

1 WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8 Alpine Lodge
9 Fairbanks, Alaska
10 February 29, 2008
11 9:00 o'clock a.m.

12
13
14 Jack Reakoff, Chairman
15 Ray Collins
16 Donald Honea
17 Carl Morgan
18 Jenny Pelkola
19 Ron Sam
20 Mickey Stickman
21 Winchell Ticknor
22 James Walker
23 Robert Walker

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26
27 Regional Council Coordinator, Vince Mathews
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2
3 (Fairbanks, Alaska - 2/29/2008)

4
5 (On record)

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Call the Western
8 Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
9 to order for day 2. We have some housekeeping items to
10 start with, then we'll move into fisheries issues.

11
12 And I wanted to -- when I checked my
13 records on Proposal I think it was 50, it was my
14 mistake when I put the season September 1 through
15 October 1. And I wanted to apologize to that mistake,
16 and I'll clarify it on the State proposal to the Board
17 of Game that my intention, our intention was to
18 maintain the first starting date as the same, but going
19 to the first of October and I'll clarify that to the
20 Board.

21
22 And so we've got these housekeeping
23 items. Do you want to go over these housekeeping
24 items, Vince.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. The housekeeping
27 item he's talking about is we're trying to minimize the
28 number of Council meetings per week. We're trying to
29 maintain two per week. Generally you take up your
30 meeting dates and locations at the end of the meeting,
31 but we're doing it at this time to get you in the
32 rhythm of it, but also for future meetings so we can
33 call in, or I can call in, and say, okay, you guys
34 select September 8th and 9th, and maybe someone else
35 did. And then we'd say, well, can you look at other
36 dates so there's not four or three meetings per week.
37 So that's why we've bumped it up.

38
39 So for your fall meeting, on Page 110,
40 if you'd look at your calendar, I need to explain that,
41 because you guys are going to look at that and say,
42 wait a minute, that's not what we said, and that's
43 correct. If you look at that, you guys projected that
44 you wanted to meet on October 21 and 22 and it says
45 Galena. Okay. The reason it says Galena is partially
46 a mistake on my part. I put in there Galena-
47 parenthesis-McGrath, and then I got it corrected. But
48 since then, the program has further realized and
49 understood the depth of the budget cuts, so now we're
50 going to regional hubs. And it was determined that the

1 regional hubs for Western Interior are Aniak and
2 Galena. Now, that's to try to minimize costs and go to
3 that aspect, and so that's why I think it was put back
4 on the calendar as Galena.

5
6 Now, what does that mean. It would be
7 best that you try to -- oops, that must be here.
8 Becca, are you on line?

9
10 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: Yep, I'm here.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: All right. Thank you.
13 We're just going through some housekeeping and then
14 Jack will let you know when your topic is up.

15
16 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: Okay. Sounds
17 great.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. Where was I.
20 So we're encouraging you to meet in the hubs, but if
21 there is a reason that you -- or, I mean, another
22 community you want to meet at, then we have to have
23 justification, and then I'll do a cost analysis and
24 then we'll see if those other would meet that criteria.
25 And that's a case-by-case. And I wish Pete was here,
26 but it will go to his level to determine. If you guys
27 say you wanted to meet in Grayling, since Grayling's on
28 my mind, then you would say we want to meet in Grayling
29 because of these reasons. And then I would provide a
30 cost analysis and then we'd determine if that is
31 feasible.

32
33 And it's all due to budget cuts. We're
34 hoping that, you know, the budgets will turn around and
35 we won't have to go through this exercise.

36
37 So with that, I'll answer an questions.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, it's kind of
40 my perception, being on this Council since the
41 inception that McGrath was one of the regional hubs for
42 our region. And so I would say Aniak, McGrath, Galena.
43 Those are regional hubs, and so eliminating McGrath and
44 having an option of two meeting places, it's kind of a
45 little bit hard on the Council to get the kind of feel
46 for the region that we really need.

47
48 And so I would like to see what the
49 Council thinks about these budgetary constraints.
50

1 McGrath is probably just about as easy
2 for the Council to get to and just about as cheap to
3 get to as going to Aniak. I've been to Aniak and it's
4 not a -- it's just about as much flying time to go over
5 there from Anchorage or whatever.

6

7 Go ahead, Ron.

8

9 MR. SAM: Is that why we're meeting
10 here, budget restraints? Why are we here? We meeting
11 in these hubs where there's hotels and restaurants out
12 in the Bush. Why are we meeting here where there's
13 nothing out here?

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Ron, to refresh
16 your memory, at the meeting in Aniak it was, you guys
17 decided to meet in Fairbanks to dovetail with the Board
18 of Game, and you guys met outside of your region, which
19 was a bit of a jump. And so that's the reason why
20 we're here. The reason you're here is not budgetary.

21

22 MR. SAM: Vince, not in Fairbanks. Why
23 are we meeting here in this hotel?

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: This hotel was -- what we
26 were trying to do with that is get you as close to the
27 Board of Game meeting. And I wanted to get you in
28 Princess Hotel, but they're fully booked and Pike's is
29 fully booked with Board of Game, and this is the
30 closest one to the Board of Game at Pike's Waterfront.
31 So that's why we ended up here, knowing that there's no
32 restaurant, but it was the closest to get to the
33 meeting, the Board of Game, because it starts today.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks,
36 Vince.

37

38 Any comments on McGrath as -- the
39 Council's feeling is McGrath is one of our regional
40 hubs. Ray.

41

42 MR. COLLINS: Well, yeah, as a resident
43 of McGrath, it's certainly central for me, but Winchell
44 is very close to that, too. And if you have to go
45 through Anchorage, it's just as cheap to get to McGrath
46 as it is to Aniak like you were saying. So I think
47 they ought to run the costs on that and possibly
48 consider it a hub as well.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: I hear you loud and

1 clear. And it was originally decided there would be no
2 hubs for this region, but then this was the final
3 decision to go with Aniak and Galena. I wish Pete was
4 here to hear your concerns, but I think you can talk to
5 him privately on that, but then also if you do want to
6 meet at McGrath at the next meeting, besides the
7 budgetary thing, what would be the justifications for
8 meeting at McGrath over the hubs? And that would help
9 on that side of it in addition to your conversations to
10 talk to him about it being declared a regional hub.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ron.

13

14 MR. SAM: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. We are
15 obligated, pretty much obligated to meet wherever we
16 have a Board member for, you know. It doesn't matter
17 whether it's a hub or not, as long as we have a Board
18 member. For instance, you are from McGrath, we can
19 meet in McGrath.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, with the
22 budgetary constraints, the OSM has not -- doesn't have
23 -- basically they're telling us now that we have to
24 meet not in -- we can't meet really in Holy Cross or
25 Koyukuk or remote villages any more. We have to go to
26 the hub villages within our region. But I'm still
27 stating that McGrath has always been considered hub
28 community and should be part of the villages.

29

30 If we didn't have any regional hubs, at
31 one time they thought we didn't have a regional hub,
32 and we'd have to meet in Anchorage or Fairbanks all the
33 time, or what was that about. Go ahead, Vince.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: No. No, that wasn't my
36 point there. My point was that because of the makeup
37 of your region, and I apologize you don't have a copy
38 of this, but the hubs were to be defined as only leg of
39 the trip from the point of origin from your home
40 community. And I explained to them that doesn't work
41 for your community, so earlier drafts were that there
42 would be no hubs. So that would mean we'd just look at
43 cost justification only. And so that's where that's
44 at.

45

46 So, no, you would not meet in
47 Anchorage. That's out of region. Only unless there's
48 a compelling reason. And like Fairbanks, a compelling
49 reason. No, you're supposed to meet in region. That
50 maintains for all 10 regions, but for budgetary

1 reasons, we're trying to meet in hubs.

2

3 And so your campaign would be to -- I
4 would assume, would be to convince that McGrath's a hub
5 so we don't have to go through a case-by-case for
6 McGrath.

7

8 And then in response to Ron, if you
9 need to meet in say Allakaket because you feel there's
10 a compelling reason here, then you'd give those reasons
11 and we run it up the flag and see, along with a cost
12 analysis.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

15

16 MR. COLLINS: Well, some further
17 reasoning for McGrath is that Innoko Wildlife Refuge,
18 the headquarters for the Innoko is located there. The
19 State biologist there serves the GASH area and serves
20 the Aniak area, so the biologist that's working on wolf
21 control is there, so we have access to local personnel
22 that are serving quite a bit of our area there in
23 McGrath.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would agree with
26 Ray that Aniak, Galena and McGrath are all hubs for the
27 agencies and so we -- I would concur that McGrath
28 should be one of our hubs.

29

30 And so that's probably enough
31 discussion on that. And so what.....

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: The next thing would be
34 to confirm those dates.

35

36 REPORTER: Vince, your mic.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Oops. Sorry. Yeah.
39 Your action was, for the fall meeting, was to meet
40 around AFN. To make the calendar work, we, you know,
41 selected those dates. I don't know when AFN is
42 meeting, so is it still the wishes of the Council to
43 meet around AFN. And if AFN falls the week of October
44 20th, then we would look at other dates.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ron.

47

48 MR. SAM: That never was the reason.
49 We wanted to meet around or before or after, because
50 AFN never was a consideration for meeting dates.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments
2 on that week of the 21st.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll take that as a
7 preliminary I guess.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: All right. And then now
10 you need to look at the winter schedule, which is the
11 next one on Page 111. And you'll see it's wide open
12 there, but actually Seward Pen has selected February
13 10th and 11th, and I don't know what Southeast -- I did
14 check my emails this morning, but I didn't see anything
15 there. So anyways, if you'd look at that window there
16 and see what week you would like to meet.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to see
19 a meeting after the -- yeah, the week of the 9th,
20 because it falls after these moose hunts and we found
21 out what the moose harvests were for this March 1 to 5.
22 That's one reason to meet. The other reason I like
23 those early of mid March is because weather's warming
24 up and it's a lot more better conditions for traveling.
25 We won't get weathered out so much in mid March as you
26 can in February, as Ron was stuck down there in Bettles
27 for how long, two days or a while at our Koyukuk River
28 Advisory Committee. So I prefer the week of March 9th.

29
30
31 How does the Council feel about that
32 one. Mickey.

33
34 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah. For the winter
35 meeting, you know, one of the things that happened this
36 time around was we were having this meeting and YRDFA
37 is having their meeting down in Grayling. And, you
38 know, I think our meeting should be before the YRDFA
39 annual meeting so that if we have any proposals from
40 this Council, that we're able to push those at the
41 YRDFA Board meeting, because basically YRDFA is the
42 organization that has the strongest voice when it comes
43 to fisheries proposals, and if we have any proposals
44 coming out of this Council and we can get their
45 support, I think our chances with the Fish Board are a
46 lot better.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do they have a set
49 date that they always have their meeting?

50

1 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, they have a set
2 date.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's the end of
5 February?

6
7 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah. And the thing
8 about that was I sit on their -- well, I don't sit on
9 their board, but I'm an alternate on their board. And
10 when they have their annual board meeting, the regular
11 members go and the alternates go. And being on the
12 Coordinating Fish Committee with Robert, you know, we
13 don't even have an opportunity to push our fish issues,
14 because, well, we have to be here.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So those are good
17 points, Mickey. I agree with those points. And so
18 you've swayed me. And so if they meet.....

19
20 Vince.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think we need to
23 talk to Becca on that. Mickey may have more current
24 information, but my experience has been they've tried
25 to work the meeting around the Council meeting dates,
26 because they always are constantly asking me, when are
27 those dates. And then due to some other factors, they
28 had to select this week.

29
30 So Becca's on line and may know, do
31 they have set dates or times.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Becca.

34
35 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: I actually don't
36 know if they picked a set date for this coming year,
37 because I had to leave the annual meeting before they
38 got to that. But generally we do try to do that last
39 week in February, but we do work around the last
40 meeting. We just had a little bloop this year and it
41 worked out that it was the same time as the meeting,
42 but in generally we do look at the whole schedule and
43 pick something that doesn't intersect with any other
44 meeting.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: As Mickey was
47 saying, it would be better if this Regional Council met
48 before your meeting, so that Mickey has enough time to
49 get to your meeting. And so this Council I think would
50 -- since we're moving to a fisheries cycle, it would be

1 better if we met just prior to that YRDFA meeting.
2 Probably two or three days, or what would you like your
3 lead time to be, Mickey?

4
5 MR. STICKMAN: I don't know. My lead
6 time would be -- my lead time could only be like a
7 couple of days, but even for like guys like -- for
8 Doug, the fall fisheries manager, I mean he probably
9 had to leave the YRDFA Board meeting before it ended to
10 be here for this meeting.

11
12 So it's not just only the Council
13 members, but then you go to the State Game Board
14 meeting down the street at Pike's and Benedict Jones is
15 there for the Middle Yukon, but he's also one of the
16 Middle Yukon advisors on fish issues, so he couldn't
17 make the YRDFA Board meeting. So for the board meeting
18 down in Grayling, there was only one person from our
19 area and I think that was Richard Burnham. So the
20 whole -- from Kaltag on up was missing. I don't think
21 -- I don't know who was there from Huslia, because I
22 know they do have a Koyukuk rep.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'm going to lean
27 on Don and some other Staff, because when will
28 fisheries be up since we're going to a two-year cycle,
29 and Board of Fish would be the following year if I've
30 got it correct. Not to put off what Mickey is saying,
31 but what -- does the annual meeting really have
32 proposals in front of it. I know you want to go there
33 and hear issues, but your other point was to comment on
34 proposals. With the two-year cycle and the Board of
35 Fish, I don't know if there's any proposals.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What I was referring
38 to is our Federal cycle is going to fisheries, and so
39 we would be -- our spring meeting would be reviewing.
40 So I'm a little bit, slightly unclear on what we would
41 be reviewing next spring cycle.

42
43 Do you have an insight into that, Don?

44
45 MR. RIVARD: Well, because this is
46 brand new for all of us, it's going to be a little bit
47 unclear until we all go through it couple times I
48 think. But Vince is right that next year at this time
49 we won't be calling for fisheries proposals, so there
50 won't be that aspect of it next year, because you're

1 doing a fisheries cycle this year again, and the Board
2 will make their decisions in December or January.
3 January. And then the next call for fisheries
4 proposals would be two years from now.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see.

7
8 MR. RIVARD: So that I don't think
9 there will be fisheries issues -- fishery proposals a
10 year from now, Mickey, from the Federal side. Now,
11 that doesn't mean there might not be a fisheries issue
12 that is important, and there's always the possibility
13 of getting a special action or something, so there
14 still could be some important fisheries issues that
15 come up.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: And maybe Fred knows when
18 the call for proposals for Board of Fish. I mean,
19 we've been -- this Council's been targeting that Board
20 of Fish meeting, and that would dovetail into what
21 Mickey's getting at.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

24
25 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. Fred Bue with
26 Fish and Game.

27
28 I believe usually our deadline for
29 submitting proposals to the Board of Fish is April 10th
30 every year. For the AYK cycle, we will skip this year,
31 and I think the following year will the proposal
32 deadline for the AYK area, which will be brought up in
33 -- I don't know.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So April 10th of
36 '09?

37
38 MR. BUE: Yes, I believe so.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So it's not
41 -- the YRDFA annual meeting will be sort of a proposal
42 promulgation meeting.

43
44 Go ahead, Vince.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Well, since you and the
47 Eastern Interior has been asking for better
48 communication and cooperation on the river, then there
49 is some strength to Mickey's thing there, because you
50 could, and correct me if I'm wrong, Fred, you could be

1 floating draft proposals through there before you'd
2 have to submit them to the Board of Fish.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: So you might be able to
7 do some tests, some compromising or whatever on that,
8 so there may be some advantages to that. Assuming they
9 go with the third week of February, it puts you back to
10 the week of February 8th or 15th, which can be doable,
11 but weather and light gets a little challenging.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yeah, this
14 mid February is more challenging, but if you feel that
15 it's important to be at the YRDFA meeting, we can push
16 that up to the week of like the 18th, 19th, something
17 like that if you'd like.

18

19 MR. STICKMAN: Well, I believe it's
20 important. You know, one of the hottest things for
21 fishing that's going to be coming is the -- you know,
22 it's the bycatch issue and, you know, that's going to
23 probably circumcede (ph) any other issues that we have
24 out there, because there's going to be big pushes to
25 put a cap on that or negotiate. I mean, and all of
26 those are going to be out with, you know -- it's going
27 to be happening soon, you know. It's just -- they're
28 not going to be following no guidelines.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So I would
31 suggest the 18th and 19th of February for the spring
32 meeting next year. And that would be of '09. Does the
33 Council agree to those dates.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I see affirmative
38 from the Council.

39

40 Vince.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Well, using the hubs that
43 are now presently before you, then it would be Galena
44 or would it be Aniak.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That should be at
47 Galena. It is a Yukon drainage, and we have two hubs
48 on the Kuskokwim, or one hub on the Kuskokwim, so
49 Galena would be the better meeting place.

50

1 Robert.

2

3 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr.
4 Chairman. Vince, if you could get a xerox copy for
5 everybody of that -- whatever you've got talking about
6 the hubs and why it's only the two areas, not.....

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I can provide.....

9

10 MR. R. WALKER: You know, I just want
11 everybody to have copy of that.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. It's not a letter,
14 it's just.....

15

16 MR. R. WALKER: And also, Jack, the
17 18th and 19th, I don't have a problem with that, but
18 again I just don't feel comfortable with having to go
19 to the hubs all the time now from now on. You know,
20 the villages, because a lot of communities can't travel
21 when they have concerns. It's going to be an issue
22 here where you're going to have to get the concerns
23 before you come to the meeting from the communities.
24 So this is something else we'll have to look at also.

25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This issue is --
29 we're going to discuss this issue with Pete Probasco
30 towards the end of this meeting. By being constrained
31 into these hubs, we're not getting the kind of outreach
32 into the villages that this Council is used to
33 obtaining information from.

34

35 I've looked at the ANILCA law, and the
36 OSM and the Councils -- OSM has not allowed -- or
37 funded or used the advisory committees, are supposed to
38 advise the Council, and we're supposed to take input
39 from the advisory committees. And so by not being able
40 to meet in the villages, we're going to have to rely
41 more heavily on the advisory committees.

42

43 And so they're -- Pete Probasco tells
44 me they've slashed their budget \$800,000 and so that's
45 why they're reluctant to get everybody into these
46 villages. But we're going to have to talk to Pete
47 about trying to use these advisory committees to the
48 best dollar effective method and get the kind of input
49 that we need to hear from all of the communities about
50 their issues.

1 And so towards the end of this meeting
2 we're going to have a little chat with Pete about these
3 kinds of things. This restructuring of the OSM and our
4 meeting cycle is putting a little different twist on
5 how the Councils are going to operate, and we want to
6 have the most effective outreach into the villages that
7 we can possibly get.

8
9 So I hear you loud and clear. I'm very
10 concerned about this hub issue.

11
12 Okay. We've designated Galena as our
13 preliminary meeting of February 18th and 19th.

14
15 Anything else there, Vince.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: No, there's just a few of
18 you that I need to -- Jenny in particular, and a couple
19 others, I've got to finish up some travel paperwork
20 with. And I think that's all the housekeeping things I
21 have.

22
23 Jack has a copy of a draft of what you
24 did on Board of Game proposals. That's before him to
25 sign off and approve. And then we'll transmit that.
26 Just so you know that's available. There may need to
27 be some editing on that.

28
29 The only other thing is Becca's ill and
30 that's why she's not here. So we'll do our best to
31 present the program with her on line, but do give her
32 some patience on that, because it is difficult to know
33 what's happening here when she's on line.

34
35 That's all the housekeeping I have.

36
37 MR. COLLINS: So what are we doing as
38 far as going back to request McGrath or anything or
39 Aniak?

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question from
42 Ray, on the all meeting we're requesting McGrath. And
43 so that was that. The upshot of that discussion.

44
45 I have our actions on the Board of Game
46 proposals, and so I'll review this and sign this off.

47
48 And so we're moving on in the agenda to
49 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Rivers preliminary 2008 salmon
50 outlook and preseason management plan. Joint

1 State/Federal presentation. We've got the Yukon first,
2 and so who is presenting, was that Fred? Yukon
3 preseason outlook.

4

5 MR. BUE: I think Tom McLain is.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I wasn't sure
8 who was presenting.

9

10 (Pause)

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So go ahead, Tom.

13

14 MR. McLAIN: Chairman Reakoff and Board
15 members. You have before you the 2008 Yukon River
16 salmon season outlook for the Yukon.

17

18 Both Federal and State Yukon River
19 fishery managers are planning to start the season using
20 the Alaska Board of Fisheries windowed subsistence
21 salmon fishing schedule beginning in late May in the
22 lower river. Similar to the last seven years, a joint
23 information sheet discussing the 2008 outlook will be
24 published and distributed to Yukon River fishermen in
25 May. The following 2008 Yukon River salmon outlook
26 information was summarized from draft U.S./Canada Joint
27 Technical Committee report sections that were authored
28 by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game managers and
29 researchers.

30

31 For Chinook salmon, the 2008 run is
32 expected to be below average and similar to the 2007 run.
33 Although the overall number of Canadian-origin Chinook
34 salmon was low in 2007, the age-6 proportion of the run
35 was above average, whereas the age-5 proportion was
36 below average. Spawning ground escapements in 2002 and
37 2003, the brood years producing the age-6 and age-5
38 fish returning in 2008, respectively, were well above
39 average throughout the drainage. It is anticipated
40 that the 2008 run will provide for escapements, support
41 a normal subsistence harvest, and a below average
42 commercial harvest.

43

44 Fishery management will be based upon
45 in-season assessment of the run. However, there is a
46 possibility that the run may not be large enough to
47 support even a small directed commercial fishery. If
48 in-season indicators of run strength near the mid-point
49 of the run projects the sufficient abundance will exist
50 to have a commercial Chinook fishery, the commercial

1 harvest may range from 5,000 to 30,000 Chinook salmon,
2 including the incidental harvest taken during
3 anticipated summer chum salmon directed periods.

4
5 For summer chum salmon, if the ocean
6 conditions remain favorable, it is anticipated the 2008
7 run will be near average and provide for escapements,
8 support a normal subsistence and commercial harvest.
9 The 2008 summer chum salmon run is dependent on the
10 escapements occurring in 2004 for age-4 fish, and 2003,
11 age-5 fish. Summer chum salmon runs have exhibited
12 steady improvements since 2001 with harvestable
13 surpluses in each of the last five years, from 2003 to
14 2007.

15
16 If in-season indicators of run strength
17 suggest sufficient abundance exists to allow or a
18 commercial fishery, the commercial harvest surplus in
19 Alaska could range from 500,00 to 900,000 summer chum
20 salmon. the actual commercial harvest of summer chum
21 salmon in 2008 will be dependent on market conditions.
22 the overall harvest may be affected by the potentially
23 poor Chinook salmon run, as Chinook salmon are
24 incidentally harvested in chum salmon directed
25 fisheries.

26
27 Yes, Mr. Chairman.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tom, we had one
30 point while you're at that discussion. This gets into
31 what protections are going to be put in place. You
32 have a directed chum salmon fishery and we have a weak
33 Chinook salmon run. Do you have a windowed opening on
34 these -- go to a windowed schedule to protect
35 significant components of the Chinook run? In the
36 directed chum salmon fishery, there's significant
37 Chinook salmon bycatch, and so what are the management
38 regimes to protect a weak Chinook salmon run?

39
40 Do you have a comment, Fred?

41
42 MR. BUE: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. It's
43 all really variable to scale to what extent we -- what
44 sort of actions we take. If we think that there is
45 enough surplus to allow some incidental harvest or
46 harvest on the side of Chinook during a chum fishery,
47 yeah, we would do that if we think that -- as Tom said,
48 if there's not that surplus available even for
49 incidental catch, we probably will forgo some chum
50 harvest just to protect those kings. We have several

1 management tools, you know, time and area authority.
2 We also have the gear restrictions that we have in
3 place. And in times of conservation protect king
4 salmon, in times of conservation protect chum salmon.
5 So we have some tools. But it depends on how close and
6 what level risk we think we are on the Chinook run.

7
8 From the management point of view, if
9 -- you know, for a directed king fishery, we may hold
10 off until the mid point so that we are fairly
11 confident, because we think it is going to be a
12 marginal run.

13
14 I don't know if that answers your
15 question, Mr. Chairman.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My main question is,
18 if a Chinook pulse is going through and you've got a --
19 is the chum salmon in a study building, and instead of
20 pulsing that the Chinooks -- can you basically target
21 chum salmon during that Chinook trough or the low point
22 in passage to target chum salmon? I used to fish in
23 Bristol Bay, and there's a fairly significant Chinook
24 harvest even with that small five and three-eighths
25 gear. You catch a lot of kings when they're -- and so
26 I'm concerned about catching a lot of kings during a
27 pulse. That would be my main concern.

28
29 Go ahead.

30
31 MR. BUE: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. Again,
32 it depends on what level of kings we think we can
33 afford to catch. We do have a pretty good idea.
34 Before we open a period, we try to figure out how many
35 kings we can harvest, we can afford to harvest at that
36 time. And as fishermen, you know that a lot of times
37 people get pretty frustrated with us because we do open
38 when there's no fish out there. And part of that is
39 just to take a smaller bite out of what fish are there.
40 Some people would like -- but if there's an abundance
41 of fish, then we want to put the fishermen right on top
42 of that pulse. If it's not many fish, then we try to
43 slack off and, you know, try to focus on summer chum or
44 do different things. But when we schedule a period, we
45 use the length of the period and where we put them on,
46 and where the fishermen are, where that pulse is, and
47 yeah, we take that into consideration.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. That was
50 my question. Does the Council have any questions at

1 this point.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tom.

6

7

MR. McLAIN: So fall chum salmon, the 2008 fall chum salmon run size is expected to be near average with a preliminary projection range of 890,000 to 1.2 million fish. The Yukon River 2008 fall chum salmon run will largely be from parent years of 2003 to 2004. the projection is based on return-per-spawner brood year calculations, improvement in production observed since 2003 and an expectation that parent year productivity will be near normal. The 2008 projected run size should provide for escapement, support normal subsistence fishing activities, and provide for commercial opportunities where markets exist. The run will be monitored in-season to determine the strength in relation to the projected range.

21

22

For coho salmon, the 2008 coho salmon run is anticipated to be average to above average based on the parent year escapement in 2004, since coho salmon return primarily as age-4 fish. The revised 2007 Yukon River Coho Salmon Management Plan allows directed commercial coho salmon fishery to occur when there is a harvestable surplus of coho salmon and the fall chum salmon return is greater than 550,000 fish.

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Any questions.

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions on the preliminary Yukon outlook. Go ahead, Jim.

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

I don't know how to address or ask this question. But do these figures here reflect any interception on the high seas as far as the bycatches?

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good question, Jim.

MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. We take it into consideration, but it's not specific. What we -- it's more generalized on what our production or return fish is, whether or not it's being intercepted or fish just aren't surviving to come back. We don't make that

1 judgment, if it's interception versus a high mortality
2 when they're juveniles and they hit the ocean.
3 Whatever it is that's causing a mortality before it
4 gets to the fishery, we take that into consideration.

5
6 And the way we do that is look at the
7 return range, what we see each year from the brood
8 year, the fish that we put on the spawning grounds,
9 what we're seeing coming back each year. And there's
10 often a trend there. And right now Chinook salmon
11 seems to be a fairly low return rate, or we're in this
12 cycle right now, whatever that mechanism is that's
13 causing that low return, if it's intercept or if it's
14 poor survival, weather, poor winter conditions, or
15 whatever. But we can't pinpoint exactly where that
16 mortality is. If we could, we would be pretty happy
17 and make life easier. But at this point we're just
18 kind of looking at the general trend, what we get,
19 returns per spawner.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Fred.
22 That's been my concern, is that the projections and the
23 forecasting is revolving around brood year production
24 and not -- and previous to this bycatch issue, those
25 productions could be anticipated. But with the bycatch
26 interception, there should be an overlay of those
27 bycatches and the anticipation of subsequent
28 reductions, because we know that we can apportion by
29 scale sample analysis. And so this has to be a little
30 more fine tuned than what's been occurring.

31
32 Go ahead, Fred.

33
34 MR. BUE: I guess to be honest we do
35 have a fudge factor, and it's hard to put that into the
36 formula, but if we're taking 100,000 in bycatch and a
37 portion of that is bound for the Yukon, you know, maybe
38 20,000 of that or so. There's a lot of other stocks
39 out there that compose that bycatch. And really if
40 we're looking at a run similar to last year, and we
41 figure, well, you know, that's the commercial surplus.
42 That's why we are saying that likely we won't -- if
43 have a run similar to last year, we won't have a
44 commercial harvest. And so I guess that's the best we
45 can do.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks. Go
48 ahead, Robert.

49
50 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 Fred, on these high seas trawlers here
2 that are fishing pollock, now many -- is there any
3 Chinook salmon that they're actually gathering up in
4 their nets here? Somehow a rumor came out here a month
5 ago saying that our fish are going to be down in the
6 Yukon this year due to the pollock fishermen, deep sea
7 -- intercepting our Chinook salmon. Is there some kind
8 of a -- or just a plain rumor?

9
10 MR. BUE: Well, again, Mr. Chairman, I
11 think that's -- I think we are seeing that some of
12 those fish are probably bound for the Yukon. It has to
13 be considered. We have -- we take genetic samples.
14 Prior to that we had some scale pattern analysis that
15 we could say -- at least determine what was a Canadian
16 fish versus another Yukon fish. We don't have very
17 good precision on what exactly tributary, if it's an
18 Andreafsky fish or Anvik fish or Chandalar or wherever.
19 We probably could guess at those.

20
21 For the Bering Sea, again Becca
22 probably has a better idea and she'll bring that into
23 the discussion. But we are looking at that. We do
24 have several more meetings coming up this spring. We
25 have the U.S./Canada J.T.C., Technical Committee
26 meeting here next week in Fairbanks. We're going to
27 discuss some of that issue. We have the U.S./Canada
28 Panel meeting later in April I believe, and we'll
29 discuss more of that, because there are some treaty
30 obligations and different things involved. It's a
31 whole Pacific Rim Bering Sea-wide issue. And so we are
32 -- we're conscious of it, we just haven't really
33 figured out how we're going to proceed with that, but
34 that's why we're telling you that this year we're
35 probably going to be pretty conservative.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Robert.

38
39 MR. R. WALKER: Yeah. It actually
40 started out as a rumor, and I wanted to find out when I
41 went to Grayling to talk with various people, I didn't
42 have a chance to, because I didn't have the data before
43 I got to this meeting here. And now this is getting
44 kind of important here if you say that we have to sit
45 down with YR DFA before we come to our meeting to find
46 out -- or give our proposal or talk to them.

47
48 Now, Fred, you were there. You know,
49 you and I sat together, side-by-side, we talked about a
50 few things, but like I said, we didn't have time to do

1 a lot of things. But if this rumor is true, then I'd
2 like to see a report on this here, Fred.

3

4 MR. BUE: Yeah. For those who are
5 following the North Pacific Management Council, that is
6 a big issue right now going on, and they're looking at
7 different alternatives on how to manage our cap or do
8 whatever to reduce the Chinook salmon bycatch in the
9 Bering Sea. We don't know if it's exactly -- what
10 proportion is Yukon-bound fish. We know that it's
11 certainly a substantial proportion. Whether or not
12 it's the majority, I don't know. But it is an issue
13 and it's not just affecting the Yukon. It's affecting
14 the other Bering Sea fisheries. And so before the
15 North Pacific Management Council it is an issue. Becca
16 I'm sure will be discussing that and pointing out how
17 that bycatch stacks up to other stocks.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Carl.

20

21 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. Fred, you talked
22 about genetics. Is there any studies or anything on
23 record that shows where does the Kenai Peninsula chum
24 salmon or Chinook salmon rear versus AYK? Is there a
25 majority of AYK in the Bering Sea, or is the Kenai
26 Peninsula in the Gulf?

27

28 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. There
29 certainly are studies. There's actually a Pacific Rim
30 catalog of incidents where those fish are being
31 captured. I myself don't know those, and so I can't
32 cite them to you. I've seen charts at numerous
33 meeting, but had I thought to bring along I could have.

34

35

36 I think generally speaking the Gulf of
37 Alaska stocks stay south of the Aleutian Peninsula,
38 whereas the Bering Sea stocks stay north for Chinook
39 salmon. As you know, a lot of the Bering Sea stocks of
40 chum salmon do move to the south side of the peninsula.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Any
43 other questions so far.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see any.

48 Thanks a lot.

49

50 MR. McLAIN: Thanks, Jack.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we've got
2 Kuskokwim River preseason. Do we have a presenter for
3 Kuskokwim?

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Not to my knowledge.
6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And then the
8 management plan of joint State/Federal presentation.
9 Let's see. Oh, that's what this was. Okay.

10
11 We have no Kuskokwim forecast. Do you
12 have one, Don? Okay.

13
14 So then we're going to go into this
15 update on salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea. And so
16 we've got Federal Subsistence Management Program, and
17 so that would be you, Don. So go right ahead.

18
19 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 Good morning to everyone. My name is Don Rivard. I'm
21 with the Office of Subsistence Management, a fish
22 biologist there.

23
24 Just to give you an update, Rich Cannon
25 was going to present this. And part of the reason he
26 was going to be here is Rich and I have switched
27 assignments. I was doing the Yukon and he was doing
28 the Kuskokwim. So we've flipped that now, and so he
29 wanted to come and let you know about that as well.

30
31 We have been following the salmon
32 bycatch issue very closely. I've attended meetings
33 personally of the North Pacific Fisheries Management
34 Council when it's been in Anchorage. A lot of them are
35 held in Anchorage. This past one earlier this month
36 was in Seattle. I wasn't able to attend that. So I've
37 got some what I call abbreviated talking points, and
38 then Becca's going to follow me from YRDFA, and she's
39 got a really excellent PowerPoint presentation that
40 lays out a lot of the information. I was going to talk
41 about that, but when I saw her presentation, I said,
42 you know, she's done an excellent job with her
43 PowerPoint presentation.

44
45 Salmon bycatch by the Bering
46 Sea/Aleutian Islands pollock fishery fleet has been
47 increasing at a rapid rate over the past five years.
48 There's been some bycatch records of 122,000 Chinook
49 salmon in 2007 and nearly 712,000 non-Chinook salmon,
50 which are mostly made up of chum. And that occurred in

1 2005. As I said, Becca from YRDFA will be giving you
2 some further details on that.

3
4 These rates are a big concern for the
5 Federal Subsistence Board. They're very much of it and
6 they've asked us to keep close track of it.

