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1 SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 Unalakteet Covenant Church Auditorium
5 Unalakteet, Alaska
6 February 11, 2003
7 9:00 o'clock a.m.

8

9

10 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

11

12 Grace Cross, Chairman

13 Peter Buck

14 William Johnson

15 Leonard Kobuk

16 Jake Olanna

17 Elmer Seetot, Jr.

18 Myron Savetilik

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 (Unalakleet, Alaska - 2/11/2003)

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5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I'll call the meeting
6 of the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council to
7 order. Today is February 11th. It's now 9:05 a.m. I'll
8 call the meeting to order. First, I want to welcome
9 everybody here, thank you for coming. And we'll start
10 with introductions and we'll start with the RAC. Elmer.

11

12 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr., Brevig
13 Mission.

14

15 MR. JOHNSON: William Johnson,
16 Unalakleet.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Grace Cross, Nome.

19

20 MR. BUCK: Peter Buck, White Mountain.

21

22 MR. OLANNA: Jake Olanna, Nome.

23

24 MR. SAVETILIK: Myron Savetilik,
25 Shaktoolik.

26

27 REPORTER: Nathan Hile for Computer
28 Matrix Court Reporters.

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And I would appreciate
31 it if the people in the audience would please introduce
32 themselves, too.

33

34 MR. JENNINGS: I'll start over here.
35 Good morning. Tim Jennings, I'm with the Office of
36 Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

37

38 MR. DECICCO: I'm Fred DeCicco, Alaska
39 Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence fisheries
40 biologist.

41

42 MS. COLE: Jeannie Cole. I'm the
43 wildlife biologist, I'm with the BLM Fairbanks office.

44

45 MR. DENTON: Jeff Denton. I'm a
46 biologist, Anchorage Field Office, BLM.

47

48 MR. LEAN: Charlie Lean. I'm with the
49 National Park Service Based in Nome.

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1 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
2 Park Service, Nome.

3
4 MS. TAHBONE: Sandy Tahbone, Kawerak
5 Natural Resource Division.

6
7 MR. TOCKTOO: Fred Tocktoo, National Park
8 Service, Nome.

9
10 MR. JONES: Wes Jones with Alaska
11 Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries
12 Division, Nome.

13
14 MR. ARDIZZONE: Chuck Ardizzone, wildlife
15 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management in
16 Anchorage.

17
18 MR. FRIED: Steve Fried, fisheries
19 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management in
20 Anchorage.

21
22 MR. CHEN: My name is Glenn Chen. I'm
23 with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I'm a fisheries
24 biologist and work with the Federal Subsistence Board.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you very much.
27 Okay, Leonard is not here so we need somebody to do the
28 roll call. Peter. Go ahead, Myron.

29
30 MR. SAVETILIK: Chairman, Grace Cross.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Here. Present.

33
34 MR. SAVETILIK: Leonard Kobuk will be
35 here shortly. William Johnson.

36
37 MR. JOHNSON: Here.

38
39 MR. SAVETILIK: Elmer Seetot, Jr.

40
41 MR. SEETOT: Here.

42
43 MR. SAVETILIK: I'm here. We have a new
44 member, Jake Olanna.

45
46 MR. OLANNA: Here.

47
48 MR. SAVETILIK: Peter Buck.

49
50 MR. BUCK: Yeah.

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1 MR. SAVETILIK: Preston wasn't going to
2 make it up, no?

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Preston's excused.

5
6 MR. SAVETILIK: Okay. And Johnson is
7 excused also.

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: They are. Both of
10 them are excused. Okay, review and adoption of the
11 agenda.

12
13 There's some, I guess, Alaska Department
14 of Fish and Game people that need to be leaving today.
15 Who is that Sandy?

16
17 MR. TAHBONE: Jim Magdanz will be in this
18 morning to do the Nome presentation.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So when he comes in
21 we're going to move the agenda around and make room for
22 him because he's leaving in the afternoon. And then
23 Charlie Lean, are you going to be doing some
24 presentation, too?

25
26 MR. LEAN: No. I'll talk briefly about
27 the meeting we had with the IRA yesterday but that's it.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We can also move you
30 up in the agenda because you have another commitment
31 also.

32
33 MR. LEAN: Yes.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Is there anybody else
36 that needs to leave early that we can move up? You do?

37
38 MR. JONES: If there's any questions for
39 the Commercial Fisheries Division of Fish and Game, I
40 would also like to be moved up.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We can do all three of
43 you together once the other party comes in. So we'll be
44 kind of flexible about that if you have other
45 commitments.

46
47 MR. JOHNSON: Maybe just one thing I'd
48 like to say, is that, well, ahead -- or far in advance
49 when this meeting is going to be and we all take time out
50 to be here and if we keep juggling pretty soon we're

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1 going to have all our participants juggling around to
2 make arrangements, I would just say that in the future
3 maybe commit enough time to be able to be here, maybe for
4 the whole thing. I know it -- with your busy schedules,
5 too, you try to just do a shorter period but if we can
6 even know that in advance when we're working on the
7 agenda then we can take care of it then and it doesn't
8 have to look like we're just accommodating or something.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. And
11 Leonard Kobuk is not going to get here in the morning.
12 So there's some statewide proposals that may affect,
13 along with Unalakleet, that may affect St. Michael and
14 Stebbins and so we're going to wait to look at those
15 until he comes in. If he doesn't come in by 1:00, we'll
16 just go ahead and look at them and leave room for his
17 comments later.

18

19 Is there any more additions to the
20 agenda?

21

22 MR. JOHNSON: I move to accept and adopt.

23

24 MR. SAVETILIK: I second.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: As juggled? Is there
27 a question, call for a question.

28

29 MR. OLANNA: Question.

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Question has been
32 called. There's a motion on the floor to accept the
33 agenda as amended. All those in favor signify by stating
34 aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
39 same sign.

40

41 (No opposing votes)

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries.

44 Review and adoption of the minutes. And again, Leonard
45 is not here, perhaps Mr. Savetilik can go page by page in
46 the minutes. Thank you Mr. Savetilik. Is there a motion
47 to review and adopt the agenda [sic].

48

49 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair, I so move.

50

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1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Is there a second?

2

3 MR. BUCK: Second.

4

5 MR. BUCK: Second.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Mr. Savetilik.

8

9 MR. SAVETILIK: You want me to go ahead

10 and read that?

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Page by page, they

13 start on Page 5.

14

15 MR. SAVETILIK: The Seward Peninsular
16 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Aurora Inn
17 Conference Room, Nome, Alaska, October 10, 2002. Members
18 present were Grace Cross, Leonard Kobuk, William Johnson,
19 Elmer Seetot, Jr., Myron Savetilik, Perry Mendenhall.
20 Excused were Johnson Eningowuk, Peter Buck and Preston
21 Rookok.

22

23 Mr. Mendenhall came in late. He missed
24 the roll call and was listed as absent. Mr. Eningowuk
25 and Mr. Rookok just got hired as new employees and did
26 not want to leave during their probationary periods. Mr.
27 Buck was working with his community to be an advocate for
28 them.

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Myron.

31

32 MR. SAVETILIK: Federal and State

33 agencies.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Myron, could we just
36 go Page 1, and if there's corrections in that then people
37 can state so and then we can go Page 2.

38

39 MR. SAVETILIK: Okay.

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

42

43 MR. SAVETILIK: Is there any corrections

44 on Page 1 -- or Page 5?

45

46 (No response)

47

48 MR. SAVETILIK: Hearing none, Page 2.

49

50 (No response)

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1 MR. SAVETILIK: Page 3.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: On the part where it
4 has election of officers. Actually the motion was to
5 table election of officers, but the way I worded mine was
6 like having the elections now, actually it was for -- I
7 think some sort of explanation needs to be added there
8 because the motion was actually to table the elections.

9

10 MR. SAVETILIK: Madame Chair, on the
11 agenda for the -- we have the election of officers, is
12 that today?

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

15

16 MR. SAVETILIK: That was the only thing
17 that you have on that Page 3, right?

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

20

21 MR. SAVETILIK: Page 4.

22

23 (No response)

24

25 MR. SAVETILIK: Page 5.

26

27 (No response)

28

29 MR. SAVETILIK: Page 6.

30

31 (No response)

32

33 MR. SAVETILIK: Page 7.

34

35 (No response)

36

37 MR. SAVETILIK: I'll just name the page
38 at the bottom. Page 12.

39

40 (No response)

41

42 MR. SAVETILIK: Page 13.

43

44 (No response)

45

46 MR. SAVETILIK: Page 14.

47

48 (No response)

49

50 MR. SAVETILIK: Page 15.

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1 MR. BUCK: I'd like to know if there was
2 any follow-up on the questions from Ms. Cross and Ken
3 Adkisson later on whenever?

4
5 MR. SAVETILIK: Was that on Page 15?
6

7 MR. BUCK: Yeah, on 15. I'd like to
8 receive the comments that were received from these
9 comments later on in the meeting.

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's letters
12 attached addressing these issues.

13
14 MR. BUCK: Okay.

15
16 MR. SAVETILIK: Page 16.

17
18 (No response)

19
20 MR. SAVETILIK: Page 17.

21
22 (No response)

23
24 MR. SAVETILIK: Page 18.

25
26 (No response)

27
28 MR. SAVETILIK: Page 19.

29
30 (No response)

31
32 MR. SAVETILIK: Page 20.

33
34 (No response)

35
36 MR. SAVETILIK: Page 21.

37
38 (No response)

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you very much.

41
42 MR. BUCK: I make a motion to adopt these
43 minutes of the last meeting.

44
45 MR. OLANNA: Second.

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion on
48 the floor to adopt the minutes of the last meeting. All
49 in favor signify by stating aye.

50

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1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
4 same sign.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries.

9 Council reports. Village concerns from all members.

10 We'll start with Elmer.

11

12 MR. SEETOT: Thank you, Madame Chair.

13 Not much to report except we had a -- our snow season was

14 pretty weird until December. I think our bay didn't

15 freeze until December 25. Right now there are few

16 hunters that are harvesting caribou east of the Kougarok

17 Road. I don't think that muskox has been harvested on

18 Federal lands that have Federal permits, but I know that

19 there are one or two people that harvested muskox on

20 State lands.

21

22 That is all I have, thank you.

23

24 MR. JOHNSON: Some of our concerns that
25 came out of our annual meeting with the Native Village of
26 Unalakleet was spawning habitat for salmon. We were
27 wondering if we're doing anything that might destruct
28 that and we've requested maybe some studies be done or
29 projects be taken up that involve looking at what effect,
30 either jet boats or props have going through spawning
31 habitat or if we know where the majority of the spawn is
32 taking place, what time of year and how can we minimize
33 these effects.

