

1 SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7 VOLUME I

8
9 Aurora Inn
10 Nome, Alaska
11 October 1, 2009
12 8:30 a.m.
13

14 Members Present:

15
16 R. Weaver Ivanoff, Chairman
17 Mike Quinn
18 Peter G. Buck
19 Peter Martin.
20 Elmer K. Seetot
21 Fred D. Eningowuk
22 Thomas Gray
23 Anthony M. Keyes
24
25 Regional Council Coordinator - Alex Nick
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25 Regional Council Coordinator - Alex Nick

42 Recorded and transcribed by:

43
44 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
45 135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
46 Anchorage, AK 99501
47 907-243-0668/907-227-5312
48 jpk@gci.net/sahile@gci.net

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Nome, Alaska - 10/2/2009)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN GRAY: I'll call this meeting to order. We need a roll call.

MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. R. Weaver.

MR. IVANOFF: Here.

MR. NICK: Peter Martin.

MR. MARTIN: Here.

MR. NICK: Mike Quinn.

MR. QUINN: Here.

MR. NICK: Peter Buck.

MR. BUCK: Here.

MR. NICK: Elmer Seetot.

MR. SEETOT: Here.

MR. NICK: Fred Eningowuk.

MR. ENINGOWUK: Here.

MR. NICK: Thomas Gray.

MR. GRAY: Here.

MR. KEYES: Here.

MR. NICK: Quorum present. Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Thank you. You've met all the board here. You've heard all the board here. You've heard all the heres and whatnot, so we'll go around the room and everybody can introduce themselves.

MR. PROBASCO: Good morning. I'm Pete Probasco. I'm the ARD for the Office of Subsistence Management.

1 CHAIRMAN GRAY: And ARD means?
2
3 MR. PROBASCO: Assistant Regional
4 Director.
5
6 MR. KENT: I'm Scott Kent. I'm the
7 assistant area manager for Division of Commercial
8 Fisheries, Norton Sound/Port Clarence area.
9
10 MR. SCAMMON: I'm Brent Scammon (ph).
11 I'm the sport fish area biologist for Northwest/North
12 Slope for Fish and Game.
13
14 MS. HUGHES: Letty Hughes, assistant
15 area biologist for wildlife, Fish and Game.
16
17 MR. GORN: I'm Tony Gorn. I'm the Unit
18 22 area biologist for Division of Wildlife
19 Conservation, based here in Nome.
20
21 MS. RAYMOND-YAKOUBIAN: Julie Raymond-
22 Yakoubian, scientist with Kawerak.
23
24 MR. LONG: I'm Jim Long. I'm a
25 biologist with National Park Service.
26
27 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson,
28 subsistence program manager for western Arctic national
29 park lands, National Park Service.
30
31 MR. BEYERSDORF: Jeff Beyersdorf, BLM,
32 Anchorage, subsistence.
33
34 MR. PAPPAS: George Pappas, Department
35 of Fish and Game, subsistence liaison team, Anchorage.
36
37 MR. VAN DAELE: Larry Van Daele with
38 Fish and Game, wildlife, Kodiak.
39
40 MS. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong, chief
41 of the anthropology division for OSM, Anchorage.
42
43 CHAIRMAN GRAY: And we'll start up
44 here.
45
46 MR. IVANOFF: Art Ivanoff, Native
47 Village of Unalakleet.
48
49 MS. HYER: Karen Hyer, OSM.
50

1 MS. BROWN: Cole Brown, new wildlife
2 biologist for OSM.
3
4 MR. RABINOWITCH: Sandy Rabinowitch,
5 Staff Committee to the Federal Board for the National
6 Park Service.
7
8 MR. MCNICHOLAS: Loren McNicholas (ph).
9
10 MS. FOSDICK: Good morning. Rose
11 Fosdick.
12
13 MR. NICK: Alex Nick, OSM, Bethel.
14
15 MR. IVANOFF: Weaver Ivanoff,
16 Unalakleet.
17
18 MR. MARTIN: Peter Martin, Sr.,
19 Stebbins.
20
21 MR. ENINGOWUK: Fred Eningowuk,
22 Shishmaref.
23
24 MR. KEYES: Anthony Keyes, Wales.
25
26 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr., Brevig
27 Mission.
28
29 CHAIRMAN GRAY: And everybody knows me,
30 Tom.
31
32 MR. BUCK: I'm Peter Buck, White
33 Mountain.
34
35 MR. QUINN: Mike Quinn, Nome.
36
37 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Well, I'd like
38 to thank everybody for coming, and welcome. And if
39 you're not on the agenda, or if you need issues talked
40 about that we miss, get ahold of me so we can get it on
41 the agenda.
42
43 So let's look at the agenda. Is there
44 anything we need to add to this thing?
45
46 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Under 8.D. we'd
47 like to add WSA08-13. It's a special action request.
48 And I think there's one person in the audience who'd
49 like to add an action item. Mr. Chair.
50

1 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Let's do that
2 again. 8 what?
3
4 MR. NICK: WSA08-13.
5
6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: 8.D. is the.....
7
8 MR. NICK: It will be under 8.D. Thank
9 you.
10
11 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. And somebody
12 else had something they wanted to add?
13
14 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Ken
15 Adkisson, National Park Service. Under the new
16 proposals for wildlife I've got three proposals to
17 bring to your attention that are kind of a follow-up to
18 discussions we had at the last meeting, kind of
19 commitments that I had made to work with a couple of
20 the villages on some issues. Those are in addition to
21 the ones that you'll have to take action on that
22 originated from within the RAC that OSM helped you work
23 up.
24
25 Thank you.
26
27 MR. IVANOFF: Mr. Chair.
28
29 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Uh-huh.
30
31 MR. IVANOFF: For clarification, what
32 are those amendments you need to add onto the -- are
33 they just listed under regulations or.....
34
35 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Ivanoff, those will
36 be new proposals and that basically they're kind of an
37 informational item for you now, but if you have
38 comments on them and want to, you can, you know,
39 provide those or provide some support. And if you
40 don't like them, express it, because those people.....
41
42 MR. IVANOFF: So that would be under
43 item 8.E.?
44
45 MR. ADKISSON: Yes. Under the new
46 proposals for wildlife proposals. So which one is this
47 on the agenda? 8.A.? 8.A. I believe.
48
49 MR. IVANOFF: Okay. It's under A.
50 Okay. So it's already on there.

1 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah. I just want to
2 bring that to your attention that we've got those,
3 because they're not specifically spelled out there.
4
5 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chair. I'd like add
6 one proposals, too, to new proposal from Stebbins.
7
8 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. I've been
9 informed that if you're going to speak, you need to
10 turn your mic on so it will get recorded; otherwise it
11 won't get recorded and we're going to have gaps and
12 blanks. So keep that in mind.
13
14 So anything else. Anybody have
15 anything else. I'm sure all of you have looked at the
16 agenda and so on and so forth. Anything we're missing
17 here.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Is there a motion to
22 adopt the agenda as revised.
23
24 MR. ** : So moved.
25
26 SEVERAL: Second.
27
28 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Everybody seconding.
29
30 MR. ** : Question.
31
32 CHAIRMAN GRAY: The question's called.
33 All in favor say aye.
34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.
36
37 CHAIRMAN GRAY: All opposed same sign.
38
39 (No opposing votes)
40
41 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Our agenda is
42 adopted.
43
44 Now we're going to review and approve
45 meeting minutes. And somebody's going to have to
46 either -- why don't we take a little bit of time and
47 you guys can look at your minutes, and then we'll come
48 back into session and approve or disapprove them.
49
50 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. One suggestion I

1 would like to give is that when your Council members
2 make a motion and second that it be announced so that
3 we'll be able to record them on the minutes. Thank
4 you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GRAY: In other words, go a
7 little slower.

8
9 Okay. Is there any changes or
10 additions, deletions to the meeting minutes.

11
12 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes. This is Fred. On
13 the members present, my name is not on there, and I had
14 made some comments during the course of the meeting.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Are your comments in
17 there?

18
19 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. So we need to
22 get his name in the front, members present.

23
24 Any other additions, deletions.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MR. BUCK: I'll make a motion to accept
29 the minutes of February 11th, 2009.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Peter Buck made
32 a motion.

33
34 MR. QUINN: I'll second.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GRAY: And it's been seconded.

37
38 MR. BUCK: Question.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GRAY: The question's been
41 called. All in favor.

42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GRAY: All opposed same sign.

46
47 (No opposing votes)

48
49 MR. IVANOFF: Mr. Chair. Weaver
50 Ivanoff. I abstain. I wasn't at the meeting.

1 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Very good.
2
3 MR. IVANOFF: The last meeting.
4
5 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. We're down to
6 election of officers. And is this the time that we do
7 the elections? Okay.
8
9 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. At this time I
10 take over the chair, if you would turn it over to me.
11
12 CHAIRMAN GRAY: I gladly turn it over
13 to you. And I think my term is up, so I'm not -- my
14 seat is up now, isn't it? To be honest, I don't know.
15 I think I forgot to reapply.
16
17 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Your term is up
18 the end of the year, December 2nd.
19
20 CHAIRMAN GRAY: So you have the chair.
21
22 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23
24 MR. QUINN: Mr. Chair. Because the
25 election's in front of us. Your term is up at the end
26 of December 2009. I guess the question is, are you
27 planning to apply, or what's -- is it too late now?
28 Because, you know, that determines where we go today.
29 I want to know what your plans are.
30
31 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Well, I would reapply
32 if I could. I don't know if I can. I think there's a
33 window of time that you've got to meet.
34
35 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Members of the
36 Council. If Mr. Gray reapplies, he would have to
37 reapply for -- well, actually that should have been
38 done last fall or last winter. But you still could
39 reapply, but the appointment, if you are going to be
40 appointed, would probably be 2010 instead of 2009.
41
42 MR. QUINN: When in 2010?
43
44 MR. NICK: Probably end of 2010. If
45 anyone from OSM correct that, I'll stand corrected.
46 Thank you.
47
48 MR. QUINN: The other question then,
49 has anybody else applied; do you know?
50

1 MR. NICK: Seward Pen is my new region,
2 and I wouldn't know until the appointments are made.
3 So next time, I mean this coming fall -- I mean, this
4 coming -- what am I going to say. Next time when the
5 applications are submitted, then I will know. I'll
6 work with the region.

7
8 MR. QUINN: Alex, isn't the application
9 period still open right now? Oh, it's not?

10
11 MR. NICK: The application period's
12 open and -- but there's no guarantee that anyone will
13 be appointed the end of this year. It will be next
14 time -- I mean, the end of 2010.

15
16 MS. WILKINSON: Excuse me. Yes, he's
17 correct in the fact that the nomination period is --
18 the application is open, but it's for the 2010 cycle.
19 The 2009 cycle is done, and those appointments will be
20 in October or November.

21
22 MR. QUINN: Sure I understand that,
23 but.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN GRAY: '09 or 10?

26
27 MS. WILKINSON: '09.

28
29 MR. QUINN: Okay. So there's still
30 time for people to apply if they're interested, but if
31 they're appointed, they won't sit at a meeting until
32 next fall? A year from now?

33
34 MS. WILKINSON: Right. They would be
35 appointed next fall.

36
37 MR. QUINN: In time for the fall
38 meeting?

39
40 MS. WILKINSON: Excuse me. Sorry,
41 Alex. This is kind of confusing, but people apply
42 between September and the first part of January in a
43 year. So say 2009, the end of the application period
44 was in January. They won't be appointed until fall of
45 2009, but they won't be seated and be active on the
46 Council until the February/March 2010 meetings.

47
48 MR. QUINN: No, the Feb.....

49
50 MS. WILKINSON: No, it's.....

1 MR. QUINN:2011.
2
3 MS. WILKINSON: No.
4
5 MR. QUINN: Oh, okay. The ones coming
6 up will be 2010.
7
8 MS. WILKINSON: Yeah. Right. Exactly.
9
10 MR. QUINN: We'll have -- we could --
11 okay. Do you anticipate new members at the February
12 meeting?
13
14 MS. WILKINSON: Yes. Yes.
15
16 MR. QUINN: That's fine. Mr. Chair.
17 Thank you. For all that, I'll nominate Tom Gray Chair.
18
19 MR. NICK: Tom Gray's been nominated
20 for Chair. Are there any more nominations?
21
22 MS. WILKINSON: You can't do that.
23
24 MR. QUINN: We can't do it?
25
26 MR. NICK: I think the proper procedure
27 is for me to open the nominations when the chair is
28 turned over to me.
29
30 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Coordinator, I
31 nominate R. Weaver Ivanoff as Chair.
32
33 MR. GRAY: I second that.
34
35 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Mr. Gray.
36 Pete Probasco. We would encourage -- you know, it was
37 an oversight probably on your part for not applying,
38 and we would encourage you that this fall, right now,
39 the period's open as Ann said for next year. And we'd
40 encourage anybody that's interested to apply now so
41 that next year at this time we would be looking at
42 possible seating of yourself and others if elected by
43 the Secretary so that's why you can't be nominated at
44 this point in time.
45
46 MR. GRAY: Right. And that's fine.
47 And if there's an application here, I'll fill it out
48 before I leave today. But again it's hindsight I
49 guess.
50

1 MR. SEETOT: I move nominations cease.
2
3 MS. GREGORY: I second that.
4
5 MR. NICK: Tom Gray and Weaver Ivanoff
6 have been nominated and there's a motion the floor to
7 cease nominations.
8
9 MR. PROBASCO: No.
10
11 MR. GRAY: Tom Gray hasn't been
12 nominated.
13
14 MR. NICK: Oh, okay. Sorry. Pardon me
15 for my nervousness.
16
17 Weaver's been nominated and there's
18 been a motion to cease the nominations. All in favor
19 say aye.
20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.
22
23 MR. NICK: All opposed same sign.
24
25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Aye.
26
27 MR. GRAY: Okay. Well,
28 congratulations.
29
30 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I don't know. I'll
31 see about the congratulations after a year goes by I
32 guess, Tom. I'm really sorry to see you're not taking
33 the chair, but because of regulations. In fact, I
34 think you've been handling it very well from what I've
35 heard. So, by God, put your name in.
36
37 Continuing on with the election of
38 officers. Vice Chair.
39
40 MR. BUCK: I nominate Elmer Seetot.
41
42 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Motion on the floor.
43
44 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair, I decline. I
45 think I speak a lot better without a position of
46 authority.
47
48 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you, Elmer.
49
50 MR. GRAY: I nominate Mike Quinn.

1 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Nomination of Mike
2 Quinn.
3
4 MR. BUCK: I move nominations cease.
5
6 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: A motion on the
7 floor to cease nominations, Peter Buck. Should I hear
8 a second.
9
10 MR. SEETOT: Second.
11
12 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Seconded, Tom Gray
13 -- or who? Elmer.
14
15 All in favor of the motion signify by
16 saying aye.
17
18 IN UNISON: Aye.
19
20 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any opposed, the
21 same sign.
22
23 (No opposing votes)
24
25 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Motion carries.
26 Congratulations, Mike.
27
28 MR. QUINN: Thank you.
29
30 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Nominations continue
31 then with the secretary. Nominations on the floor.
32
33 MR. MARTIN: I nominate Peter Buck.
34
35 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Peter Buck
36 nomination by Peter Martin. Two Peters.
37
38 MR. KEYES: Second it. Anthony Keyes.
39
40 MR. QUINN: I'll move nominations be
41 closed.
42
43 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Motion on the floor
44 to cease nominations. All in favor of the motion
45 signify by saying aye.
46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.
48
49 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any opposed, same
50 sign.

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Motion carries.

4 Thank you. That was quick and easy.

5

6 Go on to the Fisheries Monitoring
7 Programs, recommendations draft 2010 northern region
8 fisheries monitor plan. And who is giving that report?

9

10 MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 We're doing it together. My name is Helen Armstrong.
12 I'm from OSM.

13

14 MS. HYER: I'm Karen Hyer and I'm also
15 from OSM.

16

17 So today we're going to present the
18 draft 2010 Fisheries Monitoring Program, and it begins
19 on Page 11. And it starts out with a bunch of back
20 ground information, but if you'll recall, during our
21 fall 2008 Council meeting we had discussed the priority
22 information needs, and these needs directed our call
23 for research proposals. And what I'm presenting to you
24 today is the draft plan composed of the successful
25 research projects that were submitted to OSM.

26

27 If you turn to Page 13 you can see the
28 evaluation criteria. We evaluate our projects based on
29 four criteria: strategic priority, technical and
30 scientific merit, investigator's ability, and capacity
31 building. And so all the proposals that were submitted
32 to us were evaluated on these four criteria. And the
33 successful projects then were promoted to the draft
34 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

35

36 And the monitoring program has been
37 implemented since 2000. And on Page 18 in table 1 you
38 can see the historic projects that have been funded in
39 the northern region. And in this area there have been
40 six projects funding. They're down at the bottom of
41 table 1 under Seward Peninsula. And the northern
42 region is made up of three areas, the North Slope, the
43 Northwest Arctic and the Seward Peninsula for purposes
44 of the fisheries monitoring program, which is a little
45 bit different than the wildlife regulatory issues that
46 come up.

47

48 So if you turn to Page 19, table 2,
49 you'll see currently the Kobuk River sheefish spawning
50 and run timing is the only project that we have funded

1 in this area that's on-going. Because we're switching
2 to an every-other-year cycle, we are trying to align
3 all the projects, and so most of them came to an end
4 and will be up for either new or continuing funding
5 starting in 2010. And that's why there's a lack of on-
6 going projects, which historically you've seen more on-
7 going projects.

8
9 So Page 21 at the top you'll see five
10 projects that are recommended for funding. And these
11 projects are listed in priority order, a prioritized
12 order. And I will highlight the stock status and
13 trends projects, and Helen is going to highlight the
14 harvest monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge
15 projects. So we'll present the projects to you not in
16 this order, but this is a prioritized order from
17 Technical Review Committee.

18
19 So the first one on the list is the
20 Unalakleet River Chinook salmon assessment project.
21 And this project is to construct a floating weir to
22 count migrating Chinook salmon. We'll also collect
23 age, sex and length information to evaluate the quality
24 and the quantity of the escapement. And this
25 information will assist in in-season and post-season --
26 it will assist in in-season and post-season management
27 of this stock.

28
29 And then we're going to skip down, skip
30 the next two, and I'm going to talk about the Selawik
31 Lake and Hotham Inlet sheefish genetic analysis. And
32 two stocks, the Kobuk and the Selawik River sheefish,
33 support a mixed stock winter fishery, and currently we
34 don't have an idea of what the proportion of each stock
35 contributes to the fishery, so this project will sample
36 -- will collect samples from traditional fishing sites
37 and do genetic analysis on the samples to provide us
38 with information about the proportion each stock
39 contributes to mixed stock fishing, which will also
40 help with in-season and post-season management of this
41 stock.

42
43 And then the last one on the list is
44 the Selawik Drainage sheefish winter movement patterns.
45 And this project will use acoustic transmitters to
46 track the movement and habitat requirements of sheefish
47 in their winter habitat in Selawik Lake and Hotham
48 Inlet. And currently we have the radio tagging that's
49 going on in the rivers, but this particular project
50 uses different technology that allows us to track the

1 fish in the salt water and this information will
2 dovetail with the genetics project and information
3 we've collected in the past to give us more information
4 on that stock.

5
6 So that's the three SST projects. And
7 I'll turn it over to Helen to talk about the harvest
8 monitoring.

9
10 MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Karen. The
11 harvest monitoring projects, the full descriptions
12 start on Page 26.

13
14 And the first one, 10-151, is the
15 Bering Strait non-salmon fish local ecological
16 knowledge project. And this is being proposed by
17 Kawerak, Julie Raymond-Yakoubian is the P.I. on that
18 project.

19
20 The objective of the project is to
21 estimate harvest of non-salmon fish species by
22 community for the 2009/2010 season. And the four
23 communities that they propose working in are
24 Shishmaref, Wales, Stebbins, and Teller. They will
25 estimate and compare the household's evaluation of this
26 harvest compared to other recent years, document the
27 percent of households using, harvesting, receiving,
28 trading, and giving away non-salmon species. And they
29 will document local ecological knowledge and
30 information on non-salmon fish species utilized by
31 residents of the four study communities.

32
33 They'll use household harvest surveys,
34 local expert interviews, and use area mapping as their
35 methods. The interview portion will document the
36 effects of climate change on subsistence fisheries.

37
38 And I just wanted to make a comment
39 here on the climate change issue. The Fish and
40 Wildlife Service is very concerned about the climate
41 change that's occurring and the effects in the Arctic.
42 And the two proposed HM/TEK, harvest monitoring,
43 traditional ecological knowledge projects both are
44 dealing with climate change issues. I think that was
45 one of the concerns of the Council. All of the
46 Councils in the north have been very concerned about
47 this.

48
49 Kawerak will hire at least one local
50 surveyor to conduct the harvest surveys and one local

1 assistant in each community to help in those villages.
2 They will interview at least 32 local residents, and
3 the communities will have an opportunity provide input
4 to the study as well.

5
6 If you have additional questions on
7 these, let me know. I'm just summarizing them.

8
9 The next project proposed is on Page
10 29. That's 10-152. This one is the Northwest Alaska
11 climate change and subsistence fisheries project. It's
12 being proposed by University of Alaska Fairbanks
13 researchers, and the study will document local
14 observations of climate change relevant to subsistence
15 fisheries in three communities in Northwest Alaska:
16 Noatak, Selawik and Unalakleet. They've chosen three
17 communities in two different areas as a way to look at
18 different types of communities, but they were also
19 looking at Federal public lands as well.

20
21 The study will document traditional
22 ecological knowledge of climate change and related
23 ecological changes that affect the harvest, processing
24 and practices of subsistence fisheries. They will be
25 reviewing the literature, looking at archival sources
26 to see what kind of information is already there on
27 climate change, and then they will also be going to
28 Noatak, Selawik, and Unalakleet doing ethnographic
29 interviews with expert informants.

30
31 They'll be hiring a community advisor
32 in each one of the three communities, and the advisors
33 will assist in developing project materials and
34 protocols for research.

35
36 That concludes my presentation. Karen,
37 did you have anything you wanted to add?

38
39 MS. HYER: No. If there are any
40 questions.

41
42 MR. GRAY: I have a question. On Page
43 21 you have all these projects being listed. Above
44 that it says you're -- there's approximately 805,000
45 available for projects, and the thing comes to 821, all
46 these projects come to 821. Are you guys recommending
47 that the 821 be funded and the 17, \$18,000 difference
48 is going to come out of somewhere?

49
50 MS. HYER: Yes. Mr. Chair and Council

1 members. We are recommending that be funded. And we
2 have guidelines for funding, but they're just that,
3 they're guidelines, and if there's more important
4 projects in one region versus another region, we will
5 bend those guidelines actually. So we are recommending
6 the full funding for northern region, which is more
7 than the guidelines. But the money will come from some
8 place else.

9
10 MR. GRAY: Okay. I have one more question.
11 You've got five things listed. Was there more requests
12 that didn't make the criteria? Do you have a list of
13 the other requests?

14
15 MS. HYER: We do not have a list of the
16 other requests with us, but there were originally seven
17 proposals submitted and two of them did not meet the
18 criteria and were not recommended for funding at the
19 proposal phase.

20
21 MR. GRAY: And are you working with the
22 two that weren't funded to try and help them get their
23 project wrote up so they can make a funding project
24 some day?

25
26 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chairman. Council
27 members. Yes, we're always working.....

28
29 MS. HYER: He's not the Chair any more.
30 Weaver's the Chair.

31
32 MS. ARMSTRONG: Sorry. Mr. Chair.
33 Council members. Yes, we're always working with
34 investigators. In this particular situation, we had
35 one project that was submitted that was on the
36 Unalakleet also for a sonar, and that project was not
37 forwarded, because it did not have a good species
38 apportionment component to it. And the second one was
39 for research on a weir that is on the Yukon-Kuskokwim
40 Delta Wildlife Refuge, and we first suggested to that
41 investigator that they do some harvest monitor and
42 collect some information on that river and then move
43 into a stock status and trend proposal.

44
45 MR. GRAY: So this thing that wasn't
46 funded on the Unalakleet River, you're working with
47 those people to try and get that project on the list
48 eventually?

49
50 MS. ARMSTRONG: Actually we have not

1 been approached since the proposal stage, but if any
2 investigator approaches us, we will indeed work with
3 them.

4

5 MR. GRAY: Thank you.

6

7 MS. ARMSTRONG: Maybe I can just add
8 something to that. When we review these before they go
9 to the Technical Review Committee and then once the
10 Technical Review Committee has evaluated them, we do
11 provide comments back with all of the information as to
12 why it would not have been funded. So that people can
13 look at that and say, well, this didn't get done, this
14 was why, we were weak in this area, and use that
15 information. So it's not an automatic we don't fund
16 and don't give any feedback. We do give them feedback
17 as to.....

18

19 MR. GRAY: Well, what I'm more
20 interested in is if Unalakleet or whoever the people
21 were that wrote that proposal up came to you guys and
22 sat down and said, I'd like to sit down with you guys
23 and work this out. You know I'd like to see that
24 happen.

25

26 MS. ARMSTRONG: We absolutely do that.
27 And we work -- there are two stages of developing the
28 proposals. We also work with people to help them if,
29 you know, if they -- to understand how things need to
30 be reworked, and so we -- you know, we do -- our
31 intention is to try to work with people as much as
32 possible to develop good projects.

33

34 MR. GRAY: And then one last question
35 and I'll quit here. The 800,000, this is for 2010 I
36 assume. It seems to me we've had more money in the pot
37 than this in the past. Is there money that may be
38 available that's going to other areas?

39

40 MS. HYER: Our funding is pretty
41 consistent. It could be that there has been a bit more
42 in the pot in the past. I know originally we had a
43 slug of money that was quite a bit more than we have
44 today. So there is some ebb and flow in the numbers.
45 And again they're guidelines. So if we have more
46 projects, good projects in northern than we can fund,
47 and say we have a dearth of projects in a different
48 region, we will flex the amount of funding, so again
49 you have to keep in mind they're just guidelines.
50 They're not hard, fast rules.

1 MR. QUINN: This Unalakleet River
2 Chinook assessment, how is that different than what the
3 State and NSEDC are doing now? Isn't there already a
4 weir on the North River?

5
6 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council
7 members. There's a tower on the North River. It's not
8 a weir. This is a weir on the Unalakleet, and there's
9 a tower.....

10
11 MR. QUINN: Okay. And this will
12 actually be on the Unalakleet River?

13
14 MS. HYER: Correct. And it will be run
15 in conjunction with the North River so we can get the
16 best estimate possible.

17
18 MR. QUINN: And you're going to get
19 some money thrown in from the State and maybe even
20 NSEDC to do this or have you looked at that?

21
22 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council
23 members. We have. The Unalakleet has been an issue,
24 an on-going issues, which I'm sure you're all aware of.
25 And because of the jurisdiction with the Unalakleet
26 where a healthy portion of it is State, one of the
27 requirements has been that the State has to come
28 forward with a match for that river, because we have
29 truly dual management on that river, and the State has
30 stepped up, and so has NSEDC, with matching funds for
31 this proposal.

32
33 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Elmer.

34
35 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Regarding the
36 Bering Straits non-salmon fish local knowledge, I think
37 recently we went to Imuruk Basin, at the mouth of
38 Kuzitrin River and then also Windy Cove. We had about
39 six setnets I think that we're trying to get for broad
40 nose. I think this would be addressed to -- forward to
41 Kawerak. We about at least six setnets during that
42 week, and then we caught a total of at least 130 pike,
43 and that's pretty unusual for that part to be catching
44 pike early in the season. What we were going after was
45 the broad nose white fish, or whatever term that they
46 apply, the gonakta (ph), the ones that we try to put
47 away for the winter. But there's been a lot of pike
48 within the Kuzitrin River system, even within the
49 Imuruk Basin. A couple years back, NSEDC I think
50 instituted a fertilizer food, you know, for the salmon

1 at Salmon Lake, and the runoff, along with the sunshine
2 I think, might have increased, you know, the under
3 water plant life for prey or predator fish like
4 northern pike. But there's been a big increase of
5 northern pike within the fresh water system.

6
7 I'm not too sure if the beaver invasion
8 on the Seward Peninsula, you know, might be a factor in
9 that, because these are some of the streams that are
10 starting to come in our area that we really have no
11 control about, especially the beaver dams. The only
12 way we can kind of control them is just by local
13 harvest, and then that's something very new for the
14 residents, you know, the dangers of drinking water
15 where the beaver dams are. And, you know, this is
16 information that needs to be dispersed out to our
17 residents at least within our area.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Elmer, thank you.
22 It sounds like a real worthwhile project to try and
23 partner with Kawerak or someone in putting a research
24 together to do that with the monitoring program it
25 sounds. Definitely when the pike are involved and
26 other fish they prey on can be affected. So that
27 sounds like a real good one for a future proposal.
28 Thank you, Elmer.

29
30 MR. SEETOT: No, Mr. Chair, I'd like
31 for this to be part of that local knowledge -- even
32 though I'm not from Teller, we're in close proximity to
33 Teller, because we use the same waters pretty much.
34 We're more marine oriented while Teller residents are
35 more in-river oriented, but we still use the same
36 resources.

37
38 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: What project are you
39 talking about then?

40
41 MR. SEETOT: This would be on Page 26.

42
43 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: All right. Thank
44 you. Any other questions.

45
46 MR. GRAY: So as far as you're
47 concerned, all these projects are funded then?

48
49 MS. HYER: Mr. Chair. Council members.
50 No, this is an action item. And what I'll ask for is a

1 recommendation for funding from you, and then the
2 recommendation goes forward. And we have a
3 recommendation from our Technical Review Committee, our
4 Regional Advisory Councils, our InterAgency Staff
5 Committee, and then the Board actually is the ones who
6 fund this.

7
8 MS. ARMSTRONG: The Board will be
9 meeting in January, I think mid January. January 15th?

10
11 MS. HYER: I don't -- yes.

12
13 MR. PROBASCO: It's the 12th through
14 15th.

15
16 MS. ARMSTRONG: 12th through 15th, to
17 address these and vote on which ones they support. So
18 we need a recommendation from the Council today whether
19 you support all of these proposals.

20
21 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, the other
22 qualifier to put on this, it also depends upon our
23 allocation for the fiscal year, which if we are funded
24 at the level we were last year, then there wouldn't be
25 a problem; however, if we are funded at a reduced
26 level, then that has a domino effect and it may or may
27 not affect these projects. It just depends upon how it
28 all sifts out.

29
30 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: So in that light
31 these are listed by priorities. If in fact all the
32 allocation was not there, the last one that is listed
33 would not be funded if we didn't get the allocation
34 that we're anticipating.

35
36 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council
37 members. These are listed within priority for the
38 region, and then there's also a priority list for the
39 whole state. And if indeed we are not funded at the
40 allocation level, we would go back then and go through
41 that priority list for the whole state, and the those
42 on the bottom would not be funded first.

43
44 But this year we have a lot more
45 funding actually than we did good proposals and then
46 onto projects, and so we have funded with -- there are
47 two components with our program. There's the DOI money
48 and the DOA money, and the DOA money is through the
49 Forest Service and it funds projects in Southeast. And
50 this year, because we have -- or our projected budget

1 is enough to cover all the projects that we have funded
2 in the Department of Interior, which is everything from
3 Southcentral through the rest of Alaska, we have had
4 extra money that we are actually proposing to fund some
5 of the Southeast projects, so those would be the first
6 to go if indeed our budget was cut. And so these
7 particular projects that you're seeing before you are
8 not at the bottom of the list.

9

10 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any further
11 questions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: If the Council could
16 indulge me, I do have several questions. In the
17 proposals that are submitted, there are some two years
18 and there are some four years. 5.45 million was to
19 take care of four years or one year? You have a \$5
20 million budget right now, and then so is that 5
21 million, or a \$6 million budget that have allocated so
22 far, is that -- will that -- is that money that is to
23 be funding for the four-year period of some of the
24 grants that were -- I mean the monitoring programs
25 you're talking about? Is that to sustain that, or is
26 that just for this one year?

27

28 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council
29 members. Our budget is apportioned every year. So
30 that \$5 million is based on what we think will be
31 apportioned in the future. And what we do is we fund
32 the projects that are proposed, and then we'll take
33 this year's budget and we'll fund -- or we'll take the
34 2010 budget and we'll fund for the 2010 field season.
35 And then we'll also forward fund -- if we have extra
36 monies, we'll forward fund the projects. So there is
37 some forward funding that goes on. And if projects
38 aren't forward funded, but say they're a four-year
39 project, then the money to run those projects for 2011,
40 2012, and 2013 would come out of those -- the monies
41 that are proportioned for that year. And then what is
42 left over would go into another call. But once we
43 propose a project, we're committed to funding it
44 through the duration of the project. So that would
45 reflect in our calls in future years.

46

47 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. And that
48 follows through with the next question I have on Page
49 19. There are -- under Northern Alaska project costs
50 you have 10-102, Unalakleet River salmon assessment.

1 The State 302.2 and then under recommendations by the
2 Technical Review on Page 20, under the same 10-102, you
3 have 302.2. Is that the amount of money that is being
4 matched by the State as you put there under State, or
5 is that Federal monies?

6

7 MS. HYER: What you see in these tables
8 is Federal monies, it's our budget.

9

10 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: And it's just that
11 the State is receiving the 302, is that correct, from
12 the Federal monies?

13

14 MS. ARMSTRONG: That is correct, Mr.
15 Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. I'm not sure
18 how to handle this regarding -- because we have several
19 projects, I think five projects, and to go piece-by-
20 piece on there is a little bit difficult. I mean,
21 we're skipping around here and there, but I suppose it
22 will work out. On Page 24 you have partnerships and
23 capacity building. Local hire emphasis, will, you
24 know, promote involvement of resource users as active
25 participants in the fisheries management process. Now,
26 I haven't seen anything, or evidence of how that will
27 happen and who are we talking about? Who are the
28 partnerships that are there?

