

1 SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE

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3 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

4

5 PUBLIC MEETING

6

7 VOLUME II

8

9 Aurora Hotel

10 Seward, Alaska

11 March 19, 2014

12 8:57 a.m.

13

14

15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16

17 Louis Green, Chair

18 Reggie Barr

19 Peter Buck

20 Fred Eningowuk

21 Tom Gray

22 Ted Katcheak

23 Charles Saccheus

24 Elmer Seetot

25 Tim Smith

26

27

28 Regional Council Coordinator, Alex Nick

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Nome, Alaska - 3/19/2014)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, good morning, everybody. Here it's about 8:57. I'd like to call the meeting to order at this time.

Are we in the need for roll call?

No.

Okay.

Thank you.

We've got some announcements here Mr. Alex Nick needs to bring up.

MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Alex Nick, Council coordinator.

What I would like to do is, before you begin your business today, I would like to remind the Council members about the travel policy we have. Before you make any changes, I need to know about it. I think one good example is exper -- rather there was a little problem with Mr. Fred Eningowuk on his way to Nome. He was scheduled to travel in the morning, but when he was trying to reschedule his travel, he was told that he would have to call our office. And he contacted me while I was on travel status and it was taken care of within just a few minutes.

We cannot guarantee that it will take -- that it would be taken care of within a few minutes like what happened to Mr. Eningowuk, because sometime people who are responsible for making travel changes are not in the office, or maybe are busy somewhere. When that happens, you know, it takes time.

I'm the first contact person. If those of you who are traveling, if you need to contact someone or make travel changes, you need to contact me so I could contact the appropriate people instead of playing mouse and tag, or whatever you call it.

Anyway, that's one thing. Travel

1 changes need to go through me, because there are travel  
2 policies that we need to comply with.

3

4 Other things that I would like to  
5 mention to you is that Raven Air is a newly-reorganized  
6 I think or organized airline. I think they might be  
7 changing their policies, too, so we need to go through  
8 travel clerks in Anchorage to make some changes.

9

10 For extended stays, those of you who  
11 wish to stay over time you were scheduled to return,  
12 you also need to let me know, because you'll run into  
13 some issues if you don't travel on time, unless there's  
14 weather issues.

15

16 And information on your per diem. You  
17 receive -- I believe you received approximately 60  
18 percent I think of your per diem, so what you need to  
19 do is when you get back to your village, send your  
20 receipts to me or to Glenn Westdahl in our office in  
21 Anchorage. And if we do these things on time, then you  
22 could get your travel reimbursements go to your bank  
23 within just a few days. Within a week, about a wee.

24

25 Other thing that I would like to know  
26 from you is we mentioned a little bit about your  
27 training, Council training. I did not schedule the  
28 training during this meeting, because one of your new  
29 members was not planning to come in to this meeting.  
30 We have two new RAC members. We need to do that this  
31 fall, during the fall meeting, and it would be better  
32 if we do it for all of the Council members so that you  
33 will know about new changes that occurred since the  
34 last training you may have attended.

35

36 For those of you who did not receive  
37 2013 Operations Manual, please let me know. I know the  
38 new members never received this. We have limited  
39 copies available. I just have two copies, I brought  
40 only two copies to this meeting. This is the manual  
41 that you should know about. You will know or become  
42 aware of what I'm doing, what Karen's doing, and other  
43 people are doing in our office, and how to deal with  
44 issues that comes up. And it also should have  
45 correspondence policy and also contact policy.

46

47 I think one important thing that I want  
48 to mention is contact policy that apply. For example,  
49 if someone who don't know Tom Gray want to contact Tom  
50 Gray from other agencies or organizations, I would have

1 to call Mr. Gray and ask him for permission to provide  
2 the contact information. That's part of what the  
3 contact policy covers.

4  
5 So these are the things that you will  
6 be becoming familiar with your book -- your Operations  
7 Manual rather. And there will be other things that  
8 will be covered during the training.

9  
10 Thank you, Mr. Chair. If you have any  
11 questions, you could approach me during the break or  
12 any time.

13  
14 Quyana.

15  
16 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chairman.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes. Thank you,  
19 Donald.

20  
21 MR. KATCHEAK: Ted Katcheak.  
22 Unfortunately, my check wasn't made out on this trip,  
23 and hopefully next time it will be ready for me.

24  
25 Thank you.

26  
27 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Mr. Katcheak.  
28 Like we talked about before you traveled to this  
29 meeting, I mentioned -- I seem to remember I mentioned  
30 that because all of the personal information was not  
31 gathered, banking information, and other information,  
32 because of the vetting, we did as quick as possible to  
33 arrange Mr. Katcheak's travel. And he is going to be  
34 the only one who will receive a full per diem when you  
35 do your travel vouchers.

36  
37 So, Mr. Katcheak, you will get all of  
38 your per diem after you get your paperwork to me.

39  
40 MR. KATCHEAK: Do I need to provide  
41 receipts?

42  
43 MR. NICK: Yes, you'll need to provide  
44 your taxi receipts and you're allowed to call home,  
45 charge that -- I believe charge that to your room bill,  
46 up to five minutes a day for phone calls.

47  
48 MR. KATCHEAK: Thank you.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Not three times a day.

1 Five minutes a day.

2

3 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Peter.

6

7 MR. BUCK: I'd like to say, too, that  
8 Ted didn't get his per diem and stuff. But I was  
9 reappointed to this Board. And I put in my application  
10 last year, and I was supposed to be reappointed by  
11 December 31st. And they sent me a letter saying the  
12 process was taking a long time, and they weren't sure  
13 whether I'd make this meeting or not. Finally they got  
14 my application approved about two weeks before the  
15 meeting, and then I was able to attend. But it was not  
16 only me. It was all the other RAC groups in Alaska.  
17 They took a long time to pass the applications; so we  
18 need to get on them to make sure that application  
19 passes is more efficient than it is now.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, that's a good  
22 point to make, Peter. Like you say, it's all over the  
23 state that it's happened.

24

25 So with that said, is there any other  
26 -- Tim.

27

28 MR. SMITH: Before we off of muskox,  
29 and I had something I wanted to add there before we go  
30 into chum salmon bycatch.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I guess we can  
33 do that. Yeah, let's go ahead and do it, and then  
34 we'll move into.....

35

36 MR. SMITH: You know, one thing that I  
37 thought about last night thinking about what we did  
38 yesterday was, you know, the muskox management plan is  
39 way out of date. And that seems to be hampering -- I  
40 think that hampers what we're trying to do. We don't  
41 know exactly we're trying to do now, things have  
42 changed so much from when that thing was current.

43

44 And what I'd like to do is pass a  
45 motion to ask that the muskox plan be revised and put a  
46 fair amount of effort into it, and ask that OSM fund  
47 the planning process.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So you're suggesting  
50 we make a motion and move forward.

1 Well, how does other Council feel.  
2  
3 Do you want to work on the wording here  
4 first and then bring it back, or do you have something  
5 in mind?  
6  
7 MR. SMITH: I think I can just do it ad  
8 lib, but I guess I'd move to recommend that OSM fund a  
9 revision of the muskox management plan for the Seward  
10 Peninsula, and that we start on that process as soon as  
11 practical. And I guess that's it.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So the motion's  
14 been made. You've heard it. Is there a second.  
15  
16 MR. ENINGOWUK: Second.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Seconded by Fred  
19 Eningowuk.  
20  
21 All those in favor of the motion say  
22 aye.  
23  
24 MR. GRAY: Can we have a little  
25 discussion?  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, wait a minute. We  
28 need to have some discussion, Louis.  
29  
30 Go ahead, Tom.  
31  
32 MR. GRAY: And I'm going to throw this  
33 at Ken. When the muskox cooperative union -- or union,  
34 committee came together, I know guys were flown to town  
35 and so on and so forth. And I think you were involved  
36 in that. Was there -- there must have been a huge,  
37 huge budget to accommodate this. What I'm after is a  
38 feel for the kind of money that we'll need to do this.  
39  
40 MR. ADKISSON: Councilman Gray, through  
41 the Chair. I don't have the dollar figures now. It  
42 would take me a while to kind of put it together.  
43  
44 But the muskoxen cooperators have never  
45 received financial support the way, for example, the  
46 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group has received  
47 support. So the entire costs of it are born out when  
48 we have meetings by the individual agencies, the  
49 Department of Fish and Game, the Park Service, BLM to  
50 some extent, and occasionally Fish and Wildlife Service

1 I believe may have chipped in a little, or at least  
2 sent representatives to some of the meetings.

3

4                   Yeah, there's a fair amount -- I mean,  
5 you're talking about bringing in sometimes two or three  
6 people from each community within the region, including  
7 Unit 23 Southwest. So you're talking about travel  
8 costs, per diem, hotels, lodging, that sort of thing.  
9 To save money we've often tried to hold meetings at  
10 periods when we could -- there was a RAC meeting  
11 scheduled, and an AC meeting scheduled so that  
12 representatives who were on the RAC could travel on the  
13 RAC budget and the AC members could travel on the AC  
14 budgets, which -- and then we could pick up the  
15 remaining people. So it's been kind of a catch as  
16 catch can process. And then there's, you know, rental  
17 for a place to hold the meeting and that sort of thing.  
18 So, yeah, it can run, you know, several thousands of  
19 dollars, most of which we have a hard time these days  
20 trying to cobble together without, you know, fairly  
21 extensive planning in advance to be able to budget for  
22 it. And then the travel restrictions that we're under  
23 are getting more and more difficult, especially  
24 invitational travel for people.

25

26                   So it's a challenge frankly to put it  
27 together, and unless we've got a good agenda and a lot  
28 of pre-planning going in it to be able to just pull it  
29 off.

30

31                   You know, we've discussed a number of  
32 alternatives. For example, topics that may be more  
33 relevant to a single sub-unit or hunt area, trying to  
34 do consultation with those communities rather than try  
35 to involve all the cooperators.

36

37                   ADF&G has put a lot of work into trying  
38 to develop a draft management plan to update it. You  
39 know, we've commented on it somewhat. Most of it's  
40 simply by logistics and availability of Staff. We  
41 haven't been able to really pull the cooperators  
42 together to focus on it, but like I said, ADF&G has put  
43 a lot of work into trying to revise it.

44

45                   I still have some concerns with it even  
46 with that. The status of the population has changed so  
47 greatly that, you know, I'm not sure where we're at now  
48 with it, or if even the revision really covers what we  
49 need to do. But I think all of us would agree it's  
50 time to overhaul the plan.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there any other  
2 comments or questions here. Any discussion.  
3  
4 (No comments)  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Somebody want to call  
7 for the question.  
8  
9 MR. KATCHEAK: Question.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The question's been  
12 called. All those in favor of the motion say aye.  
13  
14 IN UNISON AYE  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those opposed to  
17 the motion same sign.  
18  
19 (No opposing votes)  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The motion passes.  
22  
23 So I wanted to mention a couple of  
24 folks here that have come in here. We've got Fred  
25 Tocktoo over there from the Park Service. Nikki Braem  
26 from ADF&G. And what's your name, Brandon? No, I'm  
27 kidding. Brandon Ahmasak from Kawerak. and I think  
28 that covers everybody.  
29  
30 On line, I would like to have you let  
31 us know who you are.  
32  
33 MR. RICE: Hi. Bud Rice with National  
34 Park Service on line. Thank you.  
35  
36 MR. LIEBICH: Trent Liebich, Office of  
37 Subsistence Management in Anchorage.  
38  
39 MR. CRAWFORD: Drew Crawford, Alaska  
40 Department of Fish and Game, Federal Subsistence  
41 Liaison Team, Anchorage.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Three people on line.  
44 Thank you. Good morning.  
45  
46 So we have taken care of that business.  
47 So we want to move on into the discussion of chum  
48 salmon bycatch.  
49  
50 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. Ted

1 Katcheak. We haven't had roll call yet.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We didn't. When I  
4 asked about that, and it wasn't necessary. I just  
5 wanted to inform people who was in here. And thanks  
6 for thinking about that.

7

8 MR. KATCHEAK: Okay.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: But I got everybody  
11 on line here now. It's hard to tell who they are until  
12 they speak up, so we've had that opportunity.

13

14 Now chum salmon bycatch. Would you  
15 like to make comment on there, Mr. Smith.

16

17 MR. SMITH: Yeah. The North Pacific  
18 Fisheries Management Council is going to be here in  
19 Nome in June to talk about chum salmon bycatch  
20 reduction. And it's kind of an honor for them to come  
21 here. They came here in, was it 2011 maybe, for king  
22 salmon bycatch. And so they're coming here because  
23 Norton Sound has the worst situation with chum salmon  
24 in the State. We still have stocks of concern.

25

26 We're not able to even come close to  
27 meeting our target harvest goals for chum salmon. And  
28 so they're coming here to hear from us.

29

30 The way we've left it, this Council  
31 asked for a hard cap of 30,000, and then we submitted  
32 that to the Federal Subsistence Board. And the Federal  
33 Subsistence Board amended it, and a lot of other tribal  
34 groups and other entities around Western Alaska sent in  
35 the same request of 30,000 hard cap. The Federal  
36 Subsistence Board put in a proposal to set the cap at  
37 52,000. And with the bycatch reductions measures  
38 taking place when they reach 25,000. So that's not  
39 exactly what we asked for, but it's not a bad  
40 compromise, you know. So when they got to 25,000, then  
41 they'll start doing things like moving the pollack  
42 trawl fishery to other areas to try to avoid chum  
43 salmon bycatch.

44

45 The problem I think that we've got is  
46 that we don't have any kind of regional position. None  
47 of the groups in -- the groups in Norton Sound haven't  
48 come together with anything consistent. We don't know  
49 what Atacitysea (ph) is going to recommend. We kind of  
50 think that, you know, one of the options is not having

1 a cap at all. That's what the industry wants. And I  
2 don't think that -- but personally that's not  
3 acceptable to me. That would be just they can just  
4 catch whatever they can, make some effort to reduce  
5 bycatch, but there would be no actions taken if the  
6 bycatch is high. And that's a problem, it's still a  
7 problem. Despite what they've tried to do, last year  
8 the chum salmon bycatch was high. I think it was  
9 119,000 fish, which is more than all the commercial  
10 fishermen in Norton Sound caught. And these are just  
11 fish that are caught and wasted by the -- in the  
12 pollack trawl fisheries.

13

14 And so I'd like to see this group at  
15 least start the ball rolling to get some kind of a  
16 regional position to have ready for the Council when it  
17 comes here in June. There's enough time, but we need  
18 to get together. And it would be good if we could  
19 establish communications with people down in the Y-K  
20 Delta. AVCP will be participating, but we don't know  
21 exactly what their doing either.

22

23 And so one of the big -- you know,  
24 based on what happened last time with king salmon, we  
25 didn't have a clear regional position on king salmon  
26 bycatch, and we got a pretty high number. The number  
27 that came in was 60,000, the hard cap on king salmon is  
28 60,000. That's a lot of fish. And our king salmon  
29 stocks are in dire straights everywhere in Western  
30 Alaska.

31

32 And so I'd like to see us to better  
33 this time with chums. I mean, I'm not sure exactly  
34 where we go. I'd like -- maybe we should pass a motion  
35 asking that there be some kind of a coordinated  
36 regional effort on putting together a position on chum  
37 salmon bycatch.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. So any  
40 other Council want to add to that at this point? I  
41 guess the idea of a resolution or a motion, we would  
42 have to come up with some kind of working on that. And  
43 what do you feel that we'd do?

44

45 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I think a resolution,  
46 and it would be something along the lines that this  
47 Council, that the RAC would be asking for some kind of  
48 coordinated regional effort prior to the meeting in  
49 June.

50

1                   And I'm not sure who we're asking to  
2 coordinate this, but somebody needs to put together or  
3 we won't be prepared in June. And I think what we can  
4 expect from the industry is that they'll ask for no cap  
5 at all. You know, I think that it's clear they -- if  
6 it's been going on for a long time, there has been a  
7 lot of talk about bycatch reduction, and the industry  
8 wants no cap at all. They say that controlling chum  
9 salmon bycatch would tend to put them into a position  
10 where they're going to take more king salmon. And,  
11 see, since chum salmon are not an issue for anybody  
12 other than us, you know, the chum salmon runs in the  
13 Yukon River are fairly strong still, we're really the  
14 ones that need to take the lead if we want to get a  
15 significant limit on chum salmon bycatch.

16

17                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I have a -- you  
18 know, the idea that chum salmon bycatch is 119,000 fish  
19 and then nobody in the region has anything to say about  
20 it is kind of puzzling to me. 115,000 were taken by  
21 the local fishermen in the whole of Norton Sound this  
22 year, this last year. Now, they're allowed to catch  
23 and waste more than the commercial fishery in this part  
24 of the country here. So I would think this would bring  
25 some people to the table for some discussion. If  
26 you've got an idea, I'd like to hear about it. I think  
27 it's something that we should be bringing up to the  
28 Federal Board. And I think Tim's got a good point  
29 about a coordinated regional effort here. I don't see  
30 it happening. Maybe it can start with us.

31

32                   Are there any other comments on that.  
33 Elmer.

34

35                   MR. SEETOT: I would propose that be  
36 initiated around Norton Sound level, because Port  
37 Clarence, we do have abundance of chum salmon that goes  
38 to Agiapuk River. Every year so far. We have kind of  
39 stopped fishing in Agiapuk, and we used to go up there  
40 and fish. All the old people that used to fish for  
41 salmon in the river system, because there were leads  
42 where dry fish was kind of passed on, and now it's  
43 pretty much just -- most of the fish is kind of frozen.  
44 Or ones that are caught fresh are pretty much taken  
45 care of at the community. So it's not that the fish  
46 aren't there, it's just that the people that eat the  
47 fish have passed on. And it gets so bad, you can  
48 smell, you know, the decaying carcasses of the salmon  
49 after they spawn. And so that's a pretty vibrant river  
50 right now. Agiapuk, chum salmon, the trout, the

1 grayling, the humpies pretty much -- those are the ones  
2 especially that -- the pound that we have is what's  
3 made with the Pilgrim River red salmon. Those are kind  
4 of up and down that we have been seeing over the past  
5 years.

6  
7 I would think that something outside  
8 the area that prevents the red salmon from being in  
9 abundance towards Salmon Lake. There's a lot of beaver  
10 lodges along the river system where the red salmon  
11 migrate to Salmon Lake, so that's a big increase I have  
12 seen within the past five years. And the extreme  
13 storms that we see in the falltime I think gets the  
14 young fish, the eggs, whatever, wiped out or kind of  
15 scattered after a big high water rise during the fall.

16  
17 But for Agiapuk River, that is very  
18 abundant with chum salmon. And up to this date. And  
19 so far people have been fishing pretty much along the  
20 Port Clarence Bay, Bradley Harbor, and not so much at  
21 Agiapuk River for lean, easy to dry fish.

22  
23 Thank you.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.

26  
27 Ted, your light is on, or did you want  
28 to speak?

29  
30 MR. KATCHEAK: Oh, sorry.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Tommy.

33  
34 MR. GRAY: I like the concept of if  
35 we're going to present something to this meeting this  
36 summer, that everybody comes together and gets unified.  
37 I like that idea.

38  
39 But I think it's bigger than this  
40 pollack fleet. I think Area M is an issued. There's  
41 other issues out there. And if this gets put together,  
42 you know, those Area M needs to be thought about also.  
43 Granted maybe they're only addressing the bycatch issue  
44 this year, but these same folks should be talking about  
45 other impacts on this fishery.

46  
47 So, anyway I like the idea of trying to  
48 get everybody talking the same language. I mean, you  
49 know, that's our biggest failing in this region is  
50 nobody -- we have all these little entities out there

1 trying to do their own thing, and there's a bigger  
2 power that could come if we all work together.

3

4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'd just make a  
5 comment. I agree with you, because people haven't  
6 brought together to the table any form of opposition,  
7 that we are going to be failing in our duties when it  
8 comes to time for the North Pacific Fisheries  
9 Management Council to arrive in Nome, and we don't have  
10 anything to offer at the table. Unified.

11

12 So I see Mr. Ahmasuk is in here from  
13 Kawerak. I would hope that you would bring that back  
14 to your department over there and have that discussion,  
15 and let them know how we feel about it. Do you have  
16 anything to add here?

17

18 MR. AHMASUK: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
19 Chair. My name is Brandon Ahmasuk, subsistence worker  
20 at Kawerak.

21 My only suggestion is if you are going  
22 to do this, I would get hard numbers, not average  
23 numbers, but hard numbers of every single river system  
24 in the Norton Sound/Bering Straight region.

25

26 When these meetings take place, the  
27 pollack fishery, you know, their argument is, we take a  
28 real small percentage. And what they're comparing it  
29 to is what they're total take is. I don't know the  
30 exact number, but they're dealing with like 14 billion  
31 metric tons of pollack. So when you look at it from  
32 that aspect, yeah, they are only take a real small  
33 percent. But like Mr. Green was saying, you know, like  
34 just the Nome River, 119,000, that's detrimental to the  
35 Nome River. Any other river in the area, you know,  
36 that's detrimental.

37

38 All this stuff is interrelated.  
39 Chinook salmon, there's always this smoking gun saying,  
40 oh, we don't know what's causing the Chinook salmon to  
41 go down. It's the pollack fishery. The Anchorage Fish  
42 and Game, they came out with hard numbers. It was  
43 impressive. They had 80 percent return rate on their  
44 Chinook salmon, 300-something thousand would return  
45 every year.

46

47 In 2007, and I was living down there at  
48 the time, they closed the Chinook salmon fishery for  
49 the first time in history. And why? Because the  
50 pollack fishery caught 155,000 bycatch. That

1 immediately cut the Chinook salmon stock in half. The  
2 next year they did the same thing, took 80-something  
3 thousand. Again cut it by more than half. So, I mean,  
4 you see where I'm going here? They just kept taking  
5 and taking and taking. Everybody screaming bloody  
6 murder, but they're the only ones that are getting away  
7 with it.

8

9 All that bycatch was tossed out the  
10 window. They didn't see it, we didn't see it. Of  
11 course, it's a different fishery; it's the Gulf of  
12 Alaska, but the same thing goes on in the Bering  
13 Sea/Aleutian pollack fishery.

14

15 So anyway that's my suggestion. You  
16 get hard numbers for every single river system, and get  
17 it to show the detrimental effects that it has for each  
18 river.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Brandon. Have  
23 you got any of that data that you're talking about?

24

25 MR. AHMASUK: No, I don't, not for the  
26 river systems here. Frieda Moon Kimatoyuk (ph), she's  
27 the new NABSTRA (ph) -- she has a position over at  
28 Kawerak. I'm guessing that she'd be able to get you  
29 the numbers.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, thank you. The  
32 reason why I ask this, if it was something we could see  
33 today. I don't know if that's possible.

34

35 MR. AHMASUK: Actually my assistant,  
36 Billy Trigg, I think he might have numbers going back  
37 to like the 70s. I'd have to ask him, but I think at  
38 one point he showed me numbers, but it was everything  
39 for pink salmon, and when we used to get Chinook  
40 salmon, for the Norton Sound region.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tim, you were going to  
43 ask me something or bring something to the table here a  
44 minute ago. Do you have anything to ask Brandon?

45

46 MR. SMITH: Well, I'm glad you came up  
47 to the table. Does Kawerak have anything planned prior  
48 to June to try to put together something to coordinate?

49

50 MR. AHMASUK: I think actually we're

1 hosting the meeting, the North Pacific Fisheries  
2 Management Council meeting over at Kawerak. I could be  
3 wrong on that. But as far as anything else planned, I  
4 mean, we -- Kawerak has stuff going on all the time,  
5 but, I mean, Kawerak has stuff going on all the time,  
6 but, I mean, we are going to be there.

7

8 MR. SMITH: It's not hosted by Kawerak.  
9 It's just their regular meeting and they're just  
10 meeting here in Nome rather than one of their other  
11 locations.

12

13 MR. AHMASUK: I'm sorry. When I meant  
14 hosted, I think they're having the meeting over at  
15 Kawerak. I could be wrong, but anyway we will be  
16 attending it if that answers your question.

17

18 MR. SMITH: I think one of the -- just  
19 recent -- you know, last year was a really bad year for  
20 king salmon on the Kenai River. And the Board of  
21 Fisheries just met on that issue. There were 200  
22 people testifying, and that's the difference, you know.  
23 They have one bad year and 200 people come out and  
24 testify before the Board of Fish. We've had 30 bad  
25 years at least, we're going on 35 bad years, and we  
26 just don't have that type of impact on the regulatory  
27 agency.

28

29 And so what I'm trying to get here is  
30 for use to do a better job and to get more coordinated,  
31 work with the people down south, because they're --  
32 it's coming there, too, you know. They're in dire  
33 straights because of trawl bycatch. You know, it's  
34 both the Kuskokwim and the Yukon are in a terrible  
35 situation. They haven't had a commercial king salmon  
36 fishing for three years on the Yukon, and there's not  
37 enough even for subsistence, not even close to enough  
38 for subsistence.

39

40 And so we need to start doing  
41 something. We need to learn from -- you know, when all  
42 those people came together for the Kenai River, it has  
43 a big impact, you know. The agencies have to do  
44 something, the Board has to respond to that.

45

46 If we don't show up in force here, the  
47 Council's going to see that as an indication that we  
48 don't really have a problem. And I think one of the  
49 things that's happening, too, is that the Department of  
50 Fish and Game is trying to convince us that we don't

1 have a problem, that we've got enough chum salmon for  
2 everybody, and I don't see a lot of fishermen here that  
3 agree with that. I mean, most of both the commercial  
4 and fishermen that I know in this area wouldn't agree  
5 that we have enough chum salmon, so I think we need to  
6 do a better job than what we're done in the past.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tim.

9

10 The idea that we don't get together and  
11 discuss this is really troubling to me. And, you know,  
12 I mentioned that to you and your brother yesterday, how  
13 we're not on the same page. I spoke to this body I  
14 think before you got here about that. I'm trying to  
15 figure out a way where we can come together with  
16 something that is unified.

17

18 We did in I guess it was 2011, correct,  
19 on that resolution for 30,000 on that intercept. I  
20 think we put the first 30,000 limit, cap on them in the  
21 form of a resolution that went to the Federal  
22 Subsistence Board, and then the tribes all did the same  
23 thing in region. And then I don't understand where  
24 Kawerak fell on that one, other than they through Roy  
25 Ashenfelter I thought agreed that 50,000 was low  
26 enough, and that they could continue on after they did  
27 their -- what do they call that now? Tim?

28

29 MR. SMITH: Tribal consultation?

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The tribal  
32 consultation. And then there was the study. They call  
33 it -- there was -- when we put the 30,000 and the  
34 tribes got involved in there and did the same thing,  
35 they were supposed to do another assessment. What was  
36 it? The term that they use. Was it Sally Bibb was  
37 supposed to -- was.....

38

39 MR. SMITH: Oh, the Council Staff did an  
40 analysis. And I think what happened was the analysis  
41 only went down to 52,000. That doesn't mean that we  
42 can't recommend a lower number. It just means that  
43 they'd analyze at 52,000. They analyze the impacts on  
44 the fishery of 52,000 and then up from there, up to no  
45 cap at all. 350,000 was the highest cap that they  
46 analyzed for. But the fact that the analyst didn't  
47 work at 30,000 isn't a problem. We can still recommend  
48 that number. They would have to do the analysis then.  
49 But we should -- you know, I don't see why -- you know,  
50 I think people were confused, thinking that because it

1 wasn't in the report, wasn't in the -- it was an  
2 environmental assessment, since it wasn't in the draft  
3 EA, that you couldn't consider anything lower, but we  
4 can. And the Council talked about that. I went to the  
5 Council meetings, and they talked about doing an  
6 analysis at a lower number. But the industry doesn't  
7 want it, of course. And the industry dominates at the  
8 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: One of the things that  
11 I was a witness to in the 80s and 90s is that there  
12 were groups -- Sitnasuak joined that in '93 when I was  
13 on the Board at that point in time. We were taking  
14 part in the Board of Fish meetings and testifying.  
15 There was, you know, monies available to send people.  
16 What does Kawerak have in the line of folks to come  
17 here to testify from the tribes? Have they even talked  
18 about it or would you know that, Brandon?

19

20 MR. AHMASUK: I wouldn't know that.

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Was there any way you  
22 could find out today?