34

35 Some of the other concerns were with
36 sportfishing, getting into areas of we haven't had any
37 commercial fishing for awhile. Subsistence is shut down
38 for 36 hours, I believe it is, during the week and have
39 been almost cut off from sportfishing when the returns
40 were too low, I mean, from subsistence fishing and sport
41 would continue. We had a catch and release study that
42 just came out with the Sportfish Division or with the
43 State, and that addressed some of our concerns with the
44 coho mortality rates and we just feel that, you know, for
45 getting close to shutting down subsistence, that we have
46 to look at sportfish a little bit more as to what
47 measures we can take to make sure that it doesn't hurt
48 the little bump that got us over to stay open in
49 subsistence. Another one is we don't really have an in-
50 season measurement of how much fish is being harvested by

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1 sport, whereas we do with commercial and subsistence.
2 And during those times of concern, we should have some
3 way to gage what's being taken out by the sportfisherman.

4

5 Other than that, caribou haven't returned
6 again. They've kind of gone east. The moose season was
7 particularly good. We don't encourage -- and the guides
8 that do operate here recognize our problem and don't
9 really take any moose out of here. There is some bear
10 guiding that goes on.

11

12 That's all.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, both of
15 you. Well, it hasn't been easy around Nome area. One of
16 the problems we have is we don't have -- we're not
17 completely frozen so people that normally crab have not
18 really -- I think very people there now, because of the
19 lack of snow I haven't heard of too much caribou being
20 taken either. Of course our moose season was bad. So
21 overall it has not been a very good season for Nome.
22 Although we had a very good blueberry season. It's just
23 been a -- we still have problems with fish and our fish
24 shortages, so hopefully we'll have a better year next
25 year.

26

27 Peter.

28

29 MR. BUCK: Yeah, White Mountain, our
30 salmon season wasn't too bad. We did get some salmon
31 last year. Our berries froze last summer, we had a lot
32 of blueberries, no salmonberries. Caribou was available,
33 is still available. And our crabbing season, for the
34 second year in a row has -- the ice didn't freeze out
35 there. It hasn't been cold enough for the crabbing. But
36 we did -- are getting some crabbing, a little bit more
37 than last year but the ice is still -- hasn't freezed
38 this year.

39

40 And that's about all.

41

42 MR. OLANNA: Grace gave a report in Nome,
43 but recently I took a job in Shishmaref and since
44 Johnson's not here I'll give you a brief history on
45 Shishmaref's hunting this year.

46

47 This year the people in Shishmaref were
48 real fortunate that there's caribou that are closer to
49 the community. I know their tomcod season this year was
50 real late because of the ice conditions in the lagoon.

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1 But like I said, I just moved to Shishmaref, I haven't
2 really moved, I'm really just working there.

3

4 But Nome had a real bad -- we had no good
5 ice to go out tomcodding this year unfortunately. Like
6 Grace said, we anticipate the ice freezing so we can go
7 do some crabbing.

8

9 That's about all I have.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

12

13 MR. SAVETILIK: For Shaktoolik, we
14 haven't seen any caribou too. We're just wondering
15 what's wrong with our ecosystem, they're going west
16 instead of east. You know, could be the weather, could
17 be early openings from different districts that are up
18 further from us. We're still looking at it.

19

20 We just recently started crabbing and
21 we're not getting as much as we used to. That's another
22 thing.

23

24 Other than that, there was no
25 salmonberries this summer either. Lots of blueberries.

26

27 I don't think there was hardly any
28 commercial fishing either. There's always something
29 that's coming -- blocking, you know, our subsistence,
30 too, because it could be the change in the weather or
31 it's just, where are the fish, or where are our meat? We
32 never used to worry about that a long time ago. The
33 population in Alaska is getting -- the villages are
34 getting a lot larger, I mean, you know, and we've always
35 turned to our elders to what we can do to -- what we
36 should be doing and I still rely on that. And, you know,
37 our weather is getting to where it's getting warmer or is
38 it -- you know, it's changed a lot since I was growing up
39 and the rivers and, you know, the land is getting to
40 where we've gotten a lot warmer and the changes that's
41 been going on with the animals or the fish that we
42 haven't seen in a long time, or is it just the
43 management; we don't know yet. You know, it's just a
44 matter of looking at the details on what we should be
45 doing especially as individuals to look at what can be
46 done.

47

48 That's all I have.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Does

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1 anybody have any questions for any of the Advisory
2 Council members?

3

4 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair.

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

7

8 MR. OLANNA: Jack Olanna, since there are
9 no questions. Barb just passed you a letter,
10 correspondence from the Native Village of Wales in
11 reference to -- I'd like to put that on as other business
12 on the agenda, if I may, that we review this proposal by
13 Wales IRA Council. There's two proposals actually, but
14 it has to do with the ceremonial harvest of muskox and
15 moose, for an extension on the date. Madame Chair. You
16 have a copy of the correspondence in front of you, it's
17 from the Native Village of Wales.

18

19 That's all I have.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. We could add it
22 on probably -- how do you want to handle this?

23

24 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Tim, would that be a
25 request for like a special action, asking for an
26 extension from March 15th?

27

28 MR. JENNINGS: I don't know, I haven't
29 seen the letter.

30

31 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We'd handle that as a
32 special action request. It should have been faxed to me
33 in Anchorage and I'll have to get going with it today and
34 working with Pat.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: But should we put it
37 for an informational item under new business, maybe?

38

39 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: If you want to, if you
40 want to discuss it.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We can put under new
43 business, special action request.

44

45 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

46

47 MR. OLANNA: Thank you, Madame Chair.

48

49 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: 13A, special action.

50

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1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We will handle it
2 under 13A. Anything further. Anybody else?

3
4 (No response)

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Hearing nobody
7 volunteering or jumping up and down we'll move on along
8 to the Chair's report.

9
10 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair.

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Ken.

13
14 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
15 Park Service. You might also want to add under the new
16 business, discussion of the caribou regulations in 22(D)
17 and (E). What brought this about was, and its comments,
18 I think, on some of the Federal proposals for 22(E), the
19 State raised a question about whether, especially in
20 22(E) having it closed, or no open Federal season at the
21 same time you had an open State season was confusing to
22 users and this would especially affect the folks in
23 Brevig Mission who are hunting east of the Kougarok Road.
24 And so I don't think it's a real action item at this
25 stage, maybe, but I think it merits some discussion and
26 you might like to add that to your new business and I
27 could share with you the information I have and it might
28 prompt a discussion among the Council members and maybe
29 lead to some guidance.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Is it something that
32 we can discuss under you (B), in the reports, agency
33 reports?

34
35 MR. ADKISSON: Wherever you want to deal
36 with it, I guess, is fine.

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think the most
39 appropriate place would be National Park Service, Ken
40 Adkisson, 12D.

41
42 MR. ADKISSON: Okay.

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. So it'd be
45 22(D) and (E).

46
47 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (D) and (E), caribou
48 in 22(D) and (E) under 12, National Park Service.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Anything else.

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1 (No response)

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. We'll move on
4 along to Chair's report. Again, I'm not going to read
5 the .805 letter because I'm pretty sure it's quite
6 explanatory.

7

8 Review of the Council Chair composition
9 for compliance with FACA. I'd like Tim Jennings to
10 update us briefly on that one. Thank you, Tim.

11

12 MR. JENNINGS: Good morning, Madame Chair
13 and Council members. My name is Tim Jennings and I'm
14 with the Office of Subsistence Management.

15

16 Grace has asked me to provide you with an
17 update of the Council membership balance or FACA
18 compliance issue. There are a couple of letters that are
19 in your book that you may want to refer to. I'll give
20 some background comments and then we'll open it up for
21 questions.

22

23 On Page 25 there's a letter from Mr. Tom
24 Boyd, the Office of Subsistence Management responding to
25 a letter from your Chair, Grace Cross. On Page 28
26 there's a letter from your Chair, Grace Cross back to Mr.
27 Boyd. And then you'll see on Page 29 a follow-up letter
28 from Mr. Boyd back to Madame Chair. So there were a
29 couple of letters that went back and forth on this issue.

30

31 Let me just briefly give you some
32 background comments and as you have a chance to read
33 these letters then we can open it up for questions and
34 see if you have any other items that I've not covered in
35 my comments that you'd like to discuss.

36

37 I think most of you will recall about a
38 year ago at this time, we received direction from the
39 Deputy Secretary of Interior Jay Steven Griles to review
40 the Council membership balance for all 10 Regional
41 Councils in the state. This was part of a broader
42 nationwide review of FACA committees that the Department
43 of Interior has throughout the nation. And basically the
44 Deputy Secretary directed us to look at the Council
45 membership to see if other interests like sport and
46 commercial users were adequately represented in this
47 process. A review was undertaken and then last fall the

48 Deputy Secretary approved a couple of changes to all 10
49 Regional Councils in the state.
50

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1 The first change dealt with membership
2 numbers. We're going from, in some cases, seven or nine
3 members to 10 members for most of the Councils in the
4 state and three Councils will have 13 members. For this
5 Council, Seward Peninsula, your membership was nine
6 members plus two alternates. The new number of members
7 will become 10 beginning this coming year, alternates
8 have been phased out.

9
10 The second change that occurred that
11 Deputy Secretary Griles approved was to establish
12 designated seats. Clearly the purpose of these Councils
13 relate to subsistence use under Title VIII of ANILCA,
14 that was to be maintained so there's a designation of
15 seats of 70 percent of the membership. So for your
16 Council, by increasing to 10 members, 70 percent of 10
17 will be seven seats will be designated for subsistence
18 users. The remaining three seats will be designated for
19 commercial or sport users.

20
21 These changes will begin this coming year
22 with the new nomination cycle. There's a new application
23 form whereby anybody applying to the Council still has to
24 be a resident of the region and then they will designate
25 on the form whether they wish to represent and be
26 considered for one of the seven subsistence seats or the
27 commercial or sport seat. So there'll be a self-
28 designation of which user group an applicant wishes to
29 represent.

30
31 The changes will begin this year but
32 there's a three year phase in period that was recommended
33 and approved by the Secretary, and this was to provide a
34 transition period so that all changes wouldn't take place
35 at once and would try to minimize disruptions.

36
37 In the original letter and follow-up from
38 Madame Chair, Grace Cross, there have been concerns
39 raised about the continued geographic representation for
40 this area to adequately cover the different subsistence
41 villages. You know now have nine members that represent
42 the different geographic areas. When we fully implement
43 there will be seven subsistence seats and three
44 commercial/sport seats. So there is a concern that going
45 from nine to seven could potentially reduce adequate
46 geographic coverage for subsistence users. I think the

47 Board will take this into consideration as we move
48 forward to phase in to try to maintain the geographic
49 representation adequately. Ultimately the decisions on
50 appointments are made by the Secretary's office, and

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1 that's in Washington, D.C., so we can't necessarily
2 guarantee here that the recommendations of the Board will
3 be implemented by the Secretary but we will bring these
4 concerns before the Board and I think the Board will be
5 sensitive to those geographic concerns.