29

30 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, are you
31 talking specifically about 10-102 or are you talking
32 about all the projects in general?

33

34 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Pretty much in
35 general. I realize that there are several projects
36 that goes all the way from Unalakleet to Northwest
37 Arctic, and so I could see some of the places where --
38 okay. Like Page 26 you've got Shishmaref, Wales,
39 Teller and Stebbins. The other thing I need to know is
40 whether the villages that we're talking about gave
41 their blessings to it, go ahead and conduct those
42 research, that research, because that determines
43 whether that project will be successful or not, because
44 you do need village approval before going in, to my
45 understanding, on the monitoring programs, and their
46 active participation. And in all the projects that are
47 happening right now, is that the case?

48

49 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. In terms of
50 151 and 152, the ones that are on Page 26 and 29, those

1 communities have been consulted and we have village
2 approval. I'm -- and I'm actually not 100 percent
3 certain in 152 if all of the approval has occurred, but
4 if they don't approval, they won't go into those
5 communities. We do require that the community support
6 the project. It is one of the guiding principles we
7 have in doing HM/TEK work.

8

9
10 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: And that brings to
11 mind, according to the Technical Review Committee on
12 Page 13 and 14, you have all the -- that's one of
13 strategic priority, technical merit, investigating
14 ability and partnership/capacity building. And that's
15 one of the areas that seems to be -- and capacity
16 building. It seems to be incorporated into most
17 research proposals, but I really see that as evident in
18 some of the proposals that are submitted. And if you
19 take specifically the Unalakleet Chinook, there is no
20 capacity building component in there. Absolutely zero.
21 And yet that was a Technical Review Committee
22 recommendation to fund?

23

24 MS. HYER: Mr. Chair. Council members.
25 We evaluate these proposals on all four criteria. So
26 they may be higher in some areas and less in others.
27 And in particular on the Unalakleet Chinook, they have
28 worked with NSEDC. They have been down and met with
29 the corporation and the city and also NVU to get
30 support. And it's an on-going thing. I think the
31 investigators would like to move to more partnerships
32 with the locals, but often they start, and we've seen
33 this with other projects, with local hire, and as they
34 develop a program, they move to a point where they can
35 develop more and more -- as the project develops more
36 and more, they can turn more and more of the project
37 over to the local residents. And we've been very
38 successful in areas like Southcentral and Southeast
39 with doing that, where the State or the Federal
40 agencies will often come in and establish something,
41 get it going, train people up, and then over time turn
42 over the operation of the projects to the locals and
43 then work hand-in-hand with them, depending on the
44 expertise of the local organizations.

45

46 MS. ARMSTRONG: If I can add, Mr.
47 Chair. We also recognize that capacity building wasn't
48 as strong as we might have liked to have seen it, and
49 on Page 24 at the bottom in the justification, it says,
50 currently capacity building consists of local hire, but
the investigators are encouraged to continue moving

1 towards a more meaningful role for local organizations.
2 So we have recognized that that needs to be the
3 direction they need to be going in. And sometimes when
4 projects are proposed, they don't develop these as well
5 as they will once they get actual funding.

6
7 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I've been on other
8 organizations where capacity building has been a part
9 of a proposal, and it's oftentimes the one that's
10 basically most important, because villages don't have
11 the resources and the money and sometimes training to
12 conduct the research proposals, but they realize that
13 there are problems with sustainability of the
14 resources, but need to develop in the capacity
15 building. I think it's really, really important that
16 that component is part of all the proposals that we see
17 in front of us by the Technical Review Committee. And
18 I think it's got to be more stronger in the development
19 of the capacity building on these proposals, rather
20 than saying are encouraged. I would like to see that
21 that they develop, present the role of capacity
22 building and incorporate that into the budget and put
23 that before the Technical Review Committee or whatever
24 the process is, so that indeed there's a definite plan
25 for capacity building in the villages, because that's
26 where it's sorely needed.

27
28 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council
29 members. I have one more comment along those lines.
30 And I have talked to you about this before, Mr.
31 Chairman, but we also have the Partners for Fisheries
32 Monitoring Program which is -- we provide funding for
33 actually professional positions in rural Alaska, and to
34 date we do not have a partner in the northern region,
35 and that would be something our program would be very
36 interested in, and that's an opportunity for some of
37 these local organizations to build capacity. So that's
38 something also to think about and something we'd
39 welcome from this region. We just have not had a
40 proposal before us.

41
42 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: So it's up to that
43 -- Teller and Unalakleet or whatever other villages,
44 stand a real -- Selawik, can be incorporated into that
45 partnership program. And that all depends again on the
46 investigators that are in the projects that are put
47 before us today by the several agencies that we're
48 talking about. Okay.

49
50 MR. GRAY: It would be -- Mr. Chairman.

1 It would be good to see you guys come forward to the
2 agencies, being that this has been set on your plate.
3 Go to Kawerak or go to the investigators, whoever's
4 putting these proposals together, and say, hey, this is
5 an issue. Do you guys want to be a player? Do you
6 want something along these lines involved in your
7 projects. And you guys take the action to go to them
8 to say, hey, this board suggested this be put together,
9 and you instigate the action.

10

11 MS. ARMSTRONG: We actually do do that
12 in a lot of cases. I mean, we really do work hard to
13 try to develop that capacity, and, I mean, for example,
14 I was encouraging people in the North Slope Borough to
15 do a project up there, and, you know, there's only so
16 much you can do, you know to get people to propose
17 something, but I -- you know, it certainly is one of
18 our goals to do that. And I know we've worked with
19 Kawerak I think quite a bit to try to get a good
20 proposal in that I think is going to do some -- they
21 have some great research, and we've worked hard with
22 Kawerak in this region in the past as well, and
23 certainly fully intend to do a lot more of that.

24

25 MR. GRAY: And what I'm thinking about
26 is this money you were talking about that you don't
27 have anybody on board, and there's a pot of money
28 available to hire some people. That sounds very
29 interesting, and you would think Kawerak or Unalakleet
30 or some of these players would be interested in that
31 funding.

32

33 MS. HYER: Mr. Council Member, I mis --
34 Mr. Chairman. Council members. We have made them
35 aware before, and I had talked specifically with
36 Kawerak about the Partners Program, and we did not see
37 a proposal this time from them, but we have made the
38 effort to talk to people about it, and it is a cyclic
39 thing. So it will come up again and we will continue
40 to talk to people about it, because we are interested
41 in getting a partner up here in the north.

42

43 MS. ARMSTRONG: I'll just make a point
44 to Mr. Chair. we have a new Partners Program
45 coordinator starting next week I believe, or the week
46 after, Pauma (ph) Ingalls, and I'll make a note to make
47 sure she knows that this is an area we really would
48 like to develop, and I'm sure that she would be more
49 than delighted to come up here and talk to people as
50 well. So we're beginning -- you know, a new person

1 leading the Partners Program, and I think it's an
2 opportunity for us to see if we can't get something
3 going up here on the Seward Peninsula.

4

5 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Very good.

6

7 MS. HYER: And I'd just like to add one
8 more comment. We've also been working hard at getting
9 a good HM/TEK proposal up here for several years, and
10 this year we're delighted that we have two good
11 proposals in the north. So as we continue to work on
12 these things, we see these things come into reality.

13

14 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: So the process would
15 be that we approve the five projects that are before us
16 as recommended by the Technical Review Committee. The
17 comments that we made will be incorporated into that
18 and brought before the people who make the actual
19 decision. Okay.

20

21 MS. ARMSTRONG: That's correct. Mr.
22 Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: And I would like to
25 thank Jeff from the Bureau of Land Management offering
26 his assistance to developing a partner proposal also to
27 different people as well as the Staff who have worked
28 so hard on this monitoring program. I think that's one
29 of the better programs that we've seen for rural
30 Alaska, and it would be -- I'd really like to see it
31 fully implemented in regards to like I said capacity
32 building. It always seem to be in the lower end of the
33 proposals, and I think that's what it was meant to be,
34 was basically to help the villages as well as the
35 regions become more technically efficient to start
36 running the monitoring programs.

37

38 Any further questions.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MR. QUINN: Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mike.

45

46 MR. QUINN: Okay. Well, I'll assume
47 we're ready, and I'll make a motion that we support
48 these five projects.

49

50 MR. GRAY: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Motion on the floor
2 by Mike, seconded by Tom.
3
4 MR. BUCK: Question.
5
6 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Question called for
7 on the motion. All in favor of the motion signify by
8 saying aye.
9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.
11
12 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any opposed same
13 sign.
14
15 (No opposing votes)
16
17 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I do have a conflict
18 of interest, but not any more, and I will abstain.
19
20 Okay. That concludes the monitoring
21 program. Any questions or final comments.
22
23 (No comments)
24
25 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Hearing none, we'll
26 have an update on the 2010-2012 Federal subsistence
27 wildlife regulatory change proposals, OSM Staff. Who
28 is?
29
30 MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Mr. Chair.
31 Members of the Council. We're opening the -- or the
32 call for proposals for wildlife proposals to change
33 regulations for 2010 to 2012. You may remember that
34 we've gone to an every-other-year cycle, so it's for
35 two years. The proposal period is open right now. It
36 closes November 5th, 2009.
37
38 And what we wanted to do today is last
39 spring the Council made proposals to change
40 regulations, and we need to have those validated, to
41 make sure that they're what the Council wants. And so
42 myself -- and I didn't say for the record that this is
43 Helen Armstrong. Sorry. But our wildlife biologist,
44 who's new to the region, new to OSM, Cole Brown, is
45 going to assist us in this, but we're going to go
46 through those proposals that the Council submitted to
47 make sure that they're what you want and put them in
48 for official proposals for us to do the analyses on.
49
50 There should be in your packet, these

1 are not in the book, but I think in the packet you
2 received, I'm not sure where in your packet they are,
3 but they look something like this, a series of
4 proposals. And did you put letters on them at all so
5 we know which ones we're working on?

6

7 MS. BROWN: No, I didn't.

8

9 MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay. So we'll have to
10 just go in order of the ones that are in your packet.
11 And Cole wanted to start with the one she's going to
12 do.

13

14 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Helen. Mr.
15 Chair and Council members. I'm Cole Brown with Office
16 of Subsistence Management. I look forward to working
17 with this Council.

18

19 We have currently, as Helen said, due
20 to complications with publishing the wildlife proposed
21 rule in the Federal Register, we have to reaffirm the
22 proposals that you submitted, and also the closures
23 that are under review for hunting in Seward Peninsula.

24

25

26 So the first proposal that I have that
27 was recommended is also due to the closure of Unit 22
28 coyote. The recommendation last time was to remove the
29 Federal closure, but not establish a season. This is
30 WCR08-17. And therefore rescinding the closure, but
31 not establishing a season would allow individuals to
32 hunt coyotes on Federal lands under State regulations.
33 Due to your recommendation of removing the Federal
34 closure, a proposal was put forth for this regulatory
35 cycle and we'll need you to reaffirm that.

36

37 So I don't know if we're going to go
38 through each individual closure and proposal and have
39 your decision on that, or whether you'd rather me brief
40 on all the closures and proposals and do it at the end.

41

42 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. I'm still
43 looking. I don't know if anybody's found any
44 proposals, so I'm looking for proposals to look at
45 here.

46

47 MS. ARMSTRONG: They're in your folder.

48

49 MS. BROWN: Purple.

50

1 MS. ARMSTRONG: I'm sorry, they're in
2 your folder.
3
4 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yeah, there's lots
5 of folders. What does it look like?
6
7 (Conversations trying to find proposals
8 -- mics not on)
9
10 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Are these all the
11 ones that are addressed to Tom Gray here?
12
13 MS. BROWN: Yes, they all say Tom Gray
14 up at the top.
15
16 (Conversations regarding proposals --
17 mics not on.)
18
19 MS. BROWN: The first one we're talking
20 about, it says Tom Gray at the top and it's a harvest
21 season proposal, and the regulation that you want to
22 change is for hunting coyote. And then how should the
23 new regulation read, it says, Federal public lands are
24 closed to the taking of coyotes, and that's deleted.
25
26 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: A clarification
27 please. So here we're not deciding whether the
28 proposal -- we're in favor of the proposal or against
29 it; it's just that we're affirming that the proposals
30 is submitted to us?
31
32 MS. BROWN: Yes, sir.
33
34 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: And then we'll have
35 a determination and decision on each proposal at the
36 next meeting; is that correct?
37
38 MS. BROWN: At the next meeting you'll
39 see the Staff analysis, then you'll make a
40 recommendation to the Board whether you want to
41 recommend supporting it or opposing it, and then it
42 will go to the Board in May. This is a little bit
43 unusual. We had some complications with getting the
44 proposed rule published, and so it's not the normal
45 process.
46
47 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yeah. That's why
48 I'm a little confused on that. So basically here we do
49 not throw out a proposal, is that correct?
50

1 MS. ARMSTRONG: No, these are just --
2 we.....
3
4 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: These are proposals
5 that are submitted, we affirm that it's here in front
6 of us, and so let's do it as quickly as possible. List
7 each one by number and name and let's get on with it.
8
9 MS. BROWN: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
10 Chair. Okay. So the first proposal is to remove the
11 Federal closure, but not establish a season for Unit 22
12 coyote.
13
14 MR. QUINN: Mr. Chair. I'll move we
15 again support that proposal or however you want.....
16
17 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mike, could I --
18 could we just do it as a package rather than going by
19 each proposal? I think it would be.....
20
21 MR. QUINN: Certainly.
22
23 MS. ARMSTRONG: Sure.
24
25 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Just mention by
26 number or whatever references that you have for each
27 proposal, give that report to us and then we could do
28 it in its entirety, because basically we can't throw
29 out a proposal or adopt a proposal at this point. Is
30 that sufficient for Staff as well as the requirements
31 that are before us?
32
33 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. Helen
34 Armstrong. The only one I'd ask if we could not do as
35 a package is the C&T, because we had some
36 clarifications after the Council meeting with Mike
37 Quinn, and we'd like to make sure that what's being
38 requested is what the Council would like, so if.....
39
40 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: The C&T are which
41 ones?
42
43 MS. ARMSTRONG: That one is the one
44 that says -- it's.....
45
46 MS. BROWN: It's on Page 7.
47
48 MS. ARMSTRONG: But what it looks like
49 on here.
50

1 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: The C&T
2 determination for musk ox in 22D or the.....

3
4 MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay. It's on the back
5 of the one that says -- it's for Thomas Gray, Chair,
6 and it says harvest season and then the regulation that
7 you want to change is for that portion west of the
8 Tisuk River drainage and Canyon Creek. It's on the
9 back of that one. And it says, what regulations do you
10 wish to change, Unit 22D muskox. I can just -- do you
11 want me to just go forward with.....

12
13 MR. GRAY: Go forward as long as we
14 have it.

15
16 MS. ARMSTRONG: It was a little bit
17 confusing how it should be read, and when we clarified
18 it with Mike Quinn, so I want to make sure that the
19 language that's there is what you want. The part that
20 Mike had added was where it says Unit 21D Remainder,
21 this is the customary and traditional use
22 determination, rural residents of, and we're adding
23 Unit 22C, that's the addition. Unit 22D is already in
24 existence, and then he added White Mountain. And then
25 excluding St. Lawrence Island was already there. So
26 it's the White Mountain part that was added. And so
27 I'd like to have verification from the Council that
28 White Mountain does in fact customary and traditionally
29 use that area, Unit 22D, that portion west of the Tisuk
30 River drainage and Canyon Creek. If you'd like me to
31 include.....

32
33 MR. GRAY: It doesn't sound
34 (indiscernible, mic not on)

35
36 MS. ARMSTRONG: This is why we're
37 verifying it, because we had a lot of conversations on
38 the phone and.....

39
40 MR. GRAY: Well, maybe I should jump in
41 here, because I came from White Mountain and I've been
42 hunting this musk ox herd before they created a herd I
43 think. You know, White Mountain has a history of
44 hunting in 22D. And what we would do is come -- we
45 would take machines, snow machines and go over into the
46 Pilgrim/Kuzitrin drainage, and we would hunt around
47 Kuzitrin Bridge and none of us would go beyond Imuruk
48 Basin let's say. So, you know, I would say White
49 Mountain would use the eastern portion of 22D, but I
50 think this remainder is Teller and Igiapuk (ph) and

1 that area. And to be real honest about it, White
2 Mountain people haven't used that area.

3

4 MS. ARMSTRONG: So maybe we shouldn't
5 include that here?

6

7 MR. GRAY: Well, I don't want to speak
8 for White Mountain, because I'm not from White Mountain
9 any more. I think you have a White Mountain rep here;
10 maybe he wants to talk.

11

12 MR. QUINN: Well, let me try and use my
13 memory here on that particular proposal, okay. First
14 of all, we've got to know the difference between what
15 the State calls D remainder and what the Feds call D
16 remainder. This proposal is obviously toward what the
17 Feds call D remainder, which is basically the area
18 around Teller from the Tisuk River to Teller. It's
19 kind of a small peninsula. The current C&T is I
20 believe Teller and Brevig only.

21

22 MS. ARMSTRONG: The line's up here.

23

24 MR. QUINN: Yeah. And my motion for a
25 proposal was to include the residents from Nome -- oh,
26 wait. Gosh.

27

28 MS. ARMSTRONG: Which is Unit 22C.

29

30 MR. QUINN: There's no Federal season
31 in 22C for muskox. So I don't think I -- we didn't
32 talk about that.

33

34 MS. ARMSTRONG: Well, it's 22C would
35 then be able to harvest in 22D remainder. That's where
36 you added 22 -- Nome residents, 22C.

37

38 MR. GRAY: Let me jump in again. You
39 know, the customary and traditional use, it seems to me
40 that you've got to be -- it's like White Mountain
41 people. I don't know that they would fit the picture,
42 because they didn't use it -- maybe they used it eons
43 ago when the animals were here long before this
44 transplant came, but since this new era of animals, you
45 know, I can't say that White Mountain people used it,
46 but on the other hand, if they did use it, they should
47 be entitled to it.

48

49 MR. BUCK: I think that the customary
50 and traditional or -- yeah, the customary and

1 traditional uses of the musk ox is undefinable, because
2 we haven't used this very much, but White Mountain do
3 get all the limit in their muskox. They always get
4 their limit, and if they customary and traditional use,
5 they should define it, but it's not definable right now
6 I don't think.

7

8 MR. QUINN: Well, we had another
9 closure review. We reviewed Unit 22D remainder muskox.
10 I'm looking at the minutes from the last meeting, and
11 Elmer moved not to remove that closure, and that motion
12 carried. I believe my proposal was supposed to refer
13 to the area around Teller.

14

15 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yes, Helen.

16

17 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. I just want
18 to try to separate the two issues. There's a closure
19 issue that has to do with whether or not the Federally-
20 qualified subsistence users can hunt there or not.
21 That's a harvest season issue. And then there's the
22 customary and traditional use determination issue.

23

24 MR. QUINN: You're right. You're
25 right.

26

27 MS. ARMSTRONG: They're two separate
28 issues. And you can have a customary and traditional
29 use determination, but still not be able to harvest,
30 because it depends on the health of any population. So
31 it's a separate issue. And there is a proposal dealing
32 with.....

33

34 MR. GRAY: I guess with that attitude,
35 you know, I think every village has customary and
36 traditional use of these muskox and every village is
37 going to fit that usage. You know, if we're looking at
38 the customary and traditional use in this proposal, I
39 would say White Mountain uses muskox just like any
40 other village and they should be entitled to hunt there
41 if you're going to come at it with that attitude.
42 Whether or not White Mountain hunted in that particular
43 area is another story.

44

45 MS. ARMSTRONG: And I think that's the
46 point. Our regulations require us to define what the
47 area is. I mean, certainly White Mountain has
48 customary and traditional use determination for muskox.
49 And, I mean, they already have that, but do they have
50 it farther out, and that's the question. And we just

1 -- I just wanted confirmation from the council because
2 it was something that Mike Quinn added when it was a
3 Council recommendation.

4

5 MR. GRAY: And, you know, I think that
6 all of us sitting at the table are a lot of subsistence
7 users, and, for example, last year if I could have went
8 -- if I didn't get a muskox, I would have went as far
9 as I could go to get a muskox. It doesn't matter where
10 I've got to go, I would have went there. And, you
11 know, we need to keep that in mind as we set up
12 regulations, because people will go long ways. And,
13 you know, because of the way the permits were, I felt
14 sorry for some people, because they would have went to
15 Shishmaref to hunt, but they couldn't because of the
16 permitting system. So again we need to keep this
17 subsistence issue in mind. Some of us will go a long
18 ways to do our subsistence.

19

20 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Ken, you have a
21 comment to make?

22

23 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council
24 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service.

25

26 Unfortunately there's a lot of history
27 in here, and I think 22D has developed a kind of
28 complexity, and it's hard to sort of get, you know,
29 your head around it. And there's really two things
30 that we're working with I think in the regulations.
31 And it's complicated by State and Federal regulations,
32 but on the one hand you're working with C&T
33 determinations. And those originally were pretty
34 specific based around pretty much GMU units. And that
35 held for a number of years until it was really expanded
36 by providing for Nome C&T northward into eastern 22D.
37 And most recently I think Mr. Quinn's brought up a --
38 did you say that you'd like to go over towards Teller
39 and Brevig, in that area; is that what you were looking
40 for?

41

42 MR. QUINN: No, it's finally coming
43 back, and if you read the minutes, the proposal was for
44 22D remainder, except that portion west of the Tisuk
45 River and Canyon Creek. And you've divided that area
46 also in your seasons. The 22D west of Tisuk and Canyon
47 has a specific season in there, and then all the rest
48 of 22D has another season.

49

50 MR. ADKISSON: Basically when the hunts

1 first began, there was a great deal of concern over the
2 road-connected areas, and the Teller area that's road
3 connected to Nome, that southern part of 22D in there,
4 what today we call 22D southwest, not even part of any
5 hunt and was later, as the population of animals grew,
6 it was built in. And so by the time it actually got
7 added in, we already had C&Ts in place. And so today
8 basically, you know, we have -- the State has
9 essentially three hunt areas for muskoxen in 22D. And
10 I'm not talking C&T, I'm talking about hunt areas with
11 quotas and seasons. And that's the 22D southwest area.
12 They have another hunt area which is basically, I like
13 to think of it as 22D east, which is the Kuzitrin and
14 Pilgrim River area, and then what is called 22D
15 remainder, which is basically that central and western,
16 northern part of 22D, you know, what often gets called
17 as 22D remainder.

18

19 And we had an issue come up this summer
20 where, because we don't have three hunt areas, we only
21 actually have two hunt areas, although we have three
22 C&Ts, because of the Nome situation that developed
23 several years ago, so we only have a 22D southwest hunt
24 area and a 22D remainder. And the American and Nyupuk
25 (ph) area got hit pretty heavy and it resulted in an
26 early closure of the muskox season. We were faced with
27 a problem that because the State had broken that whole
28 thing out into two hunt areas, we had to sort of close
29 the whole part of that northern part of 22D from the
30 west all the way across to the east.

31

32 I actually have a proposal in for this
33 cycle that would align the Federal hunt areas with the
34 State areas and the quotas so we don't have that
35 situation again. And when we get to the proposals that
36 I had mentioned earlier, I'll talk briefly about that.

37

38

39 But keep in mind that those are hunt
40 areas and not areas that relate to C&T, so you know, if
41 you have C&T for that area, you know, there's not a
42 problem. If you -- you know. So I think
43 geographically of where you want to hunt and ask
44 yourself, do I have C&T for it, and if you don't,
45 request in that direction and don't worry so much about
46 the hunt areas and what's actually happening now on the
47 ground, because that will sort itself out.

48

49 I don't know if that helps clarify
50 anything or not, but 22D is a confusing mess, because,

1 you know, over the years the State and Federal systems
2 have diverged and gone different ways, and, you know,
3 in trying to respond. And it really is complicated to
4 get your head around, but I think we're making
5 progress. So I would say, you know, just look at the
6 thing and go, where do I want to hunt? Do I have --
7 should I have a right to hunt there, and if you think
8 you should, you know, put in a proposal to amend the
9 C&T, and then we'll look at that in terms of how that
10 overlays with those hunt areas and, you know, make the
11 hunts work.

12
13 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: And it just was
14 pointed out earlier, it's a C&T issue at this point,
15 not a season issue. And I'm just -- I guess we're
16 trying to struggle how should this actually be worded
17 and for what areas. I agree with Tom in that
18 subsistence users travel long distances should there be
19 a shortage. And so we're grappling now with the
20 geographic area for C&T on this proposal, and I'm
21 trying to just get what is the right wording so we can
22 get on with this.

23
24 MR. GRAY: Well, you know, as I sit
25 here and think about this, I would be supportive of
26 this proposal including White Mountain because of this.
27 White Mountain has a history of leaving White Mountain,
28 going outside of its local area and traveling a long
29 ways to get to muskox. And if we had to travel to
30 Wales, we would have went to Wales to get muskox. I
31 mean, that's just the facts. We were aggressive, we
32 went after them. So, you know, in my mind, we went
33 after that resource in that other area. So with that
34 said, I think they should be included.

35
36 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Well, the question
37 in regards to public comments, were there any public
38 comments from the areas of 22D, C and B that were
39 incorporated and were they in favor?

40
41 MS. ARMSTRONG: At this point in the
42 process, what was done at the last meeting was a
43 proposal to create this.

44
45 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: So there are no
46 public comments?

47
48 MS. ARMSTRONG: And so the public
49 comments will come at the next meeting after the
50 analysis is submitted, and then there will be a public

1 comment period and we will get written public comments
2 as well as at the meeting.

3

4 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. Very good.
5 Thank you for the clarification. Continue then with
6 the C&T. There's one in favor of including -- as to
7 the wording as it is right now for clarification
8 purposes. Mr. Quinn.

9

10 MR. QUINN: Well, let me -- let's see
11 if we can make an effort to make this even simpler.
12 Elmer, pay attention because this is going to -- I'm
13 going to try and involve everything there and try and
14 get more people the opportunity to hunt on Federal
15 land. Let's try a proposal to have the C&T
16 determination for all of Unit 22D be rural residents of
17 Units 22B west, 22C, 22D and 22E. I would think that
18 residents of 22E, which is really only one village,
19 would occasionally venture traditionally into 22D to
20 hunt any animals. So let's try and give everybody C&T
21 and then we've still got opportunities in the future to
22 do restrictions if we've got problems with local people
23 needing more access.

24

25 MR. SEETOT: Sounds sound.

26

27 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. Mr. Quinn.
28 I have a question. Did you -- currently it says
29 excluding St. Lawrence Island. Would you continue
30 that?

31

32 MR. QUINN: Yeah, we can keep that
33 there.

34

35 MS. ARMSTRONG: Keep that in, okay.

36

37 MR. QUINN: Okay. So that's a motion.

38

39 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: That's in the form
40 of a motion? Pushing on forward. That would include
41 B, C, D and E.

42

43 MR. GRAY: Okay. Whose original
44 proposal was this before I second it?

45

46 MS. ARMSTRONG: It was the Council's.
47 You mean who.....

48

49 MR. GRAY: Okay. So we can amend it
50 and change it to what we want.

1 MS. ARMSTRONG: Whatever you want to
2 do; it's your proposal.

3
4 MR. GRAY: Okay. I'll second it. I
5 just seconded it.

6
7 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Seconded by Tom
8 Gray. Okay. Sorry. Elmer.

9
10 MR. SEETOT: Discussion. Mr. Gray, I
11 can verify that he does hunt outside of White Mountain,
12 because I was surprised to meet him up around the
13 Bendeleben Mountains when the hunt first started, you
14 know. They travel a lot just to get their muskox. We
15 go into Bendeleben Mountain area, that's about 100
16 miles from Brevig that we do go into. And that's one
17 of the areas that is constantly or heavily used by
18 residents of 22D, especially Nome and pretty much White
19 Mountain residents, because they're more subsistence
20 oriented, you know, toward game. Wherever the game is,
21 you follow the game to make a harvest. And that was
22 something, you know, that he might be talking about
23 something that a few might be skeptic about, but I did
24 clarify that, he did go. I did meet him up toward
25 Bendeleben Mountains, of all the places, you know, one
26 bright sunny day, you know. That's something that I do
27 run into Nome residents while up around the Bendeleben
28 or around the lava beds, so that place is heavy used
29 up.

30
31 On the other side, we had meetings in
32 the past stating that muskox were a nuisance, that they
33 were trespassing. These are creatures that can be
34 harvested by local people, yet we constantly badger or
35 make them sound like a bad animal. One of the things
36 that I think the residents of any -- if they want to
37 control the population increase of any wildlife
38 resource that more hunting be done. We do have a
39 problem with brown bears in our community, in our area,
40 yet I have seen no one really harvest or go after brown
41 bear other than guides that do come from, you know,
42 outside, or within the hunt area. But that's the only
43 activity like I see for any wildlife species.

44
45 Muskox, last season I was ready to bag
46 a muskox within Unit 22D, but that quota was already
47 reached by January. So we have had histories of
48 harvest numbers not being reached, but this was the
49 first time that, you know, it was closed early during
50 that time. Like I say, if we want to see muskox not be

1 in our area, you know, that the hunting pressure be
2 increased in these areas. That's one method.

3

4 The other method is, like I said, to
5 22E residents, if we want to get rid of these muskox,
6 then we go into a lively debate about the pros and
7 cons, because TEK handed down for our ancestors, you
8 argue, if you say this is my animal, you will take any
9 of that, then that species will kind of disappear from
10 your area. The TEK we know, and then the other one is
11 the hunting management, you know, done by our
12 residents.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: If I could with your
17 agreement say, rather than get rid of the muskox, allow
18 to harvest to our numbers. It would be fine to reflect
19 that in the minutes. Thank you. But you're in favor
20 the language then, B, C, D and E it sounds like. Okay.

21

22 Any further discussion on the C&T.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Hearing none, what's
27 the wishes of the RAC?

28

29 MR. GRAY: Question.

30

31 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: The question's
32 called for on the motion. All in favor of the motion
33 signify by saying aye.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any opposed, same
38 sign.

39

40 (No opposing votes)

41

42 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Motion carries.

43

44 MR. GRAY: This -- can I say something?
45 This is going to kind of test the waters so to speak on
46 C&T. And I'm glad to see that this Board is supportive
47 of this, because anything that we hunt, we will go a
48 long ways to go get. And the bureaucracy has drawn
49 lines on the maps and said this, that, there, and we
50 need to keep in mind we're subsistence users and we'll

1 go to -- I just came from Pilgrim or Kuzitrin out
2 seining. You know, I went to his, to Elmer's country
3 to go seine whitefish. And I've got beluga and that's
4 at Cape Nome. I used to hunt belugas at Rocky Point.
5 You can see the difference in the country. We will go
6 a long ways to go get what we need for our families.
7 So these lines on the maps really don't mean a hill of
8 beans to a lot of us. They mean a lot to the
9 bureaucracy, because they put them there. And, you
10 know, hopefully the bureaucracy will learn something
11 about subsistence in the actions that we're trying to
12 take here, because I think there's going to be some
13 people saying, no, they can't do that. And hopefully
14 people will look at this with an open mind.

15

16 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you, Tom.
17 Helen.

18

19 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. I just
20 would like to clarify then just for the record, that
21 the C&T would read for all of Unit 22D, rural residents
22 of 22B west is what I heard Mike Quinn, and I heard
23 later 22B, so I want to clarify. 22B west, 22C, Unit
24 22D and 22E, excluding St. Lawrence Island?

25

26 MR. QUINN: Yeah, that was my motion.

27

28 MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Thank you.
29 Thank you for that clarification.

30

31 And, Mr. Gray, I wanted to say that
32 this is an issue statewide. We've had, you know, where
33 do those boundaries get drawn, and, you know, exactly
34 what you're saying we've heard in many places, the
35 North Slope especially. It's a huge area and people go
36 long distances, and so these same arguments have been
37 expressed, and we hear you.

38

39 MR. QUINN: Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Quinn.

42

43 MR. QUINN: Before we move on, I'd like
44 to request a short break of 5 or 10 minutes for
45 bathrooms and anything else people might need a break
46 for.

47

48 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: A 10-minute break
49 sounds good.

50

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Continuing on with
6 the agenda. We've concluded the C&T and continue then
7 on with the confirmation of the proposals submitted
8 before us.

9

10 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair. Cole Brown with
11 OSM. And per your suggestion, I'm going to run through
12 the closures that -- the recommendations for the
13 closures that were made at the last meeting as well as
14 the proposals that resulted from the decisions on those
15 closures, and then afterwards ask for your
16 reaffirmation on those closures and proposals, or if
17 you have any changes to that.

18

19 So if you look at your book on Pages --
20 I guess it starts on Page 5, and we'll just run through
21 them in order.

22

23 We have WCR08-09 a, b and c for Unit
24 22A moose, and the recommendation was to maintain the
25 current closures due to the poor calf recruitment and
26 overall low moose densities, and the closures being
27 needed to continue subsistence uses.

28

29 WCR08-17 for Unit 22 coyote, the
30 recommendation was to remove those Federal closures,
31 but not establish a season. Rescinding the closure,
32 but not establishing a season would allow individuals
33 to hunt coyotes on Federal lands under State
34 regulations. Subsequently, due to your decision to
35 remove the Federal closure, we have written up the
36 Wildlife Proposal SPA regarding this issue.

37

38 The next closure is WCR08-28, and it's
39 the Unit 22D Tisuk muskox. The recommendation was to
40 remove the Federal closure for this area because of
41 improved muskox population in that area. Due to that
42 decision to remove the Federal closure, we have written
43 up a Proposal WP10-SPB to reflect that.

44

45 The next closure is WCR08-29, Unit 29D
46 [sic] remainder for muskox. The recommendation was to
47 maintain the current Federal closure. The reason is
48 that muskoxen populations are doing well in other
49 areas, but the population in 22D is slightly
50 decreasing; therefore a closure is needed to provide a

1 preference for subsistence users.