23

24 MR. AHMASUK: Yes.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thanks.

27

28 I'm not quite sure how to do this here.  
29 Is there anybody else that wants to have any discussion  
30 this.

31

32 One of the things that I want to make  
33 people realize is that I know that Elmer's talking  
34 about things okay in Port Clarence, but what happens is  
35 that we're all fishing on the same stocks around here,  
36 so there's a lot of pressure on your end of the  
37 spectrum over there in your country, because of the  
38 road system here. When we don't get things here in  
39 Nome, then we go to Niukluk, Fish River, or we go  
40 Teller, Agiapuk, Pilgrim River, you know. So the idea  
41 of us being together on something here is really  
42 important, that when that Council gets here that we  
43 have some kind of a position here in the region. And  
44 it is important to be on the same page.

45

46 Tom talked about Area M. The problem  
47 that bringing Area M into the picture doesn't have  
48 anything to do with the Federal jurisdiction. I've  
49 been there in the 90s to, you know, bring up trawler  
50 industry as a Board of Fish meeting, and it falls on

1 deaf ears, because that's not their jurisdiction. They  
2 don't have any control over that.

3  
4 So the idea that it's in the  
5 conversation; it always has been in the conversation  
6 between the two fisheries. The State fishery at Area M  
7 and the trawl industry fishery. So it's not like it  
8 hasn't been talked about. It's just never been brought  
9 to the table together. And, I don't know, because the  
10 Board of Fish isn't a part of this process that it has  
11 any effect.

12  
13 Tommy, go ahead.

14  
15 MR. GRAY: My point though was this  
16 region has tried long and hard and failed at bringing  
17 everybody together. And if you get everybody together  
18 at the table, you ought to address all the issues. And  
19 whether it goes to the Board of Fish or not, at least  
20 you've got people talking.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tim.

23  
24 MR. SMITH: Yeah. We're going to be  
25 talking about that later when we talk about our annual  
26 report, but that's what our annual report was about,  
27 was this fragmented jurisdiction. And, you know, if  
28 you talk -- I brought this up myself before the North  
29 Pacific Fisheries Management Council, is you can't  
30 manage chum salmon, for example, if you only consider  
31 the impact of trawl bycatch. You have to consider  
32 everything throughout their migratory range. And  
33 nobody does that. Everything is fragmented. They tell  
34 us, the Council tells us, we have no jurisdiction over  
35 Area M. That's a State-managed fishery. We don't want  
36 to talk about it. And we go to the Board of Fish, they  
37 say, we have no jurisdiction over the pollack trawl  
38 fishery. We don't manage pollack trawl fisheries, we  
39 manage State fisheries, and so don't talk to us about  
40 trawl bycatch.

41  
42 And there's another issue is the  
43 impacts in Russian waters, you know. We don't know  
44 exactly where our fish go when they leave here.  
45 There's a good chance they go over on the Russian side  
46 and get caught as bycatch in their pollack trawl  
47 fisheries, or they get targeted in salmon fisheries.  
48 There's salmon fisheries over there that we don't know  
49 very much about.

50

1                   And it's in our annual report. I tried  
2 to bring it up, and I think we need to work on that,  
3 but you can't manage fish this way. You have to have a  
4 comprehensive management plan, and we don't have it.

5  
6                   We've worked on Area M for years, you  
7 know. Elim sued the State over Area M management.  
8 Elim and Kawerak. And it was back in 1994 or  
9 thereabouts. And it failed. We lost on that over  
10 subsistence management. And we're kind of at a  
11 standstill on Area M. The problem is we don't really  
12 know how much impact it has on our rivers.

13  
14                   You know, they just finished a big  
15 genetics study, a really expensive and large genetic  
16 study called the Western Alaska Salmon Stock  
17 Identification Program. And if that would have worked,  
18 it would have helped us understand the impact on  
19 something like the Nome River, for example, but it  
20 didn't. You know, you can't separate genetically the  
21 chum salmon. All the Western Alaska chum salmon are  
22 basically from Bristol Bay to Nome are basically one  
23 big group. To Port Clarence are basically one big  
24 group. You can separate out the fall chum salmon  
25 stocks on the Yukon River and in Kotzebue, but beyond  
26 that, you can't do very much.

27  
28                   And so we don't really know how much  
29 impact either the trawlers or Area M is having on  
30 specific rivers, but we do know things are bad. The  
31 commercial harvest in the Fish River last year was only  
32 3300 chum salmon.

33  
34                   Just like Louis said, the problem is  
35 spreading out from Nome. First we started having a  
36 real shortage of chum salmon in the early 80s here in  
37 the Nome area. But it's expanding outward. You know,  
38 Elim had a very, very poor chum salmon commercial  
39 fishery this year, and it's just worse. It's going  
40 outward. The only ones doing any good is Unalakleet.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tim.

43  
44                   Charlie.

45  
46                   MR. SACCHEUS: Yeah. The only reason  
47 why Elim and Kawerak challenged Area M, they had about  
48 70,000 I guess. The only reason why we challenged Area  
49 M fisheries is because they tagged -- the salmon they  
50 tag in Area M fisheries wind up in our streams, both in

1 Tamukaluk (ph) and Quinhagak. Also there was some fish  
2 that were tagged in Bethel, they wind up in our  
3 streams. So you could see where we were at when we  
4 challenged Area M fisheries.

5  
6 And we had a big meeting in Anchorage,  
7 and I went down there and testified on our fisheries,  
8 that when I was a young boy, our streams used to be  
9 just -- there would be a lot of salmon up there. Like  
10 you got maybe a 50 feet salmon net. My dad used to get  
11 400 or 500 a day chum salmon, but today you'll be lucky  
12 if you get 10. I mean, like in a half a day or  
13 something.

14  
15 So they're catching our fish out there  
16 before they come in, and they're throwing them  
17 overboard in those big trawlers. And they scrape the  
18 bottom for our fish, especially the king salmon, that's  
19 what Elim's really hurting on is the king salmon.

20  
21 Thank you.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Charlie.  
24 We're going to touch on kings here when we talk about,  
25 under new business, the AFN resolution.

26  
27 What I want people to understand  
28 something here, too. I've, you know, over the last  
29 several months have been doing a lot of reading. And  
30 one of the things that I do know about in Alaska,  
31 there are two important salmon production areas. One  
32 of them is Bristol Bay. We all know all about Bristol  
33 Bay, a big red salmon production area. Amongst others  
34 there's kings and chums and the rest of the species.

35  
36 But the other salmon production area is  
37 Norton Sound. And this is having to do with a study  
38 that was done on the Pacific Rim, which we're talking  
39 about several different countries. We're talking about  
40 Japan, Russia, United States through Alaska, Canada.  
41 We're talking about Washington, Oregon, and California.  
42 These are all Pacific salmon rivers or involved in  
43 there.

44  
45 So there's never been a lot of talk  
46 about that. I've actually have never heard anybody  
47 bring that up until I watched what this fellow had to  
48 say, Guido Rar (ph)?

49  
50 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Ra (ph).

1                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ra. Yeah. He's an  
2 American, and he's a salmon scientist.

3  
4                   What troubles me is that knowing that  
5 Norton Sound is a salmon production area, and our voice  
6 not being heard loud enough, in this position that we  
7 are in here, I feel that we need to -- we need to be  
8 more vocal. Otherwise we're not going to get heard.  
9 And we have a chance to do something here when the  
10 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council comes to  
11 Nome again. This is the equivalent on the Federal side  
12 of what the Board of Fish is to the State of Alaska.  
13 So this is a real important meeting. So I -- you know,  
14 I can't say it any more, that it is so important for us  
15 to have a common voice here to bring this to the table  
16 with these folks.

17  
18                   And then you hear Charlie talking about  
19 Area M salmon tags. You know, this is all stuff --  
20 there's never been enough studies done to really  
21 identify anything. Well, I guess I could take that  
22 back. The genetic studies that Jim and Lisa Seive (ph)  
23 did in the 90s. They didn't give us enough information  
24 to say that they were specifically taking the Nome  
25 River catch.

26  
27                   You know, you alluded to that there,  
28 Brandon, that it is important to the Nome River when  
29 119,000 chum salmon are taken out of the pollack fleet.  
30 And I don't disagree with you.

31  
32                   They did another study called -- what  
33 was that called?

34  
35                   MR. SMITH: The Wassup study.

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: The Wassup study that  
38 just came through, and it came up with the same -- I  
39 guess they were able to say that there was -- they  
40 could say there was a certain percentage of Western  
41 Alaska chum salmon taken, but they couldn't be specific  
42 to rivers again. It was what that Wassup study was all  
43 about, that they were hoping -- I know Kawerak was  
44 behind it. They were hoping that it would get more  
45 river specific so that they could point a finger at the  
46 pollack industry.

47  
48                   So unless we get together and start  
49 maintaining a front, we're not going to get anywhere  
50 with this very important meeting here.

1 Do you have something to offer.

2

3 MR. SMITH: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
4 I think more what I was alluding to was the numbers  
5 issue, the numbers game. When you think of it in that  
6 aspect, the 119,000, you know, for Nome River, that's a  
7 lot.

8

9 I realize the fact, you know, that they  
10 did the genetic studies on chum salmon and they're more  
11 or less all the same from Bristol Bay all the way up to  
12 here. They can't distinguish between which one is  
13 which, for which river system. But when you think  
14 about the numbers game, the bycatch is a lot. I mean,  
15 I realize, you know, Nome River's only getting a  
16 certain percent of that. Solomon and White Mountain  
17 area, Brevig Mission area, you know, Agiapuk River.  
18 But when you add it all up over 40 years, you know,  
19 they just keep taking and taking and taking. And, I  
20 mean, we all know that we've been hit the hardest for  
21 the longest amount of time.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Charlie. Thanks,  
24 Tim.

25

26 MR. SACCHEUS: Yeah. I noticed that in  
27 all the reports -- I was in Alaska Beluga Whaling  
28 Committee for the past 20 years. And we study them  
29 during that time. We count beluga from Cape Darby all  
30 the way to Yukon Delta during the springtime when the  
31 herring was running. And we study them in the fall.  
32 And you can't imagine how many of these beluga that,  
33 about 15, 16 feet long. When the salmon are running,  
34 they eat maybe 10 to 15 salmon in their stomach. They  
35 eat them whole, they don't chew them. And not only the  
36 people from False Pass and Bethel, the beluga.....

37

38 And when we count the beluga, we count  
39 about maybe 25,000. We use Air Commander with big  
40 windows on the side. And we have those little -- I  
41 don't know what they call them. Anyway, we count them  
42 through the side, and we have sonar in the front, and  
43 they're counting them. Like we've got 10 guys counting  
44 the beluga, flying all the way from Koyuk all the way  
45 out to out here, right outside of Nome. And when we  
46 count the beluga from 10 miles outside of -- that's  
47 where they hang out mostly. 10 miles outside of Cape  
48 Darby, all the way to Yukon Delta, all the way across,  
49 they're scattered. Schools of beluga all the way  
50 across. And we counted about maybe about 30,000 beluga

1 out there after we gather all our numbers.

2

3 So not only the False Pass fisheries  
4 and not only the salmon that were going down around  
5 Bethel area, the beluga play a big role in our  
6 population on our fisheries, especially the salmon.

7

8 That's all I've got to report from -- I  
9 never hear no report from the Alaska Beluga Whaling  
10 Committee about all these reports what we do out there,  
11 but we studied the beluga. We studied the liver and  
12 the muktuk and everything. They take samples and they  
13 studied them in San Diego. And our beluga are pretty  
14 healthy out there, because they're eating our salmon.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Charlie. That  
19 brings a thought to my mind.

20

21 Now, I've talked about beluga and seals  
22 and seagulls and all the predation on the salmon  
23 stocks, besides man. When I did that, I said, you  
24 know, if we don't have enough salmon to feed these  
25 natural predators, it's going to fall back on us, and  
26 we're going to -- you know, it's going to increase the  
27 problems. So when I talk about the salmon production  
28 area, Norton Sound being a very important salmon  
29 production area, it's important to seals, it's  
30 important to beluga, and everything in the ecosystem,  
31 including the river systems. That's the natural  
32 fertilizer for these river systems. You're creating an  
33 environment now that has a lack of nutrients in the  
34 system. Maybe moose aren't eating so good any more  
35 because the willows along the riverbanks aren't as  
36 health as they used to be 30 years ago. I'm just using  
37 that as an example.

38

39 Well, I want to say something here  
40 that's kind of off to the side here, but it has to do  
41 with the halibut fishery. These trawlers are targeting  
42 pollack. They're targeting, what is that, this  
43 flounder, sharp-toothed?

44

45 MR. SMITH: Arrow-toothed.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Arrow-toothed  
48 flounders. Okay. They're taking out the bottom.  
49 They're taking halibut, they're immature halibut. You  
50 know, you're talking about little ones. They were

1 allowed to catch 7 million pounds last season in the  
2 Bering Sea and waste it. Okay. 7 million pounds of  
3 halibut. Okay. And that also happens in the pollack  
4 industry. The pollack gear kind of goes to the bottom  
5 once in a while looking for the fish that they're  
6 targeting. Pollack. Okay. So they're taking a  
7 certain amount.

8

9 The bottom trawlers are also doing  
10 that, and they're doing -- and red king crab is another  
11 issue. Okay.

12

13 But, okay, so they take 7 million  
14 pounds of halibut out of the sea. And the whole Area  
15 4, which is the Aleutians all the way up to us here, is  
16 only going to be allowed 3.5 million for the season,  
17 which is half of what they were allowed to waste. Of  
18 that 3.5 million pounds of halibut, our fishermen here  
19 in our area, 4D, between Nome and St. Lawrence Island,  
20 they're only allowed 53,000 pounds. That's the quota  
21 for our fishermen down here this coming summer.

22

23 This is the reality of how things --  
24 the magnitude of what is being allowed. I'm  
25 sidetracking from salmon to halibut, but I want you to  
26 understand something, that they're a big problem out  
27 there. And what's really sad is that we're part of  
28 that, because our CDQs are involved in that.

29

30 53,000 pounds of halibut for a whole  
31 season in Nome, Alaska. I fished in Kodiak in the mid  
32 80s into the 90s. We caught 50,000 pounds in one 24-  
33 hour opener, because they were plentiful. But that's  
34 just one opening on an 86-foot vessel.

35

36 The same thing has been happening with  
37 salmon all these years. Until we start -- you know,  
38 worrying about stepping on somebody's toes has been  
39 their block. That's a roadblock for us. The CDQ  
40 program, which we all know has brought a lot of money  
41 into the region, is also part of the problem. How do  
42 we fix it? We need to start talking together. We need  
43 to start being unified. If we don't do this, it's all  
44 for nothing in the little groups that we speak.

45

46 The North Pacific Fisheries Management  
47 Council is coming to Nome to hear us and hear what we  
48 have to say. Fish and Game says Nome's fine, because  
49 they get 20 -- we get 24 to 35,000 chum salmon in the  
50 area here for the summer on all 7 rivers in the Nome

1 area. It's an aggregate; it's not per river. It's a  
2 whole aggregate of all the rivers. So one river may not  
3 have anything for the season. And somebody may be --  
4 their whole life is spent on that one river, and they  
5 don't adapt to move over to another river, because they  
6 can't afford to. That's an issue.

7  
8                   So it's really important that we come  
9 together on this issue here. And I'm not quite sure  
10 how to do it, but, Brandon, you're here with Kawerak.  
11 Your brother was here with Sitnasuak yesterday. I'm  
12 just wondering if it can't get to a point where some of  
13 us can't get together at the table here in the next  
14 month or two where we can have some real hard  
15 discussions on how we want to handle this, because I  
16 just don't feel that people are working hard enough to  
17 make the difference here.

18  
19                   In the 80s and 90s and into the 2000s,  
20 people were coming to the table and testifying at these  
21 meetings. And then it just got -- I guess people just  
22 got -- they gave up after 2000. It just seems that  
23 everybody just kind of, we're not going to make a  
24 difference attitude, and just gave up. And then we  
25 left it to a few people, which is not a good thing.

26  
27                   Anyway, I've talked your ears off. If  
28 there's anybody else here that has anything to add to  
29 this, I'd appreciate it.

30  
31                   Thank you.

32  
33                   MR. GRAY: You were talking about hard  
34 numbers. I've got a camp up river, and eventually Fish  
35 and Game put a counting tower on my property and ran it  
36 for, I don't know, 16 years or so. And over that time  
37 the chum salmon numbers were 80,000, pretty consistent  
38 at 80,000 a year. Then they went to 50,000. Today  
39 we're lucky to have 25 to 30,000 fish go up that same  
40 river. And, you know, I'm not pointing fingers at  
41 anybody, but over time there's some hard numbers that  
42 you can see and look at that something has affected  
43 those rivers. At least my river.

44  
45                   One thing I'm a little bit concerned  
46 about, and this is politics, politics in our region,  
47 you know, we go to -- I just heard mentioned that there  
48 was 3,000 chums caught commercially out of Fish River.  
49 Well, there's 25,000 fish, 30,000 fish going by my  
50 camp. Probably in the whole system maybe 60, 70,000

1 fish. 3,000 chums got caught and sold. There was 2300  
2 silvers went by my camp. The escapement goal is 2400  
3 silvers. So you look at the river system with those  
4 numbers, you might have, you know, less than 7, 8,000  
5 in the whole system. And the commercial fishery took  
6 5,000 silvers. Is that right? I don't think so.

7

8 So even our own system is killing our  
9 fishery.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Peter.

12

13 MR. BUCK: I have one thing to add to  
14 Tom's. They're going to change -- they changed the  
15 counting tower and move it down below where that we can  
16 monitor two rivers instead of one. But I don't know if  
17 the -- but it's going to start this summer, and I'd  
18 like to see what the results is going to be now, now  
19 that we're counting two rivers instead of one.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What's interesting  
22 about that, Peter, is that when you're counting below  
23 where the fork is in those two rivers, you don't know  
24 where those salmon are going. Is that what you're kind  
25 of bringing up?

26

27 MR. BUCK: You can compare it to what  
28 -- how much was going up Niukluk, and figure out what's  
29 going out in the Fish River.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tim.

32

33 MR. SMITH: That's one of the things  
34 that bothers me about what we're doing, or really what  
35 we're not doing, is that has been our whole strategy  
36 for the last 30 years is to count fish harder and  
37 harder. And we are getting better counts, I'll agree  
38 with that. We've gone from aerial surveys to counting  
39 towers on a lot of rivers, to now weirs. They're  
40 talking about a weir on the Fish River, and you'll  
41 probably get a better count if it works. You know,  
42 that's the thing. It's a pretty big river to put a  
43 weir in. I've got real doubts that it's going to be  
44 able to withstand flooding events, and so I think a lot  
45 of the time you won't really be able to get counts out  
46 from that weir. But what good is that?

47

48 We know there's less fish. I mean, how  
49 do we -- why do we really need to know exactly how few  
50 there are? You know, it doesn't take long, I can drive

1 alongside the Nome River and look out the window of my  
2 truck and not even stop, and tell you that there's no  
3 fish in the river. There was no fish this summer.

4

5 Well, that's not the issue. We know  
6 there's less fish, but what are we going to do about  
7 it? And, see, we're not doing anything. We're not  
8 doing anything to change the numbers, we're just  
9 documenting what a failure our management has been.  
10 And that's what I think we need to change.

11

12 And one thing we can do is cut back on  
13 bycatch. We can get the Council -- if we can convince  
14 the Council, we can reduce bycatch. We know that it's  
15 not good. We don't know how much impact it has, but  
16 it's not good. Over the past 22 years the pollack  
17 trawlers killed and wasted at least 3.2 million chum  
18 salmon. And everybody knows that that's an under-  
19 count. There was a lot more than that. But that's a  
20 lot of fish. It's got to have an impact on somebody,  
21 and I would say it had an impact on Norton Sound.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: At this point I know  
24 we're pretty short on time here as far as being able to  
25 come to the table, but I would challenge my fellow  
26 Council members here that, you know, when you go home  
27 to your villages or wherever you're living, to bring  
28 that back to people and get organized. I mean, if it's  
29 three or four people from your community that can come  
30 here and testify on behalf of the region here, that  
31 sure would help.

32

33 The other one is to find out what  
34 Kawerak has, what position Kawerak has. And I don't  
35 know where NSEDC is at in this, other than they're in  
36 the pollack industry. And so unable to find out what  
37 their position is, is just real troublesome, too.  
38 Because certainly everybody does know that the pollack  
39 industry has an affect on our chum salmon and our  
40 Chinook salmon runs in the AYK.

41

42 That Wassup study points to that.  
43 There's no question. The only question is, where do  
44 those fish go. Nobody can be specific on that.

45

46 But we in our regions can certainly  
47 speak out, and this is our time to do that. So I would  
48 encourage people to be in contact with other groups  
49 here that maybe we can come up with something unified  
50 that way. I don't know that we're ever going to get a

1 meeting together between now and -- what date was that  
2 on that North Pacific Fisheries Management Council?

3

4 MR. SMITH: It's in June. It's early  
5 June. I don't know the exact date.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So we have that  
8 much time as individuals here to try to inform other  
9 folks in our villages and towns here to try to come  
10 back to the table here. It is about us. And the folks  
11 sitting here at this table, it is something that we  
12 should be tasked to do. We're here to deal with our  
13 fish and game issues, and salmon is probably the most  
14 important issue in our region.

15

16 And with that, I'm not sure what we  
17 would do as far as a resolution or anything.

18

19 Tommy, you've got anything to add to  
20 that?

21

22 MR. GRAY: I guess if we pass a  
23 resolution that talked about 30,000 fish, and they  
24 capped it off at 50,000 fish, why did they take 100 and  
25 some thousand fish? You know, I guess my thoughts  
26 would be somebody didn't hold somebody to the task.  
27 Somebody didn't say, okay, at 50,000, bingo, you move  
28 out of the area, whatever. There was a failing  
29 somewhere. And maybe there is no cap, I don't know. I  
30 don't know enough about it, but, you know, I guess  
31 something failed somewhere, and that's where we need to  
32 go to to try and bring it up and address it.

33

34 It's like this crab line I talked about  
35 You know, they keep moving this crab line around for  
36 this summer crab fishery, and the word is it doesn't  
37 affect us subsistence guys. Well, let's get real, you  
38 know, it does affect us. And this Board really -- I  
39 don't know how much say we have in that line, but, you  
40 know, just the message, hey, State, that line's there  
41 for subsistence and commercial. Leave it alone. Don't  
42 move it around. And a letter from us to them might do  
43 some good. I don't know.

44

45 But, you know, this pollack thing, if  
46 they went over and beyond their cap, you know, my  
47 question is why and who's responsible.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tim.

50

1 MR. SMITH: I just did -- right now  
2 they don't have any limitations, and, see, that's what  
3 we're talking about. All this with the 52,000 with  
4 savings measures at 25,000 was a recommendation by the  
5 Federal Subsistence Board to the North Pacific  
6 Fisheries Management Council. They haven't adopted  
7 that yet. And the danger is the industry wants to come  
8 here in June and continue to have no limits on bycatch.  
9 And what they're going to tell us is, well, half these  
10 fish are of Asian origin and so it doesn't matter. We  
11 can just trash their fish.

12  
13 Well, as far as I'm concerned, that's  
14 not a good thing to say. You know, they want their  
15 fish, too. You know, the idea that we can just destroy  
16 their fish and not worry about it, that's a bad message  
17 to send. You know, they need those fish, too. And why  
18 should they take care of our fish if we say that about  
19 theirs.

20  
21 So anyway, that's what they're going to  
22 do. I'm sure that the industry is going to come here  
23 and ask for no limit at all on chum salmon bycatch.  
24 And if we want something better than that -- you know,  
25 I don't think we'll get 30,000, that's a very low  
26 number. It's a good number. But even that, when you  
27 think about it, as Brandon said, 30,000 fish. What if  
28 all those fish come out of the Nome River? That's more  
29 than the whole run of the Nome River. And that could  
30 happen. You know, they're not fishing randomly, you  
31 know. When they scoop up a bunch of salmon, it's a  
32 school, and chances are it's all from one river. So  
33 it's possible to catch all the fish from the Nome River  
34 in one trawl. It's just so little is known about it.

35  
36 And like Charlie said, the only data  
37 we've got is that tagging study done in 1987. That's  
38 the only good data we have on the impacts on Norton  
39 Sound. Everything else we've done has failed. And  
40 there's a reason for that. We haven't really been able  
41 to put enough pressure on the people that do the  
42 research to get them to prioritize studying the impact  
43 on Norton Sound. You know, they're doing -- they're  
44 spending the research money in other areas. And other  
45 areas have problems, too. I mean, the Governor just  
46 came up with a \$30 million initiative to study king  
47 salmon. Well, I suspect now that most of that is going  
48 to go to the Kenai River, because they've put so much  
49 pressure on them. You know, we need to do a better job  
50 of speaking up.

1                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Some follow up on what  
2 Tim's talking about. You know, Charlie's talking about  
3 the beluga and what they consume, and how much they  
4 consume. The world population is growing, folks, and  
5 we're talking about an industry that's in the Federal  
6 jurisdiction. We are a Federal Subsistence Advisory  
7 Council. It is our duty I think, at least that's what  
8 I feel about myself being here, to bring these things  
9 to the table. My old cousin, Richard Fox, used to say  
10 this: Junior, the squeaky wheel gets the grease. If  
11 you don't squeak, you're not going to get any attention  
12 paid to you. So I'm squeaking.

13  
14                   MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. Ted  
15 Katcheak.

16  
17                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, go ahead.

18  
19                   MR. KATCHEAK: It seems like we're in  
20 consensus about our problem with salmon coming in and  
21 intercept bycatches. Who do we or how do we address  
22 our concern to NSEDC, North Pacific Council, and in  
23 what way should we address our concern.

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, I would think  
26 that, you know, having a -- I realize, you know, taking  
27 the resolution and bringing it back to the table and  
28 getting that to the North Pacific Fisheries Management  
29 Council for this up and coming meeting, and then going  
30 home and talking to people to try to encourage them to  
31 come to Nome to testify, because it is going to be  
32 important I think. Can they do that telephonically,  
33 too, Tim?

34  
35                   MR. SMITH: No, you can't testify. You  
36 can listen in, but you can't testify to the Council by  
37 teleconference. They get so -- they usually get a lot  
38 of people that testify, and so they just don't have the  
39 time. You can submit written comments, but it is  
40 better to do it in person.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: So it is important to  
43 be here in person for this, to answer your question  
44 there about, you know, what your testimony is about,  
45 raising issues about the pollack fleet and the  
46 shortages at home, what your neighbors are experiencing  
47 from this, you know, neighboring villages. You know,  
48 as I was saying, the population of the world is  
49 growing. There's more things that need those salmon  
50 besides people, you know, there's animals. So we need

1 to be able to find some resolution in protecting those  
2 runs so we have enough adequate for our own needs.

3  
4 And I don't quite know I guess -- where  
5 is that resolution at? Do you still have a copy of it  
6 with you?

7  
8 MR. SMITH: I didn't bring a copy. I  
9 can get it though. I can get it at lunch time.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So are we  
12 going to take a lunch break and come back to the table  
13 here and finish up? Or what time is it? It's 10:13.  
14 We don't have a copy of it anyway that we can pull it  
15 up.

16  
17 MR. SMITH: I don't have it with me. I  
18 can get it at noon.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm thinking of  
21 computers. You don't have anything? You can't bring  
22 it up and print it?

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. Well, I  
27 guess we can table that for now and go on through our  
28 agenda here and then bring it back to the table, and  
29 act on it at that time, today before we end the  
30 meeting, adjourn the meeting. Thanks.

31  
32 Okay. Well, at this point in time I  
33 think we need to take a little break here. We'll be  
34 coming back. And we've got the customary and  
35 traditional use determination update, and we'll start  
36 there. Does that sound.....

37  
38 (Off record)

39  
40 (On record)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. I'd like  
43 to call this meeting back to order here. And we have  
44 on the agenda at this time is the letter designation  
45 (b) on customary and traditional use determination.  
46 Pat and Karen are going to speak to us about that.

47  
48  
49 Thank you.

50

1 MS. HYER: Yeah. Good morning, Mr.  
2 Chairman, Council members. I'm to read you a briefing  
3 on customary and traditional use determination, and  
4 then Pat Petrivelli is here for input, because she's  
5 actually been working directly on it, and I've been one  
6 step removed from it.

7  
8 So I'll start with a history of the  
9 issue. In 2009 the Secretary of the Interior began a  
10 review of the Federal Subsistence Program. And as part  
11 of this review, he asked the Federal Board, in  
12 conjunction with the Regional Advisory Council input,  
13 to make a recommendation on customary and traditional  
14 use determination, how the process worked, and present  
15 that recommendation for regulatory changes if that's  
16 what the people wished.

