeting and have it approved. Is
30there a second?

31
32 MR. DEACON: Second.

33
34 MR. HUNTINGTON: It's been moved and seconded to have
35the meeting of the -- minutes of the last meeting waived and
36approved. Any questions?

37
38 MR. DEACON: Questions.

39
40 MR. HUNTINGTON: The question has been called for. All
41in favor of the approval of the October 28th and 29th, 1994
42meeting signify by saying aye.

43
44 ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

45
46 MR. HUNTINGTON: All opposed, same sign. (Pause) The
47minutes of that meeting has been approved.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that leads us to Old
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Business, and I can start off with A if you'd like, the report of Federal Board actions since the last council meeting.

3

4 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, I guess that's -- if there are no objections....

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Since the last council meeting of -- at the council meeting, you were discussing Proposal 54 and 58. And I will press upon fellow staff to help out on 54 and 58. One of them was to, I believe it was 58, was to have a half-mile restriction along the Yukon River in Unit 21(E) I believe it was. 21(C)? 21(E). That was approved by the board. The other one was a fairly complicated proposal, 54, which was to kind of align the Federal and State seasons for moose in 19(A) and that ended up with the board adopting pretty much a combination of both Federal and State seasons, and that was mutually agreed with the adjoining council which would be Yukon Delta Regional Advisory Committee Council. If you have any more detailed questions on that, I can dig through my files and find it. But, in general, what actions you took were approved by the board for Proposal 54 and 58.

22

23 Okay. The other actions the board took are summarized under Tab 3 and there will be maybe some discussion later about 25, but there was -- I'm not sure what the Park Service reports will cover, but I may end up covering it now. If you look under Tab 3, you'll see a chart of the special actions that were taken by the board during the past year and the bottom one on page one was a request from Denali Subsistence Resource Commission to establish a moose season in specified lands within the National Park Service in Unit 20(C), and that request was granted. That one affects your region because part of the Park falls within your region. The other one that's happened since you met is on the second page towards the bottom which is S94-13 which was due to the flooding in the Koyukuk River area with the villages of Allakaket, Alatna, and Hughes. There was a request to have an earlier opening date for winter moose season in Unit 24 and that was approved for portions of Unit 24. And, other than that, you can see the other actions the board has taken under special actions. We will be discussing other board actions when we go through the customary and traditional use determination status reports and that. Other than that, that's what has happened since you met last by the Federal Subsistence Board, unless there is some other staff that have another item or two that I've missed.

46

47 MR. HUNTINGTON: You mentioned we had a -- they had a meeting on the 13th and 14th of this month? Do you have anything on that for this council?

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1
 2 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. What Chairman Huntington is
 3 talking about, there was a staff committee meeting, the
 4 interagency staff committee meeting with an invitation to all
 5 ten council chairs to attend and to discuss the two things, the
 6 current status of the Kenai Peninsula C&T determination process
 7 and where it's at and reasons for its status as it stands; and
 8 the other one was to give a chance for the council chairs to
 9 discuss the future direction of the, if I can abbreviate, C&T
 10 determination process, the customary and traditional use
 11 determination process. That met for two days. The first day
 12 was with the full staff committee and all council chairs. The
 13 second day which was the 14th was an informational meeting of
 14 the full Southcentral Council with council chairs and staff
 15 committee in attendance. That whole meeting is still evolving
 16 as to what came out of it. But, essentially, there appears to
 17 be two feelings of the way the C&T process should go: One is
 18 the present process which is laid out and I don't remember
 19 which tab, but it essentially has a scoping process, literature
 20 search, compilation of data, reviews by the community,
 21 potential conclusions, and et cetera, and then that goes
 22 through the councils and to the State -- I mean to the board.
 23 That process would be scheduled, which is in here, across the
 24 state. So, it would march to different areas across the State.
 25 The other option which is being explored is to have the C&T
 26 process be an annual process that would be enveloped with the
 27 Subpart D and, for new members, that's the proposal process
 28 where you would request a change in a season or harvest limit.
 29 Pretty much those were discussed and the future direction will
 30 have to be determined by the staff committee and the board.
 31 So, right now, we're not on hold, but we're not sure where the
 32 next one will go.

33

34 The present processes that are ongoing now are Kenai;
 35 they are meeting next week, the council, and that will be
 36 before the Federal Subsistence Board, their recommendations in
 37 April. And then there is the Upper Tanana area C&T process and
 38 that one will be back before the public next week in Northway
 39 for two days and then there should be a draft proposed rule out
 40 later in summer, and you'll be able to comment on that at your
 41 fall meeting and that'll come to a conclusion with the board
 42 the following -- well, it'll be at a board meeting in fall, but
 43 won't take effect I think until July '96. The Copper River
 44 one, I'm not sure where that's at other than that it's in its
 45 scoping and lay-out phase, a little bit beyond that, and Mike
 46 will be talking later on the agenda of what's going on in the
 47 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. So, that meeting was quite productive.
 48 It was quite an open-dialogue meeting. Eight of the ten
 49 regions had representatives there and the meetings lasted most
 50

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of the day, both days, and it was a good interchange between the councils and staff committee. Other than that, there is no conclu -- you know, drafted conclusions from that. It was more of a dialogue/information meeting.

5

6 MR. HUNTINGTON: I have one more question. What's the status on the new chairman for the Federal Subsistence Board?

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Boy, I'm really on the hot seat tonight. 10 don't know at all, other than the fact that Willie Hensley is no longer the chair. The acting chair is David Allen, who is the regional director for Fish and Wildlife Service. My guess is it's being discussed in Washington who would be appointed as chair. For the new members, the Federal Subsistence Board is made up of the five - and a guess here - the five regional directors for Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and National Park Service with the chair, and the chair in the recent past was Mr. Hensley. So, I don't know where that's at now, when there will be an appointment. And that appointment would be from the Secretary of Interior and Secretary of Agriculture. Unless someone else has gotten more late-breaking information. A lot of this stuff is moving in Washington and some of us get information and some don't. That's why I'm constantly asking other staff because they may have gotten more recent information than I have.