2

3 The next closure review was 08-30, Unit
4 22E muskox. And the recommendation was to remove the
5 Federal closure. And we wrote WP10-SPC as a proposal
6 to address that removal of the Federal closure.

7

8 So we had three proposals that
9 generated out of removing the closure language for the
10 various areas. And then on Page 6 we had a new
11 proposal to lengthen the cow season to match the bull
12 harvest season for muskox in Unit 22E.

13

14 And those were the proposals that were
15 recommended last time, and we need your reaffirmation
16 regarding those proposals and your decision on the
17 closures.

18

19 MR. QUINN: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Quinn.

22

23 MR. QUINN: There was one other new
24 proposal, or did you read that, about adding Unit 22 to
25 the list of units that can sell brown bear parts?

26

27 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Council.
28 This was a C&T issue and so it's going to be addressed
29 by Helen, but, yes, we do have another proposal to add
30 the selling of handicrafts made from brown bear parts.

31

32 MS. ARMSTRONG: We do have that one.
33 Cole was covering the ones that were the season and
34 harvest limits.

35

36 MS. GREGORY: Okay. All right.

37

38 MS. ARMSTRONG: But there's no problem,
39 I mean, now that you have actually said that, you can
40 just put that with the whole package if you want to do
41 it as a package approval. that's fine.

42

43 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Seetot.

46

47 MR. SEETOT: The actions done with the
48 C&T and then also this closure, so the action that we
49 just did earlier would that supersede what was taken at
50 that last meeting regarding Unit 22D remainder for

1 muskox?

2

3 MS. ARMSTRONG: For the C&T?

4

5 MR. SEETOT: Yeah. So that's two
6 different issues that we're talking about?

7

8 MS. ARMSTRONG: Right. The C&T one is
9 separate from what Cole was just talking about, and
10 that will supersede what wsa recommended at the spring
11 meeting.

12

13 MR. SEETOT: Thank you.

14

15 MS. ARMSTRONG: We're reaffirming the
16 proposals at this meeting.

17

18 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I do have a concern
19 in regards -- and I really can't find the pages that
20 you're talking about in regards -- that's not in the
21 green book, is it?

22

23 MR. QUINN: Some of it's under the
24 minutes.

25

26 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: It's under the
27 minutes?

28

29 MR. QUINN: Yeah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Oh, okay. All
32 right.

33

34 MR. QUINN: It's what we did at the
35 last meeting.

36

37 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. I've got it.

38

39 MS. ARMSTRONG: Pages 5 and 6.

40

41 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you. There's
42 the one on muskox in regards to Seward Peninsula
43 Regional Advisory Council, I can't remember the name of
44 -- which number it is, and it's a muskox Tier II for --
45 I'll have to find it. It would be 22E. Okay. WCR08-
46 30 I believe. On the minutes it says one thing on the
47 proposal that is in front of us to Mr. Tom Gray, it's
48 under number 3. Why should this regulation change be
49 made? Closure is not needed. The muskox population in
50 22D is healthy. The animals are an introduced.

1 Communities of Wales and Shishmaref believe the animals
2 are a nuisance. If it's okay with the Council, I would
3 like to strike that sentence out, communities of Wales
4 and Shishmaref believe the animals are a nuisance.
5 It's, what's the word? Yeah, something like that.
6 Yeah, if it's okay with -- are there any objections to
7 that?

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay.

12

13 MR. GRAY: And that's on two different
14 proposals there.

15

16 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: What's the other one
17 where it says that?

18

19 MR. GRAY: Well, I just saw it in two
20 different places. Maybe they're the same proposal; I
21 don't know.

22

23 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: If that's case, it
24 doesn't -- there's nothing biological or anything in
25 regards to that or subsistence use, other than saying
26 that they're a nuisance. And I think it just -- it's
27 hard to present an argument saying that animals are a
28 nuisance when indeed there are people who depend on
29 animals and depend on the meat. And to say they're a
30 nuisance I think is not conducive to a subsistence way
31 of talking. Okay. So where it says that the animals
32 are a nuisance, I would appreciate that being stricken
33 from the proposal.

34

35 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. We'll make
36 that amendment.

37

38 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you very much.
39 Actions would be needed to adopt the -- or to reaffirm
40 that these proposals submitted before us as presented
41 by the Staff. Wishes of the RAC.

42

43 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. I so move.

44

45 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Motion on the floor
46 by Mr. Seetot.

47

48 MR. QUINN: Second.

49

50 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Seconded by Mr.

1 Quinn. Any discussion on the motion.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MR. QUINN: Question.

6

7 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: The question called
8 for on the motion. All in favor of the motion signify
9 by saying aye.

10

11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12

13 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any opposed same
14 sign.

15

16 (No opposing votes)

17

18 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Motion carries.

19 Thank you.

20

21 Is there anything else in regards to
22 the affirmation of a proposal before us. I would like
23 -- there are other ones, like from Kelly Anungazuk,
24 President of Native Village of Wales, Peter Martin,
25 Sr., a proposal form that was submitted to us. Mr.
26 Adkisson also has some proposals.

27

28 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. Those
29 proposals that were not submitted by the Council will
30 be discussed, analyzed and discussed at the winter
31 meeting. Because the Council can't affirm them or
32 support them at this time, that's why we're not
33 proposing them at this time. I think if Mr. Adkisson
34 wants to discuss his proposal, that's.....

35

36 MR. PROBASCO: It's for their
37 information.

38

39 MS. ARMSTRONG: It's just for your
40 information only, not for you to take any action on
41 anything.

42

43 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Is that because they
44 have not been entered into the record about the
45 proposal at this point?

46

47 MS. ARMSTRONG: Correct.

48

49 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Or will they be part
50 of the packet that we will be discussing at the next

1 wildlife discussion?

2

3 MS. ARMSTRONG: Pete's going to address
4 it.

5

6 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Pete
7 Probasco. Just like the Councils, the public and other
8 entities, agencies, can submit proposals. And Mr.
9 Martin submitted a proposal, and I think he submitted
10 it as an FYI to the Council that Stebbins is submitting
11 a wildlife proposal. That proposal will still go
12 forward, and the Council's opportunity to act on that
13 will be at the next cycle of meetings. However, if the
14 Council wants to develop a proposal similar or
15 identical, they also can do that as well. But you
16 don't have to act on any of these that have been
17 submitted. They're submitted as FYI. Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Adkisson, you
20 have something to add?

21

22 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council
23 members. The proposals that I had submitted, two of
24 them were on behalf of the Native Village of Wales, and
25 one was Park Service submitted one related to the
26 realignment of the hunt areas for muskoxen in 22D. And
27 I know it's informational, but if you have the time, I
28 would like to briefly run through those, and if you
29 have any comments or reactions to them, I'd be glad to
30 hear them now rather than at the final meeting when we
31 have to either approve, reject or amendment. That way,
32 if there are issues related to them, I can identify
33 those and go back to the community and begin to develop
34 some rational amendments to it that -- or if you think
35 they're really great and want to adopt them as your own
36 or whatever, that's fine, too. But they grew out of
37 some discussions here at the RAC about the moose
38 situation in 22E, about the Wales ceremonial hunt, and
39 some issues like that. And rather than take up a lot
40 of time, at the last meeting, for example, I said I
41 would work with the communities and see if we could get
42 some proposals developed, and that's what I'm doing
43 here, I'm just following through on a commitment I made
44 to some of the Council members kind of at that last
45 meeting. And so if you have the time, I'd like to
46 briefly run over the proposals. It's your wish.

47

48 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Wishes of the RAC.

49

50 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. As far as

1 the Council listening to Mr. Adkisson and understanding
2 the proposals that are being submitted, that's clearly
3 -- you know, it's up to you if it should be done. What
4 I would caution the Council not to do is try to start
5 formulating a decision. These still have to go through
6 the proposal process, et cetera, so there's a line
7 there. Mr. Chair.

8

9 MR. GRAY: But if there are problems,
10 we can have them.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I understand that,
13 but I think what Mr. Adkisson is requesting is that if
14 there's any problems that we could see in regards to
15 the proposals that were submitted on behalf of Wales
16 that they be identified now so that there's some
17 modification that would be made. But it's not
18 necessarily according to the agenda that we have in
19 front of us where we would be affirming that proposals
20 are indeed in front of us and adopted so they can move
21 forward.

22

23 MR. ADKISSON: That's correct. Or
24 recommending an action. You're just saying, here's
25 something I see.

26

27 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Uh-huh. That's
28 fine. I don't see any problems with these proposals at
29 this point unless they're identified by the RAC, I
30 appreciate your offer, Mr. Adkisson.

31

32 MR. ADKISSON: I can do them whenever
33 you'd like.

34

35 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. We'll move
36 forward.

37

38 MR. ADKISSON: I'm not sure -- I tried
39 to hand out some copies of some things earlier, and I'm
40 not sure how many of you got all of them, and so it may
41 be a little confusing. But we'll go through them
42 quickly one-by-one, and if you don't have a copy of
43 them -- some of you already have copies of them.

44

45 Let me just start with the Wales
46 ceremonial hunt.

47

48 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Adkisson,
49 perhaps you didn't understand me.

50

1 MR. ADKISSON: I'm sorry.

2

3 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yeah, I don't see
4 any problems with it. If the RAC has any, identifies
5 any problems at this time, it would be -- you know, if
6 there is a problem in regards to how the proposal is
7 written or in the intent, that be made now, and the RAC
8 has no problems with the proposals at this time. So
9 we'll just go ahead and move forward with the agenda,
10 and discuss the proposals later on if that would be
11 necessary. And I appreciate your coming forward, Mr.
12 Adkisson.

13

14 MR. ADKISSON: That's fine. Thank you
15 very much.

16

17 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. Do you have
18 anything else?

19

20 MS. BROWN: Yes, Mr. Chair. We also
21 have in your packet Special Action Request WSA08-13.
22 And this special action request is actually submitted
23 by the Scammon Bay Traditional Council. It's regarding
24 Unit 18, but this affects rural residents of St.
25 Michael and Stebbins since they have customary and
26 traditional use for this area, and so we are providing
27 a special action for your review and subsequent
28 decision.

29

30 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: A decision
31 regarding?

32

33 MS. BROWN: Regarding the special
34 action, whether you oppose it or support it. I'll
35 brief it and I guess you can take your.

36

37 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Can we just go
38 through an affirmation of support, is that what's
39 before us? I mean, why is this one special to where we
40 have to make a determination and a decision on 13?

41

42 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Pete
43 Probasco here. Special actions is a method that the
44 various Federal land manager agencies use outside of a
45 Council cycle to take action on hunts or fisheries, to
46 address various concerns. However, when a special
47 action request is submitted where a Council is meeting
48 and they have an opportunity to also weigh in and act
49 on it, we are then required to come before the Council
50 and present that and ask for your recommendations on

1 the special action, which is then forwarded to the
2 Staff Committee and the Federal Subsistence Board to
3 act on. So we're -- it's all based on timeliness, and
4 this special action was submitted in conjunction with
5 your meeting, so you're not off the hook. You get to
6 weigh in on this and give your recommendation which
7 will be forwarded as normal with a Council
8 recommendation. Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I appreciate that
11 clarification. I'm new on the board.

12

13 MR. GRAY: Do we have any input from
14 Stebbins or whoever is -- or St. Michaels, whoever is
15 being affected by this?

16

17 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair and Council
18 members. No, we have an OSM preliminary conclusion
19 regarding it, but, no, I don't have any information
20 regarding that.

21

22 MR. GRAY: Who on the board is
23 representing that area?

24

25 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Peter.

26

27 MR. MARTIN: I think it will clarify
28 this more clearly to me, because I know that the
29 customary and traditional use is open to Stebbins and
30 St. Michaels. It's still open or the proposal that the
31 customary and traditional proposal will be closed to
32 Stebbins, St. Michaels?

33

34 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair and Council
35 members. No, this is regarding the season, the hunt
36 season, and not regarding the C&T determination. We're
37 bringing it to this Council because St. Michaels and
38 Stebbins do have customary and traditional use and
39 therefore will be affected by these harvest season
40 changes within this special action request.

41

42 MR. GRAY: Okay. I'm trying to dig and
43 find out what the change is. Maybe you can explain
44 that to us?

45

46 MS. BROWN: I'll be happy to. The
47 request is that the harvest limit in that portion of
48 Unit 18, which is north and west of a light from Cape
49 Romanzoff, and I'm sorry if I don't pronounce it
50 correctly, please correct me, is Kusilvak?

1 MR. GRAY: Kusilvak.

2

3 MS. BROWN: Kusilvak, thank you,
4 Mountain to Mountain Village, and excluding all Yukon
5 River drainages upriver from Mountain Village
6 essentially be changed to two moose per regulatory year
7 with one allowed in the fall season and one allowed in
8 the winter season. Currently, under State regulations
9 and Federal regulations it is an either/or. Either you
10 harvest under the fall season or the winter season.
11 This would add an additional opportunity for the moose
12 within the winter season in the affected area.

13

14 The preliminary conclusion is to oppose
15 the special action due to the Board already taking
16 multiple actions during the regulatory cycle to
17 increase opportunity in this area. The Board has
18 liberalized the hunting season and allowances for
19 harvesting moose in this area during the winter season,
20 and hunters already have the option to take more than
21 one moose for a family or for others via designated
22 hunter permits. Furthermore, the justification is that
23 there's currently a lack of browse data and an
24 understanding of the habitat's carrying capacity for
25 moose in this area. So those are the reasons that the
26 special action has been opposed.

27

28 MR. GRAY: What about the resource? I
29 mean, changing from one moose to two moose a year, you
30 could -- if you did that here in Nome, we'd wipe out
31 the moose population.

32

33 MS. BROWN: Right.

34

35 MR. GRAY: Has there been studies, is
36 there enough moose to sustain something like this?

37

38 MS. BROWN: Mr. Council and Chair
39 members [sic]. Currently there is a lack of
40 understanding about the habitat carrying capacity and
41 the possibility of over-browsing within this area, so
42 it is a conservation concern to be conservative
43 regarding that, and not add the additional taking of
44 the moose, continue to have it as an either/or option
45 of the fall and winter season.

46

47 MR. GRAY: Okay. So I'm going to
48 assume then that there's no problem with the moose
49 resource, and there's plenty of moose out there to
50 accommodate this proposal.

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Wrong version.
2 Not in this area.

3
4 MR. GRAY: Well, and the reason I'm
5 hammering you on this is I don't think that it's
6 appropriate for us to be sitting here making decisions
7 unless you have somebody up here explaining what the
8 resource, that moose resource, whether it can handle it
9 or not. I mean, Fish and Game isn't going to get up
10 here and say, here's a proposal and we're not going to
11 support it for this reason or that reason. They're
12 going to justify some numbers here, and I'm digging for
13 some numbers of the resource itself that they want to
14 go after, which is moose.

15
16 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. If I may.
17 Pete Probasco.

18
19 Mr. Gray, I think everybody's aware
20 that the results of various management actions taken by
21 the agencies as well as the public's response, Unit 18
22 moose is doing very well. However, to get the specific
23 number that you're looking for, I think both State and
24 Federal agencies say that the herd is very robust, but
25 we don't have the definitive numbers that you're
26 looking for.

27
28 With that said, when you look at the
29 analysis in the request, the request is to provide
30 opportunity for an increased moose harvest. My Staff
31 analysis falls on the fact that that opportunity
32 already goes there, because the data isn't quite
33 sufficient yet to go to that next step. And so we're
34 looking at the information, looking at what's provided
35 now and saying, if a person wanted to take a second
36 moose, provide additional moose for the community, they
37 can do it under the designating hunting permit under
38 the Federal system, and thus we view this as not
39 necessary. Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you very much.
42 Further questions.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Did the RAC, you
47 know, the Yukon, take any action on this? Was this
48 presented to the RAC at the Yukon River?

49
50 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. The Y-K

1 Council meets this Friday and Saturday.

2

3 MR. GRAY: And basically this is in
4 their boat. My feeling.

5

6 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Well, I know that
7 the Stebbins has submitted a concern that indeed that
8 would affect their area, because of the customary and
9 traditional use, but at the same time I think it's a
10 concern that the RAC at the Yukon River should take up,
11 and I'm saying no action be taken by the Council. My
12 recommendation.

13

14 MR. GRAY: Yeah. And in the past when
15 issues like this have come up, we've deferred it to the
16 appropriate areas to deal with. And, you know,
17 hopefully if they're going to address doubling the
18 take, hopefully there's animals there to accommodate
19 that, because that's a big step. You do that around
20 here, it's going to -- well, you do it in Unalakleet,
21 it will wipe out the moose population.

22

23 MR. KEYES: This is Anthony from Wales.
24 If we're giving permission to the Yukon River and
25 Scammon Bay on getting two instead of one, it's going
26 to affect us up here in this region. We'll have our
27 folks in this region saying, how come we can't get two
28 versus those people down there can get two. And we
29 have to really suffer through the winter, especially
30 with the snow conditions that we do have and the
31 weather problems and the costs are rising and
32 everything. That's a big challenge between them and
33 us, giving them permission, saying, okay, you guys can
34 go ahead and get two, and we can't get two up here.

35

36 MR. QUINN: Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr.
39 Keyes. Mr. Quinn.

40

41 MR. QUINN: Yeah, we don't necessarily
42 need to comment, but I want to point out that everybody
43 on this RAC represents the whole region and currently
44 St. Michael and Stebbins have C&T for that area. So
45 our comments are perfectly relevant.

46

47 And I also want to point out some
48 history. It was this RAC who obtained C&T for Stebbins
49 and St. Michael. It was a proposal from this RAC,
50 because of the historical ties between Stebbins, St.

1 Michael and that part in Unit 18 hunting. So we've got
2 some relevance here in my mind.

3
4 This isn't a request to double the
5 moose harvest. It's a request to allow additional
6 opportunity for those people who are able to hunt. And
7 as anybody who's been in a village for very long
8 probably noticed, there are some people who have more
9 ability to hunt than others. So I understand where
10 they're coming from with this proposal. And also I'd
11 say that rarely is a subsistence user hunting just for
12 himself. He's hunting for his family and possibly
13 other families as well. So these people aren't looking
14 to double their moose harvest. They're looking to
15 double opportunities for those who have the ability to
16 hunt. But I also think that Pete's comments on the
17 designated hunter permits are totally relevant. There
18 already is that opportunity through that program. So,
19 you know, I understand what these people want, but in
20 truth it already exists.

21
22 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Further comments.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: So the question
27 before us, action on this special action that was
28 requested before us. I still feel there's some
29 relevance, but at the same time I think it's something
30 that the RAC at the next neighboring region should
31 handle.

32
33 MR. QUINN: I'll make a motion.

34
35 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Quinn.

36
37 MR. QUINN: I move that we take no
38 action on this proposal.

39
40 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Motion on the floor
41 by Mr. Quinn. And defer to the neighboring RAC.

42
43 MR. QUINN: Well, they'll have their
44 opportunity. My proposal is just take no action on it.

45
46 MR. GRAY: Okay. I second it.

47
48 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Second on the motion
49 by Mr. Gray. Any further discussion on the motion.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 MR. SEETOT: Question.
4
5 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Question on the
6 motion called for. All in favor of the motion signify
7 by saying aye.
8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.
10
11 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any opposed, the
12 same sign.
13
14 (No opposing votes)
15
16 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Motion carries.
17
18 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, we will
19 continue any time we have proposals like this that are
20 more than one Regional Advisory Council that has
21 communities that have C&T, we're required to bring it
22 forward to the affected RACs. And, of course, your
23 action is up to you, and, you know, there's nothing
24 wrong with the action that you have taken, but we will
25 continue to do this just to follow our guidelines. Mr.
26 Chair.
27
28 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I understand. Thank
29 you very much for the opportunity. Are there any
30 further issues or proposals before us in regards
31 to.....
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: No? Thank you very
36 much.
37
38 MS. BROWN: No. Thank you.
39
40 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Future meeting dates
41 and locations. Who do.....
42
43 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.
44
45 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yes, Mr. Nick.
46
47 MR. NICK: The future meetings for
48 winter 2010, we've noted some suggested dates between
49 February 15 to 19. I think the open date right now is
50 March 1 through 10, but they would like for you to meet

1 before the 10th I believe. 10th of March. And the
2 reason is because there are some fisheries issues in
3 Yukon River that the three Yukon RACS, including Seward
4 Pen RAC, needs to take up this winter during the winter
5 meeting, provide their recommendations to the Federal
6 Board. There are some controversial issues and
7 proposals that were submitted by a RAC in Yukon River,
8 upriver Yukon River. So we would like to suggest that
9 you meet as early as possible between March 1st and 9,
10 but before 10th. Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you. Wishes
13 of the RAC in regards to timing.

14
15 MR. NICK: And February?

16
17 MS. WILKINSON: No, (indiscernible,
18 away from microphone).

19
20 MR. NICK: I'm sorry.

21
22 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: So you're looking at
23 Page 36, is that correct, for winter 2010 RAC meeting
24 window, February 15/ March 26th. However you would
25 like to have it before March 10; is that right?

26
27 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I could be -- if
28 I could have Ann and/or Pete correct me, Y-K -- I'm not
29 sure what Y-K's going to do, but once you select your
30 meeting date for winter, we will let them know as soon
31 as possible, because their meeting is starting tomorrow
32 through Saturday. And I believe, if I remember
33 correctly, the Seward Pen meeting is going to be
34 scheduled for one or two days? Winter. It's up to
35 you.

36
37 MS. WILKINSON: Excuse me. Sorry.
38 This is Ann Wilkinson. The length of time will be more
39 likely determined by the number of proposals we get and
40 we're not sure, yeah, until November 5th when the date
41 closes. But it could very well be a two-day meeting.
42 Thank you.

43
44 MR. QUINN: Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr Quinn.

47
48 MR. QUINN: I see February 18th and
49 19th open. Is that a -- OSM doesn't like that date for
50 us?

1 MS. WILKINSON: Since this book was
2 published, Northwest Arctic Council met and they picked
3 February 19th. And just logistically, we can only do
4 two meetings in a week.

5
6 MR. QUINN: Well, you've got Eastern
7 Interior and Western Interior joint meeting. I want a
8 joint meeting.

9
10 MS. WILKINSON: They're going to be
11 breaking out. They'll have part of it will be together
12 and part will be separate, and so when they -- during
13 that meeting we're going to need two separate sets of
14 everything. Okay. Sorry.

15
16 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: So your availability
17 is when, anytime in March? March 1 to March 10? Is
18 that what you're saying?

19
20 MS. WILKINSON: Yes.

21
22 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay.

23
24 MR. GRAY: And March gets awful busy as
25 the months go on. I think earlier the better.

26
27 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I agree. Boy, it's
28 nice then.

29
30 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Nick.

33
34 MR. NICK: There is going to be a lot
35 of things going on this winter. And that's part of the
36 reason why we would like Y-K and Seward Pen to meet
37 earlier, because of the fact that there's going to be
38 some Board of Fish, Federal Board and other things, you
39 know, like analyzing Federal proposals, and all of
40 those schedules are going to take a lot of time and
41 preparation for your meeting, and also for Y-K meeting
42 will also take a lot of time. I do have two regions
43 now, your region and Y-K region. Y-K region is a big
44 region and it takes an awful lot of time to prepare for
45 their meeting. And I'm sure that it will take a little
46 time to -- a little more time to prepare for your
47 meeting as well.

48
49 So with those considerations, meeting
50 earlier will benefit everyone. Actually to meet the

1 schedules, meet the winter schedules that people have.
2 I think there's schedules that RAC members go to, like
3 Federal meetings, Federal Board meetings. You have a
4 representative that goes to that meeting, and there's a
5 lot of things in my -- I know that we need to consider
6 in order to get your meeting successfully prepared for
7 the winter. I'm sure in falltime it will be easier
8 hopefully.

9

10 And bear with me for not being prepared
11 for this meeting, because I was dealing with family
12 health issues. My father's been ending up in hospital,
13 and I've been with him. I was called to my village and
14 I lost a lot of time. And for that I apologize for not
15 being prepared for this meeting. Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Nick.
18 I agree with Tom. I think the earlier the better.
19 I'll look at 3 and 4 of March.

20

21 MR. GRAY: I so move

22

23 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Motion on the floor
24 with Mr. Gray.

25

26 MR. MARTIN: Second.

27

28 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Seconded by Mr.
29 Martin. Discussion on motion.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MR. MARTIN: Question.

34

35 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Question on the
36 motion. All in favor of the motion signify by saying
37 aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any opposed same
42 sign.

43

44 (No opposing votes)

45

46 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Motion carries.
47 Okay. The fall 2010 meeting. Could we take that up in
48 March 2 and 3, or is this something that needs to be
49 planned now for the Staff? It probably has to be
50 planned now for the Staff. Okay. That's a long way

1 off.

2

3 MR. QUINN: Ann, Isn't that what we've
4 traditionally done?

5

6 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

7

8 MR. GRAY: Yeah. Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Gray.

11

12 MR. GRAY: The only thing, and it
13 sounds like I won't be here for next fall's meeting,
14 but the only thing I would say is, you know, a lot of
15 times these windows are only given at a certain time,
16 and it's good to see that you're having a March
17 meeting. I've tried to get a March meeting because of
18 my schedule for years. And it's finally come to pass
19 and I probably won't be there. But again we're all
20 subsistence gatherers, and I don't know about these
21 guys but today, my schedule today was to go check
22 beluga nets and hopefully cut up a beluga today. My
23 season's still going on. I don't know about other
24 people. You know, moose hunting just started. And so,
25 you know, we've got 15 days basically here after this
26 point for a meeting date. And, goll, you know, our
27 subsistence stuff doesn't wrap up for two, three weeks
28 here, guys, so, you know, I understand that the
29 bureaucracy and the system has their schedules and so
30 on and so forth, but, you know, it's important that we
31 as directors of the Board work our schedule first, and
32 they will have to accommodate you guys.

33

34 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair, I would kind of
35 agree with that, because I have to kind of consider
36 either coming to this meeting or continue my
37 subsistence gathering activities which is limited in
38 that sense that, you know, we're getting colder
39 weather. The berries are already maybe too soft to
40 pick any more in our area. The waterfowl are kind of
41 staging toward Imuruk Basin, and then we're trying to
42 catch fish resources between now and freeze up, and
43 that's been a problem with me during these times when
44 subsistence gathering activities happen, but I do make
45 the exception that, you know, I elected to serve on the
46 Regional Council so that was one of the things I had to
47 kind of give up in order to kind of represent the
48 community.

49

50 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr.

1 Seetot. I have that same thing. You know, there's a
2 lot of stuff that's going on this fall, and it's just
3 kind of scrunched into these last two months of
4 scrunched into these last two months of August and
5 September. But as you get to freeze up, in the latter
6 part of October, then there's a time period of time, it
7 all depends on the season, where it's starting to
8 freeze, but you really can't go anywhere, the snow is
9 not good. So I'm leaning right toward the end of
10 October, you know, because the earlier part, even right
11 now, it's real -- do you have a comment?

12

13 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 Very valuable comments and I understand them.
15 Unfortunately, our latitude to go beyond this calendar,
16 that's this meeting date is very limited because of the
17 legal requirements we have to meet to put forth
18 regulations that are recommended and ultimately adopted
19 by the Board. The flexibility we have in the schedule
20 before you is we have allowed a week prior to the
21 window opening and a week after, but it's not -- you
22 know, you go into the very end of October would be very
23 problematic, but you know, going a few days beyond
24 October 15th, we can work with you. But you're pretty
25 much as a Council, you have this window, you've got
26 some little flexibility on either side of it, but it's
27 not real broad. Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I should have been a
30 little bit more clear then. I was thinking right near
31 the end of October, 14/15, because that's probably
32 right in the middle as we can get. Not a heck of a lot
33 is going on during that period of time. Moose hunting
34 season is just about over. You can't get any more fall
35 fish, because there's bluksuks (ph) already. Still
36 whitefish gathering, and it's kind of figure that
37 during that time it might be freeze up where you can't
38 really go anywhere, but that's my leaning at this
39 point. 14/15. I don't know about the Council, what --
40 you've each got different seasons. Yes.

41

42 MR. PROBASCO: And, Mr. Chair, the
43 advantage of picking your time now for fall 2010, if
44 you were to wait until March, these other Councils may
45 take weeks away from you, because we hold the Council
46 meetings to two a week.

47

48 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: It makes sense.

49

50 MR. PROBASCO: So it's to your

1 advantage to try to nail a date down now.

2

3 MR. GRAY: The only other big meeting
4 that I would say would be AFN. Is that going to be an
5 issue with this later date here?

6

7 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: When is the AFN
8 usually?

9

10 MR. NICK: Usually it's pretty much the
11 4th week in October, somewhere around that area.

12

13 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: 22 to 25? October
14 22 to 25 Mr. Nick has informed me, so we're pretty much
15 in the clear, 14/15.

16

17 MR. GRAY: Okay. So I'll move for the
18 meeting to be 14th/15th.

19

20 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Fantastic. A motion
21 on the floor, Mr. Gray.

22

23 MR. BUCK: Seconded.

24

25 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Seconded by Mr.
26 Buck. Discussion on the motion.

27

28 MR. SEETOT: If there are any changes
29 made, at the call of the Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Changes made at the
32 call of Chair. Clarification, Mr. Seetot. Thank you.
33 Any other discussion.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MR. GRAY: question

38

39 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: There's a question
40 on the motion. All in favor of the motion signify by
41 saying aye.

42

43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44

45 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any opposed, the
46 same sign.

47

48 (No opposing votes)

49

50 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Motion carried.

1 Thank you very much.

2

3 It's 11:30. We can continue on with
4 reports. It looks like we might be able to get today.
5 I've never been in a meeting, so I don't know how long
6 reports go.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Well, let's go try
11 and get through and see how much as we can before
12 lunch.

13

14 Revised schedule/calendar for the
15 program. Page 38. Ann Wilkinson.

16

17 MS. WILKINSON: Yes. Mr. Chair. On
18 Page -- as you said, Page 38. When I get there. Okay.
19 This is pretty much something that you can read for
20 yourselves, but I just would point out that the Board
21 is going to meet January 12th through 14th of 2010, and
22 they'll be deliberating on Subpart B, special actions
23 regulation, which you're going to look at later, and
24 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan, which you
25 looked at earlier this morning. And they'll vote on
26 the wildlife closures that you did today -- discussed
27 today. Then April 13th and 14th the Board will meet
28 again to act on the deferred proposals for the Yukon
29 fisheries. And then May 18 through 20 we think is when
30 we're going to be able to do the wildlife proposals.

31

32 Okay. So those are the main things
33 that are coming up. We would like to just point out
34 again, too, that that the proposal period closes
35 November 5th, so if you know anyone that wants to put
36 in a proposal, they need to do it by that time.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you very much.
41 Bear claw working group summary, Page 39. Who is the
42 bear claw.

43

44 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair. Cole Brown with
45 OSM. I'm going to provide the status of the working
46 group to date.

47

48 The Federal Subsistence Board meeting
49 in spring of 2008, the Board addressed a proposal from
50 ADF&G regarding the sale of brown bear claw

1 handicrafts. Based on that recommendation from ADF&G,
2 the Federal Board deferred the proposal pending the
3 formation of a working group. The Board directed that
4 the working group include representation from Regional
5 Advisory Councils. Then the State and Federal Staff
6 initially met in January to clarify the intent of the
7 working group and to develop a charge for that group.
8 They were to develop a method for tracking brown bear
9 claws, to provide conservation of the wildlife
10 resource, to protect the subsistence handicraft maker
11 from any association with illegal uses of brown bear
12 claws.

13

14 A status briefing on this issue was
15 presented the Regional Advisory Council meetings in
16 February and March of 2009. All of Councils provided
17 names of members to participate in the working group,
18 and in June 2009 a teleconference was held to discuss
19 the bear claw tracking issue with Council
20 representatives.

21

22 Out of that teleconference came a lot
23 of concerns from RAC members, and they had a lot of
24 questions regarding the necessity of tracking brown
25 bear claws. And Council members requested statistical
26 information on the numbers of illegally harvested brown
27 bears.

28

29 So with all those questions and
30 concerns, we had subsequent meetings with the Federal
31 and State representatives to compile that information
32 that the RAC members requested and we submitted that in
33 various portions throughout the time we had a brown
34 bear claw handicraft working group, two submittals, one
35 from various materials that the Federal and State
36 agencies had compiled separately and then specifically
37 that the law enforcement of the State and of the U.S.
38 Fish and Wildlife Service OSM compiled. And so those
39 were sent to the RAC members.

40

41 The discussion that we focused on was
42 some kind of paper tracking system. There's actually
43 something in place currently. It's called CITES, which
44 is the Convention on International Trade of Endangered
45 Species. The brown bear and black bear are listed
46 under threatened status under the convention, however,
47 not in Alaska. Alaska is the source, along with
48 Canada, of the brown bears. However, globally they're
49 recognized as threatened species.

50

1 So we're looking at finding some kind
2 of solution to separating subsistence users and legally
3 harvested bears from the illegal pouching of brown
4 bears to potentially protect the subsistence users from
5 being associated this way.

6
7 So we gathered the information and we
8 compiled it, and we sent that out, but what we're
9 really concerned with is having a face-to-face meeting
10 with those members that were appointed, so this fall we
11 would like to all get together with Federal and State
12 representatives along with the RAC members to go
13 through all the new information that was created -- or
14 gathered from the questions that the RAC members gave
15 us in the teleconference. So we need to have the face-
16 to-face to kind of update members further on what we
17 have gathered, and then continue to have discussions
18 regarding this issue.

19
20 Thank you. I'll take any questions.

21
22 MR. QUINN: Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Quinn.

25
26 MR. QUINN: Do you really think you can
27 come up with something that will do anything?

28
29 MS. BROWN: Yes, sir. There's actually
30 something in place already, as I mentioned. There's a
31 CITES permit. My previous job was as a wildlife
32 inspector with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is
33 something that I have dealt with for the entire length
34 of my -- those three years that I worked with them.