17  
18 And so in 2011, during the winter  
19 meetings, we came before you and 9 of the 10 Councils  
20 suggested that the process that was in place would  
21 continue. And you can see that on Page 125 of your  
22 books are the recommendations. And this Council also  
23 recommended that C&T be left as it is.

24  
25 So after that, the Southeast Council  
26 asked that the other nine Councils review this  
27 recommendation one more time, because the Southeast  
28 Council did not support retaining the current customary  
29 and traditional use determination process. Instead,  
30 the Southeast Council suggested that when necessary,  
31 the Board restrict who can fish, hunt or trap by apply  
32 ANILCA Section .804 criteria, which is what we did  
33 yesterday.

34  
35 And they asked that it be applied --  
36 there are three criteria that it's applied with, and we  
37 went over these yesterday: Who has direct dependence  
38 on the resource. Who is in proximity to the resource.  
39 And who has alternate resources available. So that's  
40 the .804.

41  
42 And Southeast Council asked you as a  
43 Council to consider whether elimination of customary  
44 and traditional use determination, and instead --  
45 excuse me, elimination of customary and traditional use  
46 determinations is possible, and then instead to use  
47 when necessary the .804 criteria. That was one of  
48 their suggestions. Another one is change the way  
49 determinations are made, and making them areawide  
50 instead of a determination for specific animals as they

1 are implemented now, or make some other changes, or  
2 make no changes. And those were the four points that  
3 they asked the other Councils to think about.

4

5 And at your fall meeting you made a  
6 motion to support no changes. And so that's where it  
7 stands right now.

8

9 And the next step is the Board will  
10 review these Council comments at its meeting next month  
11 in April, and the Board may recommend changes to the  
12 Secretary of the Interior or Agriculture or they may  
13 not.

14

15 And that's all I had for C&T.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.

18

19 Are there any questions from Council.

20 Tim.

21

22 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Karen, I haven't  
23 gone through this as well as I should have. Did  
24 anybody want to make any major changes to the C&T  
25 process?

26

27 MS. PETRIVELLI: Summary of the Council  
28 decisions are on Page 131, when they met this fall.  
29 And I think that there were some Councils that -- well,  
30 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta -- of course, people -- the  
31 alternative one was to get rid of C&T determinations  
32 and just use .804. And some of them agreed that that  
33 should be done, just to get rid of C&T determinations  
34 and use .804.

35

36 The Southeast Council, because not all  
37 Councils agreed, Southeast Council met with  
38 Southcentral this past week in a joint meeting, even  
39 though they met separately about C&T. But they were  
40 proposing wording that would allow regional C&T  
41 determinations, so that if a region just wanted to get  
42 rid of them and just have .804 situations, that would  
43 be the case. And that change would have to go before  
44 the -- you know, they would come up with that  
45 recommended language and then the Federal Board would  
46 consider it. And then they have to recommend it to the  
47 Secretaries, because it's in Subpart A and B  
48 regulations. And then there would be a proposed rule  
49 to change that.

50

1                   And some of the other regions, like  
2 Bristol Bay, also kind of thought of getting rid of it,  
3 but they wanted to hear from their communities, so they  
4 decided to partner with BBNA and they drafted a letter  
5 proposing the changes, and asked for their input,  
6 because they realized with resource shortages in the  
7 future, you know, that they were just concerned about  
8 the processes.

9  
10                   And while I have the floor, it was  
11 noted that someone heard my joke about ADF&G not  
12 respecting BIA, and they took offense. And so I'm  
13 apologizing for making a mistake when I spoke off the  
14 cuff yesterday. And I meant to jokingly say, when I  
15 was repeatedly giving up my seat at the table today to  
16 the ADF&G person, that this was expected since the  
17 State of Alaska does not recognize the authority of  
18 Federally-recognized tribes, not that ADF&G doesn't  
19 respect BIA. So my apologies to ADF&G.

20  
21                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: So noted, Pat.

22  
23                   (Laughter)

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: And Denny's looking  
26 around the room like, what happened?

27  
28                   (Laughter)

29  
30                   MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. One other  
31 things, too. I also misspoke, because I have notes  
32 here from two different meetings, and actually at the  
33 last meeting it states the intent of the customary and  
34 traditional use determination is not understood well  
35 enough by the users. And that was your more recent  
36 comment.

37  
38                   MS. PETRIVELLI: And then it goes on.

39  
40                   MS. HYER: Alternative number 1  
41 proposed by the Southeast RAC would be a good choice.  
42 The pattern of use of the resource need to be  
43 considered when ANILCA Section .804 situations kick in.  
44 Some of the Council members have patterns of use in  
45 certain areas, including around specific communities.  
46 And that's on Page 133.

47  
48                   And I was referring to -- and that's  
49 appendix -- what appendix is that? That's appendix 3?  
50

1 MS. PETRIVELLI: It's just Page 131.

2

3 MS. HYER: Oh, yeah. Okay. Page 132,  
4 133.

5

6 And the other comment I was referring  
7 to is actually in Appendix B, and that's on Page 126  
8 and 127.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tom has a comment or  
11 question.

12

13 MR. GRAY: So, you know, our comment  
14 said we didn't understand and deferred and on and on  
15 and on. Now, is the Board considering major changes to  
16 customary and traditional use? And if they are, I  
17 guess what are these issues that are being considered?

18

19 You know, I can understand coming back  
20 to the table with each of the regions, asking for  
21 changes, or changes that we want. But if it's  
22 something the Board is bringing up themselves, I'm a  
23 little bit curious.

24

25 MS. PETRIVELLI: It's not that the  
26 Board is bringing it up themselves. It was in the  
27 Secretarial review that was started in 2010 when it was  
28 acknowledged that the program needed to be looked at  
29 since the State isn't assuming management after 20  
30 years. The Secretaries asked the Federal Board to  
31 review the customary and traditional use determination  
32 process with the Councils.

33

34 So in 2011 they asked a question. They  
35 just asked three simple questions. What do you think  
36 of the customary and traditional use determination  
37 process, and is it working for you. And then that's  
38 when 9 of the 10 Councils said, yes, it's working for  
39 us, even though they had individual comments.

40

41 But the Southeast Council said, it is  
42 not working for us. And in the course of -- and they  
43 wanted the other Councils to get a lot more  
44 information, because they had a binder on customary and  
45 traditional use when they made that determination,  
46 instead of just the three questions. And so the  
47 briefing was prepared last fall where we asked the  
48 question, and then that's when your Council said, you  
49 know, we would like more information.

50

1                   But if any changes are going to be  
2 made, it would have to go through a proposed rule and  
3 all of that. So it won't be changed without you  
4 knowing that it would be changed. And this is a chance  
5 for you to say whether you want it changed or not want  
6 it changed.

7  
8                   And Southeast Council's concern was --  
9 because when you make a customary and traditional use  
10 determination like in 22E where just those two  
11 communities have use of muskox, they were concerned  
12 that those determinations are made when there is no  
13 shortage of resources most of the time. And they were  
14 trying to understand why you restrict the users when  
15 there is no shortage. And they thought there shouldn't  
16 be any restrictions on subsistence uses until there's a  
17 shortage. So that was just their underlying concern.

18  
19                   MR. GRAY: I guess I'm a little bit  
20 concerned. You know, we Eskimo people are kind of a  
21 unique people in the fact that, you know, maybe  
22 thousands of years ago we at salmon and whatever was on  
23 the land. Then, you know, it's been 100 years since  
24 caribou have been here. So a lot of us grew up with no  
25 caribou. Recent years now we're eating caribou. We  
26 all grew up with no muskox. Now we're eating muskox.  
27 So, you know, customary and traditional use is  
28 stretched, that vision is stretched in some cases, and  
29 we need to be mindful of that. The system, the  
30 government needs to be mindful of that. Because the  
31 Native population, we're the kind of people, if the  
32 ducks are flying, we fill our freezer, and we eat ducks  
33 for a couple months. If the fish show up, we're eating  
34 fish. If the caribou show up, we're eating caribou.  
35 And it's not until recent years that we've had  
36 freezers, and we can scatter this through the year.  
37 And some people don't.

38  
39                   I mean, they -- so customary and  
40 traditional use, if somebody's monkeying with it, I  
41 hope they don't monkey with it beyond the scope that  
42 I'm trying to explain that we live in.

43  
44                   MS. PETRIVELLI: I think they were  
45 trying to make the regulations capture that flexibility  
46 and recognition of the adaptability of subsistence use,  
47 because they were concerned with on a species by area  
48 by community basis that unnecessarily restricts  
49 subsistence use in their opinion. But it's an  
50 interesting exercise, a challenging exercise to try to

1 make regulations for subsistence uses, and account for  
2 that flexibility and adaptability, but they're trying.

3

4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

5

6 MR. SMITH: Now that I recall what we  
7 talked about, you know, it would seem like it was  
8 Southeastern was the only one that really wanted the  
9 changes. And I didn't think it was very well worded.  
10 I could kind of understand what they wanted to do, but  
11 it wasn't well enough developed then, so I didn't  
12 support it.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You had the discussion  
15 without me at the time, so I'm kind of in the dark  
16 here. I'm trying to play catch up.

17

18 Do you have anything to add, Tim, since  
19 you were there.

20

21 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I think what we're  
22 doing is okay. I mean, it's -- you know, it isn't --  
23 it's a square peg in a round hole, you know, the idea  
24 of telling somebody they can't go out and get food  
25 doesn't really set well for me. And then -- but that's  
26 what you've got to do, because there's more people than  
27 there are resources.

28

29 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. Ted  
30 Katcheak.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ted.

33

34 MR. KATCHEAK: I've read their  
35 proposed language, and I think it's up to them. We  
36 feel, I feel that we've used our customary and  
37 traditional use determination is working, and I don't  
38 see any need to change.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted.

41

42 Anybody else. A member of the public.  
43 Barry Mendenhall. Can you speak -- come up to a  
44 microphone, please.

45

46 MR. MENDENHALL: I didn't see anything  
47 about customary trade.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Come up to the mic.

50

1 MR. MENDENHALL: Next to her?  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah.  
4  
5 (Laughter)  
6  
7 MS. PETRIVELLI: BIA will give up  
8 their seat.  
9  
10 (Laughter)  
11  
12 MR. MENDENHALL: I used to serve on  
13 this for a while, this Board as well as Fish and Game  
14 Advisory years ago, and I was the one that introduced  
15 the muskox hunt for Seward Pen area in the early 90s.  
16  
17 And I did not hear anything mentioned  
18 about traditional trade. When we don't have anything  
19 among our tribes, we trade. And like Diomedes have  
20 ivory we trade with for caribou or other. Or berries  
21 even.  
22  
23 So there needs to be something  
24 reflected in the Federal regs I feel about traditional  
25 trade for the simple reason both Federal and the State  
26 tend to want to restrict or put a dollar amount on the  
27 goods we're trading, like maybe we're scared of the IRS  
28 taxing our traditional foods, so that's been -- when we  
29 started Kawerak, that was our fear of being taxed,  
30 because there's no economy up here, except our  
31 traditional trades of foods and furs and commodities.  
32 I don't see this reflected too much in the culture that  
33 is on the Seward Peninsula.  
34  
35 Like we would trade for sheefish from  
36 Kotzebue, you know, when we're up there. Bring some  
37 down and trade. Some people have more skins to trade.  
38 And that would take place, too. Even women, we'd  
39 trade, you know, so we would have peace among our  
40 people, and so we wouldn't fight over the commodities  
41 like fish, caribou, things of that nature. We would  
42 learn. We did that. Even with the Siberian Yup'iks in  
43 Russia, we traded with them when there's a time of  
44 peace.  
45  
46 So some of these Federal regs are going  
47 to have to reflect that, because our diet is probably  
48 more better than what we're doing with diabetes and  
49 overweight and bad teeth we have nowadays among even  
50 our kids and old people.

1                                 So I would hope that you as a Council,  
2 because we have three different distinct cultures here  
3 in Seward Pen. It's hard to negotiate sometime.

4  
5                                 But we trade with Gambell/Savoonga for  
6 muktuk, for dry fish. They would trade for dry fish  
7 mostly.

8  
9                                 So we need to protect that traditional  
10 trade process without our people becoming penalized.

11  
12                                 And I heard if we become a borough of  
13 the State, there's going to be taxations. Well, our  
14 subsistence can't be taxed. Will the IRS come and tax  
15 our camp for our snowmachines parked or our motors, our  
16 nets, and our rifles?

17  
18                                 As you consider this for our people, I  
19 hope you are in the back of your mind wanting to  
20 protect the future process to perpetuate our culture,  
21 and consider that. That is what I want to see.

22  
23                                 The reason I'm promoting the muskox is  
24 because there are times of needs. Our people believe  
25 in the cycle, seven-year cycle hunts. And the fish  
26 runs, we believe in those cycles. So we had that. I  
27 don't see anything referring to any cycle of runs, of  
28 caribou, fish, like our people used to. We would read  
29 the moon and the stars when it's the best time to go  
30 hunting, when the weather is going to be good. And  
31 whenever a dog team passes through our villages, they  
32 would tell them the dangers of trails and weathers that  
33 would happen. So just trying to put it in the  
34 regulations, that needs to be.

35  
36                                 One time the State has Serpentine Hot  
37 Springs being rebuilt by the State. They never  
38 delivered the food to the builders that were there from  
39 the Village of Shishmaref. So they shot a moose, and  
40 then they wanted to take them to court. It's  
41 conflicting. When there was a time of need. Anyway,  
42 to the letter of the law we ask that they be tried by  
43 their peers in Shishmaref. And the peers at Shishmaref  
44 found those hunters that were rebuilding the Serpentine  
45 for the State not guilty.

46  
47                                 So there are conflicts like that that  
48 can be avoided if we could put these things in writing.  
49 And I'm hoping that you would put down traditional  
50 trade.

1                   That's just one example.

2

3                   Knowing how our people were, we used to  
4 travel all over. My grandmother didn't know she had a  
5 brother in Unalakleet, and she was found above  
6 Kotzebue. But she was from Ipik (ph). Our people  
7 moved around. We were not one Nome, Nome. We weren't  
8 just Shishmaref, Shishmaref. We moved around. We  
9 liked to be among our relatives. We liked to trade.  
10 We like to see strange hunts and things that we could  
11 go after. That's the way we were.

12

13                   Now, these regulations, I mean, this  
14 man here, he married one of my relatives from Wales.  
15 So trying to put things in writing that would protect  
16 the interest of our people.

17

18                   Like somebody mentioned on the Board  
19 just five minutes ago, becoming less and less. When  
20 there's a time of need, we need the regulations to  
21 protect that less. If we had to hunt, we'll kill it  
22 and eat it. We don't want to be on an empty stomach.  
23 We have a family to feed.

24

25                   So I just want this to be understood to  
26 this Council, because I once served on it before. And  
27 I know you guys take it quite heavy with your duties as  
28 a hunter. Of all those grandkids and future  
29 generations coming.

30

31                   Our legend says that we will be here.  
32 It didn't say much about the other people, but we as a  
33 people will be here forever. And that's our legends  
34 from the Book of Kawerak, and that's one book. There's  
35 other books. Noorvik, St. Lawrence, Unalakleet have a  
36 book all about their culture. Our people believe we  
37 will be here forever.

38

39                   At one time they tried genocide of  
40 people. They put IUDs in our women in the 60s so our  
41 population would not grow. Things of that nature.  
42 Nobody sees it in the news. Woman's Rights. That was  
43 a woman's right, and doctors were making us wonder why  
44 we never have our population growth like we used to.

45

46                   This is an instrument that you have  
47 before you, these regs. It's supposed to help us  
48 subsist, exist. When you say subsistence, it also  
49 means exist as a culture, as a people.

50

1 Thank you. I had other things, but I  
2 didn't know how long you're going to be here with your  
3 meeting, so I said I'd better say it while I'm here and  
4 alive.

5  
6 Thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Perry.

9  
10 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ted.

13  
14 MR. KATCHEAK: Ted Katcheak.

15  
16 Thank you, Perry, for reminding me that  
17 we do customary trade for fish and game. In my area we  
18 do customary trade for fish, for reindeer. And I thank  
19 you for bringing that up. I think I'd like to make a  
20 propose -- I'd like to propose that we add on criteria  
21 1, 2, 3, the 4 would be after the availability of  
22 alternative resources to add customary trade for fish  
23 and game, or traditional customary trade for fish and  
24 game. I'm not sure if I'm in line for making a  
25 suggestion or proposal.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted.

28  
29 Pat.

30  
31 MS. PETRIVELLI: Mr. Chair. The  
32 Federal program does recognize customary trade, and  
33 that's because ANILCA in the law says subsistence uses,  
34 and it is subsistence uses means the customary and  
35 traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild,  
36 renewable resources for direct personal, family  
37 consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools or  
38 transportation, for the making and selling of  
39 handicrafts, articles out of nonedible byproducts of  
40 fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or  
41 family consumption, for barter, which everyone calls  
42 trade is barter. Barter in the legal language is  
43 barter, and it's a trade when you trade something.  
44 Fish for reindeer or -- but then -- and then it has for  
45 sharing or personal family consumption.

46  
47 And then the last sentence they have is  
48 or uses for customary trade. That's a legal definition  
49 of customary trade, when you trade in a non-commercial  
50 way for cash. And that was just a recognition that

1 like on Gambell where people trade for cash, you know,  
2 ivory and other things, or even the handicrafts for  
3 cash.

4  
5                   So there is a recognition in the law  
6 for all these uses. So when we talk about customary  
7 and traditional uses in these determinations, we're not  
8 trying to change that, because that's in the law. When  
9 we're talking about customary and traditional use  
10 determinations, what we're talking about is the process  
11 that selects who's eligible for the subsistence  
12 priority.

13  
14                   So as we introduce the .804  
15 legislation, we said first rural residents are  
16 eligible, then once a customary and traditional use is  
17 in place, only those people with a positive customary  
18 and traditional use has the priority. If there's no  
19 customary and traditional use determination, then all  
20 rural residents are eligible to harvest. So unless  
21 there's a shortage, and then there's that .804  
22 determination where we go through like we did yesterday  
23 and determined who would receive the priority.

24  
25                   But the customary and traditional use  
26 determinations, that middle step, is not in ANILCA.  
27 That was a step created by the State, and they did it  
28 because they regulate sport and commercial fishing, and  
29 so they developed a mechanism to identify subsistence  
30 uses. So when the Federal program took over  
31 management, they just thought that it was a temporary  
32 thing, so they continued to implement the subsistence  
33 priority in a similar fashion, and they adopted  
34 wholesale the customary and traditional use  
35 determinations made by the State, and proceeded to  
36 adapt them to the Federal program, and since have made  
37 300 customary and traditional use determinations,  
38 because there were adjustments that had to be made.

39  
40                   And now the Secretary's asked us to  
41 look at that, because there is some concern expressed  
42 by some people about how those were made.

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Pat. Any  
45 questions or comments. Charles.

46  
47                   MR. SACCHEUS: Yeah. Okay. I've got a  
48 -- excuse me. In the Alaska Beluga Whaling Committee,  
49 we've got articles and bylaws about barter, you know,  
50 like you can't sell the muktuk on a beluga whale. The

1 only way you could do it is trade with like with some  
2 other food that you don't have with somebody in other  
3 village or something. But we can't sell them, we can't  
4 sell the muktuk, we've got to barter. So I think we  
5 put that in because in the past they used to really  
6 sell muktuk. There used to be store down here called  
7 the U.S. Merc. We used to sell all that muktuk to that  
8 U.S. Merc. And it kind of -- I mean, it didn't seem  
9 right, so they quit selling them. So we talked about  
10 that barter and customary trade, so we put it in our  
11 articles and bylaws.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Charles.

16

17 Pat, did you want to say something?

18

19 MS. PETRIVELLI: And just that for the  
20 customary trade of fish, the Federal Board has allowed  
21 for regional differences. And so it's in the  
22 regulations and I can't remember what it is for here,  
23 but some regions agree that you can do customary trade,  
24 and some say it's not. So the Federal Board does  
25 recognize regional differences like that.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Nikki from the  
28 Department of Fish and Game. Nikki Braem.

29

30 MS. BRAEM: Good morning. I try not to  
31 talk too much at these meetings.

32

33 But just so there is no  
34 misunderstanding, barter is also provided for in State  
35 regs. So if you want to trade caribou for muktuk, or  
36 caribou for fish, there is no restriction on that. I  
37 don't want there to be a misunderstanding on that.

38

39 Customary trade for, you know, fish  
40 caught under State regs, in Norton Sound that is legal.  
41 And I believe the cap on that was raised to \$500 per  
42 year a year or two ago. I'd have to look that up. So  
43 there is customary trade of subsistence-caught fin fish  
44 here in Norton Sound as well.

45

46 That's all I have to say.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for that  
49 information, Nikki.

50

1 MR. MENDENHALL: Who put the dollar  
2 amount?  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.  
5  
6 MS. BRAEM: Through the Chair. If I  
7 recall correctly, that proposal came out of this  
8 region. It might have been Kawerak that proposed it or  
9 it might be the local AC that proposed that the cap on  
10 customary trade be increased, because originally it was  
11 \$200 when it first was enacted here. A decade ago?  
12 Maybe a decade ago. But it was just I think at the  
13 last Board of Fish meeting where that cap was raised to  
14 \$500 per year, though they do want people who  
15 participate in customary trade to get -- you know, do  
16 fill out some paperwork.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any questions of  
19 Nikki.  
20  
21 MR. MENDENHALL: I just don't like the  
22 dollar amount limitation.  
23  
24 MS. BRAEM: That was what the Board  
25 did. That certainly wasn't local Fish and Game people.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Nikki. Marie  
28 Katcheak.  
29  
30 MS. KATCHEAK: (Indiscernible - away  
31 from microphones) Did you just say that?  
32  
33 MS. BRAEM: Under the rules that the  
34 Board of Game set.  
35  
36 MS. KATCHEAK: Where's the form?  
37 (Indiscernible - away from microphones)  
38  
39 MS. BRAEM: The local Fish and Game  
40 office here in Nome has the permits available. There's  
41 no fee associated with any of that stuff. And I don't  
42 know if they're available on line yet or not. But they  
43 do make them available to people in the vill -- I  
44 mean, I know people in villages are getting them. But  
45 I could find out if they're available on line, or if  
46 they're like providing them to the license vendor or  
47 anything like that in the villages. I'm not clear on  
48 that one.  
49  
50 MS. KATCHEAK: And what are you going

1 to do with all these forms? Are you going to keep it  
2 in archives somewhere?

3  
4 MS. BRAEM: I could ask Comm --  
5 Commercial Fisheries actually manages that part of it.  
6 I don't work -- I work with Subsistence Division, and  
7 we don't manage the customary trade permits, but I  
8 could have an answer for you on how they are  
9 maintaining those records, and if they're available  
10 locally in the villages or not.

11  
12 MS. KATCHEAK: Are those forms in only  
13 English?

14  
15 MS. BRAEM: That I can check on. I  
16 suspect they are. Given the history of forms in this  
17 area, I suspect they're only in English.

18  
19 MS. KATCHEAK: And you guys are reading  
20 them, and you might not understand what the oogruk is?

21  
22 MS. BRAEM: Well, I know what an oogruk  
23 is. But the permit only counts for -- let me be really  
24 clear, this paperwork only is with fish customary  
25 trade, meaning where you're exchanging subsistence-  
26 caught fish for cash. It has nothing to do with barter  
27 whatsoever. So if you're swapping reindeer for fish,  
28 there is no form. There is no documentation. We're  
29 not asking for that information. The permit that I --  
30 that required -- that I mentioned, only is in regard to  
31 customary trade of subsistence-caught fin fish, and  
32 that's it.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It has to do with the  
35 dollar amount.

36  
37 MS. BRAEM: And it has to do with  
38 dollar amount.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And that's all it is.

41  
42  
43 MS. BRAEM: It's not barter. Barter is  
44 not anything to do with that. So if you're swapping,  
45 you know, oogruks for smelt or whitefish, that's not  
46 part of it at all. We're not asking about that.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Barter, on the lines  
49 of barter would be a bundle of dry fish for a barrel of  
50 gas. I mean, that's, you know.....

1 MS. BRAEM: That's barter.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Taking it outside of  
4 the food.

5

6 MS. BRAEM: Yeah, that's barter. The  
7 form is only for customary trade of fin fish for cash.  
8 Yeah, and again I'll -- this is the problem with the  
9 language that was developed to describe this. People  
10 hear customary trade, and they think of swapping fish  
11 for oil, whatever. That's what they think of customary  
12 trade versus barter. I'm not responsible for the  
13 language, but when we talk about these things at these  
14 meetings, barter is trading stuff for stuff. When  
15 money enters the picture, it's called customary trade,  
16 even though the way that we commonly talk about things  
17 in normal language, we think of something else. So  
18 that misunderstanding might be big, because I'm using  
19 the official language, which is kind of unclear I think  
20 at times for people.

21

22 MS. KATCHEAK: Thank you, Chairman  
23 Green.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Nikki.

26

27 And just for the record, that was Marie  
28 Katcheak was asking questions of Nikki.

29

30 I feel comfortable with the way things  
31 are, as they stand now on the C&T use determination.

32

33 Are there any Council that have.....

34

35 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Peter.

38

39 MR. BUCK: Peter Buck, White Mountain.

40

41 I also feel that the standard we have  
42 now is satisfactory with this Board.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I guess that  
45 sounds like we're set on the status quo so to speak on  
46 C&T determination.

47

48 So I would like to move on to Item C,  
49 and that would be rural determination process review  
50 update.

1 MS. HYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 I'm just looking for my notes on rural  
4 determination, and I can't find them. Okay.

5

6 Well, with this review they were asked  
7 to -- the Secretaries asked to look at the rural  
8 determination process. And it's not whether we  
9 determine a town or village to be rural or not. It's  
10 the process which we use to make that determination.  
11 And so we have been having public meetings at the RAC.  
12 At the last RAC cycle we had public meetings after the  
13 RAC meetings, and then we also took comment from the  
14 RACs. And at this point we're compiling all those  
15 comments. The Office of Subsistence Management has  
16 just finished entering all those comments into a  
17 database and is working on compiling them and producing  
18 an analysis which we'll present to the Federal Board.

19

20 In addition to that, the Staff  
21 Committee is working on developing some different  
22 recommendations for process. And that's where we stand  
23 on that right now is we're in the process of developing  
24 a recommendation for the process.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.

27

28 Anybody have any comments on that. Or  
29 questions.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are we informed now?

34 Okay. Appreciate it.

35

36 So then we move on to the next item.

37

38 MS. HYER: Okay. Mr. Chairman and  
39 Council members. The next three items are kind of  
40 grouped together. They're all under the title of the  
41 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

42

43 And so we'll turn to Page 42 in your  
44 book.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: 142?

47

48 MS. HYER: 142, excuse me. Yes. And  
49 there's a briefing on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
50 Program.

1                   And you're familiar with this process  
2 where we grant money for research. And we just  
3 finished our cycle at the last meeting, and we're  
4 funding three projects in this region, and this region  
5 being all of northern, so it stretches from here to  
6 Northwest Arctic RAC to North Slope. And we have a  
7 Dolly Varden project in the North Slope region. And  
8 then we have some sheefish work that's continuing in  
9 Northwest Arctic. And we have the Unalakleet weir  
10 that's going to be continued in this region.

11  
12                   And so gearing up for the next funding  
13 cycle, which will begin in the fall meeting, I'm going  
14 to collect information from you. It's kind of a  
15 precursor type priority information needs. We develop  
16 this priority information, it's to guide research.

17  
18                   But what's happened in the past is we  
19 haven't really had enough time to process them, and if  
20 you refer to your letter, you've talked about how you  
21 don't really feel like your comments have been properly  
22 addressed. And so we're going to start that  
23 conversation a little bit earlier this year, which is  
24 this meeting. And I'm basically here just to get  
25 ideas, and then we'll put them together and in the fall  
26 we'll come back with something more finalized, which  
27 then will be an action item that you can vote on.

28  
29                   But I basically want to know where you  
30 see research needs in this area, and then I'll take  
31 some notes down, and we'll start working on what will  
32 be possible priority information needs for the next  
33 call, which will go out this coming fall and will not  
34 be funded until 2016.

35  
36                   So that, I will just step back and let  
37 you guys tell me what you think is important.

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tim.