27

28 MR. HUNTINGTON: Thanks, Vince. You want to go on down 29 A1?

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, I've already covered A1 which was the regulatory proposals....

33

34 MR. HUNTINGTON: Oh, okay.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS:54 and 58 and special actions.

37

38 MR. HUNTINGTON: Okay. How about going on to B?

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. B. B, you need to go to Tab 4 and I don't know how you want to handle this. I can summarize the material or you can read it on your own. No. 4 is correspondence received and media coverage, then I need to go 41 to 5, is correspondence you sent out. So, if it's -- if the chair agrees, I'll just walk through Tab 4 and 5 and if someone wants me to stop or add more, go ahead. And for the ones in the public, all this material is in the books on the public tables if you'd like, and I do have an extra copy I can loan 42 somebody if they want to track along.

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1
 2 Anyway, the first one that's in your book under Tab 4
 3s just an article that was in Tundra Times about the Federal
 4program and councils, and I would encourage you to read it
 5because it was quite complimentary of the council system. So,
 6I won't summarize that one. The next one, and I'm hoping all
 7your books are in the same order, so if I'm out of order,
 8someone, you know, call me out of order because I didn't put
 9these books together, someone else did, and they may have
 10flipped the pages. The next letter you have is a letter to Mr.
 11Roy Ewan, who is the chair of South Central Regional Advisory
 12Council, and I'll just kind of summarize it. Some of it, I've
 13already done, but I will make sure that I touch upon it. The
 14C&T process they've been involved with has had some different
 15twists and turns in it. In the January '94 meeting, they
 16passed recommendations on the C&T process and that's why in the
 17first paragraph it talks about the council felt that its
 18recommendations were not given consideration in the proposed
 19rule-making and then it's making them question -- I think I can
 20share fairly confidently here, some of the council members
 21there were near resigning because they felt like they were
 22wasting their time. This letter is somewhat in response to
 23that. So, that's the reason for the letter, was the fact that
 24they felt the recommendations weren't getting consideration.
 25The letter acknowledges that they have worked diligently and
 26that the staff has been -- documented the historic and
 27contemporary resource harvest patterns of the rural communities
 28on the Kenai Peninsula and that the council's views were fully
 29communicated throughout the office and to the staff committee
 30and to the Federal Subsistence Board.

31
 32 During that process of going through that, there was
 33a thinking or focus on the time frame of doing these C&Ts and
 34the proportion of the community. Now, again, the region that
 35you're dealing with, a lot of these issues will not surface
 36because, in general, your communities are quite rural and are
 37not on a road system. But the issues on the Kenai and Eastern
 38Interior bring up these what are called transitional
 39communities, and I can't think of the other term, but people
 40call them transitional communities. And that's where through
 41the Kenai C&T process, the question of how long this process
 42should go on surfaced and also what proportion of the community
 43does it require before a community is considered to have
 44customary and traditional use. Twenty percent? Thirty
 45percent? Fifty percent? So the letter kind of talks about
 46that. Those policy questions have not really been answered
 47yet. I don't know, I can keep going over this. This is a
 48fairly lengthy letter. If you would like to read it, it may be
 49to your advantage to read it. The thing that I would like to
 50

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point out to you is on page 3. If I didn't do it properly, someone who is a better wordsmith in front of the computer may have done it better, and that would be paragraph 1 on page 3. I'm labeling that Position 1 and that's the position that this program needs to move along a little quicker, and that the first cut should be that they're rural communities and that's as far as it goes. Position 2 is kind of more laid out in the second paragraph which Position 2, in general, is the program that is ongoing right now.

10

11 And I think with that, I will conclude with that letter unless there are some particular questions. I would advise the council members to kind of read this over because the C&T process will either become annual or will continue this scheduling, so it'll be in your neck of the woods. So, you need to know what has happened in other regions so you can benefit from their experiences. If there's no questions on that, I'll go on to Mr. Sheldon Katchatag's letter. Okay. Hearing no questions, the January 6th letter to Mr. Katchatag, who is the chair of the Seward Peninsula: The three chairs for Northwest, North Slope, and Seward Peninsula requested a meeting with Mr. Pospahala and he met with them to address their concerns and this is going through their concerns. And you'll see on the back that it was carbon-copied to your chair and I took my own initiative to provide you copies of this. I do need future direction if you want me to do that, but I felt it was important to all the members to have a copy of this letter.

29

30 Essentially, the issues that they talked about was appointment of a Native liaison for service in Alaska and you can read that over, but essentially, the director, Mollie Beattie, has placed a high priority on establishing a full-time position. To my knowledge, there is no announcement for that position yet, but there will be a Native liaison position to the regional director of Fish and Wildlife Service. The next issue was council involvement in developing an implementation plan for the Native American policy for the Fish and Wildlife Service. Again, the answer was that that was notified to the American desk and I gather we're waiting for a response to see how they feel on that. Request for legal support for regional councils. The capturing point is the last sentence: If any councils require legal assistance on specific issues, the matters can be evaluated singly or as they occur. Essentially, that's saying if you want to have the solicitor here, you can request the solicitor, but it'd be more likely the solicitor would come if you had a particular issue that you wanted to address.