6

7 The other issue that was raised by Madame
8 Chair Cross was to increase the membership of this
9 Council from 10 to 13 members, and that would maintain
10 adequate representation for the subsistence designated
11 seats, going from nine to 10 and then have the three
12 additional seats be sport/commercial. The change in
13 membership numbers requires a change in the charters for
14 the Councils and those charters are then approved, any
15 changes are approved by the Secretary's office. And so
16 you'll see in one of Mr. Boyd's letters, the next
17 opportunity to do that will be next year in 2004. So at
18 that time if this Council wishes to have the membership
19 size increase you can request that, you can make a
20 recommendation that will go through the Federal
21 Subsistence Board and then to the Secretary's office.

22

23 And I think that pretty well covers it.
24 The key points additionally, again, are that this is a
25 three year phase in so not all of the seats are
26 envisioned to become filled by the commercial and sport
27 in one year, that was to allow a transition period. And
28 Madame Chair, I'll stop there and see if you have any
29 other questions or other Council members have questions.

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I have a question.
32 There's two Council members that are up, their years are
33 up next year, now if neither one of them apply, are those
34 positions going to be allocated to non-subsistence users
35 or will they be filled with a subsistence user or do you
36 know?

37

38 MR. JENNINGS: I don't know, I think
39 you're referring to Elmer's and Johnson's seats are up
40 next year and then we gain one more seat through the
41 increased membership, so if -- so the question is if
42 either Elmer or Johnson do not apply, will those seats be
43 redesignated? I don't know the answer to that. I think
44 it will depend on who applies and the quality of the
45 applicants. The Federal Subsistence Board has said they
46 want to only recommend to the Secretary nominees who are

47 well qualified to serve on the Council. There is this
48 three year phase in that I mentioned. I would anticipate
49 that the one additional seat that we gain in this Council
50 would be a designated sport or commercial seat, I don't

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1 know about the other two. I think if Johnson and Elmer
2 reapplied, I think there would be some consideration
3 given to the need for the geographic representation that
4 we've talked about and to allow a phase in. I think it's
5 reasonable to expect that not all three seats would be
6 designated sport or commercial next year. But, you know,
7 ultimately that decision is made by the Secretary's
8 office. The Secretary's office has committed to a three
9 year phase in period.

10

11 MR. BUCK: Yes, my name is Peter Buck.
12 Since this is a Federal Subsistence Board, I have
13 objections for putting in the sports and commercial seats
14 in. I don't know how they're squeezing them in but I
15 have objection to that, I think it should be a full 100
16 percent subsistence board. So I'd just show my
17 objections to this, the seats.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I'd like to make a
20 correction. I think originally we had a nine member
21 board and two alternates so I think we're an 11 member
22 Council originally so we're not gaining one person we're
23 losing one person. And in replacing, we'll be losing
24 more than one person if three of the seats are given to
25 non-subsistence users, actually the subsistence users are
26 going to be losing four seats out of this Council. And
27 that means four representatives of our region are going
28 to be eliminated from the communities. I just want to
29 make that correction.

30

31 Anybody else have any comments or
32 questions for Mr. Jennings?

33

34 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

37

38 MR. SEETOT: To Mr. Jennings, .801
39 ANILCA, is that, the commercial and sport users, are they
40 contrary to what is in ANILCA .801, meaning that, you
41 know, that rural residents of Alaska have priority on
42 subsistence resources but does it cover other uses under
43 .801 of ANILCA?

44

45 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair and Mr.
46 Seetot. This doesn't change the focus of Title VIII of

47 ANILCA, it remains subsistence. And the Council process
48 remains a subsistence oriented process. The Federal
49 Subsistence Board remains oriented towards subsistence
50 users and to provide a priority as appropriate. The

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1 change involves the Secretary's offices belief that other
2 consumptive users would benefit from having a more direct
3 dialogue with the process but not to overrun the process
4 or to change its intent. So although there will be these
5 designated seats for commercial and sport interest, we
6 will still be evaluating subsistence proposals. We will
7 not be evaluating commercial or sport proposals. The
8 designated seats for commercial and sport users, they
9 will represent their interests but they can vote how they
10 wish after they hear all of the information through a
11 Staff analysis, through Department comments, public
12 comments, they are free to vote how they want to on
13 subsistence proposals.

14

15 So, again, it doesn't change the intent
16 of Title VIII of ANILCA. Title VIII is still a strong
17 subsistence priority statute in Federal law.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: When you and I were
20 talking yesterday morning you were mentioning -- maybe
21 you can explain what recreational users are. Remember, I
22 think, I sent you an e-mail about a dog musher being
23 interested in applying for a RAC on the recreational card
24 and there was another entity who was looking for -- you
25 got a bird watcher or an animal watcher, it sounds like
26 we -- like I said, we might have oddball applications and
27 I really would appreciate if you could clarify what a
28 recreational user is for the RAC.

29

30 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, it's our view and I
31 think the Department will support this view that the
32 designated seats will be for other consumptive uses of
33 the fish and wildlife, like commercial and sport
34 fishermen or guides through the taking of wildlife or
35 fish. And since Title VIII is a consumptive law and
36 regulation, we don't believe that the intent of the
37 Secretary to have other interests that are non-
38 consumptive users to potentially hold one of these three
39 seats, for instance, bird watching or kayakers or boaters
40 who do not actually harvest the resource. We don't
41 believe that those folks will be given -- if they apply,
42 will be given consideration because they're not
43 consumptive users of the resource.

44

45 So the intent is to provide a dialogue
46 for those other consumptive users, commercial fishermen,

47 where appropriate sportsfishermen or the guides for
48 fishing or wildlife.

49

50 MR. JOHNSON: So a dog user would be a

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1 consumptive user even if he is for recreational or
2 commercial, to enter races, because he's harvesting fish
3 for his dogs, would be a safe thing to say?

4

5 MR. JENNINGS: I don't know how that
6 would be evaluated. I mean clearly everybody could say
7 on a personal level were a consumptive user of the
8 resource, but the overall purpose of their organization
9 or group would have to, as I understand it, be primarily
10 aimed at consumptive uses, and I would submit that dog
11 mushing is not primarily a consumptive use of fish and
12 wildlife resources, it's more dog mushing.

13

14 MR. JOHNSON: But then you're using the
15 resource, which is fish, that is not consumptive?

16

17 MR. JENNINGS: It is but I don't know if
18 it rises to the level that the Department thought was
19 important to have designated seats for. So I can't
20 answer your question conclusively at this point how --
21 how that type of an applicant might fair in a sport or
22 commercial seat.

23

24 There will be questions like that that
25 will have to be worked out over the three year phase in
26 and beyond.

27

28 MR. BUCK: I think that this is the
29 sports and commercial people putting their foot in the
30 door and keeping it there, that's my impression of what
31 they're doing with the seats.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any further comments
34 or questions.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

39

40 MR. JENNINGS: You're welcome.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. Moving on back,
43 there's a customary trade update briefing on 7C. Is it
44 in here, yes, Page 30. Unless anybody has any questions,
45 I think it's pretty self-explanatory also. Do we want to
46 discuss this? Elmer. Anybody.

47

48 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair, so this was

49 discussed by the Chairs at one of their meetings?
50

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1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: This was January 14th,
2 it was brought before the Federal Subsistence Board and
3 they adopted the new regulations clarifying customary
4 trade practices, subsistence caught fish, and Page 31 is
5 pretty much the language. Do you have anything to add?

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The non-Federal
10 Subsistence Board members, which were the Chairs, did not
11 have much objection to it. We just wanted to make sure
12 that one of the things that they keep in mind is the
13 regional differences. We do trade differently in many
14 ways and we wanted to make sure that is acknowledged.
15 And I guess in different parts of the regions some do
16 sell more and some sell less. In a way, in our region
17 it's not so much of a problem because we have a problem
18 with a lack of fish.

19
20 Any further discussion or comments for
21 Mr. Jennings.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Statewide
26 rural determination is 7B. There was a January 15th
27 public meeting that was postponed and there was a
28 decision that was made to conduct a peer review of a
29 technical report that would describe two methods that may
30 be used for determining which communities are rural and
31 which are non-rural. And if you wish to expand on it,
32 Mr. Jennings, you may.

33
34 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, that's the
35 basic information, that the meeting was postponed to
36 allow more time for further review, peer review of this
37 report to the Federal Subsistence Board on methodology by
38 a contractor. So the next steps will be this peer review
39 followed by Board decision on a methodology and then
40 ultimately probably next year, in 2004, we will involve
41 the Councils in commenting on the methodology and
42 ultimately in making the rural determinations on a
43 statewide basis.

44
45 So this will be an ongoing issue that
46 will come back before your Council and we'll keep you
47 updated in terms of our progress.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I guess most of you
50 understand this came around because of the determination

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1 of the Kenai Peninsula.

2

3 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, actually a
4 correction. In our regulations there's a requirement for
5 the Federal Subsistence Board to reassess the rural/non-
6 rural determinations every 10 years. So this is part of
7 the 10-year cycle.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Is there anything
10 further on statewide rural determination?

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think at this point
15 I'm going to ask for a recess of 10 minutes. I want to
16 check, number 1, to see if Leonard is here, and let's
17 take a 10 minute break. Thank you.

18

19 (Off record)

20

21 (On record)

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I will call the
24 meeting of the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional
25 Advisory Council back to order. It's now 10:15 a.m. We
26 were under Chair's report.

27

28 I want to report to everybody that I did
29 not go to the Federal Subsistence Board meeting when it
30 was held last. I had a family emergency and it was like
31 a very last minute medical emergency so no alternate went
32 either. But we had no proposals either. And if there's
33 something that needs to be reported, Barb, do you have
34 anything?

35

36 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No, I don't. Thank
37 you.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So if this wasn't a
40 family emergency and if it wasn't last minute, I would
41 have asked Barb to find an alternate but we didn't even
42 have a chance to do that. So that's the reason why I
43 don't have a report. But I did go to the customary trade
44 update which was a week later.

45

46 Does anybody have any questions for me?

47

48 (No questions)

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, moving along.

00022

1 Public testimony. This opportunity continues throughout
2 the meeting. There are some green forms over there if
3 anybody from the public would like to testify. You need
4 to fill out the form and give it to the coordinator who
5 is Barb Armstrong and then she'll give them to me and
6 we'll call you as we do the meeting, the entire day.