40  
41                   MR. SMITH: I think the most important  
42 thing is what we talked about earlier today, and that  
43 is identifying intercept and bycatch stat or region for  
44 chum salmon and for king salmon. We need to know how  
45 many Norton Sound chum salmon and king salmon are being  
46 taken by Area M fishermen -- well, chum salmon  
47 primarily by Area M fishermen, and king salmon and chum  
48 salmon in the pollack trawl fisheries. I think that  
49 would be the highest priority.

50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tom.

2

3 MR. GRAY: An area that we have failed  
4 at is the Nome region is it's hard to get money pumped  
5 into the Nome region through the Federal programs. And  
6 the word that I keep hearing is, that's State  
7 jurisdiction, yada-yada-yada. You know, these fish  
8 don't know Federal lands, State lands, et cetera, et  
9 cetera. And I really think that funding agencies need  
10 to work together to address needs in these regions.  
11 And these land lines need to go away, and the needs of  
12 the people be addressed. You know, Tim's got an RAA,  
13 there's other RAAs. There's Fish and Game. There's  
14 all kinds of places to get research ideas. There's us,  
15 you know. We've got priorities for our own  
16 communities, but for years we've come to the table and  
17 talked about fishery projects, and, oh, we can only go  
18 to Unalakleet, because there's Federal lands down  
19 there. We can go to Shaktoolik, because there's  
20 Federal lands there. We can't go to Fish River,  
21 because there's no Federal lands.

22

23 Well, we need to get beyond that  
24 somehow and address some of these. Nome River and the  
25 dog salmon in the Nome River. You know, let's figure  
26 out how -- if we can cross those bridges and get good  
27 projects put together for our people, that's the bottom  
28 line.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Tim. I mean,  
31 Tom. I'm getting you guys mixed up.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are there any other  
36 questions or comments from Council. Tim.

37

38 MR. SMITH: Another issue I think, it's  
39 -- you know, a lot of local people feel that escapement  
40 goal setting is not adequate for salmon, that using the  
41 models that are being used for setting escapement goals  
42 don't provide for adequate escapement. And I think  
43 there's good reason to question that. And we need a  
44 review of how escapement goals are set by Fish and  
45 Game.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Tim.

48

49 Is there anyone else at the table.

50 Reggie.

1 MR. BARR: Yes. Those of us in the  
2 Teller and Brevig area are concerned about our red  
3 salmon and king salmon that are almost getting to be  
4 non-existent in our area. It's good that we have  
5 chums, too, but we're still trying to acquire the taste  
6 of chums. But we'd like to see, want to see why our  
7 red and king salmon are disappearing from the Pilgrim  
8 River and the Teller/Brevig area.

9  
10 Thank you.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

13  
14 Anyone else at the table on this.  
15 Everybody discovered what I thought, so I don't get to  
16 talk this time.

17  
18 Oh, Elmer.

19  
20 MR. SEETOT: Yeah, being from outside  
21 Nome area, I think, yeah, the main concern has been  
22 fish over these past years. I think, you know, we need  
23 to look at -- you need to, we need to look mining that  
24 has been going on for a long time. Who knows who put  
25 what in what river, or in the water. Every spring  
26 you've got shark repellent coming out of the water  
27 sewer system. We really don't know what the cold war  
28 -- or during the cold war, 1940s, what stuff the U.S.  
29 or defense put around Imuruk Lake. I know they have a  
30 high catch rate up there from Kawerak/Teller area. A  
31 lot of people use Davidson Landing during the early  
32 tides, and I think that's where the majority of cancer-  
33 related deaths are linked to, something to do with the  
34 chemicals that defense used. And there's a lot of  
35 players in Nome or within Norton Sound.

36  
37 TEK. You argue about the resource, the  
38 resource won't be there for you. That's number 1  
39 always in my mind. That has been gotten from our  
40 elders, our people before us. And many factors I think  
41 come into play. Sometimes I think we just blame one  
42 area, because we have no other places to blame, but  
43 from being outside the area of Nome, you know, there's  
44 many things you talk about that can be put on the  
45 table, that can be analyzed, or that can be discussion.  
46 And that I think would be one of the starting points is  
47 that.

48  
49 Chum salmon is depressed in and around  
50 Norton Sound, Nome area. Other places where we don't

1 have commercial fishing, I think like in Port Clarence  
2 district. But like Reggie said, we have seen a decline  
3 in red salmon that do go to Pilgrim River, to Salmon  
4 Lake.

5  
6 I really haven't seen any king salmon,  
7 early catches in Port Clarence area. Usually the fish  
8 that I catch has been jack kings, you know, after the  
9 first wave of fish have come through. Usually the king  
10 salmon come in, and then the red and then the other  
11 fish follow. We really haven't seen any king salmon,  
12 Chinook salmon, in Port Clarence waters, you know, for  
13 a long time. It's either that they have already  
14 migrated, because our breakup -- we really have to wait  
15 for ice to break up, and then when it break ups, it  
16 goes very fast, or that we run into on-shore winds that  
17 keep the ice on. And I think by that time the ice  
18 clears, all the first fish have already run through  
19 Brevig. So they're probably pretty much on their way  
20 to the rivers that they spawn. But reports from Teller  
21 also suggest that, you know, Chinook, king salmon are  
22 not really going up that way, so there's a problem some  
23 place within the system.

24  
25 Thank you.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Just a question for  
28 you, Elmer. What have you seen the last couple of  
29 years on sockeye, on the runs? What's your opinion  
30 since we're on the record here.

31  
32 MR. SEETOT: My opinion is that we have  
33 had some major fall storms that probably would have  
34 affected, you know, the young fry. At that time we had  
35 in 2004 a big storm. We had in 2006 a fall storm up  
36 around that area, and then most recently the biggest of  
37 the big storms that I have seen was the 2013 storm.

38  
39 And there are lodges, beaver lodges  
40 along the Pilgrim, and then also a lot of northern pike  
41 in the river system. So that might contribute to that  
42 over-all decline.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. What would you  
45 say on the returns? Your catch, what kind of catches  
46 are you having? Large? Small? Medium? Compared to  
47 years past.

48  
49 MR. SEETOT: Our catches have become  
50 smaller, other than the ones that are further over at

1 what we call North Spit, where the fish camps are. I'm  
2 assuming that the sockeye run from Point Jackson  
3 straight out, make a straight beeline over towards the  
4 probably deeper waters, which are mostly towards the  
5 fish camps and then run through them, because they do  
6 catch a lot of fish compared to the community of  
7 Brevig, which are mostly straight out set nets. And  
8 then you have multiple fishers corking (ph) each other  
9 out one way or another. But it's been very sporadic I  
10 think. It kind of go on whatever cycle the life cycle  
11 of the salmon is, you know, so it's been kind of spotty  
12 within the past 10 years or so.

13

14                   It used to be where you had an  
15 abundance of reds where you can, oh, yeah, I'll try to  
16 increase my catch next year. Now it's pretty much a  
17 wait and see attitude, and also for the community of  
18 Brevig, it's just that right after 4th of July we have  
19 on-shore winds that hamper, you know, the fish nets,  
20 and then after that we have constant good weather,  
21 which permits most of the fishermen to stay out -- I  
22 mean, keep their nets out deep, keep their, you know --  
23 if they don't dry fish, they keep their net out. And  
24 then if the weather doesn't -- isn't constantly blowing  
25 from the south, then they'll keep their nets out for a  
26 longer period. So less fish caught, more extreme  
27 weather conditions, and also sporadic numbers of the  
28 premier fish that we kind of go for, the red salmon,  
29 the silver, because with chum salmon, they have a bland  
30 taste. If you're going to have fresh, I would say that  
31 dry it half way and then, you know, that's more  
32 palatable with seal oil. That will be more geared  
33 towards the elders that have -- that are used to  
34 eating, yeah, fish in that sense, instead of, you know,  
35 just on grilled fire.

36

37                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: So what I picked up  
38 from you is that the sockeye runs aren't as good as  
39 they used to be, and they're minimal now, sporadic.

40

41                   MR. SEETOT: Pretty much minimal. It  
42 all depends on I think what way the fish -- or four or  
43 five years before if there's a good -- if the weather's  
44 good, the etching's (ph) not going bad against the  
45 fish, then I would expect a good season in four, five  
46 years. But if there's a storm or a late fall storm,  
47 then the season would be kind of late or very minimal.

48

49                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Elmer.

50

1                   Reggie, what's your opinion on the red  
2 catches going on over there in your area.

3  
4                   MR. BARR: When I was growing up, we  
5 caught nothing but reds, red salmon, up that way, and  
6 my dad threw chum salmon to the dogs. But they've  
7 really been declining, and probably since 2006 maybe,  
8 and there was a commercial fisheries started in Port  
9 Clarence in 2007, but that never re-opened because of  
10 the lack of red salmon.

11  
12                   There was also fertilization done in  
13 Salmon Lake. That was done in the early 2000s, and so  
14 after that time, we haven't really seen any red season.

15  
16                   Thank you.

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah. The reason I  
19 asked both of you from over there is that there are  
20 returns recorded by ADF&G at Salmon Lake that are  
21 saying the opposite of what you're saying. You're  
22 telling me and this Council and the Staff here and  
23 public, that the runs have diminished over there in the  
24 last few years.

25  
26                   MR. BARR: That's the truth.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for the  
29 record.

30  
31                   So now -- oh, sorry. Go ahead.

32  
33                   MR. SEETOT: One thing I mentioned  
34 there, usually when our nets are out of the water and  
35 we do have south winds, the escapement goal at the weir  
36 for Pilgrim River is usually right on by the time the  
37 run of sockeye salmon is over, which is pretty much end  
38 of their life for Brevig Mission.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Elmer. Tim.

41  
42                   MR. SMITH: I was going to propose a  
43 resolution on counting red salmon on the Pilgrim River.  
44 I think there's a real conflict of interest with NSEDC  
45 doing the escapement counting on salmon on Pilgrim  
46 River, and I'd like to see if we could pass a  
47 resolution that we would have Fish and Game take over  
48 that responsibility. It's really Fish and Game's  
49 responsibility to catch fish and not the industry.

50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, I guess I can go  
2 one step further and say the fox is in charge of the  
3 hen house.

4  
5 I agree. Do other Council members  
6 agree that we should form a resolution in that line?  
7

8 We have public, so you need to come  
9 forward to the mic, Perry, please.  
10

11 MR. MENDENHALL: I believe as a  
12 Council among our people, we always try to keep peace  
13 in our region and among our villages. We never pit  
14 agencies against agencies. We are hoping that  
15 interagency would work, compromise, working together  
16 rather than saying this is my turf, this is our turf  
17 and stay out of it. I don't think we're that way as a  
18 people. I think we all are concerned about our fish  
19 resources.  
20

21 Anything that's going on, like when  
22 they come up to Bering Sea with those trawlers for  
23 bycatch, I know it in my net. So they don't say  
24 they're State or Federal fish.  
25

26 So I'm saying that rather than -- we  
27 need to work with agencies that exist that are wanting  
28 to help us. Norton Sounds' willing to help us. Your  
29 Council is willing -- is supposed to be helping us.  
30 Fish and Game is supposed to protect its citizens.  
31 It's got to be interagency agreements to compromise and  
32 work together. And I think that should be the goal.  
33 Because some agencies have more money than others,  
34 we're going to have to go tap them. If the other  
35 agency have more money, we'll get them to work with us,  
36 too. ^That's the way as a people with interagencies in  
37 Nome, we try to keep people working together, not going  
38 against each other and having them selling Nome  
39 nuggets.  
40

41 So I think I would go against such a  
42 resolution saying, stay off my turf, this is not yours.  
43 Let's increase it together. And I would not look  
44 toward or be in favor of a resolution going after  
45 agencies if they're going to help bring up the  
46 resources. Work together is what I'm saying.  
47 Different people in our regions, our villages, you're  
48 working together. So let's promote that as a Council.  
49 I think that would be the way our people would work.  
50 Our elders that have lived here all their life.

1                   Somebody outside the region to  
2 understand. It took a long time for our villages to  
3 get together, to work together. We don't want to be  
4 dividing our people in our region with agencies run  
5 against agencies. We want all the agencies to work for  
6 our people in our villages within our region. I don't  
7 want us to be the armpits of Alaska, saying we're -- we  
8 don't want wars between agencies.

9  
10                   I would ask that you not put forth a  
11 resolution like that.

12  
13                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Perry.

14  
15                   The fact that the motion was -- or the  
16 consideration for a resolution is asking the State to  
17 do their job is not -- don't think is an adversarial  
18 issue here. It's the State is required to do these  
19 fish counting towers is what this resolution, if we  
20 form this resolution and move on it. That's what it's  
21 about. It's about to ask the State to step back up  
22 into what they're supposed to do.

23  
24                   I grew up on the Pilgrim River.

25  
26                   MR. MENDENHALL: I know.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: And the Kuzitrin  
29 River. So it's about the people.

30  
31                   Tom.

32  
33                   MR. GRAY: I had one of these fish  
34 counting towers on my property and I've lived with it  
35 for 16, 18 years, and the caliber of people that ran  
36 that fish counting tower were the common Joe Blows on  
37 the street, people that I would go so far to say  
38 they're not smart enough to tweak numbers or fudge  
39 numbers or mess with numbers. I don't think that was  
40 happening.

41  
42                   In my situation, they have a Fish and  
43 Game head guy there. They had an NSEDC counter there,  
44 and they had another Fish and Game person there. And  
45 all these people answered to Fish and Game in Nome.

46  
47                   And, you know, I have concerns about  
48 the process of how they counted fish and came up with  
49 the end-of-the-season number. And I don't believe, to  
50 this day I don't believe it was correct. I don't think

1 that their way of doing things is getting a real  
2 accurate picture of the fishery.

3  
4 But I do agree with Perry in the fact  
5 that, you know, there's a lot of players involved in  
6 this world, and we hate to -- you know, I don't really  
7 want to beat up on somebody for no reason. If I'm  
8 going to beat up on somebody, I'm going to believe in  
9 something, like this muskox thing. You know, some  
10 people think I beat up on Ken, but I really believed in  
11 something, and I went after it. And, you know, Ken had  
12 -- he believed in something. So we came to the middle  
13 and we got things done.

14  
15 And I think that's the same thing in  
16 this fishery. You know, there's things that happen in  
17 this fish counting thing. They put a tower up in  
18 Solomon. To the funding agencies, and to the people,  
19 that was a slap in the face. I mean, granted we got a  
20 picture of what Solomon was doing, but for what? Spent  
21 \$100,000 for what?

22  
23 But going back to Pilgrim, you know, I  
24 really think the counts -- if the numbers are changing,  
25 or if there's anything that's funny there, it's  
26 happening after the people that are at that place. It  
27 isn't happening -- when those numbers are called in,  
28 wherever they call into, if there's something wrong  
29 with the numbers -- it's not like at my place. In the  
30 end they counted for 20 minutes and they tripled  
31 whatever they saw. I don't believe that system works.  
32 At Pilgrim they open a gate and they count the fish  
33 that go through. That work -- I mean, they can't help  
34 but count every fish.

35  
36 And so what I'm saying I guess is if  
37 there's a problem with the numbers, it's happening  
38 somewhere else. And that I would say needs to be  
39 addressed versus the counting tower itself.

40  
41 But, you know, there's a system.  
42 There's a lot of towers up, and there's a lot of  
43 counting going on. Maybe it all should be looked at  
44 and re-evaluated. Maybe a bunch of people should come  
45 together and see what's going on in these towers, and,  
46 like my opinion of counting for 20 minutes and tripling  
47 whatever they saw. You know, I don't believe in that.  
48 But anyway.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I don't think that it

1 was about picking on anybody. Maybe I spouted off a  
2 little bit there, but the point is, is that it's Fish  
3 and Game's duty, they're the ones with the resources to  
4 do this type of work. So the thought is, after he  
5 mentioned that, in my mind, is that, yes, it's a  
6 reasonable request through a resolution, if we decide  
7 to do that today.

8

9 Tim.

10

11 MR. SMITH: They use expanded counts on  
12 the weirs, too, at the Pilgrim River. All the weirs  
13 use expanded counts, too.

14

15 MR. GRAY: Yes.

16

17 MR. SMITH: Yeah. The problem with  
18 the Pilgrim River weir is misidentification I think.  
19 Because the fisheries don't -- the harvests don't match  
20 up with the counts. You know, last summer the  
21 escapement was about 13,000 fish. Well, how did all  
22 those fish get past everybody's net? Nobody caught a  
23 lot of reds last year. The reported harvest is 2700.  
24 Somehow those fish got past everybody. I think the  
25 problem is misidentification.

26

27 And it's not beating up on anybody to  
28 say we need better counts, because the management is  
29 based on accurate counting. And that's not beating up  
30 on everybody. I mean, that's we're getting a false  
31 sense of security when we see these escapement counts  
32 if they're not accurate. And I don't believe they  
33 could be. I don't see how -- you know, there's  
34 fishermen on both sides. Fishermen down at the mouth  
35 down at Teller and Brevig, and fishermen above the  
36 weir. They're not seeing the number of reds that are  
37 being counted at the weir. And so I think they're just  
38 misidentified.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And I can go along  
41 with what Tim's saying about misidentification, because  
42 fishing down in Kodiak on a 58-foot limited seiner, you  
43 have to go through a lot of fish and throw them in the  
44 brailers, and sometimes you make a mistake of a bright  
45 chum being -- actually being a red, or vice versa.

46

47 So you say what you've seen down on  
48 your land down there, the counters down there. They're  
49 not biologists, and so they're counting a shiny fish,  
50 calling it a red. Maybe there's misidentification.

1 That's just a suspicion.

2

3                   Anyway, the whole intent was just from  
4 the sound of Tim wanting to do a resolution was to ask  
5 for Fish and Game to take charge of their  
6 responsibility on that weir, and that's how I  
7 understand it.

8

9                   MR. SMITH: I guess I would be  
10 supportive of a program or a letter going to Fish and  
11 Game or NSEDC or whoever it is, saying that we feel  
12 there's an issue, it came before the Board. And we  
13 feel there's an issue in the counts, and we would like  
14 to see you guys train your staff to do better counting,  
15 a better process. You know, I can't see Fish and Game  
16 putting a fish biologist at the counting tower. I  
17 really can't. It's going to cost too much money. But,  
18 you know, I guess my feeling is, let's be nice about  
19 it, and let's try and if we're going to send a letter  
20 to some agencies questioning what they've produced, you  
21 know, let's offer an option. Is there a way we could  
22 train these guys better to better identify fish.

23

24                   To just go to NSEDC and say, NSEDC,  
25 you're out of the picture. Fish and Game, we want you  
26 to step up and do a better job. I don't think that's  
27 the answer. You know, we're beating up on somebody.

28

29                   And granted, you know, we can look at  
30 it all different ways, but the bottom line is  
31 identifying the fish, and how do we get that done.  
32 Identifying them correctly, and that's what we're  
33 after.

34

35                   So if we address it somehow that way, I  
36 would feel a whole lot more comfortable.

37

38                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tim, go ahead.

39

40                   MR. SMITH: Yeah. I think it's a real  
41 -- it's improper to call -- asking for an accurate  
42 count, beating up on anybody. You know, just it's  
43 professionalism. You know, Fish and Game tends to  
44 check their results. Everybody who does things like  
45 this checks their results. It's not beating up on you  
46 to do quality control. That's what I'm asking for, is  
47 to get accurate counts. And there's more than one way  
48 to do it. What I would -- see, right now there's no  
49 quality control. There's no check on how accurate  
50 those species identifications are, which I think is a

1 problem. They're misidentifying chums as reds. You  
2 know, you've got a kid up there counting as fast as he  
3 can with one of these little tallywackers like Charlie  
4 talked about. And you've got fish just pouring through  
5 this fish box. It's not easy. I don't even know how  
6 they do it, how they identify how many chums and how  
7 many reds there are. They're just hitting that button  
8 as fast as they can. There needs to be some quality  
9 control. And the reason I say that is because none of  
10 the fishermen are reporting the numbers of escapement  
11 that the weir's reporting. There's discrepancies.  
12 Fish and Game does that themselves. They check their  
13 assessments with test fisheries, but we don't have  
14 anything like that going on in the Pilgrim.

15

16 And so it's not beating up on anybody.  
17 It's just a way of getting more accurate counts. I  
18 think there's a question about how -- the accuracy of  
19 the counts which will really lead to a misunderstanding  
20 of how we're doing on management. And so we need a  
21 better -- we need to do something better.

22

23 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Go ahead, Ted.

26

27 MR. KATCHEAK: Ted Katcheak. It seems  
28 like we're at a loss of how we're going to identify  
29 those fish going up. If you were to set a net across  
30 the river, it seems like that would be the other way to  
31 identify what is going up, and what kind of species.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I hear the  
36 noon whistle, and I didn't promise anybody we'd be done  
37 by noon, but I thought we would be done by noon. But  
38 in that light, I think we're not going to be done by  
39 noon.

40

41 I didn't think that shifting the  
42 responsibility to Fish and Game was a contentious issue  
43 of doing their own work.

44

45 And so, you know, as far as asking for  
46 accurate counts, I heard two fishermen down here from  
47 one of the villages also, and one in Teller, I've  
48 heard of three different people telling me the same  
49 story, that the numbers aren't there. And so I don't  
50 see that it's going to hurt us to ask Fish and Game to

1 be accountable for the work that they're supposed to do  
2 anyway. And it's not adversarial; it's just asking  
3 them to step up and being accountable. And that has  
4 nothing to do with NSEDC in my mind when I'm talking  
5 about it.

6

7 MR. GRAY: And I guess I'm sitting here  
8 wondering who's -- you know, usually NSEDC gives Fish  
9 and Game money, Fish and Game goes out, sets up a  
10 tower, they run the program. I'm not sure about this  
11 thing, and I was a little surprised how it was brought  
12 before the Board, because again the way the reports  
13 come out of the Fish River area, those calls went in  
14 every day to Fish and Game. And I would almost get you  
15 those calls come in to Fish and Game every day from  
16 Pilgrim. But, you know, my whole thing is, where are  
17 we going to fix this problem? And it is identification  
18 as those fish go through. And it's training. And, you  
19 know, I think there's an easier way to say let's  
20 improve on the way we're identifying fish rather than  
21 saying, you take it over, you're not responsible any  
22 more. Do you follow what I'm trying to lead up to?

23

24 And, you know, I -- anyway.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I just feel that it's  
27 the agency's responsibility. That's why I agreed with  
28 what I heard. I've heard from people over here that  
29 live up there. You and I kind of grew up on Pilgrim  
30 River, but I've been there through the whole time when  
31 everything was going to gunny bags, and then it came  
32 back, and now it's gone back down.

33

34 I feel that Fish and Game is obligated  
35 to manage. And if there's a counting tower up there,  
36 then Fish and Game ought to be manning that tower, or  
37 counting weir, whatever it is. And that puts the  
38 responsibility on their shoulders, which is theirs to  
39 begin with.

40

41 So have you folks over here onto my  
42 left have any opinion on this that are from Brevig.  
43 I'd like to hear your feelings on whether we move on  
44 this or not so we won't hold ourselves up for lunch.

45

46 MR. BARR: I support that. Fish and  
47 Game used to do all the counting before NSEDC came and  
48 started doing that in the earlier years. I don't know  
49 when NSEDC started. I guess they had to do it when the  
50 State didn't have too much money, and then they were

1 happy to have NSEDC come and provide that money.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, so you would  
4 support ADF&G stepping and doing their own manning of  
5 the weir on the Pilgrim.

6

7 MR. BARR: I would.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Elmer.

10

11 MR. SEETOT: 20 years ago I would  
12 think ADF&G was very adamant -- they were very, I mean,  
13 dedicated to see who was fishing illegally. And they  
14 got the nets, they'd slash them up. They did  
15 everything, because it was in the regulations stating  
16 that net limits, how it would be set, the days. Now  
17 State of Alaska has a lot of money, which we don't see.  
18 It's all tied up, but we still do run into these  
19 issues. I would like to see ADF&G do their count. They  
20 say they got no manpower. At the State building people  
21 are shifted around from community to community, you  
22 know, to do their jobs. I mean, for people to do their  
23 job, they shift from one community to another. I would  
24 say that people with purse strings, they're pretty much  
25 manipulating whatever they want to see come out of the  
26 count.

27

28 And like many of you mentioned, it  
29 might be a miscount on the different species, because I  
30 do know that not all the fish go up there at once, but  
31 for us, we do miss a lot of opportunity, at least a  
32 month before the red salmon make their final trip. And  
33 that's pretty much -- just like it's written in  
34 regulations.

35

36 Port Clarence has south wind from July  
37 4th on to August, during the fish drying season. It's  
38 pretty much standard practice -- not standard.  
39 Standard thing that is going on. Ever since I remember  
40 growing up, at least maybe 6 to 10, Fourth of July,  
41 we didn't have any south wind. All that time pretty  
42 much all the wind is from the south. People try to do  
43 their fishing early during the dry month of June, the  
44 first part of July, and then pretty much after July  
45 4th, you know, just pretty much wet constantly until  
46 cold time. But in between that sporadic sunshine,  
47 people get excited about putting fish away. When they  
48 do put fish away for drying, then rainy season comes  
49 around, and dampens, you know, dampens the fish, and  
50 then spoils the fish afterward. It has done that to me

1 so many times that I started to fish early when the  
2 salmon are running. And that's pretty much -- when you  
3 are drying, that's the time to fish. When you're not  
4 drying, you can pretty much fish any time I guess. But  
5 for me, drying fish is -- the majority of fish that I  
6 barter for muktuk or something else that are in other  
7 communities. And what they enjoy, I'll try to barter  
8 for something that I want in their community.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.

11

12 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Did you say something?

15

16 MR. BUCK: Yeah.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Peter.

19

20 MR. BUCK: I'd just like to say that  
21 Fish and Game counting tower, they moved it down from  
22 above town to down below. And then last summer we had  
23 a big storm where the water came up high and the river  
24 got muddy it started raining and raining and raining,  
25 and they couldn't count any fish because of that. And  
26 that's part of counting. But I just want to know, you  
27 know, what kind of numbers did they come up with during  
28 that time.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. To kind of trim  
31 up, we have gone off from where we're at, but I've  
32 allowed this, because I want the discussion at the  
33 table on record, our feelings. It's our responsibility  
34 on fish and game issues. I'm glad to hear you out.

35

36 Tommy, you have something to add.

37

38 MR. GRAY: To address Pete's thing.  
39 You know. Fish and Game would come up with averages and  
40 put those numbers, those averages in the system, and  
41 they would kind of guess. And I hate to speak on  
42 behalf, but, you know, I'm pretty sure they used  
43 averages.

44

45 Now, the other thing that -- we don't  
46 have Fish and Game here, we don't have NSEDC here. You  
47 know, I don't know how their system works. Ultimately  
48 Fish and Game is responsible for escapement goals. And  
49 they're the ones that are responsible to take numbers  
50 and produce numbers for the public.

1                   You know, I just wonder if we can go to  
2 lunch, get Fish and Game to come in here and talk to us  
3 about their process, and make a decision after that.  
4 You know, I just feel that for me to make a vote on  
5 this issue, I'm going to vote against it unless I get  
6 better information. I need better information.

7

8                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Letty.

9

10                  Thanks, Tom.

11

12                  MS. HUGHES: For the record this is  
13 Letty Hughes, assistant area wildlife biologist for  
14 Unit 22, based in Nome.

15

16                  Just for the group information, Board  
17 of Fish is going on right now, and that's where  
18 Commercial Fisheries folks are at the moment.

19

20                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. I want to  
21 get the consensus here, whether we should word  
22 something, a letter, a resolution, or nothing. We've  
23 had the discussion, it's on record. Do we during lunch  
24 come up with some wording on a letter or a resolution.  
25 A nod will be good enough if you agree to do something.

26

27                  Mr. Nick.

28

29                  MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
30 Members of the Council. Alex Nick for the record.

31

32                  If you choose to go by letter, it would  
33 be subject to review. Mr. Chair.

34

35                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: And what you're  
36 suggesting is because it would be reviewed, the other  
37 way would be the resolution coming straight from this  
38 body straight to the Federal Board.

39

40                  MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I'm not  
41 suggesting any. I'm just reminding you, because of  
42 your manual, a letter and maybe some of the other  
43 documents would be subject to review by appropriate  
44 people before it goes forward.

45

46                  Mr. Chair.

47

48                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you. At  
49 this time I think we need to take our little recess for  
50 lunch here. So be -- what time do you have, Tommy.