35
36 What we're concerned with is that as I
37 stated, Alaska is the source for brown bears, and
38 subsistence users have a long history of using all
39 parts of the bears for making up handicrafts. We want
40 to separate those legal uses from the illegal uses that
41 are going on. And from the information that was
42 compiled by the law enforcement -- and it's important
43 to remember that this is just from the State and from
44 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. No other law enforcement
45 representatives have reported to date, so we don't know
46 about refuges specifically, we don't know about
47 National Park Service lands, BLM land officers. So
48 there's still more data to be gathered that way. But
49 for those two agencies, there was 150 cases of brown
50 bear claw poaching, specifically for claws. So there

1 is something that we didn't previously know at the
2 teleconference what kind of issue that we're looking
3 at.

4
5 The CITES permit that is in place is
6 something that is recognized internationally. And we
7 as U.S. citizens, along with the Canadians, actually
8 have not as stringent rules globally as the rest of the
9 world does regarding endangered species and threatened
10 species. So we allow personal exemptions for CITES and
11 brown bear -- all the species in Alaska, wolves,
12 lynch, black bear. We allow a person to have a
13 personal product that they can carry out of the state.
14 They can go into Canada and they can go down into the
15 Lower 48. Not a problem. If they decide to take that
16 handicraft anywhere else in the world without a CITES
17 permit, it will be confiscated from them. Every other
18 country has a more stringent rule. So that doesn't
19 provide a very good incentive for individuals to
20 purchase those handicrafts from Alaska.

21
22 Greenland actually has a very good
23 program, because they're recognized as people that have
24 a long history of use of their resources. They make
25 handicrafts for generations upon generations. And they
26 require that a CITES permit goes along with the
27 handicraft to not only protect the subsistence user,
28 the handicraft maker, but it also provides an incentive
29 as individuals can say, this was an authentic resource
30 that was harvested out of Greenland. It's almost like
31 a marketing tool. And so that they can carry it back
32 to their homeland and they won't have a problem. They
33 can go right through customs, right through wildlife
34 officials.

35
36 We were looking at this as a possible
37 solution since it's already in place. This is
38 something that we already have as Fish and Wildlife
39 Service. It is something that we have not implemented,
40 because we do have this personal exemption. If you
41 were a commercial provider of these handicrafts, you
42 would have to go through the CITES permit system, but
43 because of this personal exemption, to date we don't
44 require that. What we're suggesting is that in order
45 to protect the subsistence user from being associated
46 with illegal practices, it's providing a proof really,
47 and that way the people that do buy that handicraft can
48 take that with pride and say not only do they know that
49 this has come from Alaska, but they can take it back to
50 their country. So it's something that is in place

1 currently.

2

3 MR. GRAY: I know there's use of bear
4 parts culturally. You're looking at Southeast Alaska
5 that does that in part of their regalia, and it's also
6 happened up here in the northwest Alaska where people
7 have made their own necklaces or whatever else from
8 bear parts, including bear claws. And that part is no
9 problem.

10

11 Historically, what have you seen? Is
12 there any documentation on historical commercial sales
13 in regards to these things throughout Alaska? We're
14 talking throughout Alaska, right? We're not talking
15 just specific geographical area.

16

17 MS. BROWN: Yes. Mr. Chair. We're
18 talking throughout Alaska, and we do have not specific
19 reports regarding sales out of Alaska, but through
20 Canada we have seen an increase in bear claw necklaces
21 costing over \$3,000, and this is for a full set of
22 claws on a necklace. So these are actually things that
23 we have just seen within the last month or two that are
24 starting to crop up on websites, because Canada also
25 allows it.

26

27 Now, I contacted this individual who
28 are selling these necklaces, and they require CITES
29 permits. So I asked him, if I wanted to go to England
30 with it, and he said I would require a CITES permit.

31

32 So we're looking at Alaska being a
33 source of the brown bears. We're looking at
34 subsistence users and protecting their use of those
35 resources. And what we're concerned with is that
36 without a way to track the legal harvest and the legal
37 sale of those claws, we're going to get mixed up with
38 the illegal side of it, and we want to have a clear
39 line and a clear way to show that this is a legally
40 harvested resources and a handicraft.

41

42 MR. GRAY: This regulation, if it
43 passed and the regulation read that you can sell
44 products made from bears, would that -- would the
45 person that's selling them have to have a CITES permit,
46 a commercial side to this thing?

47

48 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair and Council
49 members. This is something that we want to continue to
50 discuss. Currently it is in our regulations that

1 you're able to sell the handicrafts from brown bear
2 claws. This is something that Fish and Game has
3 brought forward, because there are conflicting
4 regulations regarding the State and Federal Regulation.
5 This is why the working group was brought together. We
6 have had several meetings with Fish and Game and
7 ourselves, like I said, to come up with the answers
8 that the Regional Advisory Council members put forth to
9 us in that teleconference, and it's something that we
10 want to bring everybody -- that the people that were
11 appointed by the RACs to be on the working group, this
12 fall we want to have a face-to-face discussion to
13 further discuss with you what your concerns are about
14 this method, maybe possible other solutions. Look into
15 -- find out all the information that we have compiled
16 thus far, and move forward together. So we're looking
17 forward to having that face-to-face meeting.

18

19 MR. GRAY: So again right now if this
20 passed, the person would have to go out and get a CITES
21 permit to sell it? No? She's saying no, you're
22 saying?

23

24 MS. BROWN: Currently, no, you do not
25 have to have a CITES permit if you are a personal --
26 how can I phrase this? If you are not selling
27 commercially, like bulk, like over 10 items I think is
28 what the definition is. You are an individual that's
29 selling a necklace to another individual. There's no
30 middle man that you're going through. You do not need
31 one to take that necklace to the Lower 48. You do need
32 one if that individual wants to take it to Greenland or
33 the European Union or any of those nations. You would
34 have to find -- and we have that form already. So none
35 of it is new. It's how it's going to be applied that
36 is new.

37

38 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I'm sorry, I don't
39 have your name. Could you.....

40

41 MR. VAN DAELE: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
42 Chairman. Larry Van Daele, Alaska Department of Fish
43 and Game.

44

45 Councilman Gray, just as a
46 clarification, we're looking at two different sides of
47 this coin, one being State law, one being the CITES
48 requirements that Ms. Brown is speaking to. Under
49 State law right now, even though you're allowed to sell
50 this handicraft as a Federal Subsistence user, State

1 law says, thou shalt not. We've got a conflict. And
2 we want to try to resolve that conflict. We see this
3 as, you know, just a microcosm of the State/Federal
4 confusion on some things.

5
6 And we see the work group that we've
7 had for the past several months and the RAC members
8 influence as well as the Board of Game coming together
9 on this hopefully and a finding a way that we can in
10 fact allow the sale of handicrafts made from bear claws
11 under State regulation as well, so the subsistence user
12 wouldn't have to worry about looking to see if some
13 different agency was out to get him.

14
15 With regard to the CITES permit and how
16 that would work, one possible way to do that is through
17 our existing bear sealing that we have with the Alaska
18 Department of Fish and Game. That is a CITES seal
19 that's put on the hide and the skull. Granted, it is
20 not required for subsistence users that keep the hide
21 within the unit, but if someone were to want to sell a
22 handicraft made from a claw from a bear he killed, he
23 would just perhaps have to go to the Fish and Game
24 office or a designated sealer, have it sealer, then
25 we'd have that CITES number and it would just be a
26 matter of internal paperwork within Fish and Game or
27 the Federal agencies. Nothing more burdensome on the
28 subsistence user than just getting the bear sealed.

29
30 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Would then -- I
31 agree with Mr. Gray. But then as it currently stands,
32 it could sell bear claws to another person here in
33 Alaska without going through the CITES permit. If this
34 passed, would that then supersede that? Would I have
35 to get a CITES permit to sell to another Alaskan
36 walking down the street, or even an Alaska Native the
37 way it's worded?

38
39 MR. VAN DAELE: Mr. Chairman. Again I
40 go back to the two parts of that. One being the State
41 law, one being CITES. Under the State law -- and this
42 is the controversy we're trying to get over. Under the
43 State law, you cannot sell that bear claw to someone
44 else right now. Under Federal law you can, under State
45 law you can't. And, you know, you talk about
46 bureaucracy, we're right in the middle of it here with
47 this right now. We're trying to find a way to surmount
48 that.

49
50 Under the CITES requirements, you're

1 not required to do that with CITES right now. If,
2 however, you sold it to an individual, as Ms. Brown
3 pointed out, that came up here as a tourist and wanted
4 to go back to Germany, for instance, that person would
5 not have to have a CITES permit to buy it from you.
6 You wouldn't have to have a CITES permit to sell it to
7 that person. However, they couldn't get it past the
8 border once they got there.

9

10 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: The question was if
11 this passed, then under Federal law I could sell to
12 another person. Under State law I can't. But if this
13 passed, the Federal law would then say I would have to
14 have a CITES permit to sell to another person. Is that
15 the case?

16

17 MR. VAN DAELE: Mr. Chairman. This is
18 a work group that's in progress, and it's premature to
19 say what would pass right now. But I would speculate,
20 and this is pure speculation, that, yes, in fact to
21 protect the subsistence user, to satisfy the Board of
22 Game potentially and to make it so that the individual
23 could take it home, they probably would have to go
24 through the CITES, through the sealing process that
25 we're talking about.

26

27 Cole, did you want to.....

28

29 MS. BROWN: I just wanted to clarify
30 that it's not only if you were to sell it to another
31 Alaskan or someone from the Lower 48. It is not a
32 problem; you do not need the CITES permit as you said
33 to have that article go down to the Lower 48. However,
34 if that individual wanted to take it anywhere outside
35 of the country, even to Mexico, even, you know.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: And into Canada.

38

39 MS. BROWN: Canada has the same
40 exemption for personal use that we do, so, no, you can
41 take it back and forth, and that's where the
42 discrepancy is. We're the only two nations that do do
43 that, give that personal exemption.

44

45 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Is that just for
46 bears? Because I see a lot of different.....

47

48 MS. BROWN: No, sir. It's for all.....

49

50 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: All CITES species?

1 MS. BROWN: Through the five that are
2 sourced through Alaska and Canada. So I believe that's
3 wolf, lynx, black bear, brown bear and.....

4
5 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Land otter?
6

7 MS. BROWN: The land otter, and I can
8 look at the rest for you, but there are source
9 populations within Canada and Alaska that do have
10 personal exemptions because of the use of those
11 species. Through the global community, there are
12 stricter regulations, and so, yes, if you were to sell
13 that to an individual that was from the European Union,
14 you would need a CITES permit. But what I'm trying to
15 clarify is that even if you're selling it to another
16 Alaskan and they want to take it somewhere else -- say
17 they decide to move house or they just want to go on a
18 trip somewhere, if they enter another country without
19 a CITES permit, their article can be confiscated from
20 them. And that is what we're trying to prevent as
21 well.

22
23 MR. QUINN: Mr. Chair.
24

25 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Quinn.
26

27 MR. QUINN: Okay. So, Larry, I heard
28 you say something about the State. Are you guys
29 looking at having the Board of Game change the
30 regulations so that bear claws taken under State regs
31 will be handled similarly?

32
33 MR. VAN DAELE: Mr. Chairman.
34 Representative Quinn. Yes, we're working with Board of
35 Game members right now. We don't know what direction
36 it's going to be. Probably not all State claws from
37 everywhere, but a clarification of claw versus hide and
38 so forth. The Board of Game has expressed an interest
39 to work with us on this so that we can get this
40 clarification.

41
42 MR. QUINN: Okay. CITES doesn't
43 necessarily apply to sales. It applies to
44 transportation, so whether the claw's sold or not, if
45 it leaves the State, the CITES stuff comes into effect.
46 I mean, I can harvest a bear, but if I want to leave
47 the country, leave the country, okay, the CITES comes
48 into effect. I see a lot of stuff advertised for sale
49 on the internet both from Canada and from the U.S. and
50 people wanting CITES permits to get something out of

1 Canada, and whether that -- like lynx is what I'm very
2 familiar with. So I'm confused by your statements that
3 Canada has some different reg that CITES doesn't
4 prevent us from -- or isn't involved in the
5 transportation of those species between the two
6 countries. I mean, any trade or transportation between
7 the U.S. and Canada is considered international.

8

9 MS. BROWN: Yes. Mr. Chair and Council
10 members. That's correct. What the distinction is, is
11 that it's a commercial sale, so you would need to have
12 a CITES permit for a commercial sale, and that is
13 something that was -- when I contacted this individual,
14 because it was a new source that came up in terms of
15 brown bear claw necklaces being sold for such large
16 sums, he provides the CITES permit that is associated
17 with it.

18

19 The personal exemption that I was
20 talking about between Alaska and Canada is for a person
21 that maybe made that handicraft or sold that handicraft
22 within Alaska. But as soon as you trans -- you go
23 across international lines, if you're an individual
24 from the United States that is buying from Canada
25 commercially, you are going to need a CITES permit.
26 That's different than a person that is in Alaska,
27 bought it from an Alaskan and is just going over the
28 border.

29

30 So there are fine lines between that,
31 because of these exemptions. In the rest of the world
32 it's not. You need a CITES permit, period, regardless
33 of how you're getting the handicraft. So there is a
34 small distinction that way.

35

36 Did I clear that up?

37

38 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Follow through, Mr.
39 Quinn.

40

41 MR. QUINN: I think so. Yeah.

42

43 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Seetot.

44

45 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. With the
46 harvest of brown bear mostly within the Nome area and
47 probably also with the guides, you know, the position
48 of Teller and Brevig is that brown bear population has
49 increased, because no take of brown bear has been
50 taken, you know, within these communities. During the

1 days of old, or when the elders were there, you know,
2 they took the opportunity to harvest brown bear. Not
3 all the game species are pretty much taken, you know,
4 for certain products. I hear that brown bear, you can
5 sell gall bladders and such, but within our community,
6 there's just not too much interest in the harvest of
7 bears per se, because, you know, it really hasn't been
8 handed down, nor has the harvest of muskox really have
9 taken, you know, like wildfire, compared to White
10 Mountain, because the resources are there.

11
12 However, the population explosion has
13 permitted the bear to kind of focus on cabins within
14 the Toksook, within Kuzitrin, within all these areas,
15 you know, getting up to kind of break in and kind of,
16 you know, raid the pantry so to speak. And that's
17 pretty much becoming common place in our area. But
18 people in my community complain, you know, there's too
19 many brown bear, so I'll just retort to them and say,
20 since you're saying there's something with brown bear,
21 how come you're not harvesting them, you know. And
22 then they'll say it's not in their -- really hasn't
23 been in their way of living, you know, or their way of
24 harvesting compared to moose. You know, they'll go
25 after moose. They'll go after certain marine mammals,
26 you know, stuff that they're familiar with, but to get
27 into something like brown bear or muskox, you know, it
28 takes a dedicated hunter if they want to bag those, and
29 then, you know, they have the opportunity.

30
31 But for us in the community, you know,
32 it just really hasn't been handed down. And we welcome
33 people from outside the unit with appropriate guides
34 to, you know, try to take black bear -- I mean, brown
35 bear within our region.

36
37 Not all parts of the big game animal
38 parts are really -- you know, like you said, illegal
39 take of brown bear, what was the number? Percentage?
40 Out of the 150 plus, what percentage was from Unit 22D?
41 We do harvest other animals, you know, walrus, hoodairie
42 (ph), like -- for big game purpose, it's pretty much
43 just the meat that we're kind of going after. You see
44 on TV the sportsman, oh, look, look, there's one with
45 the antler. You know, they're more interested in the
46 trophy hunt. We as people within the communities, you
47 know, are more subsistence oriented towards our
48 sustenance.

49
50 And that's pretty much something that

1 we are trying -- or I'm trying to get the young people
2 to adjust to is that the wildlife resources are there.
3 It's just that some of our resident -- or people within
4 the unit kind of think of them as nuisance, or, you
5 know, they're a problem bear, a problem animals, like
6 muskox. They get the opportunity, you know, to just
7 harvest more. That's what I kind of say to them. We
8 talk about it too much without doing any action on our
9 part, but it's going to take someone possibly within
10 the community or outside the community to kind of spark
11 the interest back into the taking of wildlife to keep
12 them in check, like the State of Alaska does predator
13 management, you know, first hand with the use of
14 airplanes, stuff like that. That could probably be
15 eliminated if the numbers -- or the animals available
16 to harvest, you know, be taken by every available
17 hunter, you know, that is willing to kind of reduce the
18 population compared to State-mandated proposals which
19 are in place right now.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MR. KEYES: Anthony Keyes from Wales.

24 I'd like to kind of fill in with what Mr. Seetot was
25 talking about.

26

27 Yes, we do have a number of bears. The
28 population, they're getting bigger every spring. I
29 wouldn't say they're a nuisance, they're just getting
30 more braver to come into towns, into the village,
31 regardless of all the people running around with their
32 fourwheelers. You know, they're getting adapted to the
33 noise, they're getting used to the people. Right now
34 I'm going to say this, and it's, you know, been bugging
35 me quite a number of years. Since our bear populations
36 has been growing, you know, they're getting too close
37 to the village, because of the dump sites. They're
38 being planted right there close to the villages. Every
39 spring they do come out and they do come into the
40 villages, and it kind of scares the elderly and those,
41 you know, that have kids running around during
42 springtime, because there's no school, and everybody
43 want to go running around.

44

45 But, you know, when a person does get a
46 bear, somebody's going to report him in and make a big
47 thing out of it. And it's been to the point where we
48 don't even want to shoot those brown bears any more,
49 because, you know, someone will report on you, and give
50 them -- you know, they'll give a bad statement about

1 the person that went after the bear, you know. We're
2 just trying to take care of our village people, because
3 the majority of our generation now are young, they're
4 children. And I do say they are growing a larger
5 number every spring.

6
7 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr.
8 Keyes.

9
10 Mr. Gray, you had a comment?

11
12 MR. GRAY: well, I was going to see if
13 I could throw a new twist into this thing. If I go out
14 and find a bear, under State law, can I sell those
15 claws, skull, teeth, whatever?

16
17 MR. VAN DAELE: Mr. Chair. Mr. Gray.
18 Under State law, the only sale of brown bear parts
19 would be if it were a handicraft made out of the fur,
20 or if it was in a bear control area where you sold the
21 entire hide, including the claws and the skull. If you
22 just found them out in the tundra, no, sir, not
23 legally.

24
25 MR. GRAY: And then under Federal law
26 we have other options that we can sell stuff.

27
28 MS. BROWN: That's correct.

29
30 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Under what
31 conditions? I mean, if the State law is saying one
32 thing and then the Federal law, do you have to be from
33 Federal lands, or is there -- what are the
34 qualifications to do that?

35
36 MS. BROWN: You have to be a Federally-
37 qualified subsistence user that harvests the brown bear
38 on Federal lands, yes.

39
40 MR. GRAY: Now, again, what if I find
41 it on Federal lands?

42
43 MS. BROWN: Could you -- I'm sorry?

44
45 MR. GRAY: Well, what if I find it on
46 Federal lands?

47
48 MS. BROWN: That's a very good
49 question. I believe it actually has to be harvested,
50 but I can look that up for you and get back to you on

1 that. We have that information within the packet. I'm
2 just -- not off the top of my head do I know that.

3
4 MR. GRAY: Well, and, you know, under
5 State law I can go out and find a muskox and I can take
6 that muskox and do what I want with it I understand,
7 and, you know, it's kind of ironic that I can't do that
8 with -- on Federal lands. There's something missing
9 here, so maybe we've got to dig a little deeper and
10 tune this thing a little more.

11
12 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair and Mr Gray. I
13 would say off the top of my head why there's a
14 difference between those two is that in certain areas
15 the brown -- globally the brown bear is a species of
16 concern, whereas the muskox may not be. So other than
17 that, I hear what you're saying is that there's a
18 difference between the uses of finding something out
19 there and being able to utilize it on Federal lands.

20
21 MR. GRAY: Yeah. And, you know, I
22 guide, I do bear hunts, and I have to give these guys
23 credit. The Seward Peninsula has a lot of bears. You
24 know, this fall I saw far more bears. I saw 15 bears
25 one day. I've seen as many as 19 bears in a day
26 guiding. So, you know, they can say globally there's a
27 problem with bears, but in reality we've got lots of
28 bears.

29
30 MR. BUCK: And I'd just like to say --
31 I'd just like to say that historically White Mountain
32 people, the ethelmut (ph), they used to shoot all the
33 bears. If they find out where a bear is, they track it
34 down and kill it, and then they shot them all in the
35 White Mountain area, so they just did that. And then
36 so our traditional use of the bear, we just clear them
37 out from there. Kept them out of the area.

38
39 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Van Daele, you
40 have a comment?

41
42 MR. VAN DAELE: Yes, sir. Mr.
43 Chairman. Somewhat in response to Mr. Gray, what you
44 had to say there. I think two points. One, I just got
45 back from spending a week in Chukoltka talking to their
46 villagers about bears, and they're seeing the same
47 thing over there that you are on this side of the
48 strait. As it warms up, brown bears tend to be moving
49 farther north and increasing in population. So, you
50 know, just the little bit that I know about over there

1 and other places, we probably will see an increase in
2 brown bears and more in places that we haven't before
3 in the north.

4
5 But going back, I think, Mr. Keyes, you
6 have a real important point, that people in the
7 villages, and I've -- you know, I've worked for Fish
8 and Game for about 30 years, mostly in rural areas.
9 People in the villages don't want to do anything wrong.
10 And they're concerned about that, getting caught,
11 because it's something they didn't know was wrong. And
12 this is a very good example with this. The State says
13 you can't, but the Feds say you can, of being that same
14 kind of concern. We don't know what law holds true,
15 and that's why I think this work group is so important.

16
17
18 Now, the work group was not formed
19 because we think subsistence users are going to kill
20 off all the brown bears or do something illegally. The
21 work group was formed as a microcosm of how can we
22 solve some of the State/Federal dilemmas, using this as
23 an example. And that's why I think it's important.
24 The brown bears, of course are important, the resource
25 is important, the respect of bears in certain parts of
26 the State being different than in other parts is
27 important. But the real important thing for me is a
28 way for the State and Federal Government to work
29 together with the users to come up with something
30 that's realistic, not something that's bureaucratic, as
31 I've heard over and over again today, you know. We all
32 hate bureaucracy, except everybody that works for it.
33 But it's -- seriously, we all, you know, as Alaskans,
34 we want to do the right thing for the resource first,
35 and then what's right for the people out in the Bush
36 second, and that's what I think we're trying to do here
37 with this.

38
39 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: And I appreciate
40 that, because it is a complex topic. It's not like --
41 with the addition of CITES into there. I think without
42 CITES, it wouldn't be so bad. But then again you've
43 got markets out there on the other side of the country
44 where the lucrative prices, not so much here in the
45 United States. And so that's where you want to focus.
46 And I know that with walrus and marine mammal, all the
47 different things, it's only restricted to Native take.
48 There is a CITES exemption or, what's the word, ban on
49 going internationally on the sales of Native handicraft
50 on the walrus and seal skins and everything else like

1 that. But it's still being done, because there's a
2 market here in America. So the CITES thing, while the
3 lucrative markets are over there in the Lower 48, kind
4 of complicates this whole thing we're talking about,
5 because what Mr. Keyes and Mr. Seetot and Mr. Gray and
6 Peter Buck are saying is really true. And what Larry
7 has just affirmed, too.

8
9 Which brings out to -- but there's
10 another area I think that's really got to be taken a
11 hard look at. And one of that is as Mr. Seetot and Mr.
12 Keyes have alluded to is that brown bear is really not
13 targeted for subsistence. That's -- I mean, people
14 don't go out to hunt brown bear unless you really run
15 out of meat, and that's the last thing you want to eat.
16 People don't go out to subsist on brown bear, but there
17 are a few who do that, granted. That's true.

18
19 So which brings out that the majority
20 of the take of the brown bear -- the black bear is
21 different. The black bear you will go out and get, and
22 people will hunt the black bear, bring it home and eat
23 it. They're nice and fat. And they do it on the Yukon
24 as well as Yukon and different other villages. The
25 black bears is different, because they eat berries
26 mostly. Brown bear, not so much the case.

27
28 So what's been happening, it's not so
29 much the subsistence users that will be targeted by
30 this regulations, but a lot of the guides, the majority
31 of bears taken in America, in Alaska is done by guides.
32 And there's no questions, there's -- that's true I
33 mean. So we're not talking about subsistence users
34 here in this regard, we're talking about guides who are
35 taking brown bears. So there's that real distinction
36 And I think that's where the complication arises in my
37 mind, because it's not going to be Mr. Seetot or myself
38 who would be selling bear parts out there, because we
39 don't target subsistence use of brown bears. It's
40 going to be the guides who are selling international or
41 whatever. And but it does effect the subsistence
42 users, because we live in the territory, we see what's
43 happened with the brown bear and everything ese. And
44 that distinction has to be made. There really has to
45 be a distinction between those two. Are we really
46 talking about subsistence use of the bear parts or are
47 we talking about the guide taking use and in addition
48 to the subsistence and how that implicates things, both
49 with the State and the Federal.

50

1 So there's some really serious as you
2 can see complications that could -- when you're talking
3 subsistence and it's basically not, because the
4 majority of take is in there. And I really don't have
5 an answer to that, but we definitely need to grapple
6 with it.

7
8 I know if you take just subsistence
9 purposes, like for the polar bear, you could sell, you
10 could take and you can trade in that area. I don't
11 know if CITES is involved with that -- in that effect
12 or not, but that's there because, you know, it's a
13 marine mammal. And maybe that's something that we
14 could take a look at, you know, as far as part of the
15 solution.

16
17 Mr. Gray.

18
19 MR. GRAY: I heard guides, and I'm a
20 guide, so I've got to jump in here.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MR. GRAY: And I'll tell you, you know,
25 the more bear hunters I have, the more bears I'll take
26 out of this region. But even though the bottom line
27 is, these guys pay a big dollars. I mean, a typical
28 hunt, by the time they get their animal home and they
29 deal with it, they're going to have \$25,000 in this
30 animal and they're not going to give the claws up. I
31 mean, the guides are going to have no input in those
32 claws, so I really don't think guides are going to be a
33 player in this arena of selling claws.

34
35 You know, I'm scared to death of Fish
36 and Game or the fish cop coming to Tom Gray's house and
37 knocking on the door and saying, I hear you're selling
38 claws. I mean, that would scare the death out of me,
39 and I could lose my license over it, so I just won't go
40 there, period. I got to the point, I won't even open
41 the cut up on the animal if I don't have to, because I
42 don't want to be accused of selling gall bladders. I
43 mean, that's -- it's -- there's lines that guides draw
44 and we won't go across.

45
46 So the only thing that I guess I would
47 be concerned about in this change is in the villages
48 there's not a whole lot of money around. And if a guy
49 could make \$2,000 off of claws, are people going to
50 start shooting animals and pedaling claws just like

1 people do in gall bladders and so on and so forth.
2 That's what I would be concerned about. So I think,
3 you know, we need to -- wherever we go with this thing,
4 we've got to set up a good system that will address
5 that issue I think.

6
7 And again, you know, Tom Gray as a
8 guide, I'll guarantee you I'm not going to sell bear
9 claws. I don't care how it shakes out. And right now
10 I just took four bear claws off a skin that I had
11 tanned years ago, the claws were falling off, I took
12 them off, but them in my drawer. I've got four claws
13 at my house, but, you know, I looked at them, I
14 thought, boy, they'd make good fish hooks.

15
16 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I really appreciate
17 that clarification, Mr. Gray.

18
19 And I guess the next question would be
20 the clients then could do whatever they want, but
21 basically they want to bring it home and claws and all
22 and skull and everything else, yeah, but they would
23 still be subject to sale. If they're looking at
24 \$3,000, well, usually they're pretty rich guys and they
25 won't go out and sale and those kind of stuff, but --
26 so there's that complication.

27
28 You had something in response?

29
30 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
31 was just going to comment to Mr. Gray that that's
32 exactly what we're trying to prevent, is to come up
33 with a consolidated opinion and a methodology, which
34 CITES being one example, to distinguish the legal
35 harvest of those claws and the legal sale of those
36 claws from individuals trying to create a market
37 illegally. And so with this tracking, this permit
38 system and what we're discussing is the methodology of
39 how to come together with State and Federal to do that.
40 So if we come up with a methodology that it's under the
41 sealing or whatever we come up with that provides you
42 the opportunity to get that CITES permit, you would
43 have that to show to anyone knocking on your door, this
44 bear was harvested legally, I can sell these
45 handicrafts legally. You know, thank you very much.
46 So that is the protection that we're looking at, is to
47 have that source, that permit to -- or that piece of
48 paper to show to somebody that this was legally
49 harvested. I can make a handicraft from it. I can
50 sell. I can make as much as I want off of it, because

1 it was legally harvested, versus somebody who is trying
2 to sell the same claw and you have no idea where it
3 came from, whether it was legal or not. And it very
4 well may have been legal, but there's nothing in place
5 right now to show that. And that's what we're
6 concerned with. Whether there's only a few people that
7 are actually using the brown bear to make handicrafts
8 and it's going to be less of a burden. But what we're
9 seeing now is that, as I said, that there are web sites
10 that are cropping up that they're looking at this as
11 being a lucrative source. And if that's the case, then
12 it's going to create more of an incentive to do so, and
13 we want to make sure that there's a way to protect the
14 subsistence user.

15

16 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Gray.

17

18 MR. GRAY: And I guess as a final note,
19 I'd like to -- you know, I'll promise I'll shut up.
20 You know, I guess the State and the Feds, you guys are
21 always walking different programs, different lines.
22 One thing I would suggest is that you guys go forward,
23 and the State can come to the table and work the issues
24 out, but there's always going to be issues. Mark my
25 words. Look at our -- you know, I can go beluga
26 hunting, but probably under the State laws I can't go
27 beluga hunting and yet I do. There's always going to
28 be problems, but, you know, I think we have a Federal
29 agenda, a Federal subsistence agenda, and let's go
30 forward with it. Let's deal with it. The State can be
31 a player, we can work issues out, try and align things.
32 Maybe they will align, maybe they won't align. But we
33 need to set a goal and go after it, and see.

34

35 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Gray.

36 That's exactly why the working group was created is to
37 try and come up with a concession. And as stated
38 earlier, we would like -- I'm not sure who the
39 representative is, if it was Mr. Quinn that was
40 designated, but this fall we would like to have a
41 meeting, a face-to-face meeting with all the people
42 that are in the working group to discuss exactly all
43 these issues, to review all the information to date,
44 and then come up with various options that are going to
45 be satisfactory to everybody, so it's not an easy task,
46 but it is something that we are trying to overcome and
47 work together to do so.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Martin.

2

3 MR. MARTIN: At Stebbins we have a
4 herd, a reindeer herd, and the Stebbins Reindeer
5 Association in St. Michael and Getchak (ph). And I've
6 seen a lot of problem with these bears now coming into
7 the island. And like Mr. Keyes has stated earlier,
8 these bears are getting to be a nuisance. And for the
9 safety of our children, at time that these herd owners
10 have to get rid of these bears. They're getting so
11 close to town, and that town is just about, what, 500
12 yards away from the people uphill. And about another
13 half on the other side. Now what do you do with these
14 problem.

15

16 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yes, Mr. Martin.
17 Yeah, the bear season is pretty liberal, you've just
18 got to hunt bear, a subsistence bear, bring home the
19 meat, and you've got a subsistence permit. Everybody
20 in Stebbins get one, shoot that bear you see. I really
21 don't want to allude to getting rid of or -- in that
22 area, so it's -- I try to refrain from saying those
23 words when we're talking about the animals, and the
24 fish.

25

26 But going back to what Mr. Gray was
27 saying, I readily agree with that. You know, there has
28 to be some alignment. I think the technical working
29 group is a great idea, and that's how to handle that,
30 because there's a lot of people involved with this
31 obviously statewide, so there's a lot of issues on the
32 table, and the recommendations still have to be
33 developed and finalized and brought back to the
34 Councils and to the Federal Subsistence Board and some
35 agreement with the State on this. But there's some red
36 flags available. What I really don't want to see a
37 really truly subsistence user not be allowed to make
38 the handicraft and those kind of sales occur. Because
39 if it's a customary and traditional use.....

40

41 We have several hands up. Mr. Quinn
42 and then Seetot and Mr. Keyes.

43

44 MR. QUINN: Okay. Thank you. Yeah,
45 Weaver phrased it correctly. It's handicrafts. We're
46 not talking about selling bear claws. We're talking
47 about selling handicrafts, and then we're talking about
48 now apparently the opportunity exists for the State to
49 come on board, because currently the Feds allow
50 handicrafts with claws, the State does not. Actually,

1 in truth, Larry, you've gone to the Federal Subsistence
2 Board twice, the State has, requesting them to remove
3 claws from there. Okay. So apparently now you've --
4 you're trying a different direction, and you're
5 considering going the Board of Game to include claws in
6 the handicrafts that bear harvesters can sell.

7

8 MR. VAN DAELE: Yes.

9

10 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Van Daele.

11

12 MR. VAN DAELE: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
13 Quinn. We have gone in front of the Board of Game --
14 or in front of the Federal Subsistence Board for a
15 number of years requesting this be taken out. And the
16 concern was conservation. The concern was a
17 disagreement between the State and Federal laws. What
18 we are doing now in the spirit of compromise and
19 cooperation is trying to find a way through both
20 systems to make it work for the Federal subsistence
21 users and possibly broader than that, but right now
22 we're just talking about making it legal for Federal
23 Subsistence users to make handicrafts from bear claws
24 in the areas of the state where they want them to do
25 it. For instance, my home island, Kodiak, they don't
26 want to have anything to do with this, because it's
27 culturally insensitive even to talk about bears like
28 this.

29

30 So what we're looking at is meshing the
31 two systems in such a way. And we're trying to pull
32 away from that controversial conflict thing. We're
33 trying to work together now.