7

8 We are now to election of officers.

9

10 MR. JOHNSON: Grace, before we go on,
11 just to note, the facilities, the two bathrooms seem to
12 have a slightly frozen pipe or something but the church
13 is open and if you go out, it's the brown building across
14 the way, if you go right downstairs all the way in the
15 back there's bathroom facilities and wash areas. So
16 these two are closed for right now due to the problem.
17 We apologize for the inconvenience.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

20

21 MR. BUCK: Madame Chair can we table this
22 until Leonard is here for election of officers.

23

24 MR. OLANNA: I support that, Madame
25 Chair.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Pardon?

28

29 MR. OLANNA: Postpone the election of
30 officers until Leonard Kobuk gets here.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Everybody in
33 concurrence?

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So postpone the
38 election of officers until Leonard comes, any opposition
39 to this?

40

41 (No opposition)

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: No, okay. Okay, we'll
44 wait for the election of officers until Leonard Kobuk
45 gets here. And he's supposed to be getting here about
46 11:30 so maybe we can just do the election of officers
47 right after lunch. We're now to number 10, wildlife
48 proposals for Council review and recommendation to the
49 Federal Subsistence Board. Proposal 1. Pat.

50

00023

1 MS. MCCLENAHAN: Pat McClenahan, Office
2 of Subsistence Management. Is it all right if I present
3 from here or shall I go over there, can everybody -- you
4 want me to go over there?

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

7
8 MS. MCCLENAHAN: Proposal WP03-01 was
9 submitted by the Office of Subsistence Management. This
10 proposal requests that the Federal Subsistence Board
11 establish a statewide regulation allowing the taking of
12 wildlife for religious and ceremonial potlatch purposes.
13 Federal Subsistence regulations allow for the taking of
14 wildlife for outside of the proposed seasons and harvest
15 limits for ceremonial purposes. Adoption of this
16 proposal would standardize and simplify Federal
17 Subsistence wildlife regulations and it would extend an
18 opportunity to all Federally-qualified subsistence users
19 to harvest wildlife for use in traditional religious
20 ceremonial potlatches.

21
22 The proposed regulation requires that the
23 harvesting does not violate recognized principles of fish
24 and wildlife conservation and prior notice must be given
25 to the delegated Federal land manager, local Federal land
26 manager.

27
28 Existing regulations are varied around
29 the state and they are lengthy. They can be found in
30 Appendix A that begins on Page 47 in your book. I'm not
31 going to go over them here.

32
33 The proposed regulation is:

34
35 Statewide wildlife. You may take
36 wildlife outside the seasons or harvest
37 limits provided in this part for food in
38 traditional religious ceremonies which
39 are part of a funerary or mortuary cycle,
40 including memorial potlatches if the
41 person organizing the religious ceremony
42 or the designee contacts the appropriate
43 Federal land management agency prior to
44 taking or attempting to take game and
45 provides to the appropriate Federal land
46 managing agency the name of the decedent,
47 the nature of the ceremony, the species
48 and number to be taken and the unit or
49 units in which the taking will occur.

50

00024

1 The taking does not violate recognized
2 principles of fish and wildlife
3 conservation.

4
5 Each person who takes wildlife under this
6 section must, as soon as practicable, and
7 not more than 15 days after the harvest,
8 submit a written report to the
9 appropriate land managing agency
10 specifying the harvesters name and
11 address, the number, sex and species of
12 wildlife taken. The date and locations
13 of the taking. And the name of the
14 decedent for whom the ceremony was held.

15
16 No permit or harvest ticket is required
17 for taking under this section. However,
18 the harvester must be an Alaska rural
19 resident with customary and traditional
20 use in that area where the harvesting
21 will occur.

22
23 Relevant State of Alaska regulations. In
24 November of 2002, the State Board of Game passed hunting
25 regulations that allow for the taking of big game for
26 certain religious ceremonies. A written permit is not
27 needed, but prior notification through a tribal chief or
28 village council is required. A written report after the
29 harvest is required. On an annual basis, the State lists
30 areas where specific large mammals in specific areas
31 cannot be taken for ceremonial purposes because of
32 shortages of that resource.

33
34 Federal regulatory history. Since 1991
35 Federal Subsistence regulations have contained provisions
36 in subpart B allowing the Board to authorize the taking
37 of fish and wildlife outside of prescribed seasons and
38 harvest limits for special purposes including ceremonies
39 and potlatches. The Board has, on a case by case basis,
40 implemented unit-specific provisions either through
41 regulatory changes or special actions allowing the taking
42 of wildlife for the cultural educational or religious
43 programs and ceremonies.

44
45 As of the 2002/2003 regulatory year, such
46 provisions exist in 13 of the 26 wildlife management
47 units.

48
49 While there is variation between these
50 unit-specific regulations, the Board has required that

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1 the harvesting of the resources does not violate
2 recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation
3 and that the following be provided to the appropriate
4 Federal manager.

5
6 Information about the activity, and in
7 the case of funerary or mortuary
8 ceremonies, the name or names of decedent
9 or decedents. Reporting of the species
10 sex, number, location and timing of the
11 harvest. And the name and address of the
12 harvester or harvesters.

13
14 The Board also has required:

15
16 That the harvester be a qualified rural
17 subsistence user for the species and area
18 in which the harvest occurs.

19
20 Additionally, in most cases the
21 appropriate Federal manager must be
22 notified prior to attempting to harvest
23 the resource.

24
25 The organized communal consumption of
26 wild or Native foods is a central feature of Alaska
27 Native cultural gatherings. The serving of fish and
28 wildlife reaffirms ethnic identity and ties to the land
29 and the resources. Participation in such feasting
30 serves to transmit, sustain and reinforce cultural
31 values, beliefs, practices, traditions, social order and
32 group solidarity.

33
34 While all Alaska Natives ceremonially
35 recognize the passing of group members, not all of
36 Alaska's people hold funerary, mortuary or mortuary
37 potlatches. This fact became relevant to Federal
38 Subsistence management during the Regional Advisory
39 Council's contemplations of FP03-27 that proposed
40 allowing the use of fish for such ceremonies statewide.

41
42 What are the effects of the proposal?
43 Adoption of this proposal should have minimal impacts on
44 wildlife populations. It would standardize and simplify
45 Federal Subsistence regulations pertaining to the taking
46 of wildlife for use in traditional religious ceremonies.
47 It would shorten by five days the post harvest reporting
48 period that was adopted by the Board in March 2002 for
49 Units 21 and 24. It would require the individuals or
50 tribal representatives in Units 21 and 24 to notify the

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1 appropriate Federal land manager prior to attempting to
2 harvest resources. It would afford all Federally-
3 qualified subsistence users an opportunity to take
4 wildlife for use as food in traditional religious
5 ceremonies which are part of a funerary or mortuary cycle
6 including memorial potlatches and may not be applicable
7 to local customs in some areas of the state.

8

9 Our preliminary conclusion is to adopt
10 the proposal with modifications as presented in the
11 Regional Council book. These modifications adopt
12 language and some provisions contained in FP03-27 that
13 was adopted in December of 2002.

14

15 Pertaining to the same day issue for
16 fish, they increase regulatory continuity. Additionally,
17 some existing regulations and/or provisions are
18 maintained by the modification.

19

20 Adoption of the proposal would recognize
21 the importance of wildlife in Alaska Native ceremonial
22 and religious activities statewide. Modified proposed
23 regulation is a product of combining portions of the
24 various unit-specific regulations and the newly adopted
25 statewide fish regulation. The goals of the proposals
26 included standardizing regulations and more importantly
27 extending equal opportunity to all Federally-qualified
28 subsistence users.

29

30 The regulatory change would not impose
31 additional requirements in most units. In the cases of
32 Units 21 and 24, there would be new prior notification
33 requirements. However, the modified proposed regulatory
34 language would allow either the person, designee or
35 tribal government official organizing the ceremony to
36 contact the appropriate Federal land manager. This
37 flexibility removes the burden from the hunter and
38 provides protection from undue harassment by law
39 enforcement personnel. The potential for such
40 occurrences has increased with recent changes of State of
41 Alaska hunting regulations. The regulatory language
42 provides for the conservation of wildlife populations.
43 However, little additional harvest is anticipated as the
44 practice has been ongoing under State of Alaska
45 regulations and in some cases, Federal provisions.

46

47 Those unit regulations that are species-
48 specific, ceremonial-specific, or those with special
49 provisions would not be changed.

50

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1
2 read:

And so the proposed regulation would

3

4

Statewide wildlife. You may take wildlife outside the seasons or harvest limits provided in this part for food in traditional religious ceremonies which are part of a funerary or mortuary cycle, including memorial potlatches if the person or designee or tribal government organizing the ceremony contacts the appropriate Federal land manager prior to attempting to take any wildlife to provide the nature of the ceremony. The parties and/or clans involved, the species and the number of wildlife to be taken and the Federal lands from which the harvest will occur.

5

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The taking does not violate recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation and uses the methods and means allowable for the particular species published in the applicable Federal regulations. The appropriate Federal land manager will establish the number, species, sex or place of taking, if necessary, for conservation purposes.

30

31

32

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40

Each person who takes wildlife under this section must, as soon as practicable, and not more than 15 days after the harvest, submit a written report to the appropriate Federal land managing agency specifying the harvesters name and address, the number, sex and species of wildlife taken. The date and locations of the taking. And the names of the decedents for whom the ceremony was held.

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

And so the modifications are two numbers 1 and 2 essentially.

50

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1 If this is adopted, it will revoke some
2 regulations and it will retain some other regulations.

3
4 The only thing in question with our
5 region would be the Kinginmuit Dance Festival and those
6 would remain the same.

7
8 We noticed last night that the regulation
9 is written in your analysis incorrectly. And so it
10 should read as it does in our Federal regulations. It's
11 for Unit 22, not for Unit 21. And would you like me to
12 read the correct version, Madame Chair?

13
14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: (Nods affirmatively)

15
16 MS. MCCLENAHAN: It should read:

17
18 The taking of one bull moose and one
19 muskox by the community of Wales is
20 allowed for the celebration of the
21 Kinginmuit Dance Festival under the terms
22 of a Federal registration permit.

23
24 Permits will be issued to individuals
25 only at the request of the Native Village
26 of Wales.

27
28 The harvest may only occur between
29 November 15th and December 31st in Unit
30 22 for moose and in Unit 22(E) for
31 muskox. The harvest will count against
32 any established quota for the area.

33
34 Madame Chair, that concludes my comments.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Does anybody have any
37 questions or comments to Pat?

38
39 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, Jack Olanna.

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Go ahead.

42
43 MR. OLANNA: In reference to Unit 22,
44 like I stated earlier, there's a letter from the Native
45 Village of Wales. My understanding is the letter that we
46 have on hand is for two requests. Now, is it possible to
47 address the dates, like this season, they've asked for a
48 later harvest because the ice -- the snow conditions that
49 they had this fall, what would it take to -- is it a
50 special request to the Board that would take care of this

00029

1 matter?