1 MR. GRAY: A quarter after 12.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So at 1:30. Are we  
4 going too soon there?  
5  
6 MR. GRAY: That's fine.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: 1:30. Thank you.  
9  
10 (Off record)  
11  
12 (On record)  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I would like to  
15 call the meeting back to order here.  
16  
17 And we're discussing the briefing on  
18 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. We've got a  
19 resolution.  
20  
21 Karen, did you want to speak to that  
22 for minute.  
23  
24 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
25 members. I just want to go on the record saying what  
26 my understanding of how we're going to proceed is.  
27 This resolution was brought in after lunch and I'm  
28 going to work with Staff to draft a cover letter, and  
29 we're going to send it to organizations that would be  
30 interested in supporting this resolution. And we're  
31 going to also contact the other RACs that would be  
32 interested in supporting that. And then in addition to  
33 that, we'll forward it on to the Federal Subsistence  
34 Board, and we'll ask them for their support, too.  
35  
36 And that's my understanding of who  
37 we're going to be contacting.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes. To the new  
40 members that weren't here, that's Ted and Bill.  
41  
42 MR. BARR: Reggie.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I mean Reggie. Bill.  
45 I went to high school with Bill.  
46  
47 You're in agreement with what we're  
48 going to do with this? This is what we already  
49 submitted in the past.  
50

1 MR. BARR: (Nods affirmatively)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. That's clear.  
4  
5 Do you need to speak to anything?  
6  
7 MR. SMITH: I just want to point out  
8 this went to the Federal Subsistence Board from our  
9 February 15th to 16th, 2011 meeting, if you see it at  
10 the bottom of this.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Any further --  
13 you have something to say, to add. No.  
14  
15 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Alex.  
18  
19 MR. NICK: If you are submitting the  
20 same document, is that going to be the language that is  
21 going to put in there.  
22  
23 MS. HYER: Mr. Chair. Alex. I think  
24 what we'll do is we'll go back and I'll work on  
25 developing a letter, and then we'll bring it back out  
26 for review, so I cannot guarantee that this will be the  
27 final language.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Tim? No?  
30  
31 MR. SMITH: Oh, I got a message today  
32 from Earl Merchant that he wanted us to talk about  
33 moving in the crab line. There's a line out there,  
34 it's 10 miles off shore from Nome. It goes east and  
35 west where summertime commercial fishing is not allowed  
36 inside that line, and I there's a push on. Earl says  
37 there's a push on at the Board of Fisheries meeting  
38 that's happening now to move it in. And I don't know  
39 much about it except that.  
40  
41 Do you know more, Tom?  
42  
43 MR. GRAY: I know it came before the  
44 AC, and the State Fish and Game AC Board, and Peter  
45 Buck was there, Charlie Saccheus was there.  
46  
47 Anyway, some of us were very adamant.  
48 We did not want that line moved in. And that line  
49 initially was set there to protect both the commercial  
50 fishing industry and subsistence.

1                   And I do know that it's been a big  
2 issue yesterday and today at the Board of Fish. I  
3 don't know about today, but I do know yesterday there  
4 was a big pitch to move that line in. And I have been  
5 told that in three years -- I've been told that first  
6 the line is -- I don't know that it got moved, but the  
7 tools that Fish and Game have to move that line, it was  
8 in a section of regulations that talks about closed  
9 areas. And that has moved, the ability and the tools  
10 has been moved to another area. So I don't know how  
11 this is all shaking out and playing out, to be real  
12 honest. But I've been told that if I don't want my  
13 subsistence crabbing affected in three years when the  
14 Board of Fish meets again, to get our act together and  
15 have people go testify and push. The line is -- push  
16 where it needs to be and nobody has authority to move  
17 it.

18  
19                   And it's like the pollack industry.  
20 You know, I read a book on the pollack industry, and  
21 it's amazing how much politics got involved in it.  
22 And, you know, I kind of smile when we sit at the table  
23 here and talk about the pollack industry, because a lot  
24 of that industry was way more powerful than we'll ever  
25 be. Decisions are made in big politics places with  
26 very few people. Ted Stevens was a big player in the  
27 pollack industry.

28  
29                   So anyway, this line, you know, my  
30 feeling is, to be real frank about it, I'd like to see  
31 this Board saying don't touch that line, leave our  
32 subsistence crabbing alone. But it's up to everybody.

33  
34                   I'm glad you brought this out though,  
35 because, you know, my feeling is the crabbing industry  
36 is going to keep pushing and pushing and pushing, and  
37 pretty soon we'll have no crabs.

38  
39                   MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Peter.

42  
43                   MR. BUCK: Yes. Before the commercial  
44 crabbing started, we used to go out in Haviland and  
45 from White Mountain, and get about 60, 70 crabs a  
46 night. Okay. And that was for subsistence in the  
47 village. Now they put a line in and they started  
48 commercial crabbing. Now we're lucky if we can get 20 a  
49 night. So that's cutting our subsistence down some  
50 more. Now they're talking about moving the line

1 further in, so that's going to really cut our  
2 subsistence down. I'm opposed to that line.

3

4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So if there's a  
5 commercial interest in this, who's behind it, that's  
6 the question I've got. Whose toes are we going to step  
7 on as soon as we do something. I'm not afraid to move  
8 on this. I don't have a problem with saying leave the  
9 line there, it's protecting subsistence use. That's  
10 what we're here for.

11

12 MR. GRAY: Well, in my opinion, you  
13 know, we could say NSEDC is going to get the ones that  
14 get the brunt of it, but that's not a real accurate  
15 picture. You know, I think on one side if the line  
16 gets moved, it's subsistence crabbing is going to be  
17 the brunt of it. If it doesn't get moved, and the  
18 line's left where it's at, commercial fishing's going  
19 to feel that they're picked on, commercial crabbing,  
20 which is Adam Bachman and Eric and all these crabbers.  
21 You know, those are the two opposing forces.

22

23 And I'm sure that folks are testifying.  
24 There's nobody testifying for subsistence right now,  
25 and that's the shame of this whole thing. So, you  
26 know, we need to get our act together. Subsistence  
27 people need to get our act together and go before the  
28 Board of Fish the next go around. I think it's almost  
29 too late now.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I would make that  
32 suggestion that it is too late. If you're not there at  
33 this point, you live with what comes for three years.  
34 If you go back to the table in three years, do you make  
35 the change and bring the line back out is a good  
36 questions.

37

38 MR. GRAY: Yes.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Whether you're going  
41 to have enough horsepower to do it by then. So if you  
42 give now, there's a good chance you lose it for a good  
43 long while.

44

45 Tim.

46

47 MR. SMITH: There's another data point.  
48 You know, last year was the highest crab quota ever in  
49 Norton Sound since the 1970s and 80s. It was 467,000  
50 pounds or 487,000 pounds, I forget which, but it was

1 thereabouts. And the way it works is the wintertime --  
2 there's a wintertime commercial fishery, too, that  
3 occurs inside the line, you know, on the shorefast ice.  
4 And they are fishing the same quota. So whatever  
5 doesn't get caught in the winter gets caught -- is  
6 available for harvest in the summer. And so there's  
7 commercial interest on both sides of this issue. The  
8 wintertime commercial fishermen don't want the line  
9 moved in, but the summertime fishermen do.

10

11 Last year -- something that happened  
12 last year is they came 100,000 short of the quota,  
13 which is a bad sign. I think it's a really bad sign  
14 that the crab stocks are getting over-fished. And the  
15 quota's going to be the same this year. They're not  
16 going to reset it, which kind of surprised me. So, you  
17 know, there's people on both sides of this issue, local  
18 people on both sides of this issue. All the crab  
19 fishermen, both commercial and subsistence are local  
20 people.

21

22 But personally I don't want to see the  
23 line moved. I think it's needed to protect wintertime  
24 fishing.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I agree with you  
27 guys wholeheartedly on the line. I think it should  
28 stay where it is. As an advisory committee member of  
29 Northern Norton Sound in the 90s was on the same page  
30 there, saying don't change anything.

31

32 And so we're here about subsistence. A  
33 change in the line would hurt subsistence users. How  
34 do we want to handle it.

35

36 MR. SMITH: Well, what can we do, Tom.  
37 Are we already too late? Is something going to be done  
38 at this Board meeting?

39

40 MR. GRAY: From what I've heard, I  
41 think the tools to move that line have gone from one  
42 regulatory area to another. And Scott Kent is the one  
43 that has the ability to move the line. And I don't  
44 think he's lost that ability. You know, the line got  
45 moved last year in and I'm sure it's back out where it  
46 is. You know, he has ability to move that line  
47 temporarily. And I think it's back out where it should  
48 be. And -- but it's a tool in his box that he can use.

49

50 And I've talked to Scott about this

1 issue since they were down there. And, you know, his  
2 thing is, you guys need to get your act together and  
3 oppose this thing.

4  
5                   So, you know, I would say if it's not a  
6 resolution that we do, it's a letter of something  
7 saying that that line is there for a reason, and leave  
8 it alone.

9  
10                   The other thing that I'm concerned  
11 about is Tim brought up the point that they didn't  
12 catch the quota. Well, for how many they've got  
13 400,000 crabs, or 400,000 pounds. They raised the  
14 quota to 600,000 pounds, and they didn't make the  
15 600,000. So did they not catch their quota? In my  
16 mind they caught their quota. They got the 400,000 and  
17 they're wanting more.

18  
19                   And, you know, the heartache that I  
20 have is they want to come and fish along that line to  
21 catch the easy stuff. They don't want to go out to the  
22 other edge of that line and go fish and figure out  
23 where the other stuff is. They're after the gravy so  
24 to speak, and moving that line in just makes it that  
25 much easier. And they've got support from powerplayers  
26 to move that line. I mean, there's people talking that  
27 have clout to get that line moved. So on the same  
28 token, we need to step up, too.

29  
30                   MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair.

31  
32                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Go head.

33  
34                   MR. KATCHEAK: Theodore Katcheak. I'm  
35 curious, where is the line? I've never been out there,  
36 it escaped me.

37  
38                   MR. SMITH: It goes east and west, it's  
39 about 10 miles straight out from here. It's about five  
40 miles from the tip of Cape Nome. And then it goes down  
41 -- it goes all the way down, it comes really close to  
42 Rocky Point, which allows them to commercial fish in  
43 the area you're talking about, Peter. And there's a  
44 north/south line off of Cape Denby, too.

45  
46                   MR. KATCHEAK: Thank you.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So just to get  
49 the feeling from the rest of the Council -- I think,  
50 Karen, this is another one of those letter-writing

1 situations, isn't it?

2

3 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
4 members. I'm not clear if there's a proposal before  
5 the Board of Fish right now or if there's just public  
6 testimony. If there was a formal proposal, then the  
7 Regional Advisory Council could comment on that  
8 proposal, and then we'd submit that with the proposal  
9 before the Board of Fish. Now, if that was the case,  
10 that would have had to have happened in your last  
11 meeting, because it sounds like this meeting is going  
12 on right now.

13

14 But if something's coming up in three  
15 years that's going to put into regulation something  
16 that the Council's opposed to, the Council does have  
17 the ability to comment on that.

18

19 I'm not 100 percent sure how to advise  
20 you, because I'm not 100 percent sure what the issue  
21 is. But certainly if there's some mechanism taking  
22 place, you could write a letter, yes.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Tim.

25

26 MR. SMITH: Can we find out from Drew  
27 Crawford, is he still on the phone, what the status is?

28

29 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman. Drew  
30 Crawford, Fish and Game in Anchorage here.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Drew.

33

34 MR. CRAWFORD: Yeah. I'm looking at  
35 the list of proposals being considered by the Board  
36 here, in the statewide crab board, and I don't see  
37 anything a line this time around in their proposal  
38 book. Over.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Well, that  
41 tells me we've got time to react to this, because it  
42 will be visited in three years.

43

44 MR. CRAWFORD: What I have is three  
45 proposals for Norton Sound crab, 344, 45, and 46. 44  
46 is adding spiny king crab to definition, defined  
47 species of king crab. 345 is allowing king crab to be  
48 taken by hand lines. And 346 is adjusting red king  
49 crab harvest rates and trigger points based on changes  
50 in the abundance model.

1 Over.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Rates. Harvest rates.  
4 What are they asking for in the harvest rates, Drew?

5

6 MR. CRAWFORD: I'll have to pull that  
7 up, but it says that they are adjusting trigger points  
8 based on changes in the abundance model, but that --  
9 let me pull that up.

10

11 MR. SMITH: In the meantime, while he's  
12 doing that, it seems to me what -- you know, Fish and  
13 Game has emergency order authority to move the line in  
14 if they think it's needed, and they did that last  
15 summer.

16

17 One thing we could do would be to pass  
18 a resolution opposing the use of that authority.

19

20 MR. GRAY: And this is what Scott was  
21 telling me was we need to -- the subsistence users need  
22 to stand up and say, Fish and Game, you don't have the  
23 authority to move that line.

24

25 MR. SMITH: I move that we resolve to  
26 request that Fish and Game not relax the line limiting  
27 summertime commercial fishing in the future.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There's a motion on  
30 the floor.

31

32 MR. GRAY: Yeah. And I'll second it.

33

34 And for discussion, it's fine to send  
35 that letter out, but the end result to this whole  
36 process is going to be taking away that authority to  
37 move that line, and that's what we need to address.

38

39 MR. SMITH: I don't think we can do it  
40 until the next cycle though. And so all we can do is  
41 ask them not to do it.

42

43 MR. GRAY: Yeah. Well, ask them not to  
44 do it, but again we need to go down that road of taking  
45 that tool away from them.

46

47 MR. SMITH: Yeah.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tom, I'd just ask, was  
50 that -- Scott Kent is the assistant area manager for

1 Fisheries Division. Was he telling you that we needed  
2 to do something about -- as subsistence, we needed to  
3 do something about that now so that he doesn't have an  
4 EO to act on? Emergency order.

5  
6 MR. GRAY: No. And his suggestion was  
7 if you don't like us monkeying with this line, you're  
8 going to have to deal with it as subsistence users.  
9 And the only way to deal with it is address the power  
10 for us to use this as a tool to manage that fishery.  
11 So, you know -- and I'll have a better picture of what  
12 we need to do and where we need to go once he comes  
13 back. And, you know, I'm hoping Kawerak and some of  
14 the folks will get on board with this thing to --  
15 because, you know, like Peter Buck's talking, he over-  
16 exaggerated I feel hand lining and subsistence  
17 crabbing. I fish the same places he did, and I've gone  
18 down to the same places and got skunked where we were  
19 getting 50 crab before. So there's been a big impact  
20 on this subsistence fishery, and moving that line is  
21 not going to help it.

22  
23 But, anyway, I think the motion that  
24 you're putting forward gives them direction for the  
25 summer, and then we can get our act together and go  
26 beyond that, because I think we need to go beyond that.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. S I feel that  
29 the intent or that what you what you bring to the table  
30 is for us to put our hands up in the air and say, don't  
31 do it, keep the line where it is. Subsistence users  
32 will suffer. And then we've got three years to  
33 actually respond to the Fish and Game management.

34  
35 Tim.

36  
37 MR. SMITH: That's what I was going to  
38 say. I think it's correct that it's going to be three  
39 years before we can do anything regulatory-wise.

40  
41 But, you know, the way the line gets  
42 moved is the summertime commercial fishermen put  
43 pressure on Fish and Game to move it. We can put  
44 pressure on Fish and Game to not move it. And then  
45 they'll have to make their decision.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Perry, you've been a  
48 member of the public here. Perry Mendenhall.

49  
50 Drew, when you get a chance, do you

1 have information now, Drew?

2

3 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair. This  
4 346 is a proposal that was submitted the Norton Sound  
5 Economic Development Corporation. And it looks like  
6 they wanted to allow a summer commercial fishery if the  
7 threshold level of legal male red king crab abundance  
8 exceeded 1.25 million pounds.

9

10 And the Department opposes this  
11 proposal.

12

13 Over.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're saying that  
16 NSEDC is in favor of what again? I didn't quite get  
17 that..

18

19 MR. CRAWFORD: It said the Norton  
20 Sound section, red king crab harvest strategy directs  
21 the Department to only allow a summer commercial  
22 fishery if the threshold level of legal male red king  
23 crab abundance exceeds 1.25 million pounds. At a level  
24 of 1.25 million pounds and less than 2 million pounds,  
25 a harvest rate of up to 7 percent can be implemented.  
26 At levels above 2 million pounds and less than 3  
27 million pounds of legal male biomass, the harvest rates  
28 cannot exceed 13 percent. And above 3 million pounds,  
29 a harvest of up to 15 percent can be set. The  
30 guideline harvest level set by the Department cannot  
31 cause total removal to exceed the acceptable biological  
32 catch adopted by the North Pacific Fisheries Management  
33 Council.

34

35 This is the proposal you're looking  
36 for.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Drew.

39

40 MR. SMITH: I just want to make a  
41 comment. It looks to me like for economic reasons that  
42 we're going to increase the harvest rate on red king  
43 crab. And I think it's important to understand that  
44 the population estimate is mighty, mighty shaky. It's  
45 based on a very small number of crabs caught in the  
46 trawl survey. And then by mathematical modeling after  
47 that. They've already concluded that the model over-  
48 estimates the population by 60 percent. And so it's  
49 really risky. You know, what they're doing is really  
50 risky. And if you look at the history of red king crab

1 management in the state, they fish them and fish them  
2 and fish them, and all of a sudden they're not catching  
3 them any more. And nobody knows what happened. You  
4 know, it's always come as a big surprise.

5  
6 You know, they fished out red king crab  
7 in Kodiak in the 60s, and they've never come back.  
8 Right now the limit for subsistence in Kodiak is three  
9 crab per family per year.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I fished in Kodiak,  
12 and I'm pretty well aware of how those folks felt after  
13 the fact that they had fished themselves out. And they  
14 said, make sure you don't do that up in your area.  
15 Restrict the size of gear. Restrict, restrict,  
16 restrict. Protect those calve stocks. Watch your  
17 harvest rates. So I kind of go along with what they  
18 said. Here we are again.

19  
20 But at this point I'm going to let  
21 Perry speak for a moment. Perry. Public.

22  
23 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah. My involvement  
24 with crab has been when I was a little kid all the way  
25 up. But my own family, per se, I've got two stepsons  
26 that are involved with commercial crabbing, and they're  
27 not here to defend that or make comment on it. And I  
28 think whoever was referred to about another crabber  
29 saying, do this for the crab.

30  
31 Now, any time we fool around with the  
32 crabs out here, we feel the impact of it. Like we  
33 would see more boats from Bristol Bay and Bethel area  
34 come up. When they increased the crab, we noticed that  
35 in this town, you can't park a boat over here. So they  
36 partake it. I have nothing against that, you know,  
37 because it's open.

38  
39 So the fact going on that I'm crying  
40 about is that we don't see any commercial crabbers here  
41 defending or whatever, but whenever subsistence  
42 crabbing try to protect their resources for their own  
43 family to feed, we have to spend -- they have to spend  
44 more money to defend it, that subsistence resource  
45 versus commercial crabbers that have more resources to  
46 come to meetings like this and say, change this line.  
47 And then it forces the subsistence users, the  
48 villagers, to use their resources for defense of their  
49 subsistence use. And they can't afford it, you know,  
50 most of the time.

1                   So you're making recommendations  
2 without hardly any -- most of the layers being here to  
3 make comment to that. And I would put that on the  
4 agenda with those proposals you're calling for now.  
5 They think you're talking about muskox out there. They  
6 didn't realized you're going to be stomping on  
7 commercial crab lines and subsistence lines. So I  
8 think in all fairness to our people is to give them  
9 time to react and respond in writing or to attend the  
10 meetings. So I think that is my statement, is that  
11 give the commercial -- both commercial and subsistence  
12 users time to attend to defend what they want that line  
13 to be.

14  
15                   It took Kawerak and a lot of us many  
16 years just to get that 10-mile limit. It used to  
17 three. But now it's out there 10. We should honor it,  
18 because those subsistence people fought for it. And I  
19 remember those battles. People were crying. I seen  
20 biologist cry at these meetings, you know, and they  
21 can't -- their hands are tied, because their bosses  
22 say, we don't want you to tell them the real numbers,  
23 and the biologist would start crying, because they  
24 would like to see subsistence users, you know, have  
25 more crab instead of losing more crab. So this is not  
26 just a money thing, it's a heart thing, it's a culture  
27 thing, and I think we need to be mindful of that. As  
28 Federal people on the Federal line, we need to realize  
29 what battles went through that to get that 10-mile  
30 limit.

31  
32                   So I appreciate you allowing me to  
33 speak, and I'm going to try to find some applicants  
34 that would be able to join this group and speak on  
35 behalf of our people. Making a living in our region is  
36 very tough. It's an economic depressed area as it  
37 stands.

38  
39                   Thank you.

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for our  
42 comments, Perry.

43  
44                   Throughout the conversation, I don't  
45 think the intent is here at this point, because we  
46 realize that the cycle on this regulation here of  
47 moving the line through regulation at the Board of Fish  
48 is in three years. What I think the conversation at  
49 the table here is, is that we're here for subsistence,  
50 and so we're speaking on behalf of subsistence when we

1 make our comments. So just keep that in mind. We're  
2 not able to make a difference at this point as far as  
3 the regulations go.

4

5 MR. MENDENHALL: I know.  
6 (Indiscernible - away from microphones) on record  
7 showing that part for subsistence.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And I think you for  
10 the comment. We'll move on this.

11

12 Tim, did you raise your hand there a  
13 second ago.

14

15 MR. SMITH: No.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, I thought I saw  
18 you. So I'm not quite sure how to go about this.

19

20 Karen, since there was no action  
21 planned on this, but we're dealing with other issues  
22 through letter-writing, is this another one of those?

23

24 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
25 members. I think your intent was clear. I'm not 100  
26 percent sure of the mechanism, but I can figure out  
27 exactly what the issue is, and then what the mechanism  
28 would be, and get back to you on that.

29

30 MR. SMITH: What I'd envision is just a  
31 letter to the Department of Fish and Game asking them  
32 not to relax the line in the future, in the next three  
33 years, and then before three years are up, we'll submit  
34 a proposal to limit their emergency order authority on  
35 that.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think that's a  
38 good.....

39

40 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is that you, Drew?

43

44 MR. CRAWFORD: Yeah.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

47

48 MR. CRAWFORD: What I'm seeing here on  
49 line, it's what proposals the Board of Fish is acting  
50 on right now. I don't think this proposal you're

1 talking about has even come up yet. So I think in the  
2 future here when it's actually published and it's given  
3 a proposal number, I think at that time would be the  
4 proper time for you to comment on it. And I'm sure the  
5 Federal liaison, George Pappas will bring it to your  
6 attention, and this will also be discussed thoroughly  
7 at each of the Fish and Game Advisory Committees in  
8 your area.

9

10 Over.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Drew. I kind  
13 of think that's what we recognized at this point, that  
14 we don't have anything that we can bring to the table.  
15 It's three years from now. We will probably submit a  
16 proposal by then.

17

18 At this point in time, it's just the  
19 feeling of the Council here, I think I'm -- I guess I  
20 should ask around the table if there's anybody that  
21 would oppose us defending that line for subsistence at  
22 this point just through a letter. Are there any  
23 members of the Council that would object to that.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Tommy.

28

29 MR. GRAY: Let me fix it. I make a  
30 motion that we write a letter to Fish and Game asking  
31 them that they do not relax the crab line in the  
32 future, period.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sounds simple enough.  
35 The intent is there. Like I said, there's no action to  
36 be able to take on it.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, I guess you did  
39 make a motion. Excuse me. So I'll ask for a second.

40

41 MR. BUCK: I'll second it.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Second by Peter.  
44 Sorry about that.

45

46 Discussion. Any discussion.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 MR. ENINGOWUK: Question.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tom's called for the  
2 question. All those in favor say aye.  
3  
4 IN UNISON: Aye.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those opposed same  
7 sign.  
8  
9 (No opposing votes)  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Motion carries.  
12  
13 So we took care of the crab, we took  
14 care of the salmon.  
15  
16 We're down into priority information  
17 needs development for 2016.  
18  
19 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
20 members. We took care of that. We're actually down to  
21 the regulatory analysis.  
22  
23 But before we move on, I need one point  
24 of clarification from the discussion we had before  
25 lunch. I wasn't sure if I was tasked with something to  
26 do after that discussion or where that ended.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are we talking about  
29 the position we're taking on bycatch.  
30  
31 MS. HYER: No. We were talking about  
32 the Pilgrim.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, that's right.  
35 There's so many things we're discussing here today.  
36  
37 The Pilgrim I think was we were going  
38 to take a position of the change, but that the letter  
39 would reflect that there's a difference of opinion  
40 here.  
41  
42 Tim, do you have something to add here.  
43  
44 MR. SMITH: Well, I guess maybe we  
45 should determine if there is a difference of opinion.  
46 Do you still -- I mean, you know, I think it really was  
47 a misrepresentation to say that this is beating up on  
48 anybody. We're just calling for accurate counts, which  
49 anybody should want. Everybody should want accurate  
50 accounts, because our management is based entirely on

1 escapement counting. It's so important to get accurate  
2 counts. I think there's -- you know, that we've heard  
3 from people in Brevig and Teller and people fishing  
4 above the weir that they don't think that the  
5 proportion of chums to reds that is being reported from  
6 the weir is what they're seeing. And so we want  
7 somebody to go in there and do a better job of  
8 counting, a more accurate job of counting. I don't  
9 think that's beating up on anybody, that everybody  
10 should want that.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody on Council  
13 think otherwise. I know you are, sitting over here.  
14 Calm down. Tom.

15  
16 MR. GRAY: Okay. And, you know, I  
17 guess we went around and around on the table on this  
18 thing. And I have a way of getting something from  
19 somebody, and other people have ways of getting  
20 something. And we get to the same point.

21  
22 And, you know, my feeling is if people  
23 are miscounting fish, let's educate the people that are  
24 doing the counting. So, you know, it isn't taking  
25 anybody to task or whatever, and maybe I made a comment  
26 that misrepresented it. Again, I think if we're  
27 getting bad counts, you know, let's train the people  
28 that are doing the counting.

29  
30 If there's issues -- you know, I would  
31 like to see Fish and Game here, and I would like to see  
32 NSEDC here if we're going to talk about this counting  
33 tower.

34  
35 I don't have a problem sending a letter  
36 saying let's beef up our counting system and educate  
37 our people better, and blah-blah-blah. But I -- you  
38 know, you have a counting tower, then you have aerial  
39 surveys, you have - there's different ways of getting  
40 an end product. And I just think that Fish and Game --  
41 I personally think they're not going to take it over.  
42 And we can go round and round with that, but, you know,  
43 my mind's made up. And I will vote a certain way on  
44 this issue. And in the end we need a good count, and  
45 how do we get there.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tim.

48  
49 MR. SMITH: What Ted recommended  
50 earlier I think is exactly what we need to do. And

1 that is without letting the weir crew know, somebody  
2 should go up above the weir and seine up a bunch of  
3 fish and accurately identify them and see how that  
4 compares to what they're getting at the weir. That I  
5 think would be the best thing we could. I think that's  
6 exactly what we should do. And then we'll have some  
7 information on the accuracy of the weir count. Right  
8 now we have none. You either accept what you get at  
9 the weir or you don't. And that would do it. And I  
10 think that's the best way to go.

11  
12 And maybe that should be what we send  
13 out in our letter is that we have some kind of quality  
14 control check on the weir, you know, a double blind  
15 experiment. Do the right thing. Do a quality control.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So this is in  
18 the form of a letter through Karen. Do you understand  
19 the intent of these two guys.

20  
21 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. I think I'm  
22 clear. If not, I know where to reach those two guys  
23 for further clarification.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So we should  
26 move on. And you have a chance to give us direction on  
27 where we're at. We've discussed a lot of things here.

28  
29 MS. HYER: Yes. So now we have  
30 finished -- under new business we finished what you had  
31 added, so we're at the call for fisheries regulatory  
32 proposals on Page 146. And this is quite short.

33  
34 Mr. Chairman. Council members. We  
35 have put out a call for proposals to change Federal  
36 subsistence fish and shellfish regulations. The  
37 Federal Board is accepting proposals through March 28th  
38 of this month to change Federal regulation for  
39 subsistence harvest of fish and shell fish for the 2015  
40 through 2017 regulatory year.

41  
42 And so this is just an announcement  
43 this is going on. If there are any proposals you wish  
44 to submit, Staff is available to help you work with  
45 proposals. If there's nothing specific, we just ask  
46 that you take this back to your towns and villages and  
47 let them know that the call for proposals is open.