7
8 We've got a couple of letters here.
9 One is from your Council obviously to National Marine
10 Fisheries Service. And the other one is the Board's
11 letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service.
12 Because in December 2007 the National Marine Fisheries
13 Service announced its intent to prepare an
14 environmental impact statement on salmon bycatch
15 reduction measures in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands
16 management area.

17
18 The proposed action would replace the
19 current Chinook and chum salmon savings areas with new
20 regulatory closures, salmon bycatch limits or a
21 combination of both. These management measures could
22 incorporate current or new bycatch reduction methods.
23 In February, just the beginning of this month, the
24 Federal Subsistence Board and the Chairs of the Eastern
25 Interior, Western Interior and Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta
26 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils all
27 submitted letters, and each one urging the National
28 Marine Fisheries Service to significantly lower the
29 salmon bycatch. And as I said, Vince is now
30 distributed the Federal Subsistence Board letter and
31 also your Council's letter to NMFS.

32
33 The Federal Subsistence Board
34 recommended that at least one alternative should be
35 examined in the environmental impact statement that
36 would reduce salmon bycatch to levels below their 1990
37 to 2001 averages of 38,000 Chinook and 69,000 non-
38 Chinook salmon. The Board's proposed alternative is
39 consistent with the U.S./Canada Yukon River Salmon
40 Management Agreement -- excuse me, U.S./Canada Yukon
41 River Salmon Agreement signed in 2002 which requires
42 the U.S. to increase in-river returns of Yukon River
43 origin salmon by reducing marine catches and bycatches
44 of Yukon River salmon.

45
46 Now, earlier this month, as I
47 mentioned, the North Pacific Fisheries Management
48 Council met and they made two notable changes to their
49 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands salmon bycatch motion. And
50 these are notable. One was the expansion of the

1 problem statement to more fully point out the
2 conservation concerns, and the importance of salmon
3 subsistence fisheries; and, two, lowering of the top
4 end of the range being considered for hard caps from
5 108,000 to 87,500 Chinook salmon.

6
7 So that's my abbreviated talking points
8 here, and then Becca will provide you with a lot more
9 detail on all this.

10
11 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thanks,
14 Don.

15
16 And so are you still on there, Becca?

17
18 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: Yes, I'm right
19 here.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And we're
22 looking forward to your much acclaimed PowerPoint.

23
24 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: I hope I can
25 live up to the.....

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Becca, we've got to do
28 some technical stuff here, so hold on a second.

29
30 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: Okay. Just let
31 me know when you're ready.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: It takes three men to run
34 this.

35
36 MR. RIVARD: Well, while we're waiting.
37 I have hard copies of Becca's presentation. So at the
38 end if you would like a hard copy of this, I'll give
39 you a copy.

40
41 (Pause - setting up PowerPoint)

42
43 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. We're ready.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,
46 Becca.

47
48 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: Okay. Thank
49 you. Mr. Chair and members of the Council. My name is
50 Becca Robbins Gisclair. I'm with the Yukon River

1 Drainage Fisheries Association.

2

3 And I want to first thank you very much
4 for letting me do this by teleconference. I really
5 apologize for not being able to be there in person. I
6 came down with a big in our annual meeting in Grayling
7 and I'm still not feeling up for travel, and didn't
8 want to get all of you sick. So thanks for
9 accommodating me.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We appreciate that.

12

13 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: What I wanted to
14 do, Don's just given you a lot of great information,
15 and I think what I'm going to do is just back up a
16 little bit and give sort of a real short background
17 bycatch issue. And I apologize to those of you who've
18 already heard this a million times. And then focus on
19 what the opportunities are coming up for this Council
20 to weigh in on the decision-making.

21

22 Next slide, please. Okay. In 2007 the
23 salmon bycatch numbers were incredibly high. The
24 pollock fleet caught over 122,000 Chinook salmon, and
25 that's a record all-time high. And 97,000 chum salmon,
26 which is actually a decrease from previous years, but
27 in reality it's closer to what the average has been for
28 looking back historically.

29

30 Next slide, please. When you look at
31 the trends in salmon bycatch, you can see that for
32 Chinook salmon, bycatch has really steadily been rising
33 since about 2003, and the 2007 number is a dramatic
34 increase from that. So far in 2008, I just looked, the
35 pollock fleet's caught about 13,000 Chinook salmon and
36 their season just started January 20th. So that's not
37 as bad as it was last year, but it's certainly --
38 they're definitely still catching Chinook this year.

39

40 When you look at the chum salmon
41 bycatch, on the right-hand graph, you can see that
42 there was a huge spike in 2005, and that was the record
43 year Don was referring to of over 700,000 chum salmon
44 caught as bycatch. And those numbers have gone back
45 down and are closer to what we have seen as historical
46 averages.

47

48 Next slide, please. Now, this is of
49 particular concern as you know to folks throughout
50 Western Alaska because of the origin of the Chinook

1 salmon. According to a study by Kate Myers, 56 percent
2 of the Chinook salmon caught as by catch were from
3 Western Alaska, and of that 56 percent, 40 percent were
4 from the Yukon, 26 percent from the Kuskokwim and 34
5 percent are from Bristol Bay.

6
7 And you'll note this study was looking
8 at samples from 1997 through 1999, and that was
9 obviously a while back. But at the Council meeting
10 most recently in Seattle, we had a chance to look at
11 some genetic data that the (indiscernible) were at
12 ADF&G and are now at the University of Washington had
13 pulled together. And while they're still working on
14 that and fine tuning the analysis, it looks like for
15 the most part the genetics work really confirms that
16 it's about the same proportion overall that are from
17 Western Alaska, so we feel comfortable still using
18 these numbers given that.

19
20 Next slide, please. So applying that
21 stock of origin information to the 2007 season, you can
22 see that was over 23,000 Chinook salmon which would
23 have returned to the Yukon River were caught as
24 bycatch. And when you look at that in comparison to
25 in-river usage, you can see what an enormous number
26 this is. That as 68 percent of the 2007 commercial
27 catch. It was 46 percent of the subsistence catch.
28 And it was 70 percent of the Canadian escapement goal

29
30 Next slide, please. So looking at the
31 measures to reduce salmon bycatch, the images on the
32 screen now are the Chinook salmon savings area is on
33 the left and the chum salmon savings area on the right.
34 And these are fixed -- these are closure areas which
35 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council has had
36 in place since the mid 90s. And these are specific
37 areas that occurs when bycatch reached set numbers.
38 And for the chum salmon savings areas they're closed in
39 August every year to prevent high bycatch from
40 occurring.

41
42 And as many of you have heard before,
43 in about 2001 the pollock fleet started noticing that
44 they were getting high bycatch, and that these didn't
45 necessarily make that much sense any more. And so they
46 decided to try a new system called the voluntary
47 rolling hot spot system.

48
49 Next slide, please. This voluntary
50 rolling hot spot system, which I won't go into too much

1 detail, because it's pretty complex, but I'm happy to
2 answer questions at the end if you'd like more detail
3 about it. But it's basically designed to move the
4 pollock fleet away from the areas of high salmon
5 bycatch. And in theory it's a great system, but in
6 practice it hasn't really meant reductions. It has --
7 they have closed areas, but there's still been plenty
8 of areas opened with high bycatch rates, and that's how
9 they have managed to catch 122,000 Chinook salmon even
10 operating under this system.

11
12 Next slide, please. So in response to
13 the incredibly high numbers of the past years as well
14 as the increasing concerns that the North Pacific
15 Fisheries Management Council has heard from Western
16 Alaska groups, they decided to start looking at new
17 salmon bycatch measures. And this is intended to look
18 at things that could replace the voluntary rolling hot
19 spot system or things that could be used in addition to
20 the hot spot system. And I've just put up here some
21 language from the problem statement, and that's the
22 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to address
23 an issue formulates what's called an amendment to their
24 fishery management plan. And part of that process is
25 having a problem statement which kind of sets out the
26 boundaries for what they're trying to do in that
27 action. And as Don mentioned, a great change at this
28 most recent meeting was that they did a lot of language
29 about the conservation concerns and subsistence needs
30 and concerns from Western Alaska.

31
32 And I've just put up here the language
33 on what they're now really focusing on as new measures
34 And that's hard caps, area closures, and/or other
35 measures may be needed to reduce salmon bycatch to the
36 maximum extent practicable. And so that's what they're
37 focusing on at this point is those options.

38
39 Next slide, please. And so the options
40 that they're looking at, which they refer to
41 alternatives, can basically be divided into two
42 separate categories. One are caps, and these are hard
43 caps which is a set number which when it's reached, the
44 pollock fishery would have to stop fishing entirely.
45 And in looking at how to pick that number, there are
46 sort of four basic methodologies that they've looked
47 at. One is using historical averages on the 3, 5, and
48 10-year basis. The second is setting the cap relative
49 to salmon returns, which is sort of a work in progress,
50 because we don't all the information we need really to

1 do that at this point. The third is taking an number
2 that already exists, the 2007 incidental take permit
3 amount, which was set at 87,500 Chinook salmon. And
4 that's a number that's related to the Endangered
5 Species Act listed stocks of Chinook salmon from
6 Washington and Oregon that they find in the bycatch,
7 and so that's an existing limit on the fleet. And the
8 fourth is based on the Yukon River Salmon Agreement,
9 and that's using pre-2002 historical averages, because
10 the salmon agreement was signed in 2002 and states that
11 the U.S. has to reduce marine bycatch, and those are 5
12 and 10 year averages preceding 2002.

13

14 The other set of options that they're
15 looking at are area closures, and these are like the
16 salmon savings areas I showed you where there's a set
17 area. And they're looking at two types of these kinds
18 of area closures. One a triggered closures which means
19 that you have a set number and when that number is
20 reached, an area closes. And the second is a fixed
21 closure, which means that every time of year they close
22 an area. So, for instance, in January and February
23 there's one area that consistently every year has
24 really high bycatch and so they could say, you know
25 that area is closed before anyone even starts fishing.
26 And that's some of the options on there.

27

28 Next slide, please. So we were then
29 focusing on hard caps as the solution to this. We've
30 seen the voluntary rolling hot spots and then we've
31 seen the salmon savings areas, and while there's
32 definitely hope for fine tuning those in the future, I
33 think with the numbers that we've seen in recent years,
34 it's really time to just have a limit and then, you
35 know, within that the hot spot system can be tweaked
36 and made to fit within those numbers.

37

38 And as just put up here are some of the
39 actual numbers for where hard caps should be set up.
40 And I just want to caveat, these numbers may look a
41 little different than those you've seen in the past.
42 Initially when the Council was doing this analysis,
43 they were computing the averages using the number, the
44 bycatch numbers for the entire groundfish fishery, and
45 the pollock fleet takes about -- takes most of the
46 bycatch of the groundfish fishery, but not all of it,
47 so these new numbers are just what the pollock fishery
48 is responsible for, so the averages are a little lower
49 than those you might have seen before. But you can see
50 what the 3, 5, and 10-year averages look like on the

1 top for both Chinook and chum. And then the pre-2002
2 5-year average and 3-year average below.

3
4 And as Don pointed out, prior to this
5 most recent meeting in Seattle, the Council had a
6 couple options that were actually increases above these
7 historic averages, and they took those out. So we're
8 now down to this range and including that 87,500 is the
9 highest number that's being considered at this point
10 for the caps.

11
12 Next slide, please. So within those
13 numbers, the Council took a look at those, and they're
14 kind of -- some of those numbers are repetitive and
15 spread throughout the range. So what they've done for
16 analysis is taken the range of numbers and broke it
17 into four options sort of evenly spaced numerically.
18 And so the actual options that are going to be analyzed
19 in the environmental impact statement and which will
20 essentially be the numbers which the Council can choose
21 from are these numbers, ranging from 29,323 for Chinook
22 to 87,500, and 60,046 for chum to 498,733.

23
24 Next slide, please. So this is the
25 timeline for this action going forward. I think as
26 I've mentioned to this Council before it's a very, very
27 long process, so we're not looking -- the Council won't
28 take final action on this until next December, December
29 of 2008. But by the time they actually have a rule in
30 effect, and if it's anything like a hard cap that is on
31 a calendar year, they will have to start it at the
32 beginning of the year, so it wouldn't go into effect
33 until January 2010.

34
35 But just looking t this timeline, there
36 are a lot of opportunities coming up for the Council to
37 continue to weigh in on this.

38
39 And I just want to quickly pause and
40 thank the Council for the letters that you've submitted
41 so far. I think at all the Council meetings I've
42 attended, at the North Pacific Council meetings,
43 whenever we've been trying to get this refined to make
44 the numbers better, one of the -- the biggest thing
45 has been having letters to say that, you know, there
46 are a lot of people out there that want you to do this.
47 So I really appreciate that.

48
49 And coming up this April, just in a few
50 months, the Council is going to be looking again at the

1 actions that they have before them, and potentially
2 reviewing a preliminary draft EIS, environmental impact
3 statement, and so that will be another opportunity to
4 comment on what options they should be considering.

5
6 And then in June of 2008, they're
7 scheduled to do their initial review of what the
8 options are, and that's when they take a look at the
9 environmental impact statement and possibly select
10 which option they prefer. And so that's a time when we
11 can all be weighing in on which option we want the
12 Council to choose.

13
14 And then finally next December is going
15 to be the big action point. That's when they'll take
16 final action and select which alternative is going to
17 be the one that goes forward. And so that's the point
18 at which the public comment is really vital to let the
19 Council know what it is that we want to see moving
20 forward.

21
22 Next slide, please. So in conclusion,
23 I think you all know salmon bycatch numbers have to be
24 reduced to reduce the impacts on Western Alaska salmon.
25 And as I've mentioned, at this point we really think a
26 hard cap would be the only thing in the options to
27 provide the necessary safeguard to protect Western
28 Alaska salmon.

29
30 And again thank you for allowing me to
31 do the presentation over the phone, and I'd be happy to
32 answer any questions that you have.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Becca.
35 And we really appreciate all of your personal energy
36 for YRDFA put into advocating for the fishery and the
37 fishers of the Yukon drainage.

38
39 Does this Council have questions for
40 Becca. Go ahead, Ray.

41
42 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Becca, this is Ray
43 Collins. It looked like a lot of those hard caps kept
44 the highs in there, which is in a sense rewarding them
45 for that high bycatch by bumping those numbers up.

46
47 And also was there any attempt made to
48 correlate the high catch with escapement numbers in the
49 river and so on? Is there any way to do that so that
50 they could tie them to high and low years and so on.

1 Over.

2

3 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: On first
4 question about the high numbers, we managed to keep the
5 2007 number out of that. At one point the pollock
6 fleet was pushing to have these averages include that
7 record high, and we managed to keep that out. The 2006
8 number is included. And basically there was no way to
9 get around having that since it's most recent. But as
10 you can see when you look at the pre-2002 averages,
11 those don't have any of the highest years in them. So
12 that's kind of the best we could do on that.

13

14 As far as the correlation to in-river
15 run sizes, that's one of the options that I mentioned
16 briefly that they are looking at under hard caps is
17 setting the hard caps in relation to in-river returns.
18 And there's a scientist at NMFS who's coming up with
19 these complex equations for how to plug in all of the
20 variability, you know, in the run sizes, in the origin
21 of the bycatch, and try to come up with an estimate
22 using the year classes as well of what would have come
23 back to the river. Again, there's so many unknowns in
24 that that we are not sure if that's going to be
25 something that helps us or hurts us at this point. And
26 we're supposed to see at this upcoming Council meeting
27 in April a presentation of what that looks like. In
28 theory, that's the way we'd really want to set a cap is
29 looking at what the impacts on in-river trends are, but
30 without all of the information for that, it might not
31 actually be possible.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Is there
34 any other questions. You've got a question, Vince.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, do. Becca, how
37 realistic is that EIS schedule there to have something
38 for public review in April and then the other step in
39 June? The reason I bring that up is -- well, it's very
40 obvious. The in-river fishers are busy fishing in
41 June.

42

43 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: Yeah.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: So how realistic is that?
46 And is there going to be a process or a way to ask for
47 an extension?

48

49 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: I think -- I
50 believe according the schedule right, the EIS which

1 will be released to the public would come out in June.
2 And there's always an opportunity to ask for an
3 extension. We kind of have a dueling objective here in
4 that we want to make sure everyone gets to see this and
5 this is obviously a really tight timeline for the
6 public to review anything as well. But if any of --
7 you know, if we get off schedule, then it takes even
8 longer to get regulations into place.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don. Don's got a
11 question, Becca. Go ahead, Don.

12

13 MR. RIVARD: Well, I don't have a
14 question, but I was going to comment if Vince hadn't
15 brought his up anyways. This timeline is very
16 ambitious for an environmental impact statement process
17 to be completed, and we noticed that right away when we
18 looked at it. In some ways it's beneficial to get it
19 done quickly so that regulations can start in 2010. If
20 it gets drawn out, then they won't be in place until
21 2011. So it would be nice for this timeline to occur.
22 Again, it's very ambitious and it means everything
23 really has to kind of fall into place.

24

25 What you don't see up here on the
26 timeline is that they would release the draft
27 environmental impact statement for public comment in
28 July for a 45-day period, which would end about
29 September 1st. That's in their document, but it
30 doesn't show on this timeline here.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see. Uh-huh.

33

34

35 MR. RIVARD: One of the things, and
36 maybe Becca can comment on it, too, if she heard this
37 at the meeting, but we were informed that the North
38 Pacific Fisheries Management Council has admitted that
39 they haven't done as good a job with public outreach as
40 it should. And this is just my thought, and you can
41 kind of consider this as a Council, but one of the ways
42 they could do public outreach is if they came to some
43 of the Council meetings and talked directly to
44 everybody here, for example. And then you could give
45 them some of your thoughts about what's going on in
46 that. And that would be something that could possibly
47 happen this fall. So you might want to consider
48 inviting somebody from the North Pacific Fisheries
49 Management Council to come to your fall meeting. It
50 would fall outside of this, because public comment

1 again is supposed to end about September 1st, but that
2 might be a way of broaching the subject that you would
3 like to see a little bit longer comment period so that
4 these kind of things can take place right in front of
5 you. So just a thought.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I would like
8 one of the North Pacific Management Council members to
9 attend our fall meeting if possible.

10

11 How does the Council feel about that?

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that the
16 council would be very anxious to talk to one of the
17 North Pacific Management Council members.

18

19 And so I have a question for Becca. In
20 the Council's deliberation, the letter that was
21 submitted by the Western Interior this winter requested
22 an A and B session reduction in fishing time. It's the
23 duration of the fishery. My feeling is the duration of
24 the fishery is a component of the escalating bycatch.
25 The fishers are fishing longer and longer to meet the
26 quotas and so therefore the bycatch goes up and up.
27 And why was there no season reduction considered in the
28 options?

29

30 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: Well, I'm just
31 trying to look and make sure that they didn't. I know
32 one of the things the Council -- the Council talked
33 about that a number of times, and the big thing they've
34 come up against is their -- the pollock fishing season
35 is in part fixed by restrictions due to endangered
36 Steller sea lions. And their fishing periods are
37 basically set right now in relation to management
38 measures that they're required to comply with for that
39 species.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can see that.

42

43 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: I think for that
44 reason they didn't add anything about shortening the
45 season. They did reduce the total allowable catch this
46 year for pollock. And the hope is that that might
47 alleviate some of the straining water that we saw at
48 the end of the season where they were just chasing
49 pollock and had their nets in for a really long time,
50 and were coming up with lots of salmon and no pollock.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I can see
2 their season dates opening revolving around an
3 endangered Steller sea lion presence, but also reducing
4 the fishing time would have an effect on reducing
5 bycatch. Because if the biomass of the pollock
6 continues to decline, they're still going to strain the
7 water for a longer period of time, still have the
8 availability to strain the water and subject the
9 Chinook and the other salmon species to a longer
10 duration of fishery. And so that should have been
11 pressed home to the Council. Any time we set seasons
12 that endures the resource to a longer harvest period,
13 you will have higher harvest. And so I would have
14 liked to have seen them reduce the season lengths.

15
16 What was their quotas? What was the
17 reduction, how many percent for pollock?

18
19 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: I believe it was
20 about 30 percent. I don't have the number right in
21 front of me, but it was close to 30 percent reduction.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that's a
24 significant reduction, and that was a good measure. I
25 agree with that.

26
27 Any other Council. Robert.

28
29 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr.
30 Chairman.

31
32 Becca, Robert Walker. I didn't have a
33 chance to talk to you very much up in Grayling. It
34 seems it was in my favor not to since you got sick and
35 I didn't.

36
37 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: Yep

38
39 MR. R. WALKER: I don't know who I'm
40 going to direct this to, but I'm going to ask the
41 question here. On your slides here or we're looking at
42 46 percent of the Yukon fish being caught. Bring it
43 back up here, please. 46 percent of the Yukon
44 subsistence fish and 34 percent of the Bristol Bay.
45 And 34 percent of the Kuskokwim. What impact is it
46 going to be for 2008, 2009 subsistence fishing for
47 these rivers and Bristol Bay? And how is it going to
48 affect the windows? Are we going to reduce the
49 windows? Are we going to reduce fishing time? Has it
50 been talked about? Has it been discussed yet? Does

1 somebody have an answer here? Becca?

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: I can't answer
6 the in-river management part, but I can it's very hard
7 to tell even with those percentages on the rivers
8 exactly what the impact is going to be, because the
9 bycatch is spread among age classes, so it's not
10 necessarily going to be a year-to-year impact. It's
11 going to be spread across the years. And so the high
12 by catch in 2007 probably isn't going to be seen in
13 2008, but it will be spread across 2009 and 2010. And
14 maybe someone there from Fish and Game can talk about
15 the in-river management part of the question.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So do you have an
18 idea how many -- what the age classes were of the
19 majority of the by-catch, or is there certain -- like
20 2, 3, 4-year-olds, or is there some primary age classes
21 that they're catching?

22

23 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: I don't have the
24 age information exactly. I have seen length
25 frequencies, and then you can try to figure out what
26 age the fish likely are from how long they are. But it
27 looks like it was predominantly three and four-year-
28 olds I believe. But that, too, it varies a lot by the
29 location that the bycatch is taken and by season as
30 well. So it's hard to draw a straight conclusion from
31 that.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

34

35 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Becca, my
36 question's related to that. What are they required to
37 do in terms of recording age composition of that
38 bycatch? Are they getting the data they need to use in
39 decision-making, or is it just very general?

40

41 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: They're
42 collecting all of the data. This is one of the
43 frustrating things in this issue. The pollock fleet is
44 required to carry observers and the observers collect
45 samples. And so there's a huge stock of samples that
46 the National Marine Fisheries Service labs have, but
47 they basically haven't had the funding to analyze those
48 samples. So in theory you could run genetics on all of
49 these and you could figure out what age the fish are.
50 But that part of the analysis hasn't been done. But

1 the information is there, it's just the analysis needs
2 to be done.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Are there any
5 other questions from the Council. Mickey.

6

7 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah. this is Mickey
8 Stickman. I don't have any actual -- but Robert
9 brought up an important thing, you know, about the
10 windows, because with these -- well, with the amount of
11 Chinook coming up the Yukon, it definitely have an
12 annual impact on Robert and on James and Don and
13 myself, because we're all fishing for kings on the
14 Yukon. And we do fish with windows, so it definitely
15 have an annual impact on us. And I was just wondering,
16 you know, with these -- with the timeline and, you
17 know, I always said that, you know, this was going to
18 be a big issue because of the numbers. I was
19 wondering, besides this Council, and Eastern Interior,
20 and, of course, the folks on the lower Yukon, you know,
21 I wonder who else is going to be weighing in on the
22 environmental impact statement. I wonder if the
23 State's going to weigh in and the Feds, besides YR DFA
24 and the different Regional Councils.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

27

28 MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard. Mickey, I can
29 answer that partially. I know that the U.S. Fish and
30 Wildlife Service out of Anchorage also sent a letter to
31 the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding this
32 issue and the environmental impact statement, and have
33 offered their help. The Federal Subsistence Board is
34 going to want to look at this and be able to comment on
35 the environmental impact statement, too, so I know for
36 sure those two organizations will be doing that. So
37 we're going to keep a close watch on it and comment
38 every time we get a chance to I'm sure.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. Vince.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I've been deep in
43 fish on this one. The Y-K Council Chair approached me
44 about submitting a letter, and we had to go through and
45 analyze their transcripts on that, and they really
46 didn't have a position on the bycatch or much
47 discussion, so Lester Wilde as an individual submitted
48 a letter. The, and I'm not going to get the title
49 right, Becca will correct me on it, but the Yukon
50 Fisheries Development Association also submitted a

1 letter. Maybe Staff or whatever could find out what
2 has been submitted. I assume that that would be in the
3 draft EIS at some point. But there has been interest
4 -- and I think one of the villages on the lower Yukon
5 also submitted one. So there has been heightened
6 interest in the amount of bycatch. It is possible, I'm
7 going to be talking to Lester on another issue, to
8 encourage his Council to actually discuss the bycatch
9 issue and, you know, so they could at least be up to
10 speed on it. I believe it's on their agenda, too, I
11 don't know. It is, Don's acknowledging. So maybe out
12 of that they will as a Council, so it's possible all
13 three Councils will be actively engaged in this, but
14 please realize, Mickey, that's a very ambitious
15 schedule, so hopefully Y-K can do that.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Vince.
18 Jenny. Oh, you've got a comment there, Becca, go
19 ahead.

20
21 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: Yeah. Just to
22 add to that, the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development
23 Association, which is the CDQ group for the Yukon Delta
24 region has also been very actively engaged in this, and
25 they've, despite the that they are pollock fishers,
26 have an interest in the pollock fishery, have been
27 calling for a hard cap as well.

28
29 MR. RIVARD: Jack.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Don.

32
33 MR. RIVARD: I just remembered also
34 that the Yukon River Panel has sent several letters
35 regarding this issue and recently as well. And they
36 want to see the numbers going down. And the U.S. State
37 Department, which has official responsibilities for the
38 treaty obligations with Canada, also sent a letter
39 saying we want to see these numbers go down so we can
40 honor our treaty obligations. So it's all the way to
41 Washington, State Department.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thanks,
44 Don. Jenny.

45
46 MS. PELKOLA: Jenny Pelkola. I guess I
47 just want to say that I think we really need to keep on
48 top of this, all the Councils, everybody that's
49 involved, and don't slack up on anything, you know,
50 because it sounds pretty serious.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. It's a very
2 serious issue and it has a huge effect on our region.
3 And any other comments from the Council. Robert. Oh,
4 Don.

5
6 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
7 like to echo what Jenny said also. These numbers are
8 really alarmingly high. When I saw that in our tribal
9 office, in our tribal, working for this position, had
10 each person, whoever fished, or somebody in the village
11 fill out forms like this. I believe this is kind of
12 like a grassroots effort that YRDFA I believe, Becca,
13 correct me if I'm -- maybe you could add to this, I
14 don't know what you guys are doing to -- maybe it came
15 from your office, but I applaud your efforts to do
16 that, because I think communities up and down the Yukon
17 should be concerned, and I think it should be taken
18 upon by the local advisory fish and game committees, if
19 not all people who fish along the river. And I am glad
20 that we -- that Jack is getting on top of this issue,
21 because the numbers that we see are maybe not
22 reflecting all that is taken. I mean -- and also I
23 think in the future, I don't know how enforcement of
24 this would go. So I'm glad that YRDFA is working on
25 the issue, and I thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have a
28 comment, Vince?

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I was just
31 thinking, and there's enough Staff to confirm this, but
32 if there truly is a high interest by this Council, you
33 may want to explore, just during the time when the
34 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council's
35 discussing this to teleconference in. I don't have the
36 agenda in front of me, and I don't know the timing of
37 that, but that may be something to consider. That as
38 well as the issue of your request to look at better
39 ways of communicating and possibly cooperating on the
40 river. That is an option. Someone correct me, I think
41 they're meeting on the 20th and 21st of March. So we
42 could narrow that down to a certain time and I'll have
43 to confirm that they have access there, but the last
44 time I talked to Alex, they did have phone access.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Robert.

47
48 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 Don, you've got 22 months here for the date of January
50 2010.

1 Also, getting back to the windows, we
2 never had an answer yet. I think Fred was doing to do
3 that.

4
5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6
7 MR. BUE: I'm sorry, I was going -- my
8 mind was in another place.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Just one second
11 there, Fred. I wanted to answer Vince's question. I
12 would like to see somebody on teleconference with the
13 Y-K Delta to assure that Western Interior's spurring
14 them on. They seem a little on the fence or something.
15 That CDQ has a little bit to do that. We need to push
16 them a little bit towards helping us reduce this
17 bycatch.

18
19 Okay. Fred.

20
21 MR. BUE: I guess I had a couple of
22 things there. Mr. Chairman. Mr. Walker.

23
24 Yeah, the -- as I said before, we plan
25 on entering the season in a conservative mode. Every
26 year is different and we have to manage based on what's
27 coming back. But hedging that, previously -- we've
28 just went through a couple of years of working with
29 YRDFA and others trying to come up with this marketing
30 strategy to allow some minimal harvest up front, trying
31 to develop a better name for the Yukon River and a
32 niche market. And we got support, and we're looking at
33 a harvest between 300 and 900 fish in this test opening
34 so to speak. And that's not much, and we probably
35 can't detect that in any of our assessment, that sort
36 of harvest. But at the same rate, we think that that's
37 still probably -- it doesn't set a good example. We
38 think in this case we need --in conservative
39 management, we need to forego that opportunity, even
40 though we don't know that it will make that much
41 difference in the end. We are thinking that that
42 portion of our management is just off the table now.

43
44 Also, we are looking at maybe not even
45 considering a commercial fishery until the midpoint in
46 the run. What that means is that, yes, the lower river
47 would be on the windows schedule until at least that
48 point. As you know, the lower river -- when we think
49 we have a surplus adequate for commercial, we take them
50 off the windows. So if we're not even considering

1 that, that means that we're holding that windows, that
2 two 36-hour periods a week in the lower river until at
3 least that point, and more than likely -- you know,
4 depending on how the run comes in, it may be
5 discontinued through that.

6
7 The last thing we want to do is
8 restrict subsistence fishermen. And I guess we would
9 do that if we have, but that's the last ditch thing,
10 and that's what we're holding back. We're trying to do
11 whatever we can otherwise to avoid that, but that's a
12 concern for us.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

15
16 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17
18 Fred, you know, right now Y-1, 2 and 3
19 are on two 36-hour windows, and Y-4, 5 and 6 are on two
20 48-hour windows. So it all depends on what the pulse
21 does when it comes in this year that you're going to
22 adjust these schedules, or how are we doing to look at
23 this, and how much time are you going to adjust all the
24 subsistence fishermen all the way up the river here?

25
26 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. Yeah, the way
27 the windows works is that we don't adjust them around
28 days of the week. They're pretty much set so that
29 people -- it takes it out of our hands. It's kind of a
30 crap shoot what day of the week, if it's morning or
31 evening tide, whatever. And so some people are favored
32 more than others if you're in Alakanuk versus Kotlik,
33 depending on which mouth the fish come in. It's kind
34 of luck of the draw where you are in that run of fish.
35 And we can't really guess that down to that precision,
36 so we try not to avoid it, and hope that it evens out
37 across, you know -- sometimes you might hit the front
38 of that pulse, and sometimes you might not. Thankfully
39 Chinook aren't nearly as pulsy as fall chum where it's
40 really the dramatic up and down and you can completely
41 miss. You know, you have a pulse of two days and then
42 you have a week before anything else comes in. And so
43 as Chinook fisherman, you're likely to catch some fish,
44 and if we're holding off commercial fish until the
45 midpoint in the run.

46
47 And the way the windows works is that
48 we try to work it consistently up the river and with
49 the speed of the fish, so that everybody's treated
50 pretty much the same timewise as the fish move up. You

1 know, you already have an allocation of fishing time a
2 little bit more than the lower river people. But when
3 we implement something on June 1st at Emmonak, it may
4 be three weeks later that we do a similar action in Y-
5 4. You know, just -- I don't really remember exact
6 travel speed, but we try to implement that same action
7 consistently up the river based on the leg and the
8 travel time.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's my
11 recollection, that those Chinook tags are moving at 30
12 to 50 miles per day up the river progression, and so
13 that would be the pulse, and it varied again by the
14 individual fish. But I'm very happy to hear that the
15 Department has moved to a conservative mode reflecting
16 this bycatch issue. And so that increases my
17 confidence level on management.

18

19 Go ahead, Fred.

20

21 MR. BUE: Yeah. I guess I almost
22 forgot the other thing I was going to mention is at
23 this board we hear a lot of discussion about the Yukon,
24 but this Council has always -- also has an interest in
25 the Kuskokwim, and the Kuskokwim is a portion of the
26 bycatch also. And so if you make -- I don't know what
27 this Council would decide to do, but if you write a
28 letter in support of YRDFA or whatever, you know, you
29 might say that in addition we also support a similar
30 basis concept for the Kuskokwim.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Excellent.
33 Excellent point, Fred.

34

35 Yeah, go ahead, Carl.

36

37 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, with that letter, I
38 think it should be all the AYK districts. And we cover
39 both rivers and all the other streams that do, because
40 that bycatch is affecting everybody.

41

42 And another comment is, you know, how
43 long have we been conserving, in a conservation mode,
44 either involuntary or voluntary or forcibly. We've
45 been in that mode, it's not because we created it.
46 Somebody has created that situation and we're forced to
47 conserve. And when you look at these numbers in the
48 bycatch, it's going up. You know, we are the ones that
49 end up paying or suffering.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Carl. Ray.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Becca, I had a
4 comment. Has the industry been approached for funding
5 the analysis on that age composition? Because I think
6 that data would be of interest to them, too, but
7 without that, there's no way of correlating to say
8 whether the bycatch is partly fluctuating based on the
9 relative abundance of the different age groups and so
10 on. So it seems like that data is really needed to get
11 a complete picture.

12

13 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: It definitely
14 is. And the industry has recently expressed some
15 interest in funding some of the genetics, and with that
16 I think the age class information goes along with it.
17 But at the same time they've sort of expressed that
18 interest for years, and to some extent it's in their
19 best interest for us not to have that information. The
20 less information there is, the more they can say, we
21 don't know. So we've been pushing them to do it, but
22 also pushing the agency to get some of this rolling.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thank
25 you. Any other questions, comments from the Council.
26 At this time -- oh, go ahead, Mickey.

27

28 MR. STICKMAN: My last comment would be
29 when I mentioned about the fishing on the Yukon, I
30 forgot to mention Jenny. You know, one of the things
31 for Jenny is, in the area where she fished at Bishop
32 Mountain, it's a fish camp for a lot of families there
33 in Koyukuk, and so it's one of -- it's a primary
34 fishing spot in our area, and, you know, with her
35 fishing there her whole life, she brings a perspective
36 to this Council that could date back all the way from
37 before there was even windows, to windows, because of
38 fishing in that same spot her entire life. So, you
39 know, she's a real good addition as far as fish issues
40 on the Yukon for this Council.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yeah. When
43 you said that, I looked down the table to see if Jenny
44 was going to bristle.