2

3

4 Because Wales is, you know, has had this
5 -- they call it Kiviat, the Kinginmuit Dance Festival,
6 which has been in -- centuries ago, it was a common
7 practice that they had in Wales. So it's something that
8 we should consider, their request -- is it possible to
9 amend, make amendments to this regulation? I understand
10 there's a proposal process coming up next year, would it
11 be appropriate at that time to request a change in the
12 dates?

12

13

14 MS. MCCLENAHAN: Madame Chair. Mr.
15 Olanna, it would be appropriate both to, if you want to
16 modify this request that you're giving us.

16

17

18 MR. OLANNA: Right.

18

19

20 MS. MCCLENAHAN: And to submit a request
21 for a permanent change. And I have our biologist here
22 who might like to elaborate.

22

23

24 MR. OLANNA: Okay. Madame Chair, this
25 here -- like I said, Wales has had a real bad snow
26 season. I mean they didn't have the capability of
27 harvesting and I understand from speaking with Winton in
28 Wales before I came here, he expressed that they haven't
29 had this festival yet and they were wondering if, you
30 know, if we could support an adjustment of the dates.
31 I'm not sure, it states in this letter that we request
32 the dates to be changed for next year season from January
33 1 to March 15th.

33

34

35 I know this year they haven't had that
36 festival yet, so would it take something from this Board,
37 Grace, to request -- to respond to their request or is
38 this too early in the meeting, Grace?

38

39

40 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair, I think
41 this could be addressed for this season with a special
42 action and then if you wanted to institute the dates
43 permanently, that would be another proposal for next
44 season.

44

45

46 MR. OLANNA: I guess that's what this
47 request is, thank you. Madame Chair.

47

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Madame
50 Chair.

50

00030

1 MR. OLANNA: Grace. Ken.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Ken.

4

5 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair. Ken
6 Adkisson, National Park Service. I think maybe for
7 clarity and to keep things, you know, understandable, it
8 would be preferable for the Council to deal with the
9 statewide proposal before it as a separate entity.
10 Because it really won't have any affect on the Wales
11 hunt. Then deal with the issue of the Wales ceremonial
12 request modification as a completely separate thing,
13 which could be done as a two-phase thing, as has been
14 suggested. Deal with the special action part of it now
15 and deal with the request for a permanent, essentially
16 defer or refer back to the maker, the request for a
17 permanent regulatory change which would then show up in
18 the regular cycle next fall.

19

20 But treat the whole Wales thing separate
21 from the statewide proposal before you rather than
22 confuse the issue with amendments and things like that.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ken.

27

28 MR. OLANNA: Thanks, Ken.

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Going back to the
31 WP03-01. I remember last year during the fishing, the
32 fish proposal, there was opposition about including the
33 name of the decedent from various RACs. Do you know
34 where that position is now?

35

36 MR. JOHNSON: Just to clarify, Page 44
37 has the recommended language for the amendments and
38 everything, is that right?

39

40 MS. MCCLENAHAN: That's correct. Madame
41 Chair, in answer to your question, for the fisheries
42 proposal we took that language out.

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah, I remember that.

45

46 MS. MCCLENAHAN: This group requested
47 that it be taken out and then subsequently it was taken
48 out.

49

50 Madame Chair, on Page 44 the modified

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1 proposed regulation is there. However, the highlighting
2 is missing to show you what the changes are, but the
3 changes are mostly in A and B.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So in the reporting
6 section there was no problem with putting in the name of
7 the persons that are dead?

8

9 MS. MCCLLENAHAN: In this proposal it's
10 left in, however, you can modify it any way you like.

11

12 MR. BUCK: Instead of having the --
13 leaving the name of the person that it's taking place,
14 could we just have a certain event instead of a -- it
15 doesn't have to be about deceased or anything, it could
16 be the event of -- well, anyway, when White Mountain and
17 Golovin, this year got together and they just go together
18 just to get together and appreciate each other, and it
19 wasn't for any reason or anything, it was just the
20 relationship between the two villages, that's all the
21 ceremony was, could this be regulated without mentioning
22 deceased and all that?

23

24 MS. MCCLLENAHAN: I believe that it can,
25 is that correct?

26

27 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair, before we go
28 any further, can we go to the presentation procedure.
29 And I think Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in their
30 comments would be next and when we get down to seven, at
31 our time to discuss it, deliberation and recommendations
32 and stuff that we would take up this discussion then, so
33 that we can get through with the agency comments and
34 stuff, if there were any.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

37

38 MS. MCCLLENAHAN: Madame Chair, before we
39 go any further I'd like to clarify something that Tim
40 just helped me with. This is meant for funeral, mortuary
41 or in memorial ceremonies, they are to recognized
42 deceased. It's pretty narrow.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Okay,
47 we'll follow the procedure here and go to Alaska
48 Department of Fish and Game comments. Is anybody here
49 from Alaska Department of Fish and Game?

50

00032

1 MR. JONES: There's nobody here from the
2 Wildlife Division.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Other agency comments.
5 I'm sorry I forgot your name.

6
7 MR. CHEN: Thank you, Madame Chair. For
8 the record my name is Glenn Chen with the Bureau of
9 Indian Affairs.

10
11 I'm glad you brought up the point about
12 the inclusion of the name of the decedent because as you
13 recall in the development of the fisheries proposal that
14 was recommended to be stricken out. And as has been
15 pointed out this morning, the Board did remove that
16 language from the final fisheries regulation. But also,
17 if you look on the bottom of Page 44, as you pointed out,
18 Madame Chair, in the reporting section that provision is
19 still in there, it says, and the name of the decedent.

20
21 So we would recommend that in order to be
22 consistent with the fisheries regulation and to address
23 the current concerns raised by this Council and other
24 Councils that that portion be taken out of the Council's
25 recommendation.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Any other
30 agency comments.

31
32 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, Tim Jennings
33 with the Office of Subsistence Management. Since the
34 Alaska Department of Fish and Game is not present at the
35 moment to address their comments I wanted to mention that
36 their written comments are on Page 39 of this particular
37 proposal at the top of the page and you can see what the
38 Department has provided us with written comments.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It looks like ADF&G is
41 to support with modification. I'll just read it -- in
42 order to minimize confusion and achieve consistency with
43 the State harvest, the ceremonial harvest regulation that
44 goes into effect on July 1, 2003, the Department
45 recommends this proposal be amended to mirror action
46 taken by the Board of Game at its November 2002 meeting
47 in Juneau. If the Federal statewide regulation is
48 adopted, the Federal Subsistence Board should clarify how
49 existing non-specific ceremonial harvest regulations will
50 be affected.

00033

1 Fish and Game Advisory Committee
2 comments, do we have anybody?

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Nobody. Barb, summary
7 of written public comments.

8
9 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We have one written
10 public comment in support by Alfred McKinley, Sr., on
11 behalf of Alaska Native Brotherhood. He wrote that all
12 Native residents should be included when making
13 regulations for the taking of fish and game for or as
14 part of the funerary or mortuary cycle, including the 40-
15 day party and the pay-off potlatch. Alaska Native
16 Brotherhood.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Barbara.
21 Is there any public testimony -- Mr. Denton.

22
23 MR. DENTON: Madame Chair, my name is
24 Jeff Denton. I'm with the Anchorage Field Office with
25 the BLM. And I'm only making, maybe a suggestion because
26 I notice on muskox you have -- where you have these
27 particular kinds of harvest relative to these things it
28 counts against established quotas that are established
29 for conservation of species. My thought would be because
30 this is a statewide proposal and as regulations come and
31 go and quotas are established and so on and so forth for
32 conservation of certain populations, that it may be a
33 statement that you may consider adding to it instead of
34 having to deal with each one as an independent action
35 down the road, statewide, it just basically catches when
36 there's quotas established for conservation of species,
37 that these kinds of harvest then count against those
38 quotas.

39
40 Just for your consideration relative to
41 conservation-type regulations down the road.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Mr. Denton.
46 Anybody else have anything to add?

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. We're down to

00034

1 Regional Council deliberations, recommendation and
2 justification. Jake, did you want to renew your
3 discussion at this at this point?

4

5 MR. JOHNSON: Now, would this be the
6 appropriate time to -- I mean I would guess we would
7 recommend either passing or not passing to the Federal
8 Subsistence Board with changes for the next season Wales
9 hunt, to go ahead and recommend that the dates be changed
10 with this proposal? Would that be appropriate then?

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: No. I think we moved
13 that down to new business. And it sounds like what's
14 going to happen with the Wales proposal is two things are
15 going to happen, one is there may be a special action to
16 address this years concern, and the second one is Wales
17 will need to resubmit a proposal that we will address
18 this fall on a permanent regulation. Am I correct?

19

20 MS. MCCLLENAHAN: Madame Chair, that's
21 correct.

22

23 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: If it's wildlife, it's
24 the next winter meeting. This fall you deal with fish.
25 But if it's a special action, they will work with it. If
26 we had gotten this before we came here we would have had
27 it going already. But we just got it today, so if
28 there's any special actions that anyone of your tribals
29 would do, get it to us right away the day that you get it
30 and we can get going on it. We would have to work with
31 it now, once we get back -- as soon as we get back and
32 start on this and try to work with it before March 15th,
33 with all the agencies involved, then we'll get back with
34 you.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Ken.

37

38 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair. Council
39 members. Yeah, I, again, I think for clarity purposes
40 and so you can focus on any necessary discussion and
41 amendments to Proposal 1, the statewide proposal for
42 ceremonial hunts. It's been pointed out that that
43 regulation will supersede or replace several other ones
44 but it doesn't replace or modify some of the other
45 existing special ceremonial hunts and so forth which
46 includes the Wales, so that -- like I said, I think for
47 clarity purposes you should just not think about the
48 Wales request right now when Proposal 1 is before you and
49 being deliberated but deal with it elsewhere in the
50 meeting.

00035

1 And as has been pointed out, the Wales
2 request has really two parts. One is for a special
3 action which timingwise, you probably should take sort of
4 action on today and if it's supported, and I can tell you
5 right now that the Park Service is prepared to support
6 it, if the Regional Advisory Council supports it, it can
7 be just drafted up. And my understanding is that under
8 the new guidelines it can simply go to the Interagency
9 Staff Committee who has been delegated the authority by
10 the Board to act on these so the Staff Committee then can
11 deal with it. And if we're lucky we can get a response,
12 you know, fairly timely and would allow them perhaps a
13 month to a month and a half additional hunting.

14
15 So I think we do need to deal with it
16 today but I don't think you really want to mix it in with
17 Proposal 1.

