

1 WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 VOLUME II

7  
8 Galena, Alaska  
9 October 31, 2007  
10 9:00 o'clock a.m.

11  
12  
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14  
15 Jack Reakoff, Chairman  
16 Donald Honea  
17 Carl Morgan  
18 Jenny Pelkola  
19 Ron Sam  
20 Mickey Stickman

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

(Galena, Alaska - 10/31/2007)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to bring this meeting to order. Please take your seats. It's 9:10 on the clock on the back of the wall. We have a little bit of an agenda order change. We have people that are needing to fly out this afternoon, so we're going to let Brandy give the TCC report first and then we're going to Mike Spindler and then we're going to talk about enforcement of the Federal hunts.

Go ahead, Brandy.

MS. BERKBIGLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good morning, Council members. I'm Brandy Berkbigler with Tanana Chiefs Conference. I'm the Yukon Partner fisheries biologist. TCC is a tribal consortium of the 42 villages of Interior Alaska. It's a non-profit organization and it covers 235,000 square miles in Alaska.

So, within TCC we're funded under the Partners in Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and we submitted a proposal back in 2002, so it's been a five-year funded program at TCC, and we submitted a proposal in February 2007 for four more years of funding and we'll find out in January of 2008.

Within TCC I work under the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and within that is the Wildlife and Parks Program and then there's just two persons, myself and Mr. Mike Smith, my supervisor.

I'd like to give you an overview of the 2007 projects that TCC has been involved in and I'll kind of share this presentation with my intern, Lisa Kangas. One of the first ones was Yukon River age/sex/length and genetics data collection of subsistence caught chinook salmon in Holy Cross and Bishop Rock. This is to help fill a data gap with the State's chinook information. So then we also had the Henshaw Creek weir and the Henshaw Creek science camp, where we're still conducting a Tanana fall chum salmon radio telemetry project as up to this date and then the Goodpaster River counting tower is run by Mike Smith, so I'll just have a quick slide on that.

1                   So I'd like to start out now with my  
2 2007 fishery intern Lisa Kangas. She's been an intern  
3 for TCC for three years. She was picked up on a  
4 project down by Koyukuk in 2004 and she's luckily come  
5 back every year.

6  
7                   MS. KANGAS: Hello, Mr. Chair. Council  
8 members. My name is Lisa Kangas and I am a fishery  
9 Partners Program intern. I also work at the Tanana  
10 Chiefs Conference. That's where the office is.

11  
12                   I want to share a little bit about  
13 myself. I want to give some background information,  
14 where I grew up and my background of fish. Basically  
15 this is my third summer being a TCC fishery intern.  
16 I'm a senior at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I  
17 plan on graduating not this spring semester but the  
18 fall semester after that. Last year I went to the AFS,  
19 American Fisheries Society, meeting and this year I  
20 will be traveling to Ketchikan because I got the travel  
21 award scholarship. I was also a Kuskokwim Native  
22 Association and Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
23 genetics intern this past winter.

24  
25                   My home town. Ruby, Alaska. It's  
26 located about 50 miles upriver from Galena. I moved  
27 when I was 12. My parents wanted a better education  
28 for my siblings, but I lived there and pretty much  
29 every summer for the first 19 years of my life I would  
30 go to Bishop Mountain. This is our family fish camp.  
31 It's about 14 miles below Galena. There are about four  
32 or five households there at any given time, so there's  
33 a lot of people who depend on going to Bishop Mountain.  
34 There's a lot of hard work, time, money and energy  
35 spent, so this is really where I learned a good work  
36 ethic because I really had no choice. Laziness is not  
37 something that my family virtues. So that's basically  
38 me in a nutshell. If you have any questions, please,  
39 feel free to shout out.

40  
41                   This is my supervisor Brandy  
42 Berkbigler. I met her three years ago when she was  
43 working at Fish and Wildlife and now she is a TCC  
44 Partners fishery biologist. She is amazing. Couldn't  
45 imagine having a better supervisor.

46  
47                   These are the summer projects I've been  
48 on in the previous summers. Not this summer. I did  
49 the age/sex/length ASL and genetic fin clip sampling at  
50 Bishop Mountain. We also took samples of vertebrae, we

1 took samples of heart tissue to check for ichthyophonus  
2 and otolith samples.

3  
4 I also went on a whitefish radio  
5 telemetry project with Randy Brown at Fish and Wildlife  
6 Service. In 2005 we sampled whitefish on the south  
7 fork of the Koyukuk River and I did two summers at a  
8 traditional ecological knowledge science camp at Fort  
9 Yukon. I spent a couple weeks for a couple summers at  
10 the Goodpaster counting tower. I spent three summers  
11 at Henshaw Creek weir, but last summer it was flooded,  
12 so I wouldn't really count that.

13  
14 And I spent a week in Anchorage at the  
15 Alaska Department of Fish and Game because I was a  
16 fisheries genetics intern. So I learned about really  
17 what went on after the collection process and what the  
18 fishery managers and the fishery researchers had to  
19 say.

20  
21 This summer, this is a little outline  
22 that I'm going to follow. I did some ethnographic  
23 studies of Carolyn Brown, I did ASL and genetic fin  
24 clip sampling in the Y3 and Y4 districts, and I also  
25 attended the Henshaw Creek science camp and the Henshaw  
26 Creek weir.

27  
28 The first field project of the season.  
29 This is Carolyn Brown. She is the anthropologist,  
30 Subsistence Division at the Alaska Department of Fish  
31 and Game. What she basically was doing, she uses  
32 different methods, semi-conductive method, mapping and  
33 household surveys to get an idea of the use and  
34 distribution of non-salmon species in Ruby and other  
35 middle Yukon villages.

36  
37 The reason for this internship, this  
38 project, was because of two local concerns. One was a  
39 lot of the locals observed a decrease in the size of  
40 salmon and, second, they wanted to know the overall  
41 health and the stock abundance of non-salmon species in  
42 case the fisheries ever had to shift from chinook and  
43 other salmon to non-salmon species. So I went to Ruby  
44 and Galena. Well, I'm here now but we didn't do any  
45 interviews yet. You can see here on the bottom with  
46 Zeta Cleaver.

47  
48 The next project I went on was Holy  
49 Cross. I was there for two weeks sampling and Bishop  
50 Mountain as well. I took ASL sampling data and we took

1 200 axillary process clips from chinook salmon. The  
2 reason why this project was implemented was because  
3 there's a considerable lack of data from the Y4  
4 subsistence harvest, which has contributed to  
5 uncertainties in previous stock specific harvest  
6 estimates. Data gaps have also been identified from  
7 district Y3, which includes the community of Holy  
8 Cross.

9

10 This is Holy Cross. It was my first  
11 time ever being in Holy Cross and I really enjoyed it.  
12 I enjoyed meeting new people and I experienced  
13 different processes of fishing methods and different  
14 ways that they prepared it.

15

16 This is a sampling crew. We have  
17 Bergie Demientieff, he was the technician, and Edwin  
18 Turner, the boat driver. We sampled 234 fish.  
19 Originally it was going to be 200, but we went above  
20 and beyond.

21

22 This is at Bergie -- no, sorry. They  
23 call him Iggy Demientieff. This is his camp. We took  
24 a lot of fish from him. Here are the fishermen in Holy  
25 Cross. We could not have done this project without the  
26 fishermen. You see Daisy Demientieff,  
27 Alfred Demientieff, Jr., and Bergie on the bottom. Of  
28 course, there was down time when I was in Holy Cross.  
29 We didn't fish every day. The fishing windows didn't  
30 allow that. So I spent time getting to know the  
31 children and the elders and really learning from a  
32 different culture. They have a little bit of Eskimo  
33 influence, so I really enjoyed being there.

34

35 Right from Holy Cross I went to Bishop  
36 Mountain, Alaska. I applied the same sampling methods  
37 that were used in Holy Cross. Here were the Bishop  
38 Mountain technicians. You have Rachel Dewilde and  
39 Shelly Dewilde. Unfortunately, halfway through the  
40 sampling season Shelly sprained her ankle, so her  
41 mother stepped in. Here's Lillian. That is my  
42 grandpa, Franklin Dayton, aka Kaki. He's a very hard  
43 worker.

44

45 This is where we set our nets. You can  
46 see the south bank setnet and the north bank setnet. I  
47 sampled about 30 chinook per day and I was really  
48 careful to differentiate between both banks and not to  
49 get them both mixed up.

50

1 I want to run through a typical day  
2 with Lisa. So here you see Jenny Pelkola, she's a  
3 Council member and avid fisherman from Bishop Mountain,  
4 and Lillian Dewilde. They're taking the chinook from  
5 the net. They are heading back to the cutting rack.  
6 You can see the tub of fish. There I am. I had to  
7 have a little time before to get my stuff organized  
8 because my family works really fast and it's difficult  
9 to keep up, but I managed to do it.

10  
11 Here we are taking all the fish. I'm  
12 measuring from the mid eye to fork of tail in  
13 millimeters. We also take three scales from the  
14 lateral line behind the dorsal fin. We also clip off a  
15 chunk of the axillary process.

16  
17 While we're doing all of this, you can  
18 see my family hard at work. There's Jenny. You have  
19 the gutting, splitting, washing, hanging, sliming and  
20 after that's all finished they bring it back to the  
21 camp where they either score it, split it or cut it  
22 into eating fish. Afterwards you can see the semi-  
23 finished product.

24  
25 My third field season project was the  
26 Henshaw Creek weir. This is not my first summer being  
27 there, but I always enjoy it. We worked three-hour  
28 shifts twice a day, so we spent a total of six hours  
29 per day. The reason for this weir was to measure the  
30 run timing and abundance of salmon and non-salmon  
31 species. These are the facilities. It was very  
32 comfortable. You can see my tent in the bottom left-  
33 hand corner and the sleeping platforms. They also had  
34 a shower.

35  
36 This is the counting crew. These are  
37 the people that I spent my three weeks there in the  
38 field with. You see Travis Varney, the crew leader for  
39 Fish and Wildlife. Walter Bergman, Jonathan Henzie  
40 were both fishery technicians from Allakaket. Desiree  
41 Ulroan was a youth employment services.

42  
43 The weir. This is my favorite part of  
44 the summer. I enjoy sitting on the trap. You can't  
45 see the shoot, but the fish swim through the shoot,  
46 through the scissor gates and out that open front gate  
47 door and you just sit there with a counter clicker and  
48 click them as they pass through. You can't always  
49 count because most of the time -- last year it was  
50 flooded. I think they counted three fish maybe. One

1 of the three weeks I was there this summer it was also  
2 flooded again.

3  
4 We sampled chinook and chum, about 160  
5 per week. We collected age/sex/length data and took  
6 three scales from chinook and one from chum. This is  
7 the actual sampling process. You can see the chinook  
8 ready in the trap for me to catch them up, take their  
9 scales and measure them. Of course, I was very careful  
10 not to hurt the fish.

11  
12 How did I benefit from this Partners  
13 Program. I really got a lot of field experience, I  
14 worked in the office for a large chunk of all my three  
15 summers and I also helped with logistical support. I  
16 formed new connections. I'm always meeting new people  
17 and finding new internships to wander off and do. I  
18 have scholarships to help me continue my education and,  
19 of course, I traveled to new places and met new people.

20  
21 Future goals. I plan on attending the  
22 American Fisheries Society meeting in Ketchikan coming  
23 up in November and I would also like to complete my  
24 senior year at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and  
25 hopefully delve into a career in the fisheries field.  
26 Of course, this would not be possible without the  
27 different funding agencies, Tanana Chiefs Conference,  
28 the United States Fish and Wildlife and the Alaska  
29 Department of Fish and Game. Questions.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any questions for  
32 Lisa on her presentation. Ron.

33  
34 MR. SAM: When you were counting fish  
35 at the Henshaw Creek weir, how many days in the time  
36 you were there was there high water too high to count?

37  
38 MS. KANGAS: Oh, there were about five  
39 days that I was there and then it flooded again. By  
40 the time we were trying to get our percentage of fish  
41 that we could get out of the field, it flooded again,  
42 so we decided just to pack up and go before it was  
43 impossible to get out.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Very nice  
50 presentation, Lisa. Thank you.

1 MS. BERKBIGLER: I'll try not to be too  
2 redundant, but I'm just going to cover a couple other  
3 things. At Henshaw Creek it was funded through the  
4 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from 2005 to 2007. It  
5 was a cooperative agreement with the Fairbanks Fish and  
6 Wildlife Field Office. The objectives were to  
7 determine the daily escapement and run timing of adult  
8 salmon, get the age, sex and length composition and the  
9 number of resident fish passing as well as serve as a  
10 training platform for TCC to take it over. So, with  
11 this last cycle of proposals that came through in the  
12 spring, TCC submitted a proposal to run Henshaw Creek  
13 weir independently for the next four years, 2008 to  
14 2011. We will find out hopefully in January whether  
15 that funding comes through or not.

16  
17 So, just to give you a little graph  
18 from 2005, the data we had was 237,000 chum salmon and  
19 this year preliminary data is showing 32,000. The  
20 graph at the bottom where it dips is the days that it  
21 was flooded and we haven't worked out the numbers yet.  
22 Then the chinook salmon we had 1,059 and then this year  
23 we're showing 569 right now.

24  
25 The Henshaw Creek Science Camp, this is  
26 the first year we submitted a challenge cost share  
27 grant with the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge in  
28 December of 2006 and we were funded, so we had a one-  
29 week-long camp at Henshaw Creek and we advertised in  
30 Bettles, Hughes, Allakaket and Alatna for students. We  
31 were able to get five students and here's all the camp  
32 participants. We also had refuge members and two  
33 elders, Kitty David and David David attend.

34  
35 Lessons that we covered were fish  
36 identification, fish dissection, stream ecology,  
37 aquatic invertebrates, and then we also gave the  
38 students an introduction to the operation of a weir and  
39 data collection. So, hopefully in the future you'll  
40 get some technicians out of this.

41  
42 The top left was a fish identification.  
43 We placed pictures of fish along the beach and we  
44 covered their names so that the students would see the  
45 fish in that area and then we had them choose five and  
46 we had little sheets where they would learn about the  
47 life history of the fish and they had to take their  
48 fish and learn about the life history and then present  
49 to us.

50

1                   We also did a fish dissection. We  
2 showed all the anatomy of the fish. Then we did stream  
3 ecology and aquatic invertebrates. Then the refuge had  
4 a day of activities. Mike Spindler, the refuge manager  
5 for Kanuti, taught about refuge policy and management.  
6 Then we had Kristin Reakoff, the Kanuti National  
7 Wildlife Refuge interpretive park ranger, who taught  
8 about wildlife and we did some track making and some  
9 games. Then the students also got to see the prairie  
10 blue dragonfly on the top right and it was actually  
11 eating a mosquito. It was a rare sighting for us.  
12 David David showed us how to build a dry rack and then  
13 Kitty David did traditional fish cutting and also  
14 showed us how to make a net, so all the students  
15 participated in cutting and we dried some fish and  
16 everybody got to take a little bag home with them.

17  
18                   Our evening activities we did some fish  
19 printing. Sometimes fish, like the chum, after they  
20 spawn will wash up on the weir, so we're able to take  
21 some good samples to do some good fish prints and  
22 everybody made a T-shirt that was at the camp. Then we  
23 did storytelling and Kitty David taught beading, so all  
24 the girls and even the boys were able to make stuff.

25  
26                   The last project we were involved in is  
27 the Tanana fall chum radio telemetry project. This is  
28 a project that was submitted to AYKSSI last year and  
29 it's for 2007-2008. The Tanana River produces 30  
30 percent of the Yukon fall chum salmon and is an  
31 important resource to the people in the entire Yukon  
32 River. This two-year study will investigate the  
33 spawning habitats utilized in the upper portion of the  
34 Tanana River drainage. The tagging occurred upstream  
35 of the Kantishna River on the main stem Tanana and the  
36 tracking will be conducted August through November to  
37 areas such as the Delta River to identify main stem  
38 spawning in the Tanana River.

39  
40                   If we know more about where they're  
41 spawning at in the main stem, then we can have better  
42 responsible growth since that's an area where the  
43 pipeline crosses and it's a possibility that the  
44 railroad or the gas pipeline could cross in that upper  
45 section there. The other cooperatives on this project  
46 are ADF&G commercial fisheries in Fairbanks and then  
47 USGS is doing some habitat work with us on the ground.

48  
49                   2007 was a pilot study just to test the  
50 different tags and make sure they were staying in the

1 salmon, so we deployed 30 tags in female chum salmon;  
2 15 on September 17th and 15 on September 19th. We did  
3 test 120 tags before that, three tags of each size,  
4 just to see how they were setting in the fish.

5  
6           So fish are collected from the fish  
7 wheel and then they're transported back in totes to the  
8 tagging and holding site and there's a picture of the  
9 radio tag at the bottom, one of the three. So we put  
10 the fish in a fish cradle, measured them, put the tag  
11 in there so we could follow them if they were caught in  
12 the fishery in Nenana. Then we measured -- the tag  
13 goes through a hollow tube, the antenna does anyway,  
14 and then you measure along the fish so you can get an  
15 idea how far you're going to have to insert the tube  
16 in. Then they insert the tube and then we held them in  
17 the tanks for four hours and then we cut them open to  
18 see, number one, if the tags had ruptured the stomach,  
19 number two, how they were sitting in the stomach with  
20 the three different tags. All the fish were utilized  
21 in subsistence, so they were all given away.

22  
23           After we placed the 30 fish in the  
24 river, we did a helicopter and fixed wing aerial  
25 surveys, and then we also have radio towers positioned  
26 in certain areas to track them as they go by.

27  
28           I gave you guys a handout and on the  
29 back is the most current map. So this is the previous  
30 two weeks map which is showing that the remaining 24  
31 fish were just around Fairbanks and just above  
32 Fairbanks. With this one they've moved a little  
33 further upriver, but they still haven't gone all the  
34 way up towards Delta River yet where we were  
35 anticipating them going, but we did tag them like close  
36 to the third pole of the fall chum, so with only 30 we  
37 might have gotten a population that's not going to move  
38 all the way up there.

39  
40           So, in 2008, when we tag 300 chum  
41 salmon, we'll see a lot better results. This is just a  
42 test to see if everything is working right and see how  
43 it all pans out for next year's big study.

44  
45           The last project, I wasn't involved  
46 with this one this year but Mike Smith ran it. It's  
47 the Goodpaster River counting tower. The data is still  
48 preliminary for 2007. There's a total for chinook  
49 that's been counted since 2004. Each year there's a  
50 high water event on the Goodpaster and this project has

1 been funded through the Tech Resources Incorporated and  
2 it's contracted through BSFA (ph) to TCC to run.

3  
4 Today, in between projects, I also  
5 attended Arctic Village Science and Traditional  
6 Knowledge Camp and I performed a fish dissection for  
7 the high school and the elementary students at the  
8 camp. Then I assisted Ruby Tribal Council with the  
9 tribal wildlife grant proposal and we're still waiting  
10 to hear about that. I've submitted in the meantime a  
11 proposal to the AYKSSI, which is the Alaska  
12 Yukon/Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative, with the  
13 University of Alaska Fairbanks being the project  
14 investigator and I'm a co-investigator in looking at  
15 otolith chemistry to track chinook movement. That's  
16 all.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Brandy.  
19 Do Council members have questions for Brandy's  
20 presentation.

21  
22 Ron.

23  
24 MR. SAM: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
25 Not really a question. You've noticed I've been quiet  
26 when they talk about the Koyukuk River fisheries and  
27 this weir is located just above Allakaket on the  
28 Koyukuk River and they just might believe that the main  
29 spawning ground for chinook, especially chinooks out of  
30 South Fork River, which is above Henshaw Creek, but  
31 it's gotten so big that you cannot put a weir in there  
32 unless you block the whole darn river. I truly believe  
33 that most of our spawning stocks up in our area, South  
34 Fork of the Koyukuk River, which is about 20 miles or  
35 maybe 30 miles above Allakaket and that's where most of  
36 our chinook spawn.

37  
38 As far as the chums are concerned, all  
39 the dog mushers I know they were just setting their  
40 nets 10 to 20 feet out and just leave the rest on the  
41 shore even though it was high water. We had a good run  
42 this year. So I wasn't worried about the stock in our  
43 area. You can see the difference in the strips in the  
44 flesh of these chinooks and chums. You saw a picture  
45 of our chinooks. They're red on the outside, white on  
46 the inside, and that's the same way with our chums, so  
47 we do a lot of trading, especially from the Yukon  
48 River, but I believe that our stocks are fairly stable  
49 because of the way it was run. The last few years we  
50 are really having high water during the fishing season,

1 but people are finding new places and new ways to catch  
2 fish even with a short 10 to 20 feet set.

3

4 Thank you both for your presentations.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Ron. Any  
7 other questions.

8

9 Don.

10

11 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
12 guess my main question is about all these studies  
13 conducted on the Yukon and the Koyukuk and the  
14 Kuskokwim and such with the scales and stuff, I know  
15 that it's ongoing every summer. Could you tell me,  
16 when you're taking the scales, you're determining age  
17 or whatever, could you kind of briefly explain what are  
18 we looking for and how are we going to change our  
19 pattern. Do you periodically come out with some stuff?  
20 I'm just kind of interested because we hear of studies  
21 year after year. Do you make a determination or what  
22 it eventually comes to or am I confusing you?

23

24 MS. BERKBIGLER: No, I think I  
25 understand your question, Don. What we're doing is,  
26 like for Henshaw Creek, we take the scales. What  
27 happens is we send the scale cards off with the  
28 information we collect off the fish, the length and the  
29 sex, secondary characteristics. We can't cut it open  
30 and get a for sure male or female, but we can do our  
31 best at squeezing to feel eggs in the belly and looking  
32 at the kipes and stuff to sex it. We send those scale  
33 cards off to ADF&G and they age them and they send back  
34 that data to me. Then like for 2005 in the Henshaw  
35 report we have that age data to go along with the  
36 females, so we know how old the females were and how  
37 old the males were that came back for the age  
38 composition. That can give us a good idea of the run  
39 structure coming back.

40

41 So like Dani was saying in the study  
42 that they're doing at the mouth, they have the age six  
43 fish that came back, we get data just like that, so we  
44 do utilize it for Henshaw Creek. Unfortunately 2006 we  
45 didn't have any because it was flooded the entire  
46 season. This year I haven't got the data back.  
47 Usually in the spring those reports will be out. It  
48 will be finalized data. I can send you a Henshaw Creek  
49 2005 report with that information in it if you'd like  
50 to look at it. But we do use the data for age

1 structure coming back.

2

3 MR. HONEA: Thank you. I'd appreciate  
4 that. With any studies that you come back with  
5 findings, I'd appreciate a copy myself.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MS. BERKBIGLER: You should get one for  
10 the Bishop Mountain and the area that we did Y3 and Y4  
11 sampling I should get that data back soon too and that  
12 should be in a report format by the spring as well.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. Any  
15 other questions.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have a question on  
20 the Partner funding. Is there a determination on that  
21 now?

22

23 MS. BERKBIGLER: The last I heard there  
24 might be a continuing resolution, which means we would  
25 get funded at the rate we did last year. Other than  
26 that I haven't heard anything new. As of January is  
27 when we've been told we'll find out, January 1st.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. One tiny  
30 little question. Is there thought to be a main stem  
31 Tanana spawning area? Is your telemetry showing them  
32 in stem right now?

33

34 MS. BERKBIGLER: Yeah, there has been  
35 some like around Reka's Roadhouse where the highway  
36 crosses the river up there near Delta Junction. That's  
37 one of the spots that we know a little bit about and  
38 we're thinking there's a lot more for sure because  
39 they're not showing up in some of the tributaries like  
40 they should be.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Any  
43 other questions.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot, Brandy  
48 and Lisa. We're going to move to Mike Spindler. I'll  
49 give a little overview on what the issue is here. Ron  
50 touched on it yesterday. We had a Koyukuk River

1 Advisory Committee meeting down in Allakaket and during  
2 that advisory committee meeting the local people there  
3 felt that the enforcement level was above acceptability  
4 and was intrusive into hunting activities. So that was  
5 basically the upshot of it.

6  
7 This Council acts as a liaison in a  
8 public forum for comments by local people, so I told  
9 people that we would regard this issue at our Council  
10 meeting. I want the Council to be aware that, you  
11 know, these Federal hunts that we have also highlight  
12 the enforcement levels because they're -- if we diverge  
13 away from the State, then the Federal government has to  
14 make sure that there's adequate enforcement, so I want  
15 the Council to be aware of some of the ramifications of  
16 what happens if we do make our own Federal hunts.

17  
18 At this point I'll -- did you want to  
19 say something first then, Ron, or just let Mike speak  
20 or how would you like to proceed.

21  
22 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I  
23 stated both our March 1 hunt or what was supposed to be  
24 our March 1 hunt and our fall hunt, people just felt  
25 there were too many planes, too many people out on the  
26 field. Instead of running into moose, they run into  
27 enforcement people more than anything else. I do not  
28 have anything against enforcement. In fact, at one  
29 time we did ask for more enforcement, but that was  
30 because we were overrun with non-resident hunters and  
31 we felt that the non-resident hunters were not being  
32 looked at or counted or whatever they did were not  
33 being made to comply with the rules and stuff like  
34 that.

35  
36 Like I said, I do not have anything  
37 really against the wildlife refuge. They are trying to  
38 do their job. It's just that I believe subsistence is  
39 a priority, especially in Allakaket/Alatna area. We  
40 have a very low moose count and we need that time and  
41 not privacy, but at least non-harassment by non-  
42 residents in order to be successful.

43  
44 Again, we have a very low moose count,  
45 .5 or .4 moose per square mile or something like that.  
46 Most of them are gathered in some small creeks or  
47 shallow water areas which we cannot get into to harvest  
48 and we just wanted to discuss this -- a lot of people  
49 call it harassment. It's just the way it is, I guess.  
50 Again, I don't have anything against enforcement, it's

1 just that we have too much of it. We saw more  
2 enforcement agencies than moose.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Ron. If you  
7 can you give us an overview of your enforcement levels  
8 and then we'll have a brief discussion. I just want  
9 this Council to be aware of these enforcement issues  
10 when we have these Federal hunts.

11

12 Go ahead, Mike.

13

14 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, Mr. Chair. Fellow  
15 Council members. My name is Mike Spindler. I'm the  
16 refuge manager of Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge.  
17 It's interesting following up Brandy's presentation. I  
18 enjoyed very much working with Brandy and Carla and  
19 Kristin on the science camp because bringing these  
20 young people into science and into Fish and Wildlife is  
21 really going to help foster communication so that maybe  
22 misunderstandings like this won't occur again.

23

24 Now we move on to a less pleasant topic  
25 and that is law enforcement, a very necessary part of  
26 resource management nevertheless. A little bit about  
27 my background first. I raised my kids in this  
28 community. I lived half my life in rural Alaska in  
29 villages. Of all the refuge managers, I probably have  
30 most listened to elders talk. This is the Raven Story  
31 series. There's 40. This is 1/10th of the series.  
32 There's 40 elders been interviewed from Ruby down to  
33 Kaltag up to Allakaket.

34

35 I certainly share the concerns of the  
36 people in Allakaket when they tell me there's not  
37 enough moose. I was extremely sensitive to their needs  
38 based on the listening that I've done over the years of  
39 elders talking to me about how moose hunting used to be  
40 and how it is now.

41

42 Some background on the March 2007 hunt.  
43 The fall 2006 hunt did not go well for Allakaket and  
44 Alatna. When all the harvest tickets were analyzed at  
45 the end, about 15 moose were harvested. The door-to-  
46 door surveys conducted by Alaska Fish and Game  
47 Subsistence Division in the late '90s showed that those  
48 two villages normally got about 40 moose. So we're  
49 looking at the village trying to survive on one-third  
50 the normal number of moose or less. There was also

1 poor local understanding that they had available to  
2 them, a December 1 to 10 bulls only season. To my  
3 knowledge, there was no participation in that season  
4 last winter.

5  
6 In January 2007 I conducted a series of  
7 meetings. I attended the Koyukuk Advisory Committee  
8 meeting, I presented this issue to them and I asked the  
9 question if you guys would support a bulls only winter  
10 hunt in March. I said there was some concern about  
11 harvest of cows. We would not be able to tolerate a  
12 harvest of cows in such a hunt and the only way that I  
13 saw as a manager to conduct that hunt would be to have  
14 enforcement. Would you, the Koyukuk AC, support this  
15 hunt if we had law enforcement presence. They voted  
16 yes.

17  
18 I learned a lot in my time in the  
19 villages and just talking to the AC is not enough. I  
20 went to the Allakaket Tribal Council and had a specific  
21 meeting with the Allakaket Tribal Council in January of  
22 2007. I posed the same question to them. They did  
23 support this March moose hunt. They did understand the  
24 need for law enforcement and they voted to have the  
25 hunt with the law enforcement.

26  
27 I went across the river and met with  
28 the Allakaket Council as well and posed the same  
29 question to them with the same results. They wanted  
30 the hunt and they voted to have it with the law  
31 enforcement. Throughout I emphasized the need for law  
32 enforcement because as a resource manager I am  
33 concerned about subsistence opportunity, but I'm also  
34 even more concerned about the sustainability of the  
35 harvest into the future years for the subsistence users  
36 and for their children and their grandchildren.  
37 So I emphasized that we needed to work together to make  
38 sure no cows would be harvested.

39  
40 I drafted a record of decision in  
41 February of 2007. I consulted with the chair at the  
42 time, Mr. Sam, and the vice-chair at the time, Mr.  
43 Reakoff, with my plan for conducting this hunt. They  
44 approved my plan, I consulted with our stakeholders,  
45 the BLM and the Park Service. They all supported my  
46 plans to conduct the hunt in this way. In fact, BLM  
47 provided a law enforcement officer to work with me on  
48 this.

49  
50 Just prior to the March 1 opening we

1 conducted an all hunters meeting in Allakaket. There  
2 were 17 hunters attending it and it was a very good  
3 meeting. It was excellent. Everybody understood the  
4 need to conserve cows. They maybe even criticized me  
5 for over-emphasizing the need to conserve cows, but I  
6 didn't want there to be any misunderstandings. I  
7 issued 27 permits. Ten hunters actually hunted. They  
8 spent an average of 3.8 days hunting. No moose were  
9 harvested March 1 through 5.

10

11 The weather was cold. Low  
12 temperatures, 40 to 50 below, high temperatures maybe  
13 20 below at the highest. So they petitioned me to have  
14 another opening. It was somewhat controversial, but we  
15 did get it through and there was another opening in  
16 late March with the same result. We had a number of  
17 hunters go out and no moose were harvested.

18

19 In the end, the hunters told me that  
20 the main factors were the challenges posed by the cold  
21 weather, that there are few moose available to hunt,  
22 that the Federal lands are quite a distance from  
23 Allakaket and they had difficulty stalking moose once  
24 they did see a track through the thick brush with  
25 snowshoes or with snowmobiles and the moose would flee  
26 before they could ever get a look at it. In March,  
27 when moose are antlerless, you need to see the moose  
28 close if you're going to be able to be sure it's a  
29 bull. None of the hunters got close enough to be sure  
30 that they saw a bull.

31

32 The law enforcement efforts at that  
33 time, there were two openers. I have two snowmobiles  
34 stationed in Bettles. Each time I drove a snowmobile  
35 down with one of my partners. So we were out one day  
36 on the Bettles/Allakaket trail. We had an agreement  
37 with the tribal office where we would stay there  
38 overnight and we stayed there during the entire opener.

39

40 On three occasions we went out  
41 different directions from the village. We went up the  
42 South Fork trail, we went down to Old Man and we went  
43 to the Chulatna, Steve Bergman's cabin, mainly to  
44 familiarize ourselves with the means of departing the  
45 village and getting onto the trail system should we  
46 need to respond to a report of a cow down.

47

48 We were not actively patrolling.  
49 During these three forays, which lasted less than a  
50 day, we never saw a moose hunter. Therefore, I take

1 very strong issue with the allegations made against me  
2 at the Allakaket AC that we were harassing and  
3 following moose hunters. It is simply a misstatement  
4 of fact.

5  
6 The problems with the March bull hunt  
7 are many. It only applies to Federal lands. This is  
8 confusing to hunters. We thought we could provide some  
9 assistance to hunters. We hired Allakaket people to go  
10 out and mark the Federal refuge land boundaries  
11 wherever the trails enter or leave the lands. This  
12 took Steven Bergman several weeks. He did this in 50  
13 below weather. I applaud him for doing it. We did a  
14 great job marking those trails. Nevertheless, if a  
15 hunter were to leave the main trails, he would need a  
16 GPS to know if he was on Federal lands or not.

17  
18 This Federal March hunt only applies to  
19 ordinary high water, lands above ordinary high water,  
20 because anything in a flood plain is under State  
21 jurisdiction even if it's within the blocks of Federal  
22 lands. This takes us out of alignment with State  
23 regulations. It's confusing. It does not apply to  
24 State lands, it does not apply to Native corporation  
25 lands, it does not apply to Native allotments.

26  
27 There's a high risk of cow harvest.  
28 There's a high risk of taking a bull on the wrong  
29 lands. I had some very severe reservations about  
30 getting into this hunt to begin with. If any cows are  
31 taken, it will accelerate the decline that we've seen  
32 in the moose numbers in Unit 24-B.

33  
34 In the end, I concluded that I should  
35 try and offer this hunt because I felt that the  
36 Allakaket people needed that opportunity. I felt that  
37 it was an experiment worth trying but that it was also  
38 very expensive and in the end we ended up being  
39 criticized nevertheless. The March hunt offers some  
40 additional opportunity, but it's mainly a paper  
41 opportunity. It's not a real good hunting opportunity.  
42 It's just a small opportunity.

43  
44 I would like to see a meeting in  
45 Allakaket in January of this year after people have an  
46 opportunity to participate in the December 1 to 10  
47 State general hunt and after we've hopefully had an  
48 opportunity to conduct our moose surveys in November to  
49 once again assess the level of the moose population.  
50 It's only through talking and discussing these things

1 openly and communicating that we can resolve these  
2 kinds of misunderstandings.

3

4 I will have a similar presentation  
5 about the enforcement efforts in the September 2007  
6 hunt, but I think first maybe I should close and have  
7 some dialogue about the March spring hunt first at this  
8 point.

9

10 Mr. Chair, your pleasure.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don, do you have a  
13 comment.

14

15 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I'd like  
16 to give you a little bit of insight from the OSM side  
17 of this as well. When there was no success during the  
18 March 1st through 5 hunt, there was a special action  
19 request that came to OSM. I think it was from the  
20 Allakaket Tribal Council. Frankly, the initial  
21 reaction at OSM was to disallow this special request.  
22 That would be our recommendation to the Board because  
23 they have to make that determination.

24

25 We got together with Mike and had a  
26 teleconference and it was because of Mike's strong  
27 advocacy -- I remember his words very well. He said  
28 this is the right thing to do, was to allow another  
29 hunt because people in Allakaket were hurting. Had he  
30 not said those words, I don't think this next other  
31 period would have gone through.

32

33 The reason it went through was because  
34 Mike assured everybody he would have adequate law  
35 enforcement presence, that they were going to have  
36 another hunters meeting beforehand and with all those  
37 conditions we were able to have the Federal Board  
38 approve this extra hunt basically or approve the  
39 special request.

40

41 So I just have to say if it weren't for  
42 Mike advocating as strongly as he did, this wouldn't  
43 have happened. The second hunt would not have  
44 happened.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any comments so far  
49 on the March hunt. I appreciated Mike stepping up to  
50 the plate for that hunt and providing opportunity. Any

1 questions so far.

2

3 Ron.

4

5 MR. SAM: Not a question really. Just  
6 more history of that area. As you go up towards  
7 Bettles and Allakaket, you cross the Henshaw Creek and  
8 that's where you see wind drifts and less snow and you  
9 go 20 some miles below Allakaket again you hit the same  
10 thing. We have heavy timber and heavy willows, heavy  
11 brush and for the most part five or six foot of loose  
12 snow to try to break trail through but it didn't happen  
13 last year. We were lucky for that. Then, like Mike  
14 said, we had 45 to 50 below during that second hunt. A  
15 lot of people were going to work because we were  
16 building some houses and I think that's one of the main  
17 reasons that they didn't participate in the second  
18 hunt.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If we can expedite  
23 this a little bit, it would be appreciated. We've got  
24 time constraints today. Go ahead on the September  
25 portion, Mike.

26

27 MR. SPINDLER: Just one final comment  
28 on March. It would be my recommendation that this  
29 Council work together with the State of Alaska to  
30 explore the possibility of opening up a general hunting  
31 opportunity in March. It would be much simpler and  
32 better for everybody. I believe the State did pose  
33 that question in their questionnaire to Unit 24 hunters  
34 that they sent out last spring.

35

36 As regards the September 2007 general  
37 hunt, there's 38 days of hunting opportunity available  
38 to people of Allakaket and Alatna. We had people  
39 patrolling during nine of those 38 days. Our main  
40 focus was to determine whether there were non-local  
41 guide transporters working on the refuge, to determine  
42 if allegations made by villagers that there were jet  
43 boats and air boats entering onto the refuge from the  
44 Dalton Highway, and then finally to have a local  
45 enforcement presence to deter any possibility of cow  
46 harvest during the fall season.

47

48 We flew nearly all patrol flights at an  
49 altitude of 1,500 to 2,000 feet. Having lived in the  
50 Bush a long time and a hunter myself, I'm extremely

1 sensitive to the possibility of an airplane scaring a  
2 moose away from a hunter involved in a stalk. In my  
3 experience of thousands of hours of flying moose  
4 surveys and doing enforcement flights, an altitude of  
5 1,500 to 2,000 feet rarely disturbs a moose. From this  
6 altitude my officer used binoculars to determine if any  
7 boats or camps had moose. If we saw moose from that  
8 altitude, we would descend and land and talk to the  
9 people. During this nine days I only talked to three  
10 hunters from Allakaket and Alatna. I found all those  
11 hunters to be in compliance with the laws.

12

13 My emphasis shifted to the low-flying  
14 SuperCub that was reported working along the Kilolitna  
15 and the Kanuti Rivers. I spent quite a bit of time  
16 trying to follow what this person was doing because I  
17 found that there were landing marks on at least 10  
18 gravel bars on the Kilolitna River and two or three on  
19 the Kanuti River, places where I'd never seen airplane  
20 activity before. It became a priority for me to track  
21 this person down. I spent mainly that nine days  
22 working on that issue.

23

24 There was only one time that I flew low  
25 over Allakaket hunters. There was a moose down and my  
26 officer and I, even with binoculars, could not see  
27 whether the moose had antlers, so we had to fly low to  
28 determine that it was a bull. That was the only time I  
29 flew low.

30

31 There were no violations on Kanuti this  
32 year. Both with the sport hunters and with the local  
33 subsistence hunters. I believe there were no  
34 violations because we have had an enforcement presence  
35 the last two years. I have heard repeatedly at  
36 meetings people's concerns about the non-local hunters  
37 entering into the controlled use area, using jet boats,  
38 using air boats and wasting meat. In fact, last year  
39 we did have a case of wasted meat and the word spread  
40 like wildfire on the internet that we were patrolling  
41 the Kanuti.

42

43 I would refer you to the handout that I  
44 gave you to give more details about our results of our  
45 September hunt. We believe about 13 moose were  
46 harvested this year. That's an increase of one from  
47 last year at this time with preliminary data. The  
48 reports that I got when I visited Allakaket in the  
49 midst of this enforcement, and I don't just fly over, I  
50 stop and visit people in the village, was that they

1 were having an easier time during the season because of  
2 cooler weather and higher water.

3

4                   Again, I take issue with the  
5 allegations made that I was flying as low as the level  
6 of a smokehouse to look inside the smokehouse and  
7 harassing hunters. As I said, there was only one case  
8 where I had to fly low over hunters and I made  
9 conscious efforts to avoid that possibility of  
10 disturbing hunters involved in a stalk.

11

12                   I would like to remind the Council that  
13 there is a State December 1 to 10 season and if the  
14 people of Allakaket need more opportunity, they should  
15 explore that first. Secondly, I recommend that  
16 Council again work with the State to see if there's any  
17 possibility of reinstating the March hunts on a general  
18 hunt basis rather than these Federal hunts.

19

20                   I want to emphasize also that we are  
21 working with Allakaket on a tribal wildlife grant to  
22 improve moose habitat there with crushing vegetation to  
23 replace willows lost during ice scouring and possible  
24 use of harvest incentives on tribal lands for intensive  
25 management. We're also working with the Alaska  
26 Department of Fish and Game in assessing moose habitat  
27 to evaluate whether intensive management on the lands  
28 outside or near the Refuge would be a means of  
29 improving the situation.

30

31                   I pledge to you that I am willing and  
32 very much interested in working together with all  
33 Partners to see that this moose population recovers to  
34 levels where we're not fighting over every last moose.

35

36                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38                   Thank you, Council members.

39

40                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Mike.  
41 Any questions on the September portion, any comments  
42 from the Council.

43

44                   (No comments)

45

46                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that this  
47 kind of gives the Council an insight into what's  
48 happening when we do have these Federal hunts, what the  
49 managers have to go through and what the people have to  
50 go through. The Allakaket people had such a terrible

1 time getting meat last year, this was an opportunity  
2 that this Council had been willing to provide.  
3 Enforcement is necessary. I think a planning session  
4 with the Kanuti staff in Allakaket and Alatna would be  
5 a good avenue to explore ways to have -- at least so  
6 the local people understand what would be acceptable  
7 with the least adverse impact to the enforcement. So I  
8 think a meeting is necessary down there. At this  
9 point, with no further questions, I appreciate your  
10 attendance here, Mike, and presentation on your aspect  
11 of this.

12  
13 We moved those to the top of the  
14 docket, so we're returning back to our agenda. Do you  
15 have anything for me there, Vince.

16  
17 MR. MATHEWS: No, I think you would  
18 start off with Proposal 15 and 16.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So we're  
21 going to start with the presentation of the proposal.  
22 Don is going to give us an overview.

23  
24 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don  
25 Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management.  
26 We're on Page 93 of your proposal books. Proposal  
27 FP08-15, submitted by the Loudon Tribal Council of  
28 Galena, requests an expansion of fishing time for the  
29 Federal drift gillnet fishery in Subdistricts 4-B and  
30 4-C of the Yukon/Northern Federal Subsistence Fishery  
31 Management Area to include the entire weekly regulatory  
32 openings, instead of just the last 18 hours of each,  
33 which is in regulation right now.

34  
35 Proposal FP08-16, submitted by the  
36 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, requests the  
37 elimination of the Federal drift gillnet fishery in  
38 Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C.

39  
40 The proponent for Proposal 15 states  
41 that adoption of the proposal would reduce competition  
42 for Federal subsistence drift gillnet fishing sites  
43 across from the village of Koyukuk in Subdistrict 4-A;  
44 allow Federally qualified users from Subdistricts 4-B  
45 and 4-C more time to explore; find and utilize viable  
46 drift gillnet sites as the proponent states that the  
47 time period right now is too short to do that with the  
48 current 18-hour openings. And it would also reduce  
49 fuel consumption costs and safety concerns by being  
50 allowed to travel shorter distances to fish.

1                   The proponent of Proposal 16 claims  
2 that the drift gillnet fishery in Subdistricts 4-B and  
3 4-C is not a traditional fishery and is not consistent  
4 with the definition of customary and traditional use in  
5 regulations, which is customary and traditional use  
6 means a long-established, consistent pattern of use,  
7 incorporating beliefs and customs which have been  
8 transmitted from generation to generation. This use  
9 plays an  
10 important role in the economy of the community.

11  
12                   The proponent in No. 16 made similar  
13 claims when opposing Proposal 05-04 three years ago,  
14 claims which the Federal Subsistence Board considered  
15 and rejected when it established the drift gillnet  
16 fishery in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C in January 2005.

17  
18                   It should be noted that under the  
19 Federal Subsistence Management Program it is the use of  
20 a resource that is determined to be customary and  
21 traditional, not the method or means of harvest.  
22 Residents and their antecedents of Subdistricts 4-B and  
23 4-C have customarily and traditionally used salmon for  
24 generations, and this is recognized through a positive  
25 customary and traditional use finding for salmon by  
26 residents of the Yukon River drainage and residents of  
27 Stebbins.

28  
29                   The proposed regulations are on Page  
30 94. The only difference in the language for Proposal  
31 15 are the words the last 18-hour period of, which you  
32 see are crossed out in Section C there. And for  
33 Proposal 16, that third paragraph labeled C would be  
34 struck out completely, which means drift gillnet  
35 fishing in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C would no longer be  
36 allowed.

37  
38                   A little bit of the regulatory history  
39 here. In March 2003, your Council submitted fisheries  
40 proposal 04-05 to the Federal Subsistence Board and  
41 this proposal was rejected because of some of the  
42 concerns that were expressed at the time. A year later  
43 in March 2004, the Western Interior Council submitted a  
44 similar fisheries proposal to the Board, again  
45 requesting expansion of the subsistence drift gillnet  
46 fishery to include Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C, as well as  
47 District 5.

48  
49                   At your fall Council meeting that year,  
50 the Western Interior Council recommended that the

1 proposal only apply to 4-B and 4-C and be limited to  
2 chinook salmon from June 10th to July 14th and to the  
3 harvest of chum after August 2nd.

4  
5 In January 2005, the Board adopted this  
6 proposal with modification to allow the harvest of only  
7 chinook salmon, but not chum salmon, by drift gillnet  
8 in the Federal public waters of Subdistricts 4-B and 4-  
9 C during the final 18 hours of the weekly regulatory  
10 openings under a Federal subsistence fishing permit.  
11 This drift gillnet fishery now in 2007 has completed  
12 three seasons with the end of the 2007 season.