45

(Laughter)

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But she didn't. She
49 was cool.

50

1 So any other comments.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At this time I would
6 like to have the Council submit a letter, and that
7 letter to the North Pacific Management Council, got to
8 keep the fire on. Taking Fred's comments into
9 consideration, the letter is from the Western Interior
10 Regional Advisory Council regarding the Yukon and
11 Kuskokwim River drainages, which is comprised of over
12 60-something percent of the AYK Western Alaska
13 interception of bycatch. We would like to have --
14 maintain pressure on the hard caps. We would like to
15 see -- I would like to see option 1. The Council can
16 consider that.

17

18 And I would like -- I forgot to ask
19 YRDFA what their position was on option 1. What was
20 that, Becca? Did YRDFA take a position on options?

21

22 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: Which option
23 were you referring to?

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We were considering
26 -- I feel that option is the only consideration. What
27 option did YRDFA pick?

28

29 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: By option 1, did
30 you mean the first -- the lowest number under the hard
31 cap?

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

34

35 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: I don't know if
36 we picked -- it will be either option 1 or option 2.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Option 2 is 10,000
39 Chinook over what the 10-year average previous to the
40 rolling hard caps was, and so I feel that option 1 --
41 38,000 was sort of the upper range of what should have
42 been in consideration. And so I feel that this Council
43 should let our first letter of this winter for 38,000
44 stand, and option 1 falls within that range, and so
45 option 1 is our selection.

46

47 I feel that again that the North
48 Pacific Management Council should reconsider reduction
49 of season on the A and B season. It's the duration of
50 the fishery that's inducing a higher bycatch. And if

1 the biomass of pollock has truly declined, the 30
2 percent quota reduction may not facilitate the
3 endurance of the fishery, and so the fishery is
4 prosecuted under a long duration is contributing to
5 bycatch, and so season reduction should be
6 reconsidered.

7
8 And we also should reiterate what the
9 effects of the reduced returns in-shore returns. The
10 fishers in our region will fish -- are experience
11 higher costs, and so our catch per unit of effort is
12 reduced, and so we fish longer, and win -- and during
13 reduced -- the windows are not reduced and so the
14 fishers have shorter periods of fishing time to endure
15 to obtain subsistence needs.

16
17 Any additions to the letter from the
18 Council. Those would be the bullet points of the
19 letter. I need a motion to adopt.

20
21 MR. J. WALKER: So move.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jim.

24
25 MR. SAM: Second.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Ron.
28 Those in favor of transmittal of the letter to the
29 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council signify by
30 saying aye.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Let the -- well,
35 what happened to Winchell? Where did these guys go?
36 Took a break. We had eight members for a vote. We
37 have the full Council here of 10 members for the
38 deliberation of this letter.

39
40 And so at this time we should take a
41 break, Vince.

42
43 MR. PROBASCO: Jack, can I say
44 something real quick?

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead.

47
48 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 Pete Probasco.

50

1 The other thing we might want to
2 explore, and I'm not sure about meeting locations for
3 the Council, the North Pacific Fisheries Management
4 Council and the opportunity for public testimony, but
5 in my prior life I spent a lot of time working with the
6 Council, and they do have -- during deliberations on
7 various proposals and/or management plans like this,
8 they do provide the opportunity for public comment. We
9 at OSM within our budget always set aside dollars for
10 Council member representation, usually the Chair, to
11 participate in issues that affect them, like moose
12 moratorium management plans, caribou, et cetera. I
13 will work with Vince, and actually I'll probably
14 instruct Vince to take a look at what opportunities
15 there may be this next year or so for, and if the
16 Council as well as the other two Councils, elect to
17 send a person to testify on behalf of their areas. So
18 that's another option, but I'm not sure what we have
19 before the Council, but we'll explore that.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate
22 that, Pete. And I'm sure that we have several members
23 on our Council that would love to comment to the North
24 Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

25
26 So at that, we should go to break and
27 we'll come back in about 15 minutes or so.

28
29 (Off record)

30
31 (On record)

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We're back on
34 the mic. And so we had Brandy getting something ready
35 here for a PowerPoint. And so where are we at now,
36 Vince? We're on the Fisheries Resources Monitoring
37 Program, and that's a joint presentation?

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Don's presenting I
40 think it's the program update on -- Fisheries
41 Monitoring Program update. And we have a handout on
42 that. And then we go into the Partners, yes.

43
44 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
45 Rivard. We're on Page 114 of your Council book for the
46 Fisheries Resources Monitoring Program update.

47
48 And this just shows the projects that
49 will be, that have been funded and will be being
50 performed this summer. I won't go into a lot of

1 detail, but you can see for the Kuskokwim there on Page
2 114 there are 15 projects I believe, and then for the
3 Yukon there's 14. These will be the active projects
4 for the summer. So I just wanted to let you know.

5
6 These were ones that -- the ones that
7 are labeled 08 were the ones that your Council
8 recommended be approved and they were approved by the
9 Federal Subsistence Board at their last meeting.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any comments
12 on those projects.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm glad to see that
17 they were approved. And so have you got further --
18 something further there, Don.

19
20 MR. RIVARD: Well, just that this also
21 is going into a two-year cycle now for the fisheries
22 projects, and so that's taking place.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And what would be
25 that cycle now for these projects? They're under a
26 two-year submitted and approval process, and so they
27 would be submitting projects for approval, and the
28 Board would approve in 2009? That would be the.....

29
30 MR. RIVARD: Yes, I'll just read it
31 here. It's in the book. It says, the next request for
32 proposals will be issued this fall, 2008, for projects
33 that will begin in 2010. A draft monitoring plan will
34 be prepared by the Office of Subsistence Management
35 Staff and the Technical Review Committee. The draft
36 plan will be presented to the Regional Advisory
37 Councils during their October/November 2009 meetings.
38 And then the Federal Subsistence Board will be meeting
39 January 2010 to review and approve a final plan. So
40 there it is.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Okay.
43 And so we -- any other Council comments on the new
44 cycle on the monitoring plans.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we've got
49 partnerships.

50

1 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair. That was
2 originally in your book on Page 116, but it's been
3 updated even since the published -- we published this
4 book. And so I would like to -- I've got a handout
5 there with the new one, and I'd like to read this into
6 the record if I may.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go right
9 ahead.

10
11 MR. RIVARD: Okay. The Partners for
12 Fisheries Monitoring Program was initiated in 2002 to
13 strengthen Alaska Native and rural involvement in
14 subsistence fisheries management and research. The
15 program hired eight full time scientists to work with
16 Native organizations representing the many communities
17 in the Yukon with three positions, the Kuskokwim with
18 two positions, Southcentral one position, and Southwest
19 one position.

20
21 Partner scientists conduct fisheries
22 research projects and rural intern programs within the
23 monitoring program. Their participation has fostered
24 over 100 new partnerships, mentored over 80 rural
25 college students in the sciences, with an 85 percent
26 in-school retention, assisted over 200 high school
27 students in educational science programs, and generated
28 recurrent matching funds from the National Science
29 Foundation.

30
31 The Office of Subsistence Management
32 announced a call for proposals in November of 2006 to
33 implement the second phase of the program beginning in
34 2008, following the initial five-year phase that
35 concluded in 2007. The Service received 14 proposals
36 that requested in total \$1.7 million annually. Six
37 scientist and educator positions will be supported in
38 phase two, four full-time and two part-time positions.
39 Positions will be located in the Yukon region with one,
40 in the Kuskokwim region with one full-time and two
41 part-time positions, and the Southwest region with one
42 position, and in the Southcentral region with one
43 position.

44
45 Within the Yukon region, Tanana Chiefs
46 Conference was awarded a Partners fishery biologist
47 position. the position will serve as principal
48 investigator on Henshaw Creek weir and support
49 development of a Yukon-Kuskokwim whitefish strategic
50 plan. The biologist will also mentor rural college

1 students through projects and education programs.

2

3 Within the Kuskokwim region, Kuskokwim
4 Native Association was awarded two positions, a fishery
5 biologist and an educator position. The biologist will
6 serve as a co-investigator on seven Monitoring Program
7 projects with ADF&G and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
8 and serve as a mentor for four rural college student
9 interns. The new educator position will mentor
10 students working on Monitoring Program projects during
11 the summer and assist students in the fall while they
12 bring what they learned into their classrooms. New to
13 the program -- I can't pronounce this, maybe somebody
14 else can -- the ONC was awarded a part-time biologist
15 to further strengthen their involvement in fisheries
16 monitoring in coordination with the Alaska Department
17 of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
18 Service.

19

20 Within the Southwest region, Bristol
21 Bay Native Association was awarded a subsistence
22 fisheries position. The position will serve as an
23 investigator on four Monitoring Program projects with
24 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish
25 and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and
26 U.S. Science and Education and mentor rural college
27 students in the intern program.

28

29 Within the Southcentral region, the
30 Native Village of Eyak was awarded a new fisheries
31 biologist position. The biologist will work as an
32 investigator with LGL Consulting on two Copper River
33 salmon projects and also support a rural student
34 internship.

35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair. And there are
37 two partners biologists here that are ready to give
38 presentation, with Brandy Berkbigler the first.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And thanks,
43 Don.

44

45 Brandy, I'm glad to see that your
46 position was funded. The Henshaw weir has been very
47 important to our Council in understanding Koyukuk
48 escapements along with the other projects, in the
49 Gisasa and Clear Creek. And go ahead.

50

1 MS. BERKBIGLER: All right. Thank you.
2 Council Chair and Council members. I've been with TTC
3 now as the Partners biologist for a little over a year
4 and a half. June will be my two-year date. And I'm
5 glad that I received funding so we can keep going with
6 these projects.

7
8 So first, this is going to be just a
9 short brief presentation just to kind of give you an
10 idea of what our 2008 projects are. What was funded
11 from what I requested in 2007 and what wasn't. So I'll
12 just go a little bit into a couple projects and give
13 you an update and be open for questions.

14
15 So our 2008 projects update is we did
16 receive funding for the Henshaw Creek Weir. And so
17 it's going to be operated for four more years solely by
18 TCC.

19
20 And then we applied for a Challenge
21 Cost Share grant again and just found out we were
22 approved for that for the 2008 Henshaw Creek science
23 camp. And also with that proposal we added in a second
24 portion of the camp to have a three-day camp in
25 Allakaket for the younger kids that couldn't make it to
26 the actual one-week long camp.

27
28 Then there's also the 2008 Yukon River
29 age, sex and length collection of subsistence-caught
30 Chinook salmon in Bishop Rock and -- or Bishop Mountain
31 and Holy Cross.

32
33 And then the Tanana fall chum radio
34 telemetry project through AYK SSI will be the second
35 year.

36
37 So another proposal that's pending, so
38 we haven't heard back yet, is our new grant for Ruby
39 Tribal Council subsistence Chinook salmon sampling.
40 They submitted a tribal wildlife grant in the fall, and
41 I guess we ranked third out of all the Alaska projects,
42 or all the Alaska ones submitted. So since that wasn't
43 funded, we decided to take that same project, down
44 scale it and ask for some money from the R&E, which is
45 through the Yukon River Panel JTC, and so right now
46 we're waiting on that notification. And that will be
47 led through Ruby.

48
49 Also pending is the Pacific Coast
50 Salmon Recovery Fund, funding for a juvenile Chinook

1 otolith microchemistry project. We submitted this also
2 to the Alaska Yukon/Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon
3 Initiative, AYK SSI. And it was not funded. There
4 were some recommendations to submit it later on once
5 we've fixed a couple of the issues in our methods
6 section. So right now we still could get funded if it
7 goes through PCSRF.

8

9 So Henshaw Creek weir, just a couple
10 pictures for any new Council members that may have not
11 seen it. It's located above Allakaket about one hour
12 boat ride, and south of Bettles and just below the
13 South Fork. It's an escapement and monitoring project,
14 and the objectives are to determine the daily
15 escapement and run timing of adult salmon. And we have
16 both Chinook and summer chum that return. And
17 determine the age, sex and length composition of these
18 salmon, and then the number of resident fish passing
19 the weir.

20

21 And so this also serves as our platform
22 for our science camp as well, so that we can teach the
23 high school students that there is escapement and
24 monitoring projects in their back yard and that they
25 can get experience and possibly look at going into
26 fisheries for a career. So again this is funded
27 through the Challenge Cost Share grant and with the
28 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge. This year we added
29 ADF&G as a cooperator since they have a good education
30 specialist that can do a better job at teaching aquatic
31 invertebrates. And also the Allakaket Traditional
32 Council is a cooperator this year so that they can help
33 with the camp actually in Allakaket.

34

35 So we're going to be advertising for
36 students in April. And then we added the second camp
37 in Allakaket to go along.

38

39 So some of the lessons that we'll try
40 and teach for the high school students at Henshaw will
41 be fish identification, fish dissection, stream
42 ecology, aquatic invertebrates, and then we're going to
43 get them out on the weir and introduce them to the
44 operation of a weir and data collection. And at the
45 YR DFA meeting I was just at I talked to a teacher who
46 is developing a curriculum on fisheries management, so
47 I told her if she wanted to teach it out, I gave her my
48 business card to come on up so we can see how that
49 works.

50

1 So then another project that I'm
2 primarily going to have my intern working on is a
3 subsistence Chinook salmon collection in Holy Cross and
4 Bishop Rock. And this is funded from ADF&G, Commercial
5 Fisheries, for 2008. And we're going to advertise and
6 work with a volunteer at fish camps out of Holy Cross
7 and then Bishop Rock. And then we're going to be
8 trying to collect 200 Chinook samples. This last year
9 we collected 204 from Holy Cross and 200 from Bishop
10 Mountain, but only 187 of those Bishop Mountain samples
11 were able to be aged. And then those are the type of
12 data, just the age, sex and length, genetic fin clips,
13 gear type and location. It's to help build up the
14 subsistence data base that's kind of lacking for the
15 information to go along with the fish size study that's
16 going on in different parts of the river.

17
18 So our preliminary results from Holy
19 Cross were 100 -- out of the 204 samples, we had 100 of
20 those were males and 104 were females. So the ratios
21 are pretty even. And then our age classes right now is
22 3 percent age 4, 24 percent were age 5, and 73 percent
23 of those were age 6. And I didn't put in the mean
24 lengths just because the data is preliminary and I
25 found some numbers that I had discrepancies with, and
26 so I didn't want to report any of that. So later when
27 we publish the report that information will be
28 available and I'll try to get you guys a copy.

29
30 And then the Bishop Rock results,
31 there's 200 were actually taken for sampling, but only
32 187 were counted for aging, so out of that there were
33 92 males and 95 females. And then the age classes
34 again are 3 percent age 4, 19 percent age 5, and 77
35 percent age 6.

36
37 And then we go on to the fall projects
38 for Tanana fall chum radio telemetry project, and this
39 is funded through AYK SSI for the two years. This
40 year, 2007 -- or last year I should say now, was our
41 first year, which is a pilot study, and so then this
42 year is the big portion of the study for 2008, and it's
43 a cooperative with ADF&G, TTC, USGS and then UAF. And
44 we're investigating the spawning habitats in the upper
45 main stem of the Tanana.

46
47 And we tested the tag sizes to make
48 sure we picked between a small, medium and large size
49 radio tag. The differences were that we wanted to make
50 sure it fit good in the fish and they couldn't

1 regurgitate it, and also that the battery life would
2 sustain, since these fish are still moving around the
3 end of November, early December in the cold.

4
5 There's a nice article I wrote up in
6 the TTC Council newspaper, and I believe Vince said he
7 provided it to you guys, and I also put some Council
8 newspapers on the back table there if anybody wants to
9 grab some from the audience.

10
11 So right now we've found that the
12 medium and the large tag works best for, you know,
13 seating in the fish, but the large tag might be where
14 we end up sticking because of the battery life.

15
16 And so then the habitat monitoring
17 equipment was put in in the first week of December and
18 we should be trying to recover that this spring.
19 Hopefully it all goes well. And then we're going to be
20 working this fall to deploy 300 of those radio
21 telemetry tags, and trying to get the fishermen to
22 cooperate on the Tanana, if they do catch any of these
23 radio tagged fish to return the tags to us as soon as
24 possible so that we can redeploy them and keep track of
25 where these fish are spawning at.

26
27 So I did have a little video in here,
28 and you can see in the upper left-hand corner there's a
29 couple of red dots, kind of close together, and that's
30 down by the Kantishna wheel where they were tagged.
31 And I don't think it's going to work. But anyways, it
32 was a nice little video showing how they tracked up the
33 river from September when they were tagged all the way
34 through the first part of December. And then the boxes
35 that are kind of hard to see are the sites, there's
36 four of them, where the habitat monitoring equipment is
37 under the ice right now. And then the yellow circles
38 are all the radio telemetry towers.

39
40 And just to give you an idea of
41 reference, down there where the red dots are is the
42 Kantishna wheel, and then up in the further right-hand
43 side of the screen is Delta Junction and then up to the
44 Crystal (ph) is where that last radio telemetry tower
45 is.

46
47 So that's kind of an update on where
48 TCC is with their projects and what they're going to be
49 doing this summer, and I'd be happy to entertain any
50 questions.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council members have
2 questions for Brandy. Ron.

3
4 MR. SAM: Yeah. Brandy, first of all
5 I'd like to thank you for your efforts and all you
6 endeavors on Henshaw Creek. I know you took some
7 students out there. Was that -- when you took those
8 students and elders out there, was that funded by
9 Tanana Chiefs or funded by.....

10
11 MS. BERKBIGLER: That was actually the
12 Challenge Cost Share grant funded through the U.S. Fish
13 and Wildlife Service in cooperation with Kanuti. So
14 with the Challenge Cost Share grant basically we have
15 to make matches, so the Fish and Wildlife Service will
16 only provide so much month and the bulk of it has to be
17 matching. So Kanuti put in money or time is considered
18 money. And then Tanana Chiefs put in equipment and
19 time, and then we asked for some money through the
20 Challenge Cost Share grant just to buy supplies and
21 food and gas to get the students and elders up there.

22
23 MR. SAM: Thank you, Brandy. Again,
24 thank you for our effort, because I think it generated
25 quite a bit of interest within Alatna/Allakaket area,
26 because you took elders and students out there to
27 really show what that weir is attempting to do. Thank
28 you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, Jenny, go
31 ahead.

32
33 MS. PELKOLA: Brandy, I just want to
34 applaud you, too, that I think you're doing a great
35 job. But this is the first time I've seen, ever seen
36 anything come back from Bishop, because how many years
37 I've been there, and we always have people come there
38 and doing this, and doing that. And I said, well, when
39 am I going to see the results. And it's -- you know, I
40 guess, to finally see it. Thank you.

41
42 MS. BERKBIGLER: You know, and that was
43 one of my main goals that I wanted to do is when we
44 entered into that agreement with ADF&G, I wanted to
45 make sure I got ahold of the data and I could start
46 working with it and showing results so that fishermen
47 would want to participate, because they actually saw
48 results coming back to them.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

1 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr.
2 Chairman.
3
4 Brandy, when you were working with Holy
5 Cross and Bishop Mountain and the four or five, six-
6 year old fish, did you have a chance to weigh them, or
7 you just got their ages and that was it?
8
9 Thank you.
10
11 MS. BERKBIGLER: Yeah, we didn't have
12 the chance to weigh them, because that wasn't in the
13 funding and we didn't have the supplies for doing it.
14 It was mainly just to collect some age, sex and length
15 samples, so collecting a scale for aging, and the
16 length, which is the middle of the eye to the fork of
17 the tail is the standard measurement. And then sexing
18 it, and we able to sex 100 percent completely, because
19 we could cut the fish open where they were samp --
20 where they were harvesting. And then we just took gear
21 type. And we didn't actually focus on any of the
22 weight or girth measurements. And I don't believe
23 that's in it for the study this year.
24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions.
26
27 (No comments)
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My questions are
30 what was the gear type that was used at Holy Cross and
31 Bishop? What size gear was being used?
32
33 MS. BERKBIGLER: All that got reported
34 is eight and a half-inch mesh setnet and driftnet.
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In both locations?
37
38 MS. BERKBIGLER: Or setnet mainly in
39 Bishop Mountain, and then drift and set in Holy Cross.
40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead.
42
43 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair, we had eight-
44 inch in Bishop Rock.
45
46 MS. BERKBIGLER: Sorry, that's what I
47 had from Lisa's data book.
48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. And then
50 what was the chum salmon progression rate of the

1 telemetry project on the Tanana? How many miles per
2 day did these salmon swim? Like the Yukon kings are
3 moving at 30 to 50 miles, and what do these chum salmon
4 swim at up in the upper portion of the drainage?

5
6 MS. BERKBIGLER: Council Chair. That
7 was actually what they were trying to work out right
8 before I got this map. They were trying to figure that
9 out from the different dates, because there is I think
10 -- I can't remember exactly how many radio telemetry
11 flights, and so each one tracked, but then trying to
12 get the fish divided out and then the distance between
13 each one. They hadn't worked all that out yet. It's
14 being done by Bonnie Borba and Rich Driscoll at ADF&G
15 right now.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And then why
18 were the Bishop samples bad? You discarded a certain
19 amount of fish. They were just poor or went bad
20 or.....

21
22 MS. BERKBIGLER: Yeah, sometimes when
23 you're taking scales off the Chinook either what
24 happens is they get dirty, the slime isn't cleaned off
25 as good and so when they stick to the card, they just
26 can't press them to read them, or maybe they've fallen
27 off. I didn't get any of the age codes which is
28 attributed with that. I just got some data, and I
29 didn't get the actual age seat yet, so.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is there like a tape
32 you put over the top after you stick them on there
33 or.....

34
35 MS. BERKBIGLER: You know, I haven't
36 done any scale aging, but I know when you stick them to
37 the card, sometimes at the weir what will happen is
38 they might run down. Now where Lisa was doing it at
39 Bishop Mountain, she was in an area where she had it on
40 a clip board, and so then either was happened is she
41 just didn't get the scale clean enough and so there was
42 a little bit of grit in there and they just couldn't
43 read it, or the scale was reabsorbed too much and it
44 couldn't get read, because the lines aren't defined
45 right then. So I don't know, maybe Fred or somebody
46 else might have a better idea. But then I know what
47 they do, they press something on top to take an
48 impression.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, just,

1 you know, it would be nice to get the data bugs out and
2 figure out what happened and fix those.

3

4 Go ahead, George.

5

6 MR. PAPPAS: Thirty seconds left.
7 George Pappas, Department of Fish and Game.

8

9 Yeah, I've handled tens of thousands of
10 scales. Sometimes if there's slime left on them from
11 not cleaning up, you press it, you'll crack the scale,
12 you can't read it. Sometimes it's a regenerated scale
13 from earlier damage. It happens. I think the accepted
14 rate of errors is about 10 percent. Ten percent for
15 errors is what people shoot to be below. Sometimes you
16 drop your scales in the water. It's problematic.
17 That's when you have -- there's a lot of variables
18 involved here.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's life.

21

22 MR. PAPPAS: Expensive errors.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Okay. Any
25 other questions for Brandy.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate your
30 work, Brandy, and glad to hear your presentation last
31 fall about having the elders and the kids out in the
32 field. I thought it was very well done.

33

34 All right. We have KNA presenter.

35

36 MR. THALHAUSER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 My name's Mike Thalhauser. I'm with the Kuskokwim
38 Native Association out of Aniak. I have been in this
39 position for -- I think it started towards the end of
40 October, so just a few months. So I'm also glad to
41 hear we are refunded. It would have been a pretty
42 short job without that.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. THALHAUSER: So very glad to hear
47 that one, especially after I moved to Aniak.

48

49 So I'll be kind of giving just a
50 general update on a lot of our projects and going a

1 little quicker over the things I think that we've
2 addressed before.

3
4 And last time in Galena that we met and
5 gave a presentation, it was suggested that we try to
6 give maybe a more results-oriented update, and that's
7 kind of the thinking behind the handouts that I gave
8 you. That gives you a pretty good -- a little bit of
9 the data and a little bit more in detail of a few of
10 the projects that we're working on. And we're trying
11 to put something together like that for each one of our
12 projects, and eventually pretty soon in the future to
13 get some sort of website together where we can get this
14 information out a little easier.

15
16 So again like I said, I'm with the
17 Kuskokwim Native Association. It's a non-profit
18 organization. These are just sort of the projects that
19 the organization itself has going on. That's our
20 director, Calvin Simeon. Our goal is to actively
21 participate in managing and conserving Kuskokwim area
22 fisheries resources to ensure long-term sustainability
23 of the subsistence way of life of our members.

24
25 So first the first project I'd like to
26 touch on is our Chinook king salmon radio telemetry and
27 run reconstruction project. This is a project that we
28 worked with ADF&G on. I guess the principle researcher
29 would have been Doug Molyneaux.

30
31 And just a general background on the
32 Chinook fishery. Prior to '02 ADF&G has used weirs and
33 aerial surveys and test fisheries and harvest
34 estimates. And they've all been used to sort of put
35 together an escapement index for those years. And what
36 was sort of lacking was the actual abundance numbers,
37 so this study was put together to address that and to
38 find out actual numbers of how many fish riverwide are
39 coming back into the Kuskokwim. And the reason behind
40 that is to take a look at management strategies, what's
41 worked, what hasn't, and the effectiveness of things
42 that have gone on and the long-term sustainability of
43 the fishery.

44
45 As far as methods along the project,
46 all the -- the Chinook are captured in fishwheels in
47 Kalskag and in driftnets. And there's a couple
48 pictures of the fishwheel and the driftnet up there.
49 They're radio tagged and T-tagged there in Kalskag.
50 There's a few pictures of some sockeye that we also had

1 tagged for the past few years, and I'll go into that
2 project a little bit later. This is just another
3 picture of the same one.

4
5 And so then the fish are radio tracked
6 through aerial surveys and are counted passing fixed
7 receivers at our weir sites and actually physically
8 counted visually by the weir technicians and operators.

9
10 This is sort of a -- not quite the map
11 Brandy had up there, but it just kind of gives you a
12 list of what we had as far as radio towers, tracking
13 stations. And then we had one of those at each weir
14 site. And that was what we had -- the project started
15 in 2002, and through 2006 we were just making estimates
16 above the Aniak River due to the fact that there is a
17 substantial portion of fish going into the Aniak, or
18 Chinook going into the Aniak, and so there was a bias
19 involved in that. And from 2005 -- or 6 and 7, we
20 added a -- so that's where that was. In 2006 and 7 we
21 added a weir and a station on the Salmon River of the
22 Aniak, which is actually where I started with KNA. I
23 worked up at the Salmon River weir this last summer,
24 and so that gave us the ability to do a population
25 estimate, or abundance estimate from Kalskag up.

26
27 This is some of our technicians that we
28 had working on the project. When we did start using
29 the Salmon River Weir, we utilized the sonar site
30 that's just at the lower end of the Aniak to catch a
31 few extra fish and to put some more tags in those and
32 get a better idea of what was going up there and where
33 they were all going. And that's a picture of the
34 Salmon River weir. Another picture. And there's a
35 radio receiver.

36
37 And these are radio telemetry surveys
38 that were done in 2007. Each one of those would have
39 been a fish.

40
41 And that's the Aniak right there.

42
43 Go ahead.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Excuse. Those
46 middle area there, is that the Stony River drainages?

47
48 MR. THALHAUSER: Yeah, that's the
49 Holitna and the Hoholitna.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Holitna. And then
2 the upper.....
3
4 MR. THALHAUSER: And the next one would
5 be.....
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The upper drainages
8 are the upper Kuskokwim.
9
10 MR. COLLINS: (indiscernible, away from
11 microphone) Yeah. The Salmon.
12
13 MR. THALHAUSER: These are preliminary
14 population estimates, and they're getting pretty solid
15 to this point I think, but they're still sort of
16 preliminary. And actually I think there's even a
17 better -- on the handout that I have you, it's got
18 estimates from -- through the whole project, from 2002
19 up to 2005 for upstream of the Aniak, and then 2006 and
20 2007, even more updated numbers for upstream of
21 Kalskag.
22
23 And this is just a comparison over the
24 years, our graph here.
25
26 Part two of this study was after we got
27 the numbers of these, and made some estimates on
28 abundance numbers. Right now Brian Bue with Bue
29 Consultants is working to put together a model to
30 basically take the hard numbers that we have now for
31 the project years from 2002 to 2007 and then use that
32 model to use the aerial surveys and the subsistence
33 harvest estimates and the weir counts that we had
34 previous to that and try to get -- to look back to I
35 think it's about 26 years or so of data to reconstruct
36 the runs during those years.
37
38 The next project to go over is our
39 sockeye project. The principal investigator on this
40 was Sara Gilk, also with ADF&G. The sockeye fishery is
41 also a really important subsistence fishery on the
42 Kuskokwim. And unlike the Chinook fishery, there's a
43 little more interest right now in a commercial fishery
44 for sockeye. And a lack of knowledge on population,
45 ecology, and just that commercial interest led us -- or
46 led -- Sara came up with it and ADF&G and KNA to start
47 looking at these fish. And basically what we were
48 looking for was to describe the location and abundance
49 of the spawning aggregates that were going up the
50 Kuskokwim, to estimate stock specific run timing in the

1 main stem when they're moving through. And another
2 thing that really was an interesting part of it was the
3 relative importance of river type versus lake type
4 sockeye salmon.

5
6 And our methods for this are pretty
7 much the same as the Chinook. They were caught and
8 tagged down in Kalskag and then tracked using fixed
9 receivers along the Kuskokwim and the aerial surveys
10 along there.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those are the same
13 receivers that they use in the Chinook project?

14
15 MR. THALHAUSER: The Chinook ones is
16 mainly the weirs. The sockeye also utilize receiving
17 stations along the Kuskokwim that are on tributaries
18 that are actually on the main stem Kuskokwim, and
19 they're used for a few other projects -- or one other
20 that I know of right now, our whitefish project that
21 I'll go into, too.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a huge
24 sockeye, you've got a three ocean or two, threes there
25 or large, fairly old fish coming into the Kuskokwim?

26
27 MR. THALHAUSER: As far as the ASL's,
28 I'm not sure, but they are pretty decent size. And as
29 far as commercial interest, you know, there could
30 theoretically, you know, be some sort of market. As
31 far as these fish travel, they're, you know, a big,
32 oily fish. Some of them are really getting up there
33 pretty far.

34
35 And as far as our objectives, I kind of
36 when through those. Run timing. Okay. And all those.
37 And then there was a component to look at smolt size
38 and growth among different tributaries and habitats.
39 So they did some sampling of a few of the weirs to look
40 into that. And I'm not sure exactly where that data --
41 I don't think that's been analyzed yet as far as the
42 smolts.

43
44 These are just some pictures of the
45 wheels and some tagging. The receivers, these are one
46 of the fixed one that are just along the Kuskokwim
47 there, not specifically at weirs. And then we also,
48 you know, used the weir receiver stations as well and
49 did counts along that, the same as we did with the
50 Chinook. That's one of the fixed ones. So, you know,

1 it's really an impressive network of.....

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Radio towers?

4

5 MR. THALHAUSER: Right now -- yeah, the
6 blue ones are just stationary ones. They're more along
7 the main stem river, and then we also have some on some
8 tributaries.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so the sockeye
11 run progresses up into the Hoholitna drainage and
12 that's as far up as they go in the Kuskokwim?

13

14 MR. THALHAUSER: No. I think the
15 farthest up they go was the -- where was it -- the
16 Stony River. And actually almost 20, around 20 percent
17 of them ended up going up there. I'll be getting on
18 that, too.

19

20 MR. COLLINS: That's the sockeye?

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

23

24 MR. THALHAUSER: Yeah. But the.....

25

26 MR. COLLINS: (Indiscernible, away from
27 microphone) going up into Takotna.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, they're in the
30 Takotna?

31

32 MR. COLLINS: They had about 10 of them
33 last year up there someone was saying. Just the last
34 few years.

35

36 MR. THALHAUSER: Yeah, they did have a
37 few up the Takotna last year. Yeah. I mean, as far as
38 real, you know, spawning populations, the Stony and the
39 Holitna is probably the biggest producer, or is the
40 biggest producer right now.

41

42 MR. COLLINS: It's kind of interesting.
43 They found juveniles, too. So they've actually
44 successfully spawned up there, but we don't know what's
45 going to happen to them.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And about how many
48 sockeye?

49

50 MR. THALHAUSER: I think I'm going to

1 hit on that in a second here.

2

3 But, yeah, and actually the big weir
4 that gets most of the sockeye is the Kogrukluk Organy
5 (ph) weir -- I mean Kogrukluk River. And they get most
6 of the tags back. And with the really good tagged to
7 not tagged fish numbers that we got from that, while it
8 wasn't a primary goal of the project, but allowed us to
9 get an actual population for the river, and I'll hit it
10 here in a second, but it is pretty impressive. And
11 also using planes to track fishes that go up there. We
12 have some neat pictures.

13

14 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Where is that?

15

16 MR. THALHAUSER: You know, I'm not sure
17 exactly. And this is where.....

18

19 MR. COLLINS: And they're rearing in
20 river.....

21

22 MR. THALHAUSER: Let me go back one.

23

24 MR. SAM: Yeah, go back. Are those
25 pools of fish or what?

26

27 MR. THALHAUSER: Yeah. Yeah. Pretty
28 impressive. And these are the radio contacts that we
29 got flying surveys in 2006. And the ones you see down
30 here, I should probably note, in the main stem, like
31 right around Kalstag were probably flown early, you
32 know, so they were probably just moving up at that
33 time. So the ones that are actually spawning, the main
34 three were the Aniak which got a pretty decent amount,
35 I think about 7 percent. It's on the handout here.
36 And the Holitna and the Hoholitna and the Stony. And
37 the 2007, pretty similar results as far the three. And
38 if you look, it's pretty similar from those two years.
39 And 500 fish were tagged each year, radio tagged.

40

41 Okay. Here's the results like I said.
42 The Aniak River was the third higher producer with
43 about 8 percent of the spawning populations, and like I
44 said, yeah, the Holitna was about 66 percent, and the
45 Stony was 23 percent, which is pretty incredible for
46 how far up it is. And really what that also tells us,
47 you know, is a big portion of the population is river-
48 type sockeye salmon, which wasn't a huge surprise, but
49 the difference is pretty significant.

50

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: These are tagged
2 fish.

3
4 MR. THALHAUSER: Yeah. Yes, this is of
5 the tagged fish.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so the rearing
8 of these river types, smolts is in sloughs in those
9 drainages?