49

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1 Additional funding. Essentially, there's no
 2 additional funding. There's no additional funding. There was
 3 concern by the three chairs about the use of indigenous
 4 knowledge in our reports and I think you can read that to get a
 5 gist of that; that we are attempting through all our programs
 6 to incorporate as best we can indigenous traditional knowledge
 7 in our reports. Native employment. Is there a question on --
 8 on -- okay. Native employment: The summary of that is that
 9 most of our positions are -- in Fish and Wildlife Service which
 10 all I can speak for are announced through what's called the
 11 Office of Personnel Management which means people outside
 12 Federal employment can apply for those positions. And I think
 13 I'll just take that moment to answer your questions about your
 14 vacant coordinator position which I'm filling the duties of.
 15 That has been on what's called the green sheets with Fish and
 16 Wildlife Service and that has closed. The OPM, or Office of
 17 Personnel Management, announcement has not come out yet. When
 18 that does, it will be distributed widely across the State, but
 19 if you, individually or the council, desire a copy of that
 20 announcement let me know and then I can provide you copies of
 21 that announcement if you know of candidates that might be
 22 interested in that.

23

24 Tribal management, I'll leave that for you to read
 25 because I'll probably dig a hole deeper than I really rather
 26 not do at this moment, as they summarize it quite well there
 27 and I don't have my files on the Venetie or Kluti Kaah case,
 28 so....(pause). And then Annual Reports, I failed to mention in
 29 the beginning that your notebook had a letter of the response
 30 to your Annual Report and we'll be discussing that later. But,
 31 essentially, this is saying that those three councils were
 32 quite concerned they had not received a response to their '93
 33 Annual Report. And that is it for the letter to Sheldon
 34 Katchatag.

35

36 Okay. I'll move on to the next one which is a letter
 37 from -- well, I think I can close this one real quick. This is
 38 a letter that is from Gates the Arctic Subsistence Resource
 39 Commission and if I get this wrong, I think Steve will jump up
 40 quickly. This is a letter, January 26, 1995, and this is
 41 requesting that we, "we" meaning the councils here, amend our
 42 charter to match the request to change the appointments. Those
 43 have been done. Our charters which are under Tab 1, I believe,
 44 reflect the change that you appoint one member, not two
 45 members, to the Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence
 46 Resource Commission. And I think Steve will be talking about
 47 the boundary issue later, so I'll leave that paragraph alone.

48

49 And that pretty much is that letter because we'll be

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talking about the boundary request change between Western and North Slope. And I think that concludes the materials that were sent to you. I can move on to the materials that were sent out under your letterhead. Okay. The next, let's see, three letters were in response to the minutes of the Middle Yukon Local Fish and Game Advisory Committee and, essentially, they had some valid concerns that they wanted answers to about a better linkage between the local advisory committees and the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council. I called and left messages to the people that were listed here and sent these letters, and I expect, I think, at their next meeting or whenever that they will be responding to that. But, essentially, their request is to ask for additional funding. I pursued that; the answer I got was, no, there is no additional funding to assist local Fish and Game advisory committees to meet to take up Federal issues. I also pursued having a representative at the meetings, meaning this council meeting, from a local Fish and Game advisory committee. The answer to that was also no. And the other one is still in the courts; that's to deal with objecting to the Federal takeover of subsistence fishing in navigable waters. That will be decided by the 9th Circuit Court. So, I'll leave it to those experts to figure that one out.

24

25 So that explains those letters that were sent out, and we'll just keep moving unless someone tells me to stop. The next two letters are to the Secretary of Interior and Secretary of Commerce which is essentially saying your concerns about the factory trawlers and the resolution which you adopted which mirrored the Eastern Interior one. No response has been received from Mr. Babbitt or Mr. Brown. I will keep track on those, but nothing has come back from them on that issue. I am overlooking the new members. You should really look at the resolution there that the Western Interior -- and I'll read it real quickly. "Whereas the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council is concerned with the health of salmon stocks in the Yukon Drainage, and whereas it is well-documented that factory sawlers presently operating in the Bering Sea for pollock are allowed a bycatch of other species including salmon, and whereas it is documented that a large portion of those salmon (chum and chinook) are of Western Alaskan origin; therefore it is resolved that the council would like to see an immediate curtailment of this wasteful practice. Resolution passed with unanimous vote. The Western Interior Regional Advisory Council supports the Eastern Interior Council's resolution by adopting identical resolution."

47

48 Okay. The next letter -- a couple of letters there I think I'll leave for you to read. But, essentially, you were

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asked at the last meeting to address certain issues and you passed motions or charged me to draft letters concerning the first -- concerning issues. The first one is concerning Adequacy of geographical representation. Let's see, as of noon yesterday, I asked again if there -- I did ask if this is going to be an agenda item. Let me back up. This was a request from the staff committee, asking all the councils what did they feel about their geographical representation on the council. You responded that you wanted alternates established. I asked this week, would that be an agenda item on the next staff committee meeting and the next board meeting. The answer was that it is on the draft agenda for both committee and board. So, we'll see if there will be a response to you having two alternates. For the new members, I would encourage you to read that over because the council did do quite a bit of thinking on that and let's there for you to read and you'll have a report at the next meeting as to what the board -- how the board handled it.

18

19 The next letter of January 9th is what we talked about earlier when you were discussing the wolf issue. And that was essentially asking for predator/moose relationship study in Unit 21(E). There's been no response to that, but I would not take that as meaning it's lost in the shuffle. That was sent out on January 9th and I know that refuges have been discussing it, and I just have not had the time to contact Bureau of Land Management with that. So -- and I've not received anything back from State of Alaska, either John Morrison or Jack Whitman. So, I'll just keep you informed of how that turns out. And that's it, Mr. Chairman, as far as correspondence received and correspondence sent out. And I will ask the council if you desire to have copies like this, each council is different. Some just would rather have it between the chair and the coordinator or whatever, so I desire direction if you would like copies of this mailed when they're done or like this, in a book, when you meet or not at all. But I do need direction on that because this is quite a bit of paper here.