13  
14 I refer you to the map on Page 96 which  
15 shows the Federal areas in this area, Federal waters  
16 and where people are allowed to now fish with drift  
17 gillnets. There's two areas in 4-B and 4-C where drift  
18 gillnet fishing is allowed in the Federal public  
19 waters. Galena downstream to the border with  
20 Subdistrict 4-A and Ruby upstream to the border with  
21 Subdistricts 5-A and 5-B.

22  
23 A little bit of the harvest history  
24 starts on Page 97. In 2005, 70 permits were issued and  
25 9 permit holders fished for a total of 60 hours and 54  
26 chinook salmon were harvested. Feedback from Federal  
27 subsistence users indicated that productive drifting  
28 spots had not been located within the Federal public  
29 waters of Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C, but fishing effort  
30 would likely increase if productive drift sites were  
31 found.

32  
33 In 2006, you can see the table on Page  
34 98, interest in the Federal subsistence fishing  
35 opportunity declined somewhat with only 18 permits  
36 issued, 16 to Galena residents, one to a Ruby resident,  
37 and one to a Koyukuk resident. Of the 18 permit  
38 holders who reported their fishing activity, 13 people  
39 did not fish and five fished approximately 18 hours,  
40 resulting in the harvest of 19 chinook and 11 chum  
41 salmon.

42  
43 In 2007, on July 1st, the State and  
44 Federal regular subsistence fishery in Subdistricts 4-B  
45 and 4-C was liberalized from two 48-hour openings per  
46 week to one 5-consecutive-days opening per week. In  
47 response, the Federal in-season manager liberalized the  
48 Federal drift gillnet fishing time, which was the final  
49 18 hours of the weekly regulatory openings, by a  
50 similar, pro-rated amount to two 22-hour periods per

1 opening. Effective July 6, the State and Federal  
2 regular subsistence fishery in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C  
3 was liberalized to 7 days per week and the Federal  
4 drift gillnet fishing time was liberalized by a similar  
5 prorated amount to two 31-hour periods for the week of  
6 July 8th.

7  
8 In 2007, the interest in this Federal  
9 subsistence fishing opportunity continued to be  
10 exploratory. As was noted earlier by Tom McLain, a  
11 total of 12 permits were issued; 8 to Galena residents,  
12 1 to a Koyukuk resident, 3 to Ruby residents, with 6  
13 permits returned as of the end of July, with a reported  
14 harvest of 13 Chinook salmon in 8.5 hours of fishing  
15 time by drift gillnets.

16  
17 In putting the harvest in perspective,  
18 in 2007 the preliminary run estimate for chinook is  
19 about 125,000 for the river. ADF&G conducted a  
20 directed commercial fishery for Yukon River chinook  
21 with a harvest of approximately 33,600 fish. Again,  
22 only 13 chinook were harvested in the drift gillnet  
23 fishery in 4-B and 4-C in 2007.

24  
25 The effects of these proposals begin on  
26 Page 99. For Proposal 15, adoption would provide  
27 additional harvest opportunities to Federally qualified  
28 subsistence users by giving them additional time to  
29 explore, find, and utilize productive drift gillnet  
30 fishing sites. It would also align the subsistence  
31 drift gillnet fishing time period to be the same as  
32 other legal subsistence gear fishing times in  
33 Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C. This would result in  
34 increasing the time by 60 hours per week, from 36 to 96  
35 hours. In other words, when the fishing season opens  
36 each year for Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C, they have two  
37 48-hour periods under the windowed schedule. However,  
38 no increase is anticipated in the combined harvest of  
39 chinook salmon in Subdistricts 4-A, 4-B and 4-C, as  
40 Federally qualified users would likely only be changing  
41 the locations of where they fish and not the amount of  
42 chinook needed and harvested.

43  
44 Should more viable sites for drift  
45 gillnet fishing be found in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C,  
46 fishing pressure and competition for the few desirable  
47 fishing sites near, and downstream of, the village of  
48 Koyukuk in Subdistrict 4-A would likely decrease.  
49 Federally qualified subsistence users from, and fishing  
50 in, Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C would be able to utilize

1 their time and resources more efficiently by being able  
2 to use drift gillnets closer to their own communities  
3 and, in so doing, consume less fuel due to shorter  
4 trips.

5  
6 Safety concerns of these fishers from  
7 4-B and 4-C associated with the time and distance  
8 required traveling to productive sites in District 4-A  
9 would be reduced by being able to fish closer to their  
10 home villages. Aligning the drift gillnet fishing time  
11 with the other legal subsistence gear fishing times  
12 will likely result in less confusion by fishers and  
13 less administrative actions by the Federal in-season  
14 manager.

15  
16 As always, the Federal in-season  
17 manager will continue to have the authority to make  
18 in-season adjustments in fishing time and gear types in  
19 response to chinook salmon run strength.

20  
21 The effects if Proposal 16 were  
22 adopted. This would eliminate the drift gillnet  
23 fishery, negating the Federal Subsistence Board's  
24 actions of January 2005 when it established this  
25 fishery in the first place. Federally qualified  
26 subsistence users in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C would no  
27 longer be able to use fishing gear that is legal to use  
28 in Districts 1, 2 and 3 and the adjoining Subdistrict  
29 4-A. This would also potentially increase the amount  
30 of time needed to harvest fish by using less efficient  
31 gear types.

32  
33 Mr. Chair, the Office of Subsistence  
34 Management's preliminary conclusions are to support  
35 Proposal 15 and oppose Proposal 16.

36  
37 The justification for 15, the chinook  
38 salmon subsistence harvest in the Federal drift gillnet  
39 fishery in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C have been extremely  
40 low in all three seasons so far, 2005, 2006 and 2007.  
41 The primary management concerns with the expansion of  
42 the drift gillnet fishery into Subdistricts 4-B and 4-  
43 C, which was a significant potential for harvest  
44 expansion beyond the historic level and the potential  
45 shift of stocks harvested by people taking Canada-bound  
46 fish has not materialized.

47  
48 Aligning the drift gillnet fishing time  
49 with the other legal subsistence gear fishing times  
50 reduces confusion and provides additional harvest

1 opportunities to Federally qualified subsistence users.  
2 And adoption will provide additional time to explore  
3 for, find and utilize viable drift gillnets sites.  
4 Again, no increase is anticipated in the combined  
5 harvest of chinook salmon in Subdistricts 4-A, 4-B and  
6 4-C.

7  
8 The justification for opposing Proposal  
9 16 is that elimination of the Federal subsistence drift  
10 gillnet fishery in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C is not  
11 justified. The proponent's two claims were considered  
12 and rejected by the Federal Subsistence Board when it  
13 established the fishery in January 2005. Again, it is  
14 the use of a resource that is determined to be  
15 customary and traditional, not the method or means of  
16 harvest. The low participation rate by Federally  
17 qualified users in the three years that this fishery  
18 has been in existence is not a valid reason to  
19 eliminate the fishery.

20  
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll answer any  
22 questions if you have some.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Don.  
25 Council have questions on the presentation by OSM.

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, we'll  
30 have State comments.

31  
32 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, Mr. Chair  
33 and Council members. Department comments begin on Page  
34 101. Excuse me. George Pappas, Department of Fish and  
35 Game, Subsistence Liaison Team. Comments begin on Page  
36 101 for the Department's preliminary comments.

37  
38 FP08-15 would liberalize hours allowed  
39 for the federal subsistence drift gillnet fishery in  
40 Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C of the Yukon River. The  
41 intent of proposal FP08-15 is to allow more Federal  
42 subsistence fishermen to fish closer to home and  
43 alleviate competition between user groups and gear  
44 types through expanding the number of hours to fish.  
45 The proponent of the proposal states allowing more time  
46 to fish will allow people to explore, find and utilize  
47 viable drift gillnet sites.

48  
49 FP08-16 would eliminate the recently  
50 implemented Federal subsistence drift gillnet fishery

1 in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C of the Yukon River because  
2 it was not a traditional fishery, was not a  
3 long-established, consistent pattern of use,  
4 incorporating beliefs and customs which have been  
5 transmitted from generation to generation, and did not  
6 play an important role in the economy of the  
7 community. State regulations allowed a similar  
8 fishery to take place in the early 1970s but were  
9 repealed because there was little to no participation.

10

11 The creation in 2005 of the Federal  
12 subsistence drift gillnet fishery in Subdistricts 4-B  
13 and 4-C of the Yukon River by the Federal Subsistence  
14 Board incorrectly expanded fishing opportunity on a  
15 fully utilized stock classified as a yield concern.

16

17 The Alaska Board of Fisheries recently  
18 reviewed this stock of concern designation and extended  
19 it. Additional liberalization of the Federal  
20 subsistence drift gillnet fishery could increase  
21 competition with traditional subsistence users and  
22 customary fishing sites. State and Federal subsistence  
23 fisheries harvests may move between districts and  
24 between drift gillnets, set gillnets, and fish wheels  
25 in State waters and waters under Federal subsistence  
26 jurisdiction. Continuing this unnecessary divergence  
27 and liberalization of state regulations creates  
28 confusion for users, administrative and enforcement  
29 burdens, regulatory complexity, and complicates  
30 management.

31

32 Experience with the fishery has shown  
33 that drift gillnets are not efficient or practical to  
34 use in this area and allowing the use of setnets and  
35 fish wheels amply provides a meaningful Federal  
36 subsistence priority. Concerns for potential impacts  
37 to other users, Canadian chinook salmon stocks, and  
38 fisheries management appear to be the reasons the Y-K  
39 Delta and Eastern Interior RACs, Alaska Board of  
40 Fisheries, YRDFA, and the Department originally opposed  
41 this fishery.

42

43 The Federal Board made restrictive  
44 modifications to address some of the voiced concerns at  
45 the 2005 Federal Board meeting. Further liberalization  
46 of this fishery will be in conflict with the concerns  
47 addressed during the Federal Board s modifications made  
48 in 2005.

49

50 The Department opposes FP08-15, which

1 would liberalize this fishery, and supports FP08-16,  
2 which would eliminate this fishery.

3

4 Salmon may be harvested under State  
5 subsistence regulations throughout Subdistricts 4-B and  
6 4-C in the Yukon River during two 48-hour periods per  
7 week from June 15 through September 30 as established  
8 by emergency order. In addition to the 48-hour State  
9 subsistence fishing periods, the State subsistence  
10 fishery is open during commercial fishing periods but  
11 not during the 24 hours prior to the opening of the  
12 commercial fishing season. The State subsistence  
13 fishing periods are normally linked to abundance or  
14 commercial fishing periods and are conducted based on a  
15 schedule implemented chronologically, which is  
16 consistent with migratory timing as the salmon run  
17 progresses upstream.

18

19 The legal gear for the State  
20 subsistence salmon fishery in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C  
21 include fish wheels, hand line, gillnet, and beach  
22 seine. There are no household harvest limits for the  
23 State subsistence fisheries. Amounts reasonably  
24 necessary for subsistence, as determined by the Alaska  
25 Board of Fisheries, have been met for chinook salmon in  
26 the Yukon River drainage for 8 of the last 10 years.  
27 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game recognizes that  
28 some members of the public and one Regional Advisory  
29 Council have expressed their interest in developing the  
30 drift gillnet fishery on at least three occasions.

31

32 The State is very concerned about  
33 potential biological impacts caused by changes in stock  
34 composition of harvests taken by a new gear type. The  
35 85 salmon harvested during the 2005 and 2006 Federal  
36 subsistence drift gillnet fishery in 4-B and 4-C likely  
37 did not impact any particular stock nor the overall  
38 health of the Yukon River chinook salmon resource. The  
39 9 Federally permitted drift gillnets fished in the  
40 Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C during 2005 spent a total of  
41 60 hours to harvest 56 salmon. The 5 Federally  
42 permitted drift gillnets fished in the Subdistricts 4-B  
43 and 4-C during 2006 spent a total of 18 hours to  
44 harvest 30 salmon. Although this fishery is new, full  
45 development of this fishery could potentially impact  
46 chinook salmon stocks and these concerns were presented  
47 on the record by the Department and the Board at the  
48 2004 and 2005 Board meeting.

49

50 Use of drift gillnets may not increase

1 the overall subsistence harvest, but this gear type  
2 could eventually change the composition of stocks  
3 harvested. Stationary set gillnet and fish wheel gear  
4 likely harvest more local chinook salmon stocks, while  
5 mobile drift gillnet gear will likely harvest more  
6 Canadian origin chinook salmon stocks. This  
7 observation is common traditional ecological knowledge  
8 along the Yukon River and should be appropriately  
9 accepted as the best available information. Drift  
10 gillnet gear may also shift the timing of harvest to  
11 earlier in the run than traditional gear currently in  
12 use, thus increasing the harvest of Canadian-bound  
13 chinook salmon.

14

15                   In addition, Federal regulations  
16 allowing the sale of subsistence caught salmon may  
17 result in increased harvest using a new gear type.  
18 Therefore, this fishery continues to be inconsistent  
19 with conservation of natural and healthy populations of  
20 fish and wildlife and increases complexity of the  
21 regulations. While there is little hard information or  
22 specific data upon which to judge the potentially  
23 significant effect of proposal FP08-15 due to harvest  
24 expansion beyond the historical level and potential  
25 shift of stocks harvested, there is no basis for a  
26 conclusion that no future impacts will develop if this  
27 fishery is liberalized.

28

29                   Although poor runs occurred from  
30 1998-2000, the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks are  
31 not classed as either a conservation concern or a  
32 management concern. The Yukon River chinook salmon  
33 stock is designated as a stock of yield concern. In  
34 all years, except for the very poor chinook salmon run  
35 in 2000, there has been reasonable opportunity for  
36 subsistence fishers to meet amounts necessary for  
37 subsistence.

38

39                   A majority of the Yukon River chinook  
40 salmon escapement goals have been met or exceeded since  
41 2000. Specifically, the agreed to escapement objective  
42 for the Canadian main stem has been met every year  
43 since 2000, except for 2007, with 2001, 2003 and 2005  
44 being the three highest spawning escapement estimates  
45 on record.

46

47                   Escapement goals in the Chena and  
48 Salcha rivers have been met or exceeded annually since  
49 2000 with escapement levels twice that of the upper end  
50 of the goals in the Chena River in 2003 and in the

1 Salcha River in 2001, 2003 and 2004.

2

3                   The proponent of FP08-15 indicates  
4 adoption of this proposal will reduce fuel consumption  
5 and competition among subsistence users near the  
6 village of Koyukuk located in Subdistrict 4-A.  
7 Depending on where drift areas may be found in waters  
8 applicable to this regulation, there may be little  
9 reduction in fuel usage. There may also still be  
10 crowding where a good fishing site is found, contrary  
11 to the intent of FP08-15 to reduce crowding issues near  
12 a community.

13

14                   Numerous subsistence salmon fishers  
15 utilizing a specific portion of a river near their home  
16 is not unique. There are several locations from the  
17 mouth into Canada where drift gillnet, set gillnet, and  
18 fish wheel sites are limited and entire villages take  
19 turns fishing these sites. Eliminating this  
20 fishery will assist in simplifying regulations which  
21 will reduce confusion among subsistence fishermen and  
22 enforcement.

23

24                   The Federal Board and the Alaska Board  
25 of Fisheries carefully considered proposals to develop  
26 similar drift gillnet fisheries in Subdistricts 4-B and  
27 4-C in 2003 and 2004 and opposed them based on a list  
28 of concerns. There is nothing new that justifies  
29 increasing the fishery time by 166 percent. The  
30 intent of FP08-15, the same fishing periods as other  
31 subsistence fishing gear types, has been before the  
32 Federal Board twice before in previous proposals  
33 FP04-05 and FP05-04 and was clearly rejected.

34

35                   Liberalizing this fishery may increase  
36 user conflicts, contribute to further development of  
37 patchwork regulations that are only applicable to  
38 scattered stretches of Yukon River waters, increase  
39 difference in Federal and State regulations which  
40 impacts management coordination, increase risk of  
41 reallocation of harvests between users, and may have  
42 negative impacts to existing fisheries including  
43 subsistence fishers farther upriver and on other user  
44 groups along the river.

45

46                   Eliminating this fishery would result  
47 in little to no change to the subsistence fishery.  
48 Based on permits issued and reports prepared by the  
49 federal program, very few people make use of this  
50 fishery and very few fish are harvested. Interest in

1 the fishery has declined rapidly, almost certainly as a  
2 result of the difficulties and low catch rates involved  
3 in the fishery. This is an extremely difficult area to  
4 fish and most fishers find it preferable to fish at the  
5 upper end of District 4-A where drift gillnetting is  
6 legal. Most stationary gear sites are already occupied  
7 by set nets and fish wheels.

8

9  
10 While the drift gillnet gear in this  
11 area might provide some opportunity for new fishers or  
12 transient fishers with a shorter history of  
13 participation in subsistence fishing in Subdistricts 4-  
14 B and 4-C, it does not provide an opportunity for  
15 efficient and cost effective participation  
16 characteristic of subsistence use, and elimination of  
17 the drift gill net fishery will not impact the  
18 established subsistence fishery.

18

19  
20 Elimination of this fishery will also  
21 address concerns for expanding a fishery using a new  
22 gear type into other areas or long established fishing  
23 sites which could result in direct competition with  
24 other subsistence gear types and social conflict.  
25 Fishing a drift gillnet downriver of a productive  
26 traditional set gillnet or fish wheel site will likely  
27 result in a reallocation of fish from one gear type to  
28 another.

28

29  
30 Current regulations are based on  
31 traditional fishing patterns and gear types used and  
32 subsistence fishing time is based on the historical  
33 gear types utilized. Within a fully allocated  
34 resource, if one fishery user group receives a  
35 significant liberalization or if one fishery user group  
36 significantly increases harvest potential, fishery  
37 managers must consider decreasing overall subsistence  
38 fishing time to account for increased efficiency and  
39 changes in stocks harvested. Reallocating harvest  
40 potential to a new gear type may change traditional  
41 fishing patterns. If participation and harvest levels  
42 remain near the 2005-2006 levels, it is unlikely the  
43 impacts of the drift gillnet fishery will impact other  
44 users or the resource.

44

45 I'm prepared to answer any questions.  
46 Thank you.

47

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do Council members  
50 have questions for the State, comments. Jenny, go  
ahead.

1 MS. PELKOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
2 just have a few comments. I was trying to put some  
3 stars in a couple areas. On Page 101, right under the  
4 introduction, you talked about in 1970 I guess drifting  
5 was allowed in this area. In 1970, I don't think the  
6 people really knew about drifting here, so I don't  
7 think very many people drifted because they were so  
8 used to having a setnet. That's the only way I know of  
9 fishing, was having a setnet, and I don't remember  
10 drifting at all. I've never really seen anybody drift.  
11 So I would strike that one out.

12  
13 And on Page 102, you said something  
14 about commercial fishing. That commercial fishing in  
15 our area is really useless, but we do have to follow  
16 the guidelines. The subsistence have to follow the  
17 comm fish because we don't have buyers here and we  
18 haven't had that for years. So I would strike that  
19 out.

20  
21 On the same page down, after you say  
22 use of a gillnet, something about a mobile drift  
23 gillnet would likely harvest more Canadian chinook  
24 salmon. In all my years of fishing, and I fished close  
25 to 30 years plus down at Bishop Rock, we've gotten  
26 very, very few Canadian fish on our set gillnets. I do  
27 set gillnets, I don't drift.

28  
29 On Page 103 where it says something  
30 about would lessen the crowd, I believe it would lessen  
31 the crowd across Koyukuk because -- I've never fished  
32 there, but from what I hear you have Koyukuk people  
33 going there, Galena people and we used to have Ruby  
34 people years ago but not that many anymore, and this is  
35 what I hear. I haven't seen it, but it could almost  
36 get wild down there. People are beginning to, you  
37 know, shout obscenities against each other and start  
38 almost fighting over the place. I know we have a  
39 Koyukuk resident here. Maybe he could later tell us a  
40 little bit more about that.

41  
42 I guess that's all I have for right  
43 now.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Jenny. Any  
46 other comments. Don.

47  
48 MR. PAPPAS: Can I respond, sir.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: George, go ahead.

1 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. Council Member  
2 Pelkola. Yes, in the '70s the fishery was authorized.  
3 There was lack of participation or no participation, so  
4 it was pulled off the books. So that's maybe why you  
5 didn't see them at the time. Maybe at the time it was  
6 a traditional fishery, so maybe it was a new fishery  
7 introduced that people, as you said, just didn't do.

8  
9 Second point. On the Canadian-bound  
10 fish, the drift gillnet would be fished normally in a  
11 deeper channel in the middle of the river. The  
12 Department's comments are based on traditional  
13 knowledge that a lot of the local stocks are caught  
14 with the set gillnet sites and the fish wheels along  
15 the shores, not out in the middle of the river in the  
16 deepest parts. So, as I understand, a lot of folks  
17 think the Canadian stocks are running up the middle of  
18 the river maybe out of reach of the traditional setnet  
19 sites and fish wheel sites.

20  
21 For the crowding issue, the State's  
22 comments are basically to indicate, well, what if a  
23 really productive driftnet site is found right near a  
24 village, right near a community where other gear types  
25 have been there for years. Is it going to increase the  
26 crowding in some areas. That depends if the  
27 driftnetters, the new fishery finds a very effective,  
28 efficient place to fish in. If it happens to fall in a  
29 spot that a lot of other users are there already, it  
30 could cause some conflicts. That's the points we were  
31 trying to get across, ma'am.

32  
33 Mr. Chair.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, George.  
36 Jenny, go ahead.

37  
38 MS. PELKOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
39 just would like to respond to the crowding. I think it  
40 would eliminate a lot of confusion around Koyukuk  
41 because we would have basically Galena people going  
42 this way, downriver, than having Nulato and Koyukuk  
43 come up here with the gas issue and high price of gas.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don, did you have a  
46 comment.

47  
48 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
49 Chair. Are we on 15 or 16?

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Both.

2

3 MR. HONEA: I support 15 because I  
4 realize that one time in my life I've gone down to  
5 Koyukuk and used that privilege of being able to seine  
6 down there. I completely agree. I believe that Galena  
7 residents, Nulato residents, it gets pretty congested,  
8 so I fully agree with that.

9

10 Now on No. 16 I have to totally  
11 disagree and I'd like the State's response to that. In  
12 the proposal it says the fishing gear that we are using  
13 are not comparable to anything in District 1, 2 and 3.  
14 I mean we're using regular setnets for seining. I  
15 believe it took us maybe three or four years of  
16 completely going before the Board to actually get this  
17 on the books.

18

19 I guess the initial fear from the State  
20 was that we were going to be taking too much fish that  
21 was harvested for Canada, so it's kind of ironic that  
22 the State wants to take that off the books because  
23 we're not utilizing enough. I mean justification says  
24 that it's not a traditional use. I want to see the  
25 State come up with more than that. Is that  
26 justification? Because people like to be able to use  
27 that opportunity. I mean the State is not picking up  
28 any extra tabs or anything for overseeing that program.

29

30 So I would like to see more  
31 justification for this coming -- it's just fairly new.  
32 We just got this privilege maybe two or three years  
33 ago. That's just my comments.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Don. Did  
38 you have a comment, George.

39

40 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. Council member  
41 Honea. I will take that back to the liaison team and  
42 see if we have more information to provide for  
43 justification. This is what I have right now, but I  
44 fully understand your point.

45

46 Thank you, sir.

47

48 Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, George.

1 Another other comments.

2

3 MR. STICKMAN: Jack.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mickey.

6

7 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8 One of the things, I don't support 16. As far as 15,  
9 the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee put in a proposal  
10 for an extension of the opening from where it is right  
11 now up to the Yuki and it's a State Advisory Committee.  
12 Some of the things the State came up with I don't agree  
13 with. I'm just kind of wondering where you got your  
14 traditional ecological knowledge from because I think  
15 it's basically wrong.

16

17 You know, Fred fished across from  
18 Koyukuk but he was originally born in Koyukuk. I don't  
19 think any one person has any more rights than another  
20 as far as fishing. Fred will tell you and Randy and  
21 Michael and Percy, anybody who fishes across Koyukuk  
22 will tell you that it is like combat fishing in the  
23 summertime when the runs hit because there's 12 to 15  
24 boats fishing in the same one-mile area and it does get  
25 kind of rough.

26

27 I used to fish there normally, but when  
28 it became combat fishing I moved closer to Nulato and I  
29 found a spot that I've fished in for the last four or  
30 five years. Then I fished in a spot that I learned  
31 about through a traditional ecological knowledge  
32 program that YRDFA was doing with Nulato.

33

34 Cathy Moncrieff from YRDFA had talked  
35 to Justin Patsy and Fred summer and they were talking  
36 about fishing in the early 1930s and they were talking  
37 about a spot where nobody fished at all, so I tried  
38 drifting in there and it ended up to be one of the best  
39 driftnet spots above Nulato and nobody ever drifted in  
40 there until I drifted in there, but now it's a popular  
41 driftnet spot. In fact, it's so popular I moved to the  
42 upper end where there's too many snags and people are  
43 kind of afraid of that spot. I even moved from a spot  
44 that I had originally discovered through traditional  
45 ecological knowledge project.

46

47 But Fred and the rest of the guys that  
48 go from here down to Koyukuk and then back up, they can  
49 tell you that it is combat fishing and very expensive.  
50 You talk about an increase in harvest. Well, because

1 of the distance they have to travel they have to get  
2 people to share the gas. But I don't see any increase  
3 in the harvest. Everybody who fishes in the villages,  
4 they know they get to a certain point and they stop. I  
5 mean people are not going to work any extra just to  
6 have extra fish because it don't make no sense. I mean  
7 a lot of people here in Galena get 150 and they're  
8 done. It's the same way in Nulato. A lot of people  
9 get 150 and they're done. Everybody has a set limit.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Mickey.  
12 Don, do you have another comment there.

13

14 MR. HONEA: I have another comment.  
15 This is kind of confusing to me. I realize FP08-15 is  
16 going to be an extension, is that what it is? But we  
17 have a little map in front of us on our handouts and  
18 the general public don't. I'm actually kind of  
19 confused. Talking to people here in the village just  
20 in the last couple of days, they don't really -- I mean  
21 first you mentioned going up the Yuki or something.  
22 Could anyone tell me what the existing regulation is?  
23 I mean I know that we have from below Tanana down to  
24 Ruby, but I don't know what the existing one is now and  
25 locals don't know just talking to people. I would like  
26 for somebody to explain that.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Don. Go  
31 ahead, Don.

32

33 MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard with OSM. If  
34 we look on the map on Page 96, this is the same map  
35 that is given out to people when they are issued  
36 permits, so it's made real clear where they can fish  
37 under Federal public waters and where they can't. So,  
38 again, in 4-B and 4-C it's Galena downstream to  
39 wherever that -- there is a descriptor on the permits  
40 that tell where that end point is, but it's the border  
41 with 4-A.

42

43 When I hear Mickey say that they're  
44 talking about wanting it to be extended someplace else,  
45 these two places are the only places you can fish  
46 because these are the only two places in 4-B and 4-C  
47 that's Federal public waters. So the other one then is  
48 Ruby upstream to the border with Subdistricts 5-B and  
49 5-A. Again, on the permits, there's a descriptor  
50 there. The wildlife refuge did put out markers as well

1 so that people would know that they're at the end of  
2 the Federal waters on all four of these places.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: To clarify, we're  
5 reviewing a Federal proposal for Federal waters. What  
6 Mickey is stating is that Middle Yukon is wanting to  
7 include the State waters above Galena to the Yuki, so  
8 that would have to go before the State Board of  
9 Fisheries, that State proposal to go from Galena  
10 upriver to the Yuki. What we're reviewing is strictly  
11 Federal waters. That's the only authority the Federal  
12 has, so it's basically to expand from 18 hours to 48-  
13 hour fishing on the Federal fishing that's been  
14 occurring. So that's what the proposal is before this  
15 Council at this time. Comment, Don.

16

17 MR. HONEA: Yeah, just a comment. Just  
18 for clarification sake and local people. I don't know  
19 if we're going to be able to hear from them, but maybe  
20 there comes a point when we will hear from anyone in  
21 the public.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further  
26 comments. Mickey.

27

28 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
29 You talked about reallocation of the resource and I  
30 don't think that's really right. I mean we're talking  
31 about a subsistence fish and, like I said, those  
32 numbers are going to stay the same. If you're going to  
33 talk about reallocation of the resource, I think maybe  
34 that's where the State needs to fix their management  
35 and reallocate some of that 33,000 commercial fish that  
36 they caught last year and reallocate that to the  
37 subsistence fishermen.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Mickey.  
40 Any further comments. Jenny.

41

42 MS. PELKOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
43 would just like to also state that I wish we could hear  
44 from the public, from the people from Galena and  
45 Koyukuk.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll get to that on  
48 our agenda. There will be public comments on this  
49 proposal. Any further comment.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to  
4 comment myself. I fought this proposal through the  
5 Federal Board. Those State allocations are incorrect.  
6 It's not a fully allocated fishery by gear type. It's  
7 an allocated fishery by user type. So this is not an  
8 allocation issue. The State continues to purport that  
9 and that's an incorrect analysis. These are Federally  
10 qualified, C&T qualified users. They're allocated  
11 these fish. It's not a reallocation of the fish to  
12 somebody else, somebody new. These are Federally  
13 qualified, customary and traditionally qualified users  
14 and they're allocated to those users, not to their gear  
15 types, whether they're wheel or setnet or however they  
16 catch them, with a dipnet or however they might want to  
17 catch them.

18

19

The windows afford protection to the  
20 Canadian stocks, as do all closures to allow passage.  
21 So it's the State's allegation that this is targeting  
22 and going to have some kind of border passage  
23 implication. That's incorrect also. These fish that  
24 are passing by and being caught in drift gillnet just  
25 below this district, so those windowed closures allow  
26 passage to assure those upriver escapement goals and  
27 border passage. So that's an incorrect analysis by the  
28 State.

29

30

The 166 percent increase in fishing  
31 time, as alleged by the State, using the top harvest  
32 year of 2005 on this drift gillnet fishery for B and C,  
33 it would be 54 fish, 166 percent increase would be 90  
34 additional fish. If you look at the data for Galena's  
35 harvest of 2,800 chinook salmon, if you had caught an  
36 additional 90 fish, there would be 143 fish. It's  
37 basically 5 percent of Galena's need would be met.  
38 But we're not just talking about Galena though, we're  
39 talking about Ruby also.

40

41

So a lot of the State's allegations on  
42 this issue, in reality, the State has a subsistence  
43 priority and the State should be providing methods and  
44 means. You have State subsistence regulations that  
45 incorporate economy of time, effort and expense. We're  
46 talking about \$5.25 a gallon here in Galena to go  
47 fishing. I've talked to local people last night. They  
48 told me it cost them \$100 to \$150 in gas to run all the  
49 way down to Ruby to go fishing down there.

50

1                   So the State of Alaska is the one who  
2 is allocating fish towards the commercial fishery and  
3 putting restrictions on subsistence users that do not  
4 meet their economy of time, effort and expense and  
5 these expenses in rural Alaska are causing the  
6 population of rural Alaska -- and this statistical  
7 region on the Census Bureau website shows a 10 percent  
8 decline in population in this statistical region since  
9 2000.

10

11                   So in the last seven years there's been  
12 a -- people are vacating rural Alaska because of the  
13 high cost, so making it more and more expensive for  
14 people to fish, the State of Alaska should seriously  
15 consider taking up Middle Yukon's proposal seriously  
16 because these are people who actually need the fish for  
17 personal and family consumption.

18

19                   So those would be my points on the  
20 State's comments. Do you have a rebuttal to my  
21 statements.

22

23                   MR. PAPPAS: Just a minor one. On the  
24 166 percent, that is for fishing time only. That's  
25 not for harvest. Just expanding from 18 hours to 48  
26 hours, that's the math on that. And just to reiterate  
27 the last sentence of our comments. If participation  
28 and harvest levels remain near the 2005-2006 levels, it  
29 is unlikely the impacts of the drift gillnet fishery  
30 will impact other users or resources. If it remains.  
31 There's a potential there. A lot of the Department's  
32 comments are geared towards the new fisheries that are  
33 introduced; what if. There's a possibility of a lot of  
34 folks finding success, a lot of folks finding it more  
35 efficient.

36

37                   If there is a -- not a reallocation but  
38 a different distribution in stock composition for the  
39 harvest, that might change the management plans. I  
40 guess it would be directly in correlation to the  
41 participation and the harvest levels. Are the same  
42 number of fish going to be harvested? As I understand,  
43 yes. Everybody agrees with that. Everybody gets the  
44 fish they need and that's it. But what stocks are  
45 being targeted and what areas. That's some of the  
46 concerns we have to bring up.

47

48                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's my perception  
49 that the people who are participating in this fishery  
50 are the same people who had participated in the fishery

1 down in front of Koyukuk and compete heavily with one  
2 another, banging into one another. Basically a line  
3 fishery down there. So you're still using drift  
4 gillnet for the same fish almost in the same timeframe,  
5 so that's a moot issue. So these people are trying to  
6 meet subsistence needs and we want to provide the most  
7 economical and time efficient means of doing that and  
8 also for safety factors. So those would be my comments  
9 on the State's position.

10

11 Are there any other comments from the  
12 Council.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate your  
17 comments. So now we're going to go to Federal  
18 agencies. Any of the Staff Committee members or  
19 Federal agencies have comments. Koyukuk, Nowitna, have  
20 any comment on these proposals. Koyukuk, Nowitna  
21 entered into deep discussion during the formation of  
22 this proposal, so I'd like to hear your position.

23

24 MR. MOOS: Mr. Chair. Council members.  
25 We would support 15, the extension, and we would also  
26 not support the State's proposal.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
29 Any other Federal agency positions on these two  
30 proposals.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see any  
35 more. I see Native and tribal council, villages and  
36 others comments on this proposal. Do we have any  
37 Louden Tribal Council -- we have their proposal. Do we  
38 have any written comment or any commenter here. Do you  
39 know of any, Jenny.

40

41 MS. PELKOLA: No.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Please state  
44 your name.

45

46 MR. ESMALKA: My name is Randy Esmalka  
47 and I've been fishing locally and one thing I notice  
48 about the fishing is the water has been warmer and the  
49 fish are getting deeper. With the gear we have, it's  
50 harder for us to reach down and catch a lot of the

1 fish. A lot of the fish that are going to Canada, they  
2 catch their fish the same time we are and we're  
3 starting to catch fish after the ice goes out, so  
4 there's a lot of fish going by before we get a chance  
5 to catch fish. And a lot of set gillnet spots are  
6 getting harder to find, so more people are going to  
7 drifting because it's harder to find a good set gillnet  
8 spot, a good eddy. That's the comment I'd like to make.  
9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate those  
11 comments. Any other comments on the proposals. Oh, I  
12 should have asked you if you supported the proposals,  
13 but I missed that opportunity. If you would like to  
14 comment on the proposals, whether you endorse Proposal  
15 15.

16  
17 MR. ESMALKA: I endorse 15 and I oppose  
18 16.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that  
21 comment also. Any other local comments, tribal  
22 comments.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Interagency -- come  
27 on, Fred.

28  
29 MR. F. HUNTINGTON: I just want to  
30 thank the Chairman and the Council to invite me up here  
31 to speak on behalf of fishing. I told you yesterday  
32 I've been fishing all my life and I continue to fish.  
33 A lot of the fishing I do, if one method don't work, I  
34 have to go to another method. I tried the Federal  
35 permit system. I did not get a permit to do it, but on  
36 my free time I did experiment around. You just can't  
37 throw a net off the boat any place you want. That's  
38 one thing you've got to know. It will cost you \$800 to  
39 replace your net and you don't get no fish out of it.  
40 That's one of the reasons why the Federal permit system  
41 is not really working.

42  
43 The river system between Bishop  
44 Mountain and Galena -- if you look at it in the fall  
45 time, there's just one narrow channel. I mean right  
46 now there's just one narrow channel running right down  
47 the river. That's the deep part of the water and it's  
48 about 75 feet deep in the springtime. If you don't  
49 have a 75-foot deep net, you're not going to get no  
50 fish. More probably you're going to lose that net. So

1 that's probably why the Federal waters in this area is  
2 not working, because the river channel is narrow and  
3 the reason we all go down there and crowd out Koyukuk.

4  
5 I think it was 1982 I was one of the  
6 first ones who started using the method of drifting and  
7 successful. After that it became a pretty popular  
8 thing and everybody started doing it because there were  
9 no eddies. I mean the Fish and Game established a law  
10 where you could not set a net within 200 feet of  
11 another user and I was one of those guys that contested  
12 it and I got caught and they took my net, so I didn't  
13 have a place to set a net after that and that's why I  
14 went drifting.

15  
16 Since then drifting has become so  
17 popular a means of getting fish. I can assure you that  
18 it's beyond the borderline of abusing. We are taking  
19 more fish these last 25 years than we took during the  
20 history of our fishing and that's king salmon alone.  
21 In the earlier years, it was hard to get the king  
22 salmon. Right now where we're drifting in Koyukuk, we  
23 had a fish camp for about 10 years when I was a little  
24 kid and we were fishing off the eddy right there on the  
25 beach and I think maybe we were pretty lucky if we got  
26 35 kings the whole season. Had we known that the fish  
27 was just right out there going by, we would have been  
28 fishing that then, but that never happened. Now we  
29 know where the fish is going.

30  
31 In a little spot down there by Koyukuk,  
32 it's about a mile long, and when you got the window --  
33 mind you, we still need to use this regulation of  
34 having these windows. We've got to let some fish  
35 escape. I know that for a fact, otherwise we would not  
36 be fishing yet. The way we've been fishing the last 25  
37 years, it's incredible compared to what we did before  
38 then.

39  
40 So Koyukuk gets really crowded and  
41 there's long hours. I mean I leave the house and I  
42 wait until the evening time to get down there. So I'm  
43 getting ready all day, gearing up, to go down there. I  
44 leave the house around 7:00 or 8:00 and I head down  
45 there and I have to stay down there and get at least 20  
46 fish before I can come back. That's because gas prices  
47 are about \$140 round trip with a little bit of lunch.  
48 Once you get down there, maybe you come back between 6  
49 and 10 in the morning. By the time the temperature is  
50 up to about 70 or 80 degrees there, that fish has to be

1 processed. There's no time for me to go lay down and  
2 go to sleep for an hour or two. I have to either put  
3 that fish in the freezer or start processing it.

4

5                   So when a guy is working 20 to 30 hours  
6 straight at a time trying to get his fish before the  
7 closure of the period and you've got 30 guys doing the  
8 same thing, tensions rise. I mean you can feel the  
9 tension at the fishing site after about a week. The  
10 first week it's all pleasant, hello, and all that, you  
11 know, glad to see you. At the end of the week, boy, I  
12 don't ever want to see you again.

13

14                   (Laughter)

15

16                   But that's the kind of fishing we do  
17 and it's called combat fishing. Some of us, like  
18 Mickey says, we move to a different area. One time I  
19 went down there I just went by there. It costs a  
20 little bit more to go a little further, but it's more  
21 comfortable. There's guys with nets beyond the limit  
22 we use for drifting. I'm not asking for enforcement to  
23 come in and have it checked out, but we know there's  
24 enforcement. I always say you do something wrong a  
25 long enough time, you're going to get caught. So I  
26 don't report these other guys using a long net or deep  
27 net or bigger boats or whatever. They're trying to do  
28 the same thing I'm doing, trying to get some fish with  
29 the least amount of gas and expenses that they could.

30

31                   I fish right to the end of the season.  
32 They extended it to the 25th or 23rd of July because of  
33 the late run this year and that was a good deal for us.  
34 By the time the regular July 15th closed, a lot of  
35 people hardly got any fish. I, for one, was still  
36 working on getting what I usually get. If I can get 75  
37 kings per season, I'm in good shape. I can get away  
38 with 50 and still be in good shape. The folks who pays  
39 for the gas, they get their share. I mean they get up  
40 to about 20 fish I would say per season, so I have to  
41 get a little bit more than I, myself, would use. I  
42 probably get about less than 150 fish because the  
43 people who buy the gas gets half of the fish I get on  
44 the haul.

45

46                   I fish right up to the last day of  
47 fishing. The last day of fishing was when I caught  
48 some of the best fish of the season. They were well-  
49 rounded fish and they were larger. I mean I got 15 or  
50 20 and I quit. I had already been overworked, but I

1 needed to fish. So I got that fish and I brought it  
2 home and I cut it up. You know, like the old man says,  
3 when we're fishing we know when we need to cut off. If  
4 there's more than two kings in a basket of 10 that are  
5 really white meat, then it's time to figure on quit  
6 fishing. Let the rest go by. That's the tail end of  
7 the run.

8

9  
10 But when I went down there on the last  
11 trip, that was the beginning of another run that was  
12 coming in. Those were large fish. All through the  
13 season we were getting small kings. Like I told you, I  
14 got a 12-pound king in an 8-inch mesh net twice. My  
15 friend a boat over had a smaller mesh net and he had 20  
16 fish and I only had five. Fishing this summer was a  
17 lot more work and I tell you I must have made 15 to 20  
18 trips down there to Koyukuk at about \$140 a trip.  
19 Being on unemployment with three boys in the house, we  
20 all have to pool our efforts together to meet our  
21 needs.

21

22 The proposals are fine, what the  
23 Federal refuge is making an effort to do, although  
24 catching 13 kings per season doesn't meet our needs in  
25 this area in the Federal waters. Overall, between  
26 Kaltag and Galena, we get maybe 14 percent of the  
27 harvest of kings on the Yukon. Some of these proposals  
28 that's on board may have a reason, but for me they  
29 don't meet my needs anyway one way or another. I know  
30 you guys are doing a good job and I appreciate that.

31

32 We still need to make an effort to give  
33 notice to the pollock fisheries out in the Bering Sea.  
34 If they're getting 100,000 kings and 25 percent of that  
35 is bound for the Yukon, you need to make a note of it.  
36 I mean we've got windows. I don't know who's  
37 regulating their efforts out there to do what they're  
38 doing and allowing them to do that. If we had any say-  
39 so, we would give them notice to let some of that  
40 bycatch go or cut your hours back or cut your method  
41 and means in half or we're not going to have any more  
42 fish.

43

44 I believe right now the Yukon king  
45 salmon is heading to a train wreck whether you know it  
46 or not. Whether you want to admit it or not, that's  
47 what's happening. Thirty years ago there was a lot of  
48 fish. We didn't get as much as now, but now that we're  
49 doing it, we need to address some of these effects.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot, Fred.  
4 Percy, were you going to speak.

5

6 MR. LOLNITZ: Good morning. First of  
7 all, I'd like to thank Galena for the good food  
8 yesterday and thank Wayne and Violet for inviting me.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Percy, do you want  
11 to state your name, last name, for the record.

12

13 MR. LOLNITZ: My name is Percy Lolnitz.  
14 Excuse me. Sorry about that. I'm from Koyukuk. I've  
15 been the chief there for a long time. Anyway, to go on  
16 about thanking the community, I think it's always an  
17 opportunity to give them the thanks that they need  
18 because it's a back-breaking job to provide food and  
19 serve your guests.

20

21 At any rate, I'd like to comment a  
22 little bit about this fishing. In the '70s, I can  
23 remember when I was a kid we didn't have any problem  
24 fishing. We had a fish camp below Last Chance and  
25 there was numerous camps all over the river. As far as  
26 I can see there was fish racks. I was too young to  
27 even know about fishing if there was going to be a  
28 shortage of it. If there was an opening in the '70s  
29 like the State pointed out, then it was unheard of. We  
30 never did hear of driftnetting.

31

32 As I grew older and, of course, the  
33 commercial came about and that was a popular thing and  
34 just about everybody that I knew of fished commercial.  
35 They were able to build a wheel and do their thing.  
36 Well, that unfortunately never happened again. I'm not  
37 up here to testify and say that -- you know, there's  
38 some pros and cons over that, of course, but that's not  
39 my intent.

40

41 This thing that's going on across  
42 Koyukuk, it's a good spot. I admit that. But if  
43 you're going to go out there and you're going to fish,  
44 then, like Fred stated, you've got to stick with it.  
45 You can't fish one night and quit the next day. You've  
46 got to go out there day after day after day. Them  
47 going down from Galena, it's a person's choice whether  
48 you want to do it or not, but if the fish is going by  
49 as you sit down and think about it, you've got to make  
50 your move soon. That spot is a good, popular spot, so

1 that's where you're going to get your fish. A guy  
2 better get up and go do it, otherwise the season is  
3 going to go by.

4  
5                   The people in Koyukuk, we're sitting  
6 there and we're doing our best. Maybe 50 people down  
7 there. I was thinking about Jenny's comment about  
8 fighting and so forth. You know, I never heard about  
9 anybody fighting. Maybe there might be some harsh  
10 words, you know, among each other, but I wouldn't get  
11 off the boat and sock anybody in the eye and saying  
12 you're taking my spot, you know. Anyway, I was over  
13 there one day and it is pretty crowded over there, so I  
14 move on down the river and it's a little bit more  
15 mellow down there. This is the second year I carried  
16 my radio in the boat, so I hear their traffic all  
17 night. I hear the fishermen talk and they get all  
18 excited towards 6:00 o'clock in the morning because of  
19 the night's fishing, stating how much they catch, how  
20 they're doing and all that.