10
11 MR. THALHAUSER: Probably. And right
12 now there's -- and we don't know much about the -- as
13 far as the lake ones, not a whole lot about that. And
14 there's actually a study that's going to be starting
15 this summer I believe looking -- and that's going to be
16 on Lake Kalakana, is that -- and that's going to be
17 looking a little more into that. But I think there
18 will probably be more information once they do figure
19 out the data on the smolts and on the juvenile sockeye.
20 But I would kind of assume.

21
22 And like I said, abundance estimates
23 weren't an original objective of the project, but after
24 getting such good numbers from the Ganati (ph) weir,
25 and that's also a caveat with this, too, is that these
26 numbers are just, you know, from one weir, so it
27 wouldn't be, you know, to make any sort of management
28 decisions using this with just one weir.

29
30 So in 2006, the population estimate
31 above Kalskag was almost 500,000 fish. And in 2007 it
32 was much lower. And looking at other things like
33 harvest surveys and other fishing -- other ways of
34 looking at fishing, I think it's fair to say that 2006
35 was just a really, really -- it was probably like a
36 record year almost as far as the Kuskokwim. And I
37 think the averages that they gave us for -- that Sara
38 gave us for -- that probably end up going into the
39 Kuskokwim a year is probably 100 to 150,000 probably,
40 about average, which when you're looking at the
41 possibility of commercial fishing, and the fact that I
42 think an average of 30,000 sockeye are harvested
43 subsistence-wise, it really doesn't leave a whole lot
44 left, especially in some of the smaller years. But it
45 was a pretty good year in 2006.

46
47 These are -- I think that's a picture
48 up at Talakanelik (ph) there. That's a picture of a
49 sockeye with a tag up in there.
50

1 Okay. And now I'll go onto our
2 whitefish radio telemetry project. Also the whitefish
3 are a really important cultural and traditional
4 subsistence fishery on the Kuskokwim.

5
6 And I think someone mentioned something
7 yesterday to this effect, but concerns from local
8 fishermen that the fish are getting smaller and they're
9 not being quite as many over the past 10 to 20 years.
10 This is actually a U.S. Fish and Wildlife and KNA study
11 to start looking at the whitefish around the area and
12 see what exactly is going on as far as where these fish
13 are, where they're going, where they're spawning, how
14 many there are.

15
16 And, excuse me, we started out in 2001
17 just looking at sort of a pilot study, looking at them
18 in Whitefish Lake and just sort of perfecting putting
19 in tags and seeing how we could read them, and exactly
20 how we wanted to get things moving along. And in 2007
21 we started actually radio tagging fish near Bethel and
22 Kalskag, and used the stationary receivers along the
23 Kuskokwim and aerial flights to track them.

24
25 That was the one -- the weir that we
26 had set up at Whitefish Lake at the mouth. There's a
27 tag insertion. There's our director setting up a --
28 helping set up a station or downloading it.

29
30 And so here's -- this is where
31 Whitefish Lake near Kalskag it right there where we
32 originally tagged some fish. And then the fishing
33 wheels at Kalskag.

34
35 So basically kind of just flew the
36 plane over the drainage and looked around. At least my
37 video worked.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It was a three-
42 month elapsed time.

43
44 MR. THALHAUSER: Yeah, yeah, yeah. And
45 this is one of the tagging sites down towards Bethel.
46 These are just tagging sites. There we go again.
47 Okay.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So what was the
50 timing again? You tagged in springtime real early?

1 MR. THALHAUSER: They were tagged -- I
2 believe they were tagged -- let's see.

3
4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: July.

5
6 MR. THALHAUSER: Was it July?

7
8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: June and July.

9
10 MR. THALHAUSER: Yeah, I think it was
11 in the summer. And basically as far whitefish
12 movement, they generally started moving upstream to
13 their fall spawning locations sometime during the
14 summer, and they were moving from September through
15 early October, and remained moving -- or remained in
16 their spawning grounds and started generally heading
17 back down around October and November.

18
19 So from this -- and these are the
20 different years there. They're kind of overlapping,
21 but you can just sort of see a general pattern that
22 they did, you know, go to the same sort of areas. We
23 did get a good idea of where these fish were actually
24 spawning. And the four potential spawning, humpback at
25 least, whitefish spawning grounds were the Big River,
26 the Swift River, the Holitna River, and the Aniak
27 River.

28
29 And just another note is that, you
30 know, like I mentioned before, all these fish were
31 tagged, you know a lot farther downriver, which just --
32 first just off the bat tells you that everybody fishing
33 along the river is fishing the same fish, so it's
34 definitely, you know, something that could have some
35 implications.

36
37 MR. TICKNOR: Yeah, I'd just like to
38 make a comment. People around Nikolai usually go up
39 the most northward in South Fork. I don't know if you
40 can see it up there, but.....

41
42 MR. THALHAUSER: Of the Kuskokwim?

43
44 MR. TICKNOR: Yeah. They go out every
45 fall to get their fall whitefish, but the last few
46 years, you know, people have been going out and getting
47 nothing. I was wondering what -- and there hasn't been
48 any studies up that way yet I don't think,

49
50 MR. THALHAUSER: I know that -- are you

1 talking about broad or whitefish -- or humpback?

2

3 MR. TICKNOR: Yeah.

4

5 MR. THALHAUSER: Humpback. Okay. I
6 was going to say the one spawning location that we
7 actually did sort of identify for broads was upstream
8 of McGrath on the Kuskokwim. But, yeah, I wouldn't be
9 able to really, as far as, you know, recent years why,
10 you know, there was a decline right now. I couldn't
11 tell you right now. I mean, I could try to keep you
12 updated as far as that and make a note of it.

13

14 MR. TICKNOR: Yeah. And one of the
15 problem might be with low water might be a factor.

16

17 MR. THALHAUSER: Yeah, that's.....

18

19 MR. COLLINS: Another factor is the
20 beaver. Beaver have cut off some lakes that they used
21 to go into.

22

23 MR. THALHAUSER: Yeah. And the.....

24

25 MR. COLLINS: So there's a rise in
26 beaver population. They aren't being trapped like they
27 used to.

28

29 MR. THALHAUSER: Yeah. I don't think
30 they're quite as good at navigating the dams as coho.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So all of these
33 telemetries were put on at Whitefish Lake.....

34

35 MR. THALHAUSER: Either Whitefish.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:or different
38 locations, or are they just.....

39

40 MR. THALHAUSER: Yeah. Where did I
41 have those. I'm sorry, I'll have to.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So their origin of
44 tagging was in a specific area?

45

46 MR. THALHAUSER: Three specific areas.
47 Whitefish Lake. Let's see here. And then the Kialik
48 River was another one. And then at the fishwheels near
49 Kalskag.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see.
2
3 MR. THALHAUSER: And that was the
4 discovery -- those are the three tag sites there.
5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.
7
8 MR. THALHAUSER: And like I said, as
9 far as broad whitefish, the one sort of spawning area
10 that we identified was upstream of McGrath. And as far
11 as -- and the results, located potential spawning areas
12 for broad and humpback. Like I said, the Whitefish are
13 susceptible to drainage-wide fishing pressure. And
14 they don't really have a set migration time yet that we
15 know of. They sort of leave at different times. And
16 the one thing that we did find was the later fish tend
17 to travel upstream a little later and at a faster rate.
18
19
20 And basically -- and also on the Swift
21 and the Holitna we did some active sampling of the fish
22 on their spawning grounds and took some genetic samples
23 and some ASL's that can be used in the future for stock
24 identification of fish caught downstream.
25
26 And in the future, or actually in 2008,
27 we'll continue tagging efforts and sort of do the same
28 thing to get a little better idea of -- because only
29 two of the spawning populations were sampled so, we'd
30 like to try to get a few more of those. And maybe --
31 I'm not sure if they're planning on tagging any more
32 fish this summer or not.
33
34 But another thing to note is the tags
35 that are on these fish last for the life of the fish,
36 so it's something that.....
37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You have a comment,
39 Don?
40
41 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, I can give a little
42 bit of an update, because I've been talking with the
43 principle investigator on this just the last couple of
44 days, including yesterday, before coming here. And
45 what the emphasis is going to be this summer is they've
46 been putting out 90 tags. They've been tagging 90 fish
47 in 2006 and 2007, 45 broad white fish and 45 humpbacks.
48 They feel like they've got a really good handle on
49 where the humpbacks are. The broads are still a little
50 bit wondering about. And so the proposal now is to do

1 another 90 tags, but they would all be broad whitefish,
2 so they'll maybe bet a better handle on that.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. COLLINS: Are they tying that in
7 with the sheefish, too? They're studying sheefish
8 distribution, too.

9

10 MR. THALHAUSER: That's a project that
11 Lisa Stuby is working on. And it's a completely
12 separate project as far as I know. But she'll probably
13 use a lot of the same radio towers to track them on.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was wondering
16 about the -- is there -- when they implant the
17 whitefish tags, are they taking note of the condition
18 of the whitefish? It would be my impression that when
19 they got to a certain condition, it would trigger them
20 to go to the spawning grounds, and so do they take an
21 inventory of what the mesentery fat is when they're
22 setting tags or just.....

23

24 MR. THALHAUSER: You know, I'm not
25 sure, Don. Would you have anything? Yeah. And I
26 could look into that, too, and get back to you on that
27 one.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

30

31 MR. THALHAUSER: And these are just
32 kind of some pictures of the tags that go into
33 whitefish. These are obviously a lot smaller and
34 they're surgically implanted.

35

36 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Do these last the
37 lifetime?

38

39 MR. THALHAUSER: Yep.

40

41 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: What do they have
42 for a battery?

43

44 MR. THALHAUSER: Well, I'm actually not
45 sure. I wasn't working on the project last summer, and
46 didn't know.

47

48 MR. THALHAUSER: Oh, that's right.

49 Yeah.

50

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We were trying to
2 do that (indiscernible).....

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And there's no
5 antenna on those tags or.....

6
7 MR. THALHAUSER: No. No. The actual
8 receiver, like he said, is what has a battery and what
9 does all the sending out and receiving of the signal.
10 And it just sort of.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's just a
13 transponder?

14
15 MR. THALHAUSER: Yeah. Yeah,
16 basically. And just potentials for this would be long
17 term monitoring of whitefish movement. Like he said,
18 the tags last the life of the fish, and kind of to look
19 to see if these fish are going to the same spawning
20 grounds.

21
22 Another interesting note that I don't
23 know if it was in here or not, was that a signif -- I
24 don't know if it was significant, but a portion of the
25 fish didn't actually leave basically. Well, moved
26 around, but didn't actually leave, so there's a portion
27 of the population that either -- it sort of says either
28 don't spawn every year, or they were just too young,
29 and that's something to look into in the future, too.

30
31 Oops, I don't want to go that way.

32
33 The next projects that I'll look at,
34 and this is the last sort of in-depth one. This is the
35 last one that I think is actually covered in the packet
36 there that I handed out, are projects at the George and
37 the Tatlawiksuk River weirs. And these are also
38 projects that we worked on with the Department of Fish
39 and Game. This is KNA's first project with ADF&G.
40 Objectives of these weirs are to determine daily and
41 annual escapement of Chinook, coho and chum salmon,
42 take ASL compositions, monitoring environmental factors
43 affecting the escapement and giving daily reports to
44 Federal and State managers.

45
46 And then also a big important thing
47 about these is, is there a platform for a lot of these
48 other projects, like the sockeye project, and also like
49 KNA's internship programs. And since we've been
50 working here, we've had I think it's 126 interns work

1 up at these fish weirs, and 90 of them have been hired
2 back as either KNA or ADF&G technicians. And we've had
3 a few high -- or college interns working on a lot of
4 these projects as well. And the college interns that
5 we have are given scholarships for their work. And
6 right now we have one student enrolled in the ANSEP
7 program, the Alaska Native Science and Engineering
8 Program, that sort of mentors students through high
9 school and into college and helps them get on their way
10 to a career in science of engineering, so that's
11 something that's pretty exciting. And these are funded
12 through State general funds, OSM, like Coastal Village
13 Regional Fund, and in the early years BSFA was part of
14 these funders.

15
16 Oops, that was not supposed to be
17 there. Oh, there we go. And this is just sort of a
18 picture of a couple of the weirs. I believes that's
19 the George River on the top left, the Tatla on top
20 right, and just sort of some operations that go on
21 there.

22
23 And these were -- are just some returns
24 and some numbers as far as how many fish have been
25 coming back to these weirs since they've been
26 operating.

27
28 Other projects that I won't go into too
29 much detail with. This year we have a rainbow radio
30 telemetry project going on that's going to be starting
31 upon the Aniak. We'll have a limited -- we'll kind of
32 help out with logistics as far as getting to the site
33 and doing hopefully some of the sampling, and just
34 working with them, but they'll be doing -- well, I
35 think that's with the University of Washington.

36
37 Also we conduct post-season subsistence
38 surveys at the end of the summer to find out what
39 families caught fish, how many fish they caught, and
40 that's sort of -- it's important to do keep doing that
41 just to be able to compare those with all the previous
42 years and doing run reconstructions, and looking at
43 populations.

44
45 And community outreach is another big
46 project that we have going on. We conduct as many
47 community meetings in our villages as we can throughout
48 that -- usually the winter, but I think we're going to
49 try to start making a few summer trips out. And when
50 we do these meetings, we also try to take the

1 opportunity to spend a few days in the school and teach
2 some science to some of the kids, whether it's macro
3 invertebrates, or looking at watersheds or fisheries or
4 careers. And as Don mentioned earlier, we have --
5 we're funded for a new teaching position -- or
6 education position I should say, that's going to be
7 actually starting this fall as far as getting into the
8 schools, and right now we're working on the curriculum,
9 developing the curriculum for that, and trying to find
10 the right grad student of just student in general.

11
12 And Allakusp (ph) McGrath trip is
13 another trip that either Dave or myself goes on with
14 some of the local kids and we float down the Aniak
15 River and sort of teach some science lessons while
16 we're having fun.

17
18 And these are just sort of proposed
19 projects. And I really don't know a whole lot about
20 these. I wanted to include them, but as far as the
21 proposed projects, I haven't gotten too into them to
22 really talk specially about them.

23
24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: But that top one
25 is funded.

26
27 MR. THALHAUSER: Yeah, that was from
28 the previous one. I should have taken that one out.
29 And that's it.

30
31 Does anyone have any questions? I
32 apologize for not being super knowledgeable about a lot
33 this stuff. A lot of it's still kind of new to me, and
34 I'm still learning a lot of it, but I'd be happy to
35 answer any questions I could.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, there's a lot
38 of projects there.

39
40 MR. THALHAUSER: Yeah, it is.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can't fault you
43 for that. Ron.

44
45 MR. SAM: Do you plan on doing a
46 whitefish study up in the Nikolai area, the upper
47 Kuskokwim?

48
49 MR. THALHAUSER: As far as a specific
50 study up there, I don't know if there's -- I don't

1 think there's anything planned up there, but to
2 definitely, you know, continue tagging fish downstream,
3 and then if they go up there, I mean, it would involve
4 that. Is that about right?

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

7
8 MR. RIVARD: If I may, Ron, if you look
9 on Page 115, one of the projects that was approved for
10 funding this year is the last one on Page 115, is the
11 Yukon and Kuskokwim coregonid, which is whitefish,
12 strategic plan. So that's going to probably take place
13 first before any other kind of projects in the river
14 systems actually take place, because they want to do an
15 overall strategic plan for both the Yukon and the
16 Kuskokwim drainages. And that will spawn -- pardon the
17 expression, but that will spawn what other research
18 projects may come later on. So they want to look at it
19 broad based first before they do any more specific
20 projects.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to have
23 the strategic planning taken to incorporate Winchell's
24 concern that the upper Kuskokwim spawning stocks are
25 not returning at the same rates that they previously
26 had. And the telemetry project has identified three
27 distinct spawning areas, but it would seem that there's
28 lack of a spawning component. And so that should be
29 considered in the strategic planning.

30
31 MR. RIVARD: Okay. So noted.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ron.

34
35 MR. SAM: Yeah. The reason that, you
36 know, the middle and upper Koyukuk River, we depend
37 heavily on whitefish, and we just don't realize how
38 much we depend on whitefish until we run out, and we
39 just ran out recently. It makes a difference.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: James.

42
43 MR. J. WALKER: Thank you, Mr.
44 Chairman.

45
46 This study on the Yukon, does that also
47 include the Innoko River?

48
49 MR. THALHAUSER: On the Yukon? What
50 study?

1 MR. J. WALKER: This study that you
2 have here designated for -- it's item number.....
3
4 MR. COLLINS: The strategic plan you
5 mean?
6
7 MR. J. WALKER: Pardon?
8
9 MR. COLLINS: The strategic plan.
10
11 MR. J. WALKER: Yes.
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The 06.
14
15 MR. J. WALKER: 08-206, Yukon-Kusko.
16
17 MR. RIVARD: James, I'll have to look
18 to see if they specifically mention the Innoko, but
19 it's supposed to be for drainage wide, so I would
20 imagine they'll include that as well. there's no
21 details. This study is just starting this summer,
22 they're starting work on it.
23
24 Thank you.
25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you have an
27 issue on the Innoko?
28
29 MR. J. WALKER: Well, I think that area
30 needs to be looked at as far as the resources of the
31 fish that is utilized along that river, and the returns
32 that's coming back to that river.
33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Any
35 other questions for KNA or comment? Winchell.
36
37 MR. TICKNOR: Yeah. Sara Gilk was up
38 in around Nikolai for the last couple years, and this
39 last year we hadn't seen her around. I was just
40 wondering if that project has been completed or if it's
41 still ongoing.
42
43 MR. THALHAUSER: Yeah. This was --
44 2007 was the last year that she tagged any of the
45 sockeye, so -- and she actually just moved into I think
46 the genetics department up there. So, yeah, I don't
47 think she'll be out on the Kusko this year. But, yeah,
48 that project did wrap up last year.
49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mickey.

1 MR. STICKMAN: Thanks, Mr. Chair.

2

3 I was just looking at, you know,
4 talking about Winchell's concern, and then one of the
5 bullet points was community outreach. So I was just
6 thinking maybe they should make a point to actually go
7 to Nikolai to see -- to get the -- you know, so they
8 could know the actual impact of the broad whitefish.
9 Because like Winchell said, it's not there like it used
10 to be, so, you know, it's something that they need to
11 look at if they're studying whitefish.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

14

15 MR. THALHAUSER: Yeah, that's a really
16 good point. And I know that -- I don't believe Nikolai
17 is, you know, one of our member villages, but I think
18 we were planning on trying to make a trip up towards
19 McGrath later this winter. So that's something that I
20 could look into. And maybe I could get your contact
21 info if we do go up there, because it's always good to
22 have some sort of in as far as, you know, going to a
23 new village like that, you know, if something does work
24 out this year or next year, to try to get something set
25 up.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Winchell

28

29 MR. TICKNOR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

30

31 I was just wondering, maybe is that
32 something that TCC could do?

33

34 MS. BERKBIGLER: Yeah, probably.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Brandy said
37 probably. She wasn't on the record.

38

39 Don.

40

41 MR. RIVARD: Well, I've noted both the
42 upper Kuskokwim and the Innoko, and I will talk with
43 the principal investigators and let them know of your
44 concerns, and maybe they'll be able to incorporate this
45 into their strategic plan or whatever they're doing. I
46 don't have the details in front of me, but I'll look
47 that up and also talk to them directly and let them
48 know what happened here at this meeting.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

1 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 I just had a quick question. When we
4 met at our fall meeting in Galena, the major concern on
5 the Yukon was the decline in the size of the salmon.
6 And I just walked in just a while ago and you mentioned
7 something about that, and I was just wondering on the
8 Kuskokwim now, you talked of sockeye and which is the
9 red I guess, and so is that the major fish on the
10 river, and is it -- do you see a decline in fish size
11 as we do on the Yukon? I mean, I was just wondering
12 what your major concerns were on the Kuskokwim.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. THALHAUSER: I think what I
17 mentioned earlier was -- what I was talking about when
18 you walked in was probably decline in size and numbers
19 of whitefish. But there is a concern about declining
20 sizes in salmon as well. And as far as sockeye, you
21 know, are definitely not the main subsistence fish on
22 the Kuskokwim. Chinook are. But I mean, I would
23 imagine that it's probably pretty similar as far as a
24 concern for smaller fish returning as it is on the
25 Yukon.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

28

29 MR. HONEA: Okay. Thank you again, Mr.
30 Chair.

31

32 Yeah. The reason I brought that up is,
33 I mean, you know, all of the proposals whether it's
34 from Eastern Interior or from us or something has to do
35 with mesh sizes and stuff. I mean, it's getting to
36 that. So I just thought, you know, I was just
37 wondering what was -- I mean, you know, whether you
38 guys had the same problem in stock decline on the
39 river. I don't know if you answered my question
40 whether.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

43

44 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Don. I think
45 we haven't heard the amount of concern on the Kuskokwim
46 for salmon sizes as there's been on the Yukon. Whether
47 it's occurring at the same level on both river systems,
48 I don't know.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mickey.

1 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah. One last comment
2 is, you know, one of the big issues for us right now on
3 the Yukon is the bycatch. I wonder if the concern is
4 the same on the Kuskokwim.

5
6 MR. THALHAUSER: You know, obviously
7 during that presentation there was, you know, a pretty
8 significant portion of the Kuskokwim. So I think, you
9 know, there should be, and I would imagine, you know,
10 that there generally is. But it seems to be -- it
11 doesn't seem to be as evident in the Kuskokwim as it
12 does on the Yukon, and maybe it has to do with, you
13 know, more commercial fisheries on the Yukon, or maybe
14 it has to do with, you know, it definitely a more
15 complex river as far as management and as far as just
16 the drainage in general. But, yeah, I mean, there's
17 definitely a significant proportion. Go ahead.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A comment from Ray.

20
21 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I represent our
22 group on the Kuskokwim Management Group that the
23 State's put together, and it is a concern of the people
24 there. They track it, and it comes up at our annual
25 meetings, too.

26
27 MR. THALHAUSER: Oh, that's right.

28
29 MR. COLLINS: We've gotten updates and
30 had somebody from the -- speak to us about that. So
31 there is concern.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

34
35 MR. RIVARD: Yeah. The concern is
36 there. I think it's more acute on the Yukon, because
37 there's an international component to it. You know,
38 there's treaty obligations to get a certain amount of
39 fish up into Canada, too, so I think it's more
40 awareness going on there.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other
43 comments.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. KNA -- you've
48 got something, Vince?

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: No, just before you go to

1 lunch.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other
4 comments.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Mike.
9
10 MR. THALHAUSER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you've got
13 something there, Vince?
14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. When you break for
16 lunch, I need to meet with Jack, Ron, Mickey, and Jenny
17 to complete all the paperwork. And if there's someone
18 else I missed. Anyway so you get your checks and sign
19 all the paperwork.
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure. Okay. It's
22 kind of time for lunch. And so we'll come back about
23 -- it's about 12:20 on my watch, so we'll come back
24 here about maybe 1:30. 1:30 sounds good.
25
26 (Off record)
27
28 (On record)
29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm going to bring
31 the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council back to
32 order.
33
34 (Pause)
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're back on the
37 record. And so let's see here. We went through the
38 partnership presentations. We're on the Yukon
39 Fisheries Management Agencies and Organizations. And
40 that was a Russ Holder's presentation. Are you going
41 to give that, Tom?
42
43 MR. McLAIN: Yes, I will, Chair.
44
45 MR. R. WALKER: Where is Russ?
46
47 MR. McLAIN: He's enjoying Honolulu
48 life.
49
50 (Off record comments.)

1 MR. McLAIN: I've got extra copies.
2
3 MR. MATHEWS: I think you have one in
4 your book. In your blue thing, you should have one.
5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's dated 2/27/08?
7
8 MR. MATHEWS: 2/27/08, correct. In the
9 upper left-hand corner, 2/27/08. And it says Yukon
10 River Salmon Fisheries Management. In the upper right-
11 hand corner it says 2/27/08 is the one he'll be talking
12 about.
13
14 MR. McLAIN: Chairman Reakoff. Board
15 members. I'm going to give a short summary in answer
16 to a request that Chairman Reakoff made of how the
17 various fisheries programs, OSM, the JTC, FSB, and the
18 Board of Fish, and the Yukon Panel relate to the Yukon
19 fisheries and the Regional Councils.
20
21 You have before you a handout
22 describing the roles and responsibilities of these
23 fisheries programs.
24
25 Management of the salmon fisheries in
26 the Yukon River is primarily the responsibility of the
27 State of Alaska. However, the Federal Subsistence
28 Management Program and the U.S./Canada Yukon River
29 Panel also play a role in managing Yukon River salmon.
30
31 If you'd like, I can read the
32 description now into the record, if you'd like.
33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My objective here
35 was to show the Council and myself what the differences
36 are between the JTC and all these various, and who has
37 authority and who's doing what. That's what I kind of
38 -- I want to sort this all out. And so if you could --
39 you can either read it or go kind of give us an
40 overview or whoever you'd like to do it.
41
42 MR. McLAIN: Why don't I read that, and
43 then if there's any questions, either I or Pete will be
44 more than happy to answer those.
45
46 Again, the management of the salmon
47 fisheries in the Yukon River is primarily the
48 responsibility of the State of Alaska. Again, however,
49 the Federal Subsistence Management Program and the
50 U.S./Canada Yukon River Panel also play a role in

1 managing Yukon River salmon. And I'm going to go
2 through a brief description of the roles and
3 responsibilities of each of these three regulatory
4 bodies.

5
6 First, the Federal Subsistence
7 Management Program is responsible for ensuring
8 continued customary and traditional subsistence uses of
9 fish and wildlife under Title VIII of the Alaska
10 National Interest Lands Act. Since 1999, the Federal
11 government has enacted subsistence fisheries
12 regulations with the intent of providing a subsistence
13 priority to Federally-qualified rural subsistence users
14 in waters within and adjacent to Federal conservation
15 units in Alaska under ANILCA. The Federal priority for
16 subsistence fisheries applies to those portions of the
17 Yukon River drainage which are within and adjacent to
18 Federal public lands. And this equates to
19 approximately half of the Yukon River drainage. The
20 Federal Subsistence Board, representing the Secretaries
21 of Interior and Agriculture, adopts regulations through
22 a public process involving recommendations from
23 Regional Advisory Councils.

24
25 The State of Alaska, Department of Fish
26 and Game manages fish and wildlife on all lands and
27 waters up to three miles offshore. The Alaska Board of
28 Fisheries adopts fishing regulations for subsistence,
29 personal use, commercial, and recreational fisheries
30 through a public process involving the local fish and
31 game advisory committees. Under State law, subsistence
32 has the highest priority use over other uses and all
33 state residents qualify for subsistence. State
34 regulations apply to all lands and waters unless
35 Federal rules supersede on Federal public lands.

36
37 There's a dual subsistence management
38 system where currently the subsistence fisheries are
39 under a dual subsistence regulatory system for waters
40 in the Federal government has jurisdiction. The public
41 can submit proposals to change regulations and submit
42 comments on proposals within both the State and Federal
43 subsistence regulatory systems. State and Federal
44 agencies provide data, evaluate proposals and may
45 comment within both regulatory systems. State and
46 Federal subsistence regulations may differ where
47 Federal jurisdiction is asserted. State and Federal
48 agencies attempt to coordinate in-season fisheries
49 management under the Yukon River Subsistence Fisheries
50 Management Protocol.

1 The U.S./Canada Yukon River Salmon Act
2 which is provided for by Congress in the Yukon River
3 Salmon Act of 2000 is responsible for carrying out
4 provisions established in the Yukon River Salmon
5 Agreement which was signed in 2002 as an annex to the
6 Pacific Salmon Treaty. The panel's role is to provide
7 recommendations to U.S. and Canadian management
8 entities concerning conservation and management of
9 Canadian-origin salmon. The U.S./Canada Joint
10 Technical Committee, consisting of Canadian and
11 Federal, State, local and regional organizations
12 provides technical support to the Yukon Panel. The
13 agreement specifies that ADF&G is the responsible
14 management entity for Alaska and the United States for
15 the purposes of any agreement with Canada regarding
16 management of salmon stocks originating from the Yukon
17 River in Canada.

18
19 Any questions.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions from
22 the Council.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have always been
27 unclear on what the Panel's duties were, who they were,
28 what their management authorities were, and the JTC was
29 -- I knew the Alaska Department of Fish and Game was
30 support and some other agencies. But what is the
31 Panel's process in regards to the State Board of
32 Fisheries? They can have meaningful input into the
33 Board of Fisheries at that point once they make
34 decisions?

35
36 MR. McLAIN: The Panel adopts
37 escapement goal for the border. And the treaty binds
38 the State and the Federal to try and achieve that
39 escapement goal. So that's probably the principal role
40 is the setting of the border escapement, and the total
41 escapement into Canada taking into account the total
42 allowable catch. So that's probably the principal role
43 of the Yukon Panel is at the border passage, how many
44 fish are we seeing across the border.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And how binding is
47 that?

48
49 MR. McLAIN: Pete, I'm going to have to
50 ask some of your assistance on that. To my

1 understanding, that is -- the treaty supersedes.

2

3 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. As far as
4 the U.S./Canada treaties, both that deal with the Yukon
5 and then what we do with Southeast -- your question is
6 how binding are they as far as do they trump other
7 actions. The key is that both the U.S., State as well
8 as the Federal side, are key partners in both the
9 governing bodies and do agree with what's currently the
10 escapement goals et cetera. With that said, they are
11 bounded by trying to the best of their abilities strive
12 to meet those goals and objectives. Now, that's about
13 the best you can put it. There's no guarantees on
14 them, but they -- as being part of the panel,
15 signatories to the agreement, they are bound within
16 their management authority to meet those goals and
17 objectives.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's kind
20 of just basically what I wanted to know. So for new
21 members and the Council to all be on the same sheet of
22 music, I wanted to know how these panels interacted
23 with the Board processes and how binding they were.
24 And so in the future it may behoove this Council to
25 work through the OSM to speak directly to the Panel on
26 concerns about meeting these goals. And do those
27 panels review Council deliberations on various issues?

28

29 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Most
30 definitely. And probably the most recent example is
31 the Stikine River in Southeast where the Southeast
32 Regional Advisory Council actually with OSM, the State
33 of Alaska, and, of course, the joint panel down there
34 were successful in establishing Chinook and sockeye
35 subsistence fisheries in U.S. waters as well as
36 establishing a harvest limit, methods and means and
37 seasons, which there were none prior to. And, of
38 course, everybody's aware that traditional fisheries
39 were very long established.

40

41 So, yes, they do listen. They seek
42 that input and they and they do play a key role in
43 helping form future decisions.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
46 And that's probably good enough on that issue.

47

48 And so we have -- where's our agenda
49 here.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. that
2 brings us up to the call for proposals for fisheries
3 for 2009 through 2011.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does the Council
6 have any proposals that they would like to see
7 submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board. Any issues
8 that the Council would like to see addressed.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going into a
13 two-cycle and this is the time to come up with ideas to
14 make proposals to the Federal Subsistence Board.

15
16 Personally I can't think of any myself.
17 Too bad Mickey's not here.

18
19 MR. RIVARD: He's coming.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, he's coming. So
22 currently I can't think of any proposals that the
23 Western Interior may propose for -- we're on the
24 Federal subsistence proposals, Mickey. And so at this
25 time the Council is trying to decide if there are any
26 issues that need to be addressed by a proposal to the
27 Federal Subsistence Board. Are there any issues you'd
28 like to see as a proposal.

29
30 MR. STICKMAN: I don't know. I'd have
31 to think about that for a while.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Well, we
34 do have -- when is the closure for proposals?

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: It looks like it's April
37 -- wait a minute. April 7. No, it's March 27th.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: March 27th.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So there's about --
44 around a month. If any -- oh, go ahead.

45
46 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. One issue
47 I think of that may become more critical is that we
48 need a streamlined process for emergency opening,
49 closures, regulations. It's going to be two years
50 before they come up, and then it has to be in the

1 Congressional record and all that. The whole process
2 is going to be delayed longer. So it might take three
3 years to change something. So is there any way that
4 they can streamline that emergency action or something
5 so you could something in and get something done about
6 it in a timely manner in the interim.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You've got a comment
9 on that, Don.

10
11 MR. RIVARD: Well, the special action
12 process is still going to be available to everybody.
13 So is there's something that needs to be changed fairly
14 quickly, then that could still take place.

15
16 MR. COLLINS: I guess we need to look
17 at that process then to see if we understand it. I
18 don't know.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You have a comment,
21 Vince.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Well, when you passed
24 your agenda, you added on that whole discussion about
25 special actions and other options. So I don't know if
26 you want to bring it up now or wait until that.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Well, we were
29 going to talk about that down here at the local
30 advisory committee.

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Right. And then
33 obviously you can back up if that generating a proposal
34 concern. I mean.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's going to be a
37 whole discussion topic is the reconfiguration of the
38 OSM process. And so I'd prefer to do that all at one
39 time.

40
41 And right now we're looking for
42 proposals. And so I don't see any Council members that
43 have any pressing issues. If you do think of an issue,
44 you an contact Vince and give that issue to Vince and
45 the proposal can be submitted and then this Council
46 will review the proposal and deliberate it. And so
47 that's not a real problem. So in the next month you
48 can just handwrite one up, throw it on a fax machine
49 over to Vince, give him a call, whatever, to get a
50 proposal on the table. But we do have about a month on

1 the window for proposals.

2

3 And so I don't see a proposal at this
4 time.

5

6 Drainage-wide consensus building
7 options update. Vince

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. All of you should
10 have received a copy that was jointly signed, a letter
11 by Sue Entsminger, Chair of Eastern Interior, and your
12 Chair, requesting that the Yukon-Kuskokwim look into
13 the concept of having the Coordinating Fishery
14 Committee which Mickey mentioned earlier on the Yukon
15 along with the Chair explore options of better
16 communication and possibly cooperation on fishery
17 issues along the Yukon.

18

19 It was apparent at the Board meeting as
20 well as at the Council meetings that the rhetoric was
21 in anger and name calling was reaching a level where I
22 think the Councils want to see other ways to mainly get
23 back to the issue and try to work things out.

24

25 I have on my to-do list to contact the
26 Chair for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta to remind him of
27 that letter, and I believe Larry Buklis, the deputy
28 assistant regional director, will be addressing that
29 topic with the Yukon-Kuskokwim.

30

31 But it's basically to look at ways of
32 better communicating and cooperation. And obviously
33 we're going to look towards consensus, but first we've
34 got to start off with those other two.

35

36 So that's the full update.

37

38 Now, if any of you are in contact with
39 the Chair of Yukon Delta Regional Counsel Lester Wilde
40 or any other Council member from the Yukon-Kuskokwim,
41 explain to them the importance of looking at ways of
42 communicating.