18
19 The second part of the Wales request
20 really deals with a request for a permanent regulatory
21 change. And basically we're looking at far enough down
22 the road that I think that can come through the regular
23 process so that it would eventually be taken up by the
24 Federal Board in May of 2004. So it would be introduced
25 in October, or the fall of 2003, get its final review and
26 comment on in February of 2004, go before the Federal
27 Subsistence Board in May of 2004 for final action which
28 would kick in for the '04/05 season. If for some reason
29 there were other adjustments that were needed, perhaps
30 another special action or something, but I don't foresee
31 that right now.

32
33 The issue really is to allow them to --
34 given the weather conditions and some other factors allow
35 them this opportunity between now and the end of the
36 regular season which is really only a month to a month
37 and a half away in duration. And that will require a
38 special action, which an emergency action is good for 60
39 days so that should more than cover the situation. That
40 would allow them time to reformulate their desire for a
41 permanent regulatory change.

42
43 So again, I simply recommend that you
44 separate any discussion and actions on the Wales
45 proposal, separate that entirely out from Proposal 1 at
46 this point in time.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ken. We

00036

1 have allocated 13A for Wales' request. Are there any
2 more questions or comments for Pat regarding the current
3 statewide proposal?

4

5 MR. JOHNSON: So the recommendation for
6 this proposal would be to strike out the last and the
7 names of the descendants for whom the ceremony is held,
8 and that was under number 3?

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It's on Page 44, the
11 bottom part of it. Names of the decedents for which the
12 ceremony was held, there's a recommendation to have that
13 deleted. Does the Council have any comments?

14

15 MR. SEETOT: On Page 20 on the .805(c)
16 letter it pretty much states the fishery regulations and
17 it doesn't say decedents name. I think it should be the
18 dame with wildlife. We're dealing with two issues,
19 fisheries and then also with the wildlife statewide.
20 However, it should be specific to Unit 22 that if the
21 language -- fisheries is one thing and the language and
22 wildlife is another, we'd be consistent in both
23 Departments, not Departments but in both issues, the
24 wildlife and fisheries.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I agree with you on
27 that. So the only change that we're looking at is on
28 Section 3 of that, if you wanted to make a motion to it.

29

30 MR. JOHNSON: I'd like to make a motion
31 to support Proposal WP03-01 with striking out the last
32 sentence or half of the sentence from paragraph three
33 that takes out and the names of the decedents for whom
34 the ceremony was held and move to recommend passage.

35

36 MR. BUCK: Second.

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion to
39 support Wildlife Proposal 03-01 with a deletion on
40 section three, and the names of the decedents for whom
41 the ceremony was held and it's been seconded.

42

43 Discussion.

44

45 MR. OLANNA: Question.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Pardon?

48

49 MR. OLANNA: Question.

50

00037

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Question has been
2 called. All is in favor signify by saying aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
7 same sign.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. We'll
12 move on to Proposal No. 2, statewide proposal to provide
13 for a designated hunter provision for most species and
14 hunts. Pat.

15
16 MS. MCCLENAHAN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
17 This proposal can be found at Tab C, Page 58. The Office
18 of Subsistence Management submitted a proposed change to
19 the general provisions for all units to standardize the
20 designated hunter regulations. This standardization
21 provides a uniform opportunity for subsistence users to
22 harvest or benefit from the harvest of ungulates in all
23 areas of the state. Currently designated hunter
24 provisions are allowed on a unit-specific basis causing
25 an inconsistency on how the regulations address the
26 designated hunter system.

27
28 Unit-specific provisions have been
29 adopted for 21 hunts in 17 different units. In some
30 cases certain hunts have been overlooked for this
31 provision creating a possible hardship on subsistence
32 users. For the purpose of the Federal Subsistence
33 management program, ungulate refers to any species of
34 hoofed mammal including deer, elk, caribou, moose,
35 mountain goat, dall sheep and muskox.

36
37 Under existing regulation designated
38 hunting is only recognized through unit-specific
39 provisions which are listed in Appendix A on Page 68.
40 Under the proposed regulations on Page 58 designated
41 hunting for ungulates would be recognized for all units
42 and prohibitions of designated hunting would be through
43 unit-specific provisions. The proposed general Federal
44 designated hunter program has the following provisions:

45
46 Any Federally-qualified subsistence user
47 recipient may designate another
48 Federally-qualified subsistence user to
49 take wildlife on his or her behalf.

50

00038

1 The designated hunter must obtain the
2 designated hunter permit.

3
4 The designated hunter may hunt for any
5 number of recipients.

6
7 They may not have more than two harvest
8 limits in his or her possession at any
9 one time. The designated hunter may not
10 charge the recipient for his or her
11 services in taking the wildlife or for
12 the meat or any part of the harvested
13 wildlife. This proposal would allow
14 designated hunting of all ungulates on a
15 statewide basis with the option of unit-
16 specific exceptions to these provisions.

17
18 With regard to the regulatory history,
19 the Board deferred proposals submitted in 1994 and
20 directed Staff to work on the Regional Councils -- with
21 the Regional Councils and ADF&G to identify and review
22 alternative harvest systems statewide. This review
23 resulted in the report of the designated hunter task
24 force in October 1994.

25
26 At the 1995 Federal Subsistence Board
27 meeting the Board adopted the current designated hunter
28 system for the following reasons, it provides a
29 standardized approach allowing any qualified subsistence
30 user to designate someone to hunt on his or her behalf.
31 It establishes a separate Federal permitting system for
32 the benefit of a hunter who would need a valid permit
33 that allowed possession of more than one bag limit and
34 also provide harvest information.

35
36 Since then designated hunter provisions
37 have been established for moose hunts in four other
38 units. For caribou hunts in seven units. And for sheep
39 hunts in two units. Two special actions this season
40 dealt with moose and muskox. The proposal history is
41 listed in Table 1 on Page 61.

42
43 Past proposals requesting the prohibition
44 of designated hunting provisions include in the 1998/99
45 regulatory cycle a proposal was adopted which established
46 a special sheep hunt in Unit 11 for persons over 60 that
47 specifically prohibited designated hunters.

48
49 The 2002/2003 cycle had five proposals
50 that requested denying or restricting designated hunter

00039

1 provisions. Four were in the Southeast region, all of
2 them were rejected. And one was in the Northwest Arctic
3 region and it was withdrawn after the Regional Council
4 meeting. In both regions proponents cited the issue of
5 potential abuse of the program as a reason for these
6 changes.

7

8 With respect to the Alaska Department of
9 Fish and Game regulations, the State of Alaska provides
10 for the transfer of harvest limits from one person to
11 another through its proxy hunting program. It differs
12 from the Federal designated hunter provisions in the
13 following ways, statewide application. It applies only
14 to caribou, deer and moose. It's available only to
15 residents that are blind or 70 percent disabled or 65
16 years of age or older. Either the recipient or the
17 hunter may apply for the authorization. No person may be
18 a proxy hunter for more than one recipient at a time.

19

20 I'd like to draw your attention to the
21 bullets on Page 60. The last bullet there is an error.
22 Please strike the recipient is responsible for harvest
23 and permit reporting. That is not correct. This bullet
24 is in the analysis but both State and Federal systems
25 assign responsibility to the recipient of the harvest for
26 all harvest permit requirements. With respect to harvest
27 history, 21 designated hunter provisions are in the unit-
28 specific regulations. Permits have been requested for 18
29 of these hunts. The three hunts where no one has applied
30 for a permit are Units 11, 17 caribou and 25(d) moose. A
31 total of 2,106 permits have been issued and 1,902
32 harvests have been reported. Permit history has shown in
33 Table 2 on Page 62.

34

35 For the 2000/2001 season under the
36 Federal system, 387 designated hunter harvested 408
37 animals. For the same hunts all hunters harvested 15,519
38 animals. This is shown in Table 3 on Page 62. The
39 largest designated harvest, 322 was for deer in Units 1
40 through 5. This harvest represented 3.1 percent of the
41 10,500 deer harvested in those units. The 53 deer
42 harvested by designated hunter in Unit 8 is the next
43 highest for 2001 and represents 2.1 percent of the total
44 harvest.

45

46 With respect to annual designated hunting
47 harvests, the designated hunter program is shown by
48 annual harvest in Figure 1 on Page 63. This shows that
49 these two deer hunts in Units 1 through 5 and Unit 8 have
50 the highest harvest annual levels. All other hunts had

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1 less than 50 and in most cases less than 25 animals
2 harvested annually.

3

4

5 With respect to customary and traditional
6 uses, on a statewide basis findings from a comparison of
7 household harvests in a community documented that it is
8 not uncommon for about 30 percent of the households in a
9 community to produce about 70 percent or more of the
10 community's wild food harvest. The report went on to
11 recommend designated hunter or community harvests as
12 being more compatible with the customary harvest patterns
13 of particular rural Alaskan areas.

13

14

15 With respect to the effects of the
16 proposal. Currently there are 66 Federally regulated
17 ungulate hunts throughout the state shown in Table 4 on
18 Page 64. Designated hunter provisions are available in 21
19 hunts of these hunts. The 2002 moose hunt in 6(C) was a
20 special action and is under review during this regulatory
21 cycle. Exceptions to two harvests and possession limit,
22 the three hunts that are different from the proposed
23 regulation are in the caribou hunt in Units 9(C) and (E),
24 that hunt has no limits on the number of harvest and
25 possession and the caribou hunts in Unit 9(D) and 10,
26 where there's a limit of four harvests in possession.
27 These hunts could also be standardized to a two harvest
28 limit. A review of the permit data does not show any
29 designated hunter harvesting more than two harvest
30 limits.

30

31

32 The other issues that would need to be
33 dealt with by unit-specific provisions would be the
34 denial of designated hunter provisions. The Unit 11
35 special elder sheep hunt designated hunter prohibition
36 adopted by the Board in 1998 was published in the Federal
37 Register and the corresponding public books until June
38 30th, 2000 when it was dropped as unnecessary. If this
39 proposal is adopted this prohibition would have to be
40 inserted again. If WP03-15 requesting the prohibition of
41 designated hunting for moose in Unit 6(C) is adopted by
42 the Board in this cycle, this and future prohibitions
43 would appear in unit-specific provisions.

43

44

45 The designated hunting program is not
46 expected to cause any significant increase in
47 participation or any delays in reporting of harvests.

47

48

49 It should be noted that as a result of a
50 request made by tribal organizations in the Southeast
region, a review of the administration of the designated

00041

1 hunter permit was made. Changes in permit distribution
2 were made in September 2002 and after this hunting season
3 is complete, these changes will be evaluated as to their
4 application to other areas of the state. It also should
5 be noted that the permit form which is included in
6 Appendix C on Page 74 that has been used by the Office of
7 Subsistence Management is currently undergoing revision.