21  
22                   Well, I think this is a good idea to  
23 move some people away from one spot and expand that  
24 spot so you can have different areas to try. I would  
25 endorse that as a tribal council member out of Koyukuk.  
26 Like they stated, gas prices go up. Even if I'm  
27 running a boat out of Koyukuk, I buy 20 gallons of gas  
28 and I run that boat until I'm out.

29  
30                   That thing about the gillnet size, the  
31 No. 16, I really don't like that one. I oppose that  
32 one. I think all in all you guys are doing a good job.  
33 I'm not going to step on any toes here. When you're  
34 board members, I have a concern about representation.  
35 If your board member from a certain area don't show up,  
36 and I'm sure you have policies, bylaws that you must  
37 follow. I noticed you didn't vote on something  
38 yesterday, so I went and visited some of these board  
39 members and I asked them about that, how come there  
40 wasn't anybody to step up and vote, and they stated why  
41 they didn't do it, so I understand that.

42  
43                   I also have to comment on this elderly  
44 lady that I spoke to yesterday. She mentioned  
45 something about the fish and why is the fish getting so  
46 dry. Like you'll be seeing sores on some of these  
47 kings and this summer a friend of mine opened up a  
48 king, a pretty good sized one, and there was white  
49 spots all over the meat, so he disregarded that.

50

1                   That's about all I have to say for now.  
2 I know you have time constraints, so I just want to  
3 thank you guys for allowing me to speak. I'd also like  
4 to thank the Koyukuk tribe for paying my way up and  
5 having to sit here and listen to you guys and just  
6 learn a little bit more. It's a learning experience  
7 for me. I'm not a board member. I'm just one of these  
8 local boys that has concerns.

9  
10                   Before I get off here I'd like to  
11 comment on the guy on teleconference yesterday. He had  
12 a good point, I think. He stated that the people from  
13 the mouth all the way up the river they shouldn't be  
14 fighting among each other. There shouldn't be  
15 conflicts, you know. He made it pretty clear that the  
16 Council should look out there at the Pribilof/Aleutian  
17 bycatch and figure out ways to maybe decrease their  
18 bycatch somehow. I think maybe that's what the Board  
19 should start doing. It would be a waste of time I  
20 think to sit there and argue amongst ourselves and, you  
21 know, just a waste of money. The buck is always  
22 getting tighter, so I think you guys should start  
23 looking at that. That was the only comment I had  
24 today.

25  
26                   Thank you.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We really  
29 appreciate that. We appreciate all the local guys  
30 coming out and telling us what's going on. That's what  
31 this forum is for. These forums were set up under  
32 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act to be a  
33 forum for public comment, so that's why we're here in  
34 Galena to hear these public comments, so we highly  
35 appreciate you coming down here and appreciate your  
36 council sending you here.

37  
38                   Any other comments from the public. Go  
39 ahead, Jenny.

40  
41                   MS. PELKOLA: I just have one thing.  
42 Percy, when I said the people were fighting, I said  
43 obscenities, shouting. Not fist fighting, with words.  
44 I just want to clarify that.

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other local  
47 people, tribal councils and other.

48  
49                   (No comments)  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: None. So we'll go  
2 to the Interagency Staff Committee comments. Nancy.

3  
4 MS. SWANTON: This is Nancy Swanton  
5 with the National Park Service. I'm the Interagency  
6 Staff Committee member for fisheries. The ISC has no  
7 comments at this time. We will be meeting in mid-  
8 November and we will be evaluating these proposals as  
9 well as all the Council comments that we understand  
10 have been conveyed.

11  
12 Thanks.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
15 Vince, we have summary of written comments.

16  
17 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. We'll start off  
18 with the neighboring Regional Advisory Councils. Three  
19 of them have met. Seward Pen on Proposal 15 moved to  
20 support that proposal and that motion carried  
21 unanimously. On Proposal 16 they moved to oppose it  
22 and that passed unanimously.

23  
24 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Council  
25 brought this up. Their recommendation is to oppose 15.  
26 Their justification is creation of this new fishery in  
27 District Y4-B and Y4-C could negatively impact the  
28 Lower Yukon fishers over time. The Yukon River chinook  
29 fishery is already fully allocated.

30  
31 Proposal 16, they supported it without  
32 modification. Their justification is this is not a  
33 traditional fishery and could negatively impact the  
34 Lower Yukon fishers over time.

35  
36 I don't believe Virgil is on line. If  
37 he is, he could cover Eastern. Eastern Interior took  
38 up Proposal 15 and 16. On Proposal 15 they supported  
39 it as written. That was unanimous. Council has  
40 addressed conservation concerns in previous Proposals  
41 13 and 14. People have been using chinook salmon in  
42 this area in question since people first lived in this  
43 area. This is a fair treatment issue. Driftnets are  
44 used already for both commercial and subsistence in the  
45 Lower Yukon. Drift gillnet depths and lengths are  
46 already limited in District 4-B, 4-C subsistence  
47 fishery. People of 4-B and 4-C need to have the  
48 opportunity to explore for fishing sites and save gas  
49 money. The Council supports OSM staff's analysis and  
50 preliminary conclusions on this proposal. The Council

1 does not believe the 4-B and 4-C subsistence fishery  
2 with drift gillnets will negatively impact the resource  
3 or subsistence users in the other area.

4  
5 Real quickly, based on their action on  
6 Proposal 15, they opposed Proposal 16.

7  
8 For written comments, the Lower Yukon  
9 Local Advisory Committee did take up this proposal and  
10 it's in your book on Page 105. The Lower Yukon Fish and  
11 Game Advisory Committee opposes the proposal because of  
12 additional pressure on the fishery and impact on the  
13 lower river users. Proposal 16, they supported it.  
14 The Lower Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
15 supports the proposal because this was not a  
16 traditional fishery.

17  
18 Maybe Mickey has some information on  
19 what the Middle Yukon -- I believe they supported 15,  
20 but he may have more information on that.

21  
22 MR. STICKMAN: Actually we didn't bring  
23 up the exact proposal, but the proposal they have to  
24 open it up even to the State waters you would think  
25 that they would automatically be in favor of the  
26 proposal and in opposition of 16.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's the  
29 completion of written comments we have. TCC commented  
30 to the Eastern Interior and they represent 42 villages  
31 and Mike Smith isn't here, so what was their position  
32 at the Eastern Interior comment on 15 and 16.

33  
34 MR. MATHEWS: We just reviewed the  
35 transcripts and went through my memory because Mike had  
36 some lengthy presentations. Basically TCC supports 15  
37 and rejects 16.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So do we have  
40 any additional public comment.

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're at the  
45 Regional Council recommendation. The Chair will  
46 entertain a motion to adopt. We'll take these in  
47 sequence. FP08-15.

48  
49 MR. STICKMAN: I move to adopt 15.

50

1 MR. SAM: Second.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's been moved to  
4 adopt and seconded. Discussion by the Council.  
5  
6 MR. STICKMAN: I call for the question.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question has  
9 been called. Those in favor of the Proposal FP08-15  
10 signify by saying aye.  
11  
12 IN UNISON: Aye.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
15 sign.  
16  
17 (No opposing votes)  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's a unanimous  
20 carry. Taking up Proposal FP08-16, the Chair will  
21 entertain a motion to adopt.  
22  
23 MR. SAM: So moved.  
24  
25 MR. STICKMAN: Second.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.  
28 Discussion by the Council.  
29  
30 MR. STICKMAN: I call for the question.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question has  
33 been called. All those in favor of Proposal FP08-16  
34 signify by saying aye.  
35  
36 (No aye votes)  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.  
39  
40 IN UNISON: Aye.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous opposition  
43 to FP08-16. We'll take a break. I need to discuss  
44 with some people who need to be leaving pretty  
45 imminently, so we may take up a presentation or two.  
46 We'll break until 11:35, about 10 minutes.  
47  
48 (Off record)  
49  
50 (On record)

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to come  
2 back on the record here. Can you return to your seats,  
3 please. The Council is seated. Do you have something  
4 for us, Vince.

5  
6 MR. MATHEWS: Just two things. One  
7 very quickly. Not to revisit Proposal 15 and 16, but  
8 the justification for your actions were based on OSM  
9 justifications on Page 100 and the testimony that you  
10 received, so the record will reflect the reasons for  
11 your actions.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Council was  
14 making comments primarily through the State  
15 presentation, so the Council demonstrated that there  
16 was a need for this, there's a need for dividing up the  
17 intensive fishing area down around Koyukuk, disputing  
18 with the State's allocation. It would appear that the  
19 Lower Yukon Y-K Delta swallowed hook, line and sinker  
20 the State's allegations that the fishery is a fully  
21 allocated fishery, the fishery is not allocated by gear  
22 type but by users. The windows provide protection for  
23 the chinook run passage into Canada. That the  
24 166 percent increase is a nominal amount of fish, so  
25 there's a real need for people to expand their  
26 exploration of the area. The current Federal waters  
27 are poor driftnetting, but there are people who are  
28 exploring that. It's still on a permit system. So  
29 these are all rural C&T qualified users. Those would  
30 be the primary justification points.

31  
32 Does the Council have any additional  
33 input for justification.

34  
35 Go ahead, Ron.

36  
37 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As far  
38 as 16 goes, it should be quite obvious that we did have  
39 a test on driftnet fishing back in the '70s. It did  
40 not catch on at that time. As far as 16, we're still at  
41 that testing stage. It's a test fishery and it still  
42 hasn't caught on. Again, we introduced this fishery  
43 and it took us three years to get it on board. It  
44 hasn't been tested enough to where it can be  
45 established. Again, it's the same fishermen and I do  
46 not think that they have any impact on the total  
47 harvest at all.

48  
49 Thank you.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's another point  
2 that I was wanting to bring up. Thank you, Ron, I  
3 appreciate that.

4  
5 Vince.

6  
7 MR. MATHEWS: Real quick. Why I'm  
8 asking that is we are developing a policy that I need  
9 to leave the meeting with the exact justifications that  
10 the Chair kind of signs off on, so I'll be typing that  
11 up tonight. No big deal. You guys have done that  
12 before.

13  
14 The second thing is, not to rush you or  
15 anything like that, for those that have agreed to lunch  
16 you need to pay up to Tina here so we can get that  
17 done. Jack, I didn't get a chance to talk to you. My  
18 understanding, unless there's somebody here from the  
19 City Hall, is that there's no bingo tonight. I know  
20 you've been looking at that as possibly getting out of  
21 here. My understanding there's no bingo tonight, but  
22 there is Halloween.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll just go down  
25 and get a bunch of candy and we'll be all right. So,  
26 with those housekeeping issues out of the way, we'll  
27 have KNA make a presentation. Go ahead. State your  
28 name and affiliation.

29  
30 MR. ORABUTT: Mr. Chair. Council  
31 members. My name is David Orabutt from the Kuskokwim  
32 Native Association. My PowerPoint is starting up here.  
33 It will take me a couple minutes. Also, I brought a  
34 new Partners biologist, Mike, and I'll let him  
35 introduce himself.

36  
37 MR. THALHAUSER: Hi, Mr. Chair and the  
38 Board. My name is Mike Thalhauser. I just hired on  
39 with the Kuskokwim Native Association as the new  
40 Partners fisheries biologist. I'm pretty green as far  
41 as the job goes and I know you're on some time  
42 constraints. Other than that, I've been with the  
43 Kuskokwim Native Association for the past summer.  
44 After working with them, I'd just like to say I've been  
45 really impressed with them and excited about the new  
46 career. After seeing how this board works, I'm looking  
47 forward to working with you guys in the future. So  
48 I'll let Dave get on with it.

49  
50 Thanks.

1 MR. ORABUTT: Mr. Chair. Council  
2 members. I just appreciate the opportunity to give  
3 this report. I'm going to talk about the KNA fisheries  
4 program and the Partners Program at KNA and cooperative  
5 management and research in the Kuskokwim in general.  
6 At any time just feel free to break in with questions.

7  
8 Like I said, I'm the fisheries director  
9 at KNA. Mike is the fishery Partners biologist.  
10 Kuskokwim Native Association is a small, non-profit  
11 Native organization that represents the villages of the  
12 Middle Kuskokwim River. We have an education and  
13 training department, a realty services department,  
14 social services department, housing improving program  
15 and elders department and the natural resources  
16 department, which is currently the fisheries  
17 department. We've lost much of our natural resources  
18 funding, so we're basically down to fisheries projects  
19 based on grant funding right now. Calvin Simeon is our  
20 current executive director.

21  
22 Our departmental goal is to actively  
23 participate in managing and conserving Kuskokwim area  
24 fishery resources to ensure long-term sustainability of  
25 the subsistence way of life for our members. That's  
26 what we're trying to do.

27  
28 We get funding from several sources.  
29 The Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program, the  
30 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, the  
31 Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative,  
32 Coastal Villages Region Fund and then the BIA too. I  
33 want to emphasize the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring  
34 Program because that's where most of our funding comes  
35 from. It funds Mike's position, three college  
36 internship positions and much other general program  
37 funds.

38  
39 Currently we have a staff of two full-  
40 time biologists, one seasonal biologist, which was Mike  
41 this year, but we'll be hiring someone new now that  
42 Mike has accepted the permanent position at KNA. Six  
43 to 12 seasonal technicians, four college interns, six  
44 long-term high school interns and then we also have  
45 about 20 short-term, one week high school interns  
46 throughout the season.

47  
48 So this is our long-term plan. We want  
49 a cooperative management system in the Kuskokwim River  
50 where KNA is an official part of that system.

1 Currently we have the Kuskokwim Salmon Working Group,  
2 which is a pretty good cooperative management system.  
3 Local community members are able to voice their  
4 opinions and vote as a group to give recommendations to  
5 the State of Alaska and to Federal fisheries managers.  
6 However, right now this group doesn't have an official  
7 opinion. They can be overridden by fisheries managers.  
8 What we eventually want to work towards is where the  
9 community has a more equal role with fisheries  
10 managers.

11  
12 To do that, we first need to build  
13 community resources to be at an equal level with State  
14 and the Federal government. Our community members, our  
15 organizations need to have a mutual respect among  
16 agencies, we need to build working relationships  
17 between agencies and among agencies, we need to build  
18 our fisheries expertise of our community members, our  
19 board members, our employees and, in general, just  
20 capacity building. So those four things down there is  
21 what our fisheries department is really working on  
22 right now.

23  
24 To do that, we do four things. The  
25 first major thing we do is we partner on fisheries  
26 monitoring projects throughout the Kuskokwim, we  
27 represent members and provide technical assistance at  
28 meetings, such as the Salmon Working Group meetings,  
29 this meeting here, AC meetings, other village meetings  
30 for various issues too. We do outreach, education and  
31 communication within our villages and at regional  
32 meetings. Then we're trying to build a professional  
33 local work force in fisheries through our internship  
34 programs and our technician opportunities.

35  
36 So we have several current fisheries  
37 monitoring projects. I'm just going to briefly discuss  
38 these. If you want more information, I will provide  
39 that, but this is just to give you an overview of what  
40 we're doing. The George River weir and Tatawiksuk  
41 River weir are long-term escapement monitoring --  
42 salmon escapement monitoring projects. They've been  
43 going on for over 10 years now and there are  
44 partnerships between KNA and the Alaska Department of  
45 Fish and Game Commercial Fisheries Division.

46  
47 The post-season subsistence salmon  
48 harvest is another long-term project, partnership  
49 between Fish and Game Subsistence Division and  
50 Kuskokwim Native Association and then also ONC down in

1 Bethel.

2

3                   The whitefish radio telemetry migration  
4 study is a long-term study, partnership with the Fish  
5 and Wildlife Service, studying whitefish in the  
6 Kuskokwim. We've been tagging whitefish and more  
7 recently we've been radio tagging whitefish and  
8 tracking them throughout the drainage trying to figure  
9 out their migration patterns and where they're spawning  
10 and trying to separate them in to distinct populations.

11

12                   The chinook salmon radio telemetry and  
13 run reconstruction project. This is a project that  
14 together it's about a seven-year project. The last two  
15 years we put a little extra effort into putting more  
16 radio tags out and including the Aniak River.  
17 Ultimately we want to develop a run reconstruction  
18 model based on our results, so it's been an interesting  
19 project and it's coming to a conclusion at the end of  
20 this year. Actually, it will be next spring is when  
21 the final results will be coming in.

22

23                   Sockeye salmon radio telemetry project.  
24 A three-year project. Sockeye salmon, red salmon on  
25 the Kuskokwim River, trying to determine distribution  
26 and hopefully working towards some population  
27 estimates, but we're not quite there yet. We've done  
28 other past projects, like the Holitna radio tagging,  
29 in-season ASL sampling and other various projects.

30

31                   So we have some proposed projects for  
32 next year. The coho salmon radio telemetry project is  
33 a joint project with the Commercial Fisheries Division  
34 and this is proposed to AYKSSI. It will be radio  
35 tagging coho salmon at the fish wheels down at Kalskag  
36 and tracking them throughout the drainage, just like  
37 we've done with king salmon and the sockeye salmon.

38

39                   The Aniak River rainbow trout radio  
40 telemetry project. This is a cooperative project  
41 proposed to OSM with Fish and Game Sportsfish Division,  
42 trying to figure out and sort out some issues on the  
43 Aniak River. The Aniak River has a good population of  
44 rainbow trout. Subsistence fishermen from Aniak and  
45 Chuathbaluk use this resource as well as lots of sports  
46 fishermen that fly in and get dropped off on floating  
47 trips. With the radio telemetry we want to sort out  
48 who is catching what fish basically, where these fish  
49 are coming from, where they're spawning, what the  
50 population structure is in the Aniak River.

1                   Then we're proposing the George River  
2 weir with Fish and Game Commercial Fisheries Division  
3 to just renew this project and that will be in your OSM  
4 project packet that I think Polly will talk about  
5 later.

6  
7                   As far as representing and providing  
8 technical assistance, we've identified this and talked  
9 with our executive director Calvin and other members  
10 and this is an area that we really need to expand our  
11 role. So far last year we did a little bit in this  
12 area. You might remember the directed chinook fishery  
13 Board of Fish proposal last year. This was a big  
14 issue. We had some help working with our members to  
15 develop comments for this. The Holitna hunting,  
16 trapping and fishing reserve was another big issue last  
17 year. We helped our members with that.

18  
19                   In our area there's several guiding  
20 camp permits that our members are always seeking  
21 information about the area and the natural resources in  
22 order to comment on those permits. We work with the  
23 Salmon Working Group and you might have heard of the  
24 proposed Donlin Creek Mine. We've been doing mining  
25 education and working with our members as far as what  
26 the impacts might be from that mine.

27  
28                   For outreach and education and  
29 communication program, one thing I'd just like to say  
30 is that we've kind of developed a system at KNA that  
31 outreach -- we're not experts going out to the villages  
32 trying to show people what's up. We're going out there  
33 to communicate. It's a back and forth. People in our  
34 villages are very smart people, know lots about the  
35 resources. We want to develop a dialogue out there and  
36 not just go tell people what to do.

37  
38                   To do this we have the regional  
39 meetings such as this one and others. We have  
40 community meetings where we go to our villages and  
41 present all the results of our projects. We try to go  
42 to all of our villages each year. We haven't quite  
43 done that yet, but we do our best. While we're in the  
44 villages we go to the schools and we talk to K through  
45 12, all the students. We tell them about fisheries and  
46 I'll go into that a little bit more.

47  
48                   We have a Kuspuik School District,  
49 that's the school district in our area, raft trip,  
50 which we take about 20 high school kids. Actually,

1 we're just a part of it. The school district is the  
2 one that sponsors it, but we teach the biology lessons  
3 and fisheries lessons on that trip.

4  
5 Then we have a proposal to the Partners  
6 Program for 2008 to actually expand our outreach  
7 program to actually go into the classroom and have a  
8 KNA employee go and teach lessons because I think many  
9 of you know that some of our villages don't have  
10 science teachers and if they do they're often not  
11 familiar with the area's resources. So we want one of  
12 our guys or women to go in there and teach them.

13  
14 Community meetings. We've visited Lime  
15 Village, Stony River, Sleetmute, Crooked Creek and  
16 Aniak this year. We plan to visit as many villages as  
17 we can next year, this winter.

18  
19 School visits we talk about career  
20 opportunities, internship opportunities and then just  
21 general fisheries biology, ecology and monitoring.

22  
23 The Kuspuk raft trip, Mike actually  
24 took the kids out this year and, again, we just teach  
25 them about what is a stream, what's in there, what's  
26 the biology of a stream, what are some habitat things  
27 that should be looked at.

28  
29 In the Partners proposal that I've  
30 talked about, what this is will be an education  
31 position where the educator will go into the classroom  
32 and will develop a curriculum with the school district  
33 that will meet State standards and it will be based on  
34 the fisheries monitoring projects that are in the area.  
35 So, to teach lessons in Stony River, for example, which  
36 is close to the  
37 Tatawiksuk project, we'll use the Tatawiksuk project as  
38 an example. Luckily, a lot of our interns have gone to  
39 the Tatawiksuk projects and there will probably be some  
40 interns in Stony River that have gone to that project,  
41 so we can just combine all that and mesh that together  
42 and develop a curriculum.

43  
44 So as far as the internship program,  
45 again, our goal is to have more local Native people  
46 working in fisheries management. We have a couple  
47 programs, high school internship program. We've been  
48 doing this for going on 10 years, I guess, now. About  
49 20 interns each year go out to our weirs and they take  
50 part in the weir activities and learn fisheries work

1 and also complete a written curriculum of fisheries  
2 biology.

3  
4 In recent years we've discovered that  
5 we have a lot of students that are really interested in  
6 pursuing fisheries more, so we've developed a high  
7 school internship level II and basically we just send  
8 high school interns out in the field to be technicians.  
9 In 2006 we had two interns and 2007 we had six and  
10 they've done a really good job. We've seen a lot of  
11 good response to this program.

12  
13 Our college internship program, this is  
14 the next level. We've had four college internships  
15 this year. Glen Lindsey from Bethel was our Partners  
16 fisheries research intern. He goes to various projects  
17 and helps out.

18  
19 Then Amanda Goods was our Partners  
20 fisheries education intern. She's from Takotna and she  
21 takes control of that high school internship program  
22 with the one week high school interns and teaches them  
23 about fisheries. You can see them dissecting a fish  
24 there. She's teaching about fish anatomy.

25  
26 Jonathan Samuelson from Georgetown or  
27 McGrath or some of the other places up and down the  
28 river he calls home. He was our office intern. His  
29 job was to make sure all the projects got what they  
30 needed and all the administrative duties were kept  
31 running.

32  
33 Then you just heard Lisa Kangas speak.  
34 She was our fisheries genetics intern. She worked in  
35 the Fish and Game genetics lab this winter.

36  
37 So here's a list of our technicians for  
38 2007: James Beaver, Quinhagak; Victor Evan, Kalskag;  
39 Charles John, Aniak; Harry George, St. Mary's; Glenn  
40 Elliot, Bethel; Jessie Derendy, Sleetmute; Harry  
41 Allain, Jr., Aniak; Glen Cameroff, Jr., Aniak; Victor  
42 Belkoff, Russian Mission; George Morgan, Jr., Kalskag.  
43 I list these people just to show there's people all up  
44 and down the river that are working on these projects  
45 and we're pretty proud to have this variety of people  
46 and a very good crew this year, too.

47  
48 So I guess that's really it. I just  
49 will summarize by saying we're working in fisheries to  
50 create a cooperative management system. That's our

1 long-term goal. We partner on fisheries monitoring  
2 projects. We work with people through meetings such as  
3 yours. We go into the communities to do outreach and  
4 education and we're also working with our young people  
5 to get them involved in fisheries.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, David.

10 Any questions on KNA's presentation.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see any. I  
15 was wondering at the completion of your various  
16 projects if you could provide a synopsis or conclusions  
17 of like your whitefish telemetry project and so forth  
18 that could be presented to the Council. You know,  
19 basically when you complete these telemetry projects on  
20 chinook and various fisheries projects, I would like to  
21 see the conclusion or the synopsis of what those  
22 projects were.

23

24 MR. ORABUTT: Mr. Chairman.

25 Absolutely. All our reports, especially the OSM  
26 projects, are available on line. If you want something  
27 specific, I would definitely be more than willing to  
28 come present that at a Council meeting.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't really want  
31 the whole project on paper. Just kind of a conclusion,  
32 what you found out. Basically an overview of what the  
33 project completed. So that would be in a short little  
34 sheet for the Council so they can see what your  
35 projects -- you tell us about your projects, but we  
36 never find out what actually happens in those projects.  
37 So if you could just give us a synopsis of the  
38 completion of those projects.

39

40 Any other questions.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you  
45 very much and thank you for coming all the way up here  
46 to Galena. We really appreciate the Partnership  
47 Program and I'm glad to see there's lots of young  
48 people showing interest in fisheries management, so  
49 that will be beneficial for the agencies having long-  
50 term staffing, not coming and going, so I appreciate

1 those looking to the future generation. There's a  
2 certain amount that are captured out of 100 and  
3 something people. There was nine that you actually  
4 caught and are continuing on, so that's not a bad  
5 radio. Carl.

6

7 MR. MORGAN: Just a closing comment.  
8 This project, I'm pretty proud of it because it started  
9 as a part time -- my wife started it as a part-time  
10 with a part-time salary. It started as \$14,000 and  
11 then she worked part time in the realty department at  
12 KNA. I think when you get the right people that's  
13 going to really work at it, and she didn't have any  
14 expertise in any of this stuff. You know, we just  
15 moved back from Anchorage and she got hired and I just  
16 think it takes good, committed people to work like this  
17 and get with the cooperation from Alaska Department of  
18 Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and different  
19 agencies. It took a collaborative effort. No one  
20 person could have done it alone. It needed the money,  
21 but the most important thing it needed was the funding.

22

23 Thank you very much.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you for all  
26 the work you've put into it and giving some good  
27 direction to this program. I appreciate that. All  
28 right. Vince, we're back on our track here. I've got  
29 10 after. We're probably going to eat lunch at 12:30  
30 or so. What would be your suggestion.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know how much  
33 time you're going to spend on Proposal 17, which is an  
34 elders exemption.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. We might be  
37 able to get the OSM presentation before lunch. We're  
38 running low on time, so I think that would be the best  
39 utilization of our time to get presentation of the  
40 analysis.

41

42 Polly.

43

44 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 Council members. For the record, Polly Wheeler with  
46 the Office of Subsistence Management. I did not write  
47 this analysis, one of my staff did, but I'm going to  
48 present it for you. I'm fairly familiar with the  
49 proposal and also with the analysis, so I'll hopefully  
50 be able to answer any of your questions.

1                   This is Proposal 17. It begins on Page  
2 106 in your books and I'll try and walk you through and  
3 pick out the highlights. I'll incorporate the analysis  
4 that's in the books by reference and then I'll just hit  
5 on some of the highlights.  
6

7                   Proposal FP08-17, submitted by the  
8 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association, requests  
9 that in the Yukon River drainage community elders 60  
10 years of age and older who are participating in salmon  
11 fishing not be subject to the windowed subsistence  
12 fishing schedules and therefore be able to subsistence  
13 fish 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The proposal  
14 also includes the provision that the elder may be  
15 assisted by one individual less than age 60.  
16

17                   The proposed regulation is on Page 109  
18 in the middle of the page. I'll read it to you just to  
19 clarify it. This is again the proposed regulation.  
20

21                   Elders who are age 60 or older and are  
22 participating in the fishing activity  
23 themselves are not subject to the  
24 windows fishing schedule as set out in  
25 the Alaska Administrative Code, and  
26 then that gives the reference. One  
27 individual less than age 60 may assist  
28 one or more elders aged 60 or older  
29 with their fishing activity. This  
30 proposal would not apply to subsistence  
31 fishing closures before, during and  
32 after commercial openings.  
33

34                   In the discussion of the proposal again  
35 on Page 108, I'm just going to hit a few of the  
36 highlights. Subsistence fishing schedule requires, as  
37 you all well know, requires fishers to stop fishing and  
38 remove their gear from the water at the end of every  
39 subsistence period and the gear may be redeployed no  
40 earlier than at the beginning of each subsistence  
41 period.  
42

43                   The proponent, that is YRDFA, claims  
44 that this can be a physical hardship when fishing with  
45 a set gillnet, particularly if elders do not have  
46 someone to assist them. Additionally, poor weather  
47 conditions during subsistence periods can impair the  
48 ability to harvest adequate amounts of salmon. Not  
49 being able to fish when fish are available in abundance  
50 increases both time and associated fishing costs, and

1 having to fish on this calendar schedule is  
2 inconsistent with traditional and cultural fishing  
3 pattern of fishing whenever elders choose to.

4  
5           The proponent did not identify the  
6 fishing gear in the proposal, but rather referred to  
7 fishing activity. As you are all probably well aware,  
8 the allowable gear type allowed under Federal  
9 subsistence regulations for harvesting salmon in the  
10 Yukon River includes drift and set gillnets, beach  
11 seines, which is not really a commonly used method,  
12 fishwheel and rod and reel. Rod and reel activity is  
13 already allowed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.  
14 Fishwheels are used primarily in the middle and upper  
15 portions of the drainage. The proposed change for  
16 drift gillnet fishing would still include the physical  
17 demands of deploying and retrieving the nets, thus  
18 there is less of a physical advantage to the proposed  
19 exemption for elders on drift net fishing. The  
20 expanded opportunity would still remain for fishwheel  
21 and drift gillnet fishermen, but there's really no  
22 physical advantage to elders fishing with drift nets or  
23 gillnet -- or fishwheels. Setnet fishing is the most  
24 -- is most common in the lower river, setnets are used  
25 as a primary gear until the 70s when drift gillnets  
26 became more widely used. There are not extensive  
27 numbers of productive set gillnets -- setnet sites  
28 available.

29  
30           It appears that the age exemption for  
31 elders would only be a significant physical advantage  
32 when setnet fishing, because you wouldn't have to put  
33 it out and redeploy it. Providing an exemption for  
34 elders 60 years and older to the fishing window  
35 schedule would exempt them from the requirement to stop  
36 fishing and remove their setnets from the water at the  
37 end of every subsistence period, and reset them at the  
38 beginning of every subsistence period. It is not known  
39 how many elders would take advantage of the age  
40 exemption.

41  
42           There are no limits on the harvest of  
43 salmon for subsistence in the Yukon River drainage,  
44 although there are subsistence fishing permits required  
45 in a few limited places in the river.

46  
47           I'm going to go to just a little bit of  
48 background, and you can follow along if you're  
49 interested on Page -- beginning on Page 111 with some  
50 current events. This gives you a little bit of context

1 for the proposal.

2

3                   At its annual meeting in February of  
4 2007, YRDFA passed a resolution that would exempt  
5 elders 65 years of age or older from adhering to the  
6 subsistence window schedule. And this -- if the  
7 resolution were to be followed through with a  
8 regulation change, it would allow others to fish 24  
9 hours a day, 7 days a week in the Yukon River drainage.

10

11

12                   The resolution specifically noted that  
13 subsistence windows require fishermen and women to pull  
14 their gillnets at the end of every subsistence opening  
15 and reset them at the beginning of every subsistence  
16 opening, implying that YRDFA was concerned primarily  
17 about setnets, not gillnets, because you've got to pull  
18 them in and pull them out anyway. And with fishwheels,  
19 you just stop them or start them.

20

21                   YRDFA noted that the subsistence  
22 windows create undue physical and subsistence hardships  
23 for elder community members.

24

25                   Since this proposal was put out, and  
26 talking to managers, one thing that did come up is that  
27 this proposed regulatory change may be moot in the near  
28 future as in-season managers are evaluating not using  
29 the windows schedule at the beginning of the season  
30 when the pre-season outlook is for an average salmon  
31 return or better. The implementation or relaxation of  
32 the windows schedule could be done by State emergency  
33 order and Federal joint streamlining memorandum.

34

35                   The effects of the proposal begin on  
36 Page 112. If this proposal is adopted as modified, and  
37 I'm going to get down to the modifications in a little  
38 bit -- if this proposal is adopted as modified, it's  
39 not expected to significantly increase subsistence  
40 harvest, but rather the harvest is expected to be more  
41 traditional for elderly participants. By not requiring  
42 elders to stop fishing or remove their set sets from  
43 the water at the end of each subsistence period and  
44 then resetting them at the beginning of the next  
45 period, fishing would be less physically demanding.

46

47                   Eliminating the subsistence windows  
48 schedule for elders would be consistent with  
49 traditional fishing practices, that is, people would  
50 have the opportunity to continually fish when the fish

1 are present and then can decide for themselves when to  
2 fish, rather than following a calendar regulatory  
3 schedule.

4

5                   Adopting this proposal is not expected  
6 to affect commercial or sport harvest since no  
7 subsistence -- excuse me, significant increase in  
8 subsistence harvest is anticipated. Adopting this  
9 proposal also would not affect Federal subsistence  
10 regulations in Districts 1 through 3 requiring that  
11 subsistence caught chinook must be marked by removing  
12 the dorsal fin.

13

14                   Adopting this proposal could  
15 potentially increase the workload for law enforcement  
16 officers as they could not assess from the air whether  
17 or not setnets are legally or illegally in the water.  
18 More time would likely be spent verifying whether the  
19 fishers were elders or not and were fishing under the  
20 Federal regulations. It should also be noted that  
21 fishers can already use 4 inch mesh gear during the  
22 windows 24/7, thus there's already a fishery in place  
23 that required on-the-ground law enforcement effort.

24

25                   Challenges associated with enforcing  
26 this regulation would be lessened if the proposed  
27 regulation were only applied to set gillnet fishing.  
28 Additionally, if the proposed regulation were limited  
29 to set gillnet fishing, law enforcement would not need  
30 to travel in order to locate fishers with drift  
31 gillnets, which is much more difficult than finding a  
32 stationary setnet site.

33

34                   If this proposal were adopted, law  
35 enforcement could be made easier if a modification to  
36 the proposal, or to the regulation that is, were added  
37 to require elders and the elder's assistant to carry  
38 identification to verify the age of the elder and  
39 residency, to determine if the fisher and the assistant  
40 are Federally-qualified subsistence users. Law  
41 enforcement could also be made easier if the elder's  
42 name and address is put on the nets.

43

44                   There really isn't any information  
45 available regarding how many fishers this regulatory  
46 change might affect; however, it's probable that a  
47 large percentage of extended families, probably even  
48 likely, may have at least one elder who would be exempt  
49 from the windowed subsistence fishing schedule.  
50 Limiting the gear to only setnets would help to

1 minimize the effects of the proposal. And adopting  
2 this proposal would likely have a greater effect on  
3 Districts 1 through 3 than the upriver fishing  
4 Districts 4 through 6, because the lower river is  
5 restricted most by the subsistence fishing schedule.  
6

7                   So the preliminary conclusion, which  
8 you can find on Page 113, that is, the preliminary  
9 conclusion of the Office of Subsistence Management  
10 Staff, is to support the proposal with seven  
11 modifications. The first would be that the exemption  
12 may be discontinued by Federal special action by the  
13 Federal in-season manager. The second is that it would  
14 only apply to fishing with set gillnets. The third  
15 modification -- and again this is the modification to  
16 the proposal as it was submitted to the Office of  
17 Subsistence Management, just to be clear here. The  
18 third modification would require that the elder and the  
19 assistant must be Federally-qualified subsistence  
20 users. The fourth modification is the elder must be in  
21 the boat when the net is being set, checked or  
22 retrieved. The fifth modification is the elders must  
23 have identification indicating their age and residency  
24 in their possession. The sixth modification is that  
25 assistants must have identification in their possession  
26 indicating residency. And the final modification is  
27 that set gillnets must be labeled with the elder's  
28 first initial, last name and address.  
29

30                   And again the modified proposed  
31 regulation is found on Pages 113 and 114 of your  
32 Council book.  
33

34                   The justification, Mr. Chair and  
35 Council members, for supporting the proposal with  
36 modification can be found on Page 114, and I'll just  
37 hit a few of the highlights. Again, the justification  
38 for supporting the modified proposal is that adoption  
39 of this proposal would provide culturally appropriate  
40 deference to elder fishers. It's not anticipated to  
41 change harvest amounts significantly, particularly when  
42 compared to the numbers of fish taken for commercial  
43 uses. There's no physical advantage to elders fishing  
44 with drift gillnets under this proposal, because the  
45 drift gillnets are put out and taken in regularly with  
46 or without the proposed regulation. That's the only  
47 fishing method where there would be significant  
48 advantage for elders with an age exemption is with  
49 setnet fishing.  
50

1                   As you know, the subsistence salmon  
2 fishery has no harvest limits. Data are not currently  
3 available to indicate what effects the subsistence --  
4 this might have, this proposal might have on  
5 subsistence harvest, but none are anticipated other  
6 than a more efficient and culturally consistent  
7 harvest.

8  
9                   So with that, Mr. Chair, I will end my  
10 presentation. There's some other stuff in there on the  
11 -- in the analysis, but I think I've hit the  
12 highlights. So I will close unless you have any  
13 questions.

14  
15                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you,  
16 Polly. Does the Council have questions for the Staff  
17 analysis.

18  
19                   (No comments)

20  
21                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, no  
22 Council questions at this time. Thank you for your  
23 thorough presentation, Polly.

24  
25                   And so it would be -- we've got 10 more  
26 minutes before lunch, and we might as well have Alaska  
27 Department of Fish and Game make comments.

28  
29                   MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
30 For the record, my name is George Papas, Department of  
31 Fish and Game. I can make this three minutes if you  
32 want me to speak real fast.

33  
34                   Proposal FP08-17 would eliminate the  
35 subsistence fishery closure windows for all Federally-  
36 qualified subsistence users 60 years or older in the  
37 Yukon River drainage, allowing elder Federal  
38 subsistence users to subsistence fish 24 hours per day,  
39 seven days per week, using all legal gear types, and be  
40 assisted by one individual less than 60 years of age.  
41 Currently, all subsistence users are required to remove  
42 their salmon fishing gear from the water during  
43 established fishery closure windows. Currently, during  
44 the salmon fishing closures, non-salmon species may be  
45 harvested for subsistence with 4-inch mesh size  
46 gillnets no longer than 60 feet. So there is a  
47 difference between the subsistence nets used for salmon  
48 and the ones used for other species, and that's the  
49 length of 60 feet.

50

1                   This proposal was intended to help  
2 elders to subsistence fish in the Yukon River.  
3 However, providing a super-priority for elders at all  
4 sites and boats on the Yukon River, and allowing  
5 assistance by another fisher, effectively eliminates  
6 the closures for conservation and management purposes,  
7 undermining windows management for passing fish  
8 upriver, because every family could try to fish with an  
9 available elder. Adoption of this proposal would also  
10 -- excuse me -- effectively reallocate available  
11 subsistence harvest between Federal and State  
12 subsistence fisheries between 60-and-older subsistence  
13 users and those under 60, in between State and Federal  
14 waters that are also -- that are claimed under Federal  
15 jurisdiction, and between upriver and downriver users.  
16 If adopted, all subsistence and other fisheries along  
17 the Yukon River could be impacted as this fishery  
18 develops, because most of the subsistence users will no  
19 longer have period, time and time restrictions so long  
20 as they find an elder to go with them. Allowing  
21 Federal subsistence users to fish 24/7 during years  
22 when the Yukon River salmon runs are below average or  
23 weak could impact spawning escapements and future  
24 productivity and stability of these stocks. This  
25 proposal could qualify the vast majority of Federal  
26 Subsistences along the Yukon River to fish 24/7 as most  
27 extended families have at least one elder that's aged  
28 60 or older. A large proportion of the commercial  
29 fishing permit holders in both the lower and upper  
30 Yukon areas are 60 -- over 60 years of age. There is  
31 an increased conservation concern if increased legal or  
32 illegal sales of subsistence harvest especially during  
33 years of poor salmon returns coupled with high  
34 commercial value.

35  
36                   The Department opposes this proposal as  
37 published in the proposal book. Nothing in ANILCA  
38 authorizes the Federal Subsistence Board to  
39 discriminate amongst Federally-qualified subsistence  
40 users based on age. Although this proposal was  
41 submitted to the Federal subsistence regulatory  
42 process, the proponent of the originally drafted -- the  
43 proponent originally drafted the proposal for  
44 consideration of changes to State regulations to  
45 establish an elder only subsistence fishing times or  
46 areas in the Yukon River drainage In order to consider  
47 State regulations that would apply to all waters and  
48 subsistence users, we urge that the proposal be  
49 rejected with the advice to the proponent to submit it  
50 to the Alaska Board of Fisheries so that if adopted, it

1 would apply to all subsistence fishers in all waters.

2

3                   During 1988, legislation was adopted  
4 into Alaska State regulation which allows for separate  
5 sport, personal use, and subsistence fishing areas and  
6 seasons for people 60 years or older. The intent of  
7 the statute is to provide for elder fishermen who may  
8 need separate seasons and areas in order to continue  
9 sport, personal use, and subsistence fishing because  
10 they are generally less able to gain access to fishing  
11 areas that might be open to all use -- all users,  
12 excuse me.

13

14                   An example of a separate area for elder  
15 fishermen can be found at the mouth of the Naknek  
16 River. This regulation allows for a State subsistence  
17 fisheries for residence of Alaska 60 years or older to  
18 subsistence fish within a 1,000-foot long section just  
19 inside the mouth of the Naknek River. I've talked to  
20 the area manager out there, and that's a fiercely  
21 defended fishery. It's a very -- it's one of the most  
22 productive sites around, and if you're 59-1/2 years  
23 old, the folks that are fishing kick you out. So it's  
24 a very important fishery to those elders in that part  
25 of the state.

26

27                   This regulation also prohibits other  
28 subsistence users from harvesting fish for any elder by  
29 proxy, which insures that the fish are only being taken  
30 by elders in restricted area -- in this restricted  
31 area. The regulation does not prohibit other Alaskan  
32 residents from assistant elders to harvest their fish  
33 in the fishery, if elders want or need assistance from  
34 operating the fishing gear. The Naknek River elder  
35 only State subsistence fishery area is managed under  
36 the identical seasons and fishing period restrictions  
37 as the remaining State subsistence fisheries in the  
38 Naknek area.

39

40                   Another type of elder only State  
41 fishery is located near the mouth of the Situk River in  
42 the Yakutat area. By State regulation, it establishes  
43 a separate season and area for sport fishing for elders  
44 60 years or older from June 15th to October 14th.  
45 Although all anglers may sport fish in this area for  
46 the rest of the year, from October 15th to June 14th,  
47 the sport fishery is restricted to senior citizens only  
48 during that time frame.

49

50                   Salmon may be harvested under State

1 regulations throughout the majority of the Yukon River  
2 watershed, and the State provides a liberal subsistence  
3 fishing -- fishery throughout the Yukon River. Gear  
4 types allowed are gillnet, beach seine, a hook and line  
5 attached to a rod or pole, hand line or fishwheel. All  
6 gear types are not used or allowed in all portions of  
7 the Yukon River drainage. Drift and set gillnets and  
8 fishwheels are used to harvest the majority of the fish  
9 taken for subsistence use. Under State regulations,  
10 subsistence is the priority consumptive use so State  
11 subsistence fishery opportunity is directly linked to  
12 abundance and is not restricted unless run size is not  
13 adequate to meet the escapement goals. However, when  
14 run size is below average, the State subsistence fishing  
15 periods may be conducted based on a schedule  
16 implemented chronologically throughout the Alaska  
17 portion of the drainage, which is consistent with  
18 migratory timing as the salmon runs progress upriver.  
19

20                   The proposed age limit of 60 years or  
21 older in the Federal proposal does not reflect State  
22 regulation -- the State of Alaska statute.  
23 Unfortunately -- excuse me, it does reflect State of  
24 Alaska statute. Excuse me. Unfortunately, the Federal  
25 proposal goes beyond the simple age limitation, and is  
26 -- it is not -- also not possible to determine how many  
27 elders would participate in the Federal subsistence  
28 fishery would be affected if the proposal were adopted.  
29 The only age-based information the Department can  
30 collect for elders fishing on the Yukon River is for  
31 the age of fishermen who are issued commercial  
32 fisheries entry permit cards for commercial salmon  
33 fishing. A notable percentage of commercial salmon  
34 fishermen in the Yukon River commercial -- who  
35 commercially fish are 60 years or older. A total of  
36 876 CFEC permits were issued for the Yukon River  
37 drainage in 2006. Of these permits, 160, which is 18.3  
38 percent, were issued to folks 60 years or older, and 90  
39 were issued to -- or 10.3 percent of the permits were  
40 issued to folks that are 65 years or older.  
41

42                   In addition, a large difference in the  
43 median age of CFEC, excuse me, Commercial Fisheries  
44 Entry Commission salmon gillnet permit holders exist  
45 between the lower Yukon salmon gillnet permits and the  
46 upper Yukon Salmon gillnet permits. The median age of  
47 permit holders in the upper Yukon salmon gillnet  
48 fisheries is 59 years old, which -- of which 48 percent  
49 are over 60 years of age or of the total 37.9 are over  
50 65 years of age. The median age of a permit holder in

1 the lower Yukon is 46 years old, which is 13 percent  
2 are 60 years or older and 5.6 are 65 years or older.

3  
4 This data is included in the Department  
5 comments to provide insight to the Board regarding the  
6 number of elders who commercially fish -- commercial  
7 fishermen participating in the commercial salmon  
8 gillnet fishers who are 60 to 65 years or older. These  
9 elders of the commercial fleet are required to operate  
10 their nets in all types of conditions during the even  
11 shorter time subsistence window schedule. Total  
12 removal of the fisheries closure windows without  
13 installing safeguards in place to address the concerns  
14 stated above may not be considered sound fisheries  
15 management practice. The Department is willing to  
16 discuss establishing triggers or thresholds, which  
17 would have to be met prior to liberalizing the Federal  
18 and State subsistence fisheries. Under current  
19 management practices, if run abundance is average or  
20 better, the subsistence fisheries are liberalized for  
21 all.