43

44 You guys made a point of it, that
45 you're weary of being in the middle between two
46 Councils. And so being in the middle also places the
47 role of trying to find ways to make everybody the same
48 at the issue and maybe find common ground.

49

50 So anyways that's the full thing, and

1 I'll report back through Jack what we find out from the
2 Delta Council meeting.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One sort of idea
5 that I've had is that after all the Councils have met
6 or coming upon the meetings, that we have a pre-Council
7 round of teleconference between the Chair, Vice Chair
8 and the coordinating committee members of each Council
9 on teleconference to kind of go over various proposals
10 that affect each region, kind of discusses the issues a
11 little bit, to try and come and show what points
12 everybody -- where everybody is coming from, because
13 one Council's doing one thing, another one is doing
14 something else, and so if everybody's on kind of the
15 same sheet of music and kind of knows what the tempo is
16 of the other Council, then they can go back and have
17 your meeting and go from there. But I think it would
18 be a lot more -- it's been we've been kind of in the
19 dark on what these other Councils are going to do and
20 so I think it would be better right before the meeting
21 to -- before anybody has a meeting. It's kind of like
22 being behind the eight ball when somebody's met and
23 made decisions, then trying to their decisions. I
24 would like to have -- and that's kind of relatively do,
25 just have a teleconference, real short and sweet, maybe
26 about a half an hour or an hour, go over the various
27 proposals that affect all of the regions. And that
28 would be one way of addressing this issue.

29

30 What do you think about that, Mickey.

31

32 MR. STICKMAN: I think it might
33 possibly work, but even at the Yukon River Fishermen's
34 Association there, because it's a consensus based, our
35 decisions are consensus based, if there's anything
36 that's going to cause an argument, I mean -- of course,
37 everybody has their own arguments, but I mean as far as
38 the bycatch issue, I think it's something that we can
39 all agree on the river.

40

41 But like some of the things that we try
42 to get addressed, like on fish size and net
43 restrictions, we'll never ever get consensus on those,
44 but, you know, that's one of the things. And even
45 though we've got a guy from the Canadian side to side
46 at the table, because the Board is split evenly between
47 upriver and downriver, and we have this extra guy from
48 Canada on there, which would be, well, basically really
49 upriver, but they made sure that he was a non-voting
50 member, so he couldn't disrupt the balance of the

1 Board. And because of the consensus -- I mean, I
2 always told Jill, you know, it's time for a new
3 administration or maybe it's time for a whole new board
4 of directors, because as long as it remains consensus
5 only, we're never going to make change.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Under the
8 YR DFA process, they do consensus, but the Federal
9 Subsistence Board process is the Councils are making
10 decisions. There's Federal proposals, and some of
11 those proposals affect throughout each three regions.
12 To go over the Federal proposals and look at them with
13 the officer and coordinating committee members, I think
14 it would better for every Council to go into the
15 deliberation with knowing where the other Councils kind
16 of stand on those proposals. Until we get their
17 results from their meeting, you know, what they're --
18 how they're thinking. And so I think the
19 teleconference methodology might be relatively cheap
20 and get more bang for our buck, far more than the tri-
21 Council meeting that we had in Wasilla. If they don't
22 agree with us, oh, well, we just hang up and go on, you
23 know.

24
25 So go ahead, Vince.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Well, if this goes
28 forward in a group, another option that I would put
29 forth to them is since it's a two-year cycle, maybe
30 it's possible for the Councils to have an agreement to
31 develop proposals earlier than the call and actually
32 float them up and downriver and then explore either
33 through teleconferences or other ways of communicating
34 on it.

35
36 Part of the difficulty with the recent
37 multiple rounds of proposals is that as the differences
38 came apparent, there really wasn't a way to amend, and
39 then so the next year you got a little bit of an
40 incremental move and that. I'm not saying Y-K or the
41 lower would have ever supported the central part of the
42 proposal, but they were more -- a lot of their anger
43 was on the fact that it was a burden, and then there
44 was modification to the burden and et cetera, et
45 cetera.

46
47 So that might be another option. I'm
48 kind of looking forward to this two-year cycle in light
49 of that, because that gives us a little bit more time,
50 if the Councils agree to that. This would be out of

1 the proposal official tracking process, but it would
2 give them time to dialogue instead of going into,
3 quote/unquote, confrontational mode to convince the
4 Board. But that's an option that's out there.

5
6 But this group would explore others.
7 There's other options out there that different groups
8 have come to me about, and I hope this process can get
9 those out there and we can explore them and either put
10 them to rest or go forward.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I think we've
13 probably discussed that. Any other comments on that.
14 Mickey.

15
16 MR. STICKMAN: No. My last comment
17 would be, you know, we need to something, because when
18 it comes to the Fish Board, they're more likely to
19 listen to the YRDFA representatives there than a
20 representative from our Council, because they for the
21 last 10 years, ever since they came into existence,
22 that's been the voice of the Yukon River is YRDFA.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's true. I've
25 been at the Fish Board, and the Fish Board listens to
26 the YRDFA, but then they also listen to the high
27 inundation rate of the lower river entities that show
28 up there. All the -- every last village sends a
29 representative to the Fish Board meeting, and that
30 really slants the weight of the deliberation towards
31 the lower river, and so I feel that the Council method,
32 process has more of an equal representation throughout
33 the whole region. Each region has a voice, whereas the
34 YRDFA is just slanted all towards the lower river.
35 Just show up at the Federal Subsistence Board on a
36 proposal and there's 35 people to one or two from the
37 upper river. It's all slanted one way. And so they
38 feel that YRDFA represents the whole river.

39
40 I know there's a lot of people in the
41 upper Yukon that can't afford to go to a meeting and
42 just are not represented. And so I feel that the
43 Regional Councils, even though it's somewhat of a
44 contentious process, it has more of an equal voice. It
45 gives equal representation. Sort of like the Senate.

46
47 And so any particular -- go ahead,
48 Fred.

49
50 MR. BUE: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. Fred

1 Bue.

2

3 Just voicing the State's opinion at
4 this point, just for the record, we do favor some sort
5 of bringing together the RACs. I think it's -- the
6 State is pretty much entrenched in their advisory
7 committees stretched throughout the drainage. This
8 past year we tried to figure out some way that maybe we
9 could combine some of those communities. There are
10 some communities that have their own individual ACs and
11 it is a challenge. And that was an existing separation
12 of all these different opinions and stuff, which is
13 good.

14

15 But then on top of that then we have
16 the RACs and they're separated, and they don't meet.
17 As much as the tri-RAC in Wasilla was frustrating for a
18 lot of people, part of it was good, because it made --
19 for us as a department and for the Staff, we gave one
20 report. We gave everybody the same story. We weren't
21 going around -- even though we have everything written
22 down, I give it one time, and somebody else gives it
23 another time, and you all hear different messages and
24 you get different answers and stuff.

25

26 So even if there's some way to get some
27 of that information out all together, you can ask each
28 other questions from one end of the river to the other,
29 and you'll maybe learn a little bit about each other
30 and realize it's not just them, it's a person you're
31 talking about.

32

33 And so anyways from the State I would
34 encourage you to do what you can to bring people
35 together. And I think the RAC system has an
36 opportunity to do that, to work out a solution.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Fred. And
39 so I did want to say that in no way do I want this type
40 of deliberation on fisheries proposals to be on
41 teleconference. I do think that the RACs meeting all
42 together and face-to-face and deliberating the
43 proposals within their own Regional Council is -- that
44 in no way am I advocating going to a tri-Council
45 teleconferencing. That's not the direction I'm going.
46 It was strictly -- this is just informational exchange
47 between the RACs pre-meetings..

48

49 And so that's probably enough
50 discussion on that. Anybody have comment otherwise.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we're down to
4 nine, Office of Subsistence Management. Status report
5 on Rural/non-rural requests for reconsideration.

6

7 MR. PROBASCO: Pete Probasco. Mr.
8 Chair. Item 9.A. is just an informational item. We
9 received 19 requests for reconsideration this year.
10 The Office of Subsistence Management is about a little
11 bit better than half-way working through those RFRs.
12 The ones dealing with rural determination are -- we
13 have completed the threshold analysis with the
14 exception of two. Those will go forward to the Board
15 for action.

16

17 As you know, with the RFRs, it's a two-
18 step process. We first evaluate the proposal to see if
19 they meet threshold. If they do meet threshold, then
20 they become like a regular proposal. A detailed
21 analysis is conducted and is submitted to the Board for
22 action.

23

24 The ones on rural deal with the Kenai
25 Peninsula primarily, and we're working -- the goal is
26 to have these completed by the spring board meeting.
27 That is our goal, and we hope to get that accomplished.

28

29

30 We have never had this many RFRs in the
31 history of our program. And the majority of them were
32 filed by the State of Alaska. So we're working on
33 those, and we will do our best to get them completed.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thank
36 you. Council have questions about the RFR, request for
37 reconsideration process.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Basically when I
42 attend the Federal Subsistence Board meeting, as Ron
43 has seen, the State is there in force, and there's
44 quite some input into the Federal Board process. And
45 so at this time the State is refuting, requesting for
46 reconsideration proposals that have been adopted by the
47 Federal Subsistence Board, and they want to see them
48 overthrown or changed. And so it's an appeal process.

49

50 Any comments on that.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pete. And
4 so we're on Item B, customary and traditional use
5 policy briefing.

6

7 MR. PROBASCO: Yes, Mr. Chair. 9.B. is
8 again an update for the Council.

9

10 As I think everybody here is aware of,
11 a little over two years ago our office was instructed
12 by the Secretaries, both Interior and Agriculture to
13 work and develop two draft policies. One dealing with
14 closure and the other one is customary and traditional
15 use determinations. The closure policy has been
16 completed and all that remains is the customary and
17 traditional use policy.

18

19 This policy, a final draft was
20 submitted to all the Councils, to the public, other
21 agencies for comment. That comment period closed. We
22 received 13 written comments. We also have on the
23 record all the Councils weighing in with their
24 recommendations. All those comments were taken into
25 consideration, and a final draft was developed which is
26 going to be before the Board in an executive session on
27 March 12th.

28

29 And what's going to happen on March
30 12th is the Board will determine at that point what
31 will go forward as far as a policy.

32

33 What they're wrestling with is that we
34 have a policy and a process that we currently have had
35 in place since the start of the program. The draft
36 that was submitted to the Councils captures that. Now,
37 there were a great deal, both verbal and written
38 comments that wanted a more detailed process in
39 customary and traditional use determinations. In other
40 words, they were looking a step-wise process where you
41 would have uses defined, what determined a customary
42 use, what didn't, et cetera. If the Board elects to go
43 down that path, then we have to go through a process
44 called rulemaking which is a much longer, drawn out
45 process, and there are entities, both public as well as
46 agencies on both sides of the issue that view that all
47 we should do is capture the current process, which the
48 draft that we presented to you did capture. And then
49 on the other side there are entities that want us to do
50 a more detailed customary and traditional use policy

1 which would require rulemaking.

2

3 And again the Board will be looking at
4 this on March 12th, and that will determine our future
5 direction on that. And this is an internal policy.
6 And when I say internal, I mean, it's a policy that the
7 Board uses to help in their decision-making when
8 customary and traditional use proposals are presented
9 to them.

10

11 And the policy that we shared with you
12 as a draft, and again I'm repeating myself, but it
13 captured how we've done business in the past. What it
14 does when we put it in writing, everybody's aware of
15 that process, which hasn't been done to this date, and
16 that's the goal.

17

18 Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Comments on that
21 customary and traditional determination policy.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can the Council make
26 any additional comments at this time or are the
27 discussions closed?

28

29 MR. PROBASCO: You know, the comment
30 period has closed for the customary and traditional
31 process. However, that doesn't preclude you from
32 making your concerns stated again. But again the
33 process that that draft is going to be before the Board
34 on the 12th and we'll see what the outcome is at that
35 point.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm not sure that it
38 was clear to the Council that there was going to be --
39 the policy was defining customary and traditional use
40 determinations. The rulemaking process. That was not
41 clear. I would prefer to see the status quo of
42 utilizing the methodologies that have been taking place
43 and the Board not going towards a rulemaking and
44 getting all bottled up in dots and tiddles and crossing
45 I's and T's. So I prefer to see the process that has
46 occurred to this point has been working very well. It
47 stood up in court on certain units and I feel that
48 diverging away into a different methodology is -- the
49 Federal Board should not be going in that direction.

50

1 Go ahead, Pete.

2

3 MR. PROBASCO: Yeah. Mr. Chair. You
4 know, just to give you perspective, you know, as I
5 said, the draft policy lays out the existing Board
6 process. And, you know, there's eight factors that the
7 Board looks at in a holistic way. I mean, they don't
8 sit there and say all eight have to apply, but they
9 look at them to help define customary and traditional
10 use.

11

12 Some of the comments received wanted,
13 like you're articulating, a much more rigid process
14 where you would look at the eight factors. And you may
15 have thresholds contained within those eight factors
16 which would have to be met before C&T could be granted.

17

18

19 Just to give you an idea, comments on
20 the draft policy span a broad range of perspectives
21 ranging from supporting the status quo to making minor
22 modifications to requests in position of rulemaking, to
23 accommodate clear administrative procedures, to
24 suggestions that the Board promulgate formal rulemaking
25 to actually eliminate the need an requirements of
26 customary and traditional use. So you had a very broad
27 opinion on where we should go. The Board landed, let's
28 just capture how we've been doing business, and keep it
29 at that.

30

31 So that's where we're at right now.
32 Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But they may
35 consider rulemaking at this March 12th meeting?

36

37 MR. PROBASCO: That is a possibility.
38 I think what we have to look is at how the Board has
39 dealt with this at this point, and the point has
40 maintained let's just capture our way we've been doing
41 business. And in fact the last instructions from the
42 Secretary's office was to proceed in that manner.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
45 And any further questions on the customary and
46 traditional use policy.

47

48 MR. HONEA: I do have a question.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead there, Don.

1 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Pete -- thank you,
2 Mr. Chair.

3
4 Pete, I was just wondering the scenario
5 of how this actually works? I mean, okay, say it comes
6 before the Subsistence Board and they are the ones who
7 make the C&T determination on the proposals that --
8 whatever is -- whatever comes up there, and is that
9 just kind of set in stone until some other proposal
10 changes that or how does that work? I mean, I was just
11 wondering about that.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you. Through the
16 Chair. That's a good question. Let me back up a
17 little bit. Customary and traditional use
18 determinations are sometimes used by the Board to help
19 narrow those communities that would be utilizing the
20 resources. And in other cases the Board has not done
21 customary and traditional determinations, and that
22 means that any rural resident would qualify to harvest
23 that. Any person, Council, can submit a proposal to
24 either reevaluate or narrow or broaden an existing
25 customary and traditional use determination.

26
27 One that I'm familiar with that we've
28 been wrestling with, it's a proposal before the Board
29 right now, deals with the moose populations in the
30 Goodnews River drainage. Right now the customary and
31 traditional -- the communities that qualify for
32 customary and traditional use, there's 40 of them all
33 around the lower Kuskokwim and on through the Goodnews
34 River drainage. That is what would constitute those
35 communities that if the Board establishes a hunt could
36 hunt in that area.

37
38 If the Board determines that the
39 harvestable surplus available cannot meet all those
40 community needs, then we get into a situation called
41 804 where the Board looks and allocates amongst
42 subsistence users. In other words, those communities
43 closest to the resource who rely more heavily on it
44 than the further away communities.

45
46 So that's the process.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other
49 comments.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pete.

4

5 And so I think we're down to our annual
6 report. Vince.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. In your blue book
9 -- I mean, your blue notebook. I have a blue book,
10 too. But you have a copy like this, and across it in
11 grey is called Council draft. It's your annual report
12 for 2007, because you started it in 2007.

13

14 And to get all you guys up to speed on
15 this, the annual reports are an option within ANILCA
16 and that's what I was trying to search for here, to get
17 that, but basically it's to look at present uses,
18 future needs, and it's also to look at different
19 management and strategies. Historically what you have
20 done is you've look at strategies and concerns. So now
21 that I found it, it's basically identified current and
22 anticipated subsistence uses, evaluation of current and
23 anticipated subsistence needs. The third thing is
24 recommended strategy for management. And then fourth
25 is recommendations concerning policies, standards,
26 guidelines, regulations to implement the strategy.

27

28 To get Jimmy up to speed, the annual
29 report process starts in fall when the Council looks --
30 well, reviews the response to their earlier annual
31 report, and then they look at new topics or look at the
32 topics that maybe they want to further explore with the
33 Board that they did earlier. Those are given to
34 myself, and then I write a draft which is what's in
35 front of you. And that's approved, reviewed internally
36 by the team for your region and then approved as a
37 draft by the Chair. And so in fall you come up with
38 this topic, that topic, et cetera. There's also kind
39 of a call for topics up until pretty much January, and
40 then after that there's just not time to deal with any
41 additional topics.

42

43 The reason I bring that up is you had
44 one topic come out the all meeting, and that's listed
45 down there as number 1, which is maintaining viable
46 ungulate populations, and you prescribe a management
47 strategy. And I'm not going to explain it, because I
48 think Jack wants to do that.

49

50 But subsequent to your meeting,

1 circling around these moose hunts was the factor that
2 these moose hunts, let me get you up to speed, the one
3 that you talked about that's going to start tomorrow in
4 the Kanuti, the March 1 through 5 season, the winter
5 hunt. The other hunts that are on the Koyukuk, the
6 Nowitna and et cetera. These hunts require a fair
7 amount of effort by the Refuges, and if they're on
8 parks, to implement them. And so topic number 2 came
9 from your chair about looking at implementing these
10 hunts and conservation unit budgets.

11
12 Now, for your new members, when I use
13 the word conservation units, that's a global
14 description of parks, Refuges and then if you have BLM
15 lands, so I'm not trying to say, well, how come he
16 doesn't say Refuges or Parks. Well, that gives you
17 more of a global approach.

18
19 So this is in front of you for
20 approval, and then it goes through the process to
21 review it. The Board addresses it and then you'll get
22 a response.

23
24 For Jimmy, the annual report process in
25 my opinion, and I'm sure other Council members can
26 speak on this, has been a productive avenue for you to
27 address issues in your region. And so your region
28 since '93 has submitted an annual report every year.
29 Now, that doesn't mean you have to do that every year
30 from here on out. But it does mean that you've had
31 topics that the Board has been made aware of, and some
32 of those topics you have resulted in resolving some of
33 those issues.

34
35 So with that, I'll stop. You have it
36 in front of you. And that's the options, and I
37 encourage the Chair to explain these two topics,
38 because he was the main motivator behind both of them.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: These annual reports
41 when you're at the Federal Subsistence Board, they look
42 at the record of what the Councils have been talking
43 about, and so these annual reports actually enter into
44 the Board's deliberation process, and I think they're
45 very instrumental in notifying the Federal Subsistence
46 Board about what the various Council's concerns are.

47
48 And so this -- I wanted to see this
49 maintaining viable ungulate populations, and I would
50 like to see the Federal Staff crosschecking these,

1 watching these bull/cow ratios. The Mulchatna Caribou
2 Herd was exemplary of how to wreck a caribou herd.
3 Shoot all the big bulls out of the population. Small
4 calves are born. Predators eat them up and the
5 population falls. Recruitment goes in the toilet and
6 the population crashes on its nose. It's a template of
7 how to destroy a caribou herd.

8
9 The moose populations in Alaska that
10 have been harvested with bull/cow ratios below the
11 management objectives are all the populations that are
12 now in intensive management. You can just -- it's just
13 a chronic issue in Alaska, over-harvesting beyond the
14 management objectives of 30 bulls to 40 bulls per 100
15 cows on caribou, and 25 to 35 bulls basically on moose
16 populations go in the toilet. I want to see the
17 Federal Staff, biologists watching these populations
18 and when these populations begin to go below these
19 management objections, red lights better start lighting
20 up on this Council's panel to curtail these, because
21 we're looking down the barrel at a crashing population.
22 It's going to -- it becomes a chronic issue of
23 regression at that point. And so I would like those to
24 be oversaw by our Federal biologist. And that would be
25 topic number 1.

26
27 The implementation of the subsistence
28 hunt. When I've been going over these winter hunts
29 with these various Refuges, and one of the major
30 considerations of these winter hunts is the cost to the
31 Refuge. And so I'm becoming concerned that the Refuges
32 are concerned about opening up the hunt, because it's
33 going to cost them more money than they feel that they
34 have to budget towards other projects, like surveys and
35 so forth and so on.

36
37 I also don't want to see the Federal
38 Board deliberating on the cost of implementing a
39 subsistence hunt. I feel that that's counterproductive
40 to the mandates of implementing the Section VIII of
41 ANILCA. And so this cost issue as the budgets continue
42 to decline seems to be coming more and more to the
43 forefront on deciding whether we're going to have
44 subsistence hunts. And so that's where topic 2 comes
45 from.

46
47 The topic 3 is chronic Chinook salmon
48 size decline. When we had the Koyukuk River Advisory
49 Committee meeting, we had several Koyukuk Advisory
50 Committee members commenting on the small number of

1 Chinook salmon and the very small size of the kings
2 that they caught this last year, so this chronic issue
3 of the size decline, this continues to be an issue.
4 And so I would like to see that reflected in our annual
5 report.

6
7 Is there other Council members here
8 that would like to have topics inserted into the annual
9 report. Mickey.

10
11 MR. STICKMAN: The bycatch issue.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

14
15 MR. STICKMAN: You know, you want to
16 make sure that it doesn't go away.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

19
20 MR. RIVARD: Well, I don't mean to be
21 the kibosh on anything, Mickey, but I think it's on the
22 forefront. The Federal Subsistence Board I think is
23 already doing what it should be doing as far as that
24 goes. They're well aware of it. That's one of the
25 reasons you want to use the annual report, is maybe an
26 issue that they're not aware of. But they are fully
27 aware of that one, so I don't think it would
28 necessarily add anything to it to put it in your annual
29 report.

30
31 And I don't -- I just want to, this is
32 my opinion, but we try to limit new topics coming in at
33 this late date. As Vince kind of mentioned, this is
34 for your 2007, and we're now already into 2008. So if
35 there was real burning issue, you could address it also
36 through a letter directly to the Board instead of
37 putting it now into it. This is at a stage now where
38 it's drafted up for your concurrence, and then answer
39 would come at a later date for that. We try to limit
40 it to just 2007. And, of course, life goes on and new
41 issues pop up and all that, and you can -- you still
42 have the option to address it, if it's a really burning
43 issue, you can get a letter fired off to the Board
44 right way. So just some observations.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thanks
47 for the direction on that, Don.

48
49 So basically these three issues were
50 the ones that were identified. And there was no -- I

1 feel that these issues are important to this region,
2 and some of these issues are becoming more and more
3 chronic all the time as game populations fall off and
4 budget fall off, and so there's going to be -- we have
5 to highlight this to the Board, some of these issues to
6 the Board right now.

7
8 On these three topic, does any Council
9 members have any fine tuning of the three topics.
10 Mickey.

11
12 MR. STICKMAN: No fine tuning, but
13 after listening Don talk about burning issues, maybe we
14 should -- the burning issues that I have are the
15 bycatch, but not only the bycatch, but the controlled
16 use area. I mean, this is the second time around for
17 the Game Board where proposals have been put out there
18 for them to do away with controlled use areas. And
19 it's not going to go away. So maybe we should.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you would like to
22 make a motion, if the Game Board eliminates the Koyukuk
23 Controlled Use Area, that this Council will empower the
24 Chair to transmit a letter to the Federal Subsistence
25 Board to the effect that that is unsatisfactory and
26 that the Federal system may entertain a proposal,
27 immediate action to retain the controlled use area.
28 The Chair will entertain a motion for that transmittal.

29
30 MR. STICKMAN: I'll make that motion.

31
32 MR. SAM: Second.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion by Mickey and
35 seconded by Ron. A stopgap will measure if the State
36 Board eliminates the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area, that
37 this Council will transmit a letter to the Federal
38 Subsistence Board to the effect to maintain the Koyukuk
39 Controlled Use Area under Federal regulation.

40
41 Go ahead.

42
43 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 I think that this motion should be other than just the
45 Koyukuk Controlled Use Area to all the controlled use
46 areas in Region 6 or wherever we have jurisdiction.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a great idea,
49 Robert. Do you want to amend your motion there,
50 Mickey?

1 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah. I amend my
2 motion, because I think isn't it in Ray's area where
3 they have a -- they were going to potentially reduce a
4 controlled use area, too? So Robert's amendment to
5 make it all controlled use areas within Region 6 would
6 be an appropriate amendment. So I'll.....

7
8 MR. COLLINS: Where Federal land is.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that's the
11 issue. The Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area is
12 primarily on State controlled lands, and is out of the
13 Federal jurisdiction. The Koyukuk Controlled Use Area
14 and the Kanuti and Nowitna Refuges, which don't have
15 proposals, those would -- the only one that's on
16 Federal lands would be -- that has a proposal before
17 the Board of Game is this Koyukuk Controlled use area.
18 But it would be -- so we should be able to address
19 those at a future date. But there's no proposal for
20 the Innoko or this Upper Kuskokwim on, the Federal
21 government can't do much about that one.

22
23 MR. STICKMAN: It doesn't -- excuse me,
24 Mr. Chair. It doesn't matter, because at least as long
25 as we have it on record and we have the letter out
26 there, the Federal Subsistence Board and the Board of
27 Game and whoever receives this letter will fully
28 realize how important these controlled use areas are to
29 the region.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a good point.
32 A good point.

33
34 Robert.

35
36 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I think
37 that is more appropriate. That way it will be a
38 directive, too, from us, the Western Interior.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Okay. So
41 including all controlled use areas within the Western
42 Interior region. A letter of response to the governing
43 agencies, primarily the Federal Subsistence Board. A
44 letter will be transmitted to the Federal Subsistence
45 Board for special action request to maintain on Federal
46 lands the controlled use areas.

47
48 Can that occur, Pete?

49
50 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. As I was

1 listening to you, I just wondered, you know, I think
2 you were going to be involved in the Board of Game
3 meeting. I also wanted to let you know that you do as
4 a Council have the opportunity to testify. The State
5 has provided that opportunity both at the Board of Fish
6 and the Board of Game as a Council. So any action you
7 take here, if you're going to the meeting and so
8 directed by your Council, you could speak to any
9 proposal on behalf of the Council to the Board. So you
10 could testify as an individual, and then when the
11 advisory committees are brought up, you could testify
12 as a Council. And all you would need to know is let
13 Chuck know at the meeting that you'd want to do that.
14 He'd make it happen.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That was my intent,
17 to attend the Board of Game meeting. And so we've
18 taken a position on Proposal 94, Board of Game proposal
19 to eliminate the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area, and --
20 but we don't know how this Board will deliberate.
21 There was concern, because the last time it was
22 deliberated it split. The controlled use area may go
23 away, and so this Council is very concerned about that
24 occurring.

25
26 MR. PROBASCO: Unsure what the Board of
27 Game will do, and listening to your concerns on the
28 controlled use area, your letter is appropriate. Also
29 the avenue that's open for you if it's time sensitive
30 is the special action process which we'll be talking
31 about later, and that request can also come from a
32 Council, from an individual, et cetera.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So this
35 empowers the Chair to work out of -- with the Council's
36 consent while in session, to transmit a letter if need
37 be, as a stopgap measure.

38
39 Any further discussion on the letter,
40 possible letter to be transmitted.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MR. HONEA: Question.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's
47 called on the motion. Those in favor of the letter
48 regarding controlled use areas signify by saying aye.

49
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that authority is
6 granted by the Council.
7
8 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.
11
12 MR. R. WALKER: How soon are you going
13 to get this drafted up? Are you going to do it today
14 here? Tonight?
15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, we're not.
17
18 MR. R. WALKER: Or present it to the
19 Board of Game here tomorrow if they.....
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The letter is if the
22 Board of Game. We don't want to -- we're going to take
23 a position on the proposal. But it's a stopgap measure
24 if the Board of Game does pass the proposal and
25 eliminates the controlled use area, then this letter
26 and transmittal to the Federal Subsistence Board will
27 begin the ball rolling. And so that's why that letter
28 of authority was needed, because I've got to have some
29 kind of authority like that. I don't feel like going
30 out on a limb by myself. I'll drag you guys out there
31 with me.
32
33 MR. R. WALKER: We'll go.
34
35 (Laughter)
36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're moving on
38 in our agenda here.
39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we just
41 need to get either by consensus or by motion that you
42 support the annual report.
43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Good point
45 there, Vince. I'm getting out in front of myself.
46
47 So we've got the annual report that we
48 need to adopt. There's been no other fine tuning
49 language. Do you have another fine tuning point there,
50 Mickey?

1 MR. STICKMAN: No. I just wanted to
2 make a motion to adopt the annual report.
3
4 MS. PELKOLA: Second.
5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded
7 to adopt the annual report as written.
8
9 Any further discussion.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 MR. R. WALKER: Question.
14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's being
16 called. Those in favor of the annual report as written
17 signify by saying aye.
18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.
22
23 (No opposing votes)
24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's moved
26 through. Now we've got all the organizational reports.
27 And so these are -- Native corporations are A on the
28 list. Do we have TCC or any Native organization that
29 may want to make any other report to the Council.
30
31 (No comments)
32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't see any.
34
35 MR. STICKMAN: TCC.
36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: TCC is -- Mike's
38 gone. Mike's at the meeting. And so we've got B
39 is.....
40
41 MR. J. WALKER: We've got Brandy here.
42
43 MS. BERKBIGLER: I gave my report.
44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: She gave her report.
46 She's always here.
47
48 So B is the Alaska Department of Fish
49 and Game. Does ADF&G have further comment. Terry.
50 Always enjoy Terry's comments. He's got good ones.

1 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman. Thank you.
2 Terry Haynes, Department of Fish and Game.

3
4 We don't have any Staff reports to
5 present, but if Council members have questions or
6 information needs that I could convey back to other
7 Staff, I would be happy to do that.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does any Council
10 member have comments to the State to be conveyed.
11 Concerns.

12
13 MR. COLLINS: Terry, I have a question.
14 What's happening in regard to subsistence on your
15 level? Are you Staff now and still doing -- you used
16 to do research and a lot of things. What's happening
17 in that departmentwise? On monitoring or looking at
18 subsistence issues from the State level?

19
20 MR. HAYNES: Me personally? Or the
21 division?

22
23 MR. COLLINS: No, the Department. I
24 mean, what's happening? Are your budgets being cut or
25 what's going on here?

26
27 MR. HAYNES: Through the Chair. I'm
28 not sure what is happening with the budget
29 recommendations for next fiscal year as far as the
30 State budget. As Federal funding gets tighter, you're
31 aware of the budget cuts that Office of Subsistence
32 Management is taking. That program has provided some
33 funding to the Department for subsistence research
34 through their 809 funding and through the fisheries
35 monitoring funds. And other sources of funding outside
36 the Department continues to get tighter and tighter.
37 So the Division of Subsistence as a result of that has
38 become increasingly focused on research and issues that
39 are addressed through the State Boards, because they're
40 increasingly relying on State general fund monies. And
41 so they're not as able to devote as much of their time
42 and effort to looking at issues of concern in the
43 Federal process as they might like to do. But by and
44 large, their research, when it's community-based, tends
45 to provide information that's useful for both the State
46 and Federal regulatory processes.

47
48 So they're doing the best they can.
49 And it's always been a challenge. I've worked for
50 Subsistence Division for 20 years and every year was a

1 challenge. But I work with them closely, because I
2 continue to track a lot of the Federal land use
3 planning efforts, because Subsistence Staff don't have
4 time and resources to do that. So I'm consulting with
5 Subsistence Staff regularly, and they're very
6 concerned about issues of concern to the Regional
7 Councils and to the Federal process generally, so they
8 do the best they can to ensure that their information
9 can benefit the Federal system as well as the State
10 system.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments
13 for the State. And so you can convey back to the
14 Commissioner of Fish and Game from this Council? Do I
15 understand you correctly?

16
17 MR. HAYNES: If you have information
18 you would like conveyed to the Commissioner, I'd be
19 happy to.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to
22 convey from this Council that it's my opinion that the
23 wildlife conservation, relying on license sales and
24 excise taxes is a deep concern to the resources of
25 Alaska can no longer support the budget requirements
26 for wildlife conservation. And I would encourage the
27 Commissioner of Fish and Game to seek funding from the
28 Legislation for their funding source. And so at this
29 point I don't feel the resources within our region can
30 continue to support the budget requirements for
31 wildlife conservation. And I understand that's why the
32 Subsistence Division would be budgetarily cut. I just
33 feel that at this point in time that the Commissioner
34 should be advocating to the Governor to seek a funding
35 exterior to excise taxes and license sales.

36
37 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chair. If I could
38 respond to that, I believe the Governor's budget
39 request for the Department of Fish and Game this year
40 does include general fund monies for Wildlife
41 Conservation Division to help with the costs that are
42 associated with implementing intensive management and
43 predator management programs, because your point's well
44 take, that the resources available to the Wildlife
45 Conservation Division just have not been adequate to
46 address all the management information needs that are
47 coming up.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.
50

1 MR. HAYNES: So I believe there will be
2 some general funds allocated this year that haven't
3 been allocated in the past, and so that's a partial
4 response to the concern you're expressing. But I will
5 convey that.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My concern is that
8 even those funds would be -- are not adequate to
9 provide for the Wildlife Conservation's budgetary needs
10 and that reliance on the resource has become to the
11 point of imbalance. And so I feel that it behooves the
12 Department and its Commissioner should be advocating
13 for a funding source exterior to license sales and
14 excise taxes. And so I feel that this is a chronic
15 issue of pushing to the margin on harvest of
16 sustainability. And at this point in time we need to
17 get on -- the State needs to get on top of this issue
18 and start getting the Legislature to provide their
19 constitutional mandate of sustained yield management
20 funding and not relying on exterior funding sources.
21 And so if anything, I would like to convey that back to
22 the Commissioner, if possible, from this Council.

23
24 Do the Council members agree with my
25 position?

26
27 SEVERAL: Yes.

28
29 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chair. A suggestion.
30 It might be more powerful in its impact if it came from
31 the Council directly in the form of a letter. My
32 influence on the Commissioner is somewhat limited.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 MR. HAYNES: And it would illustrate I
37 think an important point, and that is that the Federal
38 advisory process is concerned about the Fish and Game
39 budget.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

42
43 MR. HAYNES: I think anything we can do
44 to keep the systems working together is very important.
45 And your Council has always been very supportive of the
46 Department efforts, and it's a reminder to the
47 Commissioner and to the Department, to the State
48 Legislature, that the Department plays an integral role
49 in management of wildlife resources regardless of where
50 they occur, and that it's very challenging to do that

1 with limited funding. And so I would encourage you to
2 consider a letter. Like I say, I'll be happy to pass
3 this on to the Commissioner's Office, but it may be
4 useful to come from you as well.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would be
7 probably a more appropriate avenue, but I would like
8 you to convey that.