48  
49 MR. GRAY: We're talking about this  
50 crab line, and do we -- through a Federal proposal,

1 would we have any jurisdiction out there?

2

3 MS. HYER: Mr. Council member -- or Mr.  
4 Chairman. Council members. No, that's a State issue,  
5 and so the way to address that is exactly how you had  
6 proposed through a letter.

7

8 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go head, Peter.

11

12 MR. BUCK: Could I have an explanation,  
13 because you're talking about subsistence fish and  
14 shellfish, and yet you're saying we don't have  
15 jurisdiction over this.

16

17 MS. HYER: This is for the Federal  
18 lands. So these are Federal regulations. And the line  
19 I do believe is under State authority.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Alex.

22

23 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
24 believe in your packet there's a fishery booklet, and  
25 there's a map. What is this area, on northern area?  
26 Norton Sound area.

27

28 Just to clarify what -- or maybe  
29 hopefully to respond to Mr. Buck's question, you're  
30 talking about fishery proposals on Federally managed  
31 waters. I think that's what we're asking for. Mr.  
32 Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you,  
35 Alex.

36

37 They're referring to the map on Unit  
38 22. Was that what you're speaking to there, Karen, on  
39 the boundaries.

40

41 MS. HYER: Yes. I had just handed him  
42 this map that was here, but it is related to Federal  
43 lands.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah. But it doesn't  
46 show anything offshore. The offshore lines are State  
47 lines. Okay.

48

49 Well, I don't think we have anything to  
50 add to that, other than the fact that if we have

1 proposals that we want to get in there, we need to be  
2 -- we're not going to have time as a Council here to do  
3 that. It would be some individuals submitting things.  
4 That's where we're at. So we can move forward I guess.

5  
6 MS. HYER: So then you're at annual  
7 reports.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. We do have  
10 review and approve of the draft. What time is it right  
11 now? I'd like to call for a recess here for about 15  
12 minutes so I can sit down with my vice chair and  
13 discuss something here real quick.

14  
15 (Off record)

16  
17 (On record)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. Ladies and  
20 gentlemen. I'd like to call the meeting back to order  
21 again.

22  
23 And our business at hand was the review  
24 and approve the draft for the annual report. Through  
25 discussion here, and with the approval of the rest of  
26 the Council, I'd like to move to table that.

27  
28 Alex, were you going to -- I didn't get  
29 to talk to you about it. What do you have to bring to  
30 the table here.

31  
32 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
33 Council. Alex Nick for the record.

34  
35 Your Council talked about annual report  
36 issues briefly. Mr. Smith was chairing during the  
37 November meeting. And I researched the transcripts  
38 very carefully and compared them with the notes that I  
39 took at the time. And the only ones that came -- well,  
40 the ones that I captured was jurisdiction I believe and  
41 that was extra-territorial jurisdiction issues that the  
42 Council talked about at the time, and they would like  
43 to have something done about it.

44  
45 So based on the transcripts, I drafted  
46 that annual report for 2013, and run it through -- I  
47 believe I sent you a copy, Louis, by email, and I also  
48 sent a copy to Mr. Smith.

49  
50 And the way we're supposed to deal with

1 annual report is you come up with issues, and if  
2 possible along with recommendations to the Federal  
3 Board, and then the coordinator drafts the annual  
4 report, and then come back and put it on the table for  
5 your revisions or discussion and approval. And so  
6 that's where we are right now.

7

8 Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Alex.

11

12 Do you want to add anything to that,

13 Tim.

14

15 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Well, I did get a  
16 copy by email, but I didn't get a chance to look at it,  
17 and I saw some changes -- I started to make some  
18 changes, and we had a power outage the other day and I  
19 lost all my changes. And so I wanted to spend little  
20 more time on it.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And as I wasn't there,  
23 it doesn't help for me to take part in it. But what my  
24 suggestion is, is just table it and allow Mr. Smith to  
25 do some of his changes. That way we can take this back  
26 up.

27

28 What time frame are you needing a  
29 reaction on this, Alex.

30

31 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. This is the  
32 timeframe. I mean, the final review, it's supposed to  
33 be final review and approval of your 2013.

34

35 What probably will happen is that if  
36 you decide to go ahead and not submit annual report for  
37 2013, then we will draft a letter for you to the Board  
38 explaining that you don't have annual report to submit  
39 tot he Federal Board.

40

41 MR. SMITH: You know, I don't know if  
42 that's really necessary. The changes I was going to  
43 make is mostly in wording. You know, the intent is  
44 there, but the wording, I wanted just to clarify the  
45 wording. So I think we could probably adopt it in  
46 principle as a draft and then make some revisions and  
47 still get it in in time. Would that work.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Alex.

50

1 MR. NICK: Yeah. Mr. Chair. As long  
2 as the rest of the Council are aware of what changes  
3 there's going to be, and it's adopted rather in form of  
4 official action, that will work.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What action.  
7

8 MR. NICK: Excuse me. Adopted in form  
9 of a motion and voted upon by the Council, that will  
10 work.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Well, if the  
13 Council feels comfortable with that, and then the  
14 subtle changes, I imagine they're not going to be that  
15 much other than the words, some wording. Does the  
16 Council feel comfortable with that? Just a nod will be  
17 fine.

18  
19 (Council nods affirmatively)  
20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Looks like  
22 there's some consensus here to go ahead with that.

23  
24 Do you need to make a motion there.

25  
26 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

29  
30 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, the motion should  
31 reflect the intent to approve the letter to the Federal  
32 Board if it's going to be submitted to the Board.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

35  
36 MR. SMITH: So what's in the annual  
37 report now if you guys haven't had a chance to read it,  
38 it's the stuff we talked about yesterday and today  
39 both. It's problems with jurisdiction over salmon  
40 management, you know, the fact that the State manages  
41 in State waters, the North Pacific Fisheries Management  
42 Council manages in the EEZ, and nobody manages in  
43 Russian waters or international waters. And so that's  
44 part of it.

45  
46 And the other part is what Tom brought  
47 up today, the idea that we can't get Federal funding  
48 for research in most of the Seward Peninsula because  
49 there's not enough Federal jurisdiction here.

50

1                   And so that's -- those are the two big  
2 issues in the annual report. I just wanted to make  
3 some changes in the wording, but it would not change  
4 the intent at all. I should have gotten through it  
5 before this meeting, but I didn't.

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Well, in the  
8 form of the -- the motion that we have to make here is  
9 -- how did you word that, Alex? You had some wording  
10 in there that needed to be included.

11  
12                   MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. The motion  
13 should reflect the intent. I think Pat could help me  
14 out a little bit on this, but the intent of the annual  
15 report, of how it's going to change, what's going to  
16 change, and if it's going to be in the form a letter.  
17 Actually it's annual report.

18  
19                   MS. PETRIVELLI: I guess for it to be  
20 an annual report submitted by the Council, you need an  
21 action from the Council saying that you agree with the  
22 intent expressed. And the draft report is on Page 162  
23 and 163. And so it has the proposed wording. Now, you  
24 could make a motion that you agree that you want to  
25 submit an annual report with the issues presented in  
26 the draft, knowing that there would be revisions. And  
27 I don't know if it's minor revisions, whatever words  
28 Tim would like to use, but just grammatical minor, but  
29 just minor revisions that would allow this report to be  
30 approved -- this annual report letter to be approved by  
31 the Council, because the Board -- when the Board looks  
32 at it, it's either that -- if you want to approve that  
33 final version, then I guess you could set up a  
34 teleconference or you could say that Tim has to make  
35 the revisions and you need to review that all. But if  
36 you're comfortable with the thought of letting Tim make  
37 minor revisions to the report as to wording -- you  
38 know, it's up to you. If you have a chance to look at  
39 the report on Page 162 and 163, and you agree with the  
40 intent of it, know he'll just make minor changes; or  
41 you may want to say you want to look at the final  
42 changes. But you would need to do it like in 30 days  
43 or something, Alex? Tim would have to make the  
44 changes, he'd have to send that you, and then you would  
45 have to get back to Alex and say you approve the  
46 letter. But just however you feel -- but we would need  
47 to know that you as a Council approved this annual  
48 report.

49  
50                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Pat. I'm kind

1 of being lenient here, because I wasn't there, and he  
2 is calling for some minor changes in this. So I think  
3 it's appropriate. And how we get this through for the  
4 Federal Subsistence Board is the question.

5  
6 Tim.

7  
8 MR. SMITH: Do you guys all use  
9 Facebook? I'm just trying to figure out how to get it  
10 out to you. It would be better if we had a way to get  
11 it to you. If we mail it, I know it's going to take  
12 forever.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Can you through the  
15 tribal offices get faxes?

16  
17 (Indiscernible - mics not on)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. That would be  
20 the best thing, if you'd give him -- if you have the  
21 information to give him for a fax number, maybe that's  
22 the thing. So when he makes his changes in there, then  
23 we could all see them, and then agree with them.

24  
25 MR. SMITH: Can you set that up, Alex?

26  
27 MS. HYER: Yeah. I was just going to  
28 say, Mr. Chairman, Council members, if you get that  
29 letter to us, we can formalize it and get it out.  
30 That's not a problem.

31  
32 MR. SMITH: Okay.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So at this time  
35 we need a motion to reflect the intentions. So I'm  
36 asking for a motion.

37  
38 MR. SMITH: I move that we table action  
39 on -- approval of the annual report until we get  
40 another draft and then we'll send it out and get  
41 approval telephonically or some other method, and then  
42 for approval.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there a second.

45  
46 MR. KATCHEAK: Second.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Second by Ted.

49  
50 MR. GRAY: Question.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No discussion, we  
2 already the discussion. Okay. So Tom's called for the  
3 question.

4  
5 All those in favor of the motion say  
6 aye.

7  
8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those opposed same  
11 sign.

12  
13 (No opposing votes)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Motion passes. On to  
16 the next on.

17  
18 MR. SEETOT: Do they have the fax  
19 numbers.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I think they'll  
22 contact.

23  
24 And then, Karen, I think you have the  
25 floor to see if we can't cruise through some of this.  
26 Thanks.

27  
28 MS. PETRIVELLI: Mr. Chair. Jack  
29 Lorrigan, the Native liaison for OSM couldn't be at  
30 this meeting, so he asked me to make this presentation  
31 about tribal consultation.

32  
33 And the report from the work group;  
34 starts on Page 165. There's tribal consultation draft  
35 implementation guidelines, and there's also a draft  
36 ANCSA consultation policy.

37  
38 And the work group is requesting  
39 Regional Advisory Council feedback on these two  
40 documents. And they're also sending out letters to the  
41 tribes and the Native corporations and to Federal Staff  
42 asking for feedback on these two documents.

43  
44 The draft implementation guidelines are  
45 intended to provide Federal Staff additional guidance  
46 on the Federal Subsistence Board's tribal consultation  
47 policy, which was I think adopted last year or the year  
48 before. The implementation guidelines include when  
49 consultation should regularly be offered. meeting  
50 protocols, communication and collaboration with tribes

1 through the regulatory cycle, training guidance and  
2 topics for Federal Staff and the Board, reporting on  
3 consultation, and how to make changes to the policy or  
4 guidance as needed or as requested.

5  
6 And those implementation guidelines are  
7 in the packet, and they go from Pages 167 through to --  
8 I forget where. 178. Or, no, I guess not 178. Sorry  
9 about that. 175.

10  
11 And then the draft ANCSA corporation  
12 consultation policy summary was adapted from the  
13 Department of Interior policy on consultation with  
14 ANCSA corporations, and it includes a preamble, guiding  
15 principles, and policy. And then that draft policy  
16 immediately follows the implementation guidelines on  
17 Page 176.

18  
19 So they're looking for comments to the  
20 work group. And the work group members are all listed  
21 on Page 166. And they're looking for feedback, and  
22 then they'll try to take this information and make  
23 changes to it and submit it to the Board sometime at  
24 their summer meeting. Not this April meeting, but  
25 maybe when the Board picks a summer working session.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tim, go ahead.

28  
29 MR. SMITH: How are tribal  
30 consultations working for this area? Are we getting  
31 good participation?

32  
33 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
34 members. Right now we are offering tribal consultation  
35 before all our proposals, but I wouldn't say we have  
36 overwhelming engagement, no.

37  
38 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I just wanted to get  
39 some idea of numbers, you know, what happens when you  
40 have tribal consultation, how many people participate.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ken, approach the  
43 bench.

44  
45 (Laughter)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: If one of those gals  
48 will.....

49  
50 MR. ADKISSON: Council members. Ken

1 Adkisson, Park Service.

2

3 I don't offer this up as a  
4 representation of anything about the overall  
5 consultation. I just offer one observation from one  
6 little point in time, but when the telephonic  
7 consultations were done recently for the group of  
8 muskox proposals, there was one individual that called  
9 in on those proposals, and that was Percy Ballot from  
10 Buckland.

11

12 There was another lady that called in,  
13 and that dealt with a moose proposal somewhere else in  
14 the State.

15

16 But I think it varies.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Ken.

19

20 Pat, you can have our chair back.

21

22 MR. SMITH: Looks like nobody respects  
23 the BIA.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You know the Park  
28 Service is.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Alex.

33

34 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I just wanted to  
35 share with the Council, I don't know what other  
36 agencies do, but with Yukon Delta National Wildlife  
37 Refuge, in our program, tribal consultation sometime in  
38 my region gets mixed up, because the Yukon Delta, the  
39 Refuge Staff goes out and do their own tribal  
40 consultation. And then we have our tribal  
41 consultations with the villages through our office.  
42 When I called some of the villages and asked them if  
43 they were aware of tribal consultation by Fish and  
44 Wildlife, Office of Subsistence Management, some  
45 usually tell me, we've already done it with the Refuge.  
46 So, you know, in my region there needs more public  
47 participation in the appropriate tribal consultations.  
48 I'm speaking only about my other region, which is Yukon  
49 Delta.

50

1 Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Alex.

4

5 And, you know, reflecting on ANCSA and  
6 tribal consultations, I, too, can say that I have  
7 noticed that it hasn't been a real -- there's not been  
8 a real good response at this time yet. I don't know if  
9 it's because it's too new or if other things are going  
10 on that conflict with it when it does place, but there  
11 is a low number of participants in it. So I can see  
12 that needs to be some work done on that.

13

14 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ted.

17

18 MR. KATCHEAK: Alex, I have a question  
19 for you. My village, the Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge  
20 is in that area, and I'm wondering how we're being  
21 consulted or how we're going to be consulted from your  
22 Yukon.

23

24 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Mr. Katcheak  
25 through the Chair. We understand that all of the  
26 villages tribal councils and ANCSA corporations are  
27 contacted through our Native liaison's office. And  
28 they're given all of that information. Some villages  
29 even call me up in my office from my region asking if  
30 it's actually happening. Yes, they are being consulted  
31 -- or contacted before consultations occur. Mr.  
32 Katcheak.

33

34 MR. KATCHEAK: So you mean that  
35 Stebbins community association or IRA are being  
36 consulted also?

37

38 MR. NICK: They are notified that  
39 there's going to be a tribal consultation.

40

41 MR. KATCHEAK: Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, and I can echo  
44 that on the ANCSA corporation level that Sitnasuak has  
45 been notified. I don't think anybody gets missed. It's  
46 just a matter of how those Staff members bring it to  
47 their tribal councils and the corporation boards.

48

49 Pat, did you have something there. You  
50 look like you were going to say something.

1 MS. PETRIVELLI: I got to sit on one  
2 work group meeting when Glenn couldn't make it. And I  
3 think everyone realized it's just a work in progress.  
4 And it is a complex situation, because there are so  
5 many Federal agencies being told to consult now. And I  
6 know a lot of tribal and other people say they get  
7 stacks of requests for consultation. But I think we're  
8 trying to work our way through this process, and try to  
9 make sure that -- and trying to figure out when  
10 guidelines when it's very important to have that  
11 person-to-person contact, you know, when it will be  
12 important to say that, you know, it's good to notify.

13  
14 But then the other thing that  
15 everyone's struggling with is to make sure that the  
16 Regional Councils are aware of what is learned at the  
17 tribal consultation. And you'll see that in the  
18 implementation guidelines.

19  
20 But it's all a work in progress, and  
21 we're just trying to create education around all these  
22 issues.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I suppose at this time  
25 -- Peter, do you have something.

26  
27 MR. BUCK: Yeah, when Tim Towarak, the  
28 Chairman of the Board, was there, when he first got  
29 elected in, we went to Anchorage, and we discussed the  
30 tribal consultation. And I think it was pretty  
31 informative, and the process that we went through, I  
32 was pretty satisfied on how it's going. And in White  
33 Mountain, we do get good tribal consultation on issues  
34 that are going on. But mostly we hear from mostly  
35 Kawerak. Kawerak does a good job of informing us, too,  
36 if there really is something.

37  
38 Like on House Bill 77 last week,  
39 concerning the water rights proposal.

40  
41 But we are informed in White Mountain  
42 I'm pretty sure.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So at this time, you  
45 know, I haven't had a chance to review any of it  
46 either, so I think that's we're kind of asked to do,  
47 giving you -- or looking through this thing and then  
48 coming back to the table probably at the next meeting,  
49 making comments. Would that be appropriate, Pat.

50

1 MS. PETRIVELLI: I guess if you have  
2 individual comments you would want to make. And really  
3 I guess it's unfair to say that you need to act as a  
4 Council now unless we read through the whole  
5 guidelines. And I don't know what your feeling is  
6 about going through each section. Or to have a Council  
7 decision. But I think individual comments would  
8 certainly be considered by the work group. So that's  
9 just the goal, to get comments, feedback about these  
10 guidelines. And the work group would take it into  
11 consideration. And I guess you would feed it through  
12 Alex if you wanted to make individual comments, and  
13 then the work group would do something with it. And  
14 hopefully they'd share those comments with the Board  
15 before the Board finalized any implementation  
16 guidelines. So whether it's done this summer or not,  
17 that's another question.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So I guess from  
20 the sounds of it, we can either choose to read it and  
21 digest it and make comment through the Alex at a later  
22 date here.

23  
24 And if there are no other comments on  
25 your side of the fence there, we can move forward on  
26 it.

27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks. Karen.

31  
32 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
33 members. I'm going to refer you to Page 179, the  
34 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
35 membership information. And we are accepting  
36 nominations, and the application deadline has a closing  
37 date of the 21st of March, which is amazing, because we  
38 just seated some new Council members, but this is for  
39 Council members. So if you know anybody that is  
40 interested in being on the Council, please have them  
41 apply, and this is the form here to do that.

42  
43 And that's all I have.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So I guess, Council  
46 members, if you have any ideas of any folks out there  
47 that you might want to see sitting at the table with  
48 the rest of us, you don't have very much time to notify  
49 them.

50

1                   So with that I think we can move to the  
2 next item, and that item being (E) that we wrote in  
3 there, AFN resolution of 15,000, revisiting the Chinook  
4 salmon bycatch in the Bering.

5  
6                   I'll turn it over to Tim. It's a brief  
7 comment we're going to make on this, and it's going to  
8 be something that will be written on our behalf and  
9 submitted, and Karen would be the one doing that. So,  
10 Tim.

11  
12                   MR. SMITH: AVCP submitted a resolution  
13 to AFN this year to reduce the king salmon bycatch in  
14 the pollack trawl fisheries in the Bering Sea and  
15 Aleutian Islands to 20,000. AFN adopted a resolution  
16 to reduce it to 15,000. If you recall, right now it's  
17 set at 60,000 with a performance standard at 47,500.  
18 So this would be a pretty drastic reduction.

19  
20                   There is interest in reviewing the king  
21 salmon bycatch again, because I think a lot of people  
22 realize that 60,000 is an awful lot of fish. And the  
23 thing is it's the really poor returns of king salmon  
24 has finally hit the road system, which really got a lot  
25 of attention. You know, once it hit the Kenai River,  
26 all of a sudden it becomes a political issue the  
27 Commissioner of Fish and Game and the Governor are  
28 issuing press releases. And it does seem timely to  
29 bring it back to the table and get the Council to take  
30 a look at it again, and come up with a lower number. I  
31 think 60,000 is obscenely high considering the problem  
32 we're having.

33  
34                   And I would like to have us support  
35 that in a letter to the Federal Subsistence Board. And  
36 maybe that's all we need, you know, because it's  
37 already -- the resolution is already written. All we  
38 need to do is say we're supporting the AFN resolution.

39  
40                   MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman and Council  
41 members. I just want to be clear. You're supporting  
42 the 15,000 AFN resolution?

43  
44                   MR. SMITH: Yeah. as it was adopted.

45  
46                   MS. HYER: All right.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any comments from  
49 other Council members.

50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It looks like you've  
4 got your.....  
5  
6 MS. HYER: One more letter.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....marching orders.  
9 Another letter.  
10  
11 MS. HYER: I have a lot of letters to  
12 write.  
13  
14 (Laughter)  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So on to the  
17 agency reports. And I think Karen's going to take a  
18 good portion of this.  
19  
20 Thank you.  
21  
22 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman and Council  
23 members. I'm just going to briefly update you on hat's  
24 happening with OSM as far as staffing. We've been  
25 understaffed for a while, and then we had the -- we had  
26 the government shutdown, and now we're moving forward.  
27 We have to submit waivers to both our regional staff  
28 and Washington, D.C. to hire. And currently we have  
29 several waivers that we've had approval to hire. We're  
30 hiring a supervising wildlife biologist, and we're  
31 hiring the supervisory fishery lead. We've also  
32 submitted waivers for another anthropologist, and we've  
33 also submitted a waiver for another staff fisheries  
34 biologist. And so those are pending, too. And then we  
35 have a couple staff positions that are back in  
36 Anchorage. We have a records person and then we have  
37 another admin support person that we'll be hiring.  
38  
39 And that is basically the update from  
40 OSM.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I guess that takes  
43 care of that section. Are we going to the next one?  
44 Who fills the shoes.  
45  
46 MS. HYER: Right. Park Service now.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. All right.  
49 There you go. It's Ken.  
50

1 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council  
2 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service.

3  
4 I've probably already said way too much  
5 today, over the last couple days, so I'm just going to  
6 make this very quick.

7  
8 First, I'd kind of like to fill you in  
9 on some of our bad luck in terms of wildlife surveys  
10 and so forth. The weather's been extremely  
11 uncooperative. As you know from the last fall meeting,  
12 we had to scratch a bear survey on the Seward  
13 Peninsula. A brown bear survey. Basically we just ran  
14 out of time and decreasing sightability. And that was  
15 really a disappointment, because we've been trying to  
16 get a good quantitative survey for a number of years.  
17 We haven't written off attempts to do that again, and  
18 we're currently discussing it internally of whether  
19 we're going to still try to do one in 2014. It's hard  
20 to say whether we'll be able to actually pull that off  
21 or not, but it's still on our mind to the first good  
22 opportunity we get to try to do a brown bear survey.

23  
24 One of the problems that we're going to  
25 run into I think is interagency cooperation in terms of  
26 their financial ability and everything. You know,  
27 their window of opportunity may have passed. But we'll  
28 keep you posted on that as I'm sure ADF&G will, too,  
29 because they're other really big cooperators on that  
30 right now.

31  
32 Currently we've got Staff involved,  
33 along with ADF&G, flying moose surveys in 22D, E. And  
34 we're moving on up to Kotzebue very shortly to do a  
35 moose survey in the upper Kobuk.

36  
37 The big disappointment this year though  
38 was again weather and lack of snow cover, and extremely  
39 poor sightability for muskoxen, and it led to  
40 scratching the 2014 muskox survey. I don't have any  
41 information yet as to whether we'll, you know, stay on  
42 schedule, and the next one would be 2016, or we'll try  
43 to pull one off in 2015. I think everybody's just been  
44 too busy to try to really think that far in advance,  
45 and I'm sure we will as soon as some of the moose work  
46 slows down.

47  
48 And then we've also got a muskox survey  
49 scheduled in and some comp work on the Cape Thompson  
50 herd up by Kotzebue.

1                   Staffing-wise, let me must say a few  
2 words about staffing-wise, because Councilman Gray  
3 brought up the name of Kyle Joly who wasn't here. And  
4 I'll just sort of quickly fill you in on Bering Land  
5 Bridge and the larger Western Arctic National Park  
6 lands of which we're a part of.

7  
8                   Bering Land Bridge National Preserve  
9 has not had a biologist for a fair number of years now  
10 directly on our Staff here in Nome. Western Arctic  
11 National Park Lands, which also includes Cape  
12 Krusenstern, Kobuk Valley, and Noatak National Preserve  
13 up in the Kotzebue area, has one wildlife biologist  
14 located in Kotzebue.

15  
16                   And then we also have a lead wildlife  
17 biologist that was stationed in Fairbanks that's  
18 recently transferred out to U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
19 Service, Migratory Bird Program. And so far we haven't  
20 been able to fill behind that position. We're going to  
21 have a staffing meeting coming up shortly, and I'm sure  
22 a lead biologist or a program manager for some of our  
23 resource work will be on the table to discuss there.  
24 But it has put a real crimp in our operations.

25  
26                   We do, because of our relationship with  
27 Gates of the Arctic National Park and our inventory and  
28 monitoring program, which is based in Fairbanks, have  
29 access from time to time to other Staff on the Park  
30 Service.

31  
32                   And that's where we come around to Kyle  
33 Joly. I'm sure that Tom's probably run across Kyle at  
34 least at the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group  
35 meetings, because Kyle kind of one of our official  
36 representatives for all of the parks in northwest  
37 Alaska to the technical committee on the WAC working  
38 group.

39  
40                   But Kyle is actually employed by Gates  
41 of the Arctic National Park, not Bering Land Bridge.  
42 We don't pay his salary. To get his services in  
43 general requires some horse trading, bartering, and  
44 other techniques to try to get access to some of his  
45 time and so forth. And it really depends sometimes on  
46 out beyond caribou on what else his workload is for  
47 Gates of the Arctic.

48  
49                   What I would suggest to you is though,  
50 if you as a Council here have specific requests or

1 specific information needs, for example, if you really  
2 want a more in-depth presentation at one of your  
3 meetings on what the Park Service is doing with  
4 caribou, we would work to get Kyle to come out to the  
5 meeting for that kind of a purpose. It would take some  
6 work, planning and some dollars on our part, but we'd  
7 be willing to do that.

8  
9 Also the same thing with some of our  
10 inventory and monitoring staff. Like when we present  
11 information on the monitoring program, if you see  
12 specific projects or anything and would like to have  
13 any kind of presentations by the lead investigators on  
14 those projects, you know, we would be glad to try to  
15 facilitate that happening on a case-by-case basis.

16  
17 So that's pretty much it. I would just  
18 say though, you know, in terms of Bering Land Bridge's  
19 presence at groups like this, I've been with this  
20 program since it really began, and I can tell you that  
21 I hardly have ever missed a Regional Advisory Council  
22 meeting. So we've maintained a presence, and I think  
23 you'll notice Jeanette here and Fred Tocktoo. And so  
24 Bering Land Bridge, you know, has pretty much tried to  
25 keep a hand in in the participation and support of the  
26 Council operations.

27  
28 So that's I think for now basically all  
29 I've got, unless you have questions.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Nobody from Council,  
32 questions. Elmer.

33  
34 MR. SEETOT: I'd just like to  
35 appreciate your help that you do for some of these  
36 committees that are on Federal land in trying to secure  
37 muskox harvest applications or even just a permit for a  
38 muskoxen. Sometimes that's pretty hard for us within  
39 the communities, doing all the subsistence activities,  
40 that we kind of forget what we're trying to get from  
41 either the Federal or the State agencies, you know, to  
42 do our subsistence gathering. But I do appreciate  
43 everything that you have done for at least Teller,  
44 Brevig, Deering and Buckland in regards of trying to  
45 harvest muskoxen in those area, because I would think  
46 that the interest is there, but there are people in the  
47 region that want to harvest the muskox more than us on  
48 State land, and when they do get the opportunity, they  
49 are already there and done it. Been there and done  
50 that. Because I have tried -- I was going to give

1 ADF&G a call, when does your muskox season end, and  
2 they told me that just as soon as I called, that it  
3 ended just as soon as I called when it was opened,  
4 because, you know, people had already harvested the  
5 animals from what was in 22B. But I thank you for all  
6 the work that you do for our community. The same way  
7 for Teller and Brevig.