8

9 There is a significant change from the
10 analysis as you have it in your book that I'd like to
11 point out to you. There may be a potential modification
12 to this proposal. Since the original writing of this
13 analysis, a number of concerns have been raised about the
14 potential impact of designated hunting on small
15 populations. It has been pointed out this could
16 particularly impact goat, muskox and sheep. This
17 proposal may eventually be modified to apply to only
18 moose, deer and caribou. If this modification is adopted
19 then users could request special provisions for any other
20 species of wildlife not covered by the proposed modified
21 regulation on a unit-specific basis. The harvest by
22 hunters using designated hunter provisions in 2000/2001
23 represents 2.6 of the harvest by all hunters. Extending
24 designated hunter provisions to the remaining 45 ungulate
25 hunts allowed by subsistence regulations should not have
26 a significant impact on these resources.

27

28 This action would provide a uniform
29 opportunity to subsistence users to harvest or benefit
30 from the harvest of ungulates in all areas of the state
31 and will facilitate the customary and traditional use of
32 wildlife for sustenance, bartering and for the
33 continuation of traditional ceremonies.

34

35 Our preliminary conclusion is to support
36 the proposal. The proposed regulation should read:

37

38 All units, wildlife. A Federally-
39 qualified subsistence user recipient may
40 designate another Federally-qualified
41 subsistence user to take ungulates on his
42 or her behalf unless the recipient is a
43 member of a community operating under a
44 community harvest system or unit-specific
45 regulations in Section 26 preclude the
46 use of the designated hunter system.

47

48 The designated hunter must obtain a
49 designated hunter permit and must return
50 a completed harvest report. The

00042

1 designated hunter may hunt for any number
2 of recipients but may have no more than
3 two harvest limits in his or her
4 possession at any one time unless
5 otherwise specified in unit-specific
6 regulations in Section 26.

7
8 The designated hunter may not charge the
9 recipient for his or her services in
10 taking the wildlife or for the meat or
11 any part of the harvested wildlife.

12
13 There are currently 21 hunts with
14 designated hunter provisions. The
15 harvest by these hunters represents 2.6
16 of the harvest by all hunters. Extending
17 designated hunter provisions to the
18 remaining 45 ungulate hunts allowed by
19 subsistence regulations should not have a
20 significant impact on these resources and
21 will provide a uniform opportunity to
22 subsistence users to harvest or benefit
23 from the harvest of wildlife in all areas
24 of the state.

25
26
27 Permit data from past designated hunts
28 shows that these harvests have occurred within the
29 proposed standard two harvest limit provisions.

30
31 Madame Chair, that completes my report.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Pat. Any
34 questions for Pat?

35
36 MR. BUCK: Madame Chair, I propose to
37 support Proposal 2.

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, let's go through
40 the other comments first. Is anybody here from Alaska
41 Department of Fish and Game? Hi Jim.

42
43 MR. MAGDANZ: Madame Chair. Jim Magdanz,
44 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I just arrived in
45 town, I was in Shungnak on a survey so I just came in on
46 the plane so I'm catching up a little bit here. But our
47 comments appear on Page 56 of our briefing book.

48
49 I spoke yesterday with Terry Haynes,
50 who's our statewide coordinator for Wildlife Conservation

00043

1 Division and he said there's no change in the State's
2 position on this proposal. The comments in the book are
3 our current position.

4

5 Madame Chair.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Jim.
8 Comments or questions for Jim.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Nope. Other agency
13 comments. Ken.

14

15 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair. Ken
16 Adkisson, National Park Service. I'd like to draw your
17 attention to the table on Page 64. The ungulate hunts
18 sorted by region and species, 66 hunts in regulation, 21
19 provided for designated hunters. My understanding of the
20 effect of this proposal is that if it's adopted as is it
21 would move all of the existing hunts that are not
22 currently provided for with designated hunter provisions,
23 many of those in that middle column over into the far
24 right-hand side with designated hunter.

25

26 With respect to that I'd like to call
27 your attention to the Seward Peninsula Northwest Arctic
28 Muskoxen 22 and 23, currently there are no designated
29 hunter provisions for those hunts. And what I'd like to
30 say to that regard is the designated hunter provision has
31 come up several times with the local Fish and Game
32 Advisory Committees and it's my recollection that those
33 provisions were soundly rejected for concerns over
34 potential abuses. Also in the history of the Seward
35 Peninsula hunt there was a great deal of focus given to
36 the concern throughout the history of the hunt on the
37 effects of overharvesting from local social groups that
38 are sort of basically parked in one spot in the winter
39 and a lot of attempt has been put into trying to spread
40 the effects of the harvest out over a larger area. And I
41 won't go into all the biological reasons now.

42

43 And also with Unit 23 muskox, there's
44 another thing in there, is, currently we're talking about
45 the Cape Thompson animals which are located largely along
46 the northwest coast between Cape Krusenstern and in Cape
47 Krusenstern National Monument which is currently closed
48 to muskoxen hunting. And this is probably an issue that
49 we should take up with the Northwest Arctic Regional
50 Council and I will. But it's sort of like muskoxen are

00044

1 special cases, I guess, and given the fact that much of
2 the focus on their management has been through the
3 cooperative management process, I would just feel a whole
4 lot comfortable, I think, if muskoxen were not included
5 in this proposal and any proposal to include them in a
6 designated hunter program were run through the
7 cooperators.

8

9 That's my comment on this proposal. I'll
10 be glad to address any questions if there are any.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you Ken. Any
13 other agency comments.

14

15 MR. CHEN: Madame Chair.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Please.

18

19 MR. CHEN: Thank you, Madame Chair.

20 Glenn Chen from the BIA.

21

22 There's been a lot of discussion about
23 potential abuse of this proposed regulation and I think
24 the data speaks for itself pretty clearly on the issue,
25 designated hunters have only taken about two percent of
26 all the animals harvested in the state and of that two
27 percent a vast majority are deer. And so we feel that
28 this proposal will not likely result in abuse by anybody
29 obtaining a designated hunter permit. Especially for
30 animals of concern such as sheep or muskox.

31

32 If the concerns do arise then these could
33 be addressed at a later time by submitting a different
34 wildlife proposal.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Comments or questions
39 from the Council.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Fish and
44 Game Advisory Council comments.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's nobody from
49 there. Summary of written public comments. Barb.

50

00045

1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair, there
2 are no written public comments on the proposal. Thank
3 you.

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Do we have any public
6 testimony?

7
8 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No, you don't, ma'am.

9
10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Regional
11 Council deliberation and recommendation and
12 justification.

13
14 MR. BUCK: Madame Chair, my motion holds.

15
16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And your motion was to
17 support?

18
19 MR. BUCK: My motion was to pass Proposal
20 2.

21
22 MR. OLANNA: Second.

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And your motion was to
25 support?

26
27 MR. BUCK: Yes.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion on
30 the floor to support the proposal. Is there any further
31 comments.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 MR. JOHNSON: Question.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Question has been
38 called. All those in favor of supporting Proposal 2
39 please signify by stating aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
44 same sign.

45
46 (No opposing votes)

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. We
49 can go on and discuss the one that we would not need any
50 input from Leonard, not the cross-over ones. Proposal

00046

1 40, I think we can go on with now.

2

3 MS. MCCLENAHAN: Okay.

4

5 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. Council
6 members. My name is Chuck Ardizzone from the Office of
7 Subsistence Management. We'll be in Tab C, Page 80 for
8 Proposal WP03-40.

9

10 This proposal was submitted by this
11 Council and would align the Federal and State regulations
12 and establish a Federal Subsistence caribou harvest in
13 the eastern portion of 22(E) July 1st through June 30th
14 for five caribou per day. The harvest of cows would be
15 prohibited between May 16th and June 30th. This proposal
16 is a revised version of Proposal 00-54 modified to
17 address the concerns of Shishmaref, Wales and the
18 Reindeer Herder's Association providing subsistence
19 opportunities while providing protection to the reindeer
20 herds west of the Sanaguich River Drainage.

21

22 The proposed harvest area in 22(E) would
23 include that portion of the Bering Land Bridge National
24 Preserve east of and including the Sanaguich River
25 Drainage. Federal public lands managed as part of the
26 Bering Land Bridge National Preserve comprise
27 approximately 49 percent of 22(E) and approximately 70 to
28 80 percent of the proposed harvest area.

29

30 A large number of villages have customary
31 and traditional use determinations for 22(E).

32

33 Currently, there is no Federal season for
34 caribou in 22(E), no Federal season has been established
35 under the Federal program since it began in 1990. The
36 Western Arctic Caribou Herd, over the last several years,
37 has extended its range into 22(E) initially only on brief
38 occasions.

39

40 By fall 2001, the Western Arctic Caribou
41 Herd had established a reoccurring pattern of use
42 appearing seasonally in eastern 22(E) in large enough
43 numbers to warrant a season with some animals remaining
44 on a year-round basis. In November 2001, the Board of
45 Game established a current caribou season in the portion
46 of 22(E) east of and including the Sanaguich River
47 drainage. However, this regulation did not go into
48 effect until July 1st, 2002.

49

50 The newly established season was the same

00047

1 as in other parts of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
2 range. No closed bull season and an open season for cows
3 from July 1st through May 15th.

4

5 Currently the herd is estimated at
6 approximately 430,000 animals in 1999, with the
7 population growth came expansion of their range. Caribou
8 winter range extended further west on the Seward
9 Peninsula reaching the Bering Strait Coast in small
10 numbers in 1998 and 1999. This trend has continued over
11 the last several years with thousands of caribou moving
12 into the central unit of 22(D) and the eastern unit of
13 22(E).

14

15 At this time I'd like to mention reindeer
16 herding and I have some new comments from Ms. Rose
17 Fosdick that didn't arrive in time enough to make it into
18 the Council booklet but I would like to include these
19 because they make perfect sense to me and let me read
20 some of these.

21

22 So under reindeer herding on Page 83 she
23 had some suggested changes and I'll read those changes to
24 you.

25

26 Goodhope's allotment has a determined
27 carrying capacity of 2,000 animals and has very few
28 reindeer for several years. Many were lost to the
29 caribou herd. That would be the second sentence of the
30 first paragraph. Then she also states that the Karman
31 allotment has very few reindeer, many were lost to the
32 caribou herd and this -- let's see -- and then the
33 Noyakuk allotment is currently holding approximately 200
34 reindeer and the Olanna allotment is estimated to have
35 approximately 200 reindeer. These are corrections that I
36 would like to make to these paragraphs.

37

38 She also suggests removing better marking
39 of reindeer would also help the situation but it often
40 cost prohibitive. She doesn't believe that's a correct
41 statement or accurate statement.