9
10 But I would entertain a motion to have
11 a letter transmitted through the OSM to the State,
12 Commissioner of Fish and Game, Denby Lloyd, to the
13 effect that at this time the State of Alaska Wildlife
14 Conservation Budget cannot continue to rely on license
15 sales and excise taxes as its primary funding source,
16 and from trickle downs from 809 funds and various other
17 Federal sources, that at this time that the State of
18 Alaska should be -- the Governor's Office, the
19 Executive Branch should be seeking funding from the
20 Legislature to do their -- to maintain the sustained
21 yield management clause of the Alaska constitution, and
22 that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is integral
23 in the process of managing wildlife on State lands and
24 Federal lands and is conducive to the business of this
25 Council. And so I would like that letter to be
26 transmitted at the earliest point it can be typed up
27 and so forth.

28
29 MR. STICKMAN: So move.

30
31 MR. SAM: Second.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've several people
34 jumping on that one.

35
36 MR. COLLINS: If I could comment on
37 that one.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

40
41 MR. COLLINS: I think in the letter we
42 should also commend them for their cooperative efforts,
43 like the moose management plans and so one. They've
44 taken the lead in developing and that's an example of
45 the need from all of the groups to cooperate in those
46 plan developments.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.
49 Incorporating language about the co-management aspects
50 of the Federal and State programs. And so it's

1 conducive to proper co-management to have adequate
2 funding for these management issues in Alaska.

3
4 And any other insertions or comments
5 into that letter to be transmitted.

6
7 MR. SAM: Is that separate issue, a
8 separate letter?

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, that's all on
11 the same issue.

12
13 MR. SAM: Question.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's been
16 called. Those in favor of a letter of transmittal
17 through the OSM office to Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of
18 Fish and Game, signify by saying aye.

19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Terry.

23
24 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we're at
27 Bureau of Land Management on our list. C. We have BLM
28 Staff coming up.

29
30 Good to see Geoff Beyersdorf at the
31 table under a different hat. And Tim Craig. These are
32 long-standing biologists that have worked with this
33 Council for many years, and so they're -- we highly
34 appreciate their input. And so your name, sir?

35
36 MR. POST: Jason Post, fish biologist
37 here at the Fairbanks District Office.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Welcome to
40 the table.

41
42 MR. POST: Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

45
46 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman. Council
47 members. For the record, my name is Tim Craig. I'm a
48 wildlife biologist for the Central Yukon. And again
49 Tim Hammond, my boss, branch chief for the Central
50 Yukon for resources, is in the audience. And Jason

1 Post, fish biologist for the Central Yukon. And Geoff
2 Beyersdorf, the subsistence coordinator for the
3 Anchorage field office.

4
5 For those of you who are new to the
6 Council, BLM administers the yellow-orangish colored
7 lands on your map. And the Central Yukon field office
8 essentially manages the yellow lands in the western
9 Interior that are above the fold if you fold it in
10 half. And then the Anchorage field office administers
11 those lands that are below the fold, just to kind of
12 give you an idea of how the division is made there.

13
14 Again, my report, I want to try to
15 expedite this as much as possible. Much of this is
16 things, issues that you've heard about in the past. I
17 just want to update you, and so we've highlighted in
18 yellow the things that I think will be most interesting
19 to you.

20
21 Most of you know that Chuck Ardizzone
22 was the BLM program, in the State office, program
23 administrator, and he's -- or coordinator. He has
24 moved on to OSM, and so there is a vacancy at the State
25 office, and we hope to fill that position quickly.

26
27 Also the AFO, Anchorage field office,
28 and the Central Yukon field office are in preplanning
29 phases for upcoming resource management plans. The
30 Bering Sea, Western Interior and the utility corridor
31 plan. And those are things that you're going to want
32 to really keep your eye on. They'll determine how we
33 manage lands for probably 10 years.

34
35 In addition, the Eastern Interior plan,
36 now that's lands that are basically in the Eastern
37 Interior Resource Advisory Council jurisdiction, but I
38 did bring a handout on that plan. They're in the midst
39 of writing their plan, if any of you are interested it.
40 Some of the lands they administer are pretty close to
41 Western Interior lands, too. And so Vince, I've given
42 him some handouts. It's something you can sign up to
43 see the EIS if any of you are interested.

44
45 And then Jason's going to tell you
46 about our fish projects that are going on now.

47
48 MR. POST: Mr. Chairman. Council
49 members. Again my name is Jason Post. I'm one of the
50 fish biologists for the Central Yukon area. I will be

1 speaking about a few projects, even though I'm not the
2 actual principal investigator, but I will relay that
3 information on their behalf.

4

5 We'll start with the Hogatza salmon
6 videography project. Now, this is 2006 data, and the
7 reason that I'm giving you the 2006 data is these video
8 projects, it takes quite some time to review the video,
9 and this -- the '06 data's not been presented to you
10 folks. We also did the projects in 2007, and that video
11 is being reviewed right now, and the results can be
12 given at a later date. So that's why it's 2006 data.
13 Just a head's up on that.

14

15 So the Bureau of Land Management
16 operated partial weirs with video recorders on Clear
17 and Caribou Creek, now, those are in the Hogatza River
18 drainage, as you can see from late June to early
19 August. Basically the Clear Creek summer chum
20 escapement was 29,166 fish. The sex ratio is 43
21 percent female. The 2006 summer chum escapement on
22 Clear Creek was about 23 percent below the 11-year
23 average. David Essy was actually a principal
24 investigator on that project.

25

26 Moving on to Caribou Creek, the summer
27 chum escapement was about a little over 25,000 on
28 Caribou Creek, which it turns out is about 36 percent
29 above the 3-year average. Again, 2007 was the -- or I
30 should say, 2007 is the last year BLM will be
31 collecting escapement data on Caribou and Clear Creeks.
32 Like I said, we've got about 11 years worth of data on
33 Clear Creek, and we had -- Caribou Creek was a 3-year
34 project which is now finished.

35

36 If you have any questions on any one, I
37 can try to address those.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

40

41 MR. COLLINS: Yes. How are you
42 capturing the video? Is that going up to satellite at
43 all, or is it just local capture or what?

44

45 MR. POST: It's just local capture,
46 yes.

47

48 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. What I'm wondering
49 is if they might think in the future about making some
50 of that available through the internet or something for

1 people that might want to look at those, if that's even
2 a possibility.

3

4 MR. POST: Yes, I believe that we
5 actually tried -- we thought about that, and I believe
6 it was an issue, a security issue, being as we're
7 Federal government, we couldn't have the live video to
8 where the general public could view it. And I'm not
9 mistaken, I think that was the problem. You can
10 probably well imagine.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I had a question
13 there. That mining operation in that area's of no
14 concern now is what -- the termination of the project
15 is -- that is no longer needed or.....

16

17 MR. POST: I believe it's still of
18 concern, Mr. Chairman. We have been Clear Creek for 11
19 years gathering escapement data. I think we have a
20 pretty good handle on the escapement in that drainage.
21 I think, and now I'm speaking -- once again, this is
22 not my project, but speaking on -- Carl Kretsinger is
23 the principal investigator for the Clear Creek area.
24 And I believe that a fair amount of that land is being
25 conveyed to the State, so I think it's going to be out
26 of our hands here shortly. And that's maybe part of
27 the reason why we're maybe kind of backing out of the
28 area, as well as the fact that I said, we have
29 collected escapement data there for 11 years on Clear
30 Creek. But I that land is being conveyed.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's all
33 interesting.

34

35 MR. CRAIG: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. To
36 answer that question, the next paragraph down,
37 virtually all the Federal lands surrounding that mine
38 have been transferred to the State of Alaska. The only
39 Federal lands left there in the entire area really are
40 the really uppermost parts of those watersheds, and I
41 don't think there's any active mining going on there.
42 And actually those are lands that have been selected by
43 Doyon. So we're kind of out of the picture largely.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see. Okay. Is
46 that all you have on.....

47

48 MR. POST: Just one last thing was BLM
49 will continue to operate the Tozitna River salmon
50 escapement project in 2008.

1 That's all.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any questions
4 on those projects. Ron.
5
6 MR. SAM: Yeah. Are you hiring any
7 locals to do some of your work, or is it all video?
8
9 MR. POST: Well, the video projects are
10 complete now, so we won't be hiring any locals. But we
11 simply won't be out there monitoring escapement any
12 longer.
13
14 MR. SAM: So are you satisfied that the
15 Clear Creek and Caribou Creek salmon will be there
16 forever or will sustain itself or whatever?
17
18 MR. POST: I can't agree with that, no.
19 I can't say that, that they will be there forever. I
20 think there's, you know, definitely some impact. The
21 mining has had some impacts on the salmon run I
22 believe. But there will be a report, a final report
23 coming out for the Clear Creek for all the data that's
24 been gathered on Clear Creek and Bear Creek and Ida
25 Creek, in that drainage at a later date which might
26 better spell out what we found in that drainage area.
27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have a
29 comment, Tim.
30
31 MR. HAMMOND: Sure. Tim Hammond. I'm
32 the resources supervisor for the Central Yukon field
33 office.
34
35 Just some clarification there. Because
36 of the land ownership patterns changing through
37 selections to the State and the Native corporations,
38 we're ending up with virtually no land to manage there.
39 There is still active mining going on on private lands
40 and what will soon be State claims. But basically BLM
41 doesn't have any justification for staying there at
42 this point.
43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. That's
45 understandable.
46
47 Any further comments on the salmon
48 then.
49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So go ahead, Tim.

2

3 MR. CRAIG: Okay. Under mining, the
4 next heading, we've just covered the Hughes Mining
5 District. The other mining district that the Western
6 Interior, within it's boundaries, is the Koyukuk Mining
7 District. That's over on the eastern end of where your
8 interests lie. And we don't really see any new changes
9 in the Central Yukon since the last report last fall.
10 There are eight new mining plans of operation but
11 they're old owner mines.

12

13 And again this summer we plan, and I
14 hope that we get to work on the Chapman Creek Road and
15 the Prospect Creek Mine Road to deter unauthorized
16 motorized use.

17

18 Under realty actions, I mentioned last
19 time, this is actually in the Eastern Interior, but
20 it's off the Dalton Highway down near the river bridge.
21 And there's some private land parcels that are right on
22 the boundary of the Western Interior that people have
23 applied for snow machine access right-of-way across BLM
24 land to access their lands, and we're processing their
25 permits right now.

26

27 Under recreation, we issued no new
28 permits to hunting guides within your boundary in 2007.
29 There was a miscounting. I think there's -- the
30 recreation people tell me there's 26 hunting
31 guides working throughout the Western Interior RAC
32 boundary. And in addition there are eight tour
33 operators, and three of those are new. And those are
34 Dalton Highway tour operators.

35

36 We have just received an application
37 for a bear hunting operation off the Dalton Highway up
38 near the Dietrich River area. And we are in the
39 process of working through the paperwork on that. And
40 it's an bow and arrow operation to actually work -- to
41 hunt within the utility corridor, the Dalton Highway
42 Corridor, sorry.

43

44 The last bullet there is that the State
45 of Alaska and BLM are planning to do a corridor plan
46 for the Dalton Highway. Another plan. And the result
47 of that is that BLM is poised to recommend the Dalton
48 Highway as a National Scenic Byway. and the
49 significance there is that there will be additional
50 funds for infrastructure, waysides, signing, other

1 types of facilities along the Dalton Highway.

2

3 And then also just for our information,
4 the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center is going to hire
5 two new permanent employees in the next little while to
6 fill some vacancies.

7

8 Under vegetation, I mentioned a weed
9 management plan for the Dalton Highway. BLM is still
10 in the process of working through that. And we had an
11 agency scoping meeting on November 13th, and we're
12 trying to gather up funding to implement that plan.

13

14 We've also mentioned in the past that
15 we are working on a policy for subsistence use of
16 timber and other vegetative resources, and that again
17 is still in draft, and it's being reviewed internally.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If I can stop you
20 right there. I was wondering when the local people are
21 going to be able to review that draft, and to assure
22 that provisions that were discussed with the regional
23 office are incorporated into the draft. And Chuck
24 Ardizzone left, so now I'm not sure who's working on
25 that.

26

27 MR. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman. I'm on the
28 group that's working on that. I was hoping to have
29 that ready for this meeting today. I just got an email
30 from our State office this morning, they're still
31 reviewing, so I couldn't honestly give you a date for
32 when it's going to be available for you to look at.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. But sometime
35 -- well, when I talked to George Oviatt on this issue,
36 he said that they would be coming to our community to
37 discuss this plan. Is that still the plan?

38

39 MR. HAMMOND: That is still our plan.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
42 Go ahead, Tim.

43

44 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, we're down to
45 wildlife. I feel more comfortable talking about that.
46 But anyway.....

47

48 MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ron.

1 MR. SAM: Sorry. Tim, you were just
2 questioning the number of guides, the existing permits.
3 26 was in the Western Interior RAC boundary. Does that
4 encompass the whole Region 6?

5
6 MR. CRAIG: I'm sorry, I didn't hear
7 the last part of your question.

8
9 MR. SAM: Those 26 guides that are
10 operating within the Western Interior boundary. Is
11 this throughout the whole region?

12
13 MR. CRAIG: Yes. Mr. Chairman. Member
14 Sam. I just asked our recreation -- the statewide
15 point of contact for recreation how many hunting guides
16 we had within the boundary. And I gave him a copy of
17 the map. Now, that would be just on BLM lands, you
18 know, that we have them under permit. They're called
19 SRP, special recreation permits. And so he just went
20 to a database and pulled up that number 26, so that's
21 where that report -- Roger Delaney, he came and spoke
22 to you once at a past meeting, is who gave me that
23 information.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If I could draw you
26 back to this guide that's going to be -- you're issuing
27 a camp permit in the Dietrich River. Are you -- under
28 this Dalton Highway corridor planning, are you, as was
29 promised by the regional director in '04, Ann Wiseman,
30 that when there were new plans that they would draw
31 guidelines on the BLM lands, and so the regional
32 director said that when they looked at new plans, that
33 they would contemplate these guide areas as they do on
34 Refuge lands, which this Council has discussed this
35 issue on the BLM lands before. And so this particular
36 guiding operation is strictly a camp permit? Go
37 ahead.

38
39 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I haven't
40 even looked at the application yet, but we do not as of
41 yet have any guides area. Again now, that -- remember
42 these -- our lands are managed under these RMPs. So
43 we're still managing the utility corridor under the
44 1991 RMP. The time that we would entertain moving to a
45 guide permit -- you're talking about like exclusive
46 guide use permits, right?

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Guide areas, yeah.

49
50 MR. CRAIG: Yeah. Would be under the

1 next plan. That's when we would have to do that.
2 Either that or amend the existing plan, but if you
3 amend an existing plan, it opens the whole plan up for
4 your review, and at this late date, with only one more
5 year to go, I'm guessing that we wouldn't do that.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I mean, I see
8 here that you've got a state and BLM plan for the
9 Dalton Highway corridor. That's strictly on the scenic
10 byway, or is that not opening up the RMP?

11
12 MR. CRAIG: Okay. It's unfortunate
13 that all these things are called the same thing. This
14 doesn't have anything to do with BLM management at all,
15 even though it's called the corridor plan.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see.

18
19 MR. CRAIG: This is a DOT safety -- you
20 see the SAFETEA-LU, and that's some Federal law that is
21 a way to tap into money once you get a highway
22 designated as a scenic byway. So it doesn't have
23 anything to do with BLM. It has to do more with DOT
24 kind of in partnership -- I could use some direction
25 here if I make a mistake here, but kind of in
26 partnership with BLM, but it doesn't have anything to
27 do with the utility corridor plan or RMPs at all.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When's the
30 projection of your RMP update? Do you have one?

31
32 MR. HAMMOND: Mr. Chair. At this point
33 that's scheduled to begin in fiscal 2009, which would
34 be next October. That is dependent on funding, and the
35 funding at this point is not certain. But that's the
36 plan at this point.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I just wanted to
39 remind the BLM that Henri Bisson, regional director,
40 was in Wiseman and this Council discussed that. They
41 had a meeting in our community, and we discussed that
42 before your BLM Resource Advisory Council, and Mr.
43 Bisson says that in the future that when these plans,
44 RMPs floated up, that they would consider guide areas.
45 And so that was something that they told this Council,
46 and I want that retained in memory.

47
48 MR. HAMMOND: I made a note of that
49 here, and we're working on the preplan right now, which
50 among other things lists the issues to be considered,

1 and I'll make sure that gets in there.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That applies to
4 other portions of the BLM lands. Thank you.

5

6 Continue, Tim.

7

8 MR. CRAIG: Just a point of
9 clarification. That's why it's critical that the
10 Council keep on top of this RMP process, because it's a
11 National Environmental Policy Act process, and there
12 will be this opportunity to do what they call scoping.
13 And at that point you'll want to -- any issues that you
14 have with any of these RMPs, you'll want to bring them
15 out then and then they'll be addressed one way or the
16 other.

17

18 Okay. Wildlife. I mentioned before
19 this National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant that
20 we got to do a sheep mortality study in the utility
21 corridor. Well, last year the Fish and Game did not
22 come up with their part of the money, but we talked
23 NFWF, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, into
24 giving us an extension. So we have another shot at
25 conducting that study if Fish and Game can come up with
26 their half of the money in July when they get their
27 next budget, in June or July in 2008. So it's still on
28 hold.

29

30 The next bullet down is the -- we
31 mentioned before that we're going to embark on a study
32 of moose movements in the utility corridor, and on the
33 Kanuti, and so National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife
34 Service, BLM and Alaska Department of Fish and Game
35 have partnered on this. We're going to start this
36 project on March 13th I believe on the Kanuti end, and
37 we're -- the original plan was to put 60 moose collars
38 out, and I think now -- we had a little difficulty with
39 the ordering and different things, and what I think
40 what we're going to end up with is something like 29 in
41 the Kanuti end of the study area and 29 right in the
42 Middle Fork. We're going to look mainly for moose
43 between 12 Mile and, you know, Gold Creek, where the
44 trend count area is, and try and get an idea of are
45 these moose moving, how far they're moving and also to
46 try and get a sightability index so that when we're
47 doing these counts, we have an idea of how much many
48 we're missing compared to the number that we do so.
49 So we're all getting geared up for that. It's going to
50 be a big, big effort. And that will be from the -- in

1 fact there's a flyer on the back of this handout, if
2 you want to look at it, the very last page, it's March
3 13th through 19. And if everything goes well, the 16th
4 through the 19th we'll be in the Middle Fork, and the
5 13th through the 15th we'll be on the Kanuti end of
6 things.

7
8 And then last November Fish and Game
9 and BLM partnered and did the Middle Fork/Koyukuk trend
10 count again. Again that's basically the area between
11 Wiseman and 12-Mile Mountain in the utility corridor,
12 right in the valley there. And I've highlighted what
13 we found. I don't think there's anything too earth
14 shattering there. It looks -- it's kind of maybe what
15 you might expect.

16
17 And then moving on here, Fish and Game,
18 BLM, and Koyukuk/Nowitna partnered and did a geospatial
19 population estimator, that's the big count that's so
20 expensive, in GMU 24C and D this fall. At least part
21 of that was the first time that's ever been done.
22 Let's see, the data from that is on the last page of
23 the typewritten portion there. And I've just
24 highlighted the Hog River portion, because that's the
25 part that BLM has to do with, that's where we have
26 land. And you can see again it's kind of typical of
27 some Interior populations you're really familiar with
28 where you have really great bull numbers, almost 70
29 bulls per 100 cows, but the moose density is like
30 hardly -- I mean, just two-tenths of a moose per square
31 mile.

32
33 And then Koyukuk gave me a printout of
34 the GSPE moose totals by box that we flew, if you
35 happened to be interested. And that's the next to the
36 last page colored printout and you can -- the number
37 inside there is the number of moose that were observed
38 when we did that GSPE.

39
40 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I'm
41 finished with my portion.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Does the
44 Council have any questions for Tim on the northern
45 portion of BLM lands.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I think we've
50 covered throughout your presentation some of our

1 issues. So I think that's it.

2

3

Go ahead.

4

5 MR. HONEA: Well, I just had a question
6 on the moose survey here. I didn't know exactly, Tim,
7 what exactly was in the survey. Maybe I missed that,
8 but I mean, if we're looking at the moose survey here,
9 you have -- if this was done during the winter or
10 something, you have a huge a huge concentration at
11 certain points on the Refuge. Right.

12

13

14 MR. CRAIG: You're talking -- you're
15 looking at this one?

15

16

MR. HONEA: Yeah.

17

18

19 MR. CRAIG: Yeah, that's right. There
20 are two different places there on the Refuge and just
21 off the Refuge I believe where many of the moose were
22 concentrating. You can see all those other boxes with
23 zeroes. We flew those at the same intensity as the
24 other boxes, and yet there were no moose sighted there
25 at all. It's just a difference in habitat preference
26 by moose.

26

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments.
29 Ray.

29

30

31 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I
32 had one follow up on the video thing, and it has to do
33 with all these reports. With the new use of technology
34 and the net for schools for educational purposes, a lot
35 of these presentations are done in PowerPoints and
36 there's video in the project. If some of those reports
37 were made not available just to present to a group like
38 this, but available on the net that students could tap
39 into, I think it's a way of helping to educate the
40 general public more on some of these wildlife issues.
41 So there might be some thought given to that in how we
42 report some of these things now, because there may --
43 and universities, too, would be interested in some of
44 that, if people that are in the studies could actually
45 see what did they learn from this field project.

45

46

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

47

48

49 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Collins.
50 Yeah, I totally agree with you. But you can't believe
the problems we run into with security issues with

1 trying to make data available just among the
2 biologists. On this moose study we're trying right now
3 to figure out how are we going to go about sharing all
4 the data, because I might fly it one month and get all
5 the radio fixes, and then the Fish and Game might be
6 the next month, because we're not -- you know, we don't
7 all have the money to do it, you know. We can't figure
8 a way to share it, so we're going to have to give it to
9 the University. And then we're going to all be able to
10 go to the University and get it.

11
12 And so I don't know if Tim Hammond
13 wants to comment on that or not. He knows a lot more
14 about IT than I do, but it's a great mystery to me.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

17
18 MR. HAMMOND: Mr. Chair. I don't think
19 we need to drag this Council through all those trials
20 and tribulations, but BLM is probably the worst of the
21 agencies in that respect, because of the Cobell court
22 case and really we have very few options for doing
23 stuff like that. But like Tim said, we can work with
24 other agencies and with universities to try to get
25 stuff out there to the extent we can.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. Appreciate
28 that. So I think we've covered the northern portion.
29 Thanks, Tim.

30
31 And go ahead, Geoff. Flip our map over
32 for Geoff's end of the region.

33
34 MR. BEYERSDORF: Okay. Now be
35 prepared. I'm putting on my new hat here.

36
37 Mr. Chair. Members of the Council.
38 Again Geoff Beyersdorf with the Bureau of Land
39 Management, Anchorage field office.

40
41 There's just a couple of things that I
42 wanted to add. And I guess one thing I'd put a plug in
43 here. I'm relatively new. I'm only about five weeks
44 on the job here. So I put together a couple things in
45 addition to what Tim said.

46
47 In regards to fisheries for the
48 Anchorage field office, one thing that I did want to
49 mention was that the fisheries biologist is going to be
50 working with Fish and Game, Department of Natural

1 Resources and Fish and Wildlife Service in regards to
2 fisheries inventory on the lower Innoko, Anvik River
3 and the Yukon River down through Pilot Station in
4 regards to updating the State's anadromous waters
5 catalog for what fish species are present.

6

7 On mining, I spoke with our Anchorage
8 field office just yesterday, and it appears that this
9 summer and fall we're going to be beginning to excavate
10 the grounds around the Komakoff Mine and sending those
11 grounds, those excavated grounds that are contaminated
12 with mercury from early 1900s mining down to the Lower
13 48 for remediation.

14

15 On the wildlife end of things, we just
16 had our budget meeting earlier this week. My head's
17 still kind of swimming a little bit, because BLM has a
18 way different approach to this than Fish and Wildlife
19 Service does. And I'm also trying to kind of figure
20 out what projects Geoff was working on and what the
21 funding levels are for those projects.

22

23 But some of the things that I can
24 convey to you at this time, this spring I'll be working
25 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game out of
26 Dillingham, and we're going to be doing some collaring
27 of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd down there, and radio
28 tracking them through out the next year as those
29 collars come on line.

30

31 In addition to that, it looks like
32 we've got some funding to do some aerial surveys for
33 moose down in the 19A, 21E, in our area there, Robert
34 and James. And I'll be -- I talked to Randy Rogers,
35 he's looking at trying to see if we can share that data
36 with them in regards to the intensive management plan
37 you have for moose down there in 21E.

38

39 The third thing that I have here is I
40 was speaking with Fish and Wildlife Service out of
41 Innoko there, and Steve Kovach, the biologist there has
42 put in for some emergency funding to collar moose and
43 wolves down there in the Innoko Bottoms, 21E area, to
44 look at moose movement, caving sites and the wintering
45 grounds down there. If that goes forward, they would
46 be working with the BLM on that. And we've also
47 tentatively put in a proposal for funding to help out
48 the Fish and Wildlife Service in their research down
49 there.

50

1 The last thing that I wanted to pick up
2 on here was the Bering Sea/Western Interior plan that
3 Tim has alluded to. I have made note of the fact that
4 you would like guide use areas included in that plan.
5 The other thing was that I was speaking with Randy
6 Rogers, they would also like us to consider the
7 potential for the bison introduction down in the Innoko
8 Bottoms area there.

9
10 And kind of a follow up to that, I
11 guess what I would like to do, as Tim, this is a very
12 important point for the Western Interior RAC to provide
13 input into this plan, because this is going to be the
14 managing document for the BLM for at least the next
15 decade as I see it. And with the contacts that you
16 guys have out there and knowing some of you, I would
17 like to be getting out into the field, getting to some
18 of these villages, talking with people as this plan
19 gets implemented, and getting input at the local level.
20 And for me coming in cold like I did when I was
21 starting off with Fish and Wildlife Service in Galena,
22 having you guys there to help open doors for me is
23 really helpful. So any direction you guys can provide
24 to me in that regards with that plan, introducing me to
25 people and getting input, would be extremely
26 appreciated.

27
28 And that's all that I have. Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thanks,
31 Geoff.

32
33 Any comments. Robert.

34
35 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr.
36 Chairman.

37
38 Geoff, when is there going to be jump
39 off days for doing the survey in 21E? Is it going to
40 be like this month, next month?

41
42 MR. BEYERSDORF: I'm not sure. When I
43 get back, I've got to sit down with our other biologist
44 there, Bruce Seppi, and see what we're looking to
45 coordinate with the State in that regards.

46
47 MR. R. WALKER: Okay. You've got to
48 coordinate with the BLM, the State, and any other
49 agencies going to be working with you, or just the both
50 of you?

1 MR. BEYERSDORF: I think that we're
2 looking to also -- because that's going to be -- it's
3 outside of Fish and Wildlife Service, the Innoko
4 National Wildlife Services direct managed lands, but
5 there's obviously movement there, and Fish and Wildlife
6 Service has definitely expressed an interest in trying
7 to get some information, so we'll be working with them
8 also.

9
10 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Geoff. Mr.
11 Chairman. Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ron.

14
15 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16
17 I've got a question for Tim. How many
18 moose were you going to collar on the Kanuti? 29 did
19 you say on the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge?

20
21 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman. Member Sam.
22 Yeah, I think Lisa Saperstein may be going to address
23 that more. But right now it's going to be 29 moose,
24 five of which are going to be bulls and 24 would be
25 cows. Now, they won't -- I think some of those, Lisa
26 might want to correct me on this, but I think some of
27 those may be on BLM land in 24B though, you know. They
28 won't all just right be on Kanuti. We want to get it
29 spread out. Some on Prospect, some on Bonanza Creek,
30 et cetera.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ron.

33
34 MR. SAM: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
35 Chairman.

36
37 I think this is -- I think it's sorely
38 needed, and I just thank you for your effort. And I
39 guess I'll get more from Lisa.

40
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One comment. I also
44 reiterate that this Council has advocated that
45 collaring project for moose telemetry with the -- I'm
46 glad to see that ADF&G, BLM, Park Service and -- is
47 Park Service involved in this? And BLM has finally
48 come about with this project. It's been -- that data's
49 been needed this spring in various deliberations. So I
50 want to thank the agencies on that project and looking

1 forward to the data that's collected.

2

3 Robert.

4

5 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr.

6 Chairman.

7

8 Geoff, I mean, maybe you should try to

9 look at with Kanuti? Or not Kanuti, Innoko River

10 Wildlife Refuge, Bill Schaff, and ADF&G and do tag or

11 collar a number of moose in our area to see what they

12 are -- how they are moving, if they are moving. That

13 would be something that I'm sure the Board would like

14 to see.

15

16 MR. BEYERSDORF: Through the Chair.

17 Member Walker. And I know Bill's going to be getting

18 up here later. I don't know if he's going to address

19 this specifically or not, but the conversations that

20 we've had with the wildlife biologists there at Innoko

21 Refuge, that's definitely one of their interests, and

22 they've put in a grant proposal for funding.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have a comment to

25 Geoff here. This 21E, data on bull/cow ratios is

26 needed. And so I would like to see at some point a

27 survey for -- a fall survey for bull/cow ratios, and

28 Bill may have information on that. But that's needed

29 in that whole area, not just the Innoko, but also in

30 this area down in the BLM lands. In the lower part of

31 the unit.

32

33 And so when you -- your plan, your RMP

34 is open for input from the Council at this time, or

35 when is your comment period?

36

37 MR. BEYERSDORF: My understanding, Mr.

38 Chair, and Tim can correct me if I'm wrong on this, but

39 my understanding is that if funding -- if it gets

40 funded, it would begin in October of 2008.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's when the

43 window would open for comment?

44

45 MR. BEYERSDORF: That's when the window

46 would open as far as public input.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So this Council

49 could comment at our next meeting.

50

1 I think that's it at this point. What
2 -- unless that Endangered Species Act, some of the
3 hurdles that they're facing with that get resolved, the
4 animals would have to stay down at the Portage site
5 until that situation gets resolved and then the State
6 could then release them to the sites that they're
7 talking about. So that's kind of the status right now.
8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Any
10 further discussion with the BLM from the Council.
11

12 (No comments)
13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot for an
15 excellent presentation.
16

17 And we probably should go to a break,
18 Vince, for maybe about -- so break for a little bit.
19

20 (Off record)
21

22 (On record)
23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're down to --
25 coming back on the recorder. We're down to Fish and
26 Wildlife Service. We're going to go through --
27 Koyukuk/Nowitna will give a presentation. Go ahead,
28 Kevin.
29

30 MR. WENTWORTH: Mr. Chair. Thank you.
31 I'm Ron Wentworth. I work with Galena Fish and
32 Wildlife Service. I'm a subsistence coordinator.
33

34 I think all of you know me. I think
35 Winchell and Ray and the Walker boys probably know my
36 family better than I do actually.
37

38 MR. R. WALKER: Who's your family?
39

40 MR. WENTWORTH: The Andrews and Mintah
41 (ph) family from Holy Cross. Andrews and Mintah
42 family.
43

44 MR. R. WALKER: Oh, yeah. Who's your
45 mom?
46

47 MR. WENTWORTH: Marcia Andrews. Or
48 Wentworth.
49

50 Anyhow, I'm just going to go through.

1 On Page 119 I have the summary here. And I'm just
2 going to summarize the summary. And I'll just go
3 through a couple projects that we've gone through since
4 the last time we met.

5
6 And the Nowitna River moose check
7 station was opened from August 30th through October
8 3rd, and a total of 90 hunters checked in with 26
9 moose. Twenty hunters were from local villages, Ruby
10 and Tanana. Twenty-eight were from Fairbanks. Thirty-
11 eight were from other areas in Alaska, and four for
12 non-residents.

13
14 And if you look down on the table here,
15 this is actually the first year that we checked in
16 under 100 hunters. And probably -- I'm just assuming
17 here, I never did check into why that number is so low,
18 but it's probably because of gas prices. The Nowitna
19 is hard to get to, even from Tanana and Ruby. Don
20 knows. It's just a couple hour boat ride from Tanana
21 -- or from Ruby.

22
23 And also there's -- it's reduced since
24 the draw permits, the State draw permits. And also
25 there's lots of moose down here south of Fairbanks.

26
27 But when I was there, I was there for
28 about 20 days, and only one boat didn't stop at the
29 check station. He actually only went up the river like
30 half a mile and a barge came in and met him, and the
31 boat turned around and headed down river. I think they
32 just met for business. But anyhow, I don't think the
33 numbers dropped because of nobody was checking in.

34
35 During that time at the check station,
36 we administered the September 26th through October 1
37 hunt. And 12 permits were issues, 6 in Ruby and 6 in
38 Tanana, and 2 moose were harvested. And they weren't
39 harvested up the Nowitna, they were harvested along the
40 Yukon River sloughs and creeks, and one from Ruby and
41 one from Tanana.

42
43 I'm just going to briefly to through
44 the population status. We did a November 6th through
45 the 26th, we did a trend count population survey for
46 moose. And on the Koyukuk and the Kaiyuh National
47 Wildlife Refuges, which is Game Management Unit 21D and
48 24, 34 per 100 cows were seen. 34 bulls per 100 cows.
49 And you can see on the graph here on Figure 1 that the
50 population is pretty much stable down there at a low

1 density, especially on the Kaiyuh. I'm just going to
2 briefly go through here just because you've got the
3 information here and it's kind of late in the day.

4
5 On the northern Koyukuk National
6 Wildlife Refuge we found on average that there's about
7 32 per 100 bulls/cows. And this year there was 33 per
8 100 bull/cows. In the middle Yukon -- or middle
9 Koyukuk, which is Unit 21D, we found just about 34 to
10 100 bulls to cows.

11
12 On the Kaiyuh we found just about 24
13 bulls to 100 cows. And this is a low density
14 population, about one moose per square mile.

15
16 And on the Novi, Game Management Unit
17 21D, a low density moose population, it's about 1.5
18 moose per square mile. And we found about 26 bulls per
19 100 cows.

20
21 And I'm just going to skip over
22 actually the winter moose hunts, because we discussed
23 it earlier yesterday, our decisions on the hunt. And
24 actually tomorrow will be the first day of the hunt for
25 Huslia and Hughes. And we've gone through the eight
26 moose for the quota, and it's going to be split between
27 the two villages.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have any idea
30 how many permits you've issued for the hunters?