37

38 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, if we receive them, I like the idea of having them in a book because they're in one place and can be referred to. If we get letters in between time, I'm involved in a number of different things. It's pretty easy to lose things.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: And if I can go further with that, if you have like -- and I'm going to get this straight now, if Mr. Morgan has, you know, a concern and you get something acted on, you can ask me on the record or off the record that you would like copies of that and then I'll ask the chair for agreement and then we can do it directly. Because I know Jack likes that

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When we worked on committees, that if it's something that's really burning in his area, he doesn't want to wait till the next meeting to get it. So, that's another part of this and I'm more than willing to do that. But, anyway, if I took that to be that the way this is done is fine for the next meeting, then I'll convey that to whoever ends up being the coordinator.

7

8

9

MR. HUNTINGTON: Okay.

10

11

MR. MATHEWS: That is it for, what is it, 8B correspondence on your agenda.

13

14

MR. SIMON: I have a comment.

15

16

MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, Pollock?

17

18

MR. SIMON: Yes. On that alternate, I think we should establish that each member would have alternates because I had missed two meetings in two years at both times that I couldn't go for various -- special reasons. And I feel at the time, 22-- our villages nearby was not represented well. So, in this case, an alternate could go to the meeting and take my place for that meeting.

25

26

MR. HUNTINGTON: I think that was one of our concerns at the last meeting in McGrath when we only had five members present and we discussed alternates, you know, because a lot of times you couldn't be able to make that meeting and there's somebody, you know, available right there at their village there that might be able to attend, you know. So, I think that's being discussed, huh? The alternates?

33

34

MR. MATHEWS: Right. Yeah, the council, if I can capsule again what Harold said, they were quite concerned that if there's just a quorum there and they need to take up an issue that's affecting like the Wiseman area and Jack couldn't make it in for whatever valid reason, they were uncomfortable making a decision, you know, on that without input from that area. So, they desired to have alternates which is similar to the advisory committees with the State where if you can't make it, then, an alternate for your community can go. Under this system, there are no alternates. So, if Sharon can't make it, that's it. I mean, there -- you know, the input for the area she represents would be through paper or through public testimony. So, your council put this through and there's been no response for alternates yet. I would think the board will look at it. My best guess is they probably will not go with alternates, but we'll see if your argument is strong enough to

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convince them otherwise.

2

3 MR. HUNTINGTON: Does that answer your question,
Pollock? Is that a fair....

5

6 MR. SIMON: (Nods head affirmatively)

7

8 MR. HUNTINGTON: Okay.

9

10 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chair?

11

12 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, Herman?

13

14 MR. MORGAN: I had a comment concerning these letters.
15 On the letter we wrote -- you wrote to Bruce Babbitt about
16 bycatch and the factory trawlers and the resolution, if we
17 haven't received a response, you should send them another
18 letter saying we wrote you a letter on this date and we still
19 haven't received a response. That's a pretty important issue
20 right now, those factory trawlers out in the ocean, you know,
21 and if we haven't received a response, we should write them
22 another letter saying we wrote to them at this date and we
23 haven't received a response. I don't know what the other board
24 members feel.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: That's within your actions. You can make
27 a motion or whatever to that effect and I'll draft another
28 letter that would capsule whatever the council would desire.
29 Washington moves at a different pace.

30

31 MR. HUNTINGTON: I think I have a -- I might have an
32 answer for you on that. I think I might have got a letter from
33 the Secretary on that just recently. I have a big pile of
34 letters to go through to find it, but I might have something on
35 just lately. I don't know if he sent you the same copy or
36 he just sent me a copy.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I would....

39

40 MR. HUNTINGTON: I can probably....

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: I would assume I would get a copy.

43

44 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, I thought you got a copy, too,
45 because....

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: I don't have a copy, so I can't say much
48 more than that. I'm trying to think what other letter he would
49 send you. Would it be fairly recently that....

50

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1
2 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, it was within the last couple
3 weeks I got a letter.
4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Well, then it's possible it's that. The
6 only other thing would be the council nominations information,
7 but that went out in December. So, it's possible and it's
8 possible the copy that would go to your records for this
9 council are somewhere in the process.
10
11 MR. HUNTINGTON: I can look for it tonight and bring it
12 up tomorrow.
13
14 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know, you -- with Mr. Morgan,
15 I'd....
16
17 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman?
18
19 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, Henry.
20
21 MR. DEACON: I don't know, correct me on this, but I
22 heard they're having testimony there in Anchorage this week or
23 last week about high seas fishing catch. And we sent one
24 representative from our village to testify on that. High sea
25 fishing testifying. Now, that was State or Federal? I don't
26 know.
27
28 MR. HUNTINGTON: That's the State Board of Fish.
29 That's going on right now in Anchorage.
30
31 MR. DEACON: Yeah, that's what they....
32
33 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah. It's supposed to last till
34 March 2nd and that's under discussion. I guess that's about
35 all I have on that.
36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.
38
39 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, I'll find something.
40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I would ask you if -- to come by
42 with that letter and then we'll copy it and make sure from
43 there.
44
45 MR. HUNTINGTON: Maybe during the break, I'll look for
46 it. I've got a big pile of letters I've got to go through.
47 Okay. You want to go on down to C, Annual Report?
48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Well, let's close out the Annual
50

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Report '93 and that would be easier. Go ahead and do that. I may have to borrow one of your copies, but, essentially, under Tab 6, you have what you had at the last meeting, is a summary of what the Annual Report is supposed to do. And, essentially, it's supposed to identify current and anticipated subsistence uses. No. 2: Evaluate current and anticipated subsistence needs. And, 3, a recommended strategy for management of fish and wildlife within a region; and, 4, recommendations concerning policy, standards, guidelines, and regulations to implement strategy. You wrote, meaning the council wrote, a 1993 Annual Report in November of '93 and in the front of your book - it wasn't incorporated - was a letter and response to your '93 Annual Report. And I didn't bring my copy, \$4....(pause). It's a letter that we just got signed earlier this week on February 21st and I don't know, Mr. Chairman, how you want me to do this. I can read the letter into the record or let you guys read it over and then -- I think it'd be better if you'd just read it over yourself. Each of you should have a copy of it in the front of your book. I can go -- I can summarize it, if you'd like for the new members and the public here. Your Annual Report is quite -- in my opinion, quite an important document. It's up to you.