34

35 And as I mentioned earlier this
36 afternoon, that this is a way to try to address some of
37 those things like Mr. Gray said about belugas. There
38 are a lot of issues where the State and Federal laws
39 are conflicting. And this is a good opportunity to
40 broach that subject instead of putting it behind us or
41 the 800-pound gorilla in the room that we've always
42 had.

43

44 George, did you want to sit here?

45 Excuse me.

46

47 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. George Pappas,
48 Department of Fish and Game.

49

50 Another approach of this to the Board

1 of Game, instead of actually having a regulation that
2 allows the sale of handicrafts of State-harvested
3 animals, maybe a proposal could go forward saying, you
4 can sell handicrafts as long as you have a Federally-
5 certified CITES permit, and still not have an open
6 season on the State books. So if someone is contacted
7 with a CITES permit who is a Federal subsistence user
8 and has the paperwork in hand, that would be legal. We
9 don't know, but that's to be developed. but we're not
10 saying that the State might go for the sale of bear
11 claw handicrafts down the line somewhere. It's just
12 one avenue to prevent the conflict by removing -- or
13 placing something in regulations that would -- that
14 would actually prohibit prosecution for such. Does
15 that make sense, sir?

16

17 MR. QUINN: Well, sort of. I think it
18 would be a lot better if you'd get the Board of Game to
19 come on board with this, but actually I think you guys
20 need to get on board with this, because too many of you
21 guys are still opposing it. So that's where the work
22 needs to start.

23

24 And we're not -- you mentioned that,
25 you know, protects the subsistence users. We don't
26 need protection, we need opportunity. Right now you --
27 the Federal side had provided us that opportunity
28 through the sale of handicrafts, including claws. The
29 State does not provide us that opportunity. You
30 mentioned conservation concerns, and I dislike that
31 statement, because that approaches the idea that we're
32 going to kill them all, because we can sell some
33 handicrafts, and I disagree with that idea.

34

35 So, you know, what you said has some
36 opportunity, but certainly I sure wish you'd get rid of
37 this idea at the State level, and I've complained about
38 it before during these Council meetings, and approach
39 it from the idea that we're all honest people and we
40 can be trusted to abide by the one bear per year or one
41 bear by four years types of harvest limits that are
42 placed upon us. The State relies heavily upon us to
43 honestly fill out harvest permits, registration
44 permits, drawing permits. And to turn around and say
45 we have conservation concerns because you guys might
46 sell claws is a little bit two-faced.

47

48 So, anyway, yeah, it's great. I'm glad
49 to see you working together and I hope that continues
50 both through the Subsistence Board and through the

1 Board of Game. And, yes, some of the ideas mentioned
2 here are very applicable, CITES and transporting these
3 things out of the area. And I'd certainly like to see
4 increases in opportunities.

5

6 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Seetot.

7

8 MR. SEETOT: You know, there are
9 different protocols or taboos about certain big game
10 animals, such as a bear, where it has been handed down
11 from generation to generation, and most of that is
12 still being carried on. Yet we're continuing to see,
13 you know, something that has become kind of large, you
14 know, a big issue, because we really haven't dealt with
15 that before, because in the past our elders pretty much
16 kind of knew the management of wildlife resources,
17 because any animal what's in the ecosystem is important
18 to keep everything in check. But sometimes we as
19 humans error or just let that resource mark (ph) by
20 where they kind of crash down. With certain taboos and
21 restrictions on animals, it's as, oh, I'm going to go
22 walrus hunting, I'm going to go bear hunting. You
23 know, those are things that were taught to us by our
24 elders, you know, not to talk about animals in that
25 way, instead of just, oh, I'll go hunt or do something.
26 But I think that has been a big challenge for the
27 Native younger people, because it really has been
28 handed down in that way, just we learn by trial and
29 error, mostly by example. But something such as large
30 as this, you know, it's something we constantly try to
31 keep in check, but we have certain restrictions,
32 protocol in the way that these animals are taken. What
33 might be called irreverent in one area might, you know
34 -- it might be something else different in another
35 area.

36

37 But if I decide to do animal population
38 management on my own without regard to regulations, I
39 know the consequences, because I have seen that happen
40 personally on the harvest of animals, wildlife
41 resources. And then that pretty much keeps our people
42 in check. We have the scientific management and then
43 we have the knowledge that has been handed down, which
44 I know is met with skepticism, you know, by biologists,
45 by managers, but still, you know, we still see that.
46 We're still bound by that in our culture.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Keyes.

1 MR. KEYES: Yes. Since this is a
2 pretty touchy topic about bears, maybe -- I had a
3 suggestion. Why don't we just throw this in with the
4 polar bear? Because it's the same thing, you know.
5 The polar bear got the same outline law like you've got
6 right here for the brown bear. Why don't you just tie
7 them two together and then maybe we'll just fumble (ph)
8 with that after.

9
10 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Keyes. We
11 don't actually manage for the polar bear, but that's
12 beside the point. It is along the same lines that
13 we're talking about. And these ideas are exactly what
14 we're talking about in terms of trying to come together
15 this all and discuss it further that way. The Marine
16 Mammal Protection Act is something that has been
17 utilized for walrus and polar bears and the other CITES
18 species as well, and so this is something that's along
19 those lines. There are difficulties, because there are
20 loopholes within those regulations. We want to take
21 that as a model and then build upon it to not allow
22 those kind of mistakes that were made with that
23 program. But it is very similar, you're right, and so
24 we're looking at that as well.

25
26 But this is something that we want to
27 continue the discussion. You know, by no means have we
28 come up with a solution. We're just putting this forth
29 as a potential solution since it's already in place.
30 It can be refined for our specific needs. It's
31 something that we're discussing in joint cooperation
32 with the State and Feds and with the RAC members. This
33 is why we all want to get together to come up with
34 these ideas and what are the problems, what are the
35 concerns, where can we go from here, and what are the
36 solutions.

37
38 I disagree with Mr. Quinn. I think it
39 is to protect the Federal subsistence users while
40 maintaining an opportunity to utilize these resources.
41 We're looking at something that Alaska is the source of
42 these brown bear populations, and we want to make sure
43 that they continue to be in good conservation status.
44 There are not so lucky populations around the world.
45 And if we're creative an incentive -- not an incentive,
46 we create a use of these claws, people can come in and
47 use them. If we don't have a way to show that these
48 were used by people that were legally allowed, we're
49 going to end up on the short end of the stick on that,
50 and that's what we're trying to prevent. To maintain

1 that the bears are in good conservation status, have
2 you guys utilize them the way you traditionally have
3 used them, and protect yourselves from having them be
4 exploited by other people.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: A response, Mr.
9 Keyes?

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yes, Ms. Armstrong.

14
15 MS. ARMSTRONG: I just wanted to add
16 the process that will occur, you know, what the next
17 steps will be is if the working group comes to some
18 kind of conclusion and something that -- a proposal
19 that they want to make, it would go to the Federal
20 Subsistence Board. And then, you know, if there is a
21 new proposal, all proposal then would be considered by
22 all of the Regional Councils before final decisions by
23 the Board would be made. So this is just in -- Really
24 we're just -- this is an interim letting you know
25 what's happening. You know, we're a ways away from any
26 kind of conclusion in this process. There will be
27 future opportunities to discuss this again.

28
29 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: And appreciate that.
30 I think there's a lot of issues in regards to this, and
31 a lot of considerations to take into consideration
32 anyway.

33
34 One of the things though I would like
35 to point out and we'll continue on, is that I -- you
36 know how it is right now, you've got harvest reports,
37 you've got this kind of reports, and it always burdens
38 the subsistence user to do that, or the harvester.
39 It's their responsibility to make these reports in
40 should there be harvest. And then should these
41 handicrafts, in which bear claws is included, should
42 regulations be promulgated, I really don't want it to
43 be so cumbersome and complicated, because that will
44 deter in itself. It's just like protection of life and
45 property at this point with the bears. There's so much
46 -- I'm trying to find a word, and garbage isn't

47
48 MR. GRAY: Paper-loaded?

49
50 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: There's so much

1 paperwork and regulations you have to follow to do -- I
2 mean, once that happens. And I don't want to see that
3 happening with the handicrafts portion of it, because
4 that itself is a deterrent. And as Mr. Keyes and Mr.
5 Seetot and Mr. Gray have pointed out, and Mr. Buck and
6 Mr. Martin, you know, there is a bear problem in
7 population size, and a growing population, and I agree
8 with that. But at the same time the conservation is
9 important not only to rural communities, Native
10 communities, but everybody communities, because you
11 want to promulgate, well, there's a growing population.
12 At the same time there needs to be some checks and
13 balances in regards to the growth. And I think we've
14 been slowly addressing that both on the Board of Game
15 side, but as well as the Federal OSM side on the
16 subsistence use of the animal. So those things are
17 slowly starting to take place, and I think once more
18 people get the understanding that indeed you can
19 subsistence take a brown bear in the units that we're
20 talking about, especially here in the Seward Peninsula
21 area, then that will become more heavily utilized and
22 bears shouldn't be so much of a problem after that.
23 But then I think take into consideration, don't make
24 these so complicated that it makes it hard to be a
25 partner to that.

26

27 And I think I really appreciate you
28 guys coming forward and making the effort, putting a
29 task force together to do all the hard work, and look
30 forward to see what the product is going to be.

31

32 Any other comments. Mr. Gray.

33

34 MR. GRAY: I was just sitting here
35 thinking. How many subsistence bears in Unit 22 are
36 taken a year? Is there a lot of bears, subsistence
37 bears?

38

39 MR. GORN: No, Mr. Gray.

40

41 MR. GRAY: And the other.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I'm sorry. State
44 your name before your response. Thank you.

45

46 MR. GORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
47 Tony Gorn. I'm that A.B. here for Unit 22.

48

49 On average we take single digits, less
50 than five subsistence bears a year. And that's due

1 largely in part because our regular hunting season is
2 so liberal. We've for several years now have taken
3 over 100 bears a year annually in Unit 22. Last year
4 we took 105 in Unit 22, which is the most bears we've
5 ever taken here. And again that's largely in part
6 because the season opens August 1 in most areas and
7 goes through May 31st in most areas, with some of the
8 subunits having a bag limit of two bears a year. So in
9 most areas of Unit 22 there's really not a need to pick
10 up a subsistence permit, because it's not providing
11 much more additional opportunity.

12

13 MR. GRAY: Okay. So what I was after,
14 and I kind of had a feeling this was the answer, which
15 kind of throws it in your ballpark, Fish and Game, the
16 majority of the bears are in your arena that are being
17 taken. You know, we've got five bears let's say that
18 can be turned into by-products so to speak if they're
19 taken on Federal lands. You know, maybe the interest
20 needs to come, how can we as a state work with these
21 100 people to -- so we can help them out and have an
22 economic factor be in the villages so to speak. You
23 know, I lived in White Mountain for 30 years, and I'm a
24 very aggressive bear hunter, but White Mountain as a
25 whole is not very aggressive. And those people that
26 are aggressive, you know, maybe that there's some cash
27 flow of something that you can help the villages
28 promote a local cottage industry.

29

30 I just don't -- to be honest, I don't
31 see this thing taking off and going to a real high
32 standard. I think it's going to be low key and it's
33 not going to be what everybody dreams about.

34

35 But what I'm worried about now is, oh,
36 we've got bear claws on agenda and everybody's talking
37 about it, and now it's going to be muskox hooves and
38 it's going to be a moose tail or something else, and
39 we're going to start micromanaging everything we do.
40 And we don't need that.

41

42 So again I'll be quiet.

43

44 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: No, Mr. Gray, don't
45 be quiet. Appreciate those comments.

46

47 Is there anything else, working group.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Well, thank you very
2 much. Anything from the Council?

3
4 MR. GRAY: This was a good interaction.
5 I sure appreciate it.

6
7 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I agree. Very good.
8 Thank you. Okay. We'll break for lunch. Usually what
9 do you guys take? An hour? Hour and a half?

10
11 SEVERAL: An hour.

12
13 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: An hour is good.

14
15 (Off record)

16
17 (On record)

18
19 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: We'll continue with
20 the agenda on Section 19 revisions, Page 41. Ms.
21 Wilkinson.

22
23 MS. WILKINSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 Council members. Before I get started, I want to make
25 it clear that this is not an action item. It's an
26 update.

27
28 For Section 19 or special -- excuse me,
29 special actions those are all regulations that are
30 decided upon by the Secretary of the Interior. Based
31 on past -- and this is on Page 41. I'm sorry.

32
33 Based on base comments from public and
34 Council members and agency people and also in part
35 because of some litigation that we faced, the Board
36 asked us to all look at the regulations regarding
37 special actions and make them more clear. So that's
38 what this is about today.

39
40 That language that's included here is
41 intended to clarify the Council's position in special
42 actions, to accommodate the new biannual schedule that
43 we have, and to update the public notice requirements,
44 and make more clear the Board's process.

45
46 In looking at this, the basic changes,
47 other than those that I just mentioned, are that in
48 Section 19(c). You'll find this on Page 50. Let's
49 see, it's 19(c). This is the reasons that the Board
50 may reject a request for an emergency or temporary

1 special action. There are no time sensitive
2 circumstances necessitating a regulatory change. The
3 old language talked about there no extenuating
4 circumstances, including changes in abundance or
5 unusual circumstances. I think this is still on.
6 Anyway, so that's the big change in wording.

7
8 And that's basically all I have to
9 present about that. If you have any questions.

10
11 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: The changes that
12 you're talking about, you say they're on Page 50?

13
14 MS. WILKINSON: Yes.

15
16 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Is there -- and
17 which section are you.....

18
19 MS. WILKINSON: Okay. The right-hand
20 column, the second paragraph down where it says (c), in
21 parens there's (c). And the way the new language will
22 read is the Board may reject a request for either an
23 emergency or temporary special action if the Board
24 concludes that there are no time sensitive
25 circumstances necessitating a regulatory change before
26 the next proposal cycle. And so that's a big change in
27 language. It used to say that there were no
28 extenuating circumstances such as, you know, changes in
29 abundance of the resource or unusual circumstances such
30 as weather and hunting conditions. So it's a
31 difference of language there. Otherwise they mostly
32 just cleaned it up.

33
34 And at this time, since this isn't
35 something that the Board can act on, the Board doesn't
36 require a recommendation from the Councils, but if you
37 do have comments about it, the Board will make sure
38 that they see those comments and consider them before
39 they pass their recommendation to the Secretary.

40
41 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: If it's not at the
42 regular meeting, it's what, a special meeting, is that
43 what you're saying? Did you catch that? If it's not
44 at a regular meeting, then would that be at a special
45 meeting for comments?

46
47 MS. WILKINSON: For this change in
48 these regulations that you're just looking at, the
49 Board is going to take it up at a regular meeting, but
50 because these regulations are part of the regulations

1 that are approved by the Secretary, they're written by
2 the Secretary, that's the person who makes the decision
3 on these regulations, not the Board. The Board makes a
4 recommendation to the Secretary. So it's just a step
5 above what we normally do. So the Council doesn't make
6 an official recommendation to the Board regarding
7 anything you might have to say about the changes in
8 this regulation, but you can make comments to the Board
9 and the Board will consider those comments when it
10 makes its recommendation. Recommendation is more
11 formal.

12
13 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yeah, that's what I
14 can't understand here. The Board could reject a
15 request, but under number (2), the same page, 50, at
16 the bottom, is that the Board will seek Council
17 recommendations on a special action. Council
18 recommendations will be subject to requirements of
19 dash-18. Okay. So if we're not at a regular scheduled
20 meeting and it's a special action, is this something
21 that has to be delayed until the Board meets at a
22 scheduled meeting, or do we take a special meeting to
23 take the special action up? Okay.

24
25 MS. WILKINSON: For special actions,
26 they are time sensitive by definition. So if there
27 isn't a Council meeting scheduled that coincides with
28 that request, we can't wait for a Council meeting, or
29 even take the time to advertise for a special Council
30 meeting. So what this regulation does is it makes it
31 possible then for the Board to confer with the Regional
32 Council Chair. If there is by chance a Council meeting
33 at about the same time, like there was today for the
34 special action you spoke to earlier, then, yes, it goes
35 before the Council.

36
37 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: And if it doesn't,
38 then the Board can reject or.....

39
40 MS. WILKINSON: Right.

41
42 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: All right. Any
43 questions.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Does that conclude
48 your Section 19?

49
50 MS. WILKINSON: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: All right. Thank
2 you very much.

3
4 MS. WILKINSON: I'm next, too. Mr.
5 Chair. I'm going to speak just briefly about the
6 climate change portion of the agenda.

7
8 This is just to let you know that OSM
9 is going to be considering climate change with every
10 analysis that we do, every regulation, proposed
11 regulation change. And so we are going to be including
12 that as part of our management from now on. And the
13 Council members then will want to look at that as well
14 when you're looking at proposals.

15
16 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: It's not in the
17 booklet that's before us?

18
19 MS. WILKINSON: No, there's nothing in
20 there. It's just a brief announcement. I just wanted
21 you to know that this is a subject that's going to be
22 included on a regular basis. It will be a factor that
23 we're looking at when looking at management. I don't
24 know if there's really anything to say. We just want
25 you to know that we're going to do that. If anybody
26 has questions.

27
28 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: It's on not every
29 issue. I mean, you're going to -- is it something
30 that's going to be a topic on the agenda and you talk
31 about climate change as it affects moose, muskox, or
32 whatever else, or is -- I mean, I really don't
33 understand what you mean by incorporating climate
34 change as part of the discussion in a meeting.

35
36 MR. PROBASCO: To add to what Ann's
37 saying, Mr. Chair, it's become very obvious as various
38 agencies, all agencies start dealing with the issue of
39 climate change, and all of us have seen, particularly
40 these last couple years, the politics around the issue
41 and the concerns. This agenda item is going to start
42 -- it's notifying the Councils, but more importantly
43 it's letting everybody know that when we start dealing
44 with these management issues or we start looking at
45 fishery projects or wildlife projects, local knowledge
46 and the effect or no effects of climate change needs to
47 be addressed in these proposals as we look towards the
48 future. So we're notifying you that your knowledge, et
49 cetera, on how these potential regulations and how they
50 relate to climate change are going to be an important

1 factor as we deal with particularly a research
2 proposal, et cetera, but also on the regulatory side as
3 well.

4

5 MR. GRAY: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Gray.

8

9 MR. GRAY: I'm a little bit -- how can
10 I say this? You know, everybody's got off on climate
11 change, climate change, the whole -- all the way to the
12 President is talking climate change. And, you know, I
13 guess I feel very uncomfortable with climate change in
14 a sense, because, you know, we've had a generation --
15 we've had a whole, how long have Eskimos been here
16 living off the land, using subsistence things. And all
17 of a sudden there's a disaster, the polar bears are
18 going extinct, and the walrus got to be evaluated. And
19 everything's got to be evaluated just because of
20 somebody saying there's climate change. And, you know,
21 this is our life. Subsistence is our world, and
22 hopefully people will kind of walk softly and not put a
23 ridiculous emphasis on climate change.

24

25 You know, when you talk about let's
26 work together to get local knowledge, then I would say,
27 yes, maybe climate change is going to come out within
28 the local knowledge. But to throw it out there that
29 we're going to look at climate change and local
30 knowledge, boy, a red flag just, poop, comes up,
31 thinking that in my mind we're going to have new rules
32 and regulations just because of climate change.

33

34 And I'm a little bit concerned about
35 that, because, you know, it's -- everything goes in
36 cycles. I mean, when I was a kid, there was no bears
37 on the Seward Peninsula to speak of. I mean, there may
38 have been bears, but not like now. And, you know, if
39 you look at the reindeer industry, there were 600,000
40 reindeer at one time. Early 70s, there were 70,000
41 caribou in this region around here. Now there's
42 500,000, 400,000 caribou and 10,000 reindeer.
43 Everything goes in cycles. So we need to be careful
44 how we use that climate change.

45

46 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Mr. Gray. I
47 think you said it very well. The intent of this agenda
48 item, and I apologize we didn't have a written briefing
49 for this, but the whole key of this is that climate
50 change, like or not, is going to be a part of our

1 factors as we deal with subsistence management. The
2 key that we want to make here is that we're not going
3 to do it in a vacuum. In other words, you're not going
4 to have a bunch of bureaucrats sitting back in
5 Anchorage figuring out what's good for the Seward
6 Peninsula in climate change. We're bringing it back to
7 the Councils, this forum, as we deal with that, and the
8 local knowledge. So it's more the latter on your theme
9 versus a bunch of bureaucrats dealing with it solo.
10 Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Response, Mr. Gray?

13
14 MR. GRAY: No.

15
16 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. Thank you.
17 And it's snowing outside. Okay. Continue. Is there
18 anything else in regard to climate change.

19
20 MS. WILKINSON: No.

21
22 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: All right. Thank
23 you. Go on to the status of deferred Yukon River
24 proposals, Page 52. And are you handling that, Ms.
25 Wilkinson?

26
27 MS. WILKINSON: Yes. And I think you
28 guys can read this page fairly well. But just to point
29 out that the Yukon River Chinook salmon proposals that
30 were deferred by the Board until further information
31 was gathered, they'll be taken up in April of 2010.
32 And so the Council's recommendations on that, you'll
33 discuss those two proposals at your winter meeting
34 March 3rd and 4th of 2010. And then it will go, that
35 information, your recommendation, will go to the Staff
36 Committee and then to the Board for them to make their
37 decision in April. And that's just an update.

38
39 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: So deferred until
40 April.

41
42 MS. WILKINSON: What?

43
44 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Deferred until
45 April.

46
47 MS. WILKINSON: Yes, sir. When the
48 Board met and heard those two proposals, it was last
49 year -- well, December '07 they were brought up. And
50 then the Board decided in the fall of 2008 to defer

1 them until -- there was a report that was being done,
2 and until that report was complete and people had the
3 time to read it and study it and provide an analysis,
4 so that's until April.

5
6 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you. North
7 Pacific Fishery Management update regarding
8 Chinook/chum salmon by-catch. Page 54.

9
10 MS. WILKINSON: Thank you, Mr.
11 Chairman. In your folder there you should have a copy
12 of the letter from the North Pacific Fishery Management
13 Council. It's towards the back of those packets, and
14 that's in that purple folder, or dark blue, or whatever
15 you want to call it.

16
17 They provide a brief update about the
18 Chinook salmon by-catch issue. After all the work that
19 they have done on it to this date, they plan to
20 implement the by-catch measures in January 2011.
21 That's for Chinook salmon.

22
23 And now the North Pacific Fishery
24 Management Council is starting to work on the chum
25 salmon by-catch.

26
27 Did you see a copy of that in your --
28 it's a one-page letter I think. It's in your flipper
29 folder.

30
31 MR. GRAY: You're talking about this?

32
33 MS. WILKINSON: Yes. Uh-huh. And then
34 there's also information in the book on Page 54 through
35 56.

36
37 But at its June 2009 meeting the North
38 Pacific Fishery Management Council reviewed the
39 alternatives for chum salmon by-catch in the Bering Sea
40 pollock fishery, and so they're looking at hard caps
41 ranges. And they're going through basically the same
42 process that they did with the Chinook salmon and so
43 they'll be gathering public comment and working with
44 the Councils, too, I imagine. And they plan to have
45 that, and December of 2009 they will decide whether or
46 not they're going to have an environmental assessment
47 or an impact statement. And then they're going to have
48 more opportunities for public comment in 2010.

49
50 So this is primarily a head's up for

1 you.

2

3 And they do have a community outreach
4 committee, and Mr. Probasco is on that committee. And
5 they'll be working with the public and the Regional
6 Councils.

7

8 So that's basically all I have on that
9 as well.

10

11 MR. A. IVANOFF: Can anybody in the
12 public who would like to address this North Pacific
13 Fishery Management Council or not. Mr. Chair. I'd
14 like to share correspondence that the Southern Norton
15 Sound Fish and Game Advisory committee submitted to
16 Senator Murkowski as well as (indiscernible, away from
17 microphone).

18

19 Mr. Chair. For the record my name is
20 Art Ivanoff from Unalakleet. I've been providing oral
21 and written testimony before the North Pacific Fishery
22 Management Council since June 2008.

23

24 And in this whole process we felt there
25 was something missing in this whole process and that
26 was tribal representation. We realize that we've got
27 Eric Olson from the Bristol Bay region serving on the
28 North Pacific Fishery Management Council, but he also
29 is employed with the CDQ group.

30

31 The Southern Norton Sound Fish and Game
32 Advisory Committee drafted up a letter asking Senator
33 Murkowski to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Act. And what
34 we're proposing are four seats for Federally-recognized
35 tribes or Alaska Native representatives. Again we felt
36 there's something missing in this whole process, and
37 that's your voice. We were able to participate in the
38 April 2008 session when the hard cap of 68,000 was
39 established by the Council, and so we -- after the
40 April session, Southern Norton Sound took action and
41 again we made an appeal to Senator Murkowski, calling
42 for these new seats.

43

44 And it sounds like for the most part
45 she had two suggestions. One was that we let the
46 Alaska Native Outreach Committee work its way through
47 and get a feel for whether this process will work.
48 But, no, that's not sufficient, and that's not going to
49 appease the Native community. I really think what we
50 need are voting seats. We're tired of serving as

1 advisors. We need to be at the table to be a part of
2 the deliberations process and part of the voting
3 process.

4
5 The initial proposal that we submitted
6 to Senator Murkowski called for four seats for AYK.
7 Since then the proposal was amended to include the
8 Aleutian Islands, Bristol Bay, Gulf of Alaska. We've
9 had several entities since then that have endorsed such
10 a concept. We've have Alaska village initiatives,
11 Kawerak and a few others.

12
13 What I'm hoping today is that the RAC
14 here will be able to endorse this whole concept of
15 getting seats on the Council. And without the support
16 from the Native community, we're not going to succeed.
17 So I think it's really important that not only the
18 RACs, but also, you know, the villages also take action
19 to address this issue. We do have several resolutions
20 that were forwarded to the Alaska Federation of Natives
21 for the convention coming up, and we're basically
22 trying to do an outreach to gain support for this
23 process.

24
25 Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any questions.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Basically there were
32 200 people that testified before the North Pacific
33 Fishery Management Council, asking that they reduce the
34 cap anywhere from 30,000 to 47,000, depending on the
35 scenario. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council
36 voted then through industry recommendations to 60,000
37 on the Chinook, and that's wherein the problem
38 currently. They're making appeals to the Department of
39 Commerce from my understanding. And this seems to be
40 the next step of action is for additional seats on the
41 North Pacific Fishery Management Council to increase by
42 four from Ketchikan to.....

43
44 MR. A. IVANOFF: Kotzebue.

45
46 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Kotzebue. To be
47 appointed from Native organizations.

48
49 MR. A. IVANOFF: If I can, I'd like to
50 carry on. The genesis of our request was based on by-

1 catch, but in the letter we forwarded we identified
2 four crab stocks that were over-harvested in the
3 Pribilof, St. Matthew Island, Bering Sea/Aleutian
4 Island region. And I think we're concerned about the
5 overall health of the ecosystem, not just the resources
6 that we depend on here at home like with the salmon,
7 but the carrying capacity of the ecosystem. I think
8 the trawling fleet does a lot of damage, and I think
9 again there needs to be an objective voice out there.
10 Right now we've got 11 seats on the North Pacific
11 Fishery Management Council. Of the 11, four are from
12 -- four seats are for Washington State and Oregon. And
13 again Eric is the representative for Alaska, for the
14 Alaska Native community, but again he works for the CDQ
15 group. In this proposal we state that we're seeking
16 representatives that have only one agenda, that they're
17 not associated or employed directly with the CDQ or
18 pollock industry. And we're hoping that maybe you'll
19 see the wisdom in taking action and supporting our
20 sister organization on the State side to take action
21 and draft up a letter to Senator Murkowski, Senator
22 Begich.

23

24 So thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Comments for the
27 RAC.

28

29 MR. GRAY: I'm sitting here thinking
30 how realistic is it to get four seats added to this
31 thing?

32

33 MR. A. IVANOFF: That's a really good
34 question. The fact is we'll be lucky if we get one
35 seat it just sounds like for the most part. They're
36 not willing to look at the Magnuson/Stevens Act, but we
37 felt this is a good point to negotiate. Let's go for
38 four, we may get two. I mean, look at the distance
39 from Kotzebue to Ketchikan. You look at the number of
40 tribes here in Alaska. We've got half the tribes here
41 in Alaska, and I think that calls for additional --
42 well, it calls for our voice to be elevated.

43

44 MR. GRAY: Have you looked at trying to
45 capitalize on the subsistence side of it in this
46 request for these seats so you're -- you know, I guess,
47 and maybe you have, I don't know. You know, I mean I
48 guess in my mind, if you talk about subsistence, even
49 the State has come up and said all users are
50 subsistence users, and you can go catch a subsistence

1 muskox in this region, for example, no matter what walk
2 of life you come from. It seems to me there's kind of
3 a powerful arm there, and maybe that's why you're here.

4
5

6 You know, I'm very supportive in trying
7 to get somebody on this board, especially some Native
8 on this board, but, you know, I also am -- you know,
9 you've got to set goals in life, and it's fine to go
10 out and ask for four seats, but what are you going to
11 -- you're compromise to, or where are you going to end
12 up. And what tools do you have in the bag to use to
13 get whatever you're going to end up with, you know.
14 Somebody, a Native from Southeast is going to have a
15 whole different agenda than somebody from Unalakleet.
16 And, you know, that's just politics. Again, I'm very
17 supportive of trying to get some more seats for our
18 region, but on the other hand, we need to be realistic,
19 too.

20

21 MR. A. IVANOFF: I think that's a
22 really good point, but again our feeling was you have
23 to start from somewhere. Instead of going for one, why
24 not let's go for four. And again it just gives you
25 that room to negotiate, and I think that's what's
26 really important. It's in my view unrealistic, but
27 we're going after what we think are necessary for the
28 villages. I know this -- we could probably be more
29 inclusive by suggesting we need subsistence
30 representatives, but again I'd like to dwell on the
31 fact that the Federal Government has a relationship
32 like us, like the State doesn't. It's a Government to
33 Government, and we just felt we needed to build that
34 relationship and this empowers the tribes to be at the
35 table to help call the shots.

36

37 MR. GRAY: And I don't know if I
38 expressed myself right. There's an 11-man board right
39 now on this Federal Subsistence Board I guess, and what
40 I was trying to point out is it's like this Board.
41 Years ago there used to be a guide aspect to this
42 thing, and there was different aspects and different
43 people sat on the Board according to what walk of life
44 you come in, or look at the caribou board. You know,
45 there's a transporter sitting on a caribou management
46 board. There's a guide, there's reindeer industry.
47 There's all kinds of people. I don't know if the board
48 is -- these 11 people are structured that way, but, you
49 know, that's going to be the come-back I think is
50 they're going to look at what you're proposing and say,

1 oh, we've already got that covered by this person. And
2 again, I'm in favor of supporting this thing. I don't
3 have a problem with it, but you know politics, and the
4 question is where is it going to go.

5
6 MR. A. IVANOFF: Mr. Chair. Mr. Gray.
7 We've done are research. There are no subsistence
8 users on this Council. Again we looked at Eric Olson's
9 role and the fact that he's with the CDQ and we
10 determined that there are no subsistence users. The
11 representatives are from the State of Alaska, from
12 Washington, from Oregon, and industry. And for the
13 part I -- it's a billion dollar industry and the
14 state's going to kowtow to industry. We just need
15 someone that's going to seek the higher ground, to
16 protect the resources you depend on.

17
18 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any further
19 questions.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Anyone from the
24 public agencies who would like to comment.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Hearing none, the
29 only way that I could see that we could get involved
30 with this is that there's a comment period -- I have to
31 go back to my notes here, on providing public input
32 letter to the Council, letters by mail or fax to North
33 Pacific Fishery Management Council or testify at a
34 Council meeting. And they'll discuss the action both
35 in regards to chum salmon by-catch and also the Chinook
36 by-catch.

37
38 I think different Native organizations
39 have already embraced or adopted this proposal if I'm
40 not mistaken. Kawerak is on board to that effect, and
41 I don't see any -- I see that there's a real resource
42 problem we have here in Norton Sound regarding Chinook.
43 There's also a huge resource problem in the Yukon
44 River, both on the chum and also on the Chinook. So
45 the 200 people that were testifying, and I was there at
46 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, were all
47 in favor of a lower chum catch, because they saw what
48 the implications or consequences of a reduced fishery
49 happened on the Yukon River. Kuskokwim is lucky, they
50 had Chinook salmon that came in in pretty good numbers.

1 Norton Sound has an increase this year, but nothing
2 that returned like historical context. There's still
3 no commercial fishery and I don't anticipate a
4 commercial fishery on Chinook for some years.

5
6 The reasons for the decline of the
7 Chinook and the chum is an open debate by the
8 scientific community. There's no real strong reason,
9 several reasons, or they don't even agree on several
10 reasons of why the crash is occurring. But we do know
11 for one thing that there's a huge number of chum being
12 taken out there, and there's a huge number of Chinook
13 being taken out there by the pollock fleet. There's no
14 question about that. And there was a huge increase of
15 it a few years ago. Testifying has not made a
16 difference, and I think this is why this proposal is
17 being brought to us as a RAC. And you look at it, it
18 affects the subsistence user on the Yukon, because they
19 have a shortened window of harvesting both of Chinook
20 and the chum, as well as here in the Norton Sound
21 region affecting Unalakleet and Shaktoolik.

22
23 So I have no problem endorsing this
24 concept also. I realize there's the reality of it, but
25 it's got to start somewhere to where the people who are
26 in charge of the fisheries out there in the ocean have
27 some sort of accountability and responsibility. And
28 basically there is no support by the State or the North
29 Pacific Fishery Management Council for a reduced chum
30 cap to 30,000. Absolutely none. So I think your
31 request is legitimate and I would support of it. And
32 that would be a part of our comments from the RAC is
33 that we support this concept of adding four more seats
34 to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

35
36 Comments, RAC.

37
38 MS. WILKINSON: Excuse me, Mr.
39 Chairman.