31
32 MR. WENTWORTH: We gave out -- I asked
33 for 30 total -- or 50 total, 30 for Huslia and 20 to
34 Hughes, and it's up to the villages on how much they
35 want to issue. I mean, as far as who's going to get
36 them. And I know Hughes has expressed that three
37 people or three households want to hunt. So there's 20
38 there. We'll see if they issue them all. Was that
39 your question, Mr. Chair?

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Thanks.

42
43 MR. WENTWORTH: Also this past all and
44 through this winter we've been working on our CCP. In
45 October we went to Ruby, Tanana, Koyukuk, Nulato,
46 Kaltag, Hughes, Huslia and Galena and looked for input
47 on the CCP. And it's our comprehensive conservation
48 plan. It's a 15-year management plan for the Refuge.

49
50 So of the issues that had come up were

1 wildlife issues, public outreach, public use, habitat
2 and global warming, and being sensitive to cultural
3 ways. And these were just a few of the issues. There
4 were a lot more things discussed. A lot of the
5 discussion with the CCP, a lot of the villages were
6 talking mostly about regulations. And the CCP doesn't
7 go into that, but I would say 80 percent of the
8 discussion at the villages was mostly moose populations
9 and that kind of stuff, so it didn't pertain to the
10 CCP, but the discussions went well in the communities.

11
12 We plan to have a rough draft out here
13 in the next month, but this is about two weeks ago when
14 I wrote this. So I'm kind of guessing by May we'll
15 have a draft out. And we'll put it out for public
16 review. And if anybody wants a copy to review it, I'll
17 be distributing those.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll take a CD.

20
21 MR. WENTWORTH: Yes. And I've got that
22 written down, and people know that.

23
24 And there will be -- in October we're
25 going to go through with this draft plan through all
26 the villages again for revision, and then by next
27 winter, hopefully again by the spring, the draft will
28 be out and we'll start implementing that plan.

29
30 We're in the process of hiring a fire
31 management officer, and we actually had just gone
32 through the application period and we're in the process
33 of selecting this person. This person will administer
34 Selawik, Koyukuk, northern Innoko and the Nowitna. And
35 McGrath just hired a fire officer, he's been there for
36 about a year now, and he takes care of Yukon Delta,
37 Innoko and Togiak and down south that way. So now with
38 this new FMO, they will be splitting the region in two.

39
40 We're also in the process of hiring an
41 RIT, a Refuge information technician, and a Refuge
42 clerk. And that's here within this spring. This month
43 actually. We're working on the paperwork right now as
44 I speak actually.

45
46 And that's pretty much it in a
47 nutshell. Like I said, I summarized all these moose
48 surveys. And this is just a summary here in your
49 meeting material, and I do have papers that go into
50 great detail. And if anybody wants more.....

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I've got the long
2 copy from Brad Scott myself.

3
4 Anybody have questions for
5 Koyukuk/Nowitna on the presentation. Don.

6
7 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8
9 Kevin, I was looking at the numbers,
10 and I was just kind of wondering, you know, these were
11 2007, if you -- do you plan or does the Refuge plan to
12 do aerial county again, or was it this fall or this
13 spring or what? Thank you.

14
15 MR. WENTWORTH: Mr. Chair. Don. These
16 trend count areas, we've been counting these areas
17 since -- they've actually gone through restructuring.
18 The GSPE, now we do GSPE counts. And we've done that
19 since '01 every year in November. Before that for
20 about -- I think -- I'm not sure what the time span, I
21 know it's more than five years, but it was a different
22 structure. It was a trend count type of survey, but it
23 wasn't the GSPE. So we have data that's 10 years of
24 data and we do continue every year with the surveys.

25
26 One thing that we also do on top of
27 these trend count areas -- trend count areas, as you
28 guys all know, they just encompass just a small area.
29 Like on the Novi they encompass from the Selatna River
30 down to the mouth of the Novi River, and then the Deep
31 Creek area. And it's like 254 square miles of survey
32 area, and the Refuge is bigger. But what we do, and it
33 comes up on occasion if the budget can hold it, is
34 we'll do census area surveys for like the Novi or the
35 Koyukuk or the Kaiyuh. And we're hoping in the near
36 future to do a census survey for the Novi. This past
37 year with BLM and the State we did a census up in the
38 Hog River area, in the northern Koyukuk Refuge.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So those trend
41 counts are an annual event.

42
43 MR. WENTWORTH: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

46
47 MR. HONEA: Yeah. I guess maybe you
48 didn't answer my question. I mean, maybe I posed it
49 wrong. But usually in November up there every year you
50 do these, looking at this, and so have you done any,

1 you know, not only at Nowitna, but the Koyukuk. I
2 mean, any regions in counting this November.

3

4 MR. WENTWORTH: I guess can you re.....

5

6 MR. HONEA: Well, I mean, I'm looking
7 at the trend, I'm looking at the year after year.
8 Okay. And usually it's done in November. Did you guys
9 do one this past November?

10

11 MR. WENTWORTH: Yeah, that's what this
12 -- the survey in '07 in a survey from November 6th
13 through November 26th. And usually if conditions are
14 right with the snow depth for visibility of the moose,
15 we'll do it every November. Sometimes it will vary, I
16 mean, a day or two in the beginning or at the end, but
17 it's done every November. Was that your question, Don?

18

19 MR. HONEA: Well, yeah. Yeah. Thank
20 you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other
23 questions for Nowitna. Mickey.

24

25 MR. STICKMAN: No questions on the
26 report, but, you know, one of the things was last fall
27 people were unable to go out there at the beginning of
28 the moose hunting season, because of the low water.
29 And some of -- I mean, John Summer and Louwanna (ph),
30 they have a cabin up there, and Justin and Patsy, they
31 have a cabin up towards there, and you're probably
32 familiar with those cabins, and, well, Johnny actually
33 got stuck up there, him and his wife and George
34 Wholecheese. And even though from Nulato to John's
35 cabin it only takes you an hour and a half to get there
36 by boat, the water was so low it took them three days
37 to pull out. So even though it's our traditional
38 hunting area, until it rained, and it rained for like
39 about a week, we were unable to actually hunt up in the
40 Kaiyuh Flats.

41

42 And, you know, one of the things that I
43 wanted to bring out while Kenton was here was, you
44 know, seeing how far Mike Spindler went out on a limb
45 to provide a winter moose hunt for the guys up in
46 Alatna and Allakaket. You know, I wouldn't mind seeing
47 the Refuge over in Kaiyuh, I wouldn't mind seeing a
48 hunt over there.

49

50 And the last thing I had was there

1 still continue to be guiding activities in the Kaiyuh.

2

3 MR. WENTWORTH: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

6

7 MR. WENTWORTH: I know, just a quick
8 comment on the winter hunts in the Kaiyuh is the Kaiyuh
9 is a low density moose population, and this is just --
10 this summer here, I'm just going to go into a little
11 bit more detail on the Kaiyuh survey here, and we're
12 showing, Page 222, we're showing a density of one moose
13 per square mile and about 24 bulls per 100 cows. And
14 once we -- the moose population since '04 and '05 --
15 actually if you look at all the graphs, in '04 and '05,
16 the moose population crashed. It was a high snowfall
17 year that year. And since then on the Kaiyuh and other
18 areas, the population has been increasing. And once we
19 do reach that threshold of 30 bulls per 100 cows, we'll
20 look into other alternatives for moose hunting seasons.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I want to bring out
23 a point on those bull/cow ratios. The 24 bulls per 100
24 cows is the Koyukuk mouth area basically. And the
25 Kaiyuh has got 46 bulls per 100 cows in the Kaiyuh
26 Sough trend count. And so the Kaiyuh has actually got
27 a relatively good bull/cow ratio and the lower Koyukuk
28 has a poor bull/cow ratio, primarily because everybody
29 shoots a moose going up the Koyukuk River. They go as
30 far as they come to the first moose and kill it.

31

32 And so what Mickey is saying is that he
33 would like to see a winter hunt, and my position when I
34 reviewed the data, the long version was that there was
35 adequate bull/cow ratios with the management plan
36 saying 30 bulls per 100 cows. Being 46, I figure
37 there's enough bulls for some kind of a quota for a
38 winter hunt. So that was my position, and going on
39 from what Mickey is saying also.

40

41 Go ahead, Mickey.

42

43 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah. And I can
44 understand, you know, the Refuge point of view, because
45 I hunted up the Koyukuk River last fall, and so I got
46 lucky up there, but the three years before that, I went
47 from Nulato, and I went through the Kaiyuh Slough and
48 12 miles below Nulato, and came out at 22 mile below
49 Kaltag, and three years in a row I went through that
50 whole area and never saw nothing. And I finally told

1 my hunting partners, you know, I'm not going to burn
2 150 to \$300 worth of gas to see nothing. So I told
3 them, this time I'm going to hunt up on the Koyukuk and
4 he can choose to go with me or he can find someone to
5 go through the Kaiyuh Slough with him. But I told him,
6 I'm not going to spend that kind of money and go four
7 years in a row with not being able to find a moose.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's just my
10 perception that the moose are back away from the river
11 in the fall hunt, and they don't come out to the river
12 for the winter and they'd be available, there's
13 resource that would be available by snow machine
14 access, which is much cheaper than \$200 a trip. You
15 could probably burn like 30 or \$40 a trip and have a
16 chance of getting a moose, a pretty good chance of
17 getting a moose.

18
19 So we've got two questions over here.
20 Ron.

21
22 MR. SAM: Just for the public
23 information, that I moose hunt at Alatna/Allakaket, and
24 those permits would be -- they should go only to people
25 that didn't get a moose in the fall. That's how it
26 works up there.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Mickey.

31
32 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah. Jack, you bring
33 up an important point. You know, once you get over
34 there, and if the water is really high, and you can go
35 from lake to lake, or you can get into one of the
36 sloughs or go up to the hills, that's when you get
37 really good chances of getting a moose. It's only when
38 you get off the Kaiyuh Slough, off the main stem
39 slough, the one that goes all the way down. But all
40 the guys who go up like American Creek and, well, the
41 guys who go all the way towards the hills when the
42 water's really really high, those are the guys who
43 always get the moose.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. You had a
46 comment, Kenton.

47
48 MR. MOOS: Yeah. Mr. Chair. My name
49 is Kenton Moos, Refuge manager for the record.

50

1 I was just going to also address
2 Mickey's concerns as far as the illegal guiding. I
3 know the state troopers currently have an open case
4 with that, and we are also following up on -- with that
5 same case. So we are aware of it. Law enforcement,
6 both Fish and Wildlife as well as state troopers, are
7 acting on that, and there is a case going forth.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Good.
10 Any further comments from the Council.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you for your
15 presentation. We always appreciate all the hard work
16 that the Koyukuk/Nowitna does in production of and your
17 Staff supplying me with the long version and so forth
18 in the mail. I appreciate that. Thank you.

19
20 And so we're to the Kanuti National
21 Wildlife Refuge. That would be Lisa Saperstein. Lisa
22 has been coming to these Council meetings since the
23 first one, so '93.

24
25 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Well, thank you. Mr.
26 Chair. Council members. And for the record my name is
27 Lisa Saperstein, and I'm wildlife biologist for Kanuti
28 Refuge.

29
30 I did supply background information.
31 It's on Page 126 of your book, following the
32 Koyukuk/Nowitna report. And I'll just go through some
33 of the highlights on that.

34
35 I started out with the 2007 population
36 survey. And in this, if you're not familiar with how
37 these surveys are conducted, I provide some information
38 about basically how they're stratified, how the surveys
39 are actually conducted for those of you who might not
40 be familiar with that. So there is some material in
41 there if you want additional information, but I'm not
42 going to go through that now.

43
44 And the rest of it has -- yesterday
45 during the talk about the hunt, Jack was referring to
46 some of the numbers and the cow/calf and bull/cow
47 ratio. And those are all on I think the fourth page.
48 So there's a table with all that information. And then
49 there's also a graph on the second page showing
50 historical results of moose surveys. It's a bar graph.

1 And one thing I'd like to point out is
2 on the 2007 survey, on these graphs, those little tails
3 on the bar is -- it shows you how good, how precise the
4 survey was, and the narrower those are, those arrow
5 bars are, the better the survey was. And you'll notice
6 that in 2007 we had some nice tight bars. And it was a
7 really successful survey. And one of the reasons for
8 that was we did 150 units within the Refuge, those
9 little rectangular units that are shown on the map on
10 the next page. And in the past we've only done 100,
11 and in 2005 we have really wide arrow bars. We only
12 got 85 done. So we're really finding -- and we knew
13 this, but we weren't able to pull it off in the
14 past, having more of those units really makes a
15 difference in these surveys, and gives us a much better
16 estimate. And the stratification helps. We had really
17 good stratification. So the flip side is, it's a lot
18 more expensive to do 150 units. But we're anticipating
19 maybe being able to pull that off every other year.
20 You know, if the population gets more stable, maybe
21 every third year to make sure we get a good estimate,
22 because some of the ones in the past were not where we
23 would have -- they weren't awful, but they're not as
24 good as what we were able to pull off in 2007.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Some of
27 those previous survey units were showing 115 bulls per
28 100 cows. It's kind of crazy numbers, and so this
29 lends to more of a realistic look at the population, so
30 I think that you're on the right track there for
31 survey.

32
33 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Yeah.

34
35 REPORTER: You don't have to hold it
36 down.

37
38 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Oh, I don't. Okay.
39 That makes it easier. Thank you.

40
41 So in the past, too, we also did trend
42 areas similar to what Koyukuk Refuge did, and what we
43 found was with the very active burn history in that
44 area, which is shown on the map, our trend areas are
45 really showing us more about the burn history than what
46 was going on with the overall population.

47
48 For example, on the western side
49 there's a large fire that burned in 1972, and that's
50 where one of our trend areas was. So far a while there

1 that did have really high moose density. We were
2 getting like over one moose per square mile at times.
3 And then that's fallen off a bit in there. And the
4 same with the Henshaw Creek trend area. It burned in
5 '91. And that's now one of our higher density moose
6 areas.

7
8 So we came to the conclusion that the
9 trend areas just didn't really work for us. It was
10 showing us more about fire history than what was going
11 on on the overview. That's another interesting thing
12 we continue to see and saw in the 2007 survey, the
13 really dark blobs on there, the fire perimeters, most
14 of them were in 2004 and 2005, and you can see the
15 numbers, few moose in those more recent burns. And the
16 ones on the northwest and on the eastern side, the
17 lighter blobs, are the 1990 and 1991 burns, and right
18 now they have some of our highest moose numbers.
19 Unfortunately you can also see by where the rivers are,
20 they're not accessible. And if these moose are in
21 those areas during hunting seasons, like they are in
22 November, they're not very accessible. And the radio
23 collaring project will show us a little more about now
24 the distribution changes relative to these burns.

25
26 Any questions on that before I move on
27 to some of the other.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, that's complete.

30
31 MS. SAPERSTEIN: I'm not going to go
32 over much about the radio telemetry project. Tim
33 covered that. I do have some more of these maps if you
34 want to take some back with you, Ron. Mike is going to
35 be posting some of these up there, but I have some
36 extras.

37
38 Another thing I want to point out is
39 that, yes, this is a very cooperative effort amongst
40 all the agencies. And one of the only reasons we were
41 able to pull it off was that we were unable to do the
42 moose surveys in 2007 due to lack of snow, so everyone
43 put their money towards this effort, and we were trying
44 to do it last spring. We couldn't get the collars in
45 time, so we're doing it this spring.

46
47 And the Park Service was able to
48 purchase five GPS collars which has a little GPS unit
49 in the collars, and it then sends the information back.
50 And that is going to be an opportunity for some

1 educational outreach. And we'll get that either web
2 based or somehow get that out to kids and other people.
3 So that will be interesting.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those will be
6 deployed on cows?

7
8 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Yes. And there's only
9 five of them.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Okay.

12
13 MS. SAPERSTEIN: And that will be in
14 the northern part or in the Middle Fork for the BLM.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. The park.

17
18 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Park Service purchased
19 those. We were hoping to do another wolf survey this
20 year, a winter wolf survey. In 2005 and 2006 we had
21 Harley McMann come up and fly it. It's a survey that
22 really just gives you a picture in time of basically
23 the wolf distribution while he's out there. He's a
24 very good tracker, and we wanted to keep the tracker
25 consistent. Hopefully he'll be able to get up there
26 and have good snow conditions to do one in 2008 and see
27 if that verifies what we've heard from people, that the
28 moose -- or that the wolf numbers seem to be down. We
29 did not see many wolves, or as much wolf tracks as we
30 normally see during our moose surveys this year.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And you flew a lot
33 more than normal.

34
35 MS. SAPERSTEIN: That's correct. Yep.
36 We did do some waterfowl harvest surveys, and there's a
37 table on the last page. We were able to do that
38 because we got a grant at the last of this last fiscal
39 year with the Allakaket Tribal Council. We developed a
40 contract with them to hire someone from the village to
41 serve as kind of an RIT position. We lost our RIT
42 position a few years back, so we have not had anybody
43 conducting that type of work. So this was kind of a
44 creative way to get somebody up there and doing it.
45 It's a two-year contract. And the person doing that is
46 Kenneth Bergman.

47
48 We did assist Allakaket Tribal Council
49 in putting in for a Tribal Wildlife Grant. We have not
50 heard the results of that. A large portion of that was

1 dealing with moose habitat near the village,
2 particularly a willow crushing project that they've
3 done it in -- was it Telida I think did it, and they've
4 done it around Fairbanks, where you basically go in
5 with a Cat and crush willows hoping to promote
6 resprouting and improve moose habitat closer to the
7 village on tribal lands.

8

9 One thing that I did not put in this is
10 that we are starting our water rights process starting
11 this spring. It's basically collecting data on flow
12 and water quality and quantity. And it's done through
13 our water resources branch out of Anchorage. So we're
14 going to have about seven gauging stations on the
15 Refuge, and they will be run for six years. And we're
16 hoping to retain at least a few of those for long-term
17 monitoring. So one will certainly be up near Henshaw
18 Creek, which is where they have the weir, so we'll get
19 some good water flow information on that.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the others will
22 be on Jim River and some of the Dalton Highway
23 drainages?

24

25 MS. SAPERSTEIN: The BLM currently has
26 one on Jim River, and they have been running one off
27 the Dalton Highway on the Kanuti. And so this one will
28 have I think another one on the Kanuti, probably
29 another where it comes towards the mouth of it.
30 Henshaw Creek. South Fork. The mouth of the
31 Kilolitna. We might put some on the drainage going
32 into the Mud Lakes area, which is an important
33 whitefish. I forget off the top of my head where they
34 all were, but there will be seven.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would be cool
37 going into the whitefish habitat.

38

39 Go ahead, Ray.

40

41 MR. COLLINS: Are you doing water
42 quality monitoring at the same time as the flow or not?
43 Taking samples and checking?

44

45 MS. SAPERSTEIN: They will be doing
46 some of that. I don't know if they will be doing it at
47 all of the gauging stations, but I think they can also
48 do it in some of the lakes as well. That's in the
49 stuff we still have to work out with the water
50 resources division. There's some flexibility in what

1 we do with them.

2

3 We did look at some of the potential
4 sites, did an aerial fly-over last fall, and will be
5 doing another one at breakup, and then another one via
6 helicopter this summer, and they'll install these
7 things in August.

8

9 And then the final thing was that like
10 Koyukuk/Nowitna, we have also been working on our
11 comprehensive conservation plan, and we're pretty much
12 finishing it up. It went out for public review and
13 this winter was spent responding to comments. And the
14 final will be out sometime this year. And I have -- I
15 just grabbed this one, we have it at the office. If
16 anyone who has been familiar with this process wants to
17 catch me at the next break. We did revise our
18 management alternative based on the comments. And what
19 we did was there had been some requests from local
20 people that there were some areas of Refuge land that
21 were surrounded by village that was in minimal
22 management, and we changed that to moderate. And then
23 we pulled back some of the moderate late up in the very
24 northwest corner. And so that by doing those two
25 things, we addressed a lot of the comments that people
26 had about how the management options were distributed.
27 So I do have a map of that, but I know a lot of you
28 aren't familiar with that particular process.

29

30 That's all I have.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Anybody got
33 questions for Lisa. Ron.

34

35 MR. SAM: Yes. I'm just glad that
36 you're radio collaring these moose, because I really am
37 interested in the movement, because like you said, they
38 just haven't been moving. They just stay out in the
39 burns and not moving at all all year. Thanks for
40 getting that project going.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Well, thank you, Ron,
45 I just wish we had them out there before those fires
46 came in 2004 and 2005.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any other
49 comments.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We always appreciate
4 Kanuti's work and we would like to again say that we
5 appreciate Manager Spindler's providing this winter
6 hunt that will be in progress tomorrow.
7
8 Thank you.
9
10 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Thank you.
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I think we're
13 down to Innoko.
14
15 MR. SCHAFF: Good afternoon. Chairman.
16 Council. My name is Bill Schaff. I'm Refuge manager
17 at Innoko National Wildlife Refuge.
18
19 And I apologize for not having our
20 moose data all complete and written up, but we are just
21 completing it as we speak, either today or tomorrow.
22 So we'll be doing -- we've had a helicopter out on the
23 Refuge for the last almost 10 days flying extensively.
24 One thing this year, we have not been able to do a
25 survey, because two years ago the snow was inadequate,
26 and we had a warm up right before we was planning on
27 doing the survey. However, this year, because of
28 funding, we are able to get the whole Refuge in, maybe
29 minus a little part on the upper Yukon. So we should
30 be a really fairly precise count on the Refuge, which
31 really is the first that's happened in quite a few
32 years. We're really happy about that.
33
34 I did hand a synopsis of our moose
35 counts out at the Galena meeting, and I did make sure
36 that Members Walker and Walker got a copy of that this
37 go around, because they weren't available then. So
38 hopefully they've had a chance to look that over, and
39 if they have any questions, please contact me. And I
40 will be following up with our current moose data as it
41 becomes available. They synopsis will probably take
42 close to a month.
43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you email that
45 to our coordinator to be disseminated to the Council at
46 the earliest date?
47
48 MR. SCHAFF: I will do that. I will
49 write myself a note. Okay.
50

1 The other major thing that we've had
2 going this year is like the other Refuges, we are in
3 the completion stages of our comprehensive conservation
4 plan, CCP. We are going to printing here last week or
5 next week, if I've got my dates right. So that has
6 taken a lot of Staff time, effort.

7
8 We've been looking at a lot of
9 possibilities of looking at potential wood bison
10 introduction just south of the Refuge, so we've been
11 looking at what we want to do -- what we want to start
12 monitoring as far as ground nesting birds, waterfowl,
13 any potential interactions with moose, moose habitat,
14 how that's going to change. There's potential for it
15 to be very positive effects, and also negatives. So
16 we're not sure and we want to make sure we have our
17 ground work data, a baseline data done.

18
19 We also completed A.I. studies, avian
20 influenza, bird work on the Refuge. We will be doing
21 that again this year, which includes banding
22 approximately 300 pintails. We'll also be banding
23 additional white fronted geese on the Refuge.

24
25 We will be working, pending funding,
26 with Geoff Beyersdorf and BLM on hopefully putting a
27 few collars on moose this year. We have every intent
28 to do that project, provided we get funding for it.

29
30 We also would like to put a few collars
31 on some wolves so we can get a better estimate on our
32 wolf count. A lot of the Refuges are doing a similar
33 work, slightly different methods, but you'll see a
34 recurring theme on a lot of Refuges.

35
36 Let's see. We've also been working
37 with the State, with the different private fisheries
38 group. Even currently we'll be flying upper Kuskokwim
39 whitefish counts with Ken Hopper from Kenai starting
40 next week again.

41
42 We are also in the process of hiring
43 new pilot for the Refuge. Our long-term pilot retired
44 in September, and we have a new person starting next
45 week. He is actually coming up from the Izembek Refuge
46 at Cold Bay. We have a new administrative person on
47 the Refuge. And we lost one biologist who we've not
48 been able to fill that position. That was our bird
49 biologist, Robin Cochlin.

50

1 Let's see, other than that, like I
2 said, the data from the moose survey, which is probably
3 the largest single interest to everybody, I'll make it
4 available. As soon as we get it synthesized and have
5 the data available, I'll get it to Vince.

6
7 And that's about it that I have right
8 now.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Questions
11 from the Council. Go ahead, Robert.

12
13 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 Thank you, Bill, for your very
16 informative -- one thing that struck me, we never
17 talked about collaring wolves, but we talked about
18 moose. This would be interesting, too, because where
19 do they move to, where do they -- how far do they
20 travel. I don't think we have any other place that has
21 done it besides -- or have done this in the past any
22 place here?

23
24 MR. SCHAFF: I don't know, but that's
25 exactly why we want to do it. And it's not going to be
26 a very large, you know, population survey, but at least
27 it will give us some handle on what they're moving, how
28 they're moving. As you realize and, you know, there's
29 the migratory component of the moose population and
30 some moose tend to be more sedentary and some tend to
31 be more migratory. And we're wondering, you know, how
32 much of the movement, they're following around. We
33 believe that maybe a part of the -- you know, why we're
34 seeing a lot of moose in the springtime and yet during
35 hunting season people are saying, well, I'm seeing less
36 and less moose is that because of the different
37 components of the population, their movement may be
38 different. You know, the interactions with the wolf.
39 We're not sure, and hopefully between putting collars
40 on some of the moose and putting collars on some
41 wolves, we'll be able to draw some correlations or
42 maybe not. It may be too early, but it's a stab.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. James.

45
46 MR. J. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 Bill, when you do these collaring, are
49 you going to be collaring it from -- picking the moose
50 from a variety of the areas or how are you going to do

1 that?

2

3 MR. SCHAFF: Yeah, we will. And it's
4 cooperative. You know, if it goes, it will be a
5 cooperative study with BLM, so it won't be something
6 that we'll be making exclusive decisions on. Geoff
7 Beyersdorf with BLM as he mentioned, Fish and Game.
8 You know, it will be something we'll try to do where we
9 all get a little bit of information and no one will
10 have, you know, exclusive use of the collars, but in
11 different areas it will give us the broadest amount of
12 information for pretty much 21E, scattered around that
13 area.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

16

17 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Bill, I think you
18 have information also on the air taxis and the guiding
19 results last fall, weren't there real low harvests?
20 Any information on that?

21

22 MR. SCHAFF: And that is true, Mr.
23 Collins. We did have -- I do track the air taxis. A
24 little bit behind this year because of getting the
25 permits is when I got a lot of the information back.
26 But it looks like it was another year, last year I
27 believe there was nine moose taken by the air taxis.
28 That's not including private hunters and, you know,
29 individual hunters. And it looks like it's going to be
30 another low year. Ten, maybe a dozen. My preliminary
31 numbers, I haven't really worked them up into a
32 spreadsheet yet. So it's another low year.

33

34 The number of hunters brought in by the
35 air taxis is also way down by the various air taxis.
36 One air taxi in particular who's in the past brought in
37 70, 80 hunters probably only brought in less than 30
38 this year. But those numbers are significantly down.

39

40 MR. COLLINS: Do you get reports from
41 the State, too, on take in that area so you can combine
42 those to see harvest?

43

44 MR. SCHAFF: Yes, we do have access to
45 the State harvest ticket data; however, it's not
46 directly line per line as far as on the Refuge and in
47 management unit, so there's some interpretation that
48 has to go into that data, but, yes, we do get it.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Other

1 questions.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would continue to like to get some bull/cow ratio data. And so as I was stating to Geoff, if you could do a bull/cow ratio, especially along the hunted river areas, I would be interested in those bull/cow ratios if funding is available.

10

11

12

Go ahead.

13

14

MR. SCHAFF: I did make a note to myself when you was talking to Geoff, Mr. Reakoff. And I do apologize, we couldn't do it last year, because we were prepping for the -- saving money and prepping for the moose survey this spring, currently, you know, the end of February. However, I would like to get that information next fall.

20

21

22

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. Yeah, that would be pertinent information if we continue to build on hunting pressure there and the moose population is declining.

25

26

27

Any further questions. Ray.

28

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So any further questions.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot, Bill. Doing good work there. Thank you.

And so we've got National Park Service. Did you have something, Dave?

MR. KRUPA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record, my name's Dave Krupa. I'm with

1 National Park Service. I'm the brand new subsistence
2 coordinator for Gates of the Arctic and Yukon-Charley.
3 And I'm taking the place of Fred Anderson who I'm sure
4 all of you knew.

5
6 And I just wanted mostly to say I
7 hadn't prepared any remarks, but I just wanted to
8 introduce myself. I'm going to be closely tracking,
9 obviously, the Western Interior as well as the North
10 Slope RAC and the Northwest RAC. As probably most of
11 you know, each of those RACs has one appointment to the
12 SRC for Gates of the Arctic. There's three further
13 appointments that are direct from the Secretary of
14 Interior and three more that are the Governor's choice.
15 So it's composed of nine members, rotating terms
16 typically of three years, but they serve at the
17 pleasure of the appointing source, so their terms can
18 continue. But that's just something for folks who have
19 interest in that area to kind of keep track of SRC
20 activities, and we welcome any new input and new folks
21 who are interested in getting involved in the process.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are there any
24 questions for Park Service.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: As our new
29 coordinator on the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
30 Resource Commission, I was glad to see Dave here being
31 steeped in where the SRC's comments come to the
32 Regional Councils for input in the proposals and then
33 how the Councils utilize that input. So thanks, Dave.

34
35 MR. KRUPA: Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're down to
38 other agency groups.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see any
43 other agencies here that may want to comment.

44
45 Regional Council business. We're on A,
46 is Council policy development and local advisory
47 committees. And so Pete Probasco was going to speak to
48 us. I have some issues with the OSM -- not issues, but
49 want to have discussion with the OSM. And so maybe you
50 could give us an overview of your budget constraints

1 and the direction the OSM is going, and then we'll
2 enter into discussion about the advisory committees.

3

4 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 And thank you for giving me a head's up, too, on the
6 topics that you want to discuss.

7

8 I guess where I'll start is our budget
9 situation for the Office of Subsistence Management, and
10 where we're currently at, and just give you a little
11 history.

12

13 Initially when the subsistence program
14 started, there was an allocation given to run the
15 program annually, and also a one-time allocation of a
16 very large sum of money to kick the program off. And
17 for quite a few years this program utilized those funds
18 to provide the program that everybody grew accustomed
19 to. Those fundings levels have been dramatically
20 reduced.

21

22 The one-time funding has never been
23 reinstated. Those funds were exhausted just shortly
24 before Tom Boyd retired. So I don't have a reserve to
25 draw from any more.

26

27 And where we find ourselves in FY 2008
28 is I'm actually facing a directed cut to subsistence
29 dollars that go to Fish and Wildlife Service. The
30 estimated reduction that I will have to absorb this
31 year is approximately \$800,000.

32

33 I started working for the Federal
34 program eight years ago. And at that time the Office
35 of Subsistence Management had 53 employees. I
36 currently have 42 on my Staff. And we've gone through
37 -- to deal with these budget reductions, we have
38 purposely not filled positions when they became vacant,
39 to use those funds as a means to keep our program
40 going.

41

42 In addition, when it became very
43 evident that we weren't going to get additional funds
44 and that our program was being targeted for further
45 reductions we went through a process on how to make our
46 program more efficient and still deal with the issues
47 we had. And as a result we went to the two-year cycle.
48 So that has saved up some additional money.

49

50 In addition this year, because of the

1 2008 budget and the outlook for 2009 and 2010, I have
2 instructed my coordinators to work with the Council to
3 look at how we can further save dollars, but still get
4 our primary function done, which is the regulatory
5 process. That is the number 1 priority for our office.
6 And how I keep that program going is I continue to take
7 or rob from the monitoring program to help deal with
8 our regulatory and our Advisory Councils program.

9
10 This year we had a direct cut to our
11 Partners Program. We reduced that program from
12 approximately a \$1 million program. I reduced that
13 program by \$300,000.

14
15 In addition I have cut funding to the
16 State of Alaska's liaison support and their 809 funding
17 programs on wildlife, and we're currently negotiating
18 how the State can still meet their liaison duties at
19 this reduced funding level. But the reductions
20 probably going to be in the neighborhood of a quarter
21 million dollars to the State.

22
23 So that's where we're at. That's why
24 Vince read to you the hub concept. And my -- and in
25 other words am I glued to those areas only? No. But
26 if we are going to look outside those areas, it's going
27 to have to be on a case-by-case basis, and there has to
28 be a pretty good justification for going outside those
29 areas, because quite frankly I don't have the budget to
30 support those type of travel costs as we grew
31 accustomed to in the past.

32
33 And so that's where we're at. Tough
34 calls have to be made, and I had to make them.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So at this -- you
37 may have been out of the room when the hub areas were
38 defined as Aniak and Galena from the Western Interior
39 Region, and we discussed McGrath as one of those hub
40 areas. And it was the perception of the Council,
41 myself included, that Aniak and McGrath are almost the
42 same distance from Anchorage and not disparate in cost
43 for the Council to meet in. Do you have a comment on
44 that issue?

45
46 MR. PROBASCO: Yes, Mr. Chair. I
47 definitely would entertain a proposal on McGrath. I
48 haven't been in McGrath for a number of years. I think
49 it's been about seven. It definitely is not the hub
50 that I grew up with and grown accustomed to. It

1 doesn't have the flight services it used to have. But
2 if we could show that it's equivalent in cost to a
3 community like Aniak, most definitely. But right now,
4 taking a look at what little I do know of the available
5 services as far as bringing people in and other
6 additional stops, we have to go back and forth, that
7 was why it didn't make it to that list.

8

9 But I will definitely entertain that.
10 That means Vince would have to go back and take a look
11 at the Council member travels, develop a proposal on
12 what the costs would be, and we would take a look at
13 it.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's fair.

16

17 Ray.

18

19 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. In that regard, we
20 have once a day service from PenAir from Anchorage,
21 seven days a week. And there's three air taxis that
22 work out of there that still go to the Yukon. Plus the
23 fact that Innoko is there and the State biologists
24 there serve the GASH area and the Aniak area as well as
25 McGrath. So there's biologic -- there's personnel
26 there who serve the area that could give us input.
27 That's one of the reasons we thought about meeting
28 there.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Accommodations?

31

32 MR. COLLINS: That hasn't changed over
33 the last few years. There's about three. It's a
34 little bit tight, but we can take care of it I think.
35 We have in the past.

36

37 MR. PROBASCO: And I appreciate that,
38 Mr. Collins. And like I said, I'm not closed, but we
39 do have to look at it case-by-case. This budget is
40 very tight. If I take another recision next year, I
41 don't know where I'm going to carve it out of, but I'd
42 have to hit the monitoring program again.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council discussion
45 on the budgetary constraints that OSM has? Any
46 questions so far.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I sit on the

1 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee and so I discussed
2 this on the phone with Vince and Pete, that the
3 advisory committees are not utilized to the degree that
4 ANILCA set out. If you read ANILCA 805, the Councils
5 are to receive information from the advisory committees
6 and utilize the advisory committees. And if the
7 advisory committees are inadequate, they're actually
8 supposed to be funded by the program.