22  
23 If the proponent wishes to pursue this  
24 idea, the proponent should be directed to submit the  
25 proposal to the Alaska Board of Fisheries to consider  
26 establishing elder only subsistence fishing times or  
27 areas in specific locations within the drainage. Such  
28 areas could be considered on a case-by-case basis  
29 depending on local needs, usage patterns, and available  
30 fishing sites. Such a proposal would also lead to a  
31 thorough discussion of the overall need for subsistence  
32 fishing windows in the various Yukon River districts.  
33 If adopted by the State, it would apply to all  
34 subsistence fisheries in all waters.

35  
36 For jurisdiction issues, nothing in  
37 ANILCA authorizes the Federal Board to discriminate  
38 amongst Federally-qualified subsistence users based on  
39 age. Detailed maps are needed to show the boundaries  
40 and areas of the Federal regulations are claimed to  
41 apply -- excuse me -- regulations are claimed to apply  
42 and the justification for claiming those boundaries. A  
43 large percentage of the lands bordering the Yukon River  
44 are State or private lands where Federal subsistence  
45 regulations do not apply. The largest amount of set  
46 gillnet usage is along the coast and just inside the  
47 mouth of the Yukon River. Thus a fair amount of the  
48 water is only managed by the State water -- excuse me,  
49 is only managed by the State where these regulations  
50 would not apply, for example, the coast area outside of

1 the river. It is not clear how this regulation would  
2 apply in areas such as Black River below the Yukon  
3 River mouth. Most people there fish in the ocean,  
4 where this regulation would not apply. Adding this  
5 regulatory complexity seems counterproductive and calls  
6 into question the utility of regulations affecting  
7 stationary gear and traditional sites, where one fisher  
8 could claim to fish only under this proposed regulation  
9 and the next fisher could not, thus creating a  
10 conflicting patchwork of jurisdictional claims on the  
11 water.

12  
13 This situation would also greatly  
14 complicate enforcement efforts. And I did talk to the  
15 State enforcement officer, Dan Daw, I believe he's out  
16 of St. Mary, and it would be a challenge for him to  
17 expand his area, I think I'll go into this a little bit  
18 later, expand his area looking while he's in patrol in  
19 the air, and if he sees a net in the water, he usually  
20 has to stop and check it. This would be not having any  
21 type of identifying markers that he could see from the  
22 air, it would effectively limit his range for  
23 enforcement patrols.

24  
25 Conservation issues. The Yukon River  
26 chinook salmon stock is designated as a stock of yield  
27 concern in 2000 based on the poor runs from '98 to  
28 2000. And I'll skip this section. We've talked about  
29 this before.

30  
31 For fall chums, salmon run strength was  
32 poor from 1998 to 2000. During several of these years  
33 subsistence fishing time was restricted or fisheries  
34 closed according to the fall chum salmon management  
35 plan in order to meet escapement goals. If this  
36 proposal was adopted and subsistence fishing schedules,  
37 or further subsistence fishing restrictions were  
38 established because of low run abundance, not low fun  
39 abundance, I apologize for the typographical error, as  
40 per the management plan, would elders and their helpers  
41 still would be allowed to fish seven days per week.  
42 This proposal may impact the management for  
43 conservation of the salmon resources.

44  
45 The total Alaskan subsistence harvest  
46 of Yukon River chum salmon has remained stable at about  
47 50,000 per year While the average Yukon summer chum  
48 salmon subsistence harvests have decreased in recent  
49 years, significant amounts of chum salmon, a surplus to  
50 escapement needs have been available for subsistence

1 harvest. Several factors causing the decline in the  
2 subsistence harvest of chum salmon include recent  
3 changes in subsistence fishing harvest patterns and  
4 lack of a market for chum salmon roe. Commercial chum  
5 salmon roe fisheries provided substantial numbers of  
6 carcasses for subsistence use in the 80s and 90s. The  
7 fall chum salmon subsistence harvests have begun to  
8 rebound since the poor returns of '98 through 2002, but  
9 remain below average harvest for levels -- the levels  
10 -- excuse me, below the average harvest levels of '93  
11 through '97.

12  
13           If this proposal is adopted,  
14 enforcement for all fishing regulations in the Yukon  
15 River would likely be reduced and negatively impacted  
16 as the workload per officer would increase. The patrol  
17 officers would likely have a reduction in range for  
18 patrol if a significant percentage of extended families  
19 along the river were to take advantage of the ability  
20 to fish in Federal subsistence fisheries 24/7 as long  
21 as an elder was present. The increase in frequency of  
22 law enforcement officers being required to land and  
23 contact the net operators during normal fishery  
24 closures would seriously reduce their range.

25  
26           Enforceability of regulations is the  
27 foundation of sustainable fisheries management  
28 Enforcement of regulations would be difficult if  
29 subsistence setnet users were allowed to fish all days  
30 and seven days per week throughout the season. this is  
31 particularly true during the lower Yukon commercial  
32 chinook salmon season when these fish sell for about  
33 four bucks a pound. Enforcement cases involving the  
34 sale of fish in the commercial markets which were  
35 harvested under -- in the Federal subsistence fishery  
36 could significantly increase if a large proportion of  
37 the subsistence users fish prior to and up to the start  
38 of the commercial fishing periods.

39  
40           Adoption of this proposal would lead to  
41 further regulatory complexities and divergence between  
42 the State and Federal regulations and the results could  
43 impact neighboring fishing sites along the Yukon River  
44 differently.

45  
46           Historically, subsistence fishing has  
47 been more or less scheduled -- excuse me.  
48 Historically, subsistence fishing has been more or less  
49 scheduled throughout most of the drainage because of  
50 commercial fishing periods and regulatory fishing

1 schedules. For example, in District 4 and Subdistricts  
2 5-A, B and C, the historic schedule since 1976 has been  
3 two 48-hour fishing periods for most of the year. This  
4 changed in Subdistrict 4-A in 1994 when subsistence  
5 fishing closed before, during and after commercial  
6 periods. In many areas there have always been windows  
7 of time or interruptions when the subsistence fishery  
8 was closed. prior to the windows schedules, the lower  
9 Yukon was open seven days per wee before commercial  
10 fishing started, but once the commercial season opened,  
11 subsistence fishing occurred relatively (sic) short  
12 scheduled periods.

13

14 And that concludes my comments.

15

16 Thank you. Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you for that  
19 presentation. That brought up quite a few different  
20 issues.

21

22 Does the Council have questions for the  
23 State's presentation. I think the Council's getting  
24 hungary. Mickey, you've got one?

25

26 MR. STICKMAN: No questions, but a  
27 comment. I mean, you know, for Nulato the majority of  
28 the setnets box, which is probably about anywhere from  
29 7 to 10 spots. I mean, the river change every year,  
30 because, I mean, things have been changing, and a lot  
31 of times the eddies, they form later. But for the most  
32 part Nulato, the majority of the people who have a  
33 setnet spot are already over 60. I mean, the average  
34 age for a person with a setnet spot in Nulato's from 76  
35 to 94. I mean, that's the average -- that's the age  
36 for the people with setnet spots in Nulato. I don't  
37 know about in Kaltag, I don't know about in Koyukuk,  
38 but I know in Nulato. I was just thinking about the  
39 setnet spots. And that's the age for the people that  
40 have their setnet spots is 76 through 94.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Mickey.  
43 A very interesting comment there.

44

45 Any additional comments for the State.

46

47 MS. PELKOLA: I don't know. Thank  
48 you, Mr. Chair. I don't know if this is for the State,  
49 but as he was speaking, I'm just thinking, or maybe the  
50 lady before that, when she was speaking, but I was

1 thinking, this is a lot of work for a person 60 years  
2 old or older just to have one person in the boat,  
3 because, you know, the person that's 60 years old may  
4 not be working. I'm 64 years old, and there's lots  
5 that I can't do, because it's just really hard. But I  
6 would be happy with even having it open four days a  
7 week, but I'm also thinking now, do we have a choice if  
8 we want to go with the windows and then we have our  
9 gear marked, or do we want to be an elder and have  
10 seven days a week and to have only one assistant. So  
11 I'm a little confused here, but I think it's -- I don't  
12 know who -- you know, I don't know if they got elders  
13 -- I don't know if any elders were on that committee  
14 when they thought about this, but it's something that I  
15 would like to look into a little bit more and find out  
16 from elders themselves.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Jenny. Any  
19 comments to or questions of the State presentation.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see any  
24 more, so I think it's time to break for lunch, and  
25 we'll continue on with this proposal and deliberate it  
26 after lunch. And so we'll return -- what time do you  
27 think would be a good time, Vince?

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: 1:30. About 1:30 would  
30 be good.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 1:30 would be a good  
33 time to return.

34

35 (Off record)

36

37 (On record)

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to  
40 come back to order here and continue on with this  
41 Proposal 08-17, the elders proposal. We just went  
42 through the OSM analysis and the Alaska Department of  
43 Fish and Game. And so the Council had no more  
44 questions with the State, and so we're to the Federal  
45 agencies, and do any agencies have comment on this  
46 proposal, other than Alaska Department of Fish and  
47 Game.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see any.  
2 And so we have native and tribal village organizations.  
3 Do we have any tribal interests that want to make  
4 comment on this proposal.

5  
6 (No comments)

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I would also  
9 like to have TCC's position on this proposal that was  
10 presented at the Eastern since Mike Smith's not here.

11  
12 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Mike Smith  
13 testified before the Eastern Interior and said that  
14 Tanana Chiefs Conference supports Proposal 17.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So do we have  
17 any other tribal interests.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we have  
22 InterAgency Staff Committee comments. Any of those.

23  
24 MR. BERG: No.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we have  
27 advisory group comments, and starting with the  
28 neighboring Regional Advisory Council, and so we'll --  
29 and then we'll have the local advisory committees after  
30 that. And so we'll make sure to have Ed up there on  
31 the local advisory committee. Do we have Regional  
32 Advisory Council position.

33  
34 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we do. Seward Pen  
35 supported this proposal with a modification, and I may  
36 need to lean on other Staff what the actual  
37 modification was, but the way it's written here is they  
38 support with modification. (A) elders who are 60 years  
39 or older, and are fishing under Federal regulations  
40 themselves, and those directly assisting the elders are  
41 not subject to the window fishing schedule as set out  
42 in the Alaska Administrative Code, and I won't read  
43 that off. But if it's necessary, we can quote that.  
44 This exemption may be temporarily discontinued by the  
45 Federal in-season manager only if warranted through  
46 substantial concerns raised by real time in-season run  
47 rates.

48  
49 Yukon-Kuskokwim based on the notes from  
50 their coordinator, supported that exact same

1 modification.

2

3 MS. WHEELER: It was the YK RAC that  
4 did it and then Seward Pen followed.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Right. What she's  
7 informed me is YK took this up first, and Seward Pen  
8 followed suit with the exact same modification.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So YK. Uh-huh.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: And their justifications  
13 are exactly the same.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And then,  
16 Don, you've got a comment.

17 MR. RIVARD: Yeah. I was part of both  
18 of those meetings, and what both councils did was they  
19 thought -- they don't want it limited to just one  
20 person helping out the elder. In other words, it could  
21 be an unlimited amount of -- well, they didn't put it  
22 that way, but more than one person could help out the  
23 elder. They thought there was no reason to just limit  
24 it to one other person helping the elder out. That  
25 it's a way of passing down knowledge and stuff, so it  
26 could be two or three family members at once helping  
27 out the elder while they're fishing.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you for  
30 that clarification. I just heard somebody coming on  
31 teleconference there. So let's identify that person.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Who's on line.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince.

36

37 MR. DEMATTEO: Good afternoon, this is  
38 Pete DeMatteo.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, Pete DeMatteo.  
41 Okay. We're still reviewing 08-17, the elder proposal  
42 on fisheries. And is anybody else on line there.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I don't hear  
47 anybody. Okay.

48

49 So you've got something else there,

50 Polly?

1 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 Just to clarify, the YK Regional Advisory Council as  
3 Mr. Rivard just said, added -- they didn't want to  
4 limit it to just one person helping the elder, but they  
5 also opened it up to all gear types. If you read their  
6 modification, it's all -- they didn't accept the  
7 modification, the proposed modification that I had read  
8 to you before lunch. They came up with their own  
9 modification, which is all gear types.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the YK Delta, did  
12 they take most of the modification, but -- so the YK  
13 Delta's taken everything, all of the modifications by  
14 the OSM, included an unlimited amount of assistance of  
15 the elder, and all gear types. That is a big  
16 difference, so I -- that is a huge difference.

17  
18 So go ahead, Vince.

19  
20 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. To try to get this  
21 clarified, Eastern Interior took this up, and they  
22 modified it to include fishwheels, and followed the  
23 Staff recommendation to limit the nets to setnets. So  
24 let me see if I can capture that a little better here,  
25 but basically they agreed with the Staff recommendation  
26 that it would be limited to setnets, and to whatever it  
27 is on the people in the boat, and then they expanded it  
28 to include fishwheels. So if you look at this, this  
29 means the thing is completely opened to all gear across  
30 the drainage as far as if all the Council  
31 recommendations were adopted by the Board.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

34  
35 MR. MATHEWS: And I won't burden you  
36 with the legal part, but their basic thing was in  
37 discussion in Eastern Interior there, only a few  
38 fishwheels, maybe three. The testimony as three to six  
39 that would qualify for elders exemption. The Council  
40 agrees with the modification provided by OSM staff for  
41 the reasons presented. And that setnet fishing is a  
42 traditional method of taking salmon in the Yukon River  
43 with productive setnet sites limited riverwide. (2)  
44 The age exemption for elders would only be a  
45 significant physical advantage with setnet fishing.  
46 (3) The elder may be actually participating in the  
47 harvest. And (4) labeling the setnets would address  
48 some of the law enforcement concerns. And (5) the  
49 proposed exemption for elders would not exempt elders  
50 from closures before, during and after commercial

1 periods. So my understanding is they aligned with  
2 Staff and added fishwheels.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And any  
5 Council questions about those actions that -- by the  
6 other Regional Advisory Councils. Mickey, the Seward  
7 Pen and YK has opened it up for drift gillnet and  
8 included in the modification an unlimited amount of  
9 assistance to the elder instead of one assistant. And  
10 so those would be the modifications by YK and Seward  
11 Pen. And Eastern has included the fishwheel aspect.  
12 The unlimited gear circumvents the original reason for  
13 the proposal. So I'm concerned about that. And so I  
14 -- let's see, we have no other -- this Council has not  
15 made any recommendation at this point. So we'll go to  
16 local fish and game advisory committees. And so,  
17 Vince, you've got something there?

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I have one, and  
20 then, Mickey, if middle Yukon discussed this, but the  
21 Lower Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee did take  
22 this up, and on Page 120 is a summary. The Lower Yukon  
23 Fish and Game Advisory Committee opposes the proposal,  
24 even if it seems to be a nice guy proposal. If an age  
25 exemption was warranted, the advisory committee should  
26 put in their own proposal, or it should come from the  
27 tribe if needed. When the commercial fishery opens,  
28 subsistence needs have been met in the lower Yukon  
29 River. So again the Lower Yukon Fish and Game Advisory  
30 Committee opposes it, and the summary is on Page 120.  
31 And Mickey was at the middle Yukon. I don't know if  
32 they took up the proposal.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Mickey.

35

36 MR. STICKMAN: I don't think we did. I  
37 don't recall it even -- We didn't even look at it.  
38 But, you know, from my personal point of view I guess  
39 even though this looked like it would be a good  
40 opportunity for the elders, and it would be an elders  
41 subsistence opportunity, I also see it as an  
42 opportunity to abuse the resource. So that's just my  
43 personal opinion. Whenever the motion comes up and  
44 it's moved and seconded, and the vote comes, I'm going  
45 to vote no.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so that  
48 would Mickey's perspective from the Middle Yukon  
49 Advisory Committee member.

50

1                   And so Ed Sarten is Chair of the Ruby  
2 Advisory Committee, and so go ahead, Ed.

3  
4                   MR. SARTEN: Thank you. Mr. Chair and  
5 Council. And thank you for having me here. And I'd  
6 like to thank Galena for their great hospitality.

7  
8                   Personally -- we didn't talk about it  
9 in our advisory committee. So like Mickey I'm going to  
10 be giving pretty much my personal view. I was asked by  
11 elders to bring this up and talk about it.

12  
13                   So my position on this is I'm kind of  
14 neutral on it, because I like the idea of helping  
15 elders and making it easier for them, but like Mickey I  
16 feel there could be a lot of abuses here.

17  
18                   And I also heard in there that in that  
19 rule is that the elder must be in the boat. Well, I  
20 personally have helped elders go get their fish out of  
21 their net because maybe they got medivac'd out or  
22 whatever. So if I go to check their net for them, or  
23 pull their net for them, I could get arrested by this  
24 proposal, because I have no business there without the  
25 elder. So I don't see how that's going to help  
26 anything.

27  
28                   And I also see other areas that could  
29 be abused, you know, if you could twist it around a  
30 little bit. So the only reason I'm not going to go  
31 against it, even though I don't feel good about it is  
32 because I would like to see the elders have some  
33 advantage. I think that's a good thing. But I just  
34 don't feel this is going to work. It throws too many  
35 things out that -- you know, like -- because I've had  
36 this experience of helping elders before, and if  
37 they're not with me, you know, that puts me in hot  
38 water.

39  
40                   So that's really all I have to say  
41 about this proposal.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.  
44 Appreciate that comment. Mickey.

45  
46                   MR. STICKMAN: No, I don't have any  
47 questions for Ed, but Fred is on the Middle Yukon  
48 Advisory Committee, and he has an opinion.

49  
50                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,

1 Fred.

2

3

MR. SARTEN: Thank you.

4

5

MR. STICKMAN: Thank you, Ed.

6

7

MR. F. HUNTINGTON: Again I'd like to  
8 thank you for letting me speak. My name is Fred  
9 Huntington, and I live in Galena, and I've fished all  
10 my life like I told you.

11

12

And I was looking at this proposal.  
13 I'm not for this proposal at all. One of the reasons  
14 is I fish with the old man, he's 93 years old, and if  
15 I'm not there with him, somebody else is there with  
16 him. So we either -- we use a setnet in the time what  
17 the area is open, after the water dropped so low  
18 there's no more availability for eddies, so we have to  
19 go drifting, and by no means would he ever go out by  
20 himself, but we always have somebody that's going to  
21 take him, like I said. And so that's not only him that  
22 get the fish, we're kind of -- we kind of have, you  
23 know, extended family members, and some of the elders  
24 included around the community that does get this fish.  
25 It doesn't go all to one family by no means. So i'm  
26 not sure who put the proposal in or what was their  
27 reason for it, but if they know how our system is  
28 working, it works fine. If you start opening the  
29 windows periods -- in two years I'll be 60 years old,  
30 and so I'll have my boat, the old man's boat and maybe  
31 Grandma's boat with my three boys in the boats, you  
32 know, and they'd be fishing three nets 24/7's. And so  
33 you're looking -- that's what you're going to be  
34 looking at should this thing pass. So, you know, in  
35 order to save fish for down -- you know, generations  
36 down to come, it's best we stick to our windows and  
37 operate. Any other resolutions going to pass, keep it  
38 at those window openings.

39

40

Thank you.

41

42

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot, Fred.  
43 We appreciate those comments. Any other -- I don't see  
44 any more advisory committee members present.

45

46

National Park Service Subsistence  
47 Resource Commission. Gates of the Arctic has not met  
48 on this issue and has no position. And I don't know if  
49 Denali has or not.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: To my knowledge, Denali  
2 has not met or taken this up.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So public  
5 testimony. Do we have any additional public testimony.  
6  
7 (No comments)  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see anybody  
10 raising their hand for public testimony.  
11  
12 We're to the Regional Council  
13 recommendations, for a motion. Make a positive motion  
14 for adoption and let the chips fall where they may.  
15 The Chair entertains the motion for adoption.  
16  
17 MR. SAM: Mr. Chair. Move to adopt  
18 Proposal 17.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Move to adopt. Do  
21 we have a second.  
22  
23 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chair. I'll second  
24 with discussion.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And moved and  
27 seconded. Council discussion. Go ahead, Paul.  
28  
29 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. You know, although  
30 I support the original concept of this proposal, even  
31 before it even start, and it's even before it goes to  
32 the Federal Board, it's already opened Pandora's box.  
33 We've got now it's open to everything I mean, you know,  
34 and we're kind of concerned about the abuse that might  
35 happen. It's gotten where now it's scary. It's  
36 opened. With all these Regional Councils modifying the  
37 original proposal, it's opened. Might as well just  
38 open it up. It's opened already now, we've got a  
39 Pandora's box, and talk about potential. Just like  
40 Fred was saying, you know, and, hey, you know, me, too,  
41 I'll be 60 in two years, so -- and we've all been down  
42 that boat. And I'll probably want to recommend it on  
43 the Kuskokwim, too.  
44  
45 Thank you. I don't support this.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.  
48 Appreciate those comments, Carl. Ron.  
49  
50 MR. SAM: Yeah, this is just for

1 discussion purposes, that's why I moved this proposal.  
2 All the modifications, all seven of them are pretty  
3 much in place and some understood or self-imposed  
4 throughout our region as far as I'm concerned. We -- I  
5 do not see -- the way it's operating now, I do not see  
6 any reason to support this proposal because of these  
7 modifications, because we do have them more or less in  
8 place. As you heard from these testimonies, it will  
9 open this, open the whole Yukon River drainage to  
10 possible abuses, and like Fred said, if the system  
11 works, why fix it. So I intend to oppose this  
12 proposal, too.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Jenny.

17

18 MS. PELKOLA: I would also like to echo  
19 Ron there, but I was just thinking that it's going to  
20 throw a lot of confusion in, because every time a new  
21 law, a new thing is on the books, a lot of the elders,  
22 they don't understand, you know. And I oppose it,  
23 because my brother and I are both over 60, and we've  
24 been fishing together for years, and, you know, I  
25 wouldn't want to see him in another boat and my in  
26 another boat. And I don't support this.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you,  
29 Jenny. And, Don.

30

31 MR. HONEA: Thank you. Mr. Chair. I  
32 also speak in opposition to it. You know for the last  
33 couple days we've been hearing about -- from some  
34 elders and other folks about the fishing pressures  
35 we've been having. And I, you know, just -- I can't,  
36 you know, in good conscience support something that's  
37 going to add more burden, not only, you know, for the  
38 State -- I mean, I could see the -- try to enforce some  
39 of this, and I think it's -- actually it would be a  
40 real headache I think on the lower Yukon where  
41 commercial fishing is allowed and where they do a lot  
42 of catching of fish down there. And so I'm -- I will  
43 vote I'm opposed to this. And also just because of the  
44 fact that we're trying to let more escapement into  
45 Canada.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot, Don.

50 Mickey.

1 MR. STICKMAN: My last comment would  
2 be, I mean, just amendments on the floor, I mean, and  
3 opening up to drift gillnets. And we already have a  
4 problem with -- I mean, we already have this animosity  
5 built up between the lower Yukon and the middle Yukon,  
6 and the upper and the Tanana River guys where fish --  
7 mesh size have come into the picture. And with the  
8 kind of gear that they use on the lower Yukon and the  
9 size of the villages on the lower Yukon, I mean, Nulato  
10 is a fairly good sized village for this area at 260  
11 people, but I went down to St. Mary's and there's 800  
12 people there. And then you go to the next village and  
13 there's 1,000 there, and you count up the elders, and  
14 you think about -- you think what's going to happen if  
15 this pass. I mean, the animosity is just going to get  
16 worse, because they're down there with their big nets.  
17 It's just going to hurt the resource.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. I  
20 appreciate -- on, Ron, go ahead.

21  
22 MR. SAM: Yeah, a final comment. When  
23 the windows -- the windows system was established for a  
24 purpose and that was for escapement and sustainability  
25 of lower Yukon River salmon, and I, to, very conflict  
26 about our Canadian neighbors. Like I said, if this  
27 system -- the windows system is working and providing  
28 for escapement. That's one of my main reasons for  
29 opposing this proposal.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. And so  
32 all Council comments are in. I'll make my comments.

33  
34 The amendments made by the YK Delta and  
35 the Seward Pen Regional Advisory Councils are prima  
36 facia evidence that they intend to do away with the  
37 windows period. And we had testimony long and hard  
38 yesterday on the 7-1/2-inch gear proposal. That  
39 proposal failed because of lack of con -- or concern  
40 about where that -- whether that was actually -- what  
41 would be the product.

42  
43 Gilbert Huntington, Co-Chair of YRDFA,  
44 the proponent of this proposal, stated that the windows  
45 were the management tool that was protecting these  
46 stocks for escapement and components to get through. I  
47 agree and am with Gilbert on that issue, that that's a  
48 component of protection of some of the larger fish is  
49 these windowed periods of subsistence, and then blanks  
50 to let fish go through. There would be basically no

1 windows. The fish, the stocks entering in the river  
2 would be immediately with drift gillnet and set gillnet  
3 in the lower river would be subject to high harvest  
4 with large mesh gear. And we already have concerns  
5 about that.

6  
7 These windows are important, imperative  
8 at this time to allow at least a little protection to a  
9 component of the larger king salmon in the Yukon River,  
10 and at least let a few of those fish get through, even  
11 though those windows blur as they move upriver, but  
12 they move through one of the highest harvest area in  
13 the lower river.

14  
15 I'm very opposed to the amendments made  
16 by the YK Delta and the Seward Pen. Those amendments  
17 basically negate the windows and any kind of protection  
18 for the chinook salmon, and we all have concerns for  
19 making escapements, and those border passages were not  
20 made this year. And so I absolutely cannot support the  
21 proposal, and especially the modified proposal by the  
22 YK Delta and Seward Pen.

23  
24 I feel strongly that elders should have  
25 some kind of opportunities, but as presented to this  
26 Council by various people here, there's lots of support  
27 for elders in these fisheries, and so nobody -- I don't  
28 know of any elder that is wanting for extended family,  
29 relatives to assist them in the fishery. And so I'm  
30 opposed to this.

31  
32 And so at this time, any additional  
33 Council comments. Seeing none -- go ahead, Carl.

34  
35 MR. MORGAN: I'd just like to comment  
36 that, you know, there's a lot of us are baby boomers  
37 out there, and a lot of us live along the river and,  
38 you know, are post World War II, so we're coming of  
39 age. And I think the population of 60 year olds is  
40 going -- we'll all qualify.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yeah, that  
43 was presented in the discussion on the high numbers of  
44 elders already in participation in these fisheries.

45  
46 And so at this time.....

47  
48 MR. STICKMAN: I call for the question,  
49 Mr. Chairman.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mickey's calls for  
2 the question. Those in favor of the Proposal FP08-17,  
3 signify by saying aye.

4  
5                   (No aye votes)

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
8 sign.

9  
10                  IN UNISON: Aye.

11  
12                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The proposal  
13 unanimously fails for the above listed justifications.

14  
15                  And so where are we at now, Vince?

16  
17                  MR. MATHEWS: Well, we talked about  
18 earlier there was two topics, and I apologize for  
19 slightly interrupting you earlier. I didn't know if  
20 Becca with YRDFA was on line. You've been hedging  
21 around the edges on bycatch fishery, and she's been  
22 monitoring that closely. Don's been attending those  
23 meetings, too. We can piece something together to give  
24 you an overview where the North Pacific Fishery  
25 Management Council is possibly at.

26  
27                  The other issue that we delayed to this  
28 point, or deferred to this point was looking at ways of  
29 dealing with that animosity and disparity across the  
30 drainage.

31  
32                  So I don't know, it's your call which  
33 you'd like to take up first, the bycatch and then this  
34 dealing with trying to work towards consensus on the  
35 drainage.

36  
37                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's my personal  
38 feeling that the bycatch and suppression of the Yukon  
39 River chinook run is bringing the animosities by the  
40 high competition of the subsistence and commercial  
41 fishers on the Yukon River, trying to meet escapement  
42 needs and personal needs. And so I would prioritize  
43 the bycatch on the -- in the Bering Sea trawl fishery  
44 as one of our next highest agenda items.

45  
46                  And some kind of a -- just an overview  
47 of where the North Pacific Management Council is at  
48 addressing this bycatch issue. They threw away the  
49 savings areas, went to the rolling volunteer system  
50 that has pathetically failed. And so at the disgrace

1 of the North Pacific Management Council's discretion on  
2 that issue. I would like to know what point the North  
3 Pacific Management Council is in addressing this very  
4 concerning issue for all AYK stocks.

5  
6 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair, before we  
7 move on, I would like -- the Middle Yukon Advisory  
8 Committee has a proposal to open up the area from what  
9 do they call it, Collin Point to Yuki for drift  
10 gillnet, and it passed the Middle Yukon Advisory  
11 Committee, and I would like the support from the  
12 Western Interior Regional Advisory Committee.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What's the time  
15 frame for the Board of Fish meetings? They don't meet  
16 until '09?

17  
18 MR. MATHEWS: Mike? I'm drawing a  
19 blank on -- is the proposal an agenda change request or  
20 is it a proposal under the regular call? Because my  
21 understanding, in two years -- it's not up before the  
22 Board of Fish for two years. Maybe the State can  
23 clarify that.

24  
25 MR. STICKMAN: Well, actually it  
26 wouldn't be a proposal from the Council, but it would  
27 be a vote of support for the State proposal, because --  
28 I mean, even if it's two years down the road, it's  
29 still a voice of support.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Would the Council  
32 like to endorse the proposal. It's hard to endorse a  
33 proposal without a number and so forth, and so I think  
34 that when the proposal comes out in packet that the  
35 Council will be able to endorse it as a numbered  
36 proposal. Without a co-authorship, it would be a  
37 little bit hard to -- we could do that if the Council  
38 would like, but it would be a little bit hard to  
39 describe that proposal as, you know, just a rough draft  
40 like that. And so what -- I would like to endorse the  
41 proposal, but I would.....

42  
43 MR. STICKMAN: Well, the proposal is  
44 just to open it from where it's at right now all the  
45 way up up to Yuki. I mean, right now it's open in only  
46 Federal waters, but we're talking about State waters,  
47 so even though it's not in our jurisdiction, it's still  
48 an added subsistence opportunity for -- well, the  
49 people from Galena, for instance, wouldn't have to go  
50 all the way down to Koyukuk. They can go from here to

1 -- I mean, there's good spots above Galena. I mean,  
2 even if there's no good spots from here to -- in the  
3 Federal waters, I know there is good spots from here to  
4 Yuki.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I'm  
7 supportive of the idea, it's just procedurally how to  
8 do that.

9  
10 Go ahead, Vince.

11  
12 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mickey, I think  
13 what Jack is trying to get at, it's hard to support one  
14 without a number. And also there would be opportunity  
15 once that is written up and submitted, I can mail it  
16 out to all the Council members and it could be an  
17 agenda item at the next meeting.

18  
19 But to cover Mickey's concern, I need  
20 to know from the State, when are those proposals  
21 available? What the Council's struggling with here is  
22 they want to know when they can get their best bang for  
23 the buck on supporting this proposal before the Board  
24 of Fish. And what Jack is saying, when it's published,  
25 then that's when you start logging in.

26  
27 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. George Pappas,  
28 Department of Fish and Game. As I understand, the  
29 recent January meeting was the regular cycle meeting  
30 for this area, and the next meeting will be three years  
31 from now. Proposals would be due sometime during that  
32 last third year, although they can be submitted early.

33  
34  
35 To bring this up as an agenda change  
36 request, it would have to meet certain criteria. I'm  
37 not the specialist on that. I'm not sure if it would  
38 be an emergency that the Board would actually take up  
39 to meet their criteria.

40  
41 Mr. Chair.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Knowing the way  
44 these boards work, it would be highly unlikely that  
45 they would take it up as an agenda change request. And  
46 so I would prefer to take a poll of the Council and  
47 submit a letter in tandem on that proposal of support,  
48 but I would feel more comfortable waiting for it to be  
49 published with a number. And so is that acceptable,  
50 Mickey?

1 MR. STICKMAN: Well, I guess if that's  
2 the best I'm going to get, I'll have to take it.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It will be like two  
5 or three years before we even see that proposal, and  
6 then the proposal can be fought for at that time.

7  
8 And so this North Pacific Management  
9 issue is something -- I think they're having a Council  
10 meeting pretty soon, so we need to work on that item.  
11 And so you have a short presentation, Don?

12  
13 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Don Rivard  
14 with the Office of Subsistence Management. I don't  
15 have any formal presentation on the bycatch issue, but  
16 I'll just give you a little bit of update.

17  
18 I've been going to every one I possibly  
19 can go to of the meetings that are being held in  
20 Anchorage. There's also a working group that's been  
21 looking into this, and some of the members of the  
22 working group besides industry folks and some  
23 government folks are also Becca from YRDFA and Mike  
24 Smith from TCC, Jennifer Hooper from AVCP. So they're  
25 all part of that working group.

26  
27 Just last month the North Pacific  
28 Fisheries Management Council met, and they took up some  
29 of the recommendations of the working group. It goes  
30 through a whole series of things. It goes through the  
31 working group and it goes through the statistical and  
32 there's a committee and then there's an advisory panel,  
33 and then it goes to the Council. Well, it went through  
34 all those steps in this last meeting, and it's now gone  
35 back with some recommended changes by the Council back  
36 to the working group to look at again, and they're  
37 going to meet I think it's November 8th, and I'll be at  
38 that meeting again.

39  
40 It's going through the process. And  
41 what this working group basically is doing is coming up  
42 with some alternatives to analyze, which will be -- the  
43 analysis will be done by the North Pacific Fisheries  
44 Management Council's support staff. So they still have  
45 to agree on what they're going to look at to analyze. And  
46 that's going to take -- the Council's going to make  
47 that decision I think in December.

48  
49 What they're looking at now is that  
50 this process, because it doesn't quite work the way the

1 Federal Subsistence Program works where it's just a  
2 regulatory change and the Board can approve it, this  
3 looks like it's going to go into either a flow-blown  
4 environmental impact assessment or statement, or an  
5 environmental assessment. Either way it looks like  
6 both processes, if they finally decide on what they  
7 want to analyze, and they're proposing changes, this  
8 analysis is going to take about two years to go through  
9 the whole Federal -- the whole process. And they'll  
10 have public meetings and stuff as well.

11

12 So that's where it's at.

13

14 Just some personal observations and  
15 impressions. I don't think industry, although they're  
16 -- I don't think they mean to impact subsistence like  
17 they are. I don't think they fully appreciate what it  
18 means to subsistence users along these major river  
19 systems, the end users so to speak. So it is really  
20 important, and I talked informally with one Council  
21 member, that the Councils -- the Regional Advisory  
22 Councils make their views known as often as they deem  
23 necessary.

24

25 So it's interesting, as you know,  
26 bycatch has been going up every year for the last half-  
27 dozen years anyway. It averaged about 36 to 37,000 a  
28 year for the period of about 1991 to 2002. And then  
29 it's been steadily going up, and it's reached over  
30 100,000 this year. And there was some discussion at  
31 some of these meetings that it must be correlated to  
32 run abundance, but that is not true. It's obvious this  
33 year, the run is down this year and the bycatch  
34 continues to go up. So they can't use that claim any  
35 more that it's all tied to run abundance or what's out  
36 there available in the ocean to come back.

37

38 So it's a slow moving process, but what  
39 your Council can do is, basically what I was told, is  
40 keep the pressure on. And your letters -- your letter  
41 was presented last March, because you wrote it in  
42 January last year. It was presented in March and then  
43 it was resubmitted and was part of the package just  
44 last month, it was before the Council again. So just a  
45 suggestion I would have is to write another letter and  
46 tell them you're even more concerned with now the  
47 bycatch continues to go up. And if we can get all the  
48 Councils, the affected Councils and affected users to  
49 do that, I think it keeps the issue much more focused  
50 for the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council,

1 that they know how important it is to users.

2

3 Another thing, I think it's interesting  
4 to point out, and I may not have the dates quite right,  
5 but this issue was of great -- of pretty good concern  
6 to the U.S./Canada Joint Technical Committee, or the  
7 Panel, and it was in 2001 or 2 that they finally signed  
8 the agreement between the U.S. and Canada. And at that  
9 time when it was averaging around 37,000 a year, that  
10 panel sent a letter to the North Pacific Fisheries  
11 Management Council saying they wanted to see bycatch  
12 numbers lowered even then. This was when it was  
13 averaging 37,000. So it's tripled almost now.

14

15 And so what you have to watch out for  
16 and what you have to encourage is that they don't look  
17 at current numbers and say, well, if we can get it back  
18 to 37,000 a year, we're really doing well. Well, the  
19 pressure was on 15 years ago, or 5 years ago rather, to  
20 try to get it below that 37. And I think, this is my  
21 personal impression, is that the industry saw that they  
22 could get it back down to 37, they'd probably think  
23 they were doing real well. So just some observations  
24 and some things to think about.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One question for him  
29 there, Vince. So what occurred at the Management  
30 Council from reinstating the savings areas  
31 immediately since they rescinded those, with its left  
32 pen. What precludes them from reinstating the  
33 savings areas as a stop gap until they can do their  
34 environmental assessments?

35

36 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. I'm not sure  
37 if I know all the ins and outs. I'm not sure anything  
38 has been rescinded yet. What you have to realize is  
39 industry is doing this all under voluntary, for  
40 voluntary purposes. It's not like it's mandated that  
41 they shall or they will or -- because the North Pacific  
42 Fisheries Management Council wants the industry -- they  
43 want to do it that way and not be, and these are my  
44 terms, not anybody else's, being heavy-handed with, you  
45 know, imposing regulations and then heavy-handed  
46 enforcement. They probably don't have the capability  
47 to do the level of enforcement that they would need to  
48 if it were that case. So they really have -- they  
49 really have to rely on industry to kind of voluntarily  
50 do these kind of things.

1                               What's interesting, you may or may not  
2 know, is there's actually two seasons for the pollack  
3 fishery. And the early part of the year, from January  
4 through March is the most lucrative part, because it's  
5 also the time when -- I guess -- I don't know pollack  
6 biology very well, but they also very much want to have  
7 the pollack roe, and that's the time of the year that  
8 they get it. And so one of the things that, you know,  
9 the Department of Fish and Game has come up with, is  
10 they do their accounting on a calendar year. There are  
11 so many bycatch that are caught the first part of the  
12 years, January through March, whatever it might be.  
13 Then there's a little bit of a break, and then they're  
14 fishing from July through the rest of the year. And  
15 that's called the B season. The A season, B season.  
16 And one of the things they wanted to look at was what  
17 would these bycatch numbers look like if they first  
18 looked at the B season, and because of the numbers that  
19 are caught in the B season, maybe that would trigger  
20 closing the A season. Well, the industry doesn't want  
21 to see that, because the A season is the most  
22 lucrative. And as the seasons go by, as the year go  
23 by, the salmon are becoming larger and more mature, and  
24 that B season might be really what you need to key off  
25 of for determining you've caught too many fish, now  
26 you've got to -- you can't catch any more. Because  
27 these fish from what I understand, the chinook salmon  
28 are not quite yet ready to come back to the river  
29 systems, but they're intercepting fish that may be the  
30 four and five-year-olds that they need another year or  
31 so in the ocean to come back. Well, you're going to  
32 miss a lot of that cohort.

33  
34                               And so there's a lot of things to be  
35 thinking about. And so those are the kind of things  
36 that the working group is wrestling with and trying to  
37 encourage that all these kind of aspects be analyzed.  
38 And I know there's a lot of people and a lot of  
39 organizations that are keeping real close track of it,  
40 as you know. The Councils here, YRDLA, the State is  
41 very much concerned about it as well. They're there at  
42 every meeting. I also should tell you that Russ Holder  
43 has been at just about every meeting that I've been to  
44 as well. So your in-season manager's very much  
45 concerned and keeping close track of what's going on,  
46 too. And the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a  
47 representative on the Council that is there as part of  
48 it.

49  
50                               That's all I have.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, thanks,  
2 Don.

3  
4 Vince, you've got something?

5  
6 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you have two items,  
7 and then I can give you an update. You were given this  
8 earlier. This is what Becca would have gone over, and  
9 I'll direct you back to this in a second.

10  
11 You also got this lavender thing, and  
12 that's why I was wishing Becca's here, because this is  
13 difficult for me to interpret, but that is what the  
14 BSAI salmon bycatch, June 2007 Council motion is. And  
15 to be honest with you, I don't think I can explain it  
16 to you. But it appears to be that YRDFA kind of  
17 explained it back to this one on the back page, and  
18 opportunities for change. Okay.

19  
20 Finally, and I can get the exact notes  
21 from Tina here, Eastern Interior is going to be  
22 submitting a letter. I don't remember all the details,  
23 I don't have my notes, but all I took away from it was  
24 they're going -- recommending a 20,000 cap, but I don't  
25 remember what other qualifiers they put in, so I  
26 apologize for that. But they're going forward with a  
27 20,000 cap. And I believe that's based on the back  
28 page of this thing here where it says in the first  
29 column, about two-thirds down, the option for hard caps  
30 currently include a range of numbers ranging from  
31 20,000 to 87,500. The Council is looking at fixed and  
32 trigger area closures which would close said areas to  
33 pollack fisheries, and you can read on from there. I  
34 don't remember -- I know the 20,000, I don't know what  
35 Eastern Interior did on trigger versus fixed.

36  
37 So that's where that's at. And I  
38 thought Don did an excellent job. I've gotten word  
39 from others that -- other sources, including related to  
40 the Council, that they did appreciate your letter and  
41 wanted it resubmitted so the Council would know it.  
42 Now, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, so  
43 you don't get lost. We keep throwing Council. So, I'm  
44 not -- I'm aligning with Don that if you want to keep  
45 the pressure up, it might be good to submit a letter.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don, go ahead.

48  
49 MR. RIVARD: Just one other comment  
50 with listening to Vince here. When you hear that

1 number 87,500, well, that is the number that key --  
2 that triggers an endangered species consultation,  
3 because when it reaches 87,500, it's been determined  
4 that then it's affecting chinook salmon from the  
5 Pacific Northwest, Oregon and Washington where the  
6 chinook is an endangered species. They figure they're  
7 catching -- by that time, when they've got 87,500,  
8 they're catching too many that are coming from Oregon  
9 and Washington, so it triggers -- this is interesting.  
10 It triggers the North Pacific Fisheries Management  
11 Council -- well, actually it's NMFS, National Marine  
12 Fisheries Service, in Washington and Oregon has to  
13 consult with -- or, no, Alaska has to consult with  
14 Washington and Oregon. It's the same agency, they have  
15 to consult with themselves. And what I thought was  
16 interesting, and this is another personal observation,  
17 is last year's bycatch was 87,500. It didn't go over  
18 that, but this year it did. So they definitely will  
19 have to consult with themselves now.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Vince.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Again I just read the  
24 transcripts for Eastern Interior. Yes, it was 20,000  
25 and they discussed at length the concern about what is  
26 -- what happens with that bycatch. They were informed  
27 at that meeting it goes to food banks. They want to  
28 know how that's handled and who and where. And they  
29 directed the letter that will go on all this also be  
30 copied to NOAA. So their concerns was the cap at  
31 20,000 plus, what's being done with that bycatch.

32

33 I took away from the whole discussion  
34 from Becca, showing some of my lack of knowledge on  
35 fisheries, but Don already touched upon it, they're  
36 four and five-year-olds being caught. I was under the  
37 impression earlier on in this subtopic a couple years  
38 ago they were the small fry. but it's mainly four and  
39 five-year-old.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. And so  
42 at this point what does the Council feel like  
43 proceeding with another strongly worded letter to  
44 include cap language as the Eastern Interior has done  
45 with the 20 -- with a reduced bycatch which was  
46 requested by the technical committee for Canada to cap  
47 at 20,000 chinook, and also bring into question where  
48 these bycatch are going, that they should be at the  
49 industry's expense returned to the streams of origin.  
50 So if they're catching 25 percent of the chinook salmon

1 from the Yukon River, they should pay for them to be  
2 returned here. That will give them a huge economic  
3 incentive to get off these fish. That should be  
4 brought out to the Council. And so I think another  
5 strongly worded letter would be -- to be transmitted to  
6 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council for  
7 their next meeting would be appropriate.

8

9 So, Council discussion.

10

11 MR. STICKMAN: I was just wondering if  
12 this needed to be an action item that we needed to make  
13 a motion on it or if it would be okay just having a  
14 strongly worded letter, or if it was an action item.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It will be.....

17

18 MR. STICKMAN: And if it's going to be  
19 -- if it's going to work better as an action item, I'll  
20 make that motion.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It needs to be an  
23 action item and a motion, and so Mickey's made a motion  
24 for a strongly worded letter to be transmitted to the  
25 North Pacific Management Council.

26

27 MS. PELKOLA: I'll second.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny seconds.  
30 Further discussion by the Council, the Western Interior  
31 Regional Advisory Council.

32

33 MR. SAM: Question.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's being  
36 called on transmitting that letter to the North Pacific  
37 Management Council. Those in favor of the letter  
38 signify by saying aye.

39

40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.

43

44 (No opposing votes)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous consent  
47 for transmittal.

48

49 Vince, go ahead.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Just for housekeeping on  
2 this, in the past the Council has delegated the writing  
3 obviously to myself, ut it's reviewed by the Chair. Is  
4 that comfortable with your motion that the Chair would  
5 be the final approval, or do you all want to take a  
6 look at this letter before that approval?