23

24 MR. HUNTINGTON: What's the rest of the council members feel on this? Would you like....

26

27 MR. COLLINS: I read through it already myself.

28

29 MR. HUNTINGTON: You read through it?

30

31 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

32

33 MR. HUNTINGTON: Do you guys want Vince to summarize it or read it on your own? I've looked it over and I'm satisfied with it.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Did everyone find a copy of it? Okay. Bollock, do you have your copy there? It's February 21st.

39

40 MR. SIMON: (Raises his copy)

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Could you -- both Phil and you look at it together if you could? I gather Phil's may have fell out in transport. I'm probably going to end up reading it because -- I don't know, just because. This letter responds to the Western Interior Council's first Annual Report submitted February -- I mean, November 15th. This is the acting chairman of the Federal Subsistence Board, acting on behalf of the Secretary of Interior. The first issue that was raised in your

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1993 report -- I'm going to paraphrase this, so if -- whatever. The Annual Report was a recommendation to reduce the 40 moose community harvest quota for the Lime Village to prevent over-harvesting. Your request was based on changes of land status in the Lime Village area. During its 1994 meeting, the board addressed your concerns when it took action on a proposal from Lime Village concerning the moose quota. The board action established a community reporting system and the harvest quota of 40 moose now includes those taken under the State Tier II system. Both actions enhance protection of moose population by simplifying the collection of accurate harvest data and by ensuring that the combined State and Federal harvest does not exceed 40 moose.

14

15 The next issue in your report was the issue of jurisdiction over navigable waters, and this one I'll read because of the legal implications. Jurisdictions over fisheries in navigable waters is currently being litigated in the Katie John court case. The U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska issued an order in March 1994 stating the Federal government has jurisdiction over subsistence fisheries for the purposes of Title 8 of ANILCA, Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. The District Court order has been appealed to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Pending the outcome of the appeal, the District Court's decision has been stayed. Consequently, until the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals issues an order in the Katie John case, the board will not assume responsibilities for subsistence management of fisheries in navigable waters except in those waters listed in regulations published May 29th, 1992.

31

32 Okay. The next issue concerns the customary and additional use process, particularly with military sites in the Dalton Highway Corridor. Let me see where I have that. Yes, under Tab 8, but we'll be addressing that later in the agenda, is the Federal Register notice that's mentioned here that's outlining its proposed schedules and priority for reviewing customary and traditional use determinations. And we've already discussed about the fact that there's policy issues that are coming up as to the role of customary and traditional use. And this just brings up the meeting that Harold asked for a review of, of February 13th and 14th.

43

44 Okay. Your Annual Report requested a simplified definition of "ordinary high water" and access to maps with clearly defined boundaries showing land status of Federal, State and private lands. The ordinary high water mark has been defined in court cases and quite specific in legal definition. Revision of this definition would require extensive Federal

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and State negotiations which are beyond the purview of the Board's authority and responsibility.

3

4 On to the issue of accurate maps and field markers. It's essentially saying that subsistence users should contact the local Federal land manager and the State of Alaska, and Fish and Wildlife protection if they have questions regarding location of Federal and State Lands. And then it's just acknowledging that land status is constantly changing with the selections made under the Statehood and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Acts. Let's see, the final issue the council brought up was concerning council representation for the Aniak area and, as you know, Herman Morgan has recently been appointed to a three-year seat on the regional council. And then there's a request there to encourage council members to work closely with all subsistence communities in your region. And the rest you can read over yourself, but that's the answers to the issues that you put together in your '93 Report. Any questions on that? Mr. Chairman?

20

21 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, going back a little ways, I think I found the letter that we were discussing on navigable waters. Maybe you can look it over.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, good. We need to get this copied.

26

27 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, so that we don't have to go back and go over things a second time, in order to keep the meeting going smooth and as fast as possible, we'd like to take care of business as we go along. So like Vince said....

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: You want me to....

33

34 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, go ahead and read the letter.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Cesa, I'm going to ask you to -- I want to make sure we get copies of this. This is....

38

39 MS. SAM: Okay.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: This is the first time I've seen it so, hopefully, I captured it right. This is to Mr. Harold Huntington, January 30th, signed by Mr. Allen. I'll just read it into the record. "Your letter dated December 13, 1994 to the Secretary of the Department of Interior was forwarded to me for response. The Department of Interior does not have authority to regulate factory trawlers operating in the Bering Sea. Authority to regulate harvest of anadromous and certain marine species in marine waters rests among the State of

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Alaska, National Marine Fisheries Service and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has one seat on the North American (sic) Fisheries Management Council but is a non-voting member. The Service is limited at 5 sessions to identifying issues, asking and answering questions, providing biological opinion, and engaging in general information exchange.

9

10 The domestic fleet has caught the majority of the chinook salmon in the bycatch since 1987, with the exception of 1990. The catch has exceeded 20,000 fish in each year since 1987, exceeded to 30,000 fish in each year since 1991, and exceeded 40,000 fish in 1993 and 1994. Chinook salmon bycatch is highest during winter months. The directed catch of chum salmon in the Pacific Ocean has increased overall since 1970. Japanese high seas catch dominated into the late 1970s, during which time the coastal catch of the chum salmon in Japan became the major commercial catch of chum salmon in the Pacific. The rise in Japanese coastal catch coincided with increased Japanese hatchery production which has remained at approximately 2 billion fry per year since 1980.

23

24 The directed commercial catch of chum salmon for the entire State of Alaska has varied between 8 million and 15 million fish since 1980. The commercial catch of chum salmon in the entire Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Region (Norton Sound, Kotzebue, Yukon and Kuskokwim fisheries) has varied between 1.2 and 2.8 million fish between 1980 and 1992. However, as reported to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in January of 1994, approximately 360,000 chum salmon were taken in the 1993 Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim commercial fisheries (RAVEN Commission Report, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 1994).