40
41 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Ms. Wilkinson.

42
43 MS. WILKINSON: Sorry. Boy, I hate to
44 be the harbinger of news, but the Regional Advisory
45 Councils have a correspondence policy that was given to
46 them by the Federal Subsistence Board. And the Federal
47 Subsistence Board makes the Council subject to the
48 Hatch Act, which does not allow them to lobby let's
49 say. And in your operations manual, on Page 97,
50 paragraph 10 of that policy says that Council members

1 acting on behalf of or representatives of the Council
2 may not through correspondence or any other means of
3 communication attempt to persuade any elected or
4 appointed political officials, any government agency or
5 any tribal or private organization or individual to
6 take a particular action on an issue. This does not
7 prohibit Council members from acting in their capacity
8 as private citizens or through other organizations.

9

10 So what I'm saying here is that you may
11 not write a letter to Senator Murkowski. That won't go
12 anywhere. If you want to write a letter to say.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: North Pacific
15 Fishery Management Council. That's that was I was what
16 I was saying.

17

18 MS. WILKINSON: Right. That's right.
19 Then you can.

20

21 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: At the comment
22 period, written over to the North Pacific Fishery
23 Management Council in support of that before the
24 meeting, rather than to lobby to our Congressman, et
25 cetera. This is part of a process that -- that would
26 be fine.

27

28 MS. WILKINSON: Right. I'm sorry, I
29 heard Mr. Ivanoff suggesting a letter to the
30 Congressman, and we just can't do that.

31

32 MR. GRAY: Now, could we write the
33 letter to the Fisheries Council requesting that and cc
34 letters to people?

35

36 MS. WILKINSON: No, not to your
37 Congressman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: We cannot to
40 Congressman.....

41

42 MS. WILKINSON: Yep, I'm afraid so.

43

44 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Did you have a
45 comment? Sorry.

46

47 MS. RAYMOND: You're not on record.
48 Sorry.

49

50 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Oh, I'm sorry.

1 Thank you. Yeah. Thanks.

2

3 MS. RAYMOND: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yes.

6

7 MS. RAYMOND: I did have a question
8 though for Staff. Does that policy apply to -- does
9 that policy apply.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Will you please
12 state your name and who you're from and.....

13

14 MS. RAYMOND-YAKOUBIAN: Yes. Julie
15 Raymond-Yakoubian, social scientist with Kawerak.

16

17 Does that policy just apply to
18 individual Council members writing, or it applies to
19 the whole Council writing a letter from the Council?

20

21 MS. WILKINSON: This policy is from the
22 -- governs the Council as a whole. Individual Council
23 members can certainly write or comment or call their
24 Congressmen and talk to them, but they just can't say
25 that they're doing it as a representative of this
26 Council.

27

28 MR. GRAY: But you're saying the
29 Council itself, this Council, could write letter
30 recommending that the Fisheries Board add four seats?

31

32 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman. You
33 could do that if you wrote it to the North Pacific
34 Fishery Management Council, and then that letter -- we
35 have a whole procedure for these things of when that
36 letter is drafted, it would come through me and it
37 would have to be reviewed by Mr. Probasco to make sure
38 that it fits within the parameters of the Hatch Act so
39 that nobody gets in trouble.

40

41 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Mr. Gray. I
42 drafting this letter, if you confine yourself to the
43 theme that you view that the subsistence representation
44 on the Council is not adequate, we view this as
45 important and give numerous reasons why, and we
46 respectfully request consideration to deal with that
47 issue, that's well within your bounds to do that.

48

49 MR. GRAY: Yeah. And this is what I
50 was trying to bring out, a subsistence twist to this

1 thing earlier, and I didn't do a very good job of doing
2 that, but I think that's a good idea, and that's
3 something that this Board should not only do with the
4 Fisheries Board, but also other boards, you know.
5 Maybe this will test the waters and see where it goes,
6 but in reality the Board of Game should have a
7 subsistence side to it, and we can go on and on down
8 the line, you know.

9

10 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Mr. Gray.
11 Let's do one letter at a time. Thank you.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MS. WILKINSON: Thank you. And for the
16 record I just want to say I wasn't wanting to
17 discourage you from doing -- writing a letter, because
18 my personal feelings are that things like this are
19 important, but I wanted to make sure that when you do
20 write the letter, it's done in such a way it will
21 actually be effective and go to the people it needs to
22 go to.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Well, thank you very
27 much. And if there's no objections, I think we should
28 go ahead and endorse that concept and have the Staff
29 write a letter for us and we could sign as a RAC Board
30 and submit it over to the North Pacific Fishery
31 Management Council, unless there's some objections from
32 any of the Board members, RAC Board members.

33

34 Yes, you have a comment, please?

35

36 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair I think that I
37 can counsel you on this arena. I think what you want
38 to do is provide a letter where you have an audience
39 that can review it and actually is involved in the
40 issue, so a letter to North Pacific Fishery Management
41 Council is definitely well within your purview, cc'ing
42 the Federal Subsistence Board and the Special Assistant
43 to the Secretary of Interior would all get the audience
44 that you need to do that. And my Staff would assist
45 you in drafting that letter, and we would go through
46 Mr. Ivanoff for final approval.

47

48 MR. GRAY: Okay. So I move that we go
49 ahead and go forward with this.

50

1 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Motion on board.
2 Mr. Gray. Do I hear a second.
3
4 MR. QUINN: Second.
5
6 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Seconded by Mr.
7 Quinn. Discussion on the motion.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I'd just like to
12 thank Staff for making that a volunteer effort. I
13 think that's great. That's exactly perfectly what we
14 want. And thank you very much. We'll look forward to
15 that and pass it on.
16
17 Any other comments or discussion.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 MR. QUINN: Question.
22
23 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Question on the
24 motion. All in favor of the motion signify by saying
25 aye.
26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.
28
29 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any opposed the same
30 sign.
31
32 (No opposing votes)
33
34 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Motion carries.
35 Thank you. Is there anything else on North Pacific
36 Fishery Management.
37
38 MR. PROBASCO: I do have on.
39
40 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yes, please.
41
42 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. As we did
43 with the Chinook issue, as we go down the path for chum
44 salmon, we will have an opportunity to testify before
45 the Council when the issues become relevant. That may
46 be as soon as December. I would encourage you, and the
47 Office of Subsistence Management provide travel and per
48 diem for a Council member to come and represent their
49 Council, to testify before the RAC [sic], and again it
50 may be as soon as December. So if you want to take

1 advantage of that opportunity, I would encourage you to
2 identify a person from your Regional Advisory Council
3 that would represent you. If you recall, when we went
4 before Kodiak, we had five Council members from various
5 Councils attend and do that. And some Councils
6 couldn't do it because of their schedules, because it
7 was right in the middle of the summer, but that
8 opportunity is there for you. So it would be nice to
9 have a person identified so we could work with that
10 person.

11
12 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: What month is that?
13 When is that?

14
15 MR. PROBASCO: It will be at their
16 December Council meeting and I believe it's the second
17 week of December, but I'm not sure.

18
19 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Is that in
20 Anchorage?

21
22 MR. PROBASCO: Yes, sir.

23
24 MR. GRAY: I would say it's appropriate
25 that the Chairman go to this and represent us.

26
27 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yeah. Right. I
28 think it's important enough. I have no problem with
29 that. I'd like to get with Staff and then perhaps
30 draft up a strategy on what the chum salmon issues are
31 in relations to that so that when I do go there, I'm
32 prepared with ammunition of what -- to justify what
33 we're asking for, because we haven't really come up
34 with a position right now on the chum salmon issue, nor
35 have we come up with a position on the Chinook issue,
36 and therein lies the problem. I mean, I'll be going up
37 there and saying, this is what we're doing when
38 actually we have not taken any action.

39
40 MR. PROBASCO: I think, Mr. Chair, as
41 far as the actual details as they pertain to chums,
42 you're correct. However, your Council through your
43 various meetings have taken enough action that the chum
44 salmon by-catch is a concern. And so the October
45 meeting that's going to occur next week of the Council,
46 if they actually narrow down some of the elements or
47 issues that they're going to analyze, then we would
48 have something that we could respond to. Now, you
49 probably can't get into the specifics, but you could
50 identify the concerns of the chum salmon by-catch, the

1 lack of escapement through the various systems within
2 Norton Sound, et cetera, so I think you're well within
3 your bounds there. And this is a long process. It
4 took almost three years with Chinook, so when you say,
5 yes, Mr. Ivanoff, you're looking more than beyond
6 December. Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: And that brings it,
9 you know, when I go over there and testify and I say on
10 behalf of the RAC, and we have no position though. I
11 realize that the Board is going to come up with
12 something or whoever. I guess what I'm looking for is
13 RAC blessings with whatever arguments I come up with
14 saying that we are concerned with the by-catch, we are
15 concerned with the Chinook by-catch, right? We want to
16 reduce that. At least that would give me a real -- at
17 least that would give me some direction when I do start
18 talking with the North Pacific Fishery Management
19 Council. Is that agreeable? As to effects and impacts
20 on subsistence. Okay. Then I'll gladly go.

21

22 MR. GRAY: Okay. You've got our blessing.

23

24 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I just don't want to
25 speak on behalf of the RAC without the RAC saying, yes,
26 you have our blessing on this issue, because we've
27 really not taken a position.

28

29 MR. PROBASCO: And, Mr. Chair, we're
30 not sure at this time if your travel will be required
31 in December. We'll know more after they meet for that
32 week in October.

33

34 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Fine. Okay. Is
35 there anything else on the North Pacific Fishery.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you very much.
40 Appreciate that.

41

42 Okay. National Park Service.
43 Subsistence use of horns.

44

45 MR. RABINOWITCH: Good afternoon. Mr.
46 Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: What kind of
49 subsistence use of horns are they talking about? I'm
50 just kidding.

1 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, you can
2 probably tell me more about that than I could tell you.

3
4 My name is Sandy Rabinowitch. Again
5 I'm with the National Park Service. Normally when I'm
6 sitting here I'm functioning kind of on behalf of the
7 Federal Board part of the program, but today I'm really
8 here for just the National Park Service as an agency
9 that manages land.

10
11 And I'm not here -- this will really
12 only take a couple minutes. But I'm not here to talk
13 about hunting or trapping. I'm here to talk about
14 collecting or gathering things. And there's an
15 important kind of difference.

16
17 So I think you've all got this map in
18 front of you, and the land I'm going to talk about is
19 Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. It's the purple
20 land there. It's also up on the wall over there. So
21 everything I'm going to talk about only applies to the
22 land in that purple color. In your book I'm on Page
23 57, and it looks like this, this big black thing across
24 the top. And if you want to follow along, it might
25 make it easier to understand. I'm going to just
26 summarize. There's four pages here. I'm going to
27 fairly quickly just summarize what this is all about.

28
29 So the National Park Service, as some
30 of you may know, has groups like this Regional Council.
31 They're called SRCs, they're Subsistence Resource
32 Commissions. We have seven of those. So one of those
33 Subsistence Resource Commissions, the one from Gates of
34 the Arctic National Park, has made a request to the
35 Park Service and the Eastern Interior Regional Council,
36 just like this Council, but from over in the kind of
37 Glennallen part of the State, made a request to the
38 Park Service. And we've brought those two requests
39 together, and what we're doing is considering those,
40 which I'll explain here in a moment, and we've labelled
41 it subsistence use of horns, antlers, bones, and
42 plants, because that's what they've asked us to look
43 at.

44
45 The simple thing -- well, and I would
46 stress this has nothing to do with the Federal
47 Subsistence Board. Everything I'm talking about will
48 not go to the Federal Subsistence Board. It will go to
49 the Regional Director of the Park Service.

50

1 I've already said it's not about
2 hunting or trapping, but it's about gathering and then
3 using those horns, antlers, bones and plants from NPS
4 land. So that's kind of the context of this whole
5 thing.

6
7 And with the current regulations, you
8 know, and as you might imagine, the Park Service, we
9 have our own book full of regulations and I'll just
10 hold it up here. It's a big thick book and can put you
11 to sleep in a heartbeat, because there's an endless
12 number of words in here. If you dive in there to the
13 right place and you want to know what it says about
14 horns and antlers and bones, what it basically says is
15 that if you're walking across those Park Service lands
16 or driving your snow machine or whatever, and let's
17 just say you see some antlers lying there, it's not
18 legal for you to pick them up and take them home. It
19 may be on other lands, but right now the way the rules
20 are written, it wouldn't be legal for you to do that on
21 those lands. And so that's just straight forward.

22
23 In terms of plants, you could actually
24 pick up a plant that you, you know, choose to gather
25 for any kind of subsistence use, and you could take it
26 home, you could use it. But what you cannot do is turn
27 it into a handicraft and then sell it. Okay.

28
29 So that's just the way the rules are in
30 this Park Service rule book. They've been that way
31 since 1981. Nobody's ever asked to have them changed
32 or really looked at until now. So that's what we're
33 doing.

34
35 And the request is to make it
36 acceptable to do what I just said you cannot. So
37 they've asked, can we make it legal to pick up that
38 antler and take it home and then make a handicraft and
39 sell it, or can we -- we can already pick up the plant,
40 but could we turn the plant into a handicraft and sell
41 it, let's say. So that's what this is all about.

42
43 There's only two exceptions in the
44 State since 1981 where the Park Service that back in
45 1981 people in the Kobuk River area brought up that
46 they had a long history of making birch bark baskets.
47 And so that was discussed a whole bunch in 1981, and in
48 fact it is -- it's okay to gather birch bark in two
49 national park areas. So birch bark's a plant material,
50 so it's okay to gather it, take it home, make baskets,

1 sell them. And that's been lawful for all these years.
2 So those are the two exceptions that have been on the
3 books.

4
5 So that's kind of the context of the
6 whole thing. What we're doing is using the National
7 Environmental Policy Act, NEPA. You've probably heard
8 that term, NEPA, a lot over the years. We're writing
9 an environmental assessment, following the rules of
10 NEPA, and at the -- we're kind of at the tail end of
11 what we call scoping, of talking to people, gathering
12 information, learning about what uses people make of
13 things, because, of course, we know people use these
14 things and have forever.

15
16 And where we're at is that we have
17 three conceptual alternatives, and I'm just on Page 58
18 here, and I'll just touch on these. We have a no
19 action alternative, which is just leave the rules the
20 way they are. We have a second alternative which we've
21 labeled unlimited collection, which means make it okay.
22 and then we have a third option that we call managed
23 collection which is similar to unlimited, i.e. make it
24 okay, except that we would put on you some sideboards.
25 And actually what we would do is we would go to each
26 National Park Service superintendent, so in this reason
27 it would be Jeanette, and our regional director, our
28 boss in Anchorage, would delegate authority to
29 Jeannette to make the rules here locally for Bering
30 Land Bridge. The person over in Fairbanks for Gates of
31 the Arctic would work with local people there and make
32 the rules for there. So we could have different rules
33 in different places. And there might literally be no
34 rules needed, and you'd just have the activity allowed,
35 or there might be an area here that's, you know, maybe
36 a sacred site or something, and you don't want people
37 to collect from that site, because it has some other
38 cultural purposes. So Jeannette could say, we're going
39 to leave that area, you know, closed to this activity,
40 but all the rest of the area might be open. So those
41 are the three approaches we've come up with, and we're
42 basically kicking those around.

43
44 If you turn the page, another page, to
45 Page 59, there's just kind of a spreadsheet there, and
46 all it does is it lists all the national park areas, it
47 lists the animals that have horns and antlers and it
48 puts a little X in a box if that animal is found in
49 that national park. And we've done that just in case
50 there's an animal somewhere and we don't know about it,

1 and someone in the public does, that they could tell us
2 and say, hey, you missed something, you know, put it on
3 there. But it also kind of gives you an idea of where
4 the species are relative to national parks

5
6 And then the last, Page 60, I might
7 have misspoken a moment ago, but Page 60, is just the
8 names and addresses of myself and all the other people
9 in the Park Service who are working on this. So for
10 your area, Ken Adkisson's name is down here a couple of
11 times as a local contact who has been participating in
12 our work, will continue to do that, and that, you know,
13 if you want to talk about this any time, that here's
14 his name and number.

15
16 Mr. Chairman. That's all I have. I
17 don't need any action from you. I'm happy to take
18 questions or comments to the extent you all want to
19 offer them. And with that, I'll stop.

20
21 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Quinn.

22
23 MR. QUINN: Yeah. Sandy, well, thanks
24 for coming and kind of happy to see this. It seems
25 like the Park Service's attitude, although maybe it's
26 changing, is that human involvement on these park lands
27 is non-natural. That we shouldn't be there. And I
28 hope that will change. I mean, there have been people
29 there for an awful long time, and whether they're
30 picking up horns or picking berries and stuff, it's
31 pretty much the same as moose grazing and wolves
32 eating. So that's all natural activity and certainly
33 shouldn't be too much of a problem with it. You know,
34 maybe you can take that idea back to the people that
35 you deal with.

36
37 Then under your information here about
38 possible alternative, under the unlimited collection,
39 the last sentence says, the sale of raw, unworked
40 materials collected in NPS units would not be allowed.
41 I hope that you'll see a problem with that. While it's
42 fine to allow people to make handicrafts, you're in
43 essence requiring those who make the handicraft to also
44 be the one who picks it up, because they can't buy it
45 from another person. What I'm saying is that
46 collecting and selling the raw materials allows those
47 who still make handicrafts, but can't collect them for
48 themselves, to get the material, and it also allows for
49 a little subsistence or handicraft economic type of
50 activity for those who would like to participate

1 economically, but aren't interested in actually making
2 the handicraft. So, you know, you're not doing as much
3 of a favor for these areas by only allowing the pickers
4 to be the handicraft makers, too. There has to be an
5 avenue for economic exchange of raw materials so that
6 everybody can profit. And that would be my suggestion.

7

8 MR. RABINOWITCH: If I may, you make an
9 interesting point there, and I'm not sure that I've
10 heard anybody else so far as we've, you know, done
11 presentations like this make the point. Well, so, I
12 mean, I've taken some notes and we'll think about that.
13 I mean, it's -- what I've sort of scribbled is gather,
14 not make, make, not gather.

15

16 MR. QUINN: What I would like to say is
17 that subsistence is an economy and there's many aspects
18 to it. It's not just making something. You know, you
19 should see the collection of the materials as a
20 subsistence activity, and then selling those raw
21 materials to those who make things is also part of that
22 economic activity.

23

24 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay. It's a very
25 good point.

26

27 MR. GRAY: And I'd like to touch a
28 little bit on that, and then on something else. I
29 would say the park should be -- when you start looking
30 at that, it should be economic boost for the local
31 region. So if Tom Gray finds something out there, that
32 the raw materials can be sold here in this region, but
33 not out of the region. And that way that raw material
34 would be available for the local artists so to speak.
35 So -- and, you know, that can go wherever it may.

36

37 I do have a couple of other things that
38 I don't see in here. I think about the time I went up
39 and shot a polar bear in Shishmaref one time. I drove
40 down the beach, and there was probably 10 walrus that
41 had washed up on the beach, and some of them had gone
42 up and they were on the mainland. And there was three
43 whales on the beach and one of those whales had washed
44 up and was on the mainland. And those bones and tusks
45 and things like that, you would think that we would be
46 incorporating in the same menu I guess. Not muskox.
47 Mastodon tusks. I mean, people find them out there.
48 It sounds like we can't legally take them. That's
49 something that the local artists are going to jump on,
50 you know. They're going to -- these mastodon tusks, if

1 they can be carved and utilized here in the region or,
2 you know, maybe if somebody finds it, doesn't want to
3 carve it, but put it in their living room and exhibit
4 it. You know, those things need to be looked at. And,
5 you know, you can regulate or manage some of this stuff
6 by utilizing it has to stay in the region.

7
8 MR. KEYES: This is Mr. Keyes. I'd
9 like to fill in what these two gentlemen discussed, was
10 saying about gathering. You know, every year we have
11 these folks that can't find berries in certain areas,
12 so they have to travel quite a distance to find
13 berries. And when they do, they come across like
14 mastodon bones or raw ivory that was already there
15 before they got there. Regardless, whatever kind of
16 noting or whatever kind of written statement that's
17 going to be put up to have people read, they're just
18 going to glimpse at it and say, oh, okay. We can't do
19 this. Wait until I get out there, I'll still take it.
20 There is not Native that's going to actually follow
21 rules, because, you know, our ancestors and our
22 generation before us done this so many times out of the
23 years when they go out picking berries, starting from
24 spring time to fall time when everything is, you know,
25 in their visual sight. They see it, they'll grab it.
26 They're not going to ask questions. That's their kind
27 of economy, the kind of money they're -- you know, they
28 want to make or trade. they'll either sell it to their
29 cousin, or they'll trade it with native food to make
30 whatever money they want or whatever kind of Native
31 food they want, you know, things that they don't have,
32 they can actually trade it up with that. But having to
33 put up rules to where we can't do this, we can't do
34 that, it's going to hurt our elders, and our elders are
35 going to hound us, you know, down the line.

36
37 MR. GRAY: Along those lines, I want to
38 give you a story. There was an elder found a mastodon
39 tusk out in the tundra. He was out picking berries,
40 found a mastodon tusk, and this guy's still alive.
41 He's an elder now. He picked the tusk up and was going
42 to carry it back to his boat. Well, it was too heavy.
43 So he went to his boat, he got an ax, he went back and
44 he chopped it in half, took it back to his boat. And
45 he's told me that now I've got a lifetime of ivory hook
46 material. I mean, that was his vision of what he's
47 going to do with that tusk. And he's probably still
48 got it.

49
50 But, you know, all of us have different

1 agendas, you know. You talk about a mastodon tusk in
2 this world, everybody starts seeing dollar signs, you
3 know. Some of us, a mastodon task doesn't mean dollars
4 signs.

5

6 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you.

7

8 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, this is Fred from
9 Shishmaref. And we're surrounded by the Bering Land
10 Bridge. And even before that became Bering Land Bridge
11 Preserved, we were collecting those items for, you
12 know, our economy. And currently it seems like we're
13 breaking the law the way it is written for our
14 traditional and customary use. Thank you.

15

16 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you. And
17 you've been -- I'm not sure that you're done, but, you
18 know, you're making very good comments and I think I
19 understand what you're saying. I've been here a long
20 time, and I think I understand what you're telling us.
21 And I can assure you that we'll add these back into the
22 mix and do the best we can to address them.

23

24 MR. GRAY: Is there anything that this
25 Board can give you to help you bring this all together?

26

27 MR. RABINOWITCH: At the moment what
28 you're doing is the perfect thing, which is putting
29 comments onto the record. You know, as you know
30 there's a transcript being made, so everything's --
31 every word you're saying is written down, and I can
32 pull that out of the record and add it in to what the
33 other people in the Park Service will look at.

34

35 What we're hoping to do, and I don't
36 know whether we're accomplishing it or not, but we're
37 hoping to bring back a document at your winter meeting.
38 If it's not this winter, it will be next fall. And it
39 will be an environmental assessment. Hopefully it
40 won't be more than about that thick, and it will kind
41 of be the whole thing with, you know, here's what
42 everybody had to say, here's what we think all the
43 issues are, and here's what the Park Service is
44 recommending, okay. And that will be a draft. And
45 then in that there will be new rules that could go into
46 here, which would make changes, and that's the thing to
47 specifically comment on. And we will have a
48 sufficiently long time period for comment. You know,
49 we're well aware of when the Regional Councils meet,
50 when the Subsistence Resource Commission meet, so we'll

1 have a real long comment period. And that's the thing
2 where, you know, you might want to make a motion to
3 support this or that at that time.

4

5 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: And there's a
6 working group that's involved with this? This is a
7 working group that -- is this a working group that's
8 doing this? I mean, I realize probably a working
9 group, but who is it consisting of? The National Park
10 Service, other agencies or is it just National Park
11 Service?

12

13 MR. RABINOWITCH: Mr. Chairman. It's
14 just the Park Service, because it's a Park Service only
15 issue. The names on this back page here are kind of
16 the key people, Ken Adkisson being, you know, one of
17 them. We have a couple other groups of people that
18 have different technical expertise. There's actually
19 sort of three groups that I'm coordinating of people.
20 But the names on this page are the -- these are the key
21 people, again I keep pointing to Ken back here, because
22 I know you all know him. And so he's the one that we
23 will go to, you know, for local input from Bering Land
24 Bridge. And what -- well, yeah, just the Park Service.

25

26 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I really like the
27 comments that were offered by the RAC Board. I really
28 do. I think those nailed it pretty much on the head.
29 What I would encourage, too, once these are developed,
30 once these new language and regulations are developed,
31 that like Shishmaref, they're right on the border of
32 the Bering Land Bridge. I would suggest a meeting with
33 their community on the proposed changes by the National
34 Park Service and saying these are the proposed changes
35 that are in front of us, what are your comments, because
36 they're the ones that actually live there and are
37 impacted directly. Deering is another one on the other
38 side where the border is close by it. But I'd really
39 like to thank the RAC on the comments that they made
40 today. I think they're really pertinent.

41

42 Do you have anything else?

43

44 MR. RABINOWITCH: No, sir.

45

46 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Anything else from
47 the Board? RAC?

48

49 MR. KEYES: Yeah. Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Keyes.

2

3 MR. KEYES: When you mentioned having
4 like Deering, Shishmaref, maybe we might want to
5 involve Wales also, because we're in that same segment.
6 So Wales, Shishmaref, Buckland, and just get those
7 people together and just meet with them. That way we
8 don't have to village to village, you know. Get a
9 representative from each of those villages and I think
10 that would be a lot more easier.

11

12 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you very much,
13 Mr. Keyes.

14

15 MR. GRAY: And, of course, you'll have
16 something in Nome. I said, of course, you'll have
17 something in Nome. And the reason I say that is
18 there's a lot of hunters, you know. You can reach your
19 lands on the river system going up the Kuzitrin, so --
20 and there's hunters that go out of here in the
21 wintertime, fall and wintertime going into the park all
22 over the place up there, so I think it's pretty crucial
23 you have a meeting also in Nome.

24

25 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, you'll notice
26 that I'm not making any promise to you that I can pull
27 off meetings in all the places you've just -- I've been
28 writing it down. I mean, I hear what you say and I'm
29 writing it down. But I cannot sit here and promise you
30 that we will accomplish meetings in all those
31 communities. One idea here, of course, was
32 representatives from other communities, I was writing
33 that down, too. And that's just a matter frankly of
34 dollars and cents, you know, what kind of budget there
35 is or there isn't, and soon. I will -- I mean, what I
36 can tell you is that I will look to Jeannette and we're
37 going to talk about this suggestion, several
38 suggestions you just all made, and we'll talk about
39 exactly what you're asking us to do and what will come
40 out of that, I don't know. One thing I won't do is
41 make you a promise that I can't carry out. But I hear
42 you, and we're making a good record of it, and we'll
43 follow up with some discussion about it.

44

45 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yeah. And I think
46 the reason for that is so that you'll have at least
47 some outreach so that people in the public are aware of
48 the changes so that they have time, ample time enough
49 to make comments on proposed changes that will be in
50 front of them impacting their lives.

1 Thank you very much.
2
3 MR. RABINOWITCH: Right. It's a very
4 fair comment, and I thank you.
5
6 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Do you have anything
7 else?
8
9 MR. RABINOWITCH: No, sir.
10
11 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Nothing else from
12 RAC.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you very much.
17 Appreciate it.
18
19 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you. And I
20 believe Ken Adkisson from the Park Service if you're
21 working down your list of the Park Service, I believe
22 he had a short item or two in terms of agency report.
23
24 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Adkisson.
25
26 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chairman. Council
27 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. I
28 don't have anything really here to hand out to you or
29 written materials, but I just wanted to update you on a
30 couple things.
31
32 One is our muskoxen activities, and
33 we're continuing to participate in the interagency
34 composition work on the Seward Peninsula, and will be
35 preparing to participate in the interagency 2010 spring
36 count or census for the muskoxen.
37
38 We are also engaged in a three-year
39 research project that in a nutshell is comparing
40 muskoxen in the northern part of the Seward Peninsula
41 with muskoxen in Cape Krusenstern National Monument up
42 by Kotzebue, which is part of a larger population of
43 what we call the Cape Thompson population, which was a
44 similar reintroduction about the same time as the
45 Seward Peninsula, but up there in that area. And we're
46 far from having all the data analyzed and everything,
47 but a couple interesting things are coming up out of
48 that study so far that hit us, and that is on the whole
49 the animals that we've handled, weighed, so forth,
50 there's a pretty consistent pattern of lower body

1 weight in the Krusenstern animals compared to the
2 Seward Peninsula animals. So it looks like the animals
3 down here are doing a whole lot better nutritionally
4 and stuff than they are up there.

5
6 The other thing about the Krusenstern
7 animals is they've got some really bad dentition
8 problems. A lot of broken, cracked teeth and that sort
9 of thing. So there's something going on in their
10 habitat up there that people apparently weren't aware
11 of for a while.

12
13 The other interesting thing about the
14 Cape Krusenstern thing I think is more of a potential
15 lesson, and I don't think we're anywhere near it down
16 here. But the population up there has never grown at
17 the rate it has down here, and recently people are
18 beginning to express concerns based on the counts that
19 it's beginning to decrease. And it's probably way too
20 early, but some population curves that we've run on it
21 show a I think pretty striking resemblance to
22 population curves from the Arctic National Wildlife
23 Refuge population of muskoxen, which also showed a
24 pretty rapid increase initially, tapered off, did some
25 funny things, started to drop, went down in about two
26 years, and then the bottom fell out of the whole
27 population literally within two to three years. It
28 went to almost no animals. They couldn't hardly find
29 an animal during one year in the refuge. So we've got
30 some real concerns about Krusenstern muskoxen. Don't
31 have those yet down here, but just something to think
32 about.

33
34 And I'll give you a quick update on our
35 status of our muskoxen hunt, the Federal portion of it.
36 BLM probably has some figures on their work for 22B,
37 but so far this year we've issued for 22D, we've issued
38 nine Federal permits. The number of permits there are
39 pretty much restricted currently by guidance from the
40 muskoxen cooperators which wanted to shift more of the
41 permits into the State system. There's probably not
42 much reason for that any more, and so, you know, we're
43 probably going to stop restricting the number of
44 Federal permit, but the truth of it is, is under the
45 Federal regulations, if you're Federally eligible, you
46 can use a State permit to hunt on the Federal public
47 lands, so you have the best of both possible worlds if
48 you use the State permit versus the Federal. There are
49 some other advantages to Federal permits though, such
50 as the designated hunter provision and so forth.

1 And then for 22E we've issues 18
2 permits to date. And out of those we've had no
3 reported harvest to date. Typically it's harder to get
4 to the Federal public lands, and most of the harvest
5 when it does occur comes in really late in the season.

6
7 That's all I've got unless there are
8 questions.

9
10 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Seetot.

11
12 MR. SEETOT: Yeah. Last year when they
13 had a combined quota of 16, you know, I was
14 enthusiastic about hunting muskox, not knowing that,
15 you know, the quota was already reached for that area.
16 In the past I guess our quota system helps, you know,
17 the Federal and State agencies to achieve their harvest
18 numbers, but in a sense I guess it all depends on how
19 many muskox are in a certain area.

20
21 Even though some communities consider
22 them as nuisance or being introduced without tribal
23 consultation when they were first introduced, you know,
24 just -- they have become, you know, part of the
25 ecosystem within the Seward Peninsula. We can moan and
26 groan about all the animals that we dislike, that are
27 not part of our system, but I guess, you know, that was
28 the way that goes, to say that they have become a
29 nuisance, you know. We are not the ones that create
30 nature as they come into being, but as we manage them,
31 at least we heard of some of the destructive activities
32 that they do. It just -- in our subunit, Teller and
33 Brevig Mission, I guess we have been kind of slow to
34 accept moose [sic] as big game species, because, you
35 know, this was introduced. And with the newer hunters
36 coming into being, you know, they just don't have
37 enough experience or enough instructions from the other
38 hunters, other hunters within the different
39 communities. I guess, you know, they follow their
40 hunting practices pretty close, or just kind of hand
41 down from generation to generation. Other communities
42 on the other hand have to kind of learn as they go
43 along, so I guess it's just something -- each area, you
44 know, has a certain preference, you know, for big game.
45 We prefer moose, because that's more dominant. We
46 would like caribou, but due to their range further east
47 and away from the communities, it's just not
48 economically advantageous, you know, to our area.

49
50 But for anything to be managed, I guess

1 it has to take the active participation of the hunter
2 itself, along with the regulators, because if you don't
3 remove certain numbers for a specific area, they're
4 going to run out of feed. Any animal that wants to
5 survive is going to follow the feed wherever it is. It
6 might be there one season, and then go to a different
7 place, but it all depends on whatever food is available
8 for them, you know, to survive through the seasons.
9 It's just the same way for us in that sense, that we
10 have the ability to reason where we think that the
11 animals are, the resource are, why we think they're
12 there, you know. We have the natural resources do on
13 their own schedules, knowing that they know what they
14 have gone through in a sense that, you know, they have
15 a more enhanced census that we, and then we just need
16 to kind of manage them accordingly, and not, you know,
17 just kind of say, you know, that they're a nuisance to
18 our ecosystem. But that's the way it is, and if we
19 manage it accordingly then, then it will continue to
20 prosper.

21

22 MR. ADKISSON: I couldn't agree more,
23 Elmer. And the whole hunt thing, I think you'd hear
24 this from the State or anyone else is that the hunt
25 whole thing is a work in progress. Remember the first
26 hunt we ever had was like 1995 and it was like 15 or 17
27 animals was the total hunt, and now we're well up to
28 well over 100 animals and so forth in the hunt. And it
29 seems like every regulatory cycle has brought some
30 sweeping new changes into the hunt. It started out
31 bulls only, then they brought in a cow harvest, you
32 know. Then the harvest rates started going up and up,
33 or at least the allowable harvest rates. We found
34 ourselves with a State Tier II hunt, and now just
35 recently basically we now -- that's a thing of the past
36 already. We're basically working with a State Tier I
37 hunt which has potentially an unlimited number of
38 permits out there. If you're a State resident anywhere
39 in the State, you're qualified for a Tier I permit.
40 And, you know, that -- it's easier to get and it's been
41 advantageous for some Federal hunters to seek those
42 Tier I permits.