7  
8 MR. STICKMAN: That will be okay. We  
9 know Jack's good enough.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A comment, Carl.

12  
13 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I think Jack can  
14 approve it, and we can receive a copy later.

15  
16 MR. STICKMAN: We're going to get a  
17 copy of anyway.

18  
19 MR. SAM: Yes, it has worked well in  
20 the past, and I believe it will continue, because most  
21 of our letters in the past has been written by Jack and  
22 Vince anyway.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Okay.  
25 We've moved through that issue, and so we have.....

26  
27 Go ahead, Vince.

28  
29 MR. MATHEWS: The consensus topic  
30 remove. Now let me explain that. In your annual  
31 report you talked about looking at ways of better  
32 communication. I think I can quote Jack on this, the  
33 fishery issue is high centered. We need to move off of  
34 this -- the high center of it. Eastern Interior had in  
35 their annual report that they also were concerned that  
36 the level of cooperation, and they used I think the  
37 word consensus, has declined on the Yukon. So as  
38 Staff, we've been looking at that and suggested to  
39 Eastern Interior and through your agenda that they look  
40 at options.

41  
42 What Eastern Interior's done is that a  
43 letter will be sent to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and  
44 that I was to convey it to this meeting, that they  
45 would like in the future to have the coordinating  
46 fishery committee, that would be Mickey and Robert  
47 Walker and the Chair to meet to explore various  
48 options, to look at better communication, and for  
49 communication cooperation, and see if there can be  
50 consensus, but right now the animosity on the river is

1 extremely high. So Eastern wanted me to convey that to  
2 you and see if you would be supportive of that, and  
3 that would free Staff up to also to look at these  
4 various options for that meeting.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When would that  
7 meeting time frame take place? Would it be in  
8 conjunction with the Federal Subsistence Board's  
9 fisheries time frame?

10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, if you mean the,  
12 which is later on the agenda, the two-year cycle, yes.  
13 If you're meaning the December meeting that's coming  
14 up, no, because it wouldn't be productive now. Every  
15 Council has logged in on these proposals. So we're not  
16 looking at before the December meeting. I think we're  
17 going to look at after that meeting and possibly before  
18 your spring meeting, but I haven't fleshed it out. So  
19 I hope I answered your question on that.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would prefer to  
22 have this type of meeting in conjunction with the  
23 Federal Subsistence Board meeting, because the Chairs  
24 typically travel to that. And previous to the Federal  
25 Subsistence Board, a day or so previous have a little  
26 get-together with these various Council members and  
27 discuss these fisheries issues and try and defray some  
28 of these problems. But as we found with the Tri-  
29 Council meeting, these issues don't easily dissolve,  
30 and so I'm not sure how well this is going to be  
31 working out. I have my doubts. And so I'd like to  
32 know about the Council's thoughts on these -- this  
33 meetings with these various Council members on trying  
34 to defray some -- we seem to -- there is some  
35 misunderstanding between region, but there's also a  
36 somewhat polarized opinions about -- as we heard by  
37 teleconference from the lower river about various  
38 issues, and so we -- I don't know if we're going to go  
39 too far with that. So what does the Council feel about  
40 these?

41  
42 Ron, you've participated more in these  
43 types of arena than I have. Do you think that it would  
44 be productive?

45  
46 MR. SAM: Okay. Right -- you lost me  
47 there. What are we addressing now?

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to lay  
50 that out again for him, Vince?

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Basically, Ron,  
2 what this is saying is it's basically to reactivate a  
3 little higher profile for the Yukon River Coordinating  
4 Fishery Committee, which right now your members are  
5 Mickey Stickman and Robert Walker. Eastern Interior is  
6 Virgil Umphenour and Richard Carroll from Fort Yukon.  
7 And then lower Yukon, I'm going to draw a blank on. I  
8 think it's Lester Wilde and Ray Oney. And so those six  
9 would get together. We've always had the policy that  
10 the Chairs are welcome, Eastern said the Chairs should  
11 be there, to openly discuss ways of improving  
12 communication and cooperation. So that's basically  
13 what this is. And then to further bring you up to  
14 speed, Jack is indicating he would like that in  
15 conjunction, you can correct me if I get it wrong, in  
16 conjunction with the Federal Subsistence Board meeting,  
17 prior to that Board meeting, so it's one day -- one-  
18 time travel.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the one-time  
21 travel, plus it gives a neutral ground area, which the  
22 Federal Board meets in Anchorage, and I feel that a  
23 neutral ground area is imperative to this also.

24  
25 MR. SAM: I would be all for that, but  
26 again I, too, along with Eastern Interior would request  
27 that our Chair be present, because from a few of these  
28 meetings, I requested travel, because I knew all the  
29 members present and I thought I could defray some of  
30 the animosity or hard feelings. And at that one time  
31 it was denied. But I think that having it before the  
32 Federal Subsistence Board meeting would be more than  
33 appropriate. I think that would also build some kind  
34 of teamwork on certain proposals, too, so I would be  
35 all for that scenario.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That -- go  
38 ahead, Don.

39  
40 MR. RIVARD: Well, I understand the  
41 reasons why you would want to have it, and Vince kind  
42 of touched upon it. For this round, all three Councils  
43 have now met, and your positions have been made known.  
44 And you have to go along with what your Councils came  
45 up with, their recommendations in a public meeting. So  
46 if you were to meet together as a group to discuss  
47 these things and try to come up with some kind of  
48 consensus, there still would be the official  
49 recommendations from all three Councils. If what the  
50 Coordinated Fisheries Committee came up with was

1 different, they could just kind of present it to the  
2 Board at that December meeting as, we've had this  
3 discussion, we -- here are some other ideas to think  
4 about. But they couldn't come up with an official  
5 recommendation. It's kind of the cart before the  
6 horse, because you've got to meet before and then go  
7 back to your Councils and say, here's kind of what the  
8 consensus was among the three Councils, and see if you  
9 full Council, each full Council goes along with that  
10 and makes a recommendation. That's the way that system  
11 needs to work. So it's kind of too late, as Vince kind  
12 of touched on, for this cycle. But maybe for the next  
13 cycle, that you have a fisheries one, that you want to  
14 make sure you do this maybe as soon as you know the  
15 fisheries proposals and how they're going to affect  
16 each region, then you would get together and see if you  
17 can't work out some kind of consensus building thing  
18 and come up with hopefully one recommendation for the  
19 whole river. So that's ideally how it would work.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yeah, we've  
22 passed through this cycle, and I don't think that it  
23 would be productive for that to occur before this next  
24 Federal Board meeting. But maybe in the spring meeting  
25 of the Federal Board, we could -- the Chairs will be  
26 there, it would be pre-fishing. People will be  
27 thinking about fishing, and sort of banter around some  
28 ideas between the Councils and try and build some  
29 consensus on the management between the Councils. And  
30 so I think that that would probably be more conductive.

31

32 Ron.

33

34 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As  
35 Mr. Rivard stated, these conditions would have to be  
36 ideal or idealistic conditions and I do not think that  
37 will ever happen between all three regions, especially  
38 Western Interior and YK Delta. At one time I was  
39 meeting and talking with some older -- Federal  
40 Subsistence Board meeting, and I flat out them that I  
41 believe that the animosity, or what is known as our  
42 animosity was caused a good long time ago, because of  
43 our customary and traditional use systems and ways and  
44 means of harvesting, and I don't think it will ever be  
45 an ideal -- or idealistic place or time to do it. We  
46 can make all -- we still should make some attempts to  
47 allay this feeling.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't think we'll  
2 ever smooth out the bumps, but we can kind of grade  
3 them down just a little bit, and so I -- it may be  
4 worth another try to defray some of these issues and  
5 get a little better understanding between the Councils.

6  
7 Mickey.

8  
9 MR. STICKMAN: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I  
10 went to the last YRDFA Board meeting as an alternate,  
11 because that's what I am on the Board is an alternate.  
12 And so all the Board members and their alternates get  
13 to go to the Board meeting now. And even then they  
14 couldn't -- even though it's a consensus Board, there  
15 was some issues that they couldn't come to a consensus  
16 on, so it was -- the animosity was there. I mean, it  
17 was over -- well, I was there in their home country,  
18 but it was no big deal. I mean, even though the  
19 animosity is there, it's not personal, I mean, it's  
20 just only as a policy maker or sitting at the table.  
21 They don't bring it out into the open or nothing like  
22 that, but they do bring it out into the open at the  
23 meeting and say, okay, we don't agree. And that being  
24 a consensus board, actually you would think that would  
25 be the first place people would actually start trying  
26 to make up, but I know I wouldn't make up.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Mickey,  
29 thanks. Ron.

30  
31 MR. SAM: Yeah, one final comment. At  
32 one of those Federal Subsistence Board meetings that I  
33 attended, they had about 30 people testifying from the  
34 lower Yukon Area, and -- but I did meet with, well, it  
35 was Tim Andrews and Francis Thompson. These are the  
36 younger generation, and sooner or later they'll be  
37 taking over. But what they flat out told me, that any  
38 kind of proposals which is slight contradiction of  
39 their proposals will be completely opposed by their  
40 elders and stuff, because again it goes back way before  
41 Federal Subsistence Program was instituted, it's old  
42 and even though it could be considered outdated, all  
43 the feelings are still there. And those two young  
44 people that I keep meeting with on these different  
45 proposals, they were on our side, so that was what they  
46 stated anyway.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. And so I  
49 have limited confidence in this arena, because acting  
50 as an individual chair or Coordinating Fisheries

1 Committee, you don't have your full Council behind you,  
2 you don't have voting privileges and so it's -- people  
3 feel uncomfortable getting -- going out on the line  
4 and, you know, you've got to cut deals. You don't feel  
5 like that's -- you can be empowered to do that, and so  
6 this has limited effect in reality. And even the Tri-  
7 Council meeting was -- had limited -- people polarized  
8 at that meeting, and so I think that it would be  
9 beneficial, but I wouldn't want to spend a lot of money  
10 on it. We have OSM budget constraints and so I'm  
11 concerned about taking away from some of our other  
12 funded programs and so forth as to -- I think that in  
13 conjunction with a Federal Board meeting, maybe a one-  
14 time try again, hopefully something will happen, but  
15 there is some constraints with this.

16

17 Have you got a comment, Vince?

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Well, maybe you've got it  
20 clear, but what I'm -- this meeting would not be to get  
21 consensus on fishery issues, this is to look at options  
22 to improve communication and possibly cooperation. It  
23 would not be saying, well, what do you feel about, you  
24 know, a 65 mesh depth net. That's not the purpose of  
25 this meeting. It's to look at various options of  
26 communication. For example, sharing proposals earlier  
27 to get preliminary responses to them. We've  
28 experimented having Council members come to meetings.  
29 And, yes, the Tri-Council meeting is out there, and  
30 I've heard loud and clear from you, but I hear from  
31 others different. And then there's one I'm not going  
32 to ignore is a separate Council for the whole river.  
33 Now, don't react to that, but those would be different  
34 options that would be looked at and presented to this  
35 group and then go back to your Councils to say, well,  
36 what do you think about these options. And I'm just  
37 thinking on the fly on it, but it's to figure out a  
38 better way of communicating, because it's not happening  
39 now.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Well, it  
42 would be worth exploring, and so I think that it would  
43 be worth while to try that.

44

45 Any further discussion by the Council  
46 on that issue. Have we got a consensus that that would  
47 be a worthwhile try? Ron.

48

49 MR. SAM: yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
50 Chairman. After all -- spending all day on like one

1 proposal, and hearing from the other two Regional  
2 Councils, I wouldn't propose you go look at this until  
3 next year or a year beyond this. You heard all three  
4 stands quite clearly yesterday.

5  
6 Thank you.

7  
8 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair. I'd like to  
9 make a motion so everybody will have this as an action  
10 item.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead. Do  
13 you want to word that motion?

14  
15 MR. STICKMAN: Well, it's a motion  
16 to.....

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Provide a form for  
19 discussion with the three Councils?

20  
21 MR. STICKMAN: Well, yes, it would be  
22 the Coordinating Fish Committee plus the chairs.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

25  
26 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. That's my motion.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And to explore  
29 avenues of communication on the Yukon River and to  
30 facilitate proposals and management. So any further  
31 discussion on -- oh, we need second on that.

32  
33 MR. SAM: Second.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Ron.  
36 Any further discussion.

37  
38 MS. PELKOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
39 would just like to add, is there going to be a mediator  
40 or somebody there, or somebody that knows about  
41 communication or -- it sounds like it's going to be a  
42 -- you need some.....

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Vince.

45  
46 MR. MATHEWS: We haven't thought that  
47 far ahead. Why do I say that? In the program within  
48 management and with the State, and they can speak for  
49 themselves, the process is difficult when you have  
50 three separate recommendations coming in. Now you have

1 four recommendations coming in. And what I hear from  
2 all the Councils that I'm plugged into, they're all  
3 saying something needs to be done. But what's being  
4 proposed to be done isn't being done. They don't like.  
5 So that leads me to believe that we have to get the key  
6 minds together to do this.

7  
8 So back to your original question of a  
9 facilitator, like I'm signaling to Tina, I'm way out on  
10 a limb on this one. The budget is very limited and et  
11 cetera. But if you look at the budget from another  
12 direction and you sit on that Board, think about  
13 Proposal 13 and 14, and what that Board's got in front  
14 of it. So I'm not saying that everybody should come up  
15 with the same recommendation, but obviously there may  
16 be another cycle on this. So those things have to be  
17 balanced out, so we don't know on a facilitator. My  
18 guess is it will be Staff that will provide options.  
19 It's a smaller group. I think it would work. As far  
20 as getting those options and then they come back to you  
21 and then it starts developing from there. So maybe a  
22 facilitator. Right now it's not even been thought of.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. It's still  
25 in the planning phase. So any further discussion.

26  
27 MR. STICKMAN: Call for the question.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's been  
30 called. Those in favor of the motion signify by saying  
31 aye.

32  
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.

36  
37 (No opposing votes)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The motion carries.  
40 And so we probably should do about a 10-minute break.

41  
42 (Off record)

43  
44 (On record)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can we have  
47 everybody sit down. So I have had -- I've got various  
48 people that have tickets getting out of here, and so  
49 Don Rivard's going to make a presentation, and then  
50 I've got BLM and BLM's going to make a presentation.

1 It's going to be abbreviated, but they need to leave  
2 also.

3

4 So go ahead, Don.

5

6 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 We're now going to discuss the 2008 Fisheries Resource  
8 Monitoring Plan. It starts on Page 121 in your books.  
9 This is an action item for your Council. I'm going to  
10 skip the introduction and the first few pages. It kind  
11 of gives the background information on the program.  
12 It's been in existence since 2000.

13

14 And if you -- we're going to go and  
15 talk about the Yukon region over view first, and then  
16 Polly Wheeler has it for the Kuskokwim River after I'm  
17 done here.

18

19 If you look on Table 1 on Page 128,  
20 you'll see all the projects that have been done since  
21 the inception of the Fisheries Monitoring Program. And  
22 then there's -- on Table 2 there's a summary of ongoing  
23 projects. And I'm going to talk starting on Page 127  
24 here a little bit.

25

26 The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Western  
27 Interior and Eastern Interior Regional Advisory  
28 Councils have identified many issues and information  
29 needs for the Yukon region. The three Councils  
30 generally identified chinook and chum salmon as the  
31 highest priority species and non-salmon species, and  
32 collection and analysis of traditional knowledge have  
33 also been identified as important information needs.

34

35 The 2008 request for proposals for the  
36 Yukon region identified five priorities, and they are  
37 for Yukon River salmon, to maintain reliable estimates  
38 of chinook and chum salmon escapement over time, such  
39 as what's being done at the Henshaw Creek weir and the  
40 Anvik River sonar; an assessment of trends in chinook  
41 salmon age, sex and length, which you know is an  
42 important issue on the Yukon; and genetic stock  
43 assessment and run timing for chinook salmon in the  
44 lower Yukon River; and validity of sex identification  
45 for chinook salmon at escapement projects. Another  
46 priority for non-salmon species is the development of a  
47 strategic plan for coregonids, or whitefish, for the  
48 Yukon an Kuskokwim River drainages, focused on  
49 information needs for Federal subsistence management.

50

1                   Again, I pointed out that there's been  
2 80 projects since 2000 in this Yukon region, 14 of  
3 which will be still operating in 2008, which you can  
4 see in Table 2 on Page 130. Many of the projects are  
5 continuation projects, but since projects are only  
6 funded up to three years, each project is treated as a  
7 distinct entity, and is evaluated on its merits after  
8 three years. 64 of the projects have been directed at  
9 salmon, and 16 projects have addressed resident fish  
10 species such as whitefish and northern pike. Of the 14  
11 ongoing projects, 12 address salmon and two focus on  
12 non-salmon species of fish.

13

14                   Now, 14 Yukon region proposals were  
15 submitted to the Office of Subsistence Management in  
16 response to the 2008 request for proposals. In March  
17 2007, the Technical Review Committee reviewed these  
18 proposals and recommended 9 for investigation plan  
19 development, including 5 stock status and trends  
20 projects and 4 harvest monitoring and traditional  
21 ecological knowledge projects. Subsequent to that  
22 meeting, two projects were withdrawn by the  
23 investigators and two of the TEK projects were combined  
24 into one investigation plan, which is Project 08-253,  
25 resulting in 6 investigation plans in total.

26

27                   Investigators responded to the  
28 Technical Review Committee proposal review comments in  
29 developing their investigation plans. The detailed  
30 budget submitted with each investigation plan allowed  
31 identification of funds requested by Alaska natives,  
32 State, Federal and other organizations. Funds that  
33 would be used to hire local residents and matching  
34 funds from investigating agencies and organizations.  
35 You can see those in Table 3 and 4.

36

37                   Regarding available funds, the Federal  
38 Subsistence Board guidelines direct initial  
39 distribution of funds among regions and data types.  
40 While regional budget guidelines provide an initial  
41 target for planning, they are not rigid allocations.  
42 Upon review and evaluation, the Technical Review  
43 Committee, Regional Advisory Councils, the InterAgency  
44 Staff Committee, and the Federal Subsistence Board have  
45 the opportunity to address the highest priority  
46 projects across the regions. For 2008, approximately  
47 \$515,000 is available for funding new projects in the  
48 Yukon region.

49

50                   The mission of the monitoring program

1 is to identify and provide information needed to  
2 sustain subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands  
3 for rural Alaskans through a multi-disciplinary  
4 collaborative program. It is the responsibility of the  
5 Technical Review Committee to develop the strongest  
6 possible monitoring plan for each region and across the  
7 entire state.

8

9                   The Technical Review Committee  
10 recommends funding all six projects that you see in  
11 Table 5, and that's on Page 132. They all address  
12 information of direct relevance and importance to  
13 subsistence fisheries under Federal jurisdiction, are  
14 technically sound, include capacity building  
15 components, and the investigators are qualified to  
16 conduct the work.

17

18                   So if you look at the table on Page 132  
19 -- excuse me. I'm missing my place here. These are  
20 the six projects that are being recommended for funding  
21 by the Technical Review Committee. I can give you a  
22 brief description of each one if you would like, or we  
23 can shorten this and just list the six. What is your  
24 pleasure, Mr. Chair.

25

26                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Just a very brief  
27 overview of each project.

28

29                   MR. RIVARD: Okay. I'll do my best  
30 here.

31

32                   These are starting on Page 133.  
33 There's Project 08-206, the Yukon and Kuskokwim  
34 coregonid strategic plan. I have to stop and think  
35 about how to pronounce that word every time, because I  
36 usually pronounce it wrong. The project would develop  
37 a strategic plan for whitefish research in the Yukon  
38 and Kuskokwim River drainages. So that's that one.

39

40                   And the next one is 08-202, the Anvik  
41 River chum salmon sonar evaluation. The Anvik River  
42 sonar project was initiated in 1979 and is one of the  
43 longest running summer chum salmon escapement projects  
44 in the Yukon River. Because of its long funding  
45 history by the State, for 28 years, and the importance  
46 of the information to both State and Federal-managed  
47 fisheries, the State provides a 50 percent match for  
48 the operation of this project. The 2005 commercial  
49 harvest estimates for the Yukon River was over 41,000  
50 fish and was primarily bycatch from the commercial

1 fishery for chinook salmon.

2

3                   The next project that is recommended  
4 for funding by the Technical Review Committee is No.  
5 08-253, Yukon River teleconferences and in-season  
6 monitoring. This is the YRDFA teleconferences that  
7 have been weekly during the Yukon River fishing season,  
8 have been very good in allowing people from all along  
9 the river, including Canada to report what's going on  
10 in their region, their area. There's also -- let's  
11 see, that the investigators considered combining two  
12 projects into one. So it would not only be the  
13 teleconferences, but also the in-season chinook salmon  
14 harvest assessment. So this one, 08-253 combines both  
15 options.

16

17                   08-250 is the use of subsistence salmon  
18 to feed dogs. this project will update a seminal piece  
19 of work conducted in 1992 on the use in feeding of dog  
20 teams along the Yukon River. At the same -- at the  
21 time of the original study, approximately 5,000 dog  
22 teams in 32 villages were being fed roughly 250,000  
23 fish, primarily salmon. So they want to replicate that  
24 study from 1992 and see where the status is for all  
25 that now.

26

27                   The next project is 08-200, the Kaltag  
28 chinook salmon sampling. This four-year continuation  
29 project will collect 250 age, sex, length samples from  
30 subsistence caught chinook salmon from the subsistence  
31 harvest downstream from Kaltag in Subdistrict 4-A.  
32 This project has been funded through the Fisheries  
33 Resource Monitoring Program since 2002, so it will be a  
34 continuation project.

35

36                   And the final an sixth one is 08-201,  
37 the Henshaw Creek salmon weir. This project, the  
38 Henshaw Creek weir was initiated in the upper Koyukuk  
39 drainage in 2000, and so this is another continuation  
40 project.

41

42                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Don. Any  
45 questions on these projects for -- that the Technical  
46 Committee's slated for funding.

47

48                   MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair. I had a  
49 question.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead.  
2  
3 MS. PELKOLA: I notice on your one on  
4 08-250 you have villages there. How did you choose  
5 your villages?  
6  
7 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chairman. Member  
8 Pelkola. That study was done in 1992, or the original  
9 study was done in 1992, and those villages were chosen  
10 as potentially villages that had a lot of dog team, you  
11 know, active dog mushers, active dog teams. And so  
12 this study that's being proposed 15 years later is  
13 going to try and basically copy the original study so  
14 that they can compare the data sets across those 15  
15 years. So it's really the villages are already select  
16 -- or the villages were selected in '92 based on  
17 knowledge by the people that did the original study at  
18 Fish and Game of kind of high dog use villages.  
19  
20 MS. PELKOLA: Okay. Thank you.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other  
23 questions. Mickey.  
24  
25 MR. STICKMAN: Well, I guess since this  
26 is our action item, so I guess I'll make a motion to  
27 approve these studies, No. 08-200, 08-201, 08-202, 08-  
28 215, and 08-263.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's been a  
31 motion to adopt.  
32  
33 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. I think Mickey  
34 missed 206, so that was part of it as well.  
35  
36 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. I'm sorry. 206.  
37 08-206.  
38  
39 MR. HONEA: Second.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Don.  
42 Any further discussion.  
43  
44 (No comments)  
45  
46 MR. SAM: Question.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's been  
49 called. All those in favor of the projected projects  
50 to be funded signify by saying aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.  
4  
5 (No opposing votes)  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you're going to  
8 do the Kuskokwim, Polly?  
9  
10 MS. WHEELER: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'll try  
11 and make it brief.  
12  
13 This handout, just by way of  
14 explanation, the handout that's double-sided, it's got  
15 a character -- or a cartoon -- not a cartoon, but a  
16 depiction of a salmon on one side and then on the other  
17 side it's got the charts. It's just -- that was for  
18 your reference so that you could see what the TRC  
19 recommendations were, what the YK Council did, what the  
20 Eastern Council did, now what the Western Council did.  
21 So that's just a cheat sheet for you basically so that  
22 you could look at -- so that you could refer to that.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Eastern  
25 didn't take up Kuskokwim though, did they? They  
26 don't.....  
27  
28 MS. WHEELER: That's correct. And  
29 there's a mistake on there. Eastern didn't take up  
30 Kuskokwim, so ignore that on the bottom for the  
31 Kuskokwim River.  
32  
33 I'm going to do a brief overview of the  
34 Kuskokwim Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan, and touch  
35 on -- I'm not going to -- I'm going to try and jump off  
36 from where Dawn was so that I can just touch again on  
37 the highlights for the Kuskokwim region.  
38  
39 There's two Kuskokwim -- there's two  
40 Councils that look at Kuskokwim region projects, and  
41 it's this Council and then the YK Council. Those two  
42 Councils in addition to the Kuskokwim Fisheries  
43 Resource Coalition look at the Kuskokwim River  
44 proposals not only from the Fisheries Resources  
45 Monitoring Program, but any other proposals that are  
46 coming through. For example, through the AYK SSI or  
47 anything else.  
48  
49 Those Councils early on in the program  
50 identified issues and information needs for the

1 Kuskokwim region, and as sort of -- they were fairly  
2 general collection and analysis of traditional  
3 knowledge, harvest monitoring, salmon assessment and  
4 escapement and non-salmon fish species assessment. The  
5 2008 request for proposals identified just three  
6 priorities for the Kuskokwim region.

7

8                   And I should say the Kuskokwim region  
9 Fisheries Resources Monitoring Plan, the draft plan, is  
10 on Pages 147 to 166 in your books, just to give you a  
11 little orientation there.

12

13                   The 2008 request for proposals  
14 identified three priorities for the Kuskokwim region.  
15 It was quantification and assessment of subsistence  
16 salmon and non-salmon harvest within the Kuskokwim  
17 drainage. And the project that has been funded  
18 consistently since the start of our program has been  
19 the Bethel area post-season household surveys, and then  
20 the Kuskokwim area post-season household surveys.

21

22                   The next priority was to maintain  
23 reliable estimates of chinook and chum and coho salmon  
24 escapement over time, and you'll see the George and  
25 Takotna River weirs as addressing that information  
26 need. We heard a little it about that from the  
27 Partners presentation this morning with the Kuskokwim  
28 River Partners presentation.

29

30                   And then finally the third priority for  
31 the Kuskokwim region was development of a strategic  
32 plan for whitefish, so I don't have to get over the  
33 coregonid thing, or the yukon na Kuskokwim River  
34 drainages.

35

36                   So those were the three priorities that  
37 were identified in the RFP. One of the things that we  
38 did also include in the request for proposals is if  
39 there was an issue that had sort of come up, if people  
40 made a compelling case, if the investigator made a  
41 compelling case for that project to be funded under the  
42 Kuskokwim plan or the Yukon plan or any other plan,  
43 that we'd -- that that would be considered. So we  
44 identified the priority issues, but recognized that the  
45 request for proposals is done well in advance of when  
46 the proposals actually come in, so there may be these  
47 issues that come up and we need to be thinking about  
48 those, and be accepting of them should they come in.

49

50                   For the Kuskokwim region, just to give

1 you a little bit of background, in the 7 years since  
2 our program has begun, 63 projects have been funded in  
3 the region. They've primarily focused on salmon, and  
4 the monitoring program through the efforts of this  
5 Council and the YK Council, Technical Review Committee,  
6 the Office of Subsistence Management supports over 50  
7 percent of all fisheries monitoring and research  
8 conducted in the Kuskokwim region. So this is a very  
9 important program for the Kuskokwim region, very  
10 important for the Yukon region. There's a few more  
11 funding sources available for the Yukon region than  
12 there are for the Kuskokwim region, so this -- but  
13 either way, this program is critical for both the  
14 Kuskokwim and the Yukon.

15  
16 In response to the request for  
17 proposals, six proposals were submitted, and all of  
18 them were forwarded for investigation plan development  
19 by the Technical Review Committee. The George and  
20 Takotna River salmon weirs, that was originally  
21 submitted as one proposal, but the investigators were  
22 asked to split it out, because it came in at a rather  
23 high cost, and the Technical Review Committee felt like  
24 if they could only fund one or the other, they wanted  
25 to be able to split them out to see what the costs  
26 were. In the end, of course, they recommended funding  
27 both, but it was good to split them out.

28  
29 On -- in your book -- see, this is what  
30 happens when I start riffing, I stop paying attention  
31 to what's in the book. On Page, let's see, 148 in your  
32 book, to get back to what I had said earlier about  
33 funding over 50 percent of the work done in the  
34 Kuskokwim, Table 1, it actually continues on to Page  
35 148, since there's been so much that's been funded in  
36 the Kuskokwim region, that lists all of the projects  
37 that have been funded in the Kuskokwim region since the  
38 start of the program.

39  
40 And earlier, Mr. Reakoff, you had asked  
41 Mr. Orabutt from KNA about project reports, and, yes,  
42 we have them on the web site, but what I tell people is  
43 if you're really interested in getting a copy of a  
44 report, call me and I'll get it to you rather than you  
45 having to go to the web site and print it off, print  
46 off a 100-page report or something like that, just call  
47 me and I can get a copy of it to you. But I can also  
48 get you the project abstract if that's what you're  
49 interested in, too. So that's just an offer, and I  
50 will put it out to any of you if you're interested in

1 seeing any of these projects, you can go through this  
2 table and say, gee, I'd like to see that report, and  
3 give me a holler.

4  
5                   On the bottom of Page 149 is Table, and  
6 that is all the projects that are going to be going on  
7 next summer. So those are projects that have already  
8 been funded, that have already been recommended for  
9 funding that are ongoing and will be going on for next  
10 summer. You go on to Page -- and those would be  
11 projects for which we do not yet have a final report,  
12 because there's still research being done.

13  
14                   On Page 150 there's the recommendations  
15 for funding for the Kuskokwim region, and those are --  
16 that's a priority list of projects. So in other words,  
17 the George River salmon weir would be the top priority,  
18 going down to the last project on the list, the lower  
19 Kuskokwim winter whitefish harvest, and that you'll  
20 notice as an astute observer, that the line is above  
21 that project. And that would mean that that's not --  
22 that project is not recommended for funding. There's  
23 about half a million dollars available for funding new  
24 projects within the Kuskokwim River region. That  
25 project, even though all these projects together is  
26 less than that amount, the Technical Review Committee  
27 felt like there were enough technical deficiencies in  
28 that investigation plan that it really didn't merit  
29 funding at this time.

30  
31                   I will say, and most of you are  
32 familiar with this, but there's a few relatively new  
33 Council members, that these investigation plans go  
34 through extensive internal review. They -- they're  
35 reviewed first by OSM staff, then they're reviewed by a  
36 Technical Review Committee, and then we've got this  
37 broad public review. They're being, you know, put  
38 before -- the recommendations are being put before the  
39 Council, they're being put before the public, and  
40 ultimately they'll go before the Federal Board who  
41 makes the final decision. But that's why our process  
42 is so long, because everybody gets to have a look at  
43 it. And so when there's technical concerns that are  
44 raised, we oftentimes -- if the technical concerns can  
45 be fixed quickly, the Technical Review Committee will  
46 often recommend to the investigator, okay, look, you  
47 need to fix this, this and this, and if you can do it  
48 by this date, then we would recommend it for funding.  
49 But if there's extensive technical problems, then it's  
50 usually said, okay, good idea, and this one is a good

1 idea, but it needs some work.

2

3                   So there's five projects recommended  
4 for funding by the Technical Review Committee. That  
5 bottom one is not. But on Pages 155 to 156 you can  
6 find the executive summaries of each of the six  
7 projects. I'll touch on just a few highlights on each  
8 of the projects just to remind you where we're at with  
9 it.

10

11                   On the Kuskokwim region, most of these  
12 projects are actually continuation projects. You've  
13 seen them all before, except for the latter -- actually  
14 the last two.

15

16                   The George River salmon weir, again  
17 that was originally submitted in association with the  
18 Takotna River salmon weir. They split it out. That's  
19 been going on for -- since the inception of our  
20 program. That project is continuation of the weir.  
21 It's an established project, very collaborative project  
22 between Kuskokwim Native Association and Fish and Game.  
23 This actually goes back to '96, so it actually goes  
24 back to before the inception of our program. High  
25 involvement from interns. Really a good, collaborative  
26 partnership project.

27

28                   The next project, the lower Kuskokwim  
29 subsistence chinook salmon ASL sampling, this project  
30 has also been going on for a long time. To get back to  
31 Member Honea's comment earlier about, okay, you collect  
32 all these data, then what do you do with it? They  
33 actually are -- under our program, they have to do sort  
34 of a final analysis every three years about what's up  
35 with these data. It's contributing to the data set,  
36 but the data set when it's analyzed provides fisheries  
37 managers with important data to assess the age and sex  
38 composition of the chinook salmon run, allows them to  
39 reconstruct the total run and assess the impact of size  
40 selectivity on gillnet mesh size.

41

42                   The Takotna River salmon weir does the  
43 same thing that the George River salmon weir does, just  
44 in a different place.

45

46                   The Tuluksak subsistence chinook salmon  
47 ASL is actually a new project. This is concerned about  
48 the Tuluksak River chinook salmon escapement, looking a  
49 little bit at net selectivity and thinking that maybe  
50 portions of that run are being hit pretty hard through

1 the subsistence harvest. So they're going to be  
2 looking specifically at the subsistence harvest and  
3 what's being sifted out from where.

4  
5 And the Aniak River rainbow trout  
6 seasonal distribution project, that project has been  
7 submitted -- they've requested funding for three years  
8 now. This year we actually have the funding, in  
9 previous years we didn't have the funding to fund that  
10 project. It's kind of looking at where the rainbow  
11 trout are. You probably remember a couple years ago we  
12 had a C&T proposals for rainbow trout in the Kuskokwim  
13 area, and we basically recommended a positive -- I  
14 mean, people clearly used rainbow trout, but we don't  
15 know a lot about the biology of rainbow trout in the  
16 Kuskokwim. We know it's at the northernmost -- it's  
17 the northernmost range of rainbow trout, but short of  
18 that, that's about it. So this is kind of getting at  
19 where they are. And we've been hearing reports of,  
20 gee, we used to have a lot of big rainbow trout.  
21 Populations seem to be declining. So this will help  
22 answer some of those biological questions.

23  
24 And then the last question was -- or  
25 the last project, 08-350, lower Kuskokwim whitefish  
26 winter harvests was trying to get at what's going on  
27 throughout the year. There's a lot of anecdotal  
28 information about, gee, these whitefish populations are  
29 getting hit pretty hard year round. And it is an  
30 important -- I mean, whitefish are a critical resource,  
31 it's an important project -- the idea of the project is  
32 important, but the sort of how they were proposing to  
33 carry it out needed some help. So that one isn't being  
34 recommended for funding and the other ones are.

35  
36 So with that, Mr. Chair, I'll.....

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I appreciate  
39 your speedy overview there, Polly.

40  
41 So, Mickey, you've got a question.

42  
43 MR. STICKMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair. Since  
44 this is an action item, I guess I'll make a motion to  
45 approve the Technical Review Committee to approve  
46 funding for 08-303, 08-302, 08-304, 08-351 and 08-300.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

49  
50 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.  
2 Discussion. Don.

3

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

5

6 Under discussion, 08-350 or something,  
7 it's just kind of interesting across the board.  
8 Everybody -- the recommendations was no. I mean, I was  
9 just wondering why, because it seems in the first  
10 sentence there that it's an important species for that  
11 area, so justification if it's.....

12

13 MS. WHEELER: Through the Chair.  
14 Member Honea. I believe -- I actually wasn't at the YK  
15 RAC meeting, so I can't speak to exactly why they opted  
16 -- or why they went with the recommendation of the  
17 Technical Review Committee, but I think after 7 years  
18 of this program, there's a lot of faith in the  
19 Technical Review Committee process. And I think they  
20 felt that -- I mean, they know there are issues with  
21 whitefish. It's a critical subsistence species, but I  
22 guess they felt that if the Technical Review  
23 Committee's recommendation was not to fund it because  
24 of technical concerns, then they could go along with  
25 that.

26

27 The other thing that I would add to  
28 that is that under the Yukon region, there's that  
29 whitefish -- the Yukon and Kuskokwim River whitefish  
30 strategic planning effort that's going on. And I think  
31 that there's some sense that, okay, this is going to be  
32 a multi-person, multi-agency effort that's going to  
33 look at whitefish research on the Yukon and Kuskokwim  
34 River, in the Yukon and Kuskokwim River region, and  
35 going to identify what's known, what needs to be known,  
36 identify the information gaps and sort of come up with  
37 a comprehensive strategic plan or addressing whitefish  
38 issues in the Yukon and Kuskokwim River region. So  
39 knowing that that's going to happen, it's like, okay,  
40 we can wait a couple of years until this plan comes  
41 out, and then attack whitefish research with a very  
42 focused effort, instead of doing these sort of hit or  
43 miss things that may have these technical issues.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for that  
46 explanation, Polly.

47

48 Any further questions.

49

50 (No comments)

1 MR. HONEA: I call for the question.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A call for question.  
4 Those in favor of adopting these projects signify by  
5 saying aye.  
6  
7 IN UNISON: Aye.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.  
10  
11 (No opposing votes)  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: None. So we're --  
14 we've moved through these projects. We're going to  
15 have BLM come up and they have to be departing shortly.  
16 They're going to give an overview of the BLM  
17 administered lands. And so welcome to the table.  
18  
19 Go ahead, Tim.  
20  
21 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman and Council  
22 members. My name is Tim Craig. I'm a wildlife  
23 biologist in the central Yukon field office of the  
24 Bureau of Land Management in Fairbanks. With me today  
25 are, to my left and the end of the table, Shelley  
26 Jackson -- Shelley Jacobson, my boss.  
27  
28 (Laughter)  
29  
30 MR. CRAIG: Central Yukon field office  
31 manager. To my right's Bob Karlen, acting State  
32 fisheries program lead. And immediately to my left,  
33 Betsy Bonnell, the Fairbanks district office lead  
34 realty specialist. And we're each going to make a  
35 short presentation and then we'll try and answer any  
36 questions you have.  
37  
38 On your handout you have, I've taken  
39 the liberty of outlining in yellow highlighting the  
40 important points, and kind of keeping with Polly's fast  
41 overview, I'm going to just read, and anything that  
42 you're interested in, you can stop me at the point that  
43 I'm reading it and we can talk about it. But otherwise  
44 I'll just kind of keep moving through it here.  
45  
46 Under administration, the Anchorage  
47 field office is in the midst of interviewing --  
48 actually I think they've finished interviewing  
49 applicants for Jeff Denton's position and for a  
50 subsistence coordinator. And they anticipate hiring

1 somebody for that position pretty soon. So at your  
2 next meeting you should have a new face from BLM  
3 representing the Anchorage field office.

4  
5 Next, both the Anchorage field office  
6 and the central Yukon field office are in the pre-  
7 planning phase of the upcoming resource management  
8 plans for Bering Sea, western Interior area, and the  
9 utility corridor. I'd like to point out that those are  
10 really critical plans. they're the ones that kind of  
11 lay out how we're going to manage land for like up to  
12 10 years. So the Council will want to keep a close  
13 finger on what's happening with those plans.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Could I stop you at  
16 that point, Tim? This Council's requested that the BLM  
17 incorporate guide use area into those planning when  
18 they came forward, and so Henri Bisson promised this  
19 Council that those would be under consideration, that  
20 guide use areas on BLM lands, and so I'd like to make  
21 that notation since this is coming forward as a  
22 planning effort.

23  
24 So continue on. Go ahead.

25  
26 MR. CRAIG: Okay. Thank you for that  
27 comment, Mr. Chair. I'll take that back with me.

28  
29 Under wildlife, in 2007, Alaska Fish  
30 and Game and the central Yukon field office placed five  
31 more radio collars on caribou in the Hodzana Hills.  
32 And we also performed herd composition counts on both  
33 the Ray Mountain and the Hodzana Hills caribou herds.  
34 I've kind of highlighted here a couple of things in  
35 this chart that might be of interest. We had about 19  
36 calves per 100 cows and 25 -- in the Hodzanas and 25 in  
37 the Ray Mountains. I would also hasten to add that if  
38 you'll remember from past meetings, the Ray Mountains  
39 have really been -- had really low number of calves in  
40 that comp count in the fall, usually like 9 or 10 or  
41 something. And also the caribou and the calves in  
42 particular, I was really impressed with their look. I  
43 don't know what was so good about the summer of 2007,  
44 but something really was.

45  
46 The Anchorage field office in  
47 cooperation with Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife,  
48 National Park Service, and DNR provided \$20,000 in  
49 funding to conduct telemetry flights and maintain  
50 database of radio locations of the Mulchatna Caribou

1 Herd in portions of GMU 9, 17, and 18.

2

3 They also have been awarded a \$215,000  
4 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation,  
5 That's actually Federal money that kind of goes through  
6 an NGO and then comes back to us, to support the  
7 Mulchatna Caribou herd bull study. And Fish and Game  
8 is kind of the senior partner in that project. I think  
9 they're going to come up with over a half million  
10 dollars.

11

12 The past July Fish and Game and BLM  
13 surveyed dall sheep in that big survey unit I've  
14 reported on a number of years here that lies just east  
15 of the Dalton Highway. Again here's the raw data, but  
16 I think the take-home message here that I'm greatly  
17 heartened to see, that the lambs per 100 ewes is up to  
18 43. And I've noticed personally in just driving up the  
19 highway, there have been a lot of lambs around. So if  
20 they survive, we may actually see some recovery in that  
21 population.

22

23 Central Yukon and the Fish and Game  
24 have successfully competed for Federal money from the  
25 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, again that's  
26 Federal money that goes through this NGO, non-  
27 government organization, and then comes back to us, to  
28 conduct a four-year long sheep mortality study in the  
29 vicinity of the utility corridor. I've reported on  
30 that to you before. To date, Fish and Game has not  
31 come up with their part of the money, and at this point  
32 we're not sure whether the project will occur. Again  
33 we've gotten an award letter. We actually -- it's a  
34 \$134,000 study. And if Fish and Game does come up with  
35 the money, we will start on that in March. But again  
36 it's kind of up in the area.

37

38 As I mentioned last time, and I noticed  
39 in the Kanuti report in your booklet, you know, we  
40 weren't able to do moose studies, surveys last year.  
41 So BLM and the Fish and Game and the Kanuti Refuge and  
42 Gates of the Arctic, we threw all of our moose money  
43 together and we're going to put radio transmitters on  
44 moose beginning this March. I think it's 60 radios and  
45 30 kind of down in the southern portion of that area on  
46 the Kanuti, and then 30 that -- or at least in the  
47 southern part of probably the Middle Fork, maybe --  
48 we're undecided on exactly what the boundaries of that  
49 northern part of that study area are, but we'll have  
50 radios, including GPS radios, on moose that will be --

1 have four or five years battery life. So we should get  
2 some good information on the effect of snow on moose  
3 movements, and lots of interesting things should come  
4 out of that.

5  
6 In that same regard, Fish and Game and  
7 BLM plan to again do the Middle Fork Koyukuk trend  
8 count area this fall. And Fish and Game and BLM and  
9 the Koyukuk Refuge plan to conduct a geospatial  
10 population estimation survey or count of moose in GMU  
11 24-C, which I believe is the first time that's every  
12 occurred.

13  
14 Under vegetation, last year BLM and the  
15 Kanuti Refuge co-sponsored, and I believe the Park as  
16 well, sponsored two weed pulls on the Dalton Highway.  
17 And we pulled a total of 7,350 pounds of weeds on the  
18 Dalton Highway. Now, that is a little better than  
19 twice what we pulled last year. And we didn't scratch  
20 the surface. These weeds are marching northward at an  
21 alarming rate. Anyway, we spent a total of 570 hours,  
22 the volunteers did, and that's Friends of the Alaska  
23 Wildlife Refuge, and then there were 4 BLM employees  
24 that were involved in that.

25  
26 Most of those weeds that we pulled were  
27 white sweet clover, but not all. There were some real  
28 bad actors in there that are starting to actually move  
29 out into some of the native territory. I actually  
30 spent four hours with another employee trying to pull  
31 this bird vetch. It's like a vine, and it was out in  
32 the natural habitat right along the road at Kanuti  
33 River.

34  
35 We've documented at least 28 other non-  
36 indigenous plants that are known to have invaded the  
37 utility corridor. Sixteen are firmly established  
38 there. And of those, we believe that 11 could be  
39 eradicated if we were to jump right on it and try and  
40 do so. So BLM is developing a weed management plan  
41 right now. And it kind of -- I give you a paragraph  
42 there that tells you about the weed management plan.  
43 Kind of what our goal is there.

44  
45 And I just wanted to let you know that  
46 there's going to be an interagency scoping meeting on  
47 November 13th at our headquarters, the Fairbanks  
48 district office, and we invite you to participate in  
49 the whole management group. And why would you be  
50 interested. The reason is this is not just a Dalton

1 Highway problem. You know, starting at the Kanuti  
2 River, Prospect, Bonanza, Jim Creek -- Jim River, South  
3 Fork and the Middle Fork Koyukuk all cross the Dalton  
4 Highway. So that's -- those are all avenues, not to  
5 mention the number of air taxi operations that operate  
6 out of, what, Pump 5, Coldfoot itself, a number of  
7 different air strips. Those are all ways that weeds  
8 could move into the Interior, and after what I've seen  
9 just in my short time here of those weeds moving  
10 northward, it could be a problem throughout the  
11 Interior if we don't do something about it soon.