34

35

36 The National Pacific. . ." oh, what is it called, ". . . Fishery Management Council took emergency action in April 1994 to impose restrictions on other salmon bycatch during the pollock 'B' season of 1994 as a means of controlling salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea. The option chosen under the emergency rule was to close five blocks in the Catcher Vessel Operational Area (CVOA) after a cap of 42,000 'other' salmon had been taken in the CVOA. As a result of the action, the five designated blocks were closed to all trawling after the first week of the 'B' season fishery.

46

47 All salmon are currently required to be retained aboard a vessel until the salmon have been counted and sampled by an observer. The actual counts of salmon taken by trawl

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vessels are being accounted for by National Marine Fisheries Service in addition to expanded estimates of salmon bycatch as had been made previously. In reporting actual salmon counts, NMFS. . ." National Marine Fisheries Service, ". . .has also provided a 'reliability code' to quantify the accuracy of the bycatch accounting.

7

8 Please be assured that there is deep concern by the Department of Interior for the conservation of chinook and chum salmon in the Bering Sea and Yukon River. The Department of Interior is ardently interested in the Yukon River ecosystem in order to efficiently manage the lands entrusted to several of its Federal agencies, honor international agreement with Canada in salmon management, stimulate further negotiation with the Canadians to establish a Yukon River Salmon Treaty, and reserve enough wild resources to satisfy the subsistence needs of rural Alaskan residents. Sincerely, David B. Allen, Regional Director."

19

20 I think it should be made clear to you that this is a letter from the regional director of Fish and Wildlife Service and he is responding from the Secretary of Interior. But your letter was to the Secretary of Interior. And I'll be honest with you, most of what I read there, I didn't understand. So, there may be others here with specific questions on that. I'm not a fisherman and I got lost there about three-quarters of the way through. But I will have Cesa make copies and provide them for you because I know -- I'm not downplaying the importance of fisheries to all your communities, but I just wish I would have seen this before so I could have reviewed it and been more up to speed with the terminology and what was in this letter.

33

34 MS. SAM: Do you want me to make copies of it right now? I could.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Sure, sure. Thank you. I don't know about you, Mr. Chairman, but I'm lost as to where we are right at this moment. We were discussing Annual Report, and we were discussing '93, and we completed '93 as far as my presentation, going over the response to your '93 report. I can advance into our '94 report, if you would like.

43

44 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, if there are no objections from the rest of the council members. Any time you guys want to speak for recess or break for the night, you know, don't be afraid to speak up. I know we've all had a long day. Yeah, go ahead and go into the '94 report. You're going into the '94 report?

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MR. MATHEWS: You want the '94 report in?

MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah (nods affirmatively).

MR. MATHEWS: Okay. As you remember at your meeting in McGrath, you, at several times during the meeting, discussed the Annual Report. I promised to send you this as soon as I got it down, but due to the fact that I'm filling two positions, I just got it done on February 9th, so there wasn't time to really get it distributed. I will just for the record since this is being transcribed, I will just highlight the issues and encourage you to read the detail underneath to make sure I captured what you meant. Essentially, the Annual Report is in response to Section 805 (a) (3) (D) of ANILCA and you had expressed concern about not receiving a response to the '93 report. And then you requested that the board -- that you desired direction and guidance from the Federal Subsistence Board on how to increase the effectiveness of the report. And then you had the following issues in your Annual Report. One was a carryover from '93 which is the mean high water mark and, again, the legal term for that is "ordinary high water." So, that was responded in your other one.

The other issue that you carried over from '93 was the difficulty identifying landownership boundaries. I incorporated or encapsulated your '94 discussion which is the paragraph underneath that, and I encourage you to read that to make sure I captured it right. You also directed that your request -- under the staff committee request on adequacy of geographical distribution, that I incorporate that in your Annual Report, and that's alternate members. You also wanted in your Annual Report cooperative wildlife study, your request to have that, so that's also in there and we discussed that as being the one in 21(E) for predator/moose study. So, I encourage you to look it over. We can -- the options you have either, on the record, give me corrections or during this meeting give me individual additions or corrections or mail me them. But we do need to set a deadline when we can make this no longer a draft Annual Report.

MR. HUNTINGTON: Is that it for '94 report?

MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, that's it for the '94 report. You're not bound to stay with this. You know, you can add to it. When we discussed this at your last meeting, there was the date of November that it was due and then that -- essentially, there wasn't any date that it was due. So, I think the council may want to seriously look at getting in cycle with these

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Annual Reports and seriously working with their team, their anthropologists or biologists, and your coordinator as to what you really want to do with these Annual Reports. And I would say that would be a good topic item for your fall meeting. You can discuss it now. But the annual report does go to Federal Subsistence Board and it is, in my opinion, a report card on the program and it is a way of tracking things. So I feel it's important. Other councils, not this council, but other councils have indicated that they feel it's not as important as concentrating their activities on proposals and the C&T process.

12

13 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, if we haven't submitted this yet, this might be a place to include your comments, Jack, about the concern on bypassing the committees with proposals. That would put it on record.

17

18 MR. REAKOFF: Um-hum (affirmative). That might be a good....

20

21 MR. COLLINS: Because that's not a proposal. You're commenting on actual, what you observe....

23

24 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

25

26 MR. COLLINS:of the process.

27

28 MR. REAKOFF: Right. This could be amended to insert a paragraph or so if there was -- yeah, I think this -- that might be a good place to put that.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: It would make it easier on my end if it was -- is that based on -- I need to know if that's agreeable to the whole council and then I kind of -- we're having real difficulty hearing you over here. You were saying that you may draft language to that effect?