8

9 MR. ADKISSON: Councilman Seetot  
10 through the Chair. Thank you. I appreciate that. And  
11 let me just say that over all the years I've been doing  
12 this, it's a real pleasure working with these  
13 communities. You know, sometimes we don't always see  
14 eye-to-eye on specific issues, but I've always found  
15 them to, you know, be very concerned about their fellow  
16 community members, adjacent communities, and, you know,  
17 generally really pretty reasonable.

18

19 And I'll just leave you with two little  
20 thoughts I guess, some of these really quick ones that  
21 have come to me over the years, because they've very  
22 simple.

23

24 I know Elmer talks about arguing about  
25 the resources. I'll just leave you with two.

26

27 One is I've consistently heard from  
28 people in many of the villages, and at Council meetings  
29 like this, we don't mind sharing, we just don't want to  
30 be overwhelmed, overrun and watch our resources  
31 disappear.

32

33 The other thing I've come away with is  
34 pretty simple, too, over all the years. It's kind of  
35 my little personal mantra.

36

37 Local resources for local people that  
38 need them. And that's what I continue to work for.

39

40 So I appreciate that, Elmer. And I  
41 thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you Ken. Oh, I  
44 guess you have a question.

45

46 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, maybe not really  
47 subsistence related, but I got reports that the oil  
48 tanks at the hot springs are full of water and if  
49 somebody breaks down, you know, they will have no  
50 source of heat up there at the Serpentine Hot Springs,

1 and those tanks are situated right below the eaves of  
2 the building so water's getting inside those tanks.

3

4 MR. ADKISSON: Do you want to -- yeah,  
5 let me -- we're actually trying to work on that now as  
6 we speak and as you speak so Jeanette may have a really  
7 good update on it so let me turn the mic over to her.

8

9 MS. KOELSCH: Okay. Through the Chair.  
10 Jeanette Koelsch. Fred, the one side is working now  
11 and they're going to look at moving the tanks in April  
12 and fixing that issue. So the good thing is they're  
13 new tanks and they no longer leak like the old drums so  
14 -- and we did remediate all the fuel spillage this last  
15 year there.

16

17 So we're continuing to try to improve  
18 the situation.

19

20 But one side does work and if you -- we  
21 have a release to go to Shishmaref to let people know  
22 what side that is so they know, and then if they could  
23 bring wood, if it's available, that's helpful, on the  
24 other side. So -- but, thanks, we -- we're working on  
25 it trying to get that fixed.

26

27 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, let's say that I  
28 wanted to go up there and, you know, spend a few nights  
29 and different families and usually both rooms are full,  
30 would it be possible to bring material up there, like  
31 copper tubing and whatever needs to be to get those  
32 waters out of those tanks, you know, if I wanted to do  
33 it myself, you know, if I can get the material?

34

35 MS. KOELSCH: The tanks aren't as bad  
36 as people report, there was a pilot there the other --  
37 last week and he said he put some heat in the tank and  
38 they worked, he said it's not as bad as we thought it  
39 was, but he has -- and when the Nome Volunteer  
40 Department may be going, and we are going to send them  
41 with some supplies if they're willing to look at those  
42 tanks, too. So I'm trying to work out a plan to fix  
43 the situation temporarily, so.....

44

45 MR. ENINGOWUK: Thank you.

46

47 MS. KOELSCH: Thanks.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Jeanette.  
50 I guess at this point we have a section for Bureau of

1 Land Management, is there anybody -- nobody here to  
2 speak.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And then Alaska  
7 Department of Fish and Game, Letty, would you like to  
8 take the stand.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MS. HUGHES: Thank you. For the record  
13 Letty Hughes, ADF&G.

14

15 Okay, so Alex is passing around an  
16 annual -- just harvest management report that many of  
17 you have already seen, Reggie and Ted, this is what we  
18 send -- give to the RAC and AC members of just kind of  
19 like -- for hunt management, and where we're at right  
20 now, kind of any updates with species.

21

22 So I think since we last met, you know,  
23 we had a winter moos registration hunt in December for  
24 22B west, and then in the 22D Kuzitrin area. And 22D,  
25 Kuzitrin, you know, we had a quota of eight antlered  
26 bulls and we closed it early with emergency order and  
27 we got six. So we don't close that hunt very often and  
28 -- but this year with such low snow conditions, the  
29 roads being open, you know, all the way up into the  
30 Kuzitrin area, we just had a lot of hunters and  
31 participation out there.

32

33 Table 3 it gives you muskox hunt  
34 management, it's broken down into the unit and the  
35 hunt. The quota for each area, the harvest TX -- for,  
36 you know, Tier II, FX for the Federal hunt, and then,  
37 of course, up in 22E where it's the registration hunt  
38 RX, and then the number of permits issued and then just  
39 how many were remaining animals in that area.

40

41 And then it's.....

42

43 MR. SMITH: Could I ask a question  
44 about Unit 22C moose, it says nine bulls decreased from  
45 four; what does that mean?

46

47 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair. So  
48 that's just saying, so this past year, you know, we had  
49 -- 22C had a quota of nine bulls for the fall hunt and  
50 so we decreased it from four bulls from last year, so

1 it was just less -- there was just less of a quota from  
2 last year.

3

4 MR. SMITH: How was nine less than  
5 four?

6

7 MS. HUGHES: Decreased from four bulls  
8 so we took four bulls away from the quota, from --  
9 compared to regulatory year 2012/2013.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That means there's  
12 five, did I get that.....

13

14 MS. PETRIVELLI: There were 13 last  
15 year.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, there was 13,  
18 okay, that's what I missed there, sorry.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 Okay.

23

24 MS. HUGHES: Okay. As Ken mentioned,  
25 the Department, Park Service and Fish and Game is  
26 currently finishing up the moose survey in 22D and 22E,  
27 and weather has made it very interesting to get this  
28 project done. Right now in 22D we have put in -- we're  
29 estimating sightability because of the snow conditions  
30 and there is areas in there where it was quite brown so  
31 while we don't have an estimate number right now, what  
32 numbers have been ran to give you an idea of like the  
33 parameters around it, we're looking at about nine  
34 percent, confidence interval, around -- with the GSPE  
35 survey so that's really tight compared to what we've  
36 had before, like in the teens, in the high teens. So  
37 once we -- and then for 22E, the snow conditions have  
38 been better up there. We're only doing an estimate of  
39 observable moose seen, which is what we've done in the  
40 past. So once we get those done, hopefully this week  
41 if weather holds, we will have an estimate in the next  
42 couple weeks.

43

44 The second page is just giving you  
45 brown bear harvest, was from 1990 to 2012, that  
46 probably has not changed since -- the numbers anyway,  
47 the graph hasn't probably changed since -- if you saw  
48 it earlier at the last RAC meeting or at the AC  
49 meeting.

50

1                   But then some of the significant  
2 changes I want to talk about or just go over really  
3 quick is for the Board of Game that we had in January  
4 and if you'd turn to the last page, at the very bottom,  
5 so, of course, these are going to take place beginning  
6 July 1st of 2014 when we start the new regulatory year,  
7 but for brown bears in 22C, it was to liberalize the  
8 brown bear bag limit to one bear every year for both  
9 resident hunters and non-resident hunters. So as it  
10 currently stands for 22C it's one bear every four  
11 regulatory years, but starting this fall you can take a  
12 bear every regulatory year.

13

14                   The brown bear tag exemption fee, that  
15 also went through for Unit 22, that has to be looked at  
16 annually.

17

18                   For moose, for Units 22C and 22D, the  
19 Board passed to reauthorize the antlerless moose hunts.  
20 So we do not have an antlerless moose hunt going on  
21 right now in 22C, so it's just kind of there in our  
22 back pocket if we need it.

23

24                   And for moose in Unit 22E, the resident  
25 winter moose season was extended for one antlered bull  
26 from January 1st to March 15th. So as it stands right  
27 now it went to January 31st but starting next winter  
28 it'll be -- and that was a proposal that was sent out  
29 by the community of Wales.

30

31                   And then wolf, for Unit 22, the hunting  
32 season was extended by one month so starting -- for  
33 next spring you can hunt wolf until May 31st.

34

35                   MR. SMITH: Is Table 5 2013/2014?

36

37                   MS. HUGHES: Table 5 for the  
38 preliminary brown bear, yes, that should be 2013/2012  
39 regulatory year and so when we have a RAC meeting again  
40 later we'll have some spring numbers to give you.

41

42                   And then I have one other item that  
43 deals with Board of Game proposals. We just had, you  
44 know, it's either currently going on, the statewide  
45 Board of Game and there was a proposal that was just  
46 adopted, it was Proposal 177 and it deals with unlawful  
47 methods of taking game exceptions and those of you that  
48 have been on the AC know that as it stands in Unit 22  
49 that you can position yourself as a hunter to hunt, you  
50 know, caribou or wolves, and that -- there was not

1 language for that in Unit 23 or, you know, in 26, so  
2 this proposal looked at amending the language to  
3 include it. And so what came up is that, and I'm just  
4 going to read it right from language here:

5  
6 That, the motorized land  
7 vehicle may be used as follows:

8  
9 In Units 22, 23 and 26A, a  
10 snowmachine may be used to  
11 position a caribou, wolf or  
12 wolverine for harvest and  
13 caribou, wolves and wolverines  
14 may be shot from a stationary  
15 machine.

16  
17 And so -- and then for Unit 18  
18 the thing applies for a wolf  
19 and wolverine but not for  
20 caribou.

21  
22 So that will take place starting this  
23 next regulatory year. So it pretty much includes  
24 wolverine and then it took into account Unit 23 and 26A  
25 and Unit 18 for wolf and wolverine.

26  
27 MR. GRAY: Does that mean I can take a  
28 snowmachine, go after caribou, get in front of the  
29 caribou, make him stop, me stop, turn off my engine and  
30 shoot those caribou?

31  
32 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair. You  
33 can select an individual caribou so you're positioning  
34 yourself to select that individual caribou, but  
35 provided that you're from a stationary -- that  
36 snowmachine is stationary you can harvest that caribou,  
37 that's how -- reading it -- anything else it would have  
38 to go, you know, get beyond what law enforcement would  
39 want to interpret that as. I'm not going to do that  
40 here.

41  
42 (Laughter)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are there any other  
45 questions of Letty.

46  
47 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Fred.

50

1 MR. ENINGOWUK: Do you have any data  
2 besides the registration moose hunt, that's the only  
3 data on your registration moose hunt for all of Unit  
4 22?

5  
6 MS. HUGHES: Well, through the Chair.  
7 No, this table's only showing for the registration  
8 moose hunts, like up in 22E or 22A, like Stebbins, St.  
9 Michaels, Shaktoolik area, you know, it's a general  
10 harvest, so I don't have any information for this  
11 current regulatory year just because it doesn't end  
12 until a lot later. But, you know, if you like I can  
13 get you historical data from like the previous years if  
14 you're looking for that.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are there any other  
17 questions from Council.

18  
19 MR. SMITH: I have something.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tim.

22  
23 MR. SMITH: I just wanted to comment, I  
24 never thought I would see the day that we're killing  
25 more grizzly bears than moose.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is that all you have  
28 there, Letty.

29  
30 MS. HUGHES: (Nods affirmatively)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Anybody else.

33  
34 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, we got Ted.

37  
38 MR. KATCHEAK: Letty, you haven't taken  
39 any census in our area for bears, brown bears, what do  
40 you -- do you know any estimates that are current or a  
41 survey's never been done in that area, 22A, I think  
42 that's what it is, 22A?

43  
44 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair. No,  
45 that's a good question. No, there has not been. So,  
46 you know, what we go by is, you know, if we hear from  
47 you guys, you know, what's going on with harvest, I  
48 see, you know, what harvest comes in from residents or  
49 non-residents in that area, but, no, we do not have a  
50 brown estimate for the 22A area.

1 MR. KATCHEAK: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Fred.

4

5 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, everybody's been  
6 complaining about the bear, the bear populations and,  
7 you know, having problems with them throughout the  
8 years and was wondering if an entity, any entity can  
9 put a bounty on the bears as long as, you know, the  
10 hunt is legal with the bison and what not, could it be  
11 possible like a local entity do a bounty and do it  
12 legally with a license or not.

13

14 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair. Well,  
15 as it stands right now there is no bounty hunting for,  
16 you know, game species or predators. You know, if you  
17 have problem bears that are coming over into the inlet  
18 we do have the defense of life and property law. You  
19 know, if you have a bear that's coming in and getting  
20 into, you know, your fish area and drying racks or  
21 coming in around the house or bothering you at camp,  
22 you know, just being a real pain then you have that  
23 right to DLP that bear. We do not have a bounty on any  
24 animal.

25

26 MR. ENINGOWUK: No, I'm not speaking of  
27 Fish and Game putting a bounty. Like, for example, if  
28 we request a local organization, whether it be the  
29 Native corporation or the tribal organization put a  
30 bounty on the bears and, you know, still do the hunt  
31 legally.

32

33 MS. HUGHES: I guess I don't quite  
34 understand where the -- if someone wants to clarify,  
35 help me out here.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What he's asking is,  
38 if a bear is taken legally, would Fish and Game allow a  
39 tribal entity or a Native corporation pay bounties.

40

41 MS. HUGHES: I'm not in the position to  
42 answer that. I mean that would be something that would  
43 need to be taken up with, you know, like Tony, so the  
44 appropriate answer could be told to you, I don't want  
45 to tell you differently.

46

47 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, the only reason I  
48 asked that is, you know, they complain to me and tell  
49 me to bring up the bear situation and I told them that  
50 you can get one bear a year but, you know,

1 traditionally we don't hunt bears, it's not our  
2 livelihood. So, you know, I can't give them any -- we  
3 can't change our regulations for anything but, you  
4 know, we can encourage them to get the one bear a year.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Fred.

7  
8 MR. SMITH: I don't see any reason why  
9 you couldn't, Fred. It would be about the equivalent  
10 to having a contest, a fishing contest, you know,  
11 paying a reward for the biggest halibut or the biggest  
12 salmon, I don't see why you couldn't. The State  
13 couldn't do it but I don't see why a private  
14 organization couldn't.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Peter.

17  
18 MR. BUCK: Yes. Last fall there was a  
19 bear, a pretty big bear hanging around in White  
20 Mountain and everybody kept seeing it and it'd keep  
21 disappearing and we were thinking about putting a  
22 bounty on it, we didn't get around to it, we didn't do  
23 it. But my oldest daughter was out exercising around  
24 the airport, walking the airport, exercising and she  
25 had her headphones on and listening to music and the  
26 bear went right by her and she was -- and that stopped  
27 some of the people from walking around doing exercise  
28 in the village. We thought about putting a bounty on  
29 it but we didn't, the bear took off somewhere, I don't  
30 know.

31  
32 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair, to the  
33 Council members. As it stands right now, you know, we  
34 have the two hunts, there's the subsistence  
35 registration hunt, the RB699, that one, though -- where  
36 you can take a bear you are required to salvage the  
37 meat. You do not need to salvage the hide or the head  
38 or the claws, but you do need to salvage the meat.

39  
40 I realize out in Unit 22 that's not as  
41 popular as it is, let's say, you know, in Deering or  
42 Buckland area.

43  
44 The other hunt is a general hunt where  
45 you have -- you still have the hunting license, you do  
46 not need to have a bear tag. If you harvest a bear you  
47 are required to salvage the hide and the head.

48  
49 And we do have sealers set up. You  
50 know, you have 30 days to get a bear sealed. We can

1 come to the villages, help out send the bear in. And I  
2 think, Fred, did we set you up as a bear sealer last  
3 year?

4

5 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes, I am set up to tag  
6 brown bears and your data is correct with the four  
7 bears. I tagged three but the fourth one, you know, he  
8 had to catch a plane so he wasn't able to -- I believe  
9 he got the bear tagged here.

10

11 MS. HUGHES: Okay.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Elmer.

14

15 MR. SEETOT: Yeah, every meeting I  
16 mention there's a bear problem in Unit 22 but like Fred  
17 says, we're not used to hunting bear. I seen an  
18 increase around Grantly Harbor, mostly around Grantly  
19 Harbor because there's some camps around Tuksook  
20 Channel that are being visited at least once every year  
21 by some bear that is used to digging into the camps.  
22 So the bear problem is there. We have people -- we  
23 don't have hunters that traditionally hunt bears. And  
24 maybe about four years was the last time I ever had  
25 bear steak, bear meat, and that was a time when the  
26 elders were very active in subsistence activities,  
27 whether it was processing, whether it was harvesting,  
28 whether it was storing, they pretty much did everything  
29 right in front of the younger generation, to show the  
30 process can continue.

31

32 Like I say the bear problem is there  
33 but we're not used to hunting bears, we never had the  
34 tradition of bear hunting go from generation to  
35 generation.

36

37 The animals are there but the hunt is  
38 not -- I mean hunt is not ongoing by the younger  
39 generation, mostly people that come from outside to  
40 harvest a brown bear within the subunit.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Just to reflect on the  
43 numbers here, 100 total bears harvested, 40 of them  
44 were non-resident, 60 of them were resident general  
45 hunt so 60 hunters in our region took bears.

46

47 Anybody else.

48

49 MR. GRAY: I'm doing my part killing  
50 bears.

1 (Laughter)  
2  
3 MR. BUCK: Really good Tom, because you  
4 catch the bears, we appreciate it because we do have a  
5 bear problem in our fish camps really bad and  
6 appreciate it when the people come around and hunt the  
7 bears for us.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Don't be bashful to  
10 take them under the DLP.  
11  
12 (Laughter)  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: If there's no other  
15 questions of Letty we're going to let her off the hook.  
16  
17 (Laughter)  
18  
19 MS. HUGHES: Thank you.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're welcome. We  
22 let Letty go.  
23  
24 (Laughter)  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Our next agency report  
27 is Native organizations and at this point I don't  
28 see.....  
29  
30 MR. CRAWFORD: This is Drew Crawford,  
31 Fish and Game in Anchorage.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....any right --  
34 Drew, you're still on, sorry.  
35  
36 MR. CRAWFORD: Yeah, I've got a few  
37 things I could pass on to you if you've got the time.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.  
40  
41 MR. CRAWFORD: Earlier you were asking  
42 about Fish and Game Advisory Committees in your area  
43 and there's some good information about this on the  
44 Fish and Game website. Click on home regulations,  
45 boards and advisory committees, there's quite a bit of  
46 information there about the committees themselves.  
47 There's maps showing where each one is located. You  
48 can get information about the members. Two AC advisory  
49 committees in your area that affect your RAC are the  
50 Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee, they meet

1 twice a year and Tom Gray and Peter Buck are your RAC  
2 members who also serve on this AC. This particular AC,  
3 according to the website met last on March 3rd and they  
4 were discussing mostly Board of Game Proposal 177,  
5 which is the proposal that Letty just told you about  
6 regarding hunting from a snowmachine. The other AC in  
7 your area is the Souther Norton Sound Advisory  
8 Committee. They also meet twice a year, this is  
9 largely the Unalakleet area, and they met last on March  
10 3rd regarding the same proposal, 177.

11  
12                   There was a gentleman at your meeting,  
13 I believe, this morning from Kawerak, he was talking  
14 about the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
15 meeting that's coming up in Nome in June and the dates  
16 for that meeting are the 2nd through the 10th of June.  
17 He also indicated that it would be important for the  
18 folks in your area to document the level of chum salmon  
19 in your rivers, and I would recommend for him that on  
20 the Fish and Game website there's a report by Jim  
21 Menard and a couple of co-authors that was published  
22 this year, it's the 2012 annual management report for  
23 Norton Sound, Port Clarence and the Arctic, Kotzebue  
24 area. It's called Fisheries Management Report No. 13-  
25 28, it would be a good place for him to start regarding  
26 finding the numbers he needs and he should refer to  
27 Appendix A in that report, there's a wealth of  
28 information.

29  
30                   Over the lunch hour, also, I made an  
31 effort to try to find information for you from the  
32 Department regarding the Pilgrim River Salmon  
33 Escapement Project. As Letty indicated earlier  
34 everybody's gone from Nome and the folks that are here  
35 in town are all at the Board of Fish meeting so I  
36 wasn't able to actually talk to anybody about this.  
37 But you can find some information about this project in  
38 the same report I just told you about that Jim Menard  
39 published, the Fisheries Management Report 13-28 has  
40 some information about this project. I was trying to  
41 find a specific report that summarized what's going on  
42 there but I was unable to do that and haven't heard  
43 back from any Staff that I contacted regarding this.

44  
45                   Over.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks a lot there,  
48 Drew, really appreciate it.

49  
50                   Any questions of Drew.

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No questions, thanks  
4 Drew.  
5  
6 MR. CRAWFORD: You're welcome.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So at this point in  
9 time, Native organizations, I don't think there are any  
10 here represented by anybody.  
11  
12 So we're getting down to Line 12 there,  
13 future meeting dates.  
14  
15 Here we go.  
16  
17 (Laughter)  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Alex.  
20  
21 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, Alex Nick for the  
22 record.  
23  
24 Last meeting your Council chose your  
25 fall 2014 meeting to be held on October 7 and 8th in  
26 Nome, that date need to be confirmed.  
27  
28 Mr. Chair.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Alex.  
31  
32 We got anybody in disagreement, October  
33 7th and October 8th.  
34  
35 (No comments)  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It sounds like  
38 everybody's in agreement that we hold it then.  
39  
40 I think we have to look for the  
41 following spring next year.  
42  
43 Alex.  
44  
45 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Alex Nick for  
46 the record. Your Council need to select winter 2015  
47 meeting and the open dates of the window for the winter  
48 meeting begins on February 9 and closes on March 20th.  
49 The first window week, February 9 through 13 is open.  
50 February -- week of February 16 through 20th there's

1 one Council meeting. Week of February 23 through 27 is  
2 taken. Week of March 2 through March 6 is taken. Week  
3 of March 9 through 13 is open. And week of March 16  
4 through the 20th there's one Council meeting during  
5 that week.

6

7 Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Alex. Anybody  
10 here got a suggestion. Tim.

11

12 MR. SMITH: 17th and 18th.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Of.

15

16 MR. SMITH: Of March.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There's a lot of  
19 activity going on here about that time, we're still on  
20 Iditarod week next.....

21

22 MR. GRAY: It's fine.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Just after, right,  
25 just like this year, just after the fact.

26

27 (Off record comments re meeting dates -  
28 no mics)

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It'd be about the same  
31 time.

32

33 MR. SEETOT: That's Iditarod.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So the week of the  
36 16th of March and you said.

37

38 MR. SMITH: 17th and 18th.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tommy.

41

42 MR. GRAY: Yeah, that's good with me.  
43 You know, my schedule is probably the hardest one to  
44 fill in here because we pick this date because  
45 basically of me, I think, and I'm going to be gone --  
46 like next year I know I'll have a client the last week  
47 of March. The first half of February I'm traveling.  
48 So somewhere in between there we need to, you know, in  
49 my world, so March 17th and 18th is good.

50

1 MR. BUCK: Make a motion. I make a  
2 motion to have the meeting March 17th and 18th.  
3  
4 MR. GRAY: Second.  
5  
6 MR. SMITH: Second.  
7  
8 MR. ENINGOWUK: Second.  
9  
10 MR. GRAY: Three seconds.  
11  
12 (Laughter)  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We've got a motion and  
15 second, is there any more discussion.  
16  
17 (No comments)  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: A call for the  
20 question.  
21  
22 (Laughter)  
23  
24 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, just discussion.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You got discussion,  
27 okay.  
28  
29 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah. Just for Alex,  
30 you know, during that timeframe, you know, Iditarod's  
31 going to be -- the dog teams are going to be off on  
32 March 7th, I'm just wondering if there's going to be  
33 rooms available during that time here at Aurora.  
34  
35 MR. SEETOT: Oh, okay, it should be  
36 done then.  
37  
38 (Off record comments re meeting dates -  
39 no mics)  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It should be around  
42 the first of the month, Fred, and then into the middle,  
43 just like we're meeting right now right after Iditarod.  
44  
45 MR. ENINGOWUK: But it's the first  
46 Saturday in March it starts.  
47  
48 MR. GRAY: It started this year --  
49 let's find a calendar first.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, he's bringing up  
2 the point that the Iditarod starts on the first  
3 Saturday of the month, which falls on the 7th of.....  
4  
5 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, I'm just  
6 wondering if we'll have the space available.  
7  
8 REPORTER: Turn a mic on, somebody, any  
9 mic, on any table.  
10  
11 (Laughter)  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I guess that might not  
14 be a good idea if they follow their program.  
15  
16 MR. GRAY: Well, if they start March  
17 7th, 17th -- how about the 9th and 10th or 10th and  
18 11th.  
19  
20 MR. SMITH: The 10th and 11th would be  
21 better.  
22  
23 MR. GRAY: Yeah, because they won't be  
24 in by then.  
25  
26 MR. SMITH: Right.  
27  
28 REPORTER: You guys.  
29  
30 (Laughter)  
31  
32 MR. GRAY: You'll amend your motion.  
33  
34 REPORTER: Tom.  
35  
36 (Laughter)  
37  
38 MR. GRAY: You'll amend your motion.  
39  
40 MR. SMITH: Yeah.  
41  
42 MR. GRAY: Okay, I'll.....  
43  
44 MR. BUCK: Okay, I'll make it the 10th  
45 and 11th then, I think.....  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Let me make a comment  
48 here, there's the Iditarod basketball tournament at  
49 some point in time in here right after the start so  
50 that may be on the 9th of March through the 14th of

1 March.....  
2  
3 MR. GRAY: Oh.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....and hotel space  
6 is another issue then too.  
7  
8 MR. GRAY: Okay, is.....  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: If we're worried about  
11 hotels.  
12  
13 MR. GRAY: Well, what was the reason we  
14 can't go on the.....  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Staff?  
17  
18 MR. GRAY: .....I thought we could put  
19 two of.....  
20  
21 REPORTER: Hold on, turn a mic on.  
22  
23 MR. GRAY: I'm sorry.  
24  
25 REPORTER: Just have one on at each  
26 table, pick a mic, any mic.  
27  
28 (Laughter)  
29  
30 MR. GRAY: I thought we could put two  
31 of us, where Fairbanks and Naknek is, is there a reason  
32 we can't go on those two weeks?  
33  
34 MR. NICK: Through the Chair. Mr.  
35 Gray, could you repeat your question again, I did not  
36 follow.  
37  
38 MR. GRAY: Okay. If we wanted to go  
39 March 3rd and 4th, is that possible?  
40  
41 MR. NICK: It's not possible because  
42 there's two scheduled RAC meetings during that week.  
43  
44 MR. GRAY: I see one.  
45  
46 MR. SMITH: There's only one on here.  
47  
48 MR. NICK: And the reason is because  
49 they try to make sure that the meetings have Staff  
50 available for their meetings.

1 MR. GRAY: Why?  
2  
3 MR. NICK: We don't have that much  
4 Staff.  
5  
6 MR. GRAY: I see only one.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It's a Staffing -- did  
9 you say there was a couple other days taken up that  
10 week?  
11  
12 MR. NICK: Which week is that, I'm  
13 sorry?  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: March 3rd, or I'm  
16 sorry, March.....  
17  
18 MR. GRAY: Winter 2015 March 3rd and  
19 4th under -- it says Fairbanks.  
20  
21 MR. NICK: There's two meetings during  
22 that week, it's Western Interior on March.....  
23  
24 MR. GRAY: Oh, I see the -- oh, I got  
25 you, okay.  
26  
27 MR. NICK: .....3 and 4, and then  
28 Eastern Interior.....  
29  
30 MR. GRAY: I got you, okay.  
31  
32 MR. NICK: .....moved -- I believe  
33 Eastern Interior March 4 and 5 during that week.  
34  
35 MR. GRAY: Well, the only other time  
36 that is going to be any -- to get me in is this week of  
37 February -- I'm -- I would say if 18th and 19th I'll be  
38 back from -- I go to the East Coast every year and I do  
39 a hunting and fishing show, the first two weeks of  
40 February and I get back a little bit after the middle  
41 of the month so it's either that or go late and --  
42 well, we can't, I usually have a -- if I -- and you  
43 guys can do what you want, I mean it doesn't -- your  
44 meeting will go a heck of a lot faster if I'm not here.  
45  
46 (Laughter)  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Nobody will argue with  
49 us either.  
50

1 (Laughter)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Fred, go ahead.  
4  
5 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, what about the  
6 week of -- why don't we just have, you know, a first  
7 option and if that doesn't work we can go with the  
8 second option.  
9  
10 MR. GRAY: Yeah.  
11  
12 MR. ENINGOWUK: It might work easier,  
13 you know, because, you know, Alex needs to check with  
14 the front desk to see if, you know, rooms are going to  
15 be available.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's fine with me.  
18 Make some suggestions here so we can move on it.  
19  
20 MR. GRAY: When is the basketball  
21 thing?  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, basketball  
24 usually starts the -- let's see if the race takes off,  
25 are we sure they're going to take off Saturday March  
26 7th is the question?  
27  
28 MR. GRAY: Yep. Yep.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is it, okay.  
31  
32 (Council nods affirmatively)  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So they generally try  
35 to time the tournament when the dogs are coming in so  
36 that's all.  
37  
38 MR. SEETOT: That would be in March.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So it would be like  
41 March 15th through the 21st, that week.  
42  
43 MR. SEETOT: No, the 14th is.....  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: They time it when the  
46 dogs are arriving, the tournament is going on at that  
47 same point in time.  
48  
49 MR. SEETOT: But the tournament is done  
50 by the time they have the banquet.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Right. But generally  
2 the tournament starts and it's kind of timed so they  
3 start that there'll be dogs coming in because then  
4 people participate not only in the tournament, they can  
5 go watch the dogs come in, it's kind of a double.....