12  
13                   Again in vegetation, we're currently  
14 working on a policy for subsistence use of timber and  
15 other vegetative resources. I think some of you  
16 remember that. And the policy statement is not even in  
17 draft form yet, but as soon as it is -- or as soon as  
18 we complete that policy, Western Interior RAC will be  
19 sent a copy of it.

20  
21                   Let's see, in recreation we have no new  
22 hunting guides within the Western Interior. If you  
23 read that paragraph, you'll see that I've -- the  
24 recreation folks gave me the information. They kind of  
25 miscounted who was within the boundaries of the actual  
26 Western Interior RAC. I think they got the boundary  
27 line was mixed up with something up, so we have fewer  
28 than I've reported in the past. So we have a total of  
29 26 hunting guides and 8 tour operators that are  
30 actually administered out of our office that work  
31 within -- actually I think that's a total in the entire  
32 Western Interior area.

33  
34                   In 2008, right now the BLM is in  
35 partnership with the State of Alaska to write a  
36 corridor plan for the Dalton Highway, and it now, of  
37 course, is a designated State scenic byway. Once that  
38 plan's done, BLM will recommend that the Dalton Highway  
39 be designated a national scenic byway. The purpose of  
40 that, there's a new -- another pot of money that can be  
41 tapped for infrastructure. Waysides, bathrooms,  
42 interpretation, et cetera.

43  
44                   On the Arctic InterAgency Visitor  
45 Center this year, they noted that there was continuing  
46 to be an upward trend in visitation up the highway.  
47 Almost 10,000 visits were recorded. Again, that's not  
48 individual visitors, because they just click the button  
49 every time somebody comes in, and so somebody that goes  
50 out and comes back in gets counted twice, so it's not

1 -- but they do it the same way every year, so we still  
2 get an idea of trend. So an increase of something like  
3 13 percent over 2006. And of those, four percent,  
4 again it wasn't a real scientific rigorous analysis of  
5 the information, but about four percent of all of those  
6 visitors claim to be going up the highway to hunt.  
7 That was their primary activity.

8  
9 In mining, I've mentioned at several  
10 other meetings some of the mining activity on Clear,  
11 Bear and Aloha creeks. Well, as it turns out, those  
12 mining claims have been transferred to the State, and  
13 in fact in that general area, the only Federal land and  
14 Federal mining claims expected to remain in the entire  
15 area are in the upper ends of the watersheds where  
16 there's no mining right now, no proposals right now.  
17 And even they have been selected by Doyon.

18  
19 In the Koyukuk mining district, we  
20 expect eight new mining permits off the Dalton Highway  
21 this year. I mentioned in the last couple of meetings  
22 gating some of these roads that are mining related  
23 roads off the Dalton Highway, specifically the Trapman  
24 Creek Road and Prospect Creek Road. Well, we did some  
25 -- or some work was done this past summer, but as it  
26 turns out, neither one of those gates is the work  
27 adequate to prevent unauthorized use yet. But we plan  
28 to continue to work on that this next field season, and  
29 hopefully we'll get it buttoned up.

30  
31 Realty actions. The two pickups you  
32 may have read about that got stuck in the tundra,  
33 anyway they're -- they finally were pulled out last  
34 April. And I mentioned there that's at about 291 mile,  
35 that the BLM with the University of Alaska has  
36 established some vegetation transects there now so that  
37 we can kind of watch and see how those marks in the  
38 tundra, the disturbance, recovers.

39  
40 Also, I mentioned in the past some  
41 private parcels in Big Salt and Ray River. This  
42 actually I think is in the Eastern Interior, but it has  
43 the potential to affect Western Interior, because it's  
44 kind of like right on the boundary there. Anyway, both  
45 of those people have amended -- those parties have  
46 amended their proposals, and now they're looking --  
47 seeking a wintertime only access. Snow machine access.  
48 One has actually applied I think for a right-of-way and  
49 the other one is pending.

50

1                           And with that, that's the end of my  
2 portion of the presentation.

3  
4                           CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks, Tim.  
5 That was nice and brief and concise. And so any  
6 questions from the Council on that part of the  
7 presentation?

8  
9                           MR. HONEA: I have.

10  
11                          CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

12  
13                          MR. HONEA: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
14 Chairman. I had a quick question here, Tim, about -- I  
15 mean, I've seen it, whether it was in the Fairbanks  
16 Daily Newsminer or something, I saw the weeds problem  
17 or whatever article I saw. I'm must kind of wondering,  
18 what's the concern here? Is it detrimental to the  
19 animals? What's the concern?

20  
21                          Thank you.

22  
23                          MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman and Member  
24 Honea. The weed that is of the -- that is moving  
25 forward, the two weeds that are moving forward at the  
26 most alarming rate are white sweet clover and this bird  
27 vetch. And if you've been in Fairbanks, this bird  
28 vetch actually is like a vine. It grows over all the  
29 existing vegetation and kinds of crowds it out. That's  
30 the major problem with that one. And it also will go  
31 into native habitat.

32  
33                          The white sweet clover, the problem  
34 with it, we don't really know what it will do, but we  
35 do know that on the Tanana and the Stikine, and I think  
36 in the Matanuska in places, it actually likes kind of  
37 disturbed habitat, and, of course, Alaskan rivers, as  
38 you know, they're braided and as the spring run-off  
39 takes the vegetation off, it leaves a lot of gravel  
40 bars. The gravel bars have these different serial  
41 stages of willows, support moose, right? Well, in  
42 those three rivers there's nothing there now but white  
43 sweet clover. They are just -- it's just 100 percent  
44 canopy of white sweet clover. And it's a nitrogen  
45 fixer. People have actually raised it for fodder. If  
46 you cut it early enough, you know, they cut it in the  
47 old days for kind of hay. But it's a nitrogen fixer,  
48 so we don't -- it makes every biologist that I know  
49 very uncomfortable to think that gravel bars in a big  
50 river system could be nothing but this plant that fixes

1 nitrogen. Is it going to change the ecology of those  
2 rivers? Is it going to change the way the rivers moves  
3 ecologi -- or hydrologically? Is it going to change  
4 the ecology of willow bars? We don't know. But it was  
5 never there before and now it's spreading at an  
6 alarming rate. And so that's what's made most of us  
7 nervous. I mean, it could turn out to be some  
8 beneficial uses, probably will be for some species, but  
9 in the long run I think most of us look at it with  
10 alarm.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions.

13  
14  
15 (No comments)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Tim. The  
18 fisheries portion, Bob.

19  
20 MR. KARLEN: Mr. Chairman. Council  
21 members. My name is Bob Karlen. I work as a fisheries  
22 biologist in -- with BLM out of Fairbanks.

23  
24 And I'll continue on the same handout  
25 that Tim gave you, looking at the last two pages. And  
26 I have five projects to talk about. Three of them were  
27 conducted out of our Fairbanks office, and then the  
28 folks out of Anchorage provided me with information on  
29 two projects they undertook this summer.

30  
31 So I'll start at the top with the  
32 Hogatza salmon videography. And what we have there is  
33 on Clear Creek and Caribou Creek, we have a camera on  
34 each stream that we're using overhead to count the  
35 salmon as they go by. And then we're recording that  
36 information, and then in the wintertime we'll look back  
37 at the tapes and count up how many salmon went by. And  
38 the reason we're using video or trying to use video is  
39 to cut down on the amount of labor that we're using to  
40 get these projects done. So it was kind of an  
41 experiment on our part to see whether it was a cheaper  
42 way to get the same kind of data. So I don't have  
43 counts for you on Clear and Caribou We'll count this  
44 winter and we'll have something in the spring.

45  
46 The second project is also at Clear  
47 Creek. It was a chum salmon smolt project, and the  
48 idea was to monitor juvenile chum salmon leaving Clear  
49 Creek. And the idea was to come up with a rate of  
50 survival and how many smolt there actually were. So

1 that area is highlighted in yellow. Based on our trap  
2 efficiencies, our preliminary estimated number of smolt  
3 was about two and a half million. So from all the eggs  
4 that were laid, about two and a half million hatched  
5 out and left the stream. And we estimate that to be  
6 about an eight percent survival. And that eight  
7 percent is similar to what we found the year before.

8

9 Moving on to the third project, and the  
10 Tozitna River is not in the Western Interior, but it  
11 borders between the Eastern and Western Interior, so I  
12 include it here. This has been an ongoing project  
13 that's been funded through OSM. And this year the total  
14 chinook escapement was 494 fish. Samples were taken  
15 from 263 of these fish, with females comprising 23  
16 percent of the sample. The 2007 chinook escapement was  
17 below the 7-year average of 1,541 chinook and is the  
18 lowest escapement observed since the project started in  
19 2001.

20

21 And the summer escapement -- or the  
22 summer chum component of that project, we counted  
23 14,147 fish. 793 of these fish were sampled, and 36  
24 percent were female. The weir did wash out right at  
25 the end of July, early part of August, so we missed the  
26 last part of that run. We haven't estimated that yet,  
27 but when we put that component in there, we expect that  
28 the run will be right around 20,000, which is about the  
29 average that we've had for the past 7 years.

30

31 Moving on to the Anchorage district  
32 office projects, their hydrology staff submitted an in-  
33 stream flow application to the State of Alaska for a  
34 portion of the Anvik River between Beaver Creek and  
35 Theodore Creek. And so what those folks did is they  
36 collected a series of flow measurements at different  
37 times of the year on the Anvik River to understand how  
38 much water's moving down the river. And then they  
39 applied for a water right with the State of Alaska to  
40 ensure there's enough flow to maintain fish habitat in  
41 the future. So that's what's going on between an in --  
42 or what's behind an in-stream flow application.

43

44 And the last project on the last page  
45 was in the Kuskokwim area. A field crew comprised of  
46 folks from ADF&G, the Department of Natural Resources,  
47 the Kuskokwim Native Association, Park Service, Fish  
48 and Wildlife and BLM spent time in the field collecting  
49 information on fish and associated habitat in the upper  
50 Kuskokwim River drainage from Stony River to the South

1 Fork Kuskokwim River. The results of that, they found  
2 17 different species were observed. And what they did  
3 is they made application to the State of Alaska where  
4 it says 59 anadromous water catalogued, nominations  
5 were submitted. What they did is with the inventory  
6 they were able to extend our knowledge on 59 different  
7 stream segments, meaning they found likely salmon. I  
8 didn't get an exact, but I'm guessing it's salmon in  
9 that area. They were able to extend on 59 different  
10 streams that they found salmon further up than we found  
11 them before. By putting it in the catalogue, the State  
12 can offer more protection, plus from our standpoint, it  
13 gives us the ability to protect more when permits come  
14 in.

15

16 That's all I had.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
19 And any questions on those fisheries projects by the  
20 BLM. Okay.

21

22 You've got one, Ron, go ahead.

23

24 MR. SAM: Yeah, I'm always concerned  
25 about the Hogatza River and it's tributaries because of  
26 that mine there. Have you noticed any changes in the  
27 water quality of the Hogatza and its tributaries, or  
28 has it been very good?

29

30 MR. KARLEN: I don't think we have any  
31 data to say that the water quality has changed. I  
32 think Tim gave some information last spring on the  
33 status of the mining there, and they're now -- they had  
34 been mining on the tributary to Clear Creek, and now  
35 they have private ground on Clear Creek proper, and  
36 that's where they've moved now. And I suspect that --  
37 I think there's about 100 acres of private ground that  
38 they plan to mine there, and I suspect that's going to  
39 take them four or five years to do that at the rate  
40 I've seen them go in the past. So I suspect they'll be  
41 mining on the main stem Clear Creek for the next couple  
42 of years.

43

44 And as Tim mentioned earlier, also the  
45 -- some of that land was selected by the State of  
46 Alaska and has now been transferred, so BLM no longer  
47 administers a portion of the land on that river, so  
48 it's now under State management control. And so some  
49 of those claims will now go over to the State.

50

1                   There are still some claims as he  
2 mentioned on the upper part of Clear Creek. And this  
3 is off the top of my head, but I think there was 50  
4 some claims outside the private ground. Roughly half  
5 of them will probably still be Federal claims in the  
6 upper part of Clear Creek. And then BLM will still  
7 manage the lower three miles of Clear Creek. There's  
8 no mining claims on those three miles, and there's  
9 quite a bit of spawning salmon in that lower part of  
10 the river.

11  
12                   So that's kind of an update of where  
13 they're at.

14  
15                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, sir.

16  
17                   MR. SAM: Can you keep me informed of  
18 that operation? I was aware of that transfer to the  
19 State and I just don't trust their management. I would  
20 like to be kept informed of the processes going on on  
21 that side of Clear Creek.

22  
23                   MR. KARLEN: We can certainly do that  
24 at future Board meetings.

25  
26                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I think  
27 that's a highlighted issue with this Council. We've  
28 been concerned about the bypass and various issues on  
29 that drainage as it's important to local fishers in  
30 that area.

31  
32                   And so any other questions on that  
33 portion of the presentation.

34  
35                   (No comments)

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so the third  
38 portion.

39  
40                   MS. BONNELL: Mr. Chairman and  
41 committee members. My name is Betsy Bonnell. I'm a  
42 realty specialist with the BLM. I've been with BLM  
43 about 32 years, 18 of those as a realty specialist.

44  
45                   The handout you're getting right now I  
46 put together based on questions that was raised by the  
47 Eastern Interior RAC. I went through the transcript  
48 for the Western and I didn't hear any specific  
49 questions, so I just kept with the questions they  
50 raised. Vince indicated that the questions were very

1 similar. So I just want to go through -- and the  
2 handout is just for your reference for the future. I'm  
3 not going to go through everything on there in any  
4 great detail.

5  
6 The first sheet, on the front and back,  
7 is issues raised by the Eastern Interior RAC. And then  
8 I have another sheet that has access laws and  
9 regulations, so that's another reference for you. Just  
10 some excerpts from the laws. The law is controlling.  
11 If there's a difference between what the regulation  
12 says and the law says, then the law is the one that we  
13 follow. So we're looking for that kind of wording when  
14 we evaluate what people ask us to do.

15  
16 The last couple pages are information  
17 on our land trade, that only affects the Eastern  
18 Interior at this time. However, as the land claims are  
19 finalized, in December we will have all of the village  
20 priorities in on what the villages want for their final  
21 entitlement. In June of 2008 we will have all the  
22 region priorities, what they want to have conveyed.  
23 And then in December of 2008, then the State of Alaska  
24 will have a final entitlement of what they want  
25 conveyed.

26  
27 As we go through this process of  
28 conveying these final entitlements, we might be looking  
29 at more land exchanges, such as what Doyon has proposed  
30 in this Eastern Interior. So that's why I included it,  
31 was just as in the future these are some things that  
32 we're going to be looking at. Doyon in the Yukon Flats  
33 area has oil and gas potential that they would like to  
34 be able to get out of there, and right now it would  
35 require a pipeline that either goes through part of the  
36 BLM recreation area or else it would go along the Yukon  
37 Flats northern -- or southern border there and come out  
38 through Livengood.

39  
40 We're looking at the same potential in  
41 other areas. If the region selected it for mineral  
42 development, we're looking at probably some access  
43 roads there. Also for timber, maybe there would be  
44 some timber harvest roads that might also be  
45 constructed. We don't know where they're going to be.

46  
47 One of the question they asked is how  
48 hard is it to process rights-of-way. And it kind of  
49 depends on what type of right-of-way we're talking  
50 about. The ones displayed on this map here, wherever

1 you see a black square on this map, this is where we  
2 have a use authorization that is either pending or has  
3 been issued. The squares outlined in red is where we  
4 have unauthorized use that we have to deal with. So  
5 this gives you an idea of how the use authorizations  
6 are spread in our -- throughout Alaska on this map. And  
7 that's the process that's described initially on the  
8 issues raised page just under the 43 CFR 2800.

9  
10 This next map, the shiny one over here  
11 that's mostly yellow, that's a sheet of paper I got  
12 several years ago from the State of Alaska, DNR, and  
13 this is where they have asserted RS 2477 trails. This  
14 is the Kopatocaró (ph) trail is one of these. We don't  
15 have a big role in this. This is something that they  
16 file with the district court and the judge in the  
17 district court has to rule on these. So we play a very  
18 little role, and we have no control over which one  
19 they're going to assert in court at any one time. So  
20 that process is basically out of our hands if what  
21 we're talking is RS 2477.

22  
23 The other map on the end with the  
24 little red squiggles in it, those are 17(b) easements.  
25 And so this is another area where we're looking at  
26 potential access points going out from the village.  
27 17(b) required that whenever we convey land to a  
28 village or regional corporation, we make sure that  
29 there is access from public facilities such as an  
30 airport, that take people from the airport or other  
31 public facilities out to public lands, whether they be  
32 State of Alaska lands or other Federal lands. And so  
33 we anticipate that these little squiggles will be  
34 expanding as these final entitlements to the village  
35 and region are finalized.

36  
37 And that's all I have.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you very much.  
40 That was very interesting.

41  
42 Any comments from the Council.

43  
44 (No comments)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll be very  
47 interested in seeing these conveyances to the State in  
48 the Western Interior Region in the future. And some of  
49 these other RS 2477 issues that should be arising from  
50 those also.

1                   So any other questions for the BLM.

2

3                   (No comments)

4

5                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you for your  
6 presentation, and thanks for attending.

7

8                   And so, let's see, where are we at,  
9 Vince.

10

11                   MR. MATHEWS: Well, I believe we may be  
12 back to the Agenda Item No. 8, which would be the draft  
13 customary and traditional use policy, but I didn't know  
14 if you had other people that had to leave or not.

15

16                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't. I haven't  
17 had a request at this time, so, yeah, I think we are  
18 back at Agenda Item 8.

19

20                   And so, Polly.

21

22                   MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
23 Council members.

24

25                   Next on the agenda is the customary and  
26 traditional use determination policy. You can find the  
27 policy in your books on Pages 167 to 170. And in  
28 addition to the vast public that we have in the room,  
29 there's additional copies on the back table there, so  
30 if anybody wants a copy to bring home and read tonight  
31 or whatever, they can.

32

33                   I'm going to go through, again touch on  
34 the highlights of this policy, and then hopefully we'll  
35 have somewhat of a discussion on what this policy  
36 means, and you can provide your comments and input. We  
37 are looking for -- we being the Federal Program, is  
38 looking for comments and/or recommendations from the  
39 Council. I would note that particularly for the public  
40 in the room and for all of you as individuals, we're  
41 accepting comments until December 1st, 2007. So about  
42 a month from tomorrow is the deadline for public  
43 comments. But we are looking for some sort of a  
44 recommendation or comment from the Council.

45

46                   This is the last, as you know, the last  
47 Council that this policy has been talked about in front  
48 of. We've received really mixed comments. Some of the  
49 Councils haven't really said much and other Councils  
50 have sort of asked a lot of questions and sort of made

1 some recommendations for how the policy ought to be  
2 changed or if it ought to be changed.

3

4                   So I'm just going to go through and  
5 give you some of the background on this policy, why  
6 it's in front of you today, and then hopefully we can  
7 have some sort of a dialogue.

8

9                   Just by way of background, the draft  
10 customary and traditional use determination policy has  
11 been in the works for several years. Work initially  
12 began on this policy in June 2005, it was stimulated by  
13 a letter from then Governor Murkowski to then Secretary  
14 of Interior Gale Norton that noted specific concerns  
15 over inconsistencies and lack of clear criteria on C&T  
16 determinations. As you're probably well aware the  
17 State has consistently complained about how the Federal  
18 Program has done C&T determinations.

19

20                   The State, in that letter, from  
21 Governor Murkowski, the State asked that C&T  
22 determinations be rigorously evaluated and only  
23 provided where substantial evidence is present.

24

25                   In responding to the State's complaint,  
26 the Deputy Secretary of the Interior requested that  
27 the Federal Subsistence Board review and clarify its  
28 approach to making C&T determinations.

29

30                   So, again, the initial complaint came  
31 from then Governor Murkowski to Gale Norton, who was  
32 then Secretary of Interior, she turned around and  
33 directed the Federal Program to review and clarify its  
34 approach to making C&T determinations.

35

36                   So while Staff began working on  
37 developing a draft policy the State of Alaska filed a  
38 lawsuit in Federal court against the Federal  
39 Subsistence Board challenging its May 2005 decision to  
40 expand a C&T finding for moose for the community of  
41 Chistochina to include all of Unit 12. As recently as  
42 June 28th, 2007, Secretary of Interior Kempthorne  
43 instructed the Board to:

44

45                   Continue its work on developing the  
46 customary and traditional determination  
47 policy as expeditiously as possible.

48

49                   And a sort of interesting term of  
50 timing, the day before that letter was sent the U.S.

1 District Court denied the State's challenge to the  
2 Board's decision to expand the C&T finding for moose  
3 for the community of Chistochina to include all of Unit  
4 12. And that's sort of what we call now the  
5 Chistochina Decision, Judge Holland's Chistochina's  
6 Decision. That decision affirmed the Federal Board's  
7 approach to C&T determinations and provided further  
8 clarification to the Board regarding C&T  
9 determinations.

10  
11 The Chistochina decision underscored  
12 the role of C&T determinations in the Federal  
13 Subsistence Management Program, which is namely to  
14 identify uses needing protection under ANILCA. The  
15 decision further clarified that the role of C&T  
16 determinations is not to limit the pool of users to the  
17 smallest possible group, but rather to identify which  
18 uses needed protection under ANILCA.

19  
20 The Federal Program's procedures for  
21 addressing C&T determinations, which have been utilized  
22 since the inception of the program our outlined in the  
23 attached policy, or in the policy that's in front of  
24 you.

25  
26 A couple of key elements of the draft  
27 policy, and I underscore that it is a draft policy, we  
28 are looking for public comment on this draft policy.

29  
30 The draft policy is short, as you can  
31 see, it's only four pages. It lays out the existing  
32 Board process for addressing C&T determinations. The  
33 draft policy does not represent a change from the way  
34 C&T determinations have been made in the past by the  
35 Federal Board. It is simply intended to clarify the  
36 approach the Federal Program has been taking as the  
37 Interior Secretary requested back in January of 2005.  
38 Part of this process is to consider the eight factors  
39 in a general holistic way rather than in a rigid  
40 checklist manner as some have requested.

41  
42 The Chistochina Decision underscores  
43 the importance of addressing the eight factors in a  
44 holistic way rather than as a checklist. Specifically,  
45 the decision states that:

46  
47 In making a C&T determination for a  
48 specific community, the Federal  
49 Subsistence Board must first consider  
50 whether the community generally

1 exhibits the eight regulatory factors  
2 which exemplify customary and  
3 traditional use.

4  
5 The draft policy does not provide for a  
6 new way of doing C&T determinations. It does not call  
7 for definitions, thresholds or benchmarks as the need  
8 for such parameters was negated by the Chistochina  
9 Decision.

10  
11 It's important to note, as I said  
12 earlier, the policy is a draft, the Federal Program is  
13 very interested in hearing your thoughts. As far as  
14 future directions go for the policy, comments are being  
15 solicited as we speak, the deadline for said comments  
16 is December 1, 2007. Once the comments are received  
17 the Board will meet to discuss them and revise the  
18 draft policy accordingly. I don't know, but I suspect  
19 that you'll see the draft policy back in front of you  
20 again at the spring Council meetings. I can't say that  
21 with 100 percent certainty but I suspect that's how it  
22 will happen.

23  
24 And that's about it. I can answer  
25 specific questions about the policy if you want, but  
26 that's sort of it in a nutshell. As you can see it's  
27 fairly short, it outlines generally how the Board does  
28 C&T determinations, how it approaches C&T  
29 determinations and I would say that the Chistochina  
30 Decision that came down on June 28th, 2007, it affirmed  
31 how the Federal Program -- I mean this draft policy was  
32 being developed, the Chistochina Decision was going  
33 through its court, you know, going through the court  
34 and at the end of the day the two came out and it's  
35 like, okay, well, this pretty much affirms how the  
36 Federal Program's been doing C&T determinations. So a  
37 lot of people look at this and they say, there's  
38 nothing new here, but that's sort of the point. The  
39 point is that the Chistochina Decision affirmed how the  
40 Federal Program has been doing C&T's all along.

41  
42 Mr. Chair.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Polly.  
45 Any questions on this draft C&T determination policy.

46  
47 Go ahead, Don.

48  
49 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
50 Yeah, I was just wondering, I mean are all the RAC

1 members -- all RAC Committees are sent this, I mean is  
2 this -- you know, I'm just wondering why it's in front  
3 of us, I know it's not an action item, for your  
4 information or something, but is it just at the State,  
5 is there somehow some contradiction here?

6

7

Thank you.

8

9

MS. WHEELER: To give you a little bit  
10 of background. As you probably remember when you've  
11 had C&T proposals in front of you, an analysis on those  
12 proposals, a comment that is consistently heard from  
13 the State is that we need thresholds, we need  
14 benchmarks and in the last cycle the comment that we  
15 heard is that the Federal Program needs to develop a  
16 policy before they do any more C&T findings. So,  
17 again, this was stimulated by a letter from the State a  
18 couple of years ago to the Secretary of Interior, the  
19 Secretary of Interior directed the Federal Program to  
20 develop a policy for how it addresses customary and  
21 traditional use determinations. So the policy that  
22 came down was basically -- this policy in front of you,  
23 this draft policy describes how the Federal Program  
24 addresses C&T determinations.

25

26

One of the complaints, for example, is  
27 that, well, there's no consistency, they look at  
28 different -- if you look across the state there's not a  
29 lot of consistency for how the Federal Program has  
30 addressed C&T findings. I would argue that there is  
31 consistency, the Federal Board is consistent in looking  
32 at the differences across the state and looking at the  
33 differences in subsistence practices, the geographic  
34 distances, the time differences, so the consistency is  
35 the -- the inconsistency, in a sense, that practices  
36 are different across the state and the Federal Board  
37 takes that into account in looking at these -- you  
38 know, the analysis take that into account and the  
39 Federal Board takes that into account in looking at  
40 these C&T determinations.

41

42

So I don't know if that answered your  
43 question, Member Honea, but we are looking -- and just  
44 to clarify, too, is we are looking for comment, we are  
45 looking for comment, recommendations. This has been  
46 presented to each of the 10 Councils, you are the last  
47 one. A couple of weeks ago I presented this to the  
48 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council and at the end  
49 of that week it went to the Eastern Interior, but I  
50 think the first Council was at the end of August on the

1 North Slope and it's gone through the whole cycle so  
2 all Councils have seen this.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other questions for  
5 Polly on this policy.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question is at  
10 what point are the -- somewhere's I read there was a  
11 solicitor had interpreted that the Councils were not  
12 considered and I was concerned about that solicitor's  
13 interpretation because the Councils have been  
14 continuously consulted on customary and traditional use  
15 determinations and so can you answer that question,  
16 Polly.

17

18 MS. WHEELER: Yes, I can Mr. Chair. If  
19 you go to Page 169 in your books, about halfway down  
20 the page there's a bold thing that says decision-making  
21 and then underneath that it says the Board shall, and  
22 the one, two, three, fourth bullet down reads:

23

24 The Board shall consider the knowledge,  
25 reports and recommendations of the  
26 appropriate Regional Advisory Council  
27 regarding customary and traditional use  
28 of subsistence resources in making its  
29 decisions.

30

31 It does not say, as you've seen, I mean  
32 you're familiar with implementing regulations, you know  
33 that with methods and means it's the Board shall defer  
34 to the Regional Advisory Council. The interpretation  
35 on the part of the solicitor and this was brought up at  
36 the Southcentral meeting and one of the solicitor -- a  
37 person from the solicitor's office was there and he  
38 said that their interpretation -- the solicitor's  
39 office interpretation, I hope I get this right, I'm not  
40 a lawyer in the interest of full disclosure.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MS. WHEELER: He said that their  
45 interpretation is that the Board shall defer to  
46 Regional Councils in matters of taking but that  
47 customary and traditional use isn't a taking, customary  
48 and traditional use determines who can take. There was  
49 another attorney there that had a different opinion, he  
50 didn't happen to work for the solicitor's office and he

1 had a different opinion and that prompted the  
2 Southcentral Council to make a modification to that  
3 actual bullet. The Southcentral Council modified their  
4 recommendation, this is a comment coming out of the  
5 Council, their recommendation was to modify that  
6 bullet. Instead of saying:

7

8                   Consider the knowledge, reports and  
9                   recommendations of the appropriate  
10                  Regional Advisory Council, they said  
11                  defer to the appropriate Regional  
12                  Advisory Council.

13

14                  Right. Yeah. So they inserted defer  
15 in place of consider.

16

17                  And another change that they made is  
18 they recommended, and I'm just giving you this just in  
19 the interest of full disclosure here, another change  
20 that they made, the next bullet down says:

21

22                  Consider comments and recommendations  
23                  from the State of Alaska.

24

25                  And the Southcentral Council  
26 recommended deleting:

27

28                  And recommendations.

29

30                  So that it would read:

31

32                  Consider comments from the State of  
33                  Alaska and the public.

34

35                  So that's the one solid recommendation  
36 or proposed change that we've received thus far.

37

38                  Mr. Chair.

39

40                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Polly.  
41 Vince, you have a comment on that.

42

43                  MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think I need to  
44 get some of your Council members up to speed because  
45 you're talking deferred to and et cetera. When I  
46 trained some of you, I used the word deference to the  
47 Regional Councils, that when you make a recommendation  
48 the Board has to respond in writing why they rejected  
49 your recommendation and that generated these questions  
50 here. What this is saying here and Polly can correct

1 me, is that there's no long -- well, those are my  
2 terms, there's no longer deference given to the Council  
3 on their recommendations on C&T proposals, based on  
4 this interpretation from the solicitor.

5  
6 Just so all the Council members, defer  
7 is fine, I use deference when I trained you and talked  
8 to you about different things.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, this was --  
11 when I was reviewing this proposal book which I was  
12 sicker than a dog, and so I seen that solicitor's  
13 interpretation, I was very concerned about that and I  
14 don't always agree with the solicitor and so I, reading  
15 ANILCA, I feel that these Councils are set up as a  
16 public forum for discussion on subsistence uses and so  
17 forth and those customary and traditional uses are  
18 integral to the Council's business.

19  
20 And so I feel that the Federal  
21 Subsistence Board should defer to the Councils when  
22 considering a customary and traditional use  
23 determination because the people who live in the  
24 affected area would have the most knowledge of those  
25 uses and have access to the public forum given this  
26 Council's under .808 of ANILCA.

27  
28 And so I recommend that this Council do  
29 exactly what the Southcentral Council did and strike  
30 consider on bullet four in the decision-making  
31 paragraph of the policy and insert:

32  
33 Defer the knowledge to the -- to the  
34 knowledge, reports and recommendations;

35  
36 And then also the State of Alaska has a  
37 liaison before the Federal Subsistence Board and so  
38 they have direct input at those meetings and so the  
39 bullet five should say:

40  
41 Consider comments from the State of  
42 Alaska and the public.

43  
44 And so those would be my recommended  
45 language. I would entertain a motion to make those  
46 insertions as comment.

47  
48 MR. STICKMAN: So moved, Mr. Chair.

49  
50 MR. SAM: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's been moved and  
2 seconded for those insertions into the draft customary  
3 and traditional use determination policy.

4  
5 Any further discussion by the Council.

6  
7 (No comments)

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none, the  
10 Chair would request the question.

11  
12 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is  
15 called. Those in favor of the insertion into this --  
16 language into the draft customary and traditional use  
17 determination policy signify by saying aye.

18  
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.

22  
23 (No opposing votes)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That motion is  
26 passed. And so I would feel the Federal Subsistence  
27 Board should consider the Council's recommendations on  
28 that.

29  
30 So any further questions on this  
31 policy.

32  
33 (No comments)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is a critical  
36 policy that is -- otherwise the policy looks good to  
37 me. I feel that it reflects what has been occurring  
38 and if it's not broke don't fix it.

39  
40 So any further discussion.

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, thank  
45 you, Polly.

46  
47 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we're at No.  
50 9, Office of Subsistence Management, status of the

1 closure policy.

2

3 MS. WHEELER: That's me, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And there's Polly.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MS. WHEELER: Recognizing the press of  
10 the agenda and the hour of the day I assure you I will  
11 go through -- I'm giving you all of these briefings so  
12 I will be brief.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

17

18 MS. WHEELER: And hit on the highlights  
19 as is my way. So we will turn to Page 171 to look at  
20 the closure policy, or the briefing of the closure  
21 policy. I'm not going to read it to you because you've  
22 been read to a lot today so I will just point out a  
23 couple of things.

24

25 First off in your folder or you all  
26 should have received, I don't know if this is yellow or  
27 goldenrod, but in any event it's not white or purple  
28 like you got earlier, but this is a copy of the letter  
29 from Secretary of Interior Dirk Kempthorne approving  
30 the closure policy and attached to that letter, behind  
31 that letter is the closure policy, so now we have a  
32 closure policy that's been approved by the Secretary of  
33 Interior as of August 29th, 2007. You've seen a draft  
34 of this policy several times.

35

36 A few key elements of this policy, and  
37 this is a closure policy and, again, this was  
38 stimulated also by a complaint from the State and then  
39 direction -- which resulted in direction by the  
40 Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to draft a  
41 policy to clarify when it's legally and  
42 administratively appropriate to close or restrict  
43 takings of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands  
44 under Sections .815 and .816 of ANILCA. This has been  
45 an issue before the Federal Program on and off. And  
46 the policy basically clarifies the internal management  
47 of the Board, it provides transparency to the public  
48 regarding the process for addressing Federal closures  
49 to hunting trapping and fishing on Federal public lands  
50 and waters in Alaska.

1                   And that's about it. So you've got the  
2 letter from the Secretary of Interior, you've got the  
3 policy. This is an information item as much as  
4 anything else.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

7  
8                   MS. WHEELER: But you did see different  
9 drafts over the years so this shouldn't come as a  
10 surprise to those of you that.....

11  
12                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. This  
13 Council's reviewed this closure policy.

14  
15                   MS. WHEELER: Right.

16  
17                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any comments from  
18 the Council on the policy and the acceptance by the  
19 Interior Secretary.

20  
21                   Go ahead, Ron.

22  
23                   MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
24 Polly, this closure policy that we're discussing, we  
25 have acted on a few of these or approved a few of these  
26 and that was a non-critical items that we pulled off  
27 the books, is this right -- I mean non-critical to the  
28 main residents of the region.

29  
30                   MS. WHEELER: This is clarifying how  
31 the -- when it's appropriate for the Federal -- or when  
32 the Federal Board can close an area to non-subsistence  
33 users. That was the issue for the State, is the State  
34 felt that -- which prompted the Secretary to say we  
35 need to have a policy clarifying when the Federal  
36 Program is going to close lands to non-Federally-  
37 qualified subsistence users and alternatively open them  
38 up to non-Federally-qualified users. And you have  
39 acted on proposals that do just that, either way.

40  
41                   MR. SAM: Yes, okay, that's what I was  
42 wondering, whether it would work both ways, you know.

43  
44                   MS. WHEELER: Yes.

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions  
47 about this closure policy.

48  
49                   (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's basically a  
2 mandated housekeeping issue. And seeing no further  
3 discussion on that -- I dropped my book where are we at  
4 here?

5  
6 MS. WHEELER: I'll keep you on track  
7 here.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

10  
11 (Laughter)

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, rural/non-rural  
14 determinations.

15  
16 MS. WHEELER: Okay, if you turn your  
17 book to Page 172 you can see the status of the Council  
18 composition. Many of you remember that in 1998 the  
19 Safari Club International and others filed a lawsuit  
20 against the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture and  
21 the Federal Board. Originally they were complaining or  
22 challenging specific subsistence priority  
23 determinations and the process for making those  
24 determinations. A couple years after that they amended  
25 -- the Safari Club International amended its complaint  
26 to challenge the composition of the Subsistence  
27 Regional Advisory Councils. In 2003, roughly four  
28 years ago, the Council charters were changed to  
29 stipulate that members would represent either  
30 subsistence or commercial and sport users and set a  
31 goal of 30 percent representation.

32  
33 Last August, that would be August of  
34 2006, the court concluded that the Board had not  
35 provided a sufficient administrative record showing the  
36 rationale for the 70/30 composition plan and the court  
37 ordered the Board to stop using that system after the  
38 2006 Council appointment process.

39  
40 So basically to address the court's  
41 order, the Federal Program published a 30 day notice in  
42 the Federal Register explaining the current situation  
43 and the rationale for the 70/30 rule. Basically the  
44 court was saying they didn't have sufficient rationale  
45 and there were other ways of addressing this issue so  
46 they wanted actual rationale for why this was done. So  
47 the Federal Program published a 30 day notice, provided  
48 rationalization for the 70/30 rule and requested public  
49 comments. At its meeting in May of 2007 the Board  
50 considered public comments and the Council

1 recommendations and developed -- basically stayed with  
2 the same thing. So the 70/30 rule still stands --  
3 well, the Federal Program will publish a notice in the  
4 Federal Register describing this process, hopefully  
5 that administrative process will be sufficient or will  
6 survive court review and then that will be sent to the  
7 Secretaries for approval.

8

9 Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any questions  
12 on the Council composition, this issue has been before  
13 the Council for many years.

14

15 Ron.

16

17 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just  
18 for the record I would like to reiterate or restate  
19 our, Western Interior's stand that the Western Interior  
20 Regional Council be no more than 80/20 and that's 80  
21 percent subsistence and 20 commercial. We did this  
22 through formal action quite some time back and I would  
23 like to restate my stand on that, that I will stand for  
24 the 80/20 for the Western Interior. We are a roadless  
25 system.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Polly you got a  
28 response to that.

29

30 MS. WHEELER: Not one that you'll like  
31 probably.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MS. WHEELER: And that is that I hear  
36 you loud and clear but the Federal Board at its May  
37 2007 meeting opted to stick with the 70/30 and if the  
38 court determines that there is sufficient rationale and  
39 administrative record then they're probably going to  
40 recommend the 70/30 -- or stick with the 70/30. So I  
41 can say that your comments were heard by the Federal  
42 Board but they still opted to go with the 70/30 -- or  
43 to stick with it, I guess.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. They're kind  
46 of locked into that at this point since they've  
47 determined that's -- hit a happy medium and that's what  
48 they determined before so -- any further comments on  
49 the -- Don.

50

1 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
2 guess I have a question on that. At our meeting in  
3 Aniak we did wonder if we could determine if we have a  
4 commercial fisherman amongst us, does that make the  
5 composite of 70 -- would you know.

6  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince.

10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: It's self-declared if  
12 you're commercial or subsistence so, you know, we don't  
13 look into your wallet to see if you have a.....

14  
15 (Laughter)

16  
17 MR. MATHEWS: .....limited entry. No,  
18 I bring that jokingly because I've argued internally  
19 that if you bought a sportfishing license, are you not  
20 a sportfishing interest. You have to self-declare when  
21 you apply so it's -- that's my interpretation of it.

22  
23 MR. HONEA: Okay. Maybe I could pose  
24 this question to you then, I mean if you have anything  
25 under commercial -- if you have a commercial guide that  
26 has a license or whatever, I mean a guiding license in  
27 a village, wouldn't that make -- and if he applied to  
28 be on the Board.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Vince.

31  
32 MR. MATHEWS: Through the Chair. Well,  
33 if he or she doesn't declare it then -- and they  
34 declared themselves subsistence that's how they're  
35 reviewed and interviewed. Okay. So my experience in  
36 Southeast when I worked down there is, you know, these  
37 guys to us -- to me, would look like a commercial  
38 fishermen, if I called them a commercial fishermen I  
39 would end up at the bottom of the dock because they're  
40 definitely 100 percent, in their view, subsistence, so  
41 it's self-elected that they say I want to be listed as  
42 commercial, and that's difficult in your region because  
43 those that you may consider commercial and that, they  
44 don't want to be declared and labeled commercial.

45  
46 Does that answer your question.

47  
48 We don't go in there and say when you  
49 apply, that you have a limited entry permit and that  
50 you're running a guide, so now you're going to be

1 analyzed as a commercial interest, no, that's not what  
2 we do.

3

4

MR. HONEA: If I may.

5

6

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

7

8

MR. HONEA: Yeah, the reason I'm  
9 questioning this, the reason I'm asking is I mean I  
10 know a commercial person who has a commercial license  
11 right in my village to be a guide, he doesn't, you  
12 know, bring in parties and stuff like that but -- and  
13 he's registered to be on the Board and so what I'm  
14 saying is, hey, I mean if we could fill these positions  
15 and he's interested, you know, thank you.

16

17

MS. WHEELER: There's some applications  
18 on the back table.

19

20

(Laughter)

21

22

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don, you can  
23 nominate him. You can fill out the application and  
24 nominate him and send it in.

25

26

MR. HONEA: Oh, I didn't know that.

27

28

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, you can  
29 nominate him. And so I encourage anybody in this room,  
30 if you know of anybody that has a commercial license of  
31 any type, commercial fishing license or guide license  
32 or whatever, you can nominate them, fill out the  
33 application and send it in and then they'll be asked if  
34 they would like to accept the seat and so that's  
35 another avenue for filling these commercial seats that  
36 we have open. We have vacancies that we would like to  
37 get filled.

38

39

Any further comments on those.

40

41

MR. STICKMAN: I have one.

42

43

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Mickey.

44

45

MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair. You know,  
46 even those these are, well, ordered by the court, I  
47 wonder if the court realizes that we have tried, I mean  
48 the Western Interior. We have really tried to -- I  
49 mean we have really tried to fill these positions and  
50 at some point in time some of them were filled but the

1 commercial guys resigned from the Regional Advisory  
2 Committee. So I wonder if they realize that even  
3 though they're pushing for this that there's no  
4 interest from their industry on sitting on the Western  
5 Interior Regional Advisory Council.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, we've  
8 tried hard to get -- so we need to have more outreach,  
9 even among our Council members and/or communities to  
10 encourage people with commercial interests, even though  
11 they consider them a subsistence user to at least  
12 accept that as taking one of these seats so that we can  
13 have representation throughout the region.

14

15 And so I think we should continue on  
16 with -- one more comment.

17

18 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
19 just brought that up because I know there's a person,  
20 like I said, who wanted -- they didn't fill out the  
21 papers in time and stuff but he's still interested to  
22 be on this so, hey, I mean, you know.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that,  
27 Don. And so I think we'll go on to the request for  
28 reconsideration and decennial review of rural/non-  
29 rural. Go ahead, Polly.

30

31 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On  
32 Page 173 in your books there's the briefing on that.

33

34 Basically we received, you should have  
35 all been sent a booklet that includes the final rule on  
36 the rural, as well as the six requests for  
37 reconsideration. We got six requests for  
38 reconsideration. At this point in time, as, again,  
39 most of you are aware, when we get a requests for  
40 reconsideration or as we like to call it, an RFR, the  
41 first thing we do is review it and do what's called a  
42 threshold analysis, so we analyze the claims and see if  
43 it has met one of three criteria, new information, and  
44 I'm blanking on what the other two criteria are, but  
45 basically right now we're at the stage where myself and  
46 my staff are reviewing the six RFRs. We've identified  
47 23 claims between the six RFRs and we're doing a  
48 threshold analysis -- we will be developing a threshold  
49 analysis on the six RFRs sometime in the next year.  
50 That's about as good a calendar as I can give you

1 because we've also received a number of other RFRs,  
2 several on wildlife proposals, several on fish -- five  
3 on fisheries, there's been no shortage of RFRs to the  
4 Federal Program of late.

5  
6 So at this point we're reviewing the  
7 six rural RFRs, we're evaluating the 23 claims that are  
8 contained within each of -- or as a total within those  
9 six RFRs and you'll be seeing the -- or the Federal  
10 Board will be making a determination on whether or not  
11 they meet the criteria for moving further along once  
12 the threshold analysis are done, but I can't give you a  
13 date certain for when that's going to happen.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So any  
16 questions on these requests for reconsideration.

17  
18 Vince, you got something.

19  
20 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, on the RFRs, to my  
21 knowledge, Polly can correct me, none of them will  
22 touch upon you that are before in this process here.  
23 This is just to give you an update and to know that  
24 those RFRs are out there but none of them, to my  
25 knowledge, affect your region.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks for  
28 that clarification. Any other comments on that.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, we'll  
33 go to the OSM two year cycle. Go ahead.

34  
35 MS. WHEELER: Okay, again, on Pages 174  
36 and 175 you have the boiled down version of the two  
37 year cycle, the OSM budget, and the OSM reorganization.  
38 As has been alluded to a number of times in the last  
39 couple of days there's been some budget cuts proposed  
40 for the 2008 budget. We are currently operating on a  
41 continuing resolution so we've actually -- we're  
42 operating on a 2007 budget but we and we're just sort  
43 of waiting, and it's a waiting game now to see whether  
44 Congress is going to pull themselves together and pass  
45 a budget so that we can move forward.

46  
47 The good news is that because we got a  
48 budget cut in 2008, if we're operating on a 2007 budget  
49 that cut doesn't manifest itself, doesn't mean it won't  
50 in 2009 but at least -- but if we do get a 2008 budget

1 the cut will manifest itself and it's a \$500,000 cut at  
2 least at this point. That will impact our -- I mean it  
3 already has impacted our program. Through the years we  
4 got that one amount and it hasn't -- the amount hasn't  
5 increased that we've gotten and because of mandatory  
6 pay raises and that sort of -- cost of living, the  
7 amount has actually shrunk over time. We have tried to  
8 achieve efficiencies as best we can with staffing and  
9 merging of programs. You are probably all aware that  
10 we went through a reorganization in June. We now have  
11 -- instead of having a team approach, we have a  
12 Wildlife Division, a Fisheries Division, an  
13 Anthropology Division, sort of an Administrative  
14 Division, the coordinators and so we're kind of  
15 organized in a different way. I guess the jury's still  
16 out on how that will affect -- I mean my hope is that  
17 you won't really see the impact of the reorganization  
18 unless it would be more efficient and more attentive to  
19 what you want and need, but I guess time will tell on  
20 that one.