43

44 At the same time, it has drawn in a lot
45 of outsiders, and we've seen some effects of that. The
46 hunt up in 23 southwest of Deering and Buckland area
47 opens August 1, closes March 15th. This last hunt
48 year, it closed December 1, bang. Open/closed. And,
49 you know, consequently both the State and the Federal
50 programs are looking at restructuring that hunt to make

1 sure that there's a winter hunt when most of those
2 villagers actually get out and do their hunting.

3

4 We may well have to do something like
5 that down here. I have a proposal in that I mentioned
6 earlier to adjust the hunt areas in 22D. Don't know
7 how it's going to affect the problem you mentioned, but
8 that was part of the thing that prompted it. We'll
9 have to see how it goes this year, and if you're still
10 having those problems, I think it's fair to come back
11 and, you know, see if we can figure out a change to
12 make it work better for those communities.

13

14 And, you know, it's nice to talk about
15 going anywhere and everywhere when you need an animal,
16 but the truth of it is at some point there aren't
17 enough animals to go around and, you know, the C&T
18 system worked real well in the first years of the hunt
19 when there weren't many animals, but now people are
20 seeing the advent -- you know, there are more available
21 out there, and so, you know, one possibility is we'll
22 trade C&T for a whole series of .804 actions to
23 separate out who gets access to the animals. And I
24 hate to get there, but who knows, just keep trying and
25 keep trying to make it better.

26

27 And right from the very first, I mean,
28 I've been with this thing since the beginning, and I've
29 always told Federally-eligible users, you know, there's
30 a lot of advantages to working with the State system,
31 and I firmly believe that, and it is a cooperative
32 thing. It is a shared thing. It is a dual management
33 hunt. But, you know, in the bottom -- the final
34 analysis is the Federal program needs to look out after
35 that priority, and the interest of the Federally-
36 qualified subsistence users, so if something's not
37 working to help those people meet their subsistence
38 needs, then, you know, we need to come back and revisit
39 it.

40

41 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any further comment
42 from the Board? RAC?

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Want a 5, 10-minute
46 break or continue?

47

48 (Conversation re breaking, mics not on)

49

50 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yeah, it is hot in

1 here. Take five minutes, let's get some air in here.

2

3 (Off record)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: We'll continue then
8 with the Bureau of Land Management reports.

9

10 MR. BEYERSDORF: Good afternoon, Mr.
11 Chair. Members of the Council. For the record my name
12 is Jeff Beyersdorf. I'm the subsistence biologist with
13 the Anchorage field office.

14

15 And I just wanted to give a real brief
16 update in regards to some of the BLM projects from this
17 past summer. I was going to start off with recreation
18 and then move on into the wildlife and fisheries and
19 reindeer program.

20

21 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Please.

22

23 MR. BEYERSDORF: In regards to the
24 recreation program, I just wanted to pass along that
25 there's been no new guide permits issued. There was
26 one renewal this year, and we also had one recreation
27 permit for the Bering Straits Native Corporation that
28 was issued. They did do some activities, some snow ski
29 adventure activities, but nothing on BLM lands.

30

31 In regards to subsist wildlife, I've
32 been working with Fish and Game here out of Nome. Tony
33 and I and Letty met yesterday, and for this fall we're
34 looking at working with the State. The State's going
35 to be doing surveys in 22C and then we're looking at
36 trying to potentially do some joint surveys in 22D,
37 especially in the Kuzitrin drainage. And then also as
38 I think I told you, Mr. Chair, earlier, I was in
39 Unalakleet administering the Federal moose hunt this
40 past August, and one of the requests that we got was to
41 update our surveys in 22A, so we will be doing that
42 this fall.

43

44 As Ken already alluded to, Fish and
45 Game and the Park Service and BLM are going to be
46 working together to do the muskox census on the Seward
47 Peninsula in 2010, next spring. And then BLM will be
48 working with Fish and Game to do the spring moose
49 estimates for 22B and 22C.

50

1 In regards to the reindeer program, the
2 Anchorage field office issued six grazing permits, the
3 10-year permits this year, and then also there was some
4 range assessments that Tom participated in. If you
5 have any questions, I think he may be able to answer
6 those for some of the traditional grazing ranges.

7
8 For the invasive plants program, there
9 was inventory and assessment at four different cabin
10 sites along the Iditarod Trail and they also surveyed
11 100 miles of the trail itself. And there is a project
12 for next year for Salmon Lake and also for the
13 Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River to identify and assess
14 whether there's invasive plants in those two areas.

15
16 And lastly, in regards to the fisheries
17 program, NSEDC, BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service, and
18 Fish and Game ended up inventorying the drainages
19 between Shaktoolik and Golsovia and from those
20 inventories and the aquatic habitat work that they did
21 there, they are looking to submit 80 nominations to the
22 anadromous waters catalog.

23
24 And that's all I have at this time, if
25 anybody has any questions for myself or for Tom, unless
26 Tom as anything further.

27
28 MR. SPARKS: I would just say hi to
29 everybody. It's a pleasure to always be here at least
30 once a year.

31
32 Just a few things on the few things on
33 the conveyance of the lands to the Native corporations.
34 We're going to hold a meeting tomorrow with Bering
35 Straits Native Corporation. And we've closed 10
36 village corporations in the Bering Straits region.
37 There's a number that are still left, but we're about
38 98 percent as far as our land transfer program to the
39 Native corporations. And that does affect what lands
40 this Board has, because once the final patents go to
41 the village corporations, their over-selections are
42 rejected by BLM. And so those lands are no longer
43 under State purview, they come under Federal
44 subsistence purview, as long as there's not a State
45 selection. So the land patterns do change, and I
46 wanted to mention that just briefly.

47
48 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Could you elaborate
49 on that? Go through that again?

50

1 MR. SPARKS: Okay. State regulations
2 apply to State-owned land, State-selected land, Native-
3 owned land and Native-selected land. So if there are
4 no longer any Native selections or State selections on
5 the property, it becomes like hard BLM land if you
6 will. There's different terminologies for it, but it's
7 basically BLM land with no selections either from the
8 Alaska Statehood Act or the Native Claims Settlement
9 Act.

10
11 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: And there are lands
12 currently right now where that would fall under here on
13 the Seward Peninsula?

14
15 MR. SPARKS: Yes.

16
17 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: In the Bering
18 Straits region?

19
20 MR. SPARKS: Yes.

21
22 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any questions from
23 RAC.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Boy, I like your
28 reporting. Clear, concise, short and fantastic.

29
30 MR. QUINN: Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yes. Mr. Quinn.

33
34 MR. QUINN: I've got one question. I
35 guess I'll bring this up now. I spoke to Jeff and Tom
36 about this earlier, and, Pete, I want you to pay
37 attention.

38
39 I just want the Federal permits which
40 you guys and the Park Service hand out in this area for
41 maybe two species, does that sound right? I just want
42 you guys to all make sure that those permits are at
43 least available Monday through Friday, eight to five,
44 business hours. I want all the subsistence users to be
45 able to walk into an office somewhere and get those
46 permits, you know, and whatever problems you have with
47 staffing, for you guys to solve so that there's an
48 office somewhere that's open. You know, the State does
49 that, and in fact generally goes beyond that, because
50 they have vendors who give out permits. And I guess

1 I'm not familiar enough with the villages, but I
2 believe you do have people in some villages who give
3 out Federal permits, you know, and I realize you've got
4 to work with what you've got. If just nobody's there,
5 then I guess nobody's there, but, you know, I feel
6 there should -- since we're required to have permits,
7 there should be a minimum standard you guys meet for
8 making those permits available to the public, and
9 Monday through Friday, eight to five is my -- in my
10 opinion is the minimum standard you should meet.

11
12 MR. SPARKS: Thank you. Through the
13 Chair. Mr. Quinn. We've had discussions with this. I
14 started with BLM here six years ago, and first I worked
15 for the Fairbanks district and quite recently, in the
16 last four years, this area, the Seward Peninsula has
17 been managed by the Anchorage field office. And it's
18 only been in the last two years where I've tried to
19 work with Jeff and to make permits available here in
20 Nome. It was a one-man office here for many, many
21 years. We just hired Brian Berdong (ph) full time. He
22 started in January and he went off to land school.
23 That's a nine-week intensive program. And we have had
24 some problems in terms of, you know, keeping the office
25 staffed. And what we were talking about is maybe
26 trying to work with the Park Service, Ken, and they
27 have a lot of employees down there. But we're trying
28 to address that issue. I don't know that anyone who's
29 wanted one has not been able to get one. Last year we
30 only handed out four muskox permits for 22D, and only
31 one permittee was successful. And this year we've only
32 handed out one.

33
34 Most of the time the State, because the
35 C&T issue, is that that State tag is available for both
36 Federal and State. So it's to an advantage for a
37 subsistence hunter to get that under State. But I know
38 there's some regulatory things that have changed that
39 may not make that true, but we're going to try to
40 address that, and we appreciate your suggestions, too.

41
42 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Other comments.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: All right. Thank
47 you. Appreciate it.

48
49 MR. SPARKS: Nice to see everybody
50 again.

1 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: We're getting close.
2 And C, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I've been
3 informed that we have just about everybody from the
4 Alaska Department of Fish and Game here at the office.
5 Subsistence, fisheries, sports, commercial. And all of
6 you are going to be addressing the Board, is that
7 correct, at some point? And will be taking turns. So
8 we've got a lot in front of us. If you could make it
9 brief, appreciate it, and we'll still have time for
10 questions and comments from the RAC. Mr. Gorn.

11
12 MR. GORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 Actually we have.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I keep trying to
16 remind people, when you're starting to talk, for
17 reasons of recording and record, state your name and
18 who you represent. Thank you.

19
20 MR. GORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
21 name is Tony Gorn. I work for Fish and Game here in
22 Nome. Division of Wildlife has a brief report for the
23 committee this afternoon. And I'm going to turn the
24 mic off and let my assistant, Letty Hughes, who joined
25 us last year go through the report.

26
27 So thank you.

28
29 MS. HUGHES: Okay. Thanks. As Tony
30 mentioned, I'm Letty Hughes. I'm the assistant area
31 wildlife biologist here in Unit 22. I'll go through
32 this fairly briefly.

33
34 Starting off with moose management, we
35 just finished up our fall registration moose hunts.
36 And Unit 22A is a combined Federal and State quota with
37 the Bureau of Land Management, so the quota was 14 and
38 we had a harvest of 17. Six of those moose harvested
39 were on Federal land and 11 of the moose harvested were
40 on State land. And that's with 64 Federal permits were
41 issued and 95 State permits were issued in the 22A
42 Unalakleet area.

43
44 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: So quite a few
45 outstanding permits

46
47 MS. HUGHES: For the number of permits
48 reported back, whether if they did hunt or did not
49 hunt.

50

1 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: You say 34
2 outstanding permits that weren't reported then?

3
4 MS. HUGHES: Right. Of the 64 Federal
5 permits issued, 34 have not been reported back. And
6 that goes for even the State permits, out of the 95, 51
7 have not reported back.

8
9 And with the RM840, which includes 22B,
10 C, D and D -- yeah, just 22B, C and D, we all had to
11 issue emergency order to close the 22B area.

12
13 Okay. If you look to figure 1, the
14 Department has been weighing 10-month old moose calves
15 in the spring, starting in 2006. And so this graph is
16 just giving you a basic of the average weight of 10-
17 month old males and females in Subunits B, C and D.
18 And something to note, and you'll see it on the next
19 graph is when calf weights start dropping below 385
20 pounds, then it starts to be a sign of, you know,
21 nutritional stress and other areas that are going along
22 with resource limitation.

23
24 So if you turn onto the back page,
25 figure 2, and specifically in Unit 22C, this is a
26 breakdown of the last couple years of doing calf
27 weights since 2006. Along with the comparison with the
28 snow depth. So since 2005 up until the last couple
29 years, snow depth has usually been under 80 inches.
30 But 2007, 2008 winters have proven to be about an
31 average of 113 inches of snow fall, and so our calf
32 weights have gone down a little bit. And so you can
33 see with the average weight of females in 22C, it's
34 dropped below the 385 pound nutritional stress. And so
35 what we will be doing this spring is weighing 10-month
36 old moose calves in Unit 22C to see what's going on.

37
38 Okay. Going on to muskox management.
39 As stated earlier, we've completed in cooperation with
40 the National Park Service composition surveys in Units
41 22B, C and E during April and August of this year. And
42 then we will be in cooperation doing more composition
43 surveys scheduled later next spring.

44
45 So on the second page -- or third page
46 with figure 3, this is showing mature muskox bulls per
47 every 100 cows. And mature bulls, we're talking about
48 four years and older. And so this is taken from survey
49 results of 2001/2009. In 2001 for Unit 22C, you can
50 see that our bull/cow ratio was just under 90, and we

1 were taking not even one bull a year. But since then,
2 since we've offered more hunting opportunities and
3 we've come out of Tier II, you go up into the last
4 couple recent years, and now we're starting to harvest
5 an average of 26 bulls a year and our bull/cow ratio is
6 dropping. So now we're at about 30. Now, if this
7 keeps happening, we're going to have -- they're
8 probably going to look at what we're going to have to
9 do hunting opportunities to not have this bull/cow
10 ratio drop below 30.

11
12 And table 2, you can look at that, this
13 is just bulls by harvest that we've had going on this
14 past year. There's currently three areas that are open
15 for the registration. It's the RX 104, which is 22E
16 and 22D remainder. Neither of those two hunts the
17 quota has been met, so they're still open. And there's
18 the two drawing hunts, which is 22D remainder and 22E,
19 and only two muskox have been harvested out of the 22D
20 remainder and only one's been taken out of 22E.
21 Remaining hunts will open up January 1st.

22
23 The last page, figure 4, for brown bear
24 management. I guess the important thing I want
25 everyone to kind of take home on this, and Tony
26 mentioned it earlier this morning, is the 2008
27 regulatory year, we had 105 brown bears sealed in this
28 unit, which is the most this unit has ever dealt with
29 and sealed. I mean, you can look in previous years and
30 see that maybe 101, 104, but this is the highest. And
31 ever since bear liberalization has taken place in 1997,
32 our harvest numbers have increased since then. But
33 that's the big take-home message on that.

34
35 I am finished. Is there any questions.

36
37 MR. QUINN: Certainly.

38
39 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Quinn.

40
41 MR. QUINN: Well, I don't now, how do
42 you read this graph on bear harvest? Is it because
43 we've got bunch of gung-ho hunters and we're going to
44 kill all the bears, or is it because we've got a bunch
45 of bears and we're not even close to killing any
46 appreciable percentage of the ones here?

47
48 MS. HUGHES: Well, Mr. Chair and
49 Council members. I think you can look at this graph as
50 also the bear numbers are contingent upon, you know,

1 weather in the spring and also hunter effort along with
2 number of bears. So like last spring, or last year, we
3 only had 86 bears taken, but last spring's conditions
4 were not favorable for bear hunters to go out, and so,
5 therefore, you don't have a high number of bear
6 harvested from 2007, where this year's bear hunting was
7 favorable just because of spring conditions, and it's
8 hard to track, because, you know, we don't have any
9 harvest tags that are required for brown bears, but
10 hunter harvest could be higher, too, compared to recent
11 years.

12

13 MR. QUINN: Well, we can't kill bears
14 that aren't there, so I guess we can assume there's
15 plenty of bears since we've been able to maintain this
16 harvest rate for quite some time. That's all.

17

18 MR. KEYES: This is Anthony Keyes. Are
19 these from bear guide hunts or is it just from anyone
20 that caught a bear?

21

22 MS. HUGHES: You know, that's a very
23 good question. The number, 105 bears taken, that's
24 including bears that are being guided by non-residents
25 and some DLP bears, defense of life and property, but
26 the majority of the bears that are taken in this unit
27 are by locals. If you look on table 3, at the bottom
28 of the page, we do offer a couple non-resident hunts,
29 but out of the 14 permits that were issued -- or out of
30 the 10 permits that were issued, I mean, we only had 9
31 bears that were taken in this portion of the unit. The
32 Unalakleet area, 22A, generally gets to be they take
33 quite a bit of a bears, and those are guided and
34 there's not a permit required to do that, for drawing
35 permit. So it's like approximately 40 some bears that
36 were taken out of the Unalakleet area, but that's a
37 combined number of locals and non-residents are doing
38 that.

39

40 MR. GRAY: Do you guys have any idea of
41 what the population is out there? And if you don't, do
42 you have any projects in the future that you're going
43 to try and evaluate that?

44

45 MS. HUGHES: In which area would you be
46 referring to?

47

48 MR. GRAY: The population of bears on
49 the Seward Peninsula.

50

1 MS. HUGHES: There was surveys done in
2 the early 90s and that was when the last population
3 survey was done. And there has been talk about doing
4 maybe down the road a future survey of brown bear
5 population in this unit.

6
7 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to
8 Councilman Gray. This is Tony Gorn.

9
10 Letty referred to the brown census that
11 was begun in the late 80s and carried through the early
12 90s. Now, since then for a variety of reasons the
13 Department has not completed another brown bear census
14 in Unit 22. We have not completed trend count surveys
15 either. Almost all of the information we have
16 pertaining to our brown bear population is anecdotal,
17 and the only other thing that I do is I keep brown
18 bears observed per 100 hours of flight time in my log
19 book, but even that at this point really isn't useful
20 for any type of management decision.

21
22 Last year I participated in a project
23 headed up by the National Park Service out of the Red
24 Dog Mine, and it's a new technique that in a lot of
25 ways is an augmented version of how we count moose, and
26 it looks like we're about to see what the results are
27 from that project. But potentially that is a technique
28 that we could apply to Unit 22 and fit into an annual
29 budget with assistance from cooperators. So for
30 possibly the first time in many years, we might have a
31 light at the end of the tunnel for a new way to count
32 bears in Unit 22, but we're going to have to be patient
33 for just a little while longer.

34
35 MR. GRAY: And I guess I'm interested
36 in this for a couple of reasons. You know, I'm a
37 guide, number 1, and, you know, I guess the sympathy is
38 a dead bear's a good bear, but if you take my hat off
39 and turn it around, I wear many hats, and I'd hate to
40 see the bear population just wiped out like many people
41 would have it.

42
43 But the other thing is something that
44 is not reflected in here, is hunters are getting very
45 efficient at killing things. Moose, muskox, bears. We
46 have new tools that we can use. Fourwheelers that will
47 go anywhere, jet boats that will go anywhere, airboats.
48 We've got all kinds of these toys that we are very good
49 hunters now. And so if we don't stay on top of what's
50 going on, we will have a serious problem.

1 And, Tony, I'm going to throw out this
2 muskox issue. You know, Tony came to me and said,
3 we've got a problem. After the hunt closed last year,
4 he looked at his numbers, and there was a problem with
5 how many mature bulls were taken in a muskox hunt. And
6 I'm glad he caught it, because the rest of us wouldn't.
7 But again, our society is changing so fast that the
8 tools -- I tell you what, the tools we have in our box
9 to go kill animals and manage animals has really
10 changed over the years. How many people would have
11 talked about having a weir at the Unalakleet River 20
12 years ago, you know. These tools are changing very
13 rapidly, so the way we manage those resources have to
14 be changing just as fast.

15
16 MR. SEETOT: Going to figure 3, how do
17 you read the harvest for 22D remainder. That 13 is
18 currently -- it's currently open. Is that 13 already
19 harvested out of 16?

20
21 MS. HUGHES: Yeah, the quota is 16, so
22 you look at it that 13 bull muskox have been harvested
23 out of 16.

24
25 MR. SEETOT: So that's current harvest?

26
27 MS. HUGHES: That is current.

28
29 MR. SEETOT: And it will close as usual
30 on January or whenever the quota is.....

31
32 MS. HUGHES: Right. The hunt is open
33 until March 15th or unless the quota has been met
34 before then, and then it will be closed by emergency
35 order.

36
37 MR. SEETOT: So I've got to get my
38 hunting gear in order and, you know, make off quickly.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I'd just like to
43 echo what Tom was talking about. You know, it's -- and
44 I'll talk about the area that I'm familiar with, and
45 that's in the Unalakleet 22A area. When the moose
46 hunts started, we're allowed one bull a year, and then
47 all of a sudden we had a bull moose increase or a moose
48 increase into the area. And then subsequently a cow
49 moose hunting season was opened and a crash occurred.
50 Bang. That was open for pretty much the whole region.

1 The only one that didn't jump on boat was Koyuk. Koyuk
2 elected on their own that they wouldn't hunt any moose,
3 and they had a village council meeting with the
4 residents over there and said, we're not going to hunt
5 any cow moose. We'll just keep it to one bull. Their
6 area sustained moose. They didn't have to go to a
7 quota system after a period of time, because they
8 refused to knock down the cow moose. And we followed,
9 and, boy, I have to tell you, we shot down a lot of cow
10 moose. I don't know how many were harvested, but
11 subsequently our herd crashed.

12
13 And so I think there's a real danger of
14 that occurring also with the brown bear, because
15 there's a heavy emphasis placed on that. Granted that
16 you're not targeting sows, but sows are being taken.
17 And we really don't know what the population is. It
18 goes all the way back to when we started herring
19 fishing. People didn't know what the biomass was until
20 actual aerial surveys were conducted to try to sustain
21 the fisheries.

22
23 So I really feel the same as Tom, is
24 that we've got to have some true numbers. We've got to
25 have some surveys done so that, you know, to prevent
26 crashes in the future. And the only way to do that is,
27 of course, to have a monitoring system in place prior
28 to that. I agree with everyone here sitting on the
29 table that indeed we're seeing a population increase of
30 brown bears and the nuisance that comes with -- not
31 nuisance, but in their concern for life and property,
32 because they are starting to get smarter I guess.
33 They're the best cabin breaker-ins I've ever seen in my
34 whole life. And that, you know, it just brings to
35 light the -- it brings into highlight the problems with
36 bears, but at the same time I really don't feel we need
37 to continue to harvest at such a high rate. If we
38 could harvest at the rate we're doing right now, if the
39 population sustains it. If it doesn't, then definitely
40 we need to take a look at it. It's just like you
41 alluded to in the muskox permit area. I'd just like to
42 see more attempts I'm thinking.

43
44 MR. GRAY: You know, I've been all over
45 the country, and I was sitting up on a mountain
46 watching a bear this fall. And he had his head under
47 the water and he's just cruising down the river looking
48 for silver salmon. And these animals are very
49 effective hunters. I've seen fish ducks two miles from
50 the headwaters of a creek cruising that creek looking

1 for minnows I imagine. Fish ducks way up in the middle
2 of nowhere. And, you know, I guess again the resource
3 is being impacted by itself, and everything goes in
4 cycles. You know, we had lots of reindeer, we had lots
5 of bears. We had lots of reindeer, we had lots of
6 wolves. The wolves -- we're going to see a crash in
7 the wolves pretty soon, because there's not going to be
8 enough moose, there's not going to be enough resource
9 to feed them. The bears are going to crash just like
10 everything else.

11
12 And, you know, again us as humans are a
13 big upset in this process. Unalakleet River, shut down
14 moose hunting to try and get back their moose to that
15 region. It took big measures to try and reestablish
16 that. And hopefully we can get to the point that we
17 can see this stuff before it happens, and without
18 knowing what's out there, we're not going to be able to
19 do that.

20
21 You know, I was really impressed at how
22 those bears can -- they just stick their head under the
23 water and cruise. I mean, they're effective killers,
24 I'll tell you. Food for thought I guess.

25
26 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Further comments,
27 Department or RAC members.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Appreciate you
32 taking the time. Thank you very much.

33
34 MR. KENT: Mr. Chairman. That's a
35 little loud. Thanks for letting me speak. I'm Scott
36 Kent, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Department of
37 Fish and Game here in Nome. I'll let my colleague
38 introduce himself.

39
40 MR. SCAMMON: I'm Brendon Scammon. I'm
41 the sport fish area biologist for Northwest and North
42 Slope.

43
44 MR. KENT: I just had a real quick
45 season summary of some noteworthy things that occurred
46 this year. And one would be forefront at my mind would
47 be the Unalakleet River Chinook run. We had an early
48 closure to the subsistence fishery this year for the
49 fifth consecutive year. We also had proactive mesh
50 size restrictions in the lower river in late June to

1 protect large female Chinook salmon. We had a weird
2 run this year. We had a late run that actually ended
3 up being enough to provide for some subsistence, and
4 then we easily met our escapement goal. We actually
5 had a North River escapement of about 2358 Chinook.
6 Drainage wide that comes out based on radio telemetry
7 to about 5360 Chinook. That's the second largest
8 escapement we've recorded since 1996. So that was the
9 good news.

10

11 The bad news was we had to shut the
12 fishery down again early because we didn't have any
13 escapement information at the time of the closure. We
14 had very poor escapement information. So these late
15 runs that are providing -- that would have provided
16 enough to meet subsistence, we've just never seen this
17 before. Normally late runs are very poor.

18

19 So I did see a slight increase in the
20 subsistence catch rate this year, but, you know, I
21 didn't know what that increase meant in terms of what
22 we'd actually see end up in the river. Now I think I
23 have a better handle on that. And next year we're
24 going to go into the season planning to pull the
25 trigger hopefully a week later, and maybe avoid an
26 early closure.

27

28 So we probably had a subsistence
29 harvest of about 2,000 Chinook, I'm just guessing, and
30 based on our in-season estimates. And what we usually
31 have reported at the end of the year in our hook and
32 line subsistence. So that's an increase of about 500
33 kings from the previous two seasons, which is good.
34 We'd like to put more food on the table however.

35

36 Another good thing that came out of
37 this year was the escapement quality also improved.
38 Not only did we meet our escapement objectives in terms
39 of numbers, we also put a large proportion of larger,
40 more productive females on the spawning grounds. We
41 had 44 percent age 6, and that's -- we haven't seen
42 that in the escapement in quite some time, not since
43 the late 90s. So that was encouraging.

44

45 And other than that, I'll turn it over
46 to Brendon here. He's got some information on the
47 radio tagging study.

48

49 MR. SCAMMON: Mr. Chairman. Members
50 of the Board. Brendon Scammon, Fish and Game.

1 This summer, 2009 we began the first
2 year of a two-year radio telemetry project where we tag
3 king salmon in the lower river to find out what
4 proportion spawn in the North River drainage, and what
5 proportion spawns in the Unalakleet River drainage.
6 This is a similar project that we did in 1997 to 1998
7 where we found in both years approximately 40 percent
8 of the fish that came into the Unalakleet River went up
9 the North River. And consequently we have a management
10 plan that was adopted in 2007 using the tower count
11 information on the North River, and based on the
12 telemetry project we did in 97/98, we have an expansion
13 of drainagewide escapement based on that tower count.
14 So for two years we'll put out approximately 150 tags a
15 year and we'll have tracking stations on the North
16 River and at a couple spots up the main stem to not
17 only get drainage apportionment, but also more detailed
18 information on spawning locations.

19
20 So this year we tagged 142 fish. Of
21 those, 44 percent went up the North River and 56
22 percent went up the mainstem Unalakleet. So this is
23 really close to the 38 and 42 percent we saw back in
24 1997 and 1998. So we don't see any immediate reason to
25 amend the management plan. Also the -- I'll have a
26 quick handout that I'll leave here on the table, but
27 the fish that spawned in the middle mainstem Unalakleet
28 River, the vast majority of them spawned in the wild
29 and scenic river above the confluence with the Chirosky
30 River. So we'll do this again next year.

31
32 And thank you for supporting the weir
33 proposal. Next year we'll have a unique opportunity to
34 have a counting tower, a weir on the mainstem and
35 telemetry data going all at the same time, so we'll get
36 exact numbers of fish that go in the North and the
37 mainstem, and we'll have proportions based on the
38 telemetry project as well.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MR. KENT: Mr. Chairman. This is Scot
43 Kent again, Division of Commercial Fisheries.

44
45 I just have a couple more things to add
46 related. Unalakleet River weir, just a rough timeline.
47 If funding becomes available and when, fabrication is
48 planned to commence in early March 2009 [sic] in
49 Unalakleet with the help of two locally hired
50 technicians who will be under the supervision of a

1 fisheries biologist and kind of our weir guru
2 throughout the State, Mr. Rob Stewart. So there will
3 be about two months of fabrication and construction
4 that will all take place in Unalakleet, and then there
5 will be about two months of actual operations that will
6 -- you know, fish counting. So that installation and
7 operations will begin in mid June. And the plan is to
8 count the king salmon run through the end of July and
9 so that's the rough timeline on the weir.

10

11 And just some other notes on kings.
12 NSEDC and Fish and Game, we teamed up more aggressively
13 this year to make some gains on obtaining genetic stock
14 identification from king salmon runs throughout Norton
15 Sound, and we fitted some subsistence fisheries in
16 Koyuk that fish on the Inglutalik River with sampling
17 kits, and we collected between 50 and 60 tissue samples
18 this year. That's great. If we can get 50 a year for
19 the next couple years, we'll have enough to develop a
20 baseline there.

21

22 Another thing we did was we collected
23 88 genetic samples from the Tubutulik River Chinook
24 run. So now we're over 100 there. We have enough
25 samples to start to run them. This is with our
26 genetics are telling me that they're going to come out
27 and give a report in Unalakleet this spring sometime,
28 kind of what all this means. So we're working on
29 scheduling that. Hopefully we can make it some kind of
30 a community meeting. We also got 50 from the Pilgrim
31 River Chinook run.

32

33 Just other noteworthy things, we had a
34 record commercial harvest of silver salmon in Elim this
35 year. It was nearly twice the previous record, so that
36 was really good for those guys, put some revenue in the
37 village.

38

39 Unalakleet, most of Norton Sound had a
40 near record or above average, well above average coho
41 salmon run. Chums were pretty poor throughout Norton
42 Sound except for Unalakleet.

43

44 Next year looks really good. We
45 observed record percentages of age 3 chum in all sample
46 sources this year, so apparently something may be
47 switching in terms of ocean conditions for chums, so
48 next year should be good.

49

50 And crab, there was a little bit of,

1 well, adversity this year with Norton Sound commercial
2 crab. The catch rates never really picked up until
3 early September. There was some pressure on the
4 Department to move the line in from 10 miles to 5
5 miles, the closed water line. We ultimately elected
6 not to move the line based on some history.
7 Previously, in the mid 90s when the line was moved,
8 near-shore catch rates in the subsistence fishery
9 plummeted every winter after the line was moved. And
10 in '96 the Department got a lot of heat from it and
11 decided not to move it, because of that. And I thought
12 that was a good measure. So ultimately that's why I
13 decided not to move the line this year, to protect
14 subsistence. And eventually the crab did move off
15 shore, and we ended up actually over-shooting the quota
16 by 23,000 pounds. With the late spring and the late
17 molting conditions and everything, we figured, well,
18 the double-shelled crab and those sort of things, we'd
19 probably run into them about two weeks later than we
20 did. So just some update on that. And we actually
21 ended up with 397,000 pounds harvested.

22

23 So that's all I have from Norton Sound.
24 Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Quinn.

27

28 MR. QUINN: Actually I think you've got
29 some more. I want you to tell us about -- isn't there
30 now some sort of subsistence fishery for halibut? And
31 I'd like you to inform everybody of what opportunities
32 exist for that. I see no people taking advantage of
33 it, but I'm wondering if there's fish out there for
34 other villages and places. It's really an interesting
35 deal. And I know you were taking advantage of it.

36

37 MR. KENT: I am a Federally-qualified
38 user, yes. Well, anyone who's a rural resident can
39 apply for what they call a subsistence halibut
40 registration certificate, or a SHRC card. It's free.
41 You just apply on line, and they mail it to you in a
42 few weeks. Fish and Game actually sends you a harvest
43 survey every year and asks you how many pounds and how
44 many fish you caught, where you caught them, those sort
45 of things.

46

47 Yeah, you can get into it. I just -- I
48 haven't heard of there being any halibut being caught
49 commercially east of Cape Nome for whatever reason. I
50 don't know if.....

1 MR. QUINN: Have people tried?

2

3 MR. KENT: Not commercially. So I
4 don't know if people have tried for subsistence. But
5 it's really shallow over there, and there's not a lot
6 of structure and there's not a lot of structure even
7 out here where there's halibut, from town west. But
8 you just have to try to find those benches. But, yeah,
9 anybody can get it. It's free and there's no hook
10 limit, no gear limit, no bag limit in this area, in 4E.

11

12 MR. QUINN: So not much opportunity
13 east of here, but how about in front of Brevig and over
14 towards Wales? Have you got any information for those
15 areas from previous harvest?

16

17 MR. KENT: There's non harvest data up
18 there, largely because it's kind of cost prohibitive
19 for the commercial guys to go up there when you can
20 just catch halibut straight out, plus the time of year
21 when the halibut become available up there, the weather
22 is usually pretty awful, around Cape York, around Tin
23 City. But there's definitely halibut there. And there
24 might be a lot of halibut there at certain times. It's
25 just -- and the currents are really nasty. You've got
26 six knot currents and it's -- you need Bristol Bay
27 sized buoys to be able to recover them. I know when
28 they did a test pot, buoy king crab pot survey out
29 there, they had some buoys that came up like, you know,
30 baseballs, so they were pretty well shriveled up when
31 they did come up. But they're there.

32

33 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Seetot.