6  
7 MR. GRAY: Are you on the internet, can  
8 you pull up next year's banquet.

9  
10 MR. KESSLER: I mean there's very  
11 little information. If you look on the Iditarod.....

12  
13 MR. GRAY: There's nothing, uh?

14  
15 MR. KESSLER: .....there doesn't seem  
16 to be anything there but all the people who do tours  
17 all have the dates -- I'll keep looking.

18  
19 MS. PETRIVELLI: Google it.

20  
21 (Laughter)

22  
23 MR. KESSLER: I'm Googling.

24  
25 (Laughter)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Like I said, here we  
28 go.

29  
30 (Laughter)

31  
32 MR. GRAY: How about February 18th and  
33 19th, I mean then I could be here.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No.

36  
37 (Laughter)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You keep stealing my  
40 microphone.

41  
42 (Laughter)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, February 18th to  
45 19th, that's one choice.

46  
47 MR. KATCHEAK: It sounds good to me.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Uh?

50

1 MR. KATCHEAK: It sounds good to me.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, let's settle on  
4 the 18th and 19th of February.  
5  
6 MR. SMITH: Okay.  
7  
8 MR. SEETOT: (Indiscernible)  
9  
10 (Laughter)  
11  
12 MR. BUCK: That was my motion in the  
13 first place.  
14  
15 MR. GRAY: February.  
16  
17 MR. BUCK: Yes.  
18  
19 MR. GRAY: Oh, I didn't know, I thought  
20 it was March.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Was that what your  
23 motion was.....  
24  
25 MR. BUCK: Yes.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....the 18th and 19th  
28 of February?  
29  
30 MR. BUCK: Yes.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I thought we  
33 were talking about March as well. Okay. And who  
34 seconded it?  
35  
36 MR. GRAY: I did. One of the seconds.  
37  
38 MR. SEETOT: You said the 17th.  
39  
40 MR. BUCK: Oh, well, I can go 18 and  
41 19.  
42  
43 MR. GRAY: Yes, if.....  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, the maker of the  
46 motion says 18th and 19th, the second says.....  
47  
48 MR. GRAY: Yes.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Good. Okay, of

1 February.  
2  
3 MR. ENINGOWUK: Question.  
4  
5 MR. SACCHEUS: Question.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, so no more  
8 discussion, call for the question.  
9  
10 (Laughter)  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No more discussion,  
13 but call the question.  
14  
15 MR. SACCHEUS: Question.  
16  
17 (Laughter)  
18  
19 MR. SEETOT: Question.  
20  
21 MR. SMITH: Question.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. All those in  
24 favor of the motion say aye.  
25  
26 IN UNISON: Aye.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those opposed,  
29 same sign.  
30  
31 (No opposing votes)  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, motion passes.  
34  
35 MR. GRAY: Okay, perfect.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. We've got our  
38 falltime meeting already scheduled and next year's  
39 springtime meeting scheduled.  
40  
41 Are there any other.....  
42  
43 MR. GRAY: Oh, I heard we're having it  
44 in Hawaii, uh?  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, we're having it in  
47 Hawaii, yeah, okay.  
48  
49 (Laughter)  
50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So when we  
2 discussed this earlier on we were talking about trying  
3 to get more people involved to come here, finding a  
4 place that has a little more room to expand the seating  
5 capacity. We considered -- I think I mentioned Old St.  
6 Joe's and the mini-convention center. Is there a  
7 preference and is it -- are we able to do that, from  
8 the Staff, Alex, would we be able to call for another  
9 place in time -- we've already got the time and dates.

10

11 MR. NICK: I'm sorry my mind drifted  
12 off.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I know I'm boring but  
17 geez.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. SMITH: Well, let's say Old St.  
22 Joe's.

23

24 MR. NICK: Could you repeat that?

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What I was doing is we  
27 confirmed the dates and locations of the fall 2014  
28 meeting and we just got a 2015 meeting, right, isn't  
29 that what we just did.

30

31 MR. NICK: Yeah.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So the idea of trying  
34 to increase the participation from the public I thought  
35 that -- I know we discussed it a little bit and I made  
36 a couple of suggestions as Old St. Joe's being one of  
37 the meeting places or the mini-convention center, and I  
38 heard another -- Tim mentioned Old St. Joe's, there's  
39 lots of parking space, lots of room.

40

41 Alex.

42

43 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. That shouldn't  
44 be a problem because, you know, as long as there's  
45 conference lines.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, so that would be  
48 -- Tina, can you do that?

49

50 REPORTER: Just a phone line.

1                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Just the phone line,  
2 okay, no, problem, she's got it.  
3  
4                   (Laughter)  
5  
6                   MR. NICK: Just a phone line -- an  
7 available phone line.  
8  
9                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Uh-huh. You got it,  
10 right.  
11  
12                  (Laughter)  
13  
14                  REPORTER: Yes.  
15  
16                  MR. NICK: Sometime in other places  
17 like in Bethel they -- they tell us, you know, we would  
18 have phone line but it would be shared phone line. In  
19 the past we've had some problems with that but, you  
20 know, I assume that it won't be a problem here.  
21  
22                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, so maybe the  
23 first choice is the Old St. Joe's, if there's an issue  
24 with communications then we'd look into the mini-  
25 convention center and this would be the third  
26 alternative.  
27  
28                  MR. NICK: Okay. I'll talk to you  
29 and/or Tim about that.  
30  
31                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Elmer.  
32  
33                  MR. SEETOT: Do they charge for the  
34 room?  
35  
36                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, but I don't  
37 think they charge a lot. I don't know what the  
38 difference.....  
39  
40                  MR. SEETOT: Is it the city?  
41  
42                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, it's the city on  
43 mini and Old St. Joe's so I don't know if it's -- it's  
44 not that much, though.  
45  
46                  MR. GRAY: I'm sure we're paying for  
47 this.  
48  
49                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: It's probably costing  
50 more here than it would be over there, I'm just taking

1 a guess.

2

3 It sounds like a plan, it's up to Alex  
4 to find us a new home.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. We might --  
9 let's see we've got a comment period here, I don't see  
10 anybody from the public, unless Nikki wants to get up  
11 and give us a speech for three hours.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MS. BRAEM: (Shakes head negatively)

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. AnnaRose is the  
20 KNOM radio station representative here and it was nice  
21 to see that they sent somebody over, we appreciate you  
22 being here.

23

24 I guess we're down to Council comments  
25 and we'll start with Tim.

26

27 MR. SMITH: Well, I think it was a very  
28 good and productive meeting and I'm glad to be able to  
29 work with you guys. I think we have some very good  
30 representatives here. I wish we had more participation  
31 from the public and we need to work on that. You know,  
32 we're all delegates of the RAC and we should encourage  
33 people to attend. I put the -- I advertised the  
34 meeting on a couple of -- two FaceBook groups and on  
35 Nome Announce but I did it kind of late, I didn't think  
36 about it in time. But we should keep working on that.

37

38 You know, the fish and wildlife  
39 management in Alaska doesn't work unless you have  
40 public participation. And as you can see from the  
41 harvest information we need to do something.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tim.

44

45 Fred Eningowuk.

46

47 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, still same issues  
48 up in our area, brown bears and occasional muskox  
49 encounters while berry picking. And inadequate snow  
50 this year like everywhere else and we got thousands of

1 caribou up by Good Hope area. And those are all  
2 females, or a majority of them are females up there and  
3 they seem to be pretty healthy up there. And we had  
4 just about adequate snow to go and harvest some. I  
5 didn't get any myself so after -- right after the dog  
6 teams for Iditarod start, you know, the weather turned  
7 bad.

8

9 We had a pretty successful spring hunt  
10 last year so we had a pretty good year.

11

12 I was wondering if we can rescind the  
13 resolution pertaining to WP14-36 22(E) muskox to have  
14 it back in its original opening dates, September 1st to  
15 March 15th.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I thought we had that  
18 discussion that we were going to leave it alone.

19

20 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, I had but.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That we were going to  
23 bring it to the table but then we.....

24

25 MR. ENINGOWUK: We had that discussion  
26 earlier this morning but I had second thoughts during  
27 the lunch break and, you know, there are some hunters  
28 that, you know, try to go hunting.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Let me ask Ken  
31 something here. Ken, you remember I discussed that, we  
32 were talking about changing -- well, it didn't get  
33 brought back to the table because the -- Fred had  
34 agreed to leave it the way it was, but you made a  
35 comment to me why it was what it was, so -- I know this  
36 is at the end of the meeting but we don't want to leave  
37 anything unfinished, I guess.

38

39 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council  
40 members. I believe maybe what I discussed with you are  
41 some concerns I have about it. And one is, in terms of  
42 biology, I think what's been consistently information  
43 that's been presented to the Council, including this  
44 time, that Tony basically said that all indications,  
45 biological indications that we've had over the last  
46 several years are pretty much consistent, high  
47 pregnancy rates and, it was, specifically, I think,  
48 this time in relation to a question on habitat. So, in  
49 spite of the, you know, declining bull/cow ratios,  
50 producing calves doesn't seem to be a problem. What

1 does seem to be a problem is recruitment, in other  
2 words, the recruitment of the yearlings into the herd  
3 and that's generally, I would say, being attributed  
4 perhaps to what Tony mentioned, the social disruption,  
5 the lack of defense mechanisms with the lack of the  
6 large bulls from the herds, and potentially then  
7 consequentially making them making more vulnerable to  
8 predation at certain times of the year.

9

10                   So, you know, in that sense it almost  
11 doesn't matter when the bulls are coming out of the  
12 group, and in the summer, you know, that doesn't seem  
13 to be much of a problem. Taking them out in the later  
14 part of the winter, let's say, just prior to spring,  
15 before they get replaced maybe might be more of a  
16 problem.

17

18                   So I don't think it's really a  
19 biological issue.

20

21                   And as I mentioned, you know, I think  
22 some hunters can tell the difference and would select  
23 younger bulls, other people feel like -- you know, it  
24 seems like the question of stinky meat in the rut seems  
25 to be, you know, not a consistent thing I keep hearing  
26 from every hunter. And so, you know, I mentioned that  
27 there are hunters that like to hunt at that time of the  
28 year by boat and fourwheeler on their -- in certain  
29 areas where they can and the animals are accessible,  
30 and I really don't see any real compelling reason to  
31 shorten that season.

32

33                   So that's the biological end of it.

34

35                   But, to me, almost as important, I  
36 guess, is a procedural question and it bothers me a  
37 little bit that basically we're changing and making a  
38 new regulation. Changing the season was not a part of  
39 the package. You may recall that when I first  
40 presented those proposals in the fall at the opening of  
41 the period, right before we had to get the closing date  
42 to submit them, I did raise the question of -- I was  
43 seeking input from the Council so I could identify  
44 problems in the proposals and fix them before they went  
45 in, you know, finally went in, and I did raise the  
46 question on biological grounds of shortening the season  
47 in the Kuzitrin/Pilgrim area. There was a lot of  
48 discussion and the Council basically rejected that  
49 idea. And so I didn't include it in the proposal  
50 because I just felt it was a no -- a no-go on that

1 topic. What I'm concerned about, changing the seasons,  
2 is, is that people in the communities have no real  
3 opportunity to have any idea that that was going to  
4 happen, they never saw those proposals, they never had  
5 a chance to comment on them, they weren't part of the  
6 package that was part of the consultation process and  
7 so I'm a little concerned about the public process that  
8 produces something like that. And I'd much prefer, I  
9 think, and I think ADF&G would prefer, if they could,  
10 that if we want to make season changes; one, that we  
11 either do it through the cooperators or if that's not  
12 possible, start by communicating with the RACs and ACs  
13 in advance and ultimately the goal would be to try to  
14 produce parallel regulations simultaneously on the  
15 State and Federal side, which is what we've always  
16 tried to do, for the most part, is to try to keep the  
17 seasons and things as much as we can similar under dual  
18 management. And so that lack of public input and  
19 process, I think, disturbs me a little bit.

20

21                   Also, you know, when I mentioned kind  
22 of about the telephone consultations, I said that there  
23 was only one person from the Buckland IRA who called in  
24 on muskox proposals, and that makes it sound like maybe  
25 it's not worth it, but I can tell you that he had a  
26 number of questions and the dialogue as part of that  
27 consultation that went on telephonically, in my  
28 opinion, was very worthwhile. And the fact it was only  
29 one person, that was a key person, I think, in dealing  
30 with the Unit 23 proposal that's similar to this and he  
31 went away very satisfied, I think. So from my point of  
32 view that consultation was a big success, even if it  
33 was with only one person.

34

35                   And so I just -- I feel very  
36 uncomfortable about doing -- changing seasons and  
37 things without that full public review and comment  
38 process.

39

40                   That's my view on it.

41

42                   Because I don't -- I guess I don't  
43 believe in sort of chipping away opportunity when it's  
44 not necessary. And I would point out that even if we  
45 shorten our season, there's still a longer -- you know,  
46 the State's got a season that goes on and they're not  
47 changing theirs, so you're actually taking opportunity  
48 away and once more making the State permits more  
49 attractive than the Federal permits. So I -- to me  
50 it's just a no-win situation.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tom.

2

3 MR. GRAY: The first thing I did when  
4 this came up again is go to the regulation book and see  
5 what's in regulation now because he's asking from  
6 September 1st on and we had voted on October 1st on.  
7 In the regulation book it's August 1st through November  
8 15th. So if we're going to review this thing, I'm  
9 going to suggest we go back to August and go back to  
10 the original one.

11

12 And, you know, I would say if that  
13 region wants to change dates let a proposal come out on  
14 the date issue from that region.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tim.

17

18 MR. SMITH: How can we change it so it  
19 doesn't -- we're extending it to March 15th, as well;  
20 is that right?

21

22 MR. ADKISSON: No, no, let me just  
23 clarify. The current season up in Unit 22E is August 1  
24 to March 15th. When we had a cow hunt it was like the  
25 -- you could take a bull throughout that full period  
26 but a cow could only be taken, I think, December 1st to  
27 March 15th. So there was a winter period in which you  
28 could take a cow, but that went away a couple times ago  
29 and if it's still in the regulation -- which is one of  
30 the reasons we wanted to get rid of the cow hunt out of  
31 the regulation because it's not coming back any time  
32 soon.

33

34 MR. SMITH: So the current regulation  
35 is August 1 to March 15th?

36

37 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, basically.

38

39 MR. SMITH: Well, I think there is -- I  
40 don't really agree with you if there isn't a biological  
41 problem, if you're having low recruitment and you have  
42 low bull/cow ratios and taking -- disrupting a breeding  
43 group during the rut could be a problem and pregnancy  
44 rates don't tell you very much because the danger of  
45 doing that, what happens, is that they breed in a  
46 subsequent estrus, you know, instead of breeding the  
47 first time they become receptive, they would breed the  
48 second time, which means the calves are born late in  
49 the season, which is a problem for calf survival. So I  
50 wouldn't say that there's not a biological reason, I

1 think that's -- or biological -- or conservation issue,  
2 but we don't really know -- do we know how many bulls  
3 have been taken in August -- in September in the past,  
4 historically?

5  
6 MR. ADKISSON: I can't give you that  
7 data right now, I'd have to pull that together. We've  
8 had a lot of that information presented in the past at  
9 different Council meetings, that infinite item. All I  
10 can really tell you is that this year and if -- is  
11 Letty still here, she could correct me if I'm wrong, in  
12 fact, it may be on the table that's in that material,  
13 but it's something like there were 12 permits issued.  
14 Her indication says 14 but that's incorrect because we  
15 left two Federal permits with the community of Wales  
16 and those were never used, so technically they weren't  
17 issued. So this year we had 12 permits out, 10 of  
18 those were State, two of them were Federal, in  
19 Shishmaref, the two Shishmaref ones were filled and I  
20 believe two or three of the State ones were filled for  
21 a total of, I think, five -- five harvested bulls this  
22 year.

23  
24 MR. SMITH: But you don't know when  
25 those -- what part of the year those were taken in?

26  
27 MR. ADKISSON: I can tell you that the  
28 Federal ones came fairly late but I don't know off hand  
29 when the State ones were filled. Although,  
30 traditionally, a few of those get filled fairly quickly  
31 near the communities but I don't know because I haven't  
32 seen the results of that yet.

33  
34 You know, if we had more time, I think,  
35 you know, we probably would have gotten that, tried to  
36 get some of that material more together for the meeting  
37 but things have been so screwy. Normally, we wouldn't  
38 even have that material until after the end of the, you  
39 know, hunt so, yeah.

40  
41 MR. SMITH: Well, I think it'd be more  
42 -- actually it'd be more useful to have it throughout  
43 the -- all the year hunting.

44  
45 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, you know, I mean I  
46 think most of the thing has been -- for the most part,  
47 there's been such a concern with preventing overharvest  
48 we'd simply track the harvest and communicate it. We  
49 could probably go back -- I could probably go back  
50 through a number of emails because I know Merben's been

1 reporting from the BLM, and as soon as we get a report,  
2 you know, on the Federal side we generally report that  
3 to the State and usually they're pretty -- they report  
4 theirs to us, too, so we're tracking the total harvest  
5 so you could go back and actually make a recreation of  
6 it, I suppose but.....

7

8 MR. SMITH: Do you know Letty? Do you  
9 know the answer to that question.

10

11 MS. HUGHES: For the record this is  
12 Letty with Fish and Game, through the Chair. Those are  
13 at the office, so, I mean the dates for when muskox are  
14 being taken, August, September, we can pull that up and  
15 get it for you but I don't have it off the top of my  
16 head.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tommy.

19

20 MR. GRAY: I have a couple of thoughts,  
21 I guess.

22

23 Out of 10 permits we're talking about  
24 three permits or something that is Federal permits up  
25 there. So it's not a huge number of permits but --  
26 but, you know, I used to run animals, I had reindeer  
27 and I would rather lose a bull in the fall because if  
28 that bull is taken out of the herd that herd is going  
29 to go to get bred somewhere else. If you take that  
30 bull out of that herd, let's say March -- like Elmer  
31 just shot a bull, right, I just shot a bull, this is a  
32 bad time of the year to take animals out of the herd  
33 because they're probably not going to recruit new bulls  
34 and those calves that are born this spring are going to  
35 have less of a defensive mechanism. So, you know, we  
36 can argue it both ways, I guess, that it's better to do  
37 it this time of year, or that time of year, you know,  
38 but, again, you know, at this point we're not talking a  
39 lot of animals.

40

41 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair. Drew  
42 Crawford, Fish and Game, Anchorage.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Drew.

45

46 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes. I just wanted to  
47 add I'm looking at the State reg book, that the August  
48 1 to March 15th dates would keep the State Federal regs  
49 the same with the State regs for Unit 22B, east of the  
50 Darbys, Unit 22D remainder and Unit 22E, that all of

1 those have an open season date of August 1 to March  
2 15th.

3

4 Over.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for that info.

7

8 Are we going to revisit those three or  
9 are we going to revisit 22E.

10

11 MR. GRAY: Just his.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, 22E. Since it's  
14 a small amount of animals like Tommy suggested, I think  
15 we ought to just move to bring that back to the August  
16 15th -- or excuse me, August 1st to the March 15th date  
17 and leave well enough alone there and call her good.

18

19 MR. GRAY: You make that motion.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So if you make that  
22 motion we'll move on it.

23

24 MR. ENINGOWUK: I so move, I'll make  
25 the motion that we revise the motion?

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, to rescind --  
28 are we going to have to rescind the motion from  
29 the.....

30

31

32 MR. SMITH: Bring it back up for  
33 reconsideration.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....okay, reconsider.

36

37 MR. SMITH: Reconsider and bring it  
38 back to the table.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Reconsider it for  
41 action.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There you go, my  
46 parliamentary procedure booklet's underneath the table  
47 somewhere. No, we got to.....

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tim's got one out  
2 already but thanks, Alex.  
3  
4 (Laughter)  
5  
6 MR. GRAY: Okay, I'm going to -- for  
7 the sake of whatever, I'm going to get in here.  
8  
9 I make a motion that we reconsider this  
10 22E proposal and change the dates that you can hunt  
11 these animals, change it back to August 1st to -- and  
12 it ends March 15th.  
13  
14 MR. ENINGOWUK: Second the motion.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There's been a first  
17 and a second. Any further discussion.  
18  
19 (No comments)  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those in favor of  
22 the motion say aye.  
23  
24 IN UNISON: Aye.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those opposing,  
27 same sign.  
28  
29 (No opposing votes)  
30  
31 MR. ENINGOWUK: Thank you.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Motion passes. Fred,  
34 are there any other things you want to comment on, that  
35 was your time.  
36  
37 MR. ENINGOWUK: I believe that is --  
38 was it, and that was bothering me during our -- our  
39 lunch time today.  
40  
41 Thank you.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Fred.  
44  
45 Tom, you're up.  
46  
47 MR. GRAY: I'm at a loss for words.  
48  
49 (Laughter)  
50

1 MR. GRAY: Well, you know, I think this  
2 was a good meeting and we've crossed some hard bridges  
3 and in the future we're going to cross more hard  
4 bridges. But this is a good working group and I  
5 appreciate working with all of you guys.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom. I'll  
8 take it last so I'm going to let Peter have the next  
9 go.

10  
11 MR. BUCK: Well, I think this was a  
12 good meeting.....

13  
14 REPORTER: Peter.

15  
16 MR. SEETOT: Microphone.

17  
18 (Laughter)

19  
20 MR. BUCK: This has been a good meeting  
21 and we learned a lot, I've learned a lot.

22  
23 Anyway, I'd just like to say that White  
24 Mountain River, monitoring the river in White Mountain  
25 has been going on for the past three to five years and  
26 we're taking temperatures of that and we had a scare  
27 last week of where the State was trying to take over  
28 the water rights for White Mountain, take over the  
29 water rights in the State, and this is House Bill 77  
30 and that scared us. We did some testimony to the State  
31 down in Juneau to oppose the House Bill 77 and there  
32 was lots of representation from all over Alaska, giving  
33 testimony, and most of them were against the House Bill  
34 but there were some people that want House Bill 77 to  
35 go through because of the amount of money that they'll  
36 be making. And there were some groups that were saying  
37 they want House Bill 77 to go through because of all of  
38 the special interest groups, he was calling the  
39 subsistence people special interest groups that were  
40 opposing the bill. So I'd just like to -- I comment  
41 Kawerak giving us the information to oppose the bill,  
42 other than that we wouldn't have heard about it, so I  
43 comment Kawerak on helping us with our water rights in  
44 White Mountain.

45  
46 And thank you.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Peter.

49  
50 Elmer.

1 MR. SEETOT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 This is one of the meetings that pretty much goes the  
3 full time period, I think it's very good for people  
4 from the -- that we're meeting in the Nome hub because  
5 that's where a majority of the people live and that's  
6 where people from outside the communities come in and  
7 either make -- either come here and stay here or pass  
8 through.

9  
10 But like Tim was saying, that we do  
11 have a problem with public participation. My opinion  
12 on that is that the community members in our villages  
13 selected someone to represent the communities and the  
14 name was either nominated or they tell them to submit  
15 an application to the Seward Peninsula Regional  
16 Advisory Council and with that authority I assume that  
17 the public -- the public is assuming that the person  
18 selected is making -- doing the information, discussion  
19 and doing things that represent the community -- I  
20 think that that's where some of that lays, and then  
21 also I'll rarely say this with the Federal government,  
22 compensation to -- to Council members within Seward  
23 Peninsula is very low and with the Federal budget, you  
24 know, sky high, I don't see much of a good future on  
25 that. It's just politics in play right now.

26  
27 Right now we're trying to represent the  
28 people within the communities, we are subsistence food  
29 gatherers, we look out for the interests within and  
30 outside of the communities that we represent.

31  
32 Thank you.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.

35  
36 Ted.

37  
38 MR. KATCHEAK: Yes. I appreciate this  
39 being a member again after being absent for several  
40 years, a Subsistence Advisory Council member, and I  
41 have a little more understanding on different species  
42 of animals and how they're harvested. Also we have --  
43 because I have a reindeer herd, you know, owner, and we  
44 still depend on subsistence, different animals and  
45 fish.

46  
47 And I thank you for the opportunity to  
48 serve again.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted.

1                                 Reggie.  
2  
3                                 MR. BARR: This was a very good meeting  
4 and I'm just happy to see the lack of red salmon issue  
5 being discussed up in our Teller/Brevig area.  
6  
7                                 Thank you.  
8  
9                                 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Reggie.  
10  
11                                Charles.  
12  
13                                MR. SACCHEUS: Yeah, this was a good  
14 meeting and I thank you all for voting for that August  
15 1 to March 15th opening on moose [sic] because we like  
16 to catch them before they start rutting, bulls. And I  
17 enjoyed the meeting and -- kind of long and boring  
18 but.....  
19  
20                                (Laughter)  
21  
22                                MR. SACCHEUS: .....we accomplished  
23 something, at least, for our people. I hope you guys  
24 have a good spring and good travel home.  
25  
26                                Thank you.  
27  
28                                CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Charles.  
29  
30                                I appreciated the vote of confidence  
31 from the fellow Council members here to place me in  
32 front of you again here to run the microphone, and  
33 thanks for all the help from the Staff, leaned on you a  
34 little bit. And I missed the last meeting so I was  
35 kind of left -- there was a little void there, but,  
36 anyway, the considerations that are made for the report  
37 to be redrafted and for the rest of us to go through, I  
38 appreciate everybody's patience there.  
39  
40                                I also appreciate the patience of  
41 everybody in the room here because we -- I did let  
42 things go, I had public stepping up to the microphone  
43 participating with conversations that we were having as  
44 Council, but I'm trying to encourage the public to  
45 participate and not be afraid of the actual procedures,  
46 the way things are normally run, we're kind of thinking  
47 outside the box here, I suppose.  
48  
49                                But I think that it might help attract  
50 other people to attend these meetings. And, again, I'm

1 going to count on Staff to help us get the word out to  
2 these other entities that we'd appreciate their  
3 participation in the future, near future, and the idea  
4 that we might get a larger area to have our meetings  
5 in, I think that might encourage more participation.  
6

7 Thanks to KNOM for being here. I don't  
8 recall anybody from the news media here in the past,  
9 from when I've been here.

10  
11 I'd like to welcome the new members on  
12 the -- Reggie's new to me because I wasn't here at the  
13 last meeting, but appreciate Ted at the table, and  
14 there's another new member from St. Michael's, correct  
15 -- yes, and so I look forward to working with him too.  
16

17 I'd encourage you folks to, if you've  
18 got anybody in mind to -- when you get home, we've only  
19 got to the 28th, right.....  
20

21 MR. NICK: 21st.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....okay, it's the  
24 21st, something else was the 28th, if you've got  
25 somebody that you can think of make that suggestion to  
26 them. The more participation we have at the table the  
27 better, I think, and in saying that the more  
28 participation from entities outside of the Council  
29 seats are more than welcome to be here.  
30

31 I guess that's pretty much all I have  
32 to say and I thank you folks for the patience you've --  
33 I put you through the mill, I had a Staff member call  
34 me yesterday a real tough guy, because I guess I didn't  
35 give anybody any breaks.  
36

37 So without further adieu, I'd like to  
38 adjourn this meeting.  
39

40 MR. GRAY: So moved.

41  
42 MR. BUCK: Seconded.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think we're all  
45 done.  
46

47 (Laughter)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, we're done until  
50 next time, thank you.

1  
2  
3

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