21

22                   So one of the efficiencies that you've  
23 heard about before is moving to a two year cycle. The  
24 calendar for that two year cycle is on Page 175, that  
25 hits the highlights of what's going to be addressed.  
26 Basically in even years you're going to have the -- I  
27 always get messed up on this -- the wildlife  
28 regulations and the Fisheries Monitoring Program will  
29 be addressed in odd number years and the fisheries  
30 regulations in even numbered years. And, again, the  
31 table sort of describes how that's going to manifest  
32 itself.

33

34                   So we are intending to have two  
35 meetings of each Council per year, so that won't  
36 change. The content of the meetings will change but  
37 the actual meeting, the fact that meetings will still  
38 occur.

39

40                   The Board will take up issues that  
41 can't be addressed in whatever year through special  
42 action requests and that sort of thing.

43

44                   So, again, the intent is to not  
45 diminish what you Councils need or want, but, rather to  
46 achieve efficiencies internally so we can accommodate  
47 these budget cuts. And the reality is with the war  
48 going on and everything else I don't think the budget  
49 cuts are going to go away any time soon. It's just how  
50 it is.

1 Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I'm well  
4 aware of these budget cuts throughout all of the  
5 various agencies, Federal agencies. And any comments  
6 on that portion.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. Polly.

11

12 MS. WHEELER: The one point that I did  
13 want to touch on because it came up earlier today is  
14 the effects of the budget cuts on the Partners Program.  
15 Right now we're waiting, we've sent letters to -- we've  
16 received something like 160 letters of support for the  
17 Partners Program, they've been forwarded on to the  
18 Congressional Delegation and so they're well aware of  
19 how important this program is. And so we'll see what  
20 impact, if any, that has. At this point it's a waiting  
21 game again to see if we get off the continuing  
22 resolution and actually get a budget, but I can't  
23 predict what Congress is actually going to do, it's an  
24 election year coming up here pretty quick so, you know,  
25 who's to say what they're going to do. But at this  
26 point we're hopeful that we will be able to have some  
27 partner's agreements beginning in the new year but we  
28 don't know how many.

29

30 So that's as good as I can give you at  
31 this point, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.  
34 And I think that's -- oh, did you have a comment there,  
35 Ron.

36

37 MR. SAM: Yes. I just couldn't sit  
38 down -- I couldn't quite -- an election year coming up,  
39 it seems like we should take some of our tax payers  
40 money and take these elections because they seem like  
41 they're running four years in a row instead of granting  
42 those candidates for presidents and stuff like that, we  
43 should it grant it to our partnership people, billions  
44 and billions of dollars. Because it seems like the  
45 campaign started two or three years ago and it hasn't  
46 stopped yet and we won't vote until next November.

47

48 MS. WHEELER: No comment.

49

50 (Laughter)

1 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. I'm done.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, okay, we need  
8 to continue on here. And so where should we start  
9 here, Vince.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Well, the other  
12 informational items are in your book so I'm not going  
13 to even bring them up so you have those there if you  
14 want to look at them.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Those are under the OSM  
19 reports. So that brings us up to wildlife issues and I  
20 don't know how you want to structure that so I have  
21 some updates on some parts of that. I think you need  
22 to focus pretty much on your -- key focus, I hope I got  
23 this right, the upper portions of 24, your discussion  
24 off the record on different proposals and stuff and so  
25 I don't know how you prioritize it. It might be best  
26 just to go down this list but make sure we allow enough  
27 time for that discussion on those proposals, or  
28 potential proposals.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So we're  
31 under wildlife issues and organization and agency  
32 reports on wildlife studies, issues and concerns.

33

34 This Mulchatna Caribou Herd issue has  
35 been quite a concern of this Council. And so the Board  
36 of Game is up for proposals, I was wondering if the  
37 Council would like to submit a proposal for the 19, I  
38 think 19 in the Board of Game's proposal cycle, for  
39 this coming March -- or February/March season, a  
40 proposal to close the non-resident 15 day season in 19-  
41 A and B, which is within our region. And so this  
42 request was put before the State Board of Game this  
43 last year by the Federal Subsistence Board under a  
44 reconsideration, the State Board of Game didn't want to  
45 take it up as a consideration and so this Council needs  
46 to bring this before the State Board of Game again as a  
47 proposal. And so I would like a little Council  
48 discussion on that.

49

50 I feel that the Board of Game is

1 severely overharvesting the bull component in the  
2 Mulchatna Caribou Herd and somebody's got to speak up  
3 for these poor caribou and our users that use them.  
4 And so do we have any Council discussion on that  
5 proposal generation on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

6

(No comments)

7

8

9

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wrote a letter to  
10 the Subsistence Resource Commissions on this issue,  
11 I'll read that letter. This was to the Resource  
12 Commissions Meeting October 23rd and I'm explaining why  
13 I wasn't present and that I was Chair of this Council  
14 and I'll go into the letter.

15

16

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50

Over the past few years the Council has become extremely concerned about the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, it has declined from 200,000 to less than 43,000 in the past 10 years. This herd uses parts of Units 9, 17, 18 and 19, this includes the Lake Clark Park and Preserve.

My concern is over the overharvest of the bull component, especially large bulls. The overharvest was primarily done by clients of hunting guides, outfitters and transporters. The data shows the herd was healthy and increasing and when the bull/cow ratio was over 40 bulls per 100 cows. Once this ratio fell below 30 bulls per 100 cows, the herd decline increased dramatically. The survey last fall shows a pathetic 14.4 bulls per 100 cows and only 1.33 large bulls per 100. In no way is this anywhere close to natural and healthy population as the Park lands are to be managed nor is it sustainable. This is clearly overharvest by humans. Predators don't affect bull/cow ratios to a large degree, humans do when the bulls are singled out.

It is recognized management principle that moose and caribou bull/cow ratios minimums need to be maintained and these are 20 to 30 bulls per 100 cows for moose and 30 to 40 bulls per 100

1 cows for caribou. The State managers  
2 would like to cloud the issues with  
3 predators, range depletion, disease,  
4 recruitment and some other unknown  
5 voodoo factor. The biological reality  
6 is that small bulls, younger than three  
7 years old, propagate light weight  
8 calves. Small calves are subject to  
9 higher and longer predation factors and  
10 overwinter survivorship is low. The  
11 moose and caribou herd declines from  
12 the induced lack of recruitment. Most  
13 areas in the intensive management  
14 (predator control) have these poor  
15 bull/cow ratios and poor survivorship.  
16

17 The ADF&G and the Board of Game have  
18 ignored this fact and continued a non-  
19 resident hunt, September 1 to 15th this  
20 season for most of the area where the  
21 Mulchatna Caribou are found. Even when  
22 requested by the Federal Subsistence  
23 Board not to allow non-residents to  
24 harvest one caribou, most of which  
25 would be bulls. This was done to  
26 protect the ailing bull component.  
27

28 And so that was the letter I sent to  
29 the SRCs and that's applicable to this Council.  
30

31 And so I would like the wording  
32 included in the justification to this proposal and so I  
33 would like to entertain a motion to submit a proposal  
34 to the State Board of Game to close the 15 day non-  
35 resident season in Unit 19-A and B.  
36

37 MR. STICKMAN: So moved, Mr. Chair.  
38

39 MR. MORGAN: Second.  
40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Discussion on  
42 submitting that proposal.  
43

44 MR. SAM: He seconded it.  
45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.  
47

48 MR. STICKMAN: I call for the question.  
49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question has been

1 called on transmitting a proposal to the Board of Game.  
2 All in favor of that proposal signify by saying aye.

3

4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We discussed some  
11 issues in the upper Koyukuk, and so these coinciding  
12 State Federal hunts on -- winter hunts on Federal  
13 lands, there's been discussion by Refuge Staff to have  
14 coinciding State hunts so that there's no discrepancy  
15 between State and controlled lands and the Federal  
16 public lands.

17

18 I was wondering what the Council  
19 thought about submitting a proposal for coinciding  
20 State hunts with our Federal winter hunts.

21

22 Do you have a comment there, Vince.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I don't want to  
25 back you up but on the Mulchatna issue, there's another  
26 facet of that. Lester Wilde, who's the Chair of YK, as  
27 an individual, submitted a proposal for all those units  
28 that you read off and was told that it only can be  
29 addressed to his area, Unit 18, which is up before the  
30 Board. My knowledge is he submitted an agenda change  
31 request that the Board of Game take up out of cycle  
32 those other areas because -- I don't have the schedule  
33 in front of me but YK area is under a different  
34 schedule than 19-A and then Carl may know this, 17 and  
35 9 -- Units 17 and 9 are under a different cycle. So I  
36 don't know if you guys have any interest in supporting  
37 the agenda change request and I don't know the status  
38 of where that agenda change request is.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the 17 and 9  
41 were visited last year and the Board made sort of a  
42 broad -- the Federal Subsistence Board asked for an  
43 agenda change request and that was denied.

44

45 I would also go along with requesting  
46 it again as an attachment to our proposal to visit the  
47 whole Mulchatna Caribou Herd, I think it's 9-D, 17, 19  
48 and 18, and so that those -- the State Board of Game is  
49 derelict in sustained yield by even having, even  
50 considering a bull harvest on this extremely low bull

1 component and so I would love to see somebody sue them  
2 for violating sustained yield.

3

4 And so I also would like to include an  
5 agenda change request for the whole herd, I do feel  
6 that that's appropriate.

7

8 And so the Chair would entertain a  
9 motion for a request of agenda change to the Board of  
10 Game to rescind the non-resident hunt in all the  
11 affected units of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

12

13 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I so move.

14

15 MR. STICKMAN: So moved, Mr. Chair.

16

17 MR. MORGAN: Because that herd is too  
18 low to have any hunts in any one of those units for the  
19 large bull and I concur, I so moved.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's moved.

22

23 MR. STICKMAN: Second.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded. Any  
26 discussion on that.

27

28 MR. SAM: Question.

29

30 MR. STICKMAN: I call for the question  
31 on that.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's been  
34 called. All those in favor of the agenda change  
35 request for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd signify by  
36 saying aye.

37

38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.

41

42 (No opposing votes)

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we were  
45 prioritizing these issues. Refuge Staff has been  
46 stating that it's expensive to administer winter hunts  
47 only on the Federal areas and they would appreciate  
48 concurrent State seasons on associated lands to those  
49 hunts, and so we have currently a five day winter hunt  
50 on 21-B [sic], 24-D and 24-B.

1                   And those submittals of proposals for  
2 concurrent hunts to the State Board of Game should be  
3 discussed. I've thought about this issue and I feel  
4 that the Board of Game has been derelict in  
5 administering the Native corporation lands associated  
6 to the affected villages and so these proposals could  
7 be delineated as the Native Village Corporation and  
8 Regional Corporation lands associated to the Federal  
9 public lands. The Regional Corporations and the  
10 Village Corporations can close those private lands to  
11 anybody but those shareholders who they designate which  
12 limits the number of people that can participate but  
13 targets the people of intended subsistence use  
14 activity. This would be a precedence setting  
15 proposals, but I would like to target them too, the  
16 Native Corporation lands.

17  
18                   I would like discussion by the Council.

19  
20                   Ron.

21  
22                   MR. SAM: Yeah, I think it's more than  
23 appropriate because at one time we did have State hunts  
24 up in our area and just for the record we had a 10 day  
25 hunt at this time, too, and we still request a 10 day  
26 hunt up in 24-B.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Discussion on the  
29 idea of the proposal targeting the Village Corporation  
30 and Native Corporation lands.

31  
32                   MR. STICKMAN: Do you need a motion?

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could have a  
35 motion for discussion.

36  
37                   MR. STICKMAN: So moved, Mr. Chair.

38  
39                   MS. PELKOLA: Second.

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.  
42 For discussion purposes, these as laid out, this would  
43 accommodate, facilitate a limited harvest by the  
44 affected villages that are not meeting subsistence  
45 needs or provided subsistence opportunity by the  
46 Federal Subsistence Board, would also compel the Board  
47 of Game to provide a subsistence opportunity in winter  
48 hunts that has been  
49 retracted and that under Title VIII of ANILCA, Title  
50 VIII of ANILCA specifically says that Native lands are

1 important to Native users as much as the Federal lands  
2 and so the State as had control of management on Native  
3 Corporation and Village Corporation lands and yet has  
4 not been providing the level of subsistence use that  
5 they would appreciate and have and to incur great  
6 expense, violating the economy of time, effort and  
7 expense to try to access the Federal lands, it's also  
8 complicated the issue for the Refuge Staff in  
9 administration and so these would be various  
10 justifications for the proposal.

11

12 Vince.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Well, as your coordinator  
15 I need to ask some questions and maybe get some other  
16 Staff up here.

17

18 Are you saying that these proposals  
19 would go to the Board of Game and would say that the  
20 winter hunt then would be, on the State side, it would  
21 be requesting just those corporation lands within an  
22 adjoining, say, Refuge lands?

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Exactly.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, then as your  
27 coordinator I need to ask on feasibility on this, and  
28 maybe I'm asking too much, but can the Board of Game  
29 entertain that type of limitation?

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Board of Game  
32 delineates all kinds of various areas for various hunts  
33 and so they have had the management authority on these  
34 Native and Village Corporation lands and they have not  
35 -- they have retracted the subsistence priorities from  
36 the winter hunts, those were recognized in the moose  
37 planning group and those -- the reasons were there  
38 would be too much opportunity given to the general  
39 public and there'd be significant harvest, if the  
40 Native Corporations can close their lands to anybody  
41 but the shareholders that negates that argument, that  
42 the Board may have, that there would be too much  
43 participation. This would basically allow the people  
44 who own the land to hunt on their own private lands.

45

46 Go ahead, Vince.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Last thing because, are  
49 you considering allotments and are you considering  
50 allotments -- if you are considering allotments are

1 they going to be limited within the conservation unit  
2 boundaries or beyond or are allotments not part of this  
3 action?

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, the proposal  
6 would delineate the lands as Native and Village  
7 Corporation lands and Native allotment lands that would  
8 be contiguous to the village and to the conservation  
9 unit, and so not exterior of the conservation unit or  
10 the associated village and corporation lands --  
11 regional corporation lands.

12

13 Is that clear to the Council.

14

15 (Council nods affirmatively)

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It would be fairly  
18 easily drawn at that time. It's a checkerboard around  
19 all the various villages, at that point you would have  
20 a contiguous hunt and it would allow the shareholders,  
21 the owners of the private land to hunt on their  
22 property, and so is that clear to the Council.

23

24 (Council nods affirmatively)

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Clear to the Staff.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: (Nods affirmatively)

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so at this

31 time.....

32

33 MR. STICKMAN: I call for the question.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....Mickey calls  
36 for question. Those in favor of submitting proposals  
37 for 21-B, 24-D and 24-B to the State Board of Game  
38 signify by saying aye.

39

40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same

43 sign.

44

45 (No opposing votes)

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Proposals will be  
48 generated. And so under wildlife issues, where should  
49 we go from here, Vince, that addresses some of our  
50 concerns as a Council.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, that addresses it.  
2 And out of respect to the Refuge Staff that are here, I  
3 believe you'll discuss the fall seasons, this is just a  
4 line item that can be combined with your agency report,  
5 I'm pretty sure you're going to do that.

6  
7 Anyways, we'll leave that as is.

8  
9 So that leaves us, to my understanding,  
10 if I can get my eyes focused here, the call for  
11 wildlife proposals is before the Federal Subsistence  
12 Board, so that's one item.

13  
14 And then the other item is, in your  
15 annual report the Board responded to you saying, okay,  
16 we hear you want telemetry studies, tell us where you  
17 want those prioritized. So that's an item that can be  
18 subcommittee'd out based on Council action or discussed  
19 at this point.

20  
21 So those are the two items. Call for  
22 proposals for the Federal side and what do you want to  
23 do with this response from the Board on telemetry  
24 studies, moose telemetry.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At this time I  
27 personally don't have any more Federal proposals under  
28 wildlife that I feel would -- at this time the Refuges  
29 are complaining about the cost burden of a lot of our  
30 proposals and at this time we've achieved some of the  
31 objectives of providing winter hunts for people in our  
32 region that can support population -- moose that can  
33 support those winter hunts.

34  
35 Do Council members have any other  
36 Federal proposals that they would like to see generated  
37 for the next Board cycle.

38  
39 Mickey.

40  
41 MR. STICKMAN: Yes, there's one from  
42 the Middle Yukon to, you know, well, for instance this  
43 past fall after September 20th the subsistence hunters  
44 were not allowed up on the -- we were not allowed to  
45 hunt up on the Koyukuk, on the Wildlife Refuge and the  
46 Middle Yukon Advisory Committee generated a proposal to  
47 open up that -- open it up until the 25th. I don't  
48 know, they didn't have a specific number but they did  
49 pass a motion to have that proposal written up.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Season extension on  
2 the State hunt.

3

4 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that that  
7 will come out in the proposal book and, again, without  
8 a number we would have a hard time endorsing that.

9

10 The Council, I'm not sure if the  
11 Council will meet before.....

12

13 MR. STICKMAN: Well, you're generating  
14 proposals without a number.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That.....

17

18 MR. STICKMAN: I mean all the proposals  
19 we've passed so far had no number.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Vince.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Back to Mickey, through  
24 the Chair. The Council in the past and present is  
25 supportive of the intent of these proposals, I don't  
26 know the intent of this one because I had to deal with  
27 another issue. The issue is that they don't have the  
28 full written proposal in front of them, there may be  
29 other factors in a write up there that cause other  
30 concerns.

31

32 So that's part of it.

33

34 Now, your current meeting dates, which  
35 we're going to deal with later are February -- they're  
36 three or four days before the -- the Board of Game  
37 meets on February 29th through March 10th, so if the  
38 Middle Yukon gets these in by December 7th, this  
39 Council, if they stay with their current dates could  
40 take them up at that time and possibly, I don't know if  
41 you're going to still meet in Fairbanks, that's another  
42 whole issue, I think the meeting is in Fairbanks for  
43 the Interior proposals so you would have a bang for the  
44 buck there.

45

46 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. Okay.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: But, Mickey, please  
49 realize that the date has to be submitted and then, you  
50 know, I'm sure that's going to happen but the Council

1 doesn't want to end up supporting something that may  
2 not go forward and they don't know all the details of  
3 it.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So basically the  
6 Middle Yukon wants the moose season extended to the  
7 25th of September. This Council could submit a  
8 redundant proposal to assure that that extension date  
9 is before the Board of Game, and so if you want to make  
10 a motion to make a redundant proposal, that could be  
11 retracted, or if the Council felt that the Middle  
12 Yukon's was going forward appropriately. So if you  
13 would like to make a motion to transmit a redundant  
14 proposal that would be appropriate.

15

16 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, I'll move on that,  
17 Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so the proposal  
20 to be generated would need a second on that.

21

22 MS. PELKOLA: I second.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.  
25 The proposal would basically extend the moose season in  
26 Unit 24 -- or 21-D and 24-D, that are in the Koyukuk  
27 Controlled Use Area, to extend the moose season date  
28 through September 25th, and the various reasons that  
29 were given in our Koyukuk River Advisory Committee  
30 meeting was that the warm falls and the lack of bull  
31 moose movement until the very latter end of the season  
32 were many of the reasons given for that extension  
33 request. And that was discussed at the Koyukuk River  
34 Advisory.

35

36 So any further discussion.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MR. SAM: Question.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's been  
43 called on that proposal. Those in favor of the  
44 proposal signify by saying aye.

45

46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.

49

50 (No opposing votes)

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And any other  
2 wildlife proposals. Ron.  
3  
4 MR. SAM: Yes, at our Koyukuk River  
5 Advisory Committee meeting we also requested -- we'd  
6 probably request a redundant proposal on transporters  
7 carrying a satellite phone, remember what was our --  
8 what was our final stand on that, do you remember.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That was a statewide  
11 proposal that Larry Edwards was going to be submitting  
12 and was going to go before the Board of Game on  
13 statewide issues and so as far as I know that proposal  
14 was submitted.  
15  
16 So any further Council proposals, game  
17 proposals, wildlife proposals. Go ahead, Mickey.  
18  
19 MR. STICKMAN: I have one last one.  
20 The one for the winter moose hunt, from March 1st to  
21 the 5th that came from the Middle Yukon, but it's been  
22 a winter moose hunt on -- it's one that we've already  
23 passed, it's just -- I just want the Council's support  
24 again. I mean it's something that's already on the  
25 books but, you know, as long as we're doing action  
26 items I just want the Council's continued support for  
27 this winter moose hunt even though we don't get it, I  
28 mean we don't actually get it.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Which hunt is that  
31 then, that's the 21-B.  
32  
33 MR. STICKMAN: Oh, no, it's in the  
34 Kaiyuh Flats.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, we haven't been  
37 getting that one. The Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge felt that  
38 the moose population was inadequate and we haven't  
39 gotten that one. That one's -- as far as I -- I'd have  
40 to have my book, as far as I recall that is on the  
41 books but that has not been provided, the Refuge is not  
42 providing that. The Middle Yukon is wanting a  
43 redundant proposal for the State lands?  
44  
45 MR. STICKMAN: Oh, no, it's Federal  
46 land.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, I.....  
49  
50 MR. STICKMAN: No, it's on Federal

1 lands.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....would -- oh,  
4 the Federal lands.

5

6 MR. STICKMAN: It's already a Federal  
7 law -- I mean it's already on the books, in the Federal  
8 books.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

11

12 MR. STICKMAN: And it's just, yeah,  
13 like you said it's just a redundant proposal but as  
14 long as we have the support on record, that's all we  
15 need.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, this was a  
18 Western Interior generated proposal to the Federal  
19 Program but the Federal managers have yet to accept  
20 that because of the moose population status.

21

22 Go ahead, Vince.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Mickey, what's throwing  
25 me a curve is when you use the word proposal. This  
26 season is already on the books, Kenton is the one  
27 that's there as the Refuge manager that has to follow  
28 the.....

29

30 MR. STICKMAN: Well, it's a proposal  
31 from the Middle Yukon. So I mean.....

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: To the Board of Game?

34

35 MR. STICKMAN: Well, yes, I mean.....

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, okay, then I'm lost.

38

39 MR. STICKMAN: Because well actually  
40 what happened was it's actually off the State books, so  
41 I guess the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee is trying  
42 to get it back on the books.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

45

46 MR. STICKMAN: I'm sorry, I wasn't  
47 absolutely clear, but it is on the Federal books but as  
48 far as the State books, it's not on the State book  
49 anymore, it used to be.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I don't know  
2 how to proceed with that one, that's a little bit --  
3 that gets a little tougher than that one. I feel  
4 uncomfortable about that right now and so I would like  
5 to see it as it's written, you know, because we've  
6 already got Refuge balking at that one. We have that  
7 on the book. That could be implemented if the moose  
8 population becomes adequate to support that. And so at  
9 this time that's a long shot, and so I would -- I would  
10 hate to fight one like that.

11  
12 Go ahead, Vince.

13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I might get in the  
15 middle of you two here, but would it not be the  
16 feelings of the Council that the Council supports  
17 winter hunts as -- the term we use around the office,  
18 as an insurance policy, if the fall hunts are not as  
19 productive, as desired and to meet other needs, that,  
20 in general, the Council supports those hunts and that  
21 could possibly be transmitted to the Middle Yukon as an  
22 avenue and stuff until the specifics come.

23  
24 I don't know if I'm in the middle or  
25 out on left field.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I mean we  
28 could petition the State Board of Game to return winter  
29 hunts in the, what is known as the Kaiyuh Flats area,  
30 but I -- you know, without having jurisdiction --  
31 without a State or Federal manager willing to provide a  
32 hunt I think we're just beating our head on the wall  
33 and I hate to fight proposals that lead to credibility  
34 issues with the Council. That's a long shot.

35  
36 I would like other Council comment on  
37 that.

38  
39 I would like to see winter hunts  
40 return, but at this point that's a fairly -- that's a  
41 long shot, I just can't see that we could win that  
42 battle.

43  
44 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair. Well, it was  
45 supported unanimously by the Middle Yukon and the  
46 Middle Yukon representatives are from Nulato, Koyukuk,  
47 Galena, Kaltag and those were all -- and it's just an  
48 added -- well, it's just an additional -- well,  
49 regardless of if we get it or not, we're just trying to  
50 get an additional subsistence opportunity there for the

1 people.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a bull only  
4 winter hunt.

5

6 MR. STICKMAN: Yes, it's specific bull  
7 only.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. Yeah,  
10 they've swapped ends on that issue is what has  
11 happened, and so I -- the Western Interior Council  
12 could endorse the proposal when it comes out. I would  
13 feel uncomfortable on transmitting a redundant proposal  
14 as we just had done and so any further -- any Council  
15 recommendations on how to proceed with this.

16

17 MR. STICKMAN: No, I don't have any  
18 recommendations, I already said my peace. But, Glenn,  
19 maybe Glenn can help us here. When is the proposal  
20 deadline, is it next month?

21

22 MR. STOUT: Yeah, Mr. Chair, Glenn  
23 Stout with Fish and Game. The deadline for State Board  
24 of Game proposals is December 7th.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I would, you  
27 know, if this proposal -- I would like to see winter  
28 hunts in the Kaiyuh, but at this point we can't even  
29 get the Refuge to provide a hunt that we've gotten the  
30 Federal Board management authority delegated to the  
31 Refuge Staff and so I would like to go on record as  
32 supporting that hunt as soon as the population is  
33 adequate to provide for that. But I feel uncomfortable  
34 about transmitting a redundant proposal from this  
35 Council that would say exactly the same thing as the  
36 Middle Yukon.

37

38 So I would prefer to let the Middle  
39 Yukon's proposal go through and we could endorse that  
40 proposal per se, but I would feel uncomfortable about  
41 transmitting another proposal. So if the unnamed  
42 proposal could be endorsed for a five day winter hunt  
43 on the Kaiyuh Flats, so if that would satisfy what your  
44 objective is Mickey we could go that direction.

45

46 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, Mr. Chair. I'll  
47 make a motion for the Western Interior Regional  
48 Advisory Committee to endorse the Middle Yukon Advisory  
49 Committee's proposal for the five day winter moose hunt  
50 that's bulls only from March 1st to the 5th.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Do we got a  
2 second for that.  
3  
4 MR. HONEA: Second.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Don.  
7 Further discussion.  
8  
9 (No comments)  
10  
11 MR. HONEA: Call for the question.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's been  
14 called. Those in favor of that recommendation being  
15 sent to the State Board of Game on that unnamed  
16 proposal signify by saying aye.  
17  
18 IN UNISON: Aye.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.  
21  
22 (No opposing votes)  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion carries.  
25  
26 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mickey.  
29  
30 MR. STICKMAN: I was wondering, can we  
31 take a break.  
32  
33 (Laughter)  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we'll take  
36 about a five, 10 minute break here. We're trying to  
37 clean this agenda up.  
38  
39 (Off record)  
40  
41 (On record)  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to  
44 come back to order again. I want to try and get  
45 through some more of this agenda. So we've gone  
46 through some wildlife issues. And the question was,  
47 these moose telemetry studies, the Council was  
48 requesting telemetry studies on moose to see what  
49 populations are using what areas and even at our  
50 discussion it would appear that the Federal managers

1 have responded already, there's already a telemetry  
2 study in the process for Kanuti, BLM lands, National  
3 Park Service lands, the northern portion and Innoko, as  
4 far as -- we'll see their presentation, as far as I  
5 know they're working on a study also.

6

7 Does any other Council members have --  
8 these areas there, these Federal areas where these  
9 moose are moving in and out of these Refuge areas,  
10 those were the primary concerns that I have is where  
11 those moose were using various areas and whether  
12 they're actually in these heavily accessed air taxi,  
13 transporter zones and so those studies are addressing a  
14 lot of my concerns.

15

16 Does the Council members have any other  
17 telemetry projects that they would want to have  
18 considered.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council members, do  
23 you seem to be satisfied with the current projects.

24

25 (Council nods affirmatively)

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So seeing no more  
28 further comment on that, Vince, we'll move into.....

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: That moves into annual  
31 reports. You can see on Page 179 the reply letter and  
32 overview, you've already gotten this in the mail, I'll  
33 just stand down to see if you have any questions on the  
34 Board response and then we need to look at topics for  
35 the next one, so Page 179 through 182.

36

37 (Pause)

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've gotten the  
40 annual report response, I've reviewed that and do any  
41 Council members have any comments on that annual report  
42 from 2006.

43

44 MR. STICKMAN: The only question I  
45 have.....

46

47 REPORTER: Mickey.

48

49 MR. STICKMAN: The only question I  
50 have, Mr. Chair, do we need a motion to adopt the

1 annual report.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: No.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we're going to  
6 be working on topics for the next annual report and so  
7 those are.....

8

9 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we're still  
12 in the overview of the 2006 and response by the Federal  
13 Subsistence Board. Any Council members have comments  
14 on the Board response.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, we're  
19 going through the 2007 annual report topics. So,  
20 Vince, you got the guidance issue on 183.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, basically all that's  
23 saying is that the annual report, as we've reported  
24 earlier, it is connected to .805c of ANILCA and in  
25 there it lists anticipated needs and then existing uses  
26 and I've got to find it here, but, anyways, recommended  
27 strategy for management of fish and wildlife population  
28 within the region and recommendation concerning policy,  
29 standards, guidelines and regulations.

30

31 What this is basically saying is if  
32 it's not described in that area then it might be best  
33 to do a separate letter, it's your call on that but  
34 we're kind of looking at more than the annual report  
35 should be looking at those four criteria. And then  
36 that's basically it and then the report format we've  
37 already accommodated over time.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council members,  
40 topics that would fit the four criteria for annual  
41 report.

42

43 Some suggested topics I may have would  
44 be arresting the decline of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd  
45 and the need to maintain the caribou populations within  
46 our region.

47

48 The low numbers of moose and the  
49 hardships that people have had in looking for lower  
50 numbers of moose.

1                   And moratoriums and drawing and various  
2 management regimes in the Unit 19-A and B in the lower  
3 portion of our region.

4  
5                   So these would be identification of  
6 current and anticipated subsistence uses.

7  
8                   And so those big game populations are  
9 of concern to this Regional Council and so I would like  
10 to see those included in our annual report.

11  
12                   And so under recommended strategy, I  
13 would like to see OSM and Federal managers pay much  
14 closer attention to bull/cow ratios on -- that are  
15 utilized and -- excuse me, I had a fly in my throat or  
16 something, excuse me.

17  
18                   These bull/cow ratios, moose and  
19 caribou populations, when they fall below their  
20 management objectives we go into these crisis  
21 situations and I want to see the management strategies  
22 for red lights to be going off when we go below these  
23 bull/cow ratio management objectives. And so these  
24 violations of these management principles are -- is  
25 what's causing us tremendous amounts of issues  
26 throughout our region and these are primarily done from  
27 various commercial interests and non-subsistence and  
28 conflict, basically the Board of Game has been derelict  
29 in maintaining these bull/cow ratios. Lower 19, those  
30 bull/cow ratios dropped down to around eight moose per  
31 100 cows, that's just pathetic. And so that's where  
32 these issues come from.

33  
34                   And so I would like management  
35 strategies to -- the Federal oversight should initiate  
36 response for maintaining these bull/cow ratios and so  
37 I'd like that included in our annual report.

38  
39                   And then the size decline of the  
40 chinook salmon and so encouraging the Federal  
41 Subsistence Board to work with the State of Alaska on  
42 addressing, seriously addressing this issue, this is a  
43 continuous management issue.

44  
45                   And so those would be like the  
46 inclusions, which are redundant on the fisheries issue.

47  
48                   So other Council members inclusion  
49 under these four categories.

50

1 Don.

2

3 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair. I have no  
4 further inclusions or anything but I was just  
5 wondering, are you looking for in the form of a motion.

6

7

8 MR. SAM: No.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, we just kind of  
11 make recommendations and we don't actually make a  
12 motion at this point. And so did you have something to  
13 say there, Vince.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Well, as you talked about  
16 recommended strategies for management, again, this is  
17 just my listening to your talks, it appears to be your  
18 recommended strategy to the Federal Subsistence Board  
19 and to the Board of Game and State managers is to look  
20 at those conservation units in entirety for wildlife  
21 and not just those Federal lands within there, and  
22 corporation lands, and so I'm not sure I'm capturing  
23 right, but I think that may be a strategy that you'd  
24 want to recommend to the Board that they look at  
25 wildlife the same way they look at fish. Now, I know  
26 you've already asked them to extend the lands through  
27 AFN, looking at Legislation but this is strategy for  
28 management, not Legislative, so, anyway, just a  
29 thought.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At this time the  
32 Federal Subsistence Board has stated that they do not  
33 have management authority on the Native Corporation  
34 lands and so at this point it's the prerogative of the  
35 State Board of Game to provide a management regime that  
36 reflects customary and traditional use of the land  
37 owners as provided under ANILCA, Section .801 of ANILCA  
38 and then we'll have to wait for the Native body of  
39 Alaska to come to a consensus to approach Congress  
40 about management of Native Corporation lands, Village  
41 Corporation lands and allotments in conjunction with  
42 the Federal Program and what would be highlighted would  
43 be the need for additional funding for the OSM for that  
44 management.

45

46 And so I'm just speaking on that issue  
47 off the top of my head. I'm just concerned about  
48 people -- I got statistical data from the Census  
49 Borough showing that there's been a 10 percent decline  
50 in human population in this statistical region in the

1 last seven years and so I'm concerned about people's  
2 high cost of travel away from their villages to access  
3 resources.

4

5 Any further discussion on our annual  
6 report inclusions at this time.

7

8 Carl.

9

10 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, just one, when  
11 you're talking about the Native Corporation land and  
12 Village Corporation lands and being around Native  
13 allotments are kind of in a different category by  
14 themselves because they are protected -- supposedly  
15 protected -- they're in restricted property protected  
16 by BIA. Nobody that got 160 acres can sell it, they've  
17 got to get an okay from BIA, get an appraisal because  
18 they're protected by BIA under their fiduciary  
19 responsibility. Creditors can't even touch your Native  
20 allotment unless you take it out of restriction, it's  
21 in a restricted status right now protected by BIA,  
22 which is the Federal government. I think that Native  
23 allotment and I would try to address that and get a  
24 clarification on that from BIA, because BIA is a big  
25 player in the Federal Subsistence Board.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The current  
28 interpretation is that Village Corporation lands,  
29 Native Corporation -- Regional Corporation lands and  
30 Native allotments are all private lands and they fall  
31 under State Fish and Game management. And so even  
32 though they're under what's known as a cloud of  
33 protection from taxation and so forth they still have  
34 to have a State season provided to even the allotment  
35 owner to hunt on their own private lands and so that's  
36 where the State Board of Game, as they move further and  
37 further away from providing subsistence opportunities  
38 to rural people in winter hunts and so forth, they're  
39 actually precluding people from utilizing their own  
40 private lands. And so currently they're under --  
41 considered private lands and under State jurisdiction  
42 and so we're exploring various avenues to allow local  
43 people to utilize their lands and so the person can  
44 post their lands, they can hunt there themselves if  
45 they had a State season, if they don't, they can't. So  
46 that's at what point we are in history.

47

48 And so we're exploring various ways to  
49 accommodate that, we'll see what the State Board of  
50 Game does with these proposals that the Western

1 Interior -- these are test proposals and this could  
2 cause ammunition for the Native body of Alaska if the  
3 Board of Game precludes those opportunities, this will  
4 give further ammunition to move forward on Federal  
5 management on the Native Corporation lands.

6

7 And so at this point I have no other  
8 annual report inclusions, does anybody else have any  
9 further annual report.

10

(No comments)

12

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Vince.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: That pretty much closes  
16 it. And for members that may be confused by this,  
17 these are topics, I draft them up, next meeting you  
18 look at them and you decide to adopt them in your  
19 annual report, that's why it doesn't need a motion for  
20 that.

21

22 So that brings us up to organizational  
23 reports. And I think I'll just help Jack out here a  
24 little bit.

25

26 The Native Corporation one that wanted  
27 to be on the agenda, was placed on the agenda was the  
28 Association of Village Council Presidents. I know your  
29 Chair and I have been on the phone quite a bit with  
30 their staff and they have two petitions in your blue  
31 notebook, it looks like this, and I'll wait until you  
32 find them. It just says Association of Village Council  
33 Presidents on the top, August 20th, 2007. And, again,  
34 I never got a reply if they were going to be at this  
35 meeting so I'm just going to cover like one sentence  
36 out of it and then you can decide how much deeper you  
37 want to go into them or in detail.

38

39 It's not in your book, it's in your  
40 blue thing.

41

(Pause)

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Anyways, basically  
45 there's two petitions. The AVCP is compelled to  
46 request the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture  
47 extend jurisdiction in the management of fish and game  
48 on Alaska Native Corporation lands to ensure  
49 subsistence needs are met. So they're asking to extend  
50 Federal jurisdiction over those lands. You just

1 discussed the avenue you're using to deal with seasons,  
2 that's No. 1.

3

4                   No. 2 is to ask for change in the  
5 appointment process in the selection of Regional  
6 Advisory Councils, and basically they would like -- I  
7 don't know what they would like at this moment, the  
8 tribes and Alaska Natives need to be empowered to  
9 choose their representatives. It's pretty much in  
10 front of you.

11

12                   I'm not down playing it, I'm just  
13 uncomfortable carrying their topics and so I'm  
14 providing you copies and it's on the agenda and if  
15 you'd like to take action or have questions I will try  
16 to answer, if I know.

17

18                   (Pause)

19

20                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks for  
21 that overview Vince.

22

23                   The first petition basically is they  
24 took what this Council was discussing in our March  
25 meeting in Aniak and ran with it. They went pell-mell  
26 right to the Secretary and I advised AVCP the proper  
27 procedure would be to build broad Native organization  
28 consensus before approaching the -- and it would have  
29 to go through the delegation and to Congress, but they  
30 went directly to the Secretary of Interior so I don't  
31 know how far they're going to go with that. But it is  
32 moving in the direction that this Council has desired  
33 is to see these private lands of Native Corporations  
34 and Regional Corporations administered by the Federal  
35 government.

36

37                   The second one I'm unclear about  
38 myself.

39

40                   These Native organizations can nominate  
41 enumerable people to the RAC process and there's no  
42 preclusion from that so I'm not sure what they're  
43 requesting with the second petition. And so I'm  
44 bewildered by that one myself so I don't know what they  
45 -- they didn't talk to me about that. They talked to  
46 me about this first one a little bit.

47

48                   So any comments on these petitions from  
49 the Council.

50

1 Ron.

2

3 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do  
4 agree with the first part petitioning the Secretary to  
5 extend Federal jurisdiction to ensure subsistence needs  
6 are met on Alaska Native Corporation lands. I totally  
7 agree with that issue.

8

9 And I do not agree with the second part  
10 because it would create more political animosity, I  
11 think. It would be another AVCP against TCC and I  
12 think that's all it's trying to do.

13

14 I would totally agree with the first  
15 part.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Ron.  
18 This Council has approached the Federal Board on this  
19 Native land issue before and so they're exploring an  
20 avenue to accomplish that and our Council is exploring  
21 other avenues so hopefully we'll meet with the best end  
22 results to providing for these local residents who own  
23 those lands.

24

25 So any further discussion on these  
26 petitions by the Council.

27

28 Ron.

29

30 MR. SAM: Just as a final note. I've  
31 attended a lot of Tanana Chiefs Conferences, annual  
32 meetings, and when it comes to subsistence everybody's  
33 all for subsistence but they give you very little time  
34 because other business takes priority over subsistence  
35 and I think this Federal system is working just fine.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Ron. I  
40 enjoy that perspective. So seeing no further  
41 discussion on these two petitions we are still under  
42 organizational reports and briefings.

43

44 Did we have ADF&G.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: No, I don't think Fish  
47 and Game, I think they've already presented all that  
48 they have.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

1 MR. MATHEWS: And then that would bring  
2 us up to wildlife Refuges and you have an order there,  
3 you can select the order you'd like. But I think the  
4 Council, in this rush to end here, needs to really  
5 think about how we need to structure these meetings  
6 better, not to end up at this point rushing. So I'm  
7 not saying that because the Refuge managers have talked  
8 to me about it, I'm just saying it's not working well  
9 from my perspective.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, we  
12 could take up these reports at the beginning of the  
13 meeting. We had quite a -- at this particular meeting  
14 we had quite a turn out from the public and they were  
15 chomping the bit to address these fisheries issues and  
16 so they're taking time out of their day, they're not on  
17 the clock, they actually may be losing work time, I  
18 personally felt that to prioritize those fisheries  
19 proposals, especially yesterday to allow this -- under  
20 .805 these Councils are a public forum for discussions  
21 so I felt that that was appropriate to allow those  
22 input from the public on those -- although it seemed to  
23 come to no end, it explored the issue further and I  
24 feel confident that in the future that the Department  
25 understands this Council better and the public  
26 understands this Council's objective of addressing this  
27 king salmon size decline.

28  
29 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'm signaling in  
30 two different ways and I'll make it kind of clear to  
31 you, maybe, and, again, it's just food for thought,  
32 maybe two days is not the right limit and that's just  
33 one option to look at it. Now, I realize when we go to  
34 a two year cycle there may be some differences then,  
35 but for example the fisheries projects, you guys want  
36 to know a little bit of summary, I could sense from  
37 some of you, you wanted to know more detail but you  
38 knew you had to move along. And so that's just a  
39 thought to look at an additional day. I know that  
40 makes it five days from some of you guys away from  
41 home, those are different options.

42  
43 That's all I'm signaling here. Because  
44 we always end up at this point, rushing through annual  
45 reports and then kind of rushing through agency  
46 reports. We've modified it now where agency reports  
47 for proposals directly can jump up front but from a  
48 manager's perspective you need to get ahead of when  
49 there's a problem, they're going to be signaling to you  
50 there may be a problem down the road and it's jammed at

1 the end of the meeting.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Those are my opinions.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: They're not OSM's.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right, that's true.

12 We may -- we'll have to look at the agenda itself and

13 try to determine if it needs a two and a half day and

14 departure in the afternoon of that third day, at least

15 to get started on the way home.

16

17 And so at this time I'd like to see,

18 well, I'm looking at Innoko who's closest to the table,

19 might as well get Innoko up here.

20

21 MR. SCHAFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 Board. My name is Bill Schaff, Refuge manager of

23 Innoko National Wildlife Refuge, and with me is Greg

24 Birkenfeld, Deputy manager at Innoko. This is Greg's

25 first meeting that he's had the opportunity to attend

26 so, you know, I'd like to thank him for coming.

27

28 One of the thing I was requested was

29 they were talking about the moose population estimates

30 and there's a couple page detailed report in front of

31 you and I'll go ahead and try to get through it pretty

32 quick.

33

34 The conservation of moose and their

35 habitat was one of the reasons that Congress created

36 Innoko. Ever since it's creation Innoko Staff has been

37 searching for ways to monitor moose population and

38 habitats, especially tying the two together; without

39 habitat you don't have moose.

40

41 The first attempt to count moose

42 occurred in 1982 using SuperCub aircraft in three small

43 areas. In 1987 Innoko Staff and Department of Fish and

44 Game biologists attempted the first Refuge wide

45 estimate of moose density. And in 1990 Staff began

46 evaluating other ways to estimate moose populations.

47 One of the things we've been looking at, all the State

48 of Alaska, Fish and Game, all the different Refuges

49 throughout the state are trying to get their moose

50 estimates done at one time, it creates a real crunch on

1 personnel, on aircraft, on a lot of equipment and  
2 needs, so we were looking at other possibilities. And  
3 that is the reason we're looking at some of the  
4 different methods.

5  
6 And by 1994, the methods that have been  
7 developed to count moose using a single helicopter  
8 rather than four to six SuperCubs. The helicopter  
9 counting method allows Innoko Staff to estimate the  
10 total number of moose, their density on the Refuge  
11 versus the index count currently used by Alaska  
12 Department of Fish and Game. similar numbers, similar  
13 information, just how you extrapolate the data.

14  
15 Innoko estimates the size and density  
16 in the moose population over one-half of the Refuge in  
17 February or early March, every even numbered year. It  
18 takes a crew of four people, a pilot, a data recorder,  
19 a navigator, and two observers, approximately four to  
20 five days to cover half the Refuge. The difference  
21 between the 1994 and 1998 counts is believed to be due  
22 more to our gaining experience with a method to count  
23 moose rather than increase in the population. Although  
24 a census effort was planned in 2006, we were unable to  
25 carry it out due to snow cover, there was inadequate  
26 snow cover and now a window of availability of  
27 helicopters and Staff were just plain unavailable, the  
28 helicopter time was not there.

29  
30 Trend counts have been attempted three  
31 times in the history of the Refuge, inconsistent snow  
32 cover during November along with unsafe landing  
33 conditions in November have combined to prevent the  
34 Refuge from considering trend counts since the 1990s.  
35 Where we're doing a lot of our work there's no local  
36 communities nearby. Grayling, Shageluk being the  
37 closest to, which is still quite a ways from the  
38 northern half of the Refuge, so our field camp is  
39 ideally situated in the northern half of the Refuge,  
40 however, November, without adequate ice coverage we  
41 cannot safely land there so the reason for that  
42 statement.