34

35 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. NSEDC went up
36 there a couple weeks ago to deliver three sets of
37 halibut fishery gear to Teller and then also three sets
38 to Brevig Mission. Being a new fishery, I joined
39 forces with my nephew to, you know, try to at least do
40 a subsistence type halibut test fishery, just for
41 subsistence, without going into complications for
42 commercial. And that's the approach that NSEDC went
43 to, to see if there would be any halibut, even though
44 it being at least 60 feet or so. It being a shallow
45 bay, what's in Port Clarence Bay, and then also
46 possibly out between Port Clarence and Lost River. I
47 know that there's a deep bench there. However, you
48 mentioned that, you know, the currents are kind of
49 swift. And we really haven't gone out outside of the
50 Bay because of the swells that is generated out in the

1 Bering Sea versus at least our maximum 18-footers, you
2 know. With these short boats, you know, you follow
3 every little wave that comes around, so, you know,
4 that's a discomfort, but this was something that NSEDC
5 proposed. All we need to do is kind of set the gear and
6 then just to report to them whether or not we, you
7 know, caught any halibut. Between Port Clarence and
8 also King Island, I heard that there was some halibut
9 out there. But they did some surveys or at least maybe
10 trawling surveys out there in the past years. They
11 caught one or two within Port Clarence and even toward
12 Teller. But it's something new to us.

13

14 Also, I kind of noticed the fishing for
15 salmon, sockeye was kind of spotty. Also with chum
16 salmon. I always think that they would come in large
17 numbers like before, but apparently, you know, they
18 were kind of spotty. In the end the spotted seals were
19 eating off the fish that were caught in, you know, set
20 nets towards Teller Channel, so I think they were kind
21 of affected, too. However, during the past two weeks
22 smelt, saccharin cod, herring were going inside the
23 channel, and there was a lot of feeding by sea gulls,
24 by cormorants, by spotted seals, so at least they got a
25 reprieve, you know, in the food source. Because there
26 is a large number of spotted seals that do stage out in
27 Port Clarence Bay. When the ice is closing up up
28 north, then they'll kind of go down to Port Clarence
29 Bay to go feed. There was something that we haven't
30 seen a lot of time was the fishing for salmon was
31 spotty, you know, all species.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MR. GRAY: The crabbing, I thank you
36 for keeping that 10-mile limit. The crabbing last
37 year, last winter, I crabbed out of here in Nome. And
38 in my eyes, it was terrible. You know, I did it in a
39 subsistence way, and there just wasn't any crabs around
40 here. A year before it was great, so something
41 happened. And we've taken 400,000 pounds out of this
42 system, I hope we have crabbing this winter. And, you
43 know, these lines, if some of us had our way, we'd go
44 from Cape Nome to Stebbins and you can't crab on the
45 other side of that. Let's leave this incubation area
46 alone. And so take that for what it's worth.

47

48 Silver salmon. I have screamed and
49 hollered and jumped up and down for years, we need more
50 silvers in our rivers. And our escapement numbers, you

1 guys say, well, we meet our escapement numbers and
2 yada, yada, yada. Well, in my eyes, the numbers are
3 too low. And it would be good to see those numbers
4 bumped up, the escapement numbers. Instead of 2500
5 animals or whatever you have, you know, we should be
6 looking at 15,000 animals -- or 15,000 fish, something
7 of that nature. You know, I remember when chums in our
8 river was 80,000 chums going by my camp, and we're
9 lucky to take 25,000 now. So something's happening.

10

11 And when we're commercial fishing out
12 in the ocean and we have these low escapement numbers
13 coming into the river system, it's just killing our
14 fishery. So, you know, somehow we've got to work
15 together with commercial fisheries and on and on and
16 try to balance this thing so we can get our numbers up.

17

18 He brought up the sockeye. I was one
19 of the fortunate guys or unfortunate guys to get the
20 blame for taking a bunch of fish out of the Pilgrim
21 River. And, you know, I'll put it bluntly. We went
22 down, there was a bunch of us, with seines and we got
23 70 fish. The escapement I understand was 900 fish.
24 So, you know, it's sad, but when you don't have that
25 escapement, those people are going to come to my river
26 and they're going to pound on that resource over there.
27 And if we've already got commercial fishing beating up
28 on that resource, it's going to have a compound effect,
29 a domino effect. And then I think about the bears and
30 the ducks way up in the headwaters of these creeks just
31 beating -- I mean, things that we don't commonly think
32 about. It's unfortunate.

33

34 But the Salmon Lake thing, hopefully
35 you guys are getting measures put in place to help that
36 resource come back, because that was a big thing for
37 Nome. And Nome can make or break a fishery. If all of
38 Nome came down to my place in the Niukluk, they would
39 rape that resource and kill it in a year's time. So
40 hopefully some of these issues you're hearing what
41 we're talking about and are able to work with other
42 agencies and other entities within yourself. I mean,
43 you know, you have commercial fishing, you have sport
44 fishing, you have subsistence fishing, and, you know,
45 the ultimate goal is we protect subsistence fishing
46 first. That's supposed to be the way it is, but I just
47 -- I shake my head sometimes, wondering what's going
48 on.

49

50 MR. SEETOT: One more. The main

1 question I forgot to ask. Was commercial fishing open?
2 Was commercial fishing open at Port Clarence
3 subdistrict?

4

5 MR. GRAY: It was early.

6

7 MR. KENT: No, we never opened the
8 fishery this year. Last year it was. Part of it --
9 sorry. Scott Kent, Fish and Game, Division of
10 Commercial fisheries.

11

12 Through the Chair. Mr. Gray. Part of
13 it, you know, part of this crash we've seen at Salmon
14 Lake this year, you know, we've got to remember that it
15 was preceded by some very large runs. From 2003 to
16 2007 we didn't have a run below -- an escapement below
17 35,000 to Salmon Lake. Regardless of how high you
18 think you can lift the carrying capacity by
19 fertilization, and we really don't know how we can
20 affect a lake by fertilization yet, we're pretty sure
21 that that's too many fish in that lake. And I would
22 posit that part of -- you know, it came as a detriment
23 to subsistence users this year that we didn't harvest
24 enough of those big runs when we had them. We weren't
25 able to take advantage of them. Those are foregone
26 harvest surpluses, and we just put too many fish in the
27 lake. Too many fish from different cohorts rearing at
28 the same time and only so many zooplankton. In 2006
29 and 7 we had some very skinny sockeye salmon smolt
30 immigrating from Salmon Lake.

31

32 So, you know the fishery's going to
33 come back. I don't know when, but if it does, I think
34 we need to start thinking about ways to take a few
35 more, to be honest. So that's all I would reply to
36 that.

37

38 MR. QUINN: Okay. Well, along those
39 lines, Scott, you got any kind of forecast for the
40 future of Salmon Lake, and are you going to let us fish
41 in the lake this time? You never let us do that.

42

43 MR. KENT: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Quinn.
44 Right now our budding research biologist, based on our
45 smolt data, she's come up with a forecast of a total
46 run size of 14,000, which isn't very good, but it's
47 better than 3,000, what we think we had this year. So
48 forecasts, you know, they're just that. I mean, I
49 wouldn't let it carry too much weight.

50

1 As far as Salmon Lake goes, until this
2 year, we actually did allow people to fish in Salmon
3 Lake after September 1st.

4
5 MR. QUINN: Late. Late. The fish
6 weren't any good.

7
8 MR. KENT: Well, people normally go
9 into Salmon Lake to fish spawned out fish for drying,
10 so that's why we don't open it up until September 1st.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MR. QUINN: Well so what's -- so far,
15 what's a foreseeable figure, or a figure that you guys
16 are comfortable with to maintain out of the return for
17 that lake?

18
19 MR. KENT: You mean in terms of how
20 many fish we'd like to see escape? You mean like a
21 threshold?

22
23 MR. QUINN: I guess. Yeah.

24
25 MR. KENT: I think no more than 15,000
26 as far as escapement. As far as -- I mean, that's
27 escapement. You know, you figure 10,000 for both Port
28 Clarence and Nome subdistricts subsistence harvest. Up
29 until this year there was a harvest of anywhere from 8
30 to 10,000. And then a limited commercial harvest. In
31 '07 we took 1100 sockeyes. So that was it. Oh, wait,
32 we took like 90 sockeyes.

33
34 MR. QUINN: And what's your opinions or
35 forecasts or whatever on fertilization in the future?

36
37 MR. KENT: I'm not sure when the next
38 round of fertilization is expected. I know that it's
39 an issue that's going to come up at our spring staff
40 meeting in terms of what ADF&G's role's going to be in
41 terms of evaluating that. We're not sure what we're
42 getting out of it in terms of, you know, it's use for
43 management. So we're kind of in flux on that right
44 now. We're -- it's something, it's a discussion item,
45 and we'll have a better answer for you this spring.

46
47 MR. QUINN: Okay. And one last item
48 here I'll have a little fun with, Mr. Gray. If you
49 don't want people to come fish in your river, don't let
50 Nancy put your picture in the paper with 20 fish.

1 Because I was sure thinking about fishing over there
2 next year.

3

4 MR. GRAY: That's all subsistence right
5 there.

6

7 I guess sitting here listening to you
8 guys talk, I'm a little bit concerned. You know, I was
9 at the meeting when they proposed doing the commercial
10 fishing in Teller. And I think I was the one that made
11 the motion approving that. But the only reason I did
12 was the NSEDC guaranteed that there would be X-amount
13 of fish for subsistence users available in the river.

14

15 So now I'm a little bit concerned that
16 you guys have a tool here of commercial fishing that
17 you can use and I'm a little bit worried about the
18 subsistence users here. So hopefully it's used in the
19 right fashion.

20

21 And again I go back to my river. When
22 you guys first came to my country, they had a run of
23 80,000 chums go by my camp. That was a natural deal,
24 going by my camp. And my river system, you know, if
25 you look at the Kuzitrin/Pilgrim drainage, that system
26 is a whole lot bigger than my system. And maybe there's
27 different factors and yada, yada, yada, but still there
28 should be -- how can I say this? The resource, there's
29 a lot more room in there for fish than we think I would
30 imagine, you know. It's -- and I don't know. I mean,
31 that's what you guys are here for. That's your can of
32 worms to figure out, but I hate to see us use a tool of
33 commercial fishing and them beating out the subsistence
34 users. I'm very worried about that.

35

36 MR. KENT: If I may respond. Mr.
37 Chairman. Mr. Gray. I agree with you totally. In
38 answer to the Pilgrim River commercial -- excuse me,
39 Port Clarence commercial fishery, we have a very
40 specific management objective to lead us into
41 determining whether we're going to allow a commercial
42 fishery. Excuse me. We have to project that the in-
43 river run goal will be reached. And the in-river run
44 goal is 30,000 fish. So it's 10,000 for subsistence
45 harvest and 20,000 for escapement. We have to project
46 that we will reach that goal. And how we do that is
47 sockeye salmon run timing if very fairly consistent
48 from year to year, plus or minus two days. So if we
49 have X amount of fish by the weir at the historical
50 quarter point or at any point, we can usually project

1 what the final escapement will be within a few thousand
2 fish. It worked in 2008.

3
4 We -- our numbers were so poor this
5 year that it became evident early on we weren't going
6 to allow a commercial fishery. We evaluated
7 information right up until right up until the end and
8 we threw the towel in in early July.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 MR. GRAY: You just triggered something
13 here. You're talking 20,000 and 10,000 subsistence is
14 30,000 fish coming back in the river system. Will your
15 -- and earlier you said -- I forget, 14,000 or
16 something?

17
18 MR. KENT: That's just my personal
19 opinion.

20
21 MR. GRAY: Okay. I'm trying to figure
22 out whether or not -- what you guys -- are you guys
23 going to lower the numbers, the escapement numbers? It
24 sounds like you've got a 30,000 escapement number. Are
25 you going to lower the numbers that's required for that
26 system for sockeye before anything else happens? You
27 see where I'm going? Like my river system,, you've got
28 to have I think the bottom is 2500 or maybe the 1400 or
29 whatever it is. Some real low number. And it
30 justifies opening up commercial fishing in Golovin, you
31 know. And again I say in my system I'd like to see
32 that number 30,000 fish. And there will be no fishing
33 until we've got a good fishery.

34
35 But, you know, again with this Pilgrim
36 thing, I hate to see the commercial side of it ruin it
37 for the rest of us. And this -- I don't know what your
38 escapement numbers are, but them adjusted. You're
39 going to obviously have to monkey with that to get
40 something that works forever, or works for a long
41 period of time.

42
43 MR. KENT: Right. Right. And there is
44 a process. Mr. Chairman. Mr. Gray. There is a
45 process for that called the escapement goal review, and
46 it's done triennially. And we update existing goals,
47 we make recommendations for new goals. Sometimes we get
48 rid of goals that we don't use. This case, the Pilgrim
49 River, we have very good data, but it isn't collected
50 over a very long time series, only since 2003. Right

1 now our data is so limited that at the previous Board
2 cycle we developed an in-river run goal which just gave
3 us kind of a preliminary management target. Now, the
4 next time we go back to the escapement goal review,
5 we'll have several more years of data, nearly two life
6 cycles of sockeye salmon, and, you know, we may be able
7 to come up with a better goal that's going to -- that
8 we know will provide yields.

9
10 You know, I guess the good news -- it's
11 not good news, but when you have a lot of high
12 escapements, you know, if you have an escapement goal
13 based on a very poor contrast of escapements, you end
14 up with an escapement goal range that's high and nobody
15 goes fishing. And that's not good either. So, you
16 know, now we've got influential points on both ends,
17 and, you know, we'll see what kind of escapement goal
18 range we come up with 2012, I think that's the next
19 year. But I can't keep track of the years here. But
20 those goals are revised and it's because the more data
21 you collect, the more environmental noise there is
22 through time, the different varying levels of
23 escapement. The escapement goal range and updating the
24 escapement goal with the current data kind of
25 incorporates all that noise over time. So you come up
26 with a range. So they can change, but subsistence will
27 come first.

28
29 And I also expect that with NSEDC only
30 selling to local residents, that effort in the fishery
31 -- and the effort in the fishery thus far has been very
32 low in the commercial fishery.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Setting up
37 escapement goals is a problem I think throughout the
38 State of Alaska, and not only on the Yukon-Kuskokwim,
39 but in the Norton Sound. And I think there's a
40 movement on determining a method of setting escapement
41 goals so that it sustains the historical perspective
42 also rather than just what's happening now or happening
43 in the last few years. And a lot of people are feeling
44 exactly like Mr. Gray is, is that the escapement goals
45 are too low. I know what you're saying in regards if
46 they're too high, then no one goes fishing, but at the
47 same time it sustains a population of salmon that, you
48 know, possibly will return if they don't catch it all
49 some place out, or whatever happens out there in the
50 marine environment or even in the in-river systems. So

1 I think there's a movement in that regard. You might
2 be more aware of it, or the Fish and Wildlife Service
3 biologist might know something about it, but it seems
4 like there's a revamping or at least some talking about
5 a method, you know, of setting escapement goals so that
6 it's reflective of more what -- reflective to sustain
7 the salmon population. Do you know what I'm thinking
8 about? Haven't heard anything? Okay.

9

10 MR. KENT: Mr. Chairman. It sounds
11 like you may be referring to like TEK studies, maybe
12 getting indexes or indices of abundance based on
13 reports. And I haven't heard any of that being thrown
14 in.

15

16 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Incorporated?

17

18 MR. KENT: Yeah, in any scheme. What
19 there is a movement towards is incorporating habitat
20 and like juvenile outmigration, stuff like that into
21 developing escapement goals. Those are two things I
22 know of, but I haven't heard of using historical
23 information, other than maybe using -- inferring what
24 escapement or run sizes may have been just from
25 commercial catch or subsistence catch data. There's a
26 possibility of doing that.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Seetot.

31

32 MR. SEETOT: Just a comment on the
33 Pilgrim River. 2005, September, we had some severe
34 storms that pretty much affected the Imuruk Basin,
35 Igiapuk River, Kuzitrin River. Even though the salmon,
36 or the sockeye were reared in Salmon Lake, they didn't
37 affect, the fish that were in the river at that time,
38 because once you get high water, once it started going
39 out, that's pretty swift, and that's something you've
40 got to look at.

41

42 And then also there's an influx of
43 beaver around the Kuzitrin, around the Pilgrim that
44 have migrated from the east side. And you're seeing
45 beaver pretty much all around.

46

47 And NSEDC also fertilized Salmon Lake.
48 The run-off from whatever they put in, it enhanced the
49 growth of weeds in the river system for northern pike
50 explosion, that would feed on anything that goes both

1 ways, because I've seen an increase in northern pike.
2 On the southeast to northern shore of -- or to the
3 mouth of the Kuzitrin River and then along the Kuzitrin
4 River, you know, there's number weeds that are very
5 ideal for pike. And my question was, was the
6 fertilizer or whatever food, whatever stuff that they
7 put in Salmon Lake, now did it enhance the growth of
8 weeds or whatever.

9

10 MR. KENT: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Seetot.
11 You found a gap in my knowledge, probably one of many.
12 I have no idea if -- responding to your last point, if
13 there's any appreciable amount of nutrient run-off that
14 affected anything like that.

15

16 As far as the scouring event, the
17 flooding event you're talking about, we think that had
18 a lot to do with the really poor chum runs we saw here
19 in northern Norton Sound and in Port Clarence. Pilgrim
20 River, it was like no fish blues on everything. I
21 don't think it affected the sockeye salmon since they
22 spawning in the lake, except maybe the ones that spawn
23 in Grand Central where it dumps in. I don't think we
24 had a major scouring there. But we're pretty sure we
25 did in Nome and in other areas in northern Norton
26 Sound, because we had decent parent year escapements,
27 and we lost -- we hardly had any contribution from
28 four-year-old chums this year. It was either five and
29 older or it was the three-year-olds that came in at the
30 end. So we think our ocean conditions are there for
31 the next couple years. Yeah.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MR. SCAMMON: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any further
38 questions.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Comments.

43

44 MR. SCAMMON: Sorry. Mr. Chairman.

45

46 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Scammon.

47

48 MR. SCAMMON: Brendon Scammon, Fish and
49 Game. I just want to probably get to Mr. Seetot's
50 question about fertilization. Salmon Lake is pretty

1 sterile as far fresh water lakes go, and the fertilizer
2 that they're putting in the lakes is phosphorus. It's
3 a phosphorus-limited lake. They put in 24 tons I
4 believe over three different years. They also
5 monitored the zooplankton production afterwards and it
6 went through the roof. So most of that phosphorus was
7 probably gobbled up by primary production, which
8 probably increased the abundance of sockeye salmon
9 smolt. Probably didn't have much to do with the
10 increase in weeds, but it is possible that all of a
11 sudden with this huge increase of juvenile sockeyes
12 moving down river, that the pike had more to eat. But
13 the phosphorus itself was probably not related to any
14 kind of weed growth.

15

16 Thanks.

17

18 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Further comments.

19 Questions.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you very much.

24 Appreciate you taking your time and effort for your

25 long anticipated presentation. I believe we have Susan

26 Bucknell and -- state your name and position, please.

27

28 MS. BUCKNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29 For the record my name is Susan Bucknell. I work for

30 Fish and Game in Kotzebue. I work with the State Fish

31 and Game Advisory Committees. And I'm going to try and

32 compete with Tom Sparks today in a snappy presentation.

33 I know it's late.

34

35 I just made this little packet here.

36 It's got my contact info up here. There's a toll-free

37 number. People in villages can call anytime if they

38 have concerns about the Fish and Game regs they want to

39 change, or the State Advisory Committees, anything.

40 Just give me a call.

41

42 This information is mostly about the

43 Board of Game meeting that will be in Nome in November

44 this year, the regional meeting for this region. In

45 the back of your packet are the 12 proposals for Unit

46 22. It's right on the back. And inside that page is

47 just a list of all the Advisory Committee members for

48 each village in the region. There's two Advisory

49 Committees for northern and southern Norton Sound, and

50 the committee members are listed in there so everybody

1 can see who represents their village.

2

3 And that's about it. Just tell people
4 to call me if they have any questions. Thank you, Mr.
5 Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. Going into
8 the organizations. Kawerak. Anyone from Kawerak.

9

10 MS. FOSDICK: Mr. Chairman and Council
11 members. I'm Rose Fosdick. I'm the VP for Natural
12 Resources Division at Kawerak for the last 12 years of
13 so. Also program director for the Reindeer Herders
14 Association.

15

16 Sandra Tahbone is not here. She's at
17 Alaska Migratory Birds Co-Management Council meeting
18 that's been happening at Nome Eskimo yesterday and
19 today. So I'm here to talk about the subsistence
20 program real quickly.

21

22 You know, subsistence as a way of life
23 is who we are. So the subsistence program is very
24 busy. They have a number of goals, two goals that they
25 try very hard to work towards. One is that Kawerak
26 regional tribes are effectively involved in the
27 regulatory processes that impact their subsistence
28 lifestyle and resources, and the other is tribes are
29 provided the best information available to effectively
30 advocate for the protection of their subsistence
31 lifestyle and resources. In trying to obtain those
32 goals, they have -- the program has a number of
33 projects. The allbiltloom (ph), traditional knowledge
34 and habitat, regarding habitat studies, harvest and
35 traditional knowledge.

36

37 I want to acknowledge Jack Omeluk (ph)
38 who is here and sitting in the back. He was working at
39 the subsistence program. He's moved to another program
40 within Kawerak. I also want to acknowledge Julie
41 Raymond-Yakoubian who is our social scientist at
42 Kawerak who works closely with the program.

43

44 The program is also doing avian flu,
45 which is sampling, which is taking samples from
46 migratory birds and determining through lab tests
47 whether they have the flu. And so far none in Alaska
48 have any symptoms or signs.

49

50 We have a contract with Savoonga IRA

1 Council to do comprehensive harvest survey of all the
2 animals and birds on the island.

3

4 Okay. In regards to upcoming
5 opportunities to propose changes to regulations, based
6 on conversations that we've had with local residents,
7 and specifically Natural Resource Committee members who
8 come from the villages to attend Kawerak Board meeting,
9 we intend to submit a wildlife proposal regarding brown
10 bear. We believe our constituents when they say that
11 there are -- there is a problem out there, and that
12 they are reluctant -- a number of people are reluctant
13 to do the defense of life and property because of the
14 onerous requirements in regards to skinning, taking all
15 the samples and parts and submitting them to the Board
16 of Game.

17

18 We also intend to submit a proposal to
19 the Board of Fish despite the glowing reports that we
20 heard through the radio this year that there were high
21 returns of silvers in various rivers, and high returns
22 of other salmon and fish. In the Nome Subdistrict and
23 the Port Clarence Subdistrict there was a dismal return
24 of fish. You know, we have yet to determine what kind
25 of options that we might present to them, but we've
26 considered things like requesting they review and amend
27 the escapement goals or perhaps return back to Tier II
28 fisheries, although we know the people who were
29 involved with Tier II requirements did not like that
30 process.

31

32 We have submitted, Kawerak has
33 submitted a resolution to AFN in regards to the issue
34 that Art Ivanoff brought up in regards to North Pacific
35 Fishery Management Council and the four tribal seats.

36

37 And the last item I want to make sure
38 to mention is that we spoke with your Staff and we
39 intend to have a meeting in regards to the Partnership
40 Project, or Program rather, and intend to work on a
41 plan and get involved with that program.

42

43 Other than that, that's about it.
44 Unless you have any questions.

45

46 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Questions.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you very much,

1 Rose. Appreciate that.

2

3 MS. FOSDICK: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: No Eskimo Community.

6

7 MR. OMELUK: Good afternoon, Mr.

8 Chairman. Council members. My name is Jack Omeluk

9 (ph). I'm a member of Nome Eskimo Community.

10 Unfortunately there's been staff turnover in some key

11 positions there; however, leadership has asked me to

12 represent their interests in this forum.

13

14 And I think the first point that we'd
15 like to get across is to kind of follow up on what Rose
16 there has said, is that we value subsistence activities
17 and we're going to continue to advocate for those
18 subsistence resources, subsistence practices.

19

20 So as you know dual management has made
21 it a little difficult for us, and then add on top of
22 that that there aren't any Federally-managed fresh
23 waterways in the area has kind of compounded that. And
24 earlier someone had said that the harvesting of red
25 salmon late in the season at Salmon Lake, those fish
26 weren't any good. I was raised by a lot of old ladies
27 out there who prized and value that type of fish. And
28 I hope that this organization continues to be an
29 effective avenue for differing world views or
30 ideologies to be presented. I think that's what this
31 is about, and I hope that we continue to address those
32 things that are important to some, but maybe not all.
33 And then -- so I appreciate the time.

34

35 I just do want to speak a little bit
36 about some of the escapement goals and some of the high
37 returns that the Nome area has kind of experienced in
38 the last few years. It sounds great, and there have
39 been high numbers of returns, but unfortunately we've
40 already noticed, and I hope this is something that an
41 agency chooses to maybe investigate or address, but I
42 think that some sort of study of fish behavior after
43 encountering a fish weir needs to be done. I'm sure
44 that most of us have heard the expression of a fish
45 becoming hook shy, and it just kind of seems, although
46 we've had high returns in the past, low water levels
47 along with encountering a manmade structure like that
48 and human beings changes the fish's behavior. And as a
49 result, it seems that they're harder to harvest
50 upstream. And I hope that it's something that the

1 council members will consider.

2

3 And in closing, I just wanted to add I
4 appreciate the Chairman and the Council members
5 critical analysis of some of the projects that were
6 proposed. I'm an anthropologist. I have conducted
7 work here in the area, and I think even more
8 importantly I was raised here. And, you know, too
9 often the villages who these studies are proposed to be
10 done in have very little say in the process, you know.
11 And unfortunately most times the language concerning
12 capacity building is no more than just document
13 protocol. And I hope that we continue I guess, you
14 know, that we begin to demand, you know, more intent
15 towards creating actual and meaningful capacity
16 building in some of these project.

17

18 I thank you for your time.

19

20 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Appreciate those
21 comments. Any comments, questions from the Board.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you very much.
26 Appreciate your comments. Let's see, Bering Straits
27 Native Corporation.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: They must be getting
32 ready for their annual meeting tomorrow. Really busy.

33

34

35 I'll include I guess through the Chair,
36 anybody from the public who would like to address the
37 RAC at this time.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: If not, we'll go
42 into the Council member comments. Council comments,
43 starting from the right.

44

45 MR. QUINN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 Well, the Nome area kind of had a poor year all the way
47 around. The fish runs weren't very good.

48

49 And then the moose hunting wasn't very
50 good, at least for the guys that hunted 22C. I didn't

1 take the time to quiz Tony and Letty, but they'll be
2 quizzed at the AC meeting about any possibilities of
3 winter seasons for the remaining animals left on the
4 bull quota for C and maybe -- and I know there's a
5 winter season in D.

6

7 I know several people have been
8 speculating that there's going to be even more interest
9 by local people in muskox hunting this winter. That
10 was part of my desire, to see the Federal permits
11 available on a predictable basis in the area offices.

12

13 So I enjoyed the meeting today, and
14 maybe we'll see some of you at the Board of Game
15 meeting. Thanks.

16

17 MR. BUCK: Yeah. I'd just like to say
18 that we started out this spring with the seal hunting
19 out there, but the ice all came in and it was jammed up
20 and we couldn't go out for oogrucks. And then all of a
21 sudden that ice went away and took all seals again. So
22 we had a little bit hard time with the oogruck and the
23 seal hunting last spring.

24

25 And our fishing conditions in White
26 Mountain was satisfactory, well, with all the runs. It
27 was briefly but it was satisfactory.

28

29 And I'd like to congratulate Weaver on
30 being the chair. And I'd also like to say that we
31 should show some appreciation for Barb Armstrong for
32 all the years she put in with this RAC committee.

33

34 That's all I have.

35

36 MR. GRAY: Well, subsistence,
37 subsistence, subsistence. That's my life. That's a
38 bunch of our lives, and, you know, over the years we've
39 had feast and famine. Things have come, things have
40 gone. We've all gone through the highs and lows of
41 subsistence. Peter was just talking about oogrucks.
42 You know, I saw the most oogrucks I've ever seen in my
43 life this spring. I saw between 500 and 1,000 oogrucks
44 on one hunt. I've never seen it like that. So we've
45 all gone through the highs and lows of subsistence.

46

47 And, you know, I thank all you agencies
48 for coming and being here, because you're here because
49 of subsistence, because in your hearts you want to see
50 us have a lifestyle that the people in this region

1 deserve. I mean, we've lived all our lives,
2 generations and generations of subsistence, and we need
3 to protect that.

4
5 MR. SEETOT: Sea lions was spotted over
6 at King Island this past summer. Something new, and
7 that is kind of happening I guess in the marine waters.

8
9 Some fishermen caught some sheefish
10 around the north shore of Grantly Harbor or around
11 north shore of Port Clarence Bay. This is never heard
12 of, you know, people catching sheefish. And then also
13 northern pike in salt water, especially during the
14 spring run-off.

15
16 About a week ago numerous fall oogruks
17 were feeding, Port Clarence Bay, and then in Grantly
18 Harbor. You know, they're kind of fattening before
19 they head on down south.

20
21 And then the northeaster portion of
22 Imuruk Basin is a staging area for Canadian geese and
23 waterfowl. They'll kind of stay there until it kind of
24 freezes up. So pretty much everything is gearing up
25 to, you know, head down south.

26
27 And I think being in a productive place
28 like Imuruk Basin and Kuzitrin River, you know, I will
29 say and continue to say, you know, this area is a huge
30 place. It's being used by everyone and as long as the
31 resources are, you know, are being used in a good way
32 and the environment be kept clean, and then that place
33 is still open. I heard of, you know, other regions,
34 you know, that we live in this community. This is our
35 hunt area, well, we'll kind of restrict. No, that is
36 not my point of view for my area, because I alone am
37 just one single person compared to everyone that use
38 that area, and that's for the benefit of the people
39 that use the resource.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MR. KEYES: Rules. Rules. Rules.
44 Well, anyway, I sure enjoyed this meeting today.

45
46 But things I never heard about, you
47 know, that were brought up in this meeting about new
48 species are starting to wash up on our beaches, such as
49 these small fish that got some really deadly razor
50 sharp teeth. I've never seen that kind of fish around

1 in this region before until this summer after all the
2 ice went out. And when we had first rough waters,
3 riding around the beach up to the coast line, I ran
4 into some odd looking fish. Never seen any kind of
5 fish like that before. We're getting fish from down
6 from Japanese country, Korea -- or Russia, Japanese
7 country. We're getting new species. I hope we don't
8 have to regulate those kind of new style that we're
9 getting here in Alaska.

10

11 But anyway, about, you know, our
12 subsistence, it's good in a way to kind of manage what
13 we have on our land now just to let us know what's out
14 there, and what count would be for people, you know,
15 that what to hunt. And that they don't know the exact
16 amount of what's out there and what the limit is for
17 their household. But having to feed your family takes
18 a lot of -- it takes a lot to fill up a freezer. It
19 takes a lot to help your neighbors nowadays. But we
20 have to follow these rules I guess. I'm one of them.
21 So I'd better not break any.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, this is
26 Eningowuk. I enjoyed this meeting here today, and we
27 had -- like Tom said, we had a pretty good spring, a
28 lot of oogruks. Never seen so many before. And had a
29 pretty fairly decent summer.

30

31 That's about all that I have to say.

32

33 MR. MARTIN: I'd like to say welcome to
34 the Board. Say thank you for chairing this meeting,
35 and congratulations on becoming our chair.

36

37 This spring we had a good subsistence
38 hunting of birds. Had a good season in fishing. And
39 all that. You know, we had some good luck, too in
40 moose hunting.

41

42 As you know, last winter I was talking
43 about -- or I had a question about opening fishing down
44 in our area. But after meeting with the late Mr. Kobuk
45 and the people of St. Michaels, and some people at home
46 that I have talk with at Stebbins, well, I have opted
47 not to pursue the desire to open our area -- or to try
48 and get that opened for commercial fishing. I had
49 people in my community and St. Michaels love their
50 subsisting without having any having to close for

1 commercial periods under subsistence.

2

3 And I want to wish all of you a safe
4 return home and a good fall. Quyana.

5

6 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you. This
7 meeting has been very enlightening for me. I really
8 enjoy and am glad to see a really good participation by
9 the RAC members at the meeting. And also the strong
10 support by the Staff from OSM, Wildlife and the
11 participation and coordination between the different
12 Federal agencies, along with trying to work with
13 Department of Fish and Game and the State of Alaska in
14 reference to these issues.

15

16 While dual management is a real
17 problem, I believe that from the past actions that the
18 RAC has taken, and also from how many years that you
19 guys have served on here, have set the stage on what's
20 happening today and developing these partnerships and
21 coordination efforts. And it's making it a lot easier
22 obviously. I've not sat through a regulation meeting,
23 so that part I'm going -- I'm a little bit concerned
24 about, but at the same time, you know, I'm confident
25 and grateful that with the Staff's support, the
26 different agencies as well as the RAC's support, and I
27 look forward to further participation from the veterans
28 who have served on here.

29

30 Mr. Tom Gray, I am trying very hard to
31 see how we can endorse your application, whether we
32 could do it as a body or to -- because I understand the
33 Secretary of Interior makes that appointment. And, you
34 know, us endorsing your application. I'd really like
35 to do that. So having said that, give my name as a
36 reference if you feel like it's going to do any good.
37 I have no problem endorsing that.

38

39 In the future meetings I would like to
40 coordinate a little bit more with Mr. Alex Nick. I'd
41 like to see a little bit more in regards to public
42 participation, time allotted and possibly a method of
43 how we're going to do that. So that it's clear and
44 straight forward, the public knows exactly where and
45 when they will need to speak, because I have a feeling
46 when regulations come on, it's going to be a long
47 process, and I'd like to streamline that as much as
48 possible. But at the same time have the input from the
49 public in a fashion and matter.

50

1 And again thank you for you guys'
2 support from the RAC. I appreciate it. And a lot of
3 help from the senior members who have been here a long
4 time.

5
6 With that, we'd like to go into
7 adjournment.

8
9 MR. GRAY: So move.

10
11 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: A motion on the
12 floor. Tom.

13
14 MR. BUCK: Second.

15
16 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Second. All in
17 favor aye.

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20
21 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: The motion
22 adjourned. Meeting adjourned.

23
24 (Off record)

25
26 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