37

38 MR. REAKOFF: I could draft some language for a paragraph of insertion into this report tonight or whenever, and sort of outlining our concern with the Federal agencies not staying in step with the Subpart (D) Federal management formulat- -- promulgation of regulations.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: If I may discuss that a little, it may be wise to continue with this action, but there hasn't been a chance to discuss that issue and the agency hasn't had a chance to discuss that issue before this council -- would be to ask back to remember at that time to bring up that as an Annual Report item because I sense other members understand some of

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the words you're saying, but they're not sure on the details....

3

4 MR. REAKOFF: Um-hum.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS:yet, and the details will come out in that discussion.

8

9 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Would that be fair to just....

12

13 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, we'll....

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, we'll just kind of table it and then bring it up at that time, and go with it that way. And that would be under -- was that under New Business that -- we had difficulty hearing back then, too. When you added it to the agenda, were those under New Items -- New Business?

20

21 MR. HUNTINGTON: I think it was under Old Business because....

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Under Old Business? So, that would be added under there when you had your discussion under free-ranging furbearers.

27

28 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah. Is that it for the '94 report?

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: There's another thing that you may want me to do. It sounds like this Annual Report is evolving, so if it is evolving and we may add to it, would the council allow me to do some editing? Because, obviously, the first paragraph is no longer valid, about the concern about not receiving a response because you have received a response. So will the council allow me -- can we go to what we did in McGrath which would be that I would draft the '94 Annual Report, send it to everyone and when you receive it, you have seven days to respond. If you don't respond in seven days, I'm going to take that as being action. Is that fine? I understand there can be problems with mail and all that, but otherwise we all have schedules that it's difficult to get a hold of people. Is that agreeable that -- I have to give you date, though. Can we discuss that when we discuss the addition? I have to really look at when I can give you a date, and I can't at this moment. Okay. All right. Phil, is there a way of faxing materials?

47

48

49 MR. GRAHAM: Yeah, you can fax it to the school.

50

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2 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I'll need that phone number
Because I've just been informed that they only get mail once a
week. So, the seven-day time-frame is not fair to him. And do
you....

6
7 MR. REAKOFF: We also have once-a-week mail service.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Well, why don't we -- we can
either discuss it now and change that to a different time-frame
or -- my concern is we need to get the annual report in and
it's hard to get people on the phone to get them to say, yeah,
I don't have any additional things to it. So, it's easier if I
can just kind of, you know, give you a time line.

15
16 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair, I think a number of us could
provide you with fax numbers to get it out to us faster, if
that would facilitate this a little better.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Maybe during a break we can do
that and then I think what we'll do is we will -- I will put on
there the date that I sent it and then the disclaimer, whatever
we agree later, to be from that so that when you receive it and
let's say it said the 15th of March, in two weeks from that,
well, if you got it on the 24th, then give me a call and say,
hey, I just got it and then we'll do faxes for the others. But
it'd be two weeks from that date, but I can't tell you the date
now; I'll try to give you that later. It's not a big deal,
it's just that it depends on what else you're going to add.

30
31 MR. HUNTINGTON: Pollock, you had a question?

32
33 MR. SIMON: Okay. I still have some questions on the
alternate members. I know if it was discussed then; I missed
the last meeting. So, if we understand it, this -- there will
be two alternate members, one would cover half the area and the
other one, the other half? I was wondering which way you'll
divide the region. North and south? East/west?

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Simon, I'll defer
that to the council because the council would -- in my memory,
and not decide what was north or south, what that boundary line
would be. It was just an idea. It was a -- yeah, it was an
idea coming up with alternates and north and south was
discussed, but the line was not determined. You may want to
ask your other council members as to what they thought on that.

47
48
49 MR. SIMON: Yeah. Only Jack and I are from the
50

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northern part of the region, in the old Koyukuk valley. Only Jack and I from the area.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: My best guess is that if the board did pass this as two alternatives, they would come back to you and say, well, how do you want this divided up and then that would be an agenda item for the council. I would assume that's how they would do it. So, then you would know that -- it's obvious that Jack and you are now the northern part, but with the changes in seats, it may not be as clear where that boundary would be. So, I think the board would come back to you and say, how do you want that divided up, if they agreed to alternatives.

14

15 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman?

16

17 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, Herman?

18

19 MR. MORGAN: Why don't they just have an alternate from their area, one for each member, you know. Like one from my area and one from each area? Why do you have -- why do you need only two?

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: The reason that two was brought up is that each of you are appointed by the Secretary of Interior and it's based on your qualifications as a subsistence user. So, that's the way that was done, so that's the way it is done now. To have an alternate for each person -- well, let me back up. You are selected by your qualifications as a subsistence user, not as a representative of an area within the region. But there is an attempt to make sure that the regionwide is represented. Okay? As you know, under the State system, committees -- you represent a community or an area. Under the Federal system, there is no direct linkage to a geographic area other than the whole region. You have to be a resident of that region.

37

38 MR. MORGAN: This is a pretty big region, you know, and I don't see why -- where the problem would be to have one from each -- like each area or each part....

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I can tell you what the problem would be right off the bat. And it's just a challenge and not a problem. I shouldn't have said a problem. The challenge would be then the cost because of going through that whole selection process for your council would be now up to 18 and then if we looked down the road in to training, it would be gaining 18, and et cetera. So, that would be one that if I brought it up to my supervisors, they'd said no, it's too

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expensive.

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3 MR. MORGAN: So, right now all we've got to do is
4 decide from which area we're going to -- north or south? We
5 have to decide that, huh?

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Essentially, if you would look at --
8 well, I don't remember where it is now. Under Tab 1, the last
9 page, I put together a little chart and that shows all the
10 members of this council and it shows which terms are expiring.
11 So, right now, '95, Henry Deacon's term, Phillip Graham's term
12 and Sharon's term are expiring. This will be their last
13 meeting. And, well, their seat is expiring. If they reapply,
14 they could be reappointed, possibly. So when we go through the
15 nomination process, we go through all the applications and rank
16 them through kind of a numerical system and then from there,
17 there is also a looking at that areas are represented on the
18 council. But there's not a requirement that each area within
19 the council have a representative.