43  
44 In general we have found that moose  
45 densities are more than two times higher along the  
46 Yukon River than in other parts of the Refuge, that  
47 being the Innoko River and Iditarod. Along the Yukon  
48 River moose densities increase as you move north to  
49 south, you get down between Grayling and the area south  
50 of that, going down all the way to Holy Cross

1 increases. Approximately 97 percent of all the moose  
2 on the Refuge are found along the rivers in the winter  
3 at least. It is difficult to say specifically what is  
4 happening to the moose population due the extent of  
5 time it takes to cover the entire Refuge. In general  
6 it appears the moose over the northern half of the  
7 Refuge may be declining, however, due to the confidence  
8 intervals of our population estimates they overlap  
9 between the '98 and 2002 census, so the hard numbers  
10 went down a little, the confidence intervals were  
11 within parameter. So we cannot say for sure.

12  
13                   Due to the adverse weather conditions  
14 encountered in 2004, we were unable to do a moose  
15 census, in 2005, which is not on your statement, we did  
16 a combined coordinated effort with Alaska Department of  
17 Fish and Game to count moose not only on Innoko Refuge  
18 but off the Refuge and that was a combined count with  
19 Fish and Game and BLM and we counted all the way down  
20 to and including south of Shageluk, Holy Cross, the  
21 whole area which is a lot of 21-E.

22  
23                   Future plans include a census in late  
24 February and March of next year, 2008, and we do --  
25 we're planning it, we have fuel on board now, another  
26 problem we have is because of the distance to  
27 anywheres, all of our fuel for helicopters or aircraft  
28 has to be brought out the summer before we do a census,  
29 so, i.e., 2007 for a 2008 survey. We do have a  
30 stockpile of fuel, helicopter fuel and aircraft fuel  
31 out there now ready to do a survey this year, hopefully  
32 weather will allow us to do it.

33  
34                   So that's it.

35  
36                   The numbers we have and one of the  
37 things I would like to state is I will get this same  
38 report to Member Walker because I know he had some  
39 issues with some of our numbers, I don't know where he  
40 came up with that 7,000 moose estimate number unless he  
41 was looking at the combined one that we did with the  
42 State, which included a lot of lands off the Refuge as  
43 well as on the Refuge. We're estimating, as you can  
44 see here, 2002, over the last few years, we're looking  
45 at roughly, you know, 1,700 moose on the north half of  
46 the Refuge, 1,900/2,000 on the south half, so 3,500 to  
47 almost 4,000 total. The Refuge itself is about 3.5  
48 million acres in size therefore the density is shown on  
49 your report.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to know  
2 what your bull/cow ratios have been showing in your  
3 last -- where you could get bull/cow ratios?  
4

5                   MR. SCHAFF: It's been awhile since  
6 we've been able to due to the -- you know, doing  
7 surveys in the spring it precludes us from doing the  
8 bull/cow ratios, they're not as easily done so they're  
9 not very accurate at all in the spring. And in the  
10 fall, like I said, we have not done bull/cow ratios for  
11 quite some number of years and it would have been the  
12 late '90s since we did any so they wouldn't be accurate  
13 now.  
14

15                   One of the things we would like to do  
16 is include -- is cooperate with the State Department of  
17 Fish and Game to look at bull/cow ratios on and off the  
18 Refuge in much the same areas we did the survey, it  
19 would have been several years ago now, in 2005.  
20

21                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I would like  
22 to track these bull/cow ratios fairly closely.  
23 Robert's indicating that they're seeing a lot more air  
24 taxi activities and so tracking those bull/cow ratios  
25 are pretty important.  
26

27                   Continue.  
28

29                   MR. SCHAFF: Okay. The next page  
30 talking about air taxi's and guides, is the data up  
31 until 2006. The data for 2007, this year's hunt, most  
32 of it should be on my desk by the time I arrive, the  
33 guide's and air taxi's have to get it to me within a  
34 month after September so October 31, it should be on my  
35 desk.  
36

37                   To-date, the ones that I had before I  
38 left, it's looking like a year very much like 2006  
39 where we had only two air taxi operators, you know,  
40 only issued five permits, there was only two operators  
41 that actively operated on the Refuge. None of the  
42 guides worked -- one of the guides on the Refuge passed  
43 away a year ago and we'll be working to reissue that  
44 guide unit area to another guide, so that area's  
45 vacant. The other guide had medical reasons. Last  
46 year he didn't operate on the Refuge so you can look at  
47 that as either good or bad. We didn't have that number  
48 of clients coming onto the Refuge from the guides, so  
49 that allowed for a lower take this year.  
50

1                   As far as the take goes, if you look on  
2 the next page, it has 2004 through 2006, I'm  
3 guesstimating from the time I spend on the Refuge  
4 conducting law enforcement patrols, about the same as  
5 last year, eight to 10 moose taken by the air taxi  
6 operators.

7  
8                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, that's  
9 a fairly significant decline from 2004, so any  
10 questions on the moose and transporter, guide for  
11 Innoko.

12  
13                   Ron.

14  
15                   MR. SAM: I'd just like to thank you  
16 for your patience and I really like your report here.  
17 These well spelled out and pretty simple and easy to  
18 understand.

19  
20                   Thank you.

21  
22                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Do you have  
23 continuance of your report.

24  
25                   MR. SCHAFF: Going on to the rest of  
26 this last year 2007, and I'm sure you're going to hear  
27 this from Kenton, Koyukuk/Nowitna, we were under the  
28 directive to complete a CCP, Conservation Plan, and we  
29 are to the point now where we have completed it, we did  
30 village visits last winter of this year, of 2007 in six  
31 villages, the four GASH villages, Kaltag, actually  
32 seven, McGrath and Takotna, we'll be going around to  
33 those villages again within the next two to three  
34 months with a draft copy of our new CCP plan. That has  
35 overshadowed a lot of the rest of our field work this  
36 year, all of our professional Staff has spent a lot of  
37 time writing that plan. We have a small Staff at  
38 Innoko, we did lose one of our biologist to a transfer  
39 and that position for budget reasons will not be  
40 refilled, however, we had two other retirements this  
41 year, an airplane pilot and that position is being  
42 advertised right now and our admin person, long-time  
43 admin person, Ray Collins', Member Collins' wife  
44 retired this year so we'll be refilling that position  
45 also.

46  
47                   And other than that biological projects  
48 that are ongoing, you know, breeding bird surveys,  
49 banding Interior white-fronted geese, banding pintails  
50 in corporation with Avian Influenza work stuff that

1 you've heard me talk about in past years, those are our  
2 routine operations that we were able to keep going even  
3 though we did spend a lot of time in front of computers  
4 writing the CCP.

5  
6 Law enforcement, we did spend a fair  
7 amount of time in September conducting law enforcement  
8 patrols out on the Refuge both by small aircraft with  
9 the assistance of Jerry Floyd from Galena via boat, and  
10 that kind of wraps up our year for this year.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any Council  
13 comments.

14  
15 Don.

16  
17 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm  
18 just going to -- I just had a few questions about your  
19 moose population and whether it was consistent with  
20 years before and such, and I've been reminded in the  
21 past that as reps we represent not only our immediate  
22 area but the whole area as well so in view of not  
23 having Mr. Walker here, you know, I just wanted to know  
24 what the numbers were like there and whether you had a  
25 predator problem as well. I mean it seems as if -- I  
26 mean in the Fairbanks paper last week there were wolves  
27 coming into a village, I believe it was Marshall, down  
28 the Yukon, and, you know, that's kind of halfway  
29 between here -- I mean Innoko is halfway, I mean I  
30 thought maybe you had an update on that or something.

31  
32 MR. SCHAFF: What I'm seeing right now,  
33 for some reason, I don't know if it's due to changes in  
34 vegetation, a lot of the moose are not congregating  
35 along the rivers early in the -- especially early in  
36 the hunting season, early in September and I believe  
37 you're seeing some of the same stuff in other areas and  
38 that's why people are pushing to have later seasons.  
39 It seems like the moose are not coming down to the  
40 rivers very early. When I'm flying law enforcement  
41 patrols I'm seeing moose but they're not right near the  
42 river and I'm sure if you were in a boat people would  
43 go by a lot of these moose all day long and never even  
44 see the moose. So that's one thing there, that they're  
45 just not in a huntable, visible condition.

46  
47 As far as predators go, I have a -- my  
48 gut feeling is our moose population is going down a  
49 little, but wolf population is going down a little too.  
50 You know the moose population has appeared to be going

1 down even though the hard statistical numbers don't  
2 reflect this, I think it's been going down slightly  
3 over the last few years and I believe the wolf  
4 populations are following that decline, less food,  
5 therefore, less predators and less predation. I  
6 believe it's a cyclic thing. But right now that's my  
7 gut feeling, that's not anything I have hard data to  
8 back up.

9  
10 MR. HONEA: Yeah, the reason why I, I  
11 talked one person in the GASH area from Anvik and he  
12 was saying that a lot of people were successful in  
13 their moose attempts so, you know, i was just wondering  
14 overall what the region was like and like I said, you  
15 know, I believe that for each of us we should be  
16 concerned about each other's region and I appreciate  
17 your comments, thank you.

18  
19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you,  
22 Don. Any further comments.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate your  
27 waiting patiently for your presentation. I apologize  
28 for all of the delay but we do appreciate your  
29 portrayal and our primary concerns are the competition  
30 with the subsistence users and so you've laid that out  
31 very graphically and I'm somewhat pleased to see that  
32 these numbers of moose harvested are declining at least  
33 exponential to the moose population so I appreciate  
34 that.

35  
36 So any further questions.

37  
38 (No comments)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If not, thank you  
41 very much.

42  
43 MR. SCHAFF: And one more thing that I  
44 might add, that, we have been working with the State on  
45 the lower Innoko River Moose Management plan and one of  
46 the things that we decided with the folks in the  
47 villages is to monitor the moose take over years and  
48 try to come up with some type of a trigger as you were  
49 talking about earlier to implement some other actions  
50 and right now it seems like we may not have to be doing

1 anything. It may take another year to determine if  
2 that is true or not but my gut feelings right now is to  
3 hold off until another year and see how the moose  
4 population responds and also how the, both the  
5 subsistence and non-subsistence hunters respond.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I appreciate  
8 that data collection also. Thank you.

9  
10 MR. SCHAFF: Thank you.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I guess  
13 Koyukuk/Nowitna. And, again, I appreciate your long  
14 patience here, Kenton, and so go right ahead.

15  
16 MR. MOOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
17 Council members. My name is Kenton Moos, I'm the  
18 Refuge manager for Koyukuk/Nowitna National Wildlife  
19 Refuge stationed here in Galena. Along with me in the  
20 back is Brad Scotten, our supervisory biologist and one  
21 of our newer employees, Kevin Whitworth, who is our  
22 subsistence specialists, he's an assistant manager who  
23 just arrived here this spring, he's replacing Geoff  
24 Byersdorf who moved down to Kenai.

25  
26 I'm going to make this very, very  
27 brief, just to save on some time here.

28  
29 One of the biggest things that we've  
30 had going on in this past year as well, this coming  
31 year, is our CCP. Right now we are just going to be  
32 completing our prescoping meetings, we're scheduled for  
33 Huslia tomorrow which would have been our final  
34 meeting. Unfortunately there was a death in the  
35 village so that's going to be postponed, but we should  
36 be finishing up those prescoping meetings very shortly.  
37 And we hope, it's a fairly ambitious schedule that we  
38 have, but we're hoping by next fall that to have our  
39 draft CCP out and we will definitely -- everybody on  
40 the Council here will receive copies of that and we  
41 would appreciate any comments that you have at any time  
42 regarding the management of the Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge.  
43 I know Don has provided some comments and stuff in our  
44 meeting and we do appreciate that.

45  
46 So very quickly, this past year, as far  
47 as our biological program, it's pretty much the same as  
48 we've been doing in the past number of years, we looked  
49 at waterfowl, including swans, geese and ducks,  
50 conducted our banding and Avian Influenza testing as

1 well at two different sites.

2

3                   For moose, we're going to be beginning  
4 our moose trend counts shortly, probably next week,  
5 weather and snow permitting. It's looking pretty good  
6 right now as far as the conditions. And in our spring  
7 meeting coming up, we definitely will provide results  
8 in a much more extensive manner for you at that time.  
9 I believe this past spring they did cover -- Staff did  
10 cover that at the Aniak meeting.

11

12                   So, again, there is a study that we  
13 have been participating in cooperation with the  
14 University as well as USGS, a moose collaring program  
15 which they're primarily looking at nutritional  
16 questions in calves and in particular they're looking  
17 at the female calves and Brad can, if you have any  
18 questions regarding that Brad is here and he can answer  
19 a lot of -- any of those questions.

20

21                   We're continuing to look at caribou, in  
22 particularly, we're monitoring the Galena Mountain  
23 Herd, again, that's very low numbers for that herd,  
24 there's currently no open season on that but we are  
25 monitoring that as well. We've got some collars on  
26 some animals there.

27

28                   I believe they've just about completed  
29 some beaver cache surveys in the Koyukuk, we looked at  
30 this year, and we'll continue to do those.

31

32                   Wolves. We did attempt to do a wolf  
33 survey this past spring but because snow conditions did  
34 not allow for that we were unable to do it. We would  
35 like to do it probably this spring but with our CCP  
36 it's up in the air as well and if we've got the time  
37 we'll try to do that as well.

38

39                   Another interesting thing that went on  
40 in the Refuge this year is some research that was done  
41 on lake drying. This was a cooperative effort, again,  
42 with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. This is  
43 looking at different components of lakes, including  
44 soil types, hydrology and a bunch of a different  
45 things. It's a repeat study that occurred, I believe,  
46 about 20 years ago and what they're trying to do is  
47 come up with a model to predict lake drying and we will  
48 hopefully getting more information on that study as  
49 they complete their work.

50

1                   We were also fairly busy this year with  
2 subsistence hunts and fisheries. Again, we administer  
3 a Federal fisheries here on the Yukon River, two areas  
4 which we do provide the permits here out of Galena, as  
5 well as Ruby. And then we also administered the fall  
6 extension season to 21-B, and we will be looking at  
7 three different possible openings this winter, 21-B,  
8 21-D, and 24-D as well and we'll be contacting Jack  
9 when -- for his input into those hunts as well.

10  
11                   Another addition we have on Staff this  
12 year is we do have a full-time officer now, his name is  
13 Jerry Floyd. This past year he was very busy  
14 completing his flight training, but he's pretty much  
15 completed that so he'll be much more out in the field  
16 this coming year.

17  
18                   So with that I'm going to open it up to  
19 questions, if you have any questions, and hopefully  
20 this spring's meeting we will have a little better  
21 opportunity to provide some of this information for  
22 you, a little more time hopefully.

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Kenton.  
25 You got any questions for Koyukuk/Nowitna on various  
26 projects.

27  
28                   Don, go ahead.

29  
30                   MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
31 don't have a question but I'd like to publicly thank  
32 the Wildlife Refuge Staff for, Kevin and Bob and his  
33 wife there, for manning the station, you know, it was  
34 pretty late and it started snowing and stuff and, you  
35 know, to kind of have a reason for that late hunt there  
36 was maybe I told you, maybe I didn't, that there was a  
37 couple of parties from Tanana, too, but they happened  
38 to get a moose but I want to thank them for staying  
39 that extra week and it's on the books and, you know,  
40 because of the proposal we put in last fall and, you  
41 know, the people from Ruby appreciate that.

42  
43                   Thank you.

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other Council  
46 member questions for Refuge Staff, Koyukuk/Nowitna.

47  
48                   (No comments)

49  
50                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have just one

1 brief question. The actions of this Council to submit  
2 a proposal to the State Board of Game for conjunction  
3 hunts, that overlap the Federal hunts, do you think  
4 that those actions will address your management  
5 concerns for the expense of administration?  
6

7 MR. MOOS: As far as expense for  
8 administration, they do have a system in place already,  
9 an administrative system in place through their  
10 licensing that I think would alleviate some of the  
11 pressure from us as far as financially, and then also,  
12 too, I'm a firm believer that if the State and the  
13 Feds, as well as the local users can come together and  
14 co-manage I think we're all so much better off. And by  
15 bringing those seasons into alignment I believe it will  
16 be a lot smoother process as well as alleviate some of  
17 the tensions between all the different parties.  
18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you. I  
20 appreciate your perspective on that so thanks a lot.  
21

22 MR. STICKMAN: Jack.  
23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mickey.  
25

26 MR. STICKMAN: Me, too, I just wanted  
27 to publicly thank Kenton and Kevin for making trips to  
28 Nulato during the Nulato Tribal Council meetings and  
29 during the Nulato Tribes general meetings to share  
30 information with the local users.  
31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I appreciate  
33 your outreach to the communities also.  
34

35 Any other questions.  
36

37 (No comments)  
38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got something  
40 there, Vince.  
41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I can cover Kanuti,  
43 if you would like, when that time comes.  
44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we've come  
46 to Kanuti, and Kanuti presented the primary issues, the  
47 enforcement and possible guiding activities on the  
48 Refuge and so forth and so you could maybe just bounce  
49 off some of the high points of their CCP and -- if  
50 you'd like.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I won't touch their  
2 CCP because I haven't been exposed to that.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: The main things I was  
7 going to get across to you is there was a Refuge report  
8 in there on Page 184, it is a lengthy report but that's  
9 in response to your requests in the past, you have time  
10 to read those at other times.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: I also wanted to inform  
15 you that, you know, usually Wennona's here to do that,  
16 Wennona Brown, she's been recently acting the Refuge  
17 manager for Yukon Flats and she's just swamped with the  
18 EIS and the .810 analysis between that land exchange  
19 between Doyon and the Yukon Flats.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: So that's kind of why  
24 she's not here, just so you know. I mean I'm sure that  
25 she would like to be here but due to her temporary  
26 detail and then assigned to draft the .810 analysis for  
27 that EIS she just cannot even think of this meeting.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: So that's it. And then  
32 finally you've had a long working relationship with  
33 Geoff Byersdorf, I got through different parties that  
34 he said to say, hi, and when they said he's at the  
35 Kenai he's gone from the frying pan into the fire.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: So he is working at the  
40 Kenai Refuge with all those issues dealing with the  
41 Kenai Peninsula and all those issues but he did say to  
42 say hi.

43

44 And that's all I can say for Refuges,  
45 and I do have a Park Service report.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate Geoff  
48 Byersdorf's work here and he was highly respected by  
49 the local people here and this Council.

50

1 My wife Kristin is here, if anybody had  
2 comments to the Kanuti Refuge. She is working -- she  
3 works as an interpretative ranger at the Visitor  
4 Information Center, but she works in conjunction with  
5 public outreach and so if anybody has comments on the  
6 report that Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge has in our  
7 book here, she can take those comments back to Mike  
8 Spindler, so we're not totally cut off by Wennona, we  
9 have Kristin here also.

10

11 Any comments.

12

13

14 Ron.

15

16 MR. SAM: Yes, I would like to welcome  
17 our newest Kanuti employee and I took it for granted  
18 that she was going to give this report and I would just  
19 like to recognize Kristin Reakoff.

20

21 I don't have any questions for her but  
22 I just really would like to express my appreciation for  
23 all the hard work that the Innoko Wildlife Refuge and  
24 the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge, I was just looking at the  
25 Innoko Wildlife Refuge moose per square mile percentage  
26 and it also matches ours and I know all the trouble  
27 that it has caused and all the concerns that are  
28 expressed to you with the low moose density that we  
29 have and I just wanted to let both of you know that I  
30 appreciate all of your efforts in trying to reconstruct  
31 or rebuild these moose herds.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comment would be  
40 that I appreciated Mike Spindler attending this meeting  
41 and clarifying some issues before this Council. I also  
42 recognize their report as many of the projects that the  
43 Council has brought before the Kanuti Refuge has been  
44 maintained and expanded upon and including vegetation  
45 and analysis and so forth. And so I appreciate all of  
46 our Refuge Staff projects that are occurring within  
47 this region to a better understanding of the resources  
48 that the subsistence users utilize in this region. And  
49 so I wanted to get that on the record also.

50

51 So at this time any further comments on

1 the Refuge.

2

3 MR. SAM: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ron.

6

7 MR. SAM: Yes, one of the reason that I  
8 don't have any real questions for Kanuti is that we  
9 work in real close relationships with Kanuti Wildlife  
10 Refuge because of our moose issues, number 1, and we do  
11 have about three or four meetings a year with the  
12 Allakaket/Alatna people and the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge  
13 Staff. We do have -- just talking with Mike before he  
14 left, is that, we do have another one scheduled for  
15 January for discussions.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you have a  
18 comment, Kristin.

19

20 MS. REAKOFF: Yeah, I just wanted to  
21 make one note that the entire update is in your book  
22 starting on Page 184 and that Mike passed out the  
23 supplemental sheet and that that should be included  
24 when you're reading the update.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yeah, we had  
27 those.

28

29 MS. REAKOFF: And that supplemental  
30 sheet goes over the March bulls only hunt, too.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

33

34 MS. REAKOFF: It's additional  
35 information.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is in our  
38 packet here so we were made aware of the placement in  
39 our booklet here. And so I think we've covered the  
40 Refuges.

41

42 So we have next on the agenda here,  
43 Vince.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, the next would be  
46 Park Service and I just have a small report on that.

47

48 Some of you may or may not know that  
49 Fred Andersen, who was your fisheries biologists for  
50 Gates of the Arctic and Yukon-Charley periodically

1 would attend your meetings, he has retired, and he  
2 retired with his wife. But anyways that's part of the  
3 message that I got here to convey.

4  
5 But the other part is that you've  
6 worked closely over the years with Gates of the Arctic  
7 and that superintendent Dave Mills has moved on to a  
8 job in Anchorage and the new Refuge manager for Arctic  
9 and Yukon-Charley -- Gates of the Arctic is Greg Dungen  
10 if I got it correct, and he's currently the  
11 superintendent for Sitka National Park and he's worked  
12 in the Kotzebue area and in the Fairbanks office so  
13 he's quite familiar with Alaska issues and life in the  
14 rural areas.

15  
16 Jack has already mentioned that the  
17 Gates of the Arctic SRC is meeting November 7th and  
18 8th.

19  
20 And let's see what else they gave me  
21 here.

22  
23 They are anticipating a vacancy  
24 announcement for Fred's position in the next month or  
25 so.

26  
27 And I think that is it. And in all  
28 respect to Ray Collins, he usually brings forth what's  
29 happening with the Denali Subsistence Resource  
30 Commission, and obviously he's absent here and so I  
31 don't know of any issues with the Denali that this  
32 Council needs to be aware of. And they do have a new  
33 coordinator for their SRC and that's Amy Craver. So  
34 I'll try, when I talk to her, to see if there's a time  
35 when she could actually come to one of your meetings.  
36 And other than that I don't know of any other issues  
37 that the Park Service has.

38  
39 Nancy just wanted to say thanks for the  
40 meeting, and, et cetera, but she shared these other  
41 notes. Nancy Swanton, who was here earlier.

42  
43 And that's all I have for the Park  
44 Service.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. And one side  
47 note on Dave Mills, he's moving up into the Park  
48 Service subsistence management, so we're not going to  
49 be seeing the end of Dave Mills, he will be at the  
50 Federal Subsistence Board in conjunction with Judy and

1 the Regional Director.

2

3 So other agencies and groups.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: None that we know  
8 of. The Regional Council appointments.

9

10 Correspondence received and sent by  
11 Vince Mathews.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that's basically  
14 that one page in your thing, you get copies of it.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: If you have any questions  
19 on it, I've just changed that system now a little bit.  
20 I've scanned them all in, they're in the computer over  
21 there. So if you definitely want to see  
22 correspondence, I have them, so I don't have anything  
23 other than you can look at the list of sent and  
24 received.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So in regards to  
27 Regional Council appointments, I have my application  
28 for reappointment that I'm going to submit, on the  
29 record.

30

31 So we're down to future meeting plans,  
32 meeting plans, dates and locations, the winter of '08  
33 meeting and the fall of '08 meeting.

34

35 So I open the floor to discussion on  
36 the winter '08 meeting coming up. So we're looking at  
37 our blue.....

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: It would be in your  
40 packet, a blue thing like this.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right, I see it.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: And I can kind of help  
45 you with this to give you an idea, I know my writing is  
46 not always the best.

47

48 I'm supposed to encourage you because  
49 of Staffing and other reasons not to have more than two  
50 Council meetings per week. You've already selected, a

1 year ago, I think it was, well, at your last meeting  
2 that you wanted to meet February 28th and 29th in  
3 Fairbanks with the back up of McGrath.

4  
5 I caution you, to say, two things, one,  
6 you've already said that you're going to be reviewing  
7 Board of Game proposals which starts on February 29th,  
8 so if you're really going to honor that then you've got  
9 to meet before that or during the Board meeting.

10  
11 And then, further, I need to caution  
12 you as your coordinator, Fairbanks is not within your  
13 region so you're meeting outside your region.

14  
15 And that's it, you can read all the  
16 other notes there. Yes, Eastern Interior is meeting,  
17 their first choice is February 25th and 26th, they're  
18 going to meet in Tok, the Chair's made that very clear  
19 for several years to meet in Tok, so we're meeting in  
20 Tok. Why do I bring that up, you may consider moving  
21 theirs to Fairbanks, that will be extremely difficult  
22 to get that approved from Eastern Interior.

23  
24 So that gives you the calendar, you can  
25 look at it, and look at the dates and see if you want  
26 to maintain where you're at.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Our Council meeting  
29 would be overlapping the first day of the State Board  
30 of Game and I think that we can still make comment to  
31 the Board of Game because the sign up list is usually  
32 so long it takes two days to go through all the public  
33 comments, so I would still adhere to those meeting  
34 dates, with concurrence of the Council.

35  
36 Are those dates still acceptable to the  
37 Council.

38  
39 Go ahead, Ron.

40  
41 MR. SAM: I think it would be more than  
42 acceptable. It gives a lot of the Council members a  
43 chance to go before the State Board of Game at their  
44 meeting in Fairbanks, too, and I will be pushing these  
45 dates at our Council meetings and hopefully we can find  
46 some money to send more people to attend this meeting  
47 along with the State Board of Game meeting at  
48 Fairbanks.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that's a good

1 point Ron. Meeting out of region is typically frowned  
2 upon, but the State Board of Game meeting is in  
3 conjunction with these meeting dates and it would be  
4 conducive to this Council to have input because we're  
5 stepping out on new waters with some of our proposals  
6 and so I think that it would behoove this Council to  
7 have that meeting in Fairbanks because of that issue.

8

9 Any other comments by the Council on  
10 these meeting dates and place.

11

12 MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ron.

15

16 MR. SAM: Yes. We usually do appoint  
17 one of our members to attend the meeting anyway so, you  
18 know, it would be right there so I was just wondering  
19 do we have to appoint a person to then attend the State  
20 Board of Game meeting.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that that  
23 can be addressed at our meeting at that time because  
24 we'll have, hopefully a full Council there and we'll  
25 be able to select the person that would be most adept  
26 at presenting the proposals for the Council before the  
27 State Board of Game. And so I see this is a leap year,  
28 and so any other discussion on that meeting, place and  
29 date.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, I think  
34 it's acceptable to the Council still at this time for  
35 the above addressed reasons.

36

37 So the next meeting we have to address  
38 is the spring meeting and so I would really like input  
39 from the Council on spring carnivals and various things  
40 that conflict with these meeting dates so I'll open it  
41 for Council discussion.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're not on a Game  
46 Board cycle that would conflict with our spring meeting  
47 next year and the only concern would be spring  
48 carnivals and -- go ahead Vince.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: Well, if you're looking

1 at Page -- no, spring carnivals though.....  
2  
3 MR. STICKMAN: No spring carnivals.  
4  
5 MR. MATHEWS: No spring carnivals.  
6  
7 MR. STICKMAN: You're looking at  
8 the.....  
9  
10 MR. MATHEWS: 191. If you're looking  
11 at 191, that's the fall schedule, not spring.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I'm looking at  
14 the wrong one.  
15  
16 MR. MATHEWS: And so you've already  
17 done your spring one with February 25th and -- I mean  
18 February 28th and 29th, the leap year.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, excuse me, my  
21 mistake.  
22  
23 MR. MATHEWS: Now, you're looking at  
24 the fall one.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I need another Red  
27 Bull.  
28  
29 (Laughter)  
30  
31 MR. MATHEWS: And, again, I just have  
32 to go through this, we're trying to avoid two meetings  
33 per week.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.  
36  
37 MR. MATHEWS: I've already voiced  
38 internally in the office that you've made it clear to  
39 me every year that if I even mention having a meeting  
40 in September it's not going to work.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.  
43  
44 MR. STICKMAN: Well, actually for me  
45 the first week in September would work for me because  
46 it seems like now with the moose hunting issues and how  
47 things work out in the fall time, it seems like the  
48 later you hunt in September the better off you are.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have hunting

1 conflicts myself, we're hunting sheep at that time of  
2 year so those are bad times for me.

3

4 Other Council member input on meeting  
5 dates.

6

7 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I would  
8 just as soon, I mean the ones that we've held in the  
9 past about the 5th of October or somewhere -- I realize  
10 this one's a little later than usual, but that always  
11 worked for me.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're -- am I  
16 reading this correctly we have -- who is this SP,  
17 that's Seward Peninsula RAC.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, that's Seward  
20 Peninsula RAC, October 1st and 2nd.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And they've already  
23 picked the first.....

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: And then Yukon-Kuskokwim,  
26 October 2nd and 3rd.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so.....

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: And so I think to save  
31 time for you, if you look at this and you look at your  
32 Staffing, my assessment is is you're going to have to  
33 request to meet outside of the meeting window.  
34 Staffing for YK can't be in two places at once so that  
35 throws out then. The following week already has three  
36 meetings. And then Eastern Interior jumped on you  
37 meeting in Ft. Yukon so your Staff can't be in two  
38 places at once.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. And so I  
41 would be more inclined to take the, what would that be  
42 19, 20, it'd be the 21 and 22 of the next week, outside  
43 the window, because of overlaps of Staff, and so how  
44 are those dates for the Council.

45

46 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, I have no problems  
47 with those dates as long as you make that request.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those aren't in  
50 conflict with AFN.

1 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, that's possible it  
2 could be in conflict with AFN.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well.....

5  
6 MR. STICKMAN: I would think like the  
7 first week in November would be a better date because  
8 AFN would be over.

9  
10 (Laughter)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I'm sure that  
13 OSM would want to push us closer to the window. Can we  
14 push it back one day, could we travel on Sunday and  
15 start on Monday.....

16  
17 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we could.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....the 20th and  
20 Tuesday the.....

21  
22 MR. MATHEWS: That's always an option,  
23 Saturday, Sundays, et cetera, the only thing is for you  
24 guys, some of you guys won't -- planes are less so you  
25 may have to fly earlier. It's not as critical with  
26 your region, Eastern Interior is, two people we have on  
27 the Council they have no planes on the weekend.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

30  
31 MR. MATHEWS: So they have to come in  
32 the previous week.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do Council members  
35 have access to air carriers on the weekend for travel.

36  
37 MR. STICKMAN: Well, we do in Nulato  
38 but I was just wondering where are we going to have the  
39 meeting at.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that could be  
42 an issue. We had McGrath as our alternate for the  
43 spring meeting and I would suggest McGrath for our fall  
44 meeting and going back on to the Kuskokwim side.

45  
46 MR. HONEA: I agree.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other Council  
49 members input on McGrath for the fall meeting.

50

1 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair. I think that  
2 would be a good idea.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. And so I  
5 would like to know what the calendar is for AFN,  
6 whether we can go the 21st and 22nd still, that's a lot  
7 easier to travel on the -- where I fly from they only  
8 have one plane per day and I won't make any connecting  
9 flights, whereas if I get an early morning plane I can  
10 make connecting flights and travel to McGrath that same  
11 day and so in that timeframe.

12  
13 Vince, you had comment.

14  
15 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think what you're  
16 saying here is your first choice is October 21st and  
17 22nd in McGrath, if that conflicts with AFN your second  
18 choice is 17th and 18th, I'm not sure on that or 18th  
19 and 19th.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, like maybe  
22 17th and 18th, that might be just as good, how about  
23 the 16th and 17th, we'd actually stay in the window.

24  
25 MR. MATHEWS: Well, the challenge with  
26 that is I'm in Ft. Yukon.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. Right, you've  
29 got to travel.

30  
31 (Laughter)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, 17th and 18th  
34 as a second pick.

35  
36 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, Mr. Chair, I'll  
37 agree but, you know, you got a little pissed off at  
38 Winchell for missing and I represent Nulato and Galena  
39 and.....

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

42  
43 MR. STICKMAN: .....Kaltag and Koyukuk  
44 at AFN so if it's anywhere close to AFN I probably  
45 wouldn't be able to make it.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

48  
49 MR. STICKMAN: So I'll let you know one  
50 year in advance.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Typically  
2 AFN is in the third week in October and so I attend SRC  
3 Chair meetings and those are typically in that -- AFN  
4 typically starts around Wednesday or something in the  
5 third week.

6  
7 MR. STICKMAN: No, it's Thursday,  
8 Friday, Saturday.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thursday, Friday,  
11 Saturday so if we go to the 17th and 18th or.....

12  
13 (Pause)

14  
15 MR. MATHEWS: I think what we'll go  
16 forward with, if the Council agrees, is your first  
17 choice, 21st, 22nd.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: Second choice but with  
22 the caveat that you're going to try to meet around AFN,  
23 we just don't know those dates for sure right now.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

26  
27 MR. MATHEWS: And then that would be  
28 clear for planning purposes, you know, if AFN ends up  
29 being certain dates, because Mickey's being gracious  
30 there but it is -- the issues that are revolving, that  
31 are going to be coming up then 21-D, 21-B, 24.....

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

34  
35 MR. MATHEWS: .....Mickey's not here to  
36 cover that area, that.....

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: .....I think the Council  
41 should be concerned of that.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I definitely want  
44 to have Mickey back from AFN for input so if you feel  
45 more comfortable with the 17th and 18th meeting dates I  
46 think that we should probably go with that as a  
47 primarily to assure that he's not weathered out of AFN.  
48 If we go down to McGrath and get stuck down there with  
49 a one day travel time, we don't want to do that.

50

1                   Okay, any further comment.

2

3                   Don.

4

5                   MR. HONEA: Just a comment on that,  
6 too, also, I mean there's myself that usually goes for  
7 any of the organizations, whether it's our corporation  
8 or the tribe, just to keep that in mind.

9

10                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yeah, we've  
11 got half our Council wants to go to AFN so that's  
12 definitely -- and so we should know when that is long  
13 in advance. So any other comments on these meeting  
14 dates and place, place, McGrath, is that acceptable.

15

16                  (Council nods affirmatively)

17

18                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so it sounds  
19 like we've accomplished those meeting dates and places.

20

21                  Council members closing comments and  
22 then adjournment.

23

24                  We'll start with Mickey on the left-  
25 hand side here again.

26

27                  MR. STICKMAN: Okay. For closing  
28 comments, I just wanted to thank the rest of the Board  
29 here, the meeting was really good. The guys that I  
30 talked to before they all left, they figured we pretty  
31 much covered all the basis for the local area and I  
32 know that we all have our own local areas to worry  
33 about and, you know, we haven't met here for awhile in  
34 Galena so -- and they always have a lot of input and  
35 with Sidney being 20 years on the State Board of Game,  
36 and Gilbert with his 12 years on the YRDFA Board, and  
37 with the amount of fishermen that they have here it's  
38 always good to go to places where you can gather a lot  
39 of information, whether it's just subsistence or even  
40 from the commercial side of things.

41

42                  So I just wanted to express that.

43

44                  And thank Vince for all the hard work,  
45 good meeting.

46

47                  And thank Tina.

48

49                  And thank all the Staff that's still  
50 here to see us through the end.

1 Thank Ed for coming down from Ruby to  
2 express his point of view from his Advisory Committee  
3 and that's it.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, thanks,  
6 Mickey. Don.

7  
8 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
9 want to thank the village of Galena for hosting this,  
10 and I think they did an excellent job with all the food  
11 and the hospitality. And I also want to thank Ron for  
12 his -- he's been kind of like a mentor to me over the  
13 years when I first had some questions about whether it  
14 was hunting issues, maybe 10 years ago or something, I  
15 was encouraged by him to fill out proposals or, you  
16 know, to find the right networking for this. And I  
17 want to thank him for his years of service. I realize  
18 that it takes a lot out of a person, it takes a lot of  
19 their time and I'm thankful of Jack here, he's real  
20 knowledgeable and up on the issues.

21  
22 And like I said I'm glad to serve with  
23 each one of you. I would have liked to have seen  
24 Robert and Winchell and Ray because I believe there is  
25 -- with all of them here we have a lot of knowledge,  
26 they have a lot of knowledge that we sometimes -- that  
27 they pass down to us and I'm talking about Ray, you  
28 know, he's been on there a lot of years and sometimes  
29 when we don't -- I guess we don't really miss them  
30 until we don't see them at a meeting but they have a  
31 lot of input about their general area, so, anyway  
32 that's -- that's my closing comments.

33  
34 I thank you.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. And,  
37 Jenny.

38  
39 MS. PELKOLA: Okay, my closing  
40 comments. I would like to see us stick to our agenda.  
41 And I know we've had some speakers from the community  
42 that were long-winded. I think we should let them know  
43 ahead of time what our issues are, what we're speaking  
44 on and limit their times. And I've done this in the  
45 past because I serve on a lot of committees and I'm  
46 president of some of them and you just have to tell  
47 them you have like 10 minutes or five minutes and they  
48 will stick to it and I know Jack was asking me, how do  
49 I stop this so and so, you know, I said, I don't know,  
50 I didn't want to tell them, you know, I mean I could do

1 it.

2

3 Also the money that was made last  
4 night, that was donated was \$390 and I will get it to  
5 the right people in Ruby.

6

7 Member terms, I was just looking at  
8 your member terms over here, I don't know when the term  
9 expires, I see we have some in 2007, what date or what  
10 month or what -- when to when?

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Those appointments are  
15 pending. We should have word any day now. It has been  
16 as late as December that we get those appointments so  
17 the seats for 2007 are pending.

18

19 MS. PELKOLA: Okay.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: So we should know --  
22 well, we'll definitely know by your next meeting who  
23 got selected.

24

25 MS. PELKOLA: So the people like in  
26 2007 already submitted their paperwork?

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, all three of those  
29 did.

30

31 MS. PELKOLA: Okay. And I just want to  
32 say, some people when they're speaking, they don't  
33 really stick to the issues of what we're speaking about  
34 and I don't think many of them understand -- and this  
35 meeting was publicized on the radio and unfortunately  
36 we couldn't reach the other villages because our tower  
37 keeled over but I'm glad that Percy was able to make  
38 it.

39

40 And I think a lot of them don't realize  
41 that they're invited. Maybe it's my fault, I put up  
42 the, what you call, the fliers and I should have  
43 written on there, everyone's invited. My fault. But  
44 I'll remember that in the future.

45

46 And I just want to thank the Board  
47 members here and all the Staff and all the agencies for  
48 your reports. Some of them were long-winded, so in the  
49 future think of shortening them because I'm one, that I  
50 hear the first five minutes and then after that I just

1 lose it, so if they could just make it down to the  
2 point and speak it instead of reading it, it would make  
3 more sense to me.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny.

8 Carl.

9

10 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, my echoes are the  
11 same as what everybody else says, I wouldn't repeat  
12 them.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. MORGAN: I think for some of the  
17 Staff they should get their directions from Polly over  
18 there, right to the point.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MR. MORGAN: Short.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MR. MORGAN: It's up to us to do our  
27 homework, we get their report and we do read it and  
28 when we do have questions we do put them out. Some  
29 meetings are like this, we had some hard decisions but,  
30 you know, we didn't want to vote for them, but that's  
31 why we're here. It's like Ron said, we're damned if we  
32 do, damned if we don't. But, hey, that's why we're  
33 here, we're here to make some of those hard decisions  
34 and we're not here to please everybody. That's just  
35 the name of this game.

36

37 You know sometimes the State walk away  
38 happy, sometimes they don't walk away happy, you know.

39

40 Like in some of these regulations, some  
41 of the changes we did on the Innoko and the river  
42 changes, why can't we put some signs out there so  
43 people are not confused, say entering Innoko Refuge and  
44 when they're coming back, you're leaving or entering  
45 State land and they'd know these markers so they don't  
46 have to worry about getting ticketed. I think we do --  
47 they do it all the time in the highway system, you see  
48 it all over the place. You know what unit you're  
49 leaving, you know what unit you're entering and at the  
50 end you're leaving unit -- I think that would alleviate

1 all this confusion on Federal and State land. I think  
2 little stuff like that, just -- and people will know,  
3 they'll look at the marker and say this is where we can  
4 fish, from here to here, and as long as we're inside  
5 that boundary we're okay, just by this little  
6 informational sign.

7

8 That's all, thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Carl.

11 Ron.

12

13 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You  
14 know I have always been against teleconferences. At  
15 one time I totally oppose it and I still do. It would  
16 be a heck of a lot easier if those other agencies came  
17 up before us, we could glare at each other and cut each  
18 other's reports or arguments a little shorter because  
19 Jack, as past Chair, you've got a priority button, you  
20 can cut down any of these microphones at any time you  
21 want as long as you justify it and that would shorten  
22 the meeting considerably.

23

24 And I would like to thank the Staff for  
25 their patience. We've talked about this in the past on  
26 how to expedite our meetings and reports and at one  
27 time we agreed to have the Refuge do their reports  
28 along with the proposals that correspond to their  
29 Refuges. So there's some thought and that would not  
30 only take care of action items but it would take care  
31 of your reports too.

32

33 Again, I thank you for your patience.

34

35 I would like to thank the Secretary of  
36 Interior for appointing Jenny Pelkola of Galena, you  
37 know, by having a meeting in Galena, we have another  
38 hub, we have everything provided here, beds,  
39 breakfasts, hotels and all the rest of that stuff, plus  
40 a good meeting room at the hall.

41

42 And on that note I would like to have  
43 Jenny go ahead and thank the village of Galena for  
44 hosting this Western Interior meeting.

45

46 Last but not least the reason I was  
47 pushing Fairbanks for that meeting even though I intend  
48 to resign that one way or another I will make that  
49 Fairbanks meeting because this is the last -- it might  
50 be the last one because it does -- all the wildlife

1 issues, especially moose is the primary concern on the  
2 upper Koyukuk. We do not have silvers, rich chums or  
3 very many chinooks so I will be there at that Fairbanks  
4 meeting one way or the other because I do have some  
5 concerns about upcoming proposals.

6

7                   With that, I resign, thank you.

8

9                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thank  
10 you, Ron. So my comments are I highly appreciated  
11 meeting in Galena and the cover dish that was provided  
12 last night. I highly enjoyed the public comments that  
13 people came from quite a ways around here to make  
14 comments to the Council. And we've met in a lot of  
15 places and we don't always get that kind of  
16 participation and that's what this Council's about, is  
17 gathering information from local people about issues.

18

19                   I appreciate all of our Staff support,  
20 Vince and Salena are integral to maintaining all of our  
21 paperwork and making sure that these proposals get out  
22 on time and these things are very important in  
23 assistance to the Chair's position so I highly  
24 appreciate that. And Salena's been with us for so long  
25 she's Vince's right-hand person there so we highly  
26 participate her participation and keeping our record  
27 straight.

28

29                   And the Staff of all the various  
30 agencies, and the OSM, the OSM is integral to our  
31 proceedings at the Board level and providing for this  
32 Council's advisement on various proposals. The Refuges  
33 and Parks conservation units are -- look to the  
34 Council's for guidance and direction on subsistence  
35 issues and so I appreciate their input also.

36

37                   I apologize to the Council on being  
38 erratic on this agenda. I felt that it was important  
39 to give people say. I should have noticed that  
40 priority button earlier in the meeting and blanked some  
41 of those comments out and will be more attentive to  
42 that.

43

44                   I do feel that it's very important to  
45 let people have their say and vent some steam so that  
46 everybody can understand one another and that lends to  
47 an understanding throughout the whole Alaska in general  
48 that deals with the overlapping customary and  
49 traditional uses.

50

1                                   And so with that I will entertain a  
2 motion to adjourn the meeting.  
3  
4                                   MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair.  
5  
6                                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mickey.  
7  
8                                   MR. STICKMAN: Ron, did I hear you  
9 right, you're going to resign from right now?  
10  
11                                  MR. SAM: Yes, I intend to, just get it  
12 finalized sooner or later.  
13  
14                                  Thank you.  
15  
16                                  MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair. I was kind  
17 of hoping -- well, I want to elaborate on that a little  
18 bit for we adjourn. I was kind of hoping Ron would  
19 finish out his appointment since it's only just one  
20 more year, that's only three meetings from now. I mean  
21 I figure once you do the two more meetings it would be  
22 your prerogative to reapply or not reapply, but I just  
23 feel at this time that it would be unacceptable for you  
24 to resign when we only have two more meetings to go  
25 before your term is up.  
26  
27                                  MR. SAM: (Nods)  
28  
29                                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ron has acknowledged  
30 your comment on his resignation.  
31  
32                                  MR. STICKMAN: And at this time I'll  
33 entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00  
34 o'clock.  
35  
36                                  MS. PELKOLA: Second.  
37  
38                                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded,  
39 any further discussion.  
40  
41                                  (No comments)  
42  
43                                  MR. STICKMAN: Call for the question.  
44  
45                                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's been  
46 called. Those in favor of adjourning the meeting  
47 signify by saying aye.  
48  
49                                  IN UNISON: Aye.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.  
2  
3 (Off record)  
4  
5 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