9
10 But I proposed to Pete a really easy
11 fix. This Council is not receiving the kind of input
12 from the advisory committees. When I ask for committee
13 input, there's very little input. Unless there's a
14 Council member that sits on that advisory committee, we
15 don't know what's going on there.

16
17 The Refuges and the BLM and the Park
18 Service, they all have subsistence coordinators that
19 usually attend the advisory committee meetings, and
20 it's been my experience that they sit silent in the
21 back of the room and observe the meeting. It's my
22 intention that those Refuge coordinators, subsistence
23 coordinators should interact with the committee, ask
24 for input to the Councils. They also should present
25 Federal proposals to those committees and get
26 information and back-feed from the committees to be
27 brought from that coordinators, whoever attends, and
28 bring that information to our Regional Council
29 coordinator. And that way we could get this feed at
30 the most economical level. And so that's one way that
31 this Council can get more information. We kind of
32 touched on this information a little bit.

33
34 And so I would like Pete to discuss
35 that with the Council given that overview.

36
37 MR. PROBASCO: Excuse me. Yes, Mr.
38 Chair. In fact, Jack and I talked on the phone, I
39 don't know, maybe a week or two weeks prior this
40 meeting on the same concept. And I thought it was a
41 great idea. It's something I did not think on. Jack
42 gets the credit for it.

43
44 I think it's very doable. I think the
45 process would be for me to work with the ARD for
46 Refuges in Anchorage. Todd Logan will be back this
47 spring, and I think it's something that's doable.

48
49 As you know, the involvement of the
50 State ACs vary from community to community and area of

1 the state. Some are very active. Others sometimes
2 don't even meet. And so it's going to have to be on a
3 case-by-case basis. But I think it's a good idea.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any Council
6 comments on that means of accessing information from
7 the advisory committee system that's in place. Go
8 ahead, Ray.

9

10 MR. COLLINS: Well, this meeting is an
11 example of that, because I'm chair of the McGrath
12 Advisory Committee, so the cost of my travel is split
13 this time. You only paid for my way up here. Only I
14 had to put some of it out of my pocket, but that's
15 taken care of. And the State's paying my way back. So
16 you're saving some money on my participation here
17 because of that cooperation with the State coordinator.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There may or may not
20 be Regional Council members on committees, and that's
21 the issue is we need to have all of the committees on
22 line for input to the Councils. And so any advisory
23 committee that's in -- they should be delineated, and I
24 would like to know what all the advisory committees are
25 within our Western Interior Region. It would be
26 Koyukuk, Middle Yukon, Ruby, GASH, and what's the
27 advisory committee down on the -- McGrath, and what's
28 the one down in your neck of the woods, Carl?

29

30 MR. MORGAN: Central Kuskokwim.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Central Kuskokwim.
33 There still needs to be an involved process. The
34 coordinators still have to present -- it shouldn't be
35 up to the Council members to -- they may or may not be
36 chair or control the meeting, and so there should be
37 the input from the coordinators, the Refuge
38 coordinators into the advisory committee process.

39

40 And so I think we've covered that
41 issue.

42

43 And so the other thing that's coming up
44 is the going to the two-year cycle. It's a little
45 unclear if the special action mechanism is now looked
46 at by the Board or the OSM as more of a -- it was sort
47 of a -- there was a high bar to jump over to get a
48 special action request previously. A fairly high bar.
49 Not nearly as high as the State's. Is the special
50 action to be used by the Councils for things that are

1 need an interim fix before the next Board cycle?

2

3 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. The special
4 action process in one sense, there's two aspects of
5 special action. Those special actions that are 60 days
6 or less are meant to mirror closely. They don't. Our
7 system seems to be more bureaucratic, but it's meant to
8 be similar to the State's emergency order process. In
9 other words, it gives the manager the opportunity to
10 respond to whatever that wasn't anticipated when
11 regulations were developed. Closing a season.
12 Expanding a season. That type. Methods and means, et
13 cetera.

14

15 The special action process for a two-
16 year cycle should not be viewed as an opportunity to
17 get around submitting annual proposals. The whole
18 reason we're going to a two-cycle is to take that work
19 load that we're dealing and spread it up amongst a
20 smaller staff and a smaller budget. So special actions
21 will be utilized to deal with those situations, like
22 the one we're dealing with now where Mr. Spindler's
23 trying to create a hunt for a specific area. Those are
24 the situations that you'd use a special action.

25

26 It wouldn't be used to submit a
27 proposal that can wait two years to be addressed.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. And so I
30 would like them to still be -- have consideration for
31 things that come up out of cycle, and so like the
32 situation on the Kanuti, the special action request was
33 responded to by OSM in a very timely manner. And so I
34 would be comfortable with that, but we're a little bit
35 gray on the two-year cycle at this point on how this is
36 all going to be working, and so we've got to go through
37 a cycle or revolution to see how it will come out on
38 the other side.

39

40 MR. PROBASCO: Yeah. I don't think I
41 want to try to pull the woools over your eyes. I think
42 we will be hitting some bumps. I mean, within this
43 two-year cycle I anticipate some challenges. But the
44 budget in itself and the situation we're in is a
45 challenge. And so we need to get our work done,
46 address the issues that we're mandated by ANILCA to
47 deal with and right now that's the best solution
48 collectively we could come up with.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So any

1 questions from the Council. Vince.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: And I haven't had a
4 chance to talk to Pete about this, but I did get a call
5 from Refuge Staff wondering if there would be like the
6 State Boards have, is agenda change request with some
7 kind of requirements with that, that if the special
8 action has a higher bar, is there something below that
9 higher bar that could address issues that couldn't wait
10 for two years.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pete.

13

14 MR. PROBASCO: Most definitely. I
15 wouldn't call it an agenda change request. Our process
16 is meant to be from bottom up, and so if there is an
17 issue that a Council feels can't wait, you know, until
18 the next nothing prevents the Council from drafting a
19 letter and making a request to the Board. The Board
20 creates its own agenda. And you saw what we did with
21 Kenai this year. We took up the Kenai proposals during
22 the wildlife cycle. The Board creates its own agenda.
23 And so it will be based on their evaluation of the
24 issue that's being brought forth.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So that's an
27 avenue. Okay.

28

29 Any other questions from the Council in
30 discussion with Pete Probasco.

31

32 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I had question.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

35

36 MR. HONEA: Yeah. I had a question. I
37 mean, he brought up something interesting. A special
38 action, so how would the scenario work out if you -- a
39 special action extended hunt. Would that then go
40 before the Subsistence Board, or would it go right to
41 your office.

42

43 MR. PROBASCO: Through the Chair.
44 Thank you for the question. And I should have expanded
45 on it earlier when Jack asked it.

46

47 There are two aspects to a special
48 action. A special action that is 60 days or less can
49 be submitted to the Office of Subsistence Management,
50 and if there's a unanimous agreement or consent by the

1 agencies, then it can be enacted. If there is any
2 dissenting against that proposed action, then we have
3 to have a meeting.

4
5 If there's a special action that's
6 going to last more than 60 days, then we have to go
7 through the process of public notice, have a meeting,
8 meet with the affected Councils and then the Board
9 takes action.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other
12 discussion.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pete.
17 Appreciate your time and your attendance at the
18 meeting.

19
20 MR. PROBASCO: I'm glad to be here.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we're down to
23 other -- there's one more item that I would like to
24 have gotten to, and that's a real quick overview of the
25 land exchange at the Yukon Flats. I know that's out of
26 our region, but we've got people that -- I would like
27 to see how the Council -- this has a precedent-setting
28 effect is the land exchange on Yukon Flats, and this
29 may affect our region. And so if we could have just a
30 -- if Wennona would give us a real quick overview.

31
32 Vince.

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: While Wennona's getting
35 up there, real quick, Jack and I have struggled over
36 when to put these presentations, and I'm going to seize
37 the moment while she's walking up. You notice the
38 presentations of a more scientific base, more detail
39 are presented at the end of the meeting. I'm kind of
40 stepping over Jack here, and he can hit me later. But
41 is this effective to you? I mean, it's very difficult
42 to put these agenda's together, to decide do we put
43 action items all in the front and presentations at the
44 end. So you can either tell me individually or now.
45 The structure we have now is presentations are at the
46 end unless they're related to a proposal, they can be
47 bumped up to the beginning. Is that working for
48 everybody, because to be honest with you, when they sit
49 out there two days, it's a long wait.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The action items at
2 the beginning of the meeting have been working well,
3 and that cuts their presentation time down at the end
4 of the meeting. So currently it's more of a balance.

5
6 So go ahead, Wennona, we're running
7 short on time.

8
9 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr Chair.
10 Wennona Brown. I guess and this role I'm sitting in is
11 for Yukon Flats Refuge.

12
13 I do have a copy of the PowerPoint
14 presentation that we presented to all the public
15 meetings, village, that they're in the process of going
16 through. And Staff can have a copy to take back. So I
17 won't try to hit all those highlights.

18
19 I just want to briefly just talk about
20 the draft EIS was put out for public review on January
21 the 25th with a 60-day public comment period. The
22 period would end on March 25th. We have scheduled 11
23 public meetings to be held in the villages of Arctic
24 Village, Venetie, Stevens Village, Birch Creek, Beaver,
25 Fort Yukon, Chalkyitsik, Circle, Central, and also in
26 Fairbanks and Anchorage. All of those meetings have
27 now been held except for the one in Anchorage, and
28 that's scheduled for Tuesday, March 4th.

29
30 The EIS outlines the proposed action
31 which was the subject of the evaluation, the document
32 that we put out in late 2004, early 2005, which was the
33 agreement in principle. Doyon requested 110,000 of
34 Refuge land which is south of Birch Creek. It
35 stretches all the way to the Refuge boundary with BLM.
36 And encompasses Birch Creek -- I mean, not Birch Creek,
37 Beaver Creek on both sides of the river from the point
38 that the wild and scenic river ends and then all the
39 way through new Birch Creek territory. For that land,
40 Doyon promised a minimum of 150,000 acre and the
41 Service did go through and rank all those townships by
42 several factors, including waterfowl habitat and
43 wetland habitat, miles of rivers, things of that sort,
44 and picked out in a ranking order what would -- we
45 would like to have as priority habitat should the
46 exchange go through.

47
48 The exchange is supposed to be an equal
49 value exchange, but because the land appraisals have
50 not been done yet, that's why Doyon agreed to provide a

1 minimum of 150,000 acres to allow the EIS evaluation
2 process to continue without the land exchange -- or
3 without the appraisal values. Those appraisals are
4 expected to be in sometime late spring, so the actual
5 land value could be adjusted upwards if the value of
6 the land that Doyon wants -- if it takes more Doyon
7 land to equal the value of the 110,000 acres that Doyon
8 wants.

9
10 We did evaluate two other alternatives,
11 one of which -- we call it the non-development
12 alternative. The Fish and Wildlife Service would still
13 get the same 150,000 acres, but in phase -- there's a
14 phase two that if Doyon found and developed oil and gas
15 on the lands that they received in the exchange, they
16 would agree to sell the Service 120,000 acres. If
17 under the conser -- or non-development easement
18 alternative, that 120,000 acres would remain Doyon
19 land, but they would donate to the Service 120 -- the
20 conservation -- or non-development easement. And that
21 would be done at the very beginning regardless of
22 whether they found any oil or gas on the exchange lands
23 or not.

24
25 The third alternative, we call it the
26 -- it excludes the area that had been proposed by the
27 Service to be wilderness area, the White-Crazy
28 Mountains, so therefore the acreages are adjusted
29 accordingly because there's less land involved.

30
31 And then the last is that, of course,
32 we had to evaluate the no action alternative, which
33 would be no land exchange. That the point that we had
34 to -- you know, are making there is that even with no
35 land exchange, does not mean that there would not be
36 development within the Yukon Flats National Wildlife
37 Refuge on lands that Doyon currently owns with oil and
38 gas potential.

39
40 And we have noted, too, in the EIS that
41 with the land exchange, it could facilitate development
42 of these other areas because of the -- once they get
43 the infrastructure in there.

44
45 The EIS does go through cumulative
46 impacts, and Appendix C in the back of the large
47 document is the 810 evaluation. And from the 810
48 evaluation we did note that any one of the three action
49 alternatives by itself probably would not pose a
50 significant restriction on subsistence uses. But under

1 the cumulative effects, either if Doyon developed on
2 their lands that they currently own, which are closer
3 to the villages, or in combination with the lands on
4 the -- that they receive in the exchange, there could
5 be some potential significant restrictions to
6 subsistence uses.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At that point, I
9 would like to kind of poll the Council on just thinking
10 about the other Refuges within our region. If these
11 lands were pooled and oil development occurred, there
12 would probably be significant impacts to subsistence on
13 Refuge lands, or associated to Refuge lands. And so I
14 would -- my discussion revolves around if this exchange
15 goes through, there more than likely will be
16 significant oil development, and from what I read about
17 the Yukon Flats, there's no real -- actual real
18 protection for the Refuge itself. If Congress allowed,
19 the Refuge itself could then be leased, which would
20 have further extension to the development.

21
22 And so I kind of would like to know how
23 the Council feels about this. This is something that's
24 -- this is a precedent setting thing that could occur,
25 and in the future this Council may have to deal with
26 these kind of issues. And so sort of for my own
27 information, I'm concerned about this land exchange
28 myself. It could actually -- this could be a huge
29 development right in the middle of the Yukon Flats.

30
31 So do you have any comments. Ron.

32
33 MR. SAM: I know it will have an
34 impact, but then I'm also a Doyon shareholder. And I
35 think that it's going to be developed. It's going to
36 be developed sooner or later as will be Pet 4 or what
37 that oil reserve upon the North Slope. It's \$100 a
38 barrel for oil, it's going to be developed sooner or
39 later. And I think there's not much we can do about
40 it. As I said, I am looking for some kind of dividend
41 from Doyon as a shareholder, so -- I just -- I can't
42 see any way to back off from this type of thing.
43 They're going to develop that area anyway with or
44 without this land exchange.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other discussion
47 by the Council on that.

48
49 So appreciate that Wennona.
50

1 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
2 if anybody wants to be on the mailing list that's not
3 on the mailing and would like to be apprised of that,
4 if you'll please let me know, and I'll make sure you're
5 on the list.

6
7 And in addition, I did hand out a copy
8 of the summary of the EIS and the newsletter that we
9 had put out earlier in the year.

10
11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. My
14 concerns revolve around accesses once the development
15 begins, building roads into the Refuge, people coming
16 in, fishing and so forth, because the Dalton Highway
17 has shown me that once these roads are built, you've
18 got an unending stream of campers showing up that want
19 to hunt in your backyard. So these are considerations
20 that I have. I've seen it, I've had it happen to me,
21 and so I can see how this thing without -- shareholders
22 should really consider the gating of these accesses
23 into these lands and so forth. There's some real
24 issues that could really affect subsistence. We have
25 other Refuges that have these kind of sedimentary
26 structures and these could be impacting areas in other
27 portions of our region, which will effects that this
28 Council will be dealing with. We might not be on this
29 Council at that time, but somebody is going to have to
30 deal with these issues.

31
32 So we're at what point here in the
33 agenda. Have you got one point there, Vince.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Eastern Interior
36 has this on their agenda and so if you'd like, we can
37 share with you what comments or what actions they take
38 on it, but they've been closely monitoring this. We
39 have several Council members from the Flats area. So
40 Wennona will do probably a more thorough presentation
41 at that meeting, but we can copy that information to
42 you as far as if they take any action.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thank
45 you. I would like to hear from them also.

46
47 And so we're down to item B on Regional
48 Council business and that's the election of officers.

49
50 MR. STICKMAN: Jack, before we go there

1 and before people start leaving, you know, from our
2 discussion last night, and, Ron, you missed it
3 yesterday, you know, right now they're having a hunt up
4 in your area, but it's a bulls only hunt and there's a
5 limited amount of moose, but one of the things that I
6 feel that it's important for you to hear is the Refuge
7 manager, Mike Spindler, you know, he went way out on a
8 limb to have that hunt, even though it's a small hunt,
9 and it's a bull only hunt, he really went out on a limb
10 there.

11
12 And one of the things that talking to
13 him is he was telling me that, you know, he was getting
14 some animosity from the people there in Allakaket.
15 And, you know, I just don't think -- I mean, you being
16 a member here from the beginning, you understand how
17 far out on the limb he went to provide that
18 opportunity. And I told him that, well, it's important
19 enough for me to help him out, because he was such a
20 good friend when he was on the Innoko -- I mean, on the
21 Kaiyuh Flats, that I told him that I would definitely
22 go to the chief from Alatna and the chief from
23 Allakaket and try to smooth things over, and actually
24 tell them, you know, how far out on the limb he went to
25 provide that opportunity.

26
27 But it's a discussion that you missed
28 out on, and I feel it's important that you hear it.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ron.

31
32 MR. SAM: Yeah. The Koyukuk Advisory
33 Committee on the State side instigated this hunt, so
34 we're well aware of it. We tried it last year, but it
35 was 45, 50 below. And again people were well aware of
36 the consequences of shooting a cow moose instead of a
37 bull moose. So they're watching it very clearly. And
38 I don't think that they'll go all out and get that
39 quota. Maybe one or two.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thanks,
42 Ron. Thanks, Mickey. You've got another comment?

43
44 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, Ron, you know, and
45 that's good to know, but the important thing is to
46 build that relationship with him as a friend, you know.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Ron.

49
50 MR. SAM: I'll have to think about

1 that, too. We work together already anyway.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thank
4 you.

5

6 Any other comments before we go to
7 election of officers.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Vince. How
12 should we proceed.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. There's three
15 positions on the Council. There's the Chair, Vice
16 Chair and Secretary.

17

18 For Jimmy, the title Secretary is
19 basically, you know, the third alternate. I mean, at
20 this point we've not handed over the duties of all the
21 minutes and all that, but it is a very important
22 position, because as we work through things, and it's
23 another person that's kept informed.

24

25 So with that, I don't know how you want
26 to proceed. In the past you guys have gone position by
27 position or there's been a motion to -- one time to
28 just have all the existing officers.

29

30 So I'll leave it at that, and to the
31 wisdom of your fellow Council members.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At this point I'd
34 open the floor for nomination for the Chair.

35

36 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion to just
37 leave the officers as it is right now.

38

39 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

40

41 MR. MORGAN: Second.

42

43 MR. R. WALKER: Question.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that was
46 quick. There was a second on the motion and a question
47 to retain the current officer structure as myself as
48 Chair, Ray Collins as Vice Chair, and who's the
49 Secretary? Oh, Don. Don, you're the third alternate
50 here. So if we get taken out by a SAMs missile, it's

1 you.

2

3 So those in favor of election of those
4 officers signify by saying aye.

5

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Same sign opposed.

9

10 (No opposing votes)

11

12 MR. COLLINS: Should we abstain?

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. We are
17 to Regional Council appointments. Go ahead, Vince.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I don't
20 know of anybody. Well, if Dave is still here, your
21 appointment to the Gates of the Arctic is Paul X.
22 Simeon. And I apologize I didn't pull out that file to
23 see the status of that appointment, but no one from the
24 Park Service has contacted me. I think it's still
25 current, that you don't have to take an action.

26

27 MR. KRUPA: It thought 11 of '08.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. So it's current
30 then.

31

32 And then as far as your Coordinating
33 Fishery Committee members, they're current unless they
34 want to get off. And that would be Ray and Carl for
35 the Kuskokwim and then Robert and Mickey on the other.
36 So I don't know of any changes there.

37

38 The only thing I need since I've got
39 your attention is -- and that's on your shoulders, Mr.
40 Chair, is who's going to attend the Board meeting, and
41 if you're not, then this is a good time for someone
42 else to have that golden opportunity to go to a Board
43 meeting.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I will attend
46 the Federal Board meeting.

47

48 Yeah, go ahead, Ron.

49

50 MR. SAM: Yes. I would like to thank

1 Jack for attending the Board meeting. Again, we
2 discussed this at the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee
3 under the State, and we did try to send him in to that
4 entity, but we wanted him -- we knew that we couldn't
5 afford to from the Western Interior to attend that
6 Board meeting. So with that, I would like to go ahead
7 and.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, Vince is
10 discussing the Federal Board meeting. And so then
11 we'll talk about the State Board.

12

13 MR. SAM: The State Board.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: The State Board we're
16 working on, I haven't talked to Pete on it. We got him
17 extended, but the paperwork doesn't match, and
18 Stephanie's working on it.

19

20 So to answer Ron, Jack is going to the
21 Board of Game for this Council. What I brought up is
22 it's best at this time to find out if the Chair is
23 planning to the Federal Subsistence Board. If not,
24 it's a lot easier to find another person.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So I intend
27 to go to the Federal Board meeting also.

28

29 Mickey.

30

31 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah. Talking about the
32 Board of Game meeting, the one that's going on right
33 now. I'm scheduled to leave tomorrow morning, and I
34 have a resolution from my tribal council. And if I'm
35 going to be unable to go, I would like the Council here
36 to endorse that resolution. That way when you go to
37 provide your testimony, that you have that resolution
38 with you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Would you
41 like read to read that resolution into the record.

42

43 MR. STICKMAN: Actually I'll give it to
44 you and you can do it. And I made -- I know when you
45 testify, they're going to ask you for 20 copies, so I
46 had 20 copies made.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I'll read the
49 resolution from the Nulato Tribal Council for the
50 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council to endorse.

1 Whereas, Proposal 94 intends to amend
2 the access restrictions for the Koyukuk
3 Controlled Use Area in Units 21 and 24;
4 and

5
6 Whereas, the access restrictions is
7 worded, the area is closed to the use
8 of aircraft for hunting moose,
9 including the transportation of moose
10 hunters, their hunting gear, and/or
11 moose parts; however, this does not
12 apply to the transportation of moose
13 hunters, their hunting gear, and/or
14 parts of moose from a publicly owned
15 airport in the controlled use area; and

16
17 Whereas, the Proposal 94 wrongfully
18 assumes that the prohibition of
19 aircraft access to the Controlled Use
20 Area is the issue; and

21
22 Whereas, the protection of wildlife
23 resources and a system to assure the
24 continued sustainability of this
25 resource must be maintained is the
26 issue; and

27
28 Whereas, the passage of the Alaska
29 National Interest Lands Conservation
30 Act of 1980 (ANILCA) prohibits any
31 access of a national wildlife Refuge
32 unless it is first determined to be
33 compatible with the purposes for which
34 the Refuge is established; and

35
36 Whereas, the purposes of a Refuge are
37 fish and wildlife-oriented recreation,
38 ecological research, environmental
39 education and interpretation, and
40 economic use of Refuge lands; and

41
42 Whereas, Proposal 94 wishes to
43 circumvent the purposes for the Koyukuk
44 Refuge without providing any scientific
45 study acquired through the experience
46 that aircraft access into the Koyukuk
47 Controlled Use Area is compatible with
48 Refuge purposes;

49
50 Now therefore be it resolved that the

1 Nulato Tribal Council strongly opposes
2 Proposal 94 that would amend the access
3 restrictions to the Koyukuk Controlled
4 Use Area.

5
6 Duly adopted the 26th day of February,
7 2008.

8
9 And so this was certification that
10 certified that the above resolution was duly adopted at
11 a convened meeting of the Nulato Tribal Council at this
12 a quorum was present. This resolution was adopted by a
13 vote of seven for and zero against with zero
14 abstaining. Mickey Stickman, First Chief and Gloria
15 Patsy, Secretary/Treasurer signed the petition.

16
17 The Chair will entertain a motion to
18 adopt this proposal to be transmitted to the State
19 Board of Game on Proposal 94, which would eliminate the
20 Koyukuk Controlled Use Area air access restrictions.

21
22 MR. R. WALKER: So move, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Robert.

25
26 MR. STICKMAN: Second.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Mickey.

29
30 MR. J. WALKER: Question.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's been
33 called. Those in favor of this being conveyed to the
34 State Board of Game signify by saying aye.

35
36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.

39
40 (No opposing votes)

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous consent to
43 endorse the proposal -- or the resolution.

44
45 And so we're at -- where are we at now,
46 Vince.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: We're at correspondence.

49
50

1 And with that resolution, Jack, why
2 don't you take a copy, and then I'll transmit that over
3 to the Board of Game along with your two letters that
4 we worked on.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're at just an
9 administrative thing that's basically all the
10 correspondence that you received and sent is summarized
11 on Page 132.

12
13 MR. STICKMAN: You only need one copy.
14 Jack needs the rest.

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: No, I'm going to take
17 them over for the Council, because I have the two
18 letters to make sure they get in the record.

19
20 MR. STICKMAN: Okay.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Anyway, so that's it.
23 It's 132 if you want to look it over. If you want to
24 see a copy of those, I have them on my computer, or I
25 can get you a copy. So that's all that's there is just
26 to let you know what's come in and what's gone out for
27 your Council.

28
29 And since I have the mic, if anybody
30 has any travel problems, you better let me know real
31 soon, because once you adjourn, then it gets
32 interesting to find everybody. So if you have any
33 problems, obviously call my office number, but don't
34 hesitate on it.

35
36 MR. R. WALKER: Tell me your cell
37 number, I'll call you 24/7.

38
39 (Laughter.)

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: That's all I have.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So at this time our
44 final agenda item is Council members closing comments
45 and the adjournment. Going with Robert.

46
47 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. Thank
48 you. I was talking to Geoff, our new BLM rep here
49 about doing a survey for moose count and wolf
50 collaring, him and Bill. Maybe we should just have a

1 letter directed to Bill's supervisor from the Western
2 Interior stating that, you know, this would be a real
3 good idea. I think you should talk with Geoff. If you
4 and Geoff could sit down and talk and you guys put your
5 heads together and formulate a letter and fire it off
6 to BLM.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you would like to
9 make a motion to the effect that the Council transmit a
10 letter to the head of -- the regional director of the
11 BLM and to Tom Melius, director of the Fish and
12 Wildlife Service, to allot funding for -- to the BLM
13 and Fish and Wildlife Innoko Refuge for a wolf
14 collaring survey and also moose collaring data
15 collection for movements within that area. If you
16 would make a motion to that effect.

17
18 MR. R. WALKER: I'll make that motion.

19
20 MR. STICKMAN: Second.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded
23 to transmit a letter to the regional directors for a
24 funding source for this project, which is deemed by the
25 Council to be instrumental in data collection for
26 predation and moose population movements within the
27 southern portion of our region. Those in favor of that
28 letter signify by saying aye.

29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31
32 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chair. One more
33 thing.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

36
37 MR. R. WALKER: Geoff, that would be
38 for 21A and 21E, right?

39
40 MR. BEYERSDORF: Member Walker.
41 Through the Chair. I believe that would be actually
42 for 19A and 21E, mostly focusing on 21E, because you've
43 got that intensive management plan.

44
45 And actually another thought occurred
46 to me, I'm not sure how this would fall in in regards
47 to your annual report, if this would be a different
48 issue. Something to consider for that.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is an issue

1 that needs to be moved to the top of the docket and the
2 annual report has already been submitted for this year.
3 We won't see another one until next year, so this is
4 something that a letter would facilitate to the --
5 speaking directly to the regional directors through the
6 OSM.

7

8 Go ahead, Pete.

9

10 MR. PROBASCO: And, Jack, normally on
11 those type of correspondence, they're also cc'd to all
12 the Board members so they're aware of it, much like an
13 annual report.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. And so
16 that would be for Unit 19A and 21E, primarily in the --
17 near the Paradise Controlled Use Area was your target.
18 Okay.

19

20 And so do you have any further
21 comments, Robert.

22

23 MR. R. WALKER: Congratulations on
24 being the Chairman again.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

27

28 MR. R. WALKER: Or President. I'm glad
29 to welcome James Walker from Holy Cross as a new member
30 here. He's also from Y-3, so if we have anything
31 conflicting with Y-3 and Y-4, we have a representative
32 here.

33

34 Thank you very much.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Robert.
37 And I appreciate all of your input and attendance.

38

39 Jim.

40

41 MR. J. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 I'd just like to say I am glad to be here. I can't say
43 totally, because of this incident with my forehead.
44 But I'm glad to be here to observe the actions of the
45 Board. And again congratulations on chairing the Board
46 meeting again.

47

48 Thanks.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. You've

1 been a very active member, and appreciate your input,
2 and hope you don't leave a scar. So we'll see you next
3 meeting.

4

5 Jenny.

6

7 MS. PELKOLA: I would just like to say
8 I'm glad to be here, and I'm learning a little bit more
9 each time. So maybe one day I'll be able to speak a
10 little more.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Jenny.
15 Appreciate your attendance.

16

17 Carl.

18

19 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. I'd like to thank
20 the Tribal Village of Fairbanks for.....

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MR. MORGAN:accommodating us.
25 But I feel good about this meeting. And one thing I
26 really feel good about is that looking at this bycatch.
27 It's a very, very concerned issue throughout the AYK
28 area. I'm not saying that all of the other issues
29 weren't very important. But I feel good about this
30 meeting.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot, Carl.
35 I always appreciate Carl's input. He brings
36 perspective from the lower Kuskokwim that we
37 appreciate.

38

39 Ray.

40

41 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Ditto. I think
42 it's been a good meeting, and I feel good about what we
43 took care of this time.

44

45 I did have a question. Those of us
46 that are expiring this year in 2008, some of us have
47 reapplied.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. COLLINS: Well, whose term is
2 expiring. Well, that could be the case, too. I'm not
3 sure. You have to be ready for those things. But
4 anyhow, would we serve through next fall whether we're
5 appointed or not, and then replacement would come on in
6 this meeting next year, is that the way it works?

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, you're correct. So,
9 for example, Ron didn't reapply. He's let it be known
10 that he's moving on to other things. So he has one
11 more meeting to enjoy.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And, Don.

14
15 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
16 enjoy it when we have a full Board here. The reason I
17 was kind of hesitant about some of the things we passed
18 in Galena there, especially on the fishing issues, was
19 we didn't have a full board, and some of the people
20 that sat, that knows a lot about the fisheries weren't
21 there. So you know, in the future, I think that some
22 of the things that we're really going to have to really
23 take a stand on, I believe is the net issues, the mesh
24 and stuff like that.

25
26 And so it's really good to have James
27 on board. I know he's pretty knowledgeable, and he's
28 in the past been on the Doyon board. And it's good to
29 have Winchell here.

30
31 And I think that we have to support
32 each other. Like we said, whether we have proposals,
33 and we always as Western Interior back each other on
34 these proposal whether it's coming before the State
35 Board of Game or whether it's our own coming before the
36 Subsistence Board. I believe that we have to, and Jack
37 said, bring it before and maybe discuss it prior to the
38 meetings.

39
40 There was a couple in there that I
41 didn't even know that was -- I didn't know the full
42 language on there, and Ed Sarten, our Chairman
43 presented them, but I'm thankful that we have your
44 backing, and it goes before the State Board, and we'll
45 see how it does.

46
47 Other than that, it was a good meeting.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. Go
50 ahead, Don.

1 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. First
2 off, I had a corporate board meeting yesterday, so I
3 would like to thank you all for conducting business.
4 And for the Staff that is still remaining with us. We
5 have tried to streamlined our meetings, and we still
6 think of you that's sitting out there waiting for a
7 couple of days to make our report, and I thank you for
8 our patience, because at this time I still can't come
9 up with any way to change our agenda's yet, because one
10 of our main priorities are these proposals that are put
11 before us, and we want to forward them as soon as we
12 could. I thank all the Staff for your patience.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I also
17 really appreciate all of the Staff input and State
18 input and the patience that everybody shows in our
19 deliberations.

20

21 Mickey.

22

23 MR. STICKMAN: I just want to say
24 thanks to the Staff that was here for the information.
25 The information that they bring to the table helps us
26 make our decisions. And I want to thank the rest of
27 the Board here.

28

29 And I wanted to thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 I would never want to be Chairman, because of the
31 amount of research that you have to do. Once we put
32 our issues on the table, for you as the Chair and for
33 Vince as the coordinator, it takes a tremendous amount
34 of time and research to portray those issues in the
35 fashion that we portray or -- so I just wanted to thank
36 you for that. I know the incredible amount of work
37 that you do and Vince does just to make sure that our
38 issues are portrayed correctly, and I wanted to just
39 thank you for that.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that,
42 Mickey. Without Vince, I'd be at a loss. He goes
43 through our -- when we start writing these letters, he
44 goes through the transcripts and gets what our intents
45 were and what everybody was saying, so that can all be
46 incorporated. Yeah, there is various letters and
47 things, and so I see why Ron didn't like this position,
48 but it's very important work to assure that subsistence
49 users are afforded the most opportunity that's possible
50 with the legal constraints that the various dual

1 management systems provide.

2

3 So, Winchell.

4

5 MR. TICKNOR: All I've got to say is,
6 you know, I kind of feel guilty for not attending the
7 last couple of Board meetings, but I'm at very trying
8 times in my life, and I was getting better. But I
9 really enjoyed this meeting, and I learned lots, and I
10 want to thank all those that gave us reports and
11 information.

12

13 And I want to thank you for accepting
14 another position as Chairman. It's very hard, and I
15 think you're -- I really enjoy the way you present a
16 meeting.

17

18 And thanks to everybody. And thanks,
19 Vince, for getting me here. And I want to thank
20 everybody for being here again.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thanks,
23 Winchell.

24

25 And I again want to thank OSM Staff and
26 the State Staff for attending the meeting. It may seem
27 that I have animosities against the State. I don't
28 have animosities. My passion is towards proper fish
29 and game management and sustained yield and provision
30 for the subsistence users. And so that's where I'm
31 coming from. It may not look that way, it may color a
32 little bit, but I have compassion for the resource as
33 the primary -- because with good, healthy resource,
34 then we have good, healthy subsistence harvest for our
35 communities.

36

37 And so I really appreciated having a
38 full Council here this time. It does make it way
39 easier and more comfortable to make decisions about
40 various issues. And so it's like a dog team, you've
41 got everybody pulling on the gang line, you've got a
42 lot of power there. Five-dog teams are only half as
43 powerful as a 10-dog team.

44

45 And so at that, Vince, have you've got
46 any issues.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Chair will

1 entertain a motion -- oh, go ahead, Robert.
2
3 MR. R. WALKER: Make him buy us dinner
4 first. Not having a restaurant here.....
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Chair will
9 entertain a motion to adjourn.
10
11 MR. STICKMAN: So move.
12
13 MR. J. WALKER: Second.
14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.
16
17 MR. HONEA: I object.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The meeting is
22 adjourned.
23
24 (Off record)
25
26 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 177 through 344 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters on the 29th day of February 2008, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at Fairbanks, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 11th day of March 2008.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/12 □