20

21 MR. MORGAN: I think there should be, in order to be
22 fair to all the areas, you know, 'cause there was concerns
23 before about making decisions about one area if there's nobody
24 there to speak up for that area.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: It's taken into the panel. I have not
27 been on a panel, so I see heads moving around that might be
28 panel members. But, essentially, it's a factor that's
29 incorporated in the selection of individuals, but many areas
30 did not have applicants. So, if there's not applicants for a
31 certain area of the council, council's region, we can't select
32 anybody. So, that is essentially it. There is a strong
33 attempt to make sure all areas are represented, but the first
34 cut or looking at is to make sure that they are truly qualified
35 experts/subsistence users.

36

37 MR. SIMON: Each area and lifestyle is different even
38 though we're all Natives of Alaska. We -- I have a similar
39 lifestyle. Each culture is different in each region, even in
40 between villages. We do things differently, so we should have
41 a representative from certain areas to....

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: If I understand you correctly, you're
44 saying that each area within the region should have a
45 representative because each area reflects a different Native
46 group and subsistence uses. The system is not set up that way.
47 It's -- at present, what I would recommend on that is to make
48 sure that all the people that you know that would want to play
49 a role in making sure subsistence management reflects their

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needs, that they apply so we have a large pool to select from to make sure we can reach people for each of the regions -- each of the areas within the region. And then the second phase of that would be, it falls -- the responsibility falls on each council member to work and communicate well within their region and Harold and I have talked about some different options in that area, but we need to explore further to make sure that if you represent "X" area within your region, that you can communicate to people in your area that they know what's going on. And that's where the request for Middle Yukon falls in there. There needs to be -- their request is a stronger linkage with the advisory committees, and today is a good example because the Koyukuk River Fish and Game Advisory Committee met before us, so if they had something to incorporate, they can. But that's only between the actions of the biologists and myself to get that pulled off.

17

18 MR. HUNTINGTON: I have maybe a recommendation here on the boundaries. I think looking at the map on Region 6, it's a pretty big area and there's different cultures in it. And I think one idea might be to have one alternate from north of the Yukon River and one from south of the Yukon River. It pretty evenly splits membership. Sharon?

24

25 MS. GURTLE-STRICK: Yeah. My recommendation at that point would be that if there were a representative from the Ruby area, that that representative be included with the northern portion, I think.

29

30 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: I kind of lost her last sentence there.

33

34 MS. GURTLE-STRICK: This would be -- Ruby is on the south side of the river.

36

37 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, I think it would be only fair to have the -- include in the north -- northern part because of the culture, the people.

40

41 MS. GURTLE-STRICK: That's what I'm thinking of, yeah.

42

43 MR. HUNTINGTON: We're almost dealing with two different cultures here, really, and I think about the closest you can come to splitting them is north and south of the Yukon. That's just a recommendation right now.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Did I take that to mean you want me to carry that forth in the Annual Report or is it just an item for

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discussion?

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3 MR. HUNTINGTON: It's an item for discussion....

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5 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

6

7 MR. HUNTINGTON:for other board members to....

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: My advice would be to wait for the board
 10 to decide to have alternatives and then once that door is open,
 11 then you can say, well, maybe we -- maybe you need three
 12 alternatives. I don't know. I mean, you start looking at your
 13 region. You have some definite clustering of villages that you
 14 may want to seriously look at. Okay. We were on the Annual
 15 Report, so I think my understanding is we're going to wait for
 16 the additions after the discussion and that I will give you a
 17 date at that time of, a potential date, of when I'd have that
 18 Annual Report done. During breaks, I'd kind of like to
 19 transfer -- that you give your fax numbers to Gloria because
 20 I'm getting swamped here with notes and then that way she can
 21 give them to me. And those that don't have faxes, that's fine.
 22 But if there is a way, that would really speed up things.
 23 And I think we're done with the Annual Report, unless there's
 24 something else.

25

26 MR. HUNTINGTON: No other additions to the Annual
 27 Report for now? The next item on the agenda we just
 28 discussed, I think, and maybe....

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: No, we didn't discuss it. The next item
 31 is quite important to this council and potentially to the
 32 community that we're in, and that's what's called the NARC
 33 Petition and the associated Federal Register. I can go into it
 34 whatever, but it's evolved a little bit further that they
 35 want public comment on that petition. So, I mean, I can....

36

37 MR. COLLINS: When are we going to break? I wonder....

38

39 MR. HUNTINGTON: Well, whenever you guys want to break,
 40 just, you know -- you guys want to break for recess or break
 41 for the night or what do you guys want to do? You want a
 42 recess? Recess? Ten minutes? Or break for the night?

43

44 MR. MORGAN: Would we have enough time tomorrow, Mr.
 45 Chairman, to go through the rest of the agenda? Do you think
 46 we'll have enough time tomorrow to go through the rest of the
 47 agenda?

48

49 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, we've got all day tomorrow to

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finish up. I wanted to get far enough where we can cover everything tomorrow. We'll have enough time tomorrow to cover everything. So, I think we went far enough on the agenda for tonight. So, if you guys don't have any objections, I'd like to recess till tomorrow.

6

7 MR. SIMON: I move that we recess till tomorrow morning.

9

10 MR. HUNTINGTON: All right. We'll recess till tomorrow.

12

13 MR. DEACON: What time? Eight o'clock?

14

15 MR. HUNTINGTON: Nine o'clock, I think is the schedule.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: So, we're recessing till nine?

18

19 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, we'll recess till nine.

20

21 (Off record; 9:30 o'clock p.m.)

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MEETING ADJOURNED

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