42

43 The effects of this proposal. This
44 proposal would establish a Federal caribou season in
45 22(E) and would align Federal and State regulations.
46 This change would reduce confusion among local caribou
47 hunters and would provide subsistence hunting
48 opportunities for local subsistence users. This proposal
49 would have little impact on the reindeer herds in the
50 region as the majority of the proposed harvest area

00048

1 encompasses the Goodhope and Karmun allotments. And
2 here's another change Ms. Fosdick suggests, is that, they
3 both currently have very few manageable reindeer.

4

5 The proposed harvest area would also keep
6 hunters geographically separated from the allotments that
7 are still holding reindeers west of the Sanaguich River
8 drainage.

9

10 The impacts of this proposal on the
11 Western Arctic Caribou Herd would be minimal. Harvest
12 estimates suggest that roughly 15,500 caribou are taken
13 annually between 1999 and 2000. This is for all units in
14 which the herd is hunted. And currently harvest levels
15 are not significantly affecting herd size and no
16 additional harvest should result from this proposed
17 regulation.

18

19 The preliminary conclusion would be to
20 support this proposal.

21

22 Madame Chair, that concludes my
23 presentation.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Any
26 questions or comments.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 *(Mr. Kobuk arrives)

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake.

33

34 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, Jake Olanna.
35 I know the movement of the caribou has gone westerly more
36 than when they first started coming. This is a good
37 proposal, I support it because you've got the input of
38 the Reindeer Herders, whom I've been previously employed
39 by.

40

41 Now, I don't know to what extent Brevig
42 and Wales might have some concerns because traditionally,
43 the season -- I know the people in Teller and Brevig have
44 been concerned because of the seasons that, in the past,
45 when there's a special action on the movement of caribou
46 to a certain area, the people in those villages express
47 that the season should be opened at a later date to allow
48 the -- what we call the leaders of the caribou to expand
49 to their hunting range before the season actually opens.

50

00049

1 But I do support this proposal.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Jake.

6 Well, moving along, is there comments from Alaska

7 Department of Fish and Game.

8

9 MR. MAGDANZ: Madame Chair, Jim Magdanz.

10 The Department supports this proposal. And we suggest

11 that the Council consider amending it to include that

12 portion of Unit (D) in the

13 Kougarak/Kuzitrin/Pilgrim/American and Hyliakpuk Rivers

14 (ph) which would align it with the State regulation.

15

16 Madame Chair.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Other

19 agency comments.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Fish and Game Advisory

24 comments.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Summary of written

29 public comments.

30

31 MS. MCCLENAHAN: Madame Chair, there are

32 no public written comments.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Is there

35 public testimony.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. Regional

40 Council deliberation, recommendation and justification.

41

42 MR. BUCK: Madame Chair, I support

43 Proposal 40 with Jim's recommendation for Unit (D) to be

44 included.

45

46 MR. SAVETILIK: I second that motion.

47

48 MR. OLANNA: Question.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: That was quick.

00050

1 There's a motion on the floor to support this motion with
2 Jim's recommendation added to it. All is in support of
3 the motion signify by stating aye.

4

5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
8 same sign.

9

10 (No opposing votes)

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. I
13 believe if there's any problems coming from Reindeer
14 Herder's Association they would make their comments at
15 the later time with the addition with what Jim added.

16

17 Okay, it's now 11:30. I don't know if we
18 want to go into the next proposal or go to lunch for
19 about -- to a quarter to 1:00.

20

21 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Leonard.

24

25 MR. KOBUK: For the record Leonard Kobuk
26 is here.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I'm sorry. Hi
29 Leonard, welcome here.

30

31 MR. KOBUK: Sorry, I'm late. Whereabouts
32 are you on the booklet?

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We just finished
35 Proposal 40 and we'll be on Proposal 41 which is probably
36 going to require some extensive discussion, possibly.

37

38 MR. KOBUK: I guess for the public. My
39 name is Leonard Kobuk. I represent St. Michael's and
40 Stebbins. Sorry I'm late. I didn't know I was supposed
41 to travel yesterday.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And maybe since we
44 missed -- do you have any community concerns or concerns
45 from St. Michael's and Stebbins that you would like to
46 present at this point?

47

48 MR. KOBUK: No, I don't have any because
49 IRA, those villages didn't get a hold of me. The only
50 one that was trying to get a hold of me was Freddy Pete

00051

1 from the corporation but I tried to get back to him, I
2 just couldn't get a hold of him so I don't know what his
3 concerns were.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Reports from St.
6 Michael's and Stebbins, how your year was?

7

8 MR. KOBUK: Our only main concern is the
9 caribou not coming around this year again. And I know
10 it's putting impact on the moose population. They've
11 been out hunting and the moose season closed, I guess, on
12 the last day of last month and quite a few of the
13 villagers have been going out to catch what they can
14 catch before it closed.

15

16 That's all I know of or heard of.

17

18 MR. BUCK: I have a comment. I talked to
19 Stanton Katchetag yesterday and he had some concerns
20 about the -- for the Unalakleet area, he's going to be
21 going to Anchorage today, I think, so Stanton told me to
22 mention that he's concerned about power motors and the
23 jet units and the things that are being used in the
24 Unalakleet area. He was concerned that the power motors
25 and jet units are disturbing the cycles of the salmon and
26 he's worried about that.

27

28 And also he's worried about the beaver.
29 There's just too many beavers everywhere.

30

31 I forgot to mention that before.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. I guess we
34 might as well start on Proposal 41 and then go to lunch
35 at 12.

36

37 MS. MCCLLENAHAN: Madame Chair, Jeannie
38 just brought to my attention that the map that we have in
39 Proposal 41 has not shown all of the BLM land. She's
40 handing you out an alternative map that provides that
41 information. And for the next analysis, I'll get
42 together with her and be sure that our map is adequate
43 next time.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

46

47 MS. MCCLLENAHAN: Proposal WP03-41 can be
48 found -- the analysis can be found at Tab C on Page 93.
49 This proposal was put in by Thomas Sparks of Nome.

50

00052

1 The proposed regulatory change would open
2 Federal lands to hunting muskox in Units 22(B) and 22(D)
3 to all Alaska residents. The existing and proposed
4 regulations can be found on Pages 93 through 95 of the
5 draft analysis. The wording. Federal public lands are
6 closed to the taking of muskox except by Federally-
7 qualified subsistence users would be taken out of the
8 existing regulatory language for muskox for Unit 22(B)
9 and 22(D) if this proposal is adopted.

10

11 The proposal was originally mistaken for
12 a C&T proposal. And you have the errata sheet that was
13 published after the book was published and it's a bright
14 gold paper. The Bureau of Land Management administers 19
15 percent of the lands in Unit 22(B) and five percent of
16 the lands in Unit 22(D). National Park Service
17 administers two percent of the lands in 22(B) and 11
18 percent of the lands in Unit 22(D). While these lands
19 are few and they're laid out in somewhat of a
20 checkerboard pattern in the case of BLM lands, they're
21 nevertheless extremely important to the subsistence users
22 of the region. Seventy-nine percent of lands in Unit
23 22(B) are administered by the State and Native
24 corporations. Eighty-four percent of lands in Unit 22(D)
25 are under State jurisdiction.

26

27 Of great importance to subsistence users
28 are the Kougarok, Kuzitrin and Tisuk Rivers, Canyon
29 Creek, Pilgrim and American River drainages located on or
30 adjacent to Federal lands.

31

32 On Pages 107 and following, you have a
33 table that provides a history of the development of
34 customary and traditional use determinations, season and
35 bag limits and State and Federal regulations since 1994.
36 These regulations were developed in close collaboration
37 among the State and Federal agencies, the regional
38 corporations and subsistence users and the Muskox
39 Cooperators Group. Currently the State and Federal
40 agencies are carrying out a jointly managed hunt. All
41 partners have worked together to provide guidance on
42 harvest levels and how to allocate permits within State
43 and
44 Federal systems. A Cooperative Muskox Management plan is
45 in place and is actively used.

46

47 The Muskox Cooperator's Group did not
48 have an opportunity to review, discuss and collectively
49 comment on this proposal prior to this Seward Peninsula
50 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting.

00053

1 With regard to biological considerations,
2 the herds are reintroduced and subsequently the hunts in
3 Units 22(B) and 22(D) are very new. Therefore, we have a
4 very short hunt history. In fact, the Federal season and
5 bag limit for Unit 22(B) were only established a year
6 ago. While the herds, for most part, have shown
7 impressive growth, that growth now appears to have slowed
8 and leveled out. Any changes to remove current
9 restrictions to expand hunting opportunity for muskox to
10 include all Alaska residents in Units 22(B) and 22(D)
11 will be based on a very short biological history due to
12 their very recent introduction.

13

14 Mr. Sparks, the proponent, has provided
15 us with a letter, which you can find on Page 17 and I'll
16 read into the record at the time of public comment, in
17 which he attempted to clarify his intent. He's concerned
18 that the subsistence hunters in Unit 22 villages not be
19 adversely impacted by his proposal, particularly by the
20 way the permitting processes might be carried out in the
21 future should this proposal be adopted.

22

23 We have received comments from National
24 Park Service and BLM Field staff and from Grace Cross
25 expressing concern about the short turnaround for
26 decision-making and about the lack of opportunity for all
27 interested parties to meet and discuss the implications
28 of the proposal prior to the Seward Peninsula's
29 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting.

30

31 On this basis, our preliminary
32 recommendation is to defer the proposal.

33

34 Thank you, Madame Chair.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Alaska
37 Department of Fish and Game comments.

38

39 MR. MAGDANZ: Madame Chair. Jim Magdanz.
40 We think this proposal would best be taken up by the
41 Muskox Cooperators.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Other
44 agency comments.

45

46 MS. COLE: Jeannie Cole. Bureau of Land
47 Management. We also feel that this issue would best be
48 addressed by the Muskox Cooperators Group.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Any other

00054

1 agency comments.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Fish and Game Advisory
6 Committee comments -- oh, I'm sorry -- Ken.

7

8 MR. ADKISSON: No, I can wait.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Summary of written
11 public comments.

12

13 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I'm looking for them.
14 Okay, Madame Chair there are no written public comments.
15 Thank you.

16

17 MS. MCCLENAHAN: Excuse me, Mr. Sparks'
18 letter, did you want to read that or did you want to hear
19 it?

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: 117. Did you want to
22 summarize it?

23

24 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I would have to read
25 it, I guess, into the record. This was written to me, by
26 Thomas Sparks to Barbara Armstrong on 12/01/02, muskox
27 proposal. He sent this to me via fax.

28

29 Barbara, I want to express the intent of
30 the proposal that I submitted to the RAC Board and to the
31 Staff as well.

32

33 The issue that I am trying to address is
34 one of the common use of a resource. I would like
35 hunters who receive either a State Tier II permit under
36 the State management or a Federal Subsistence permit
37 under Federal management to have the freedom to hunt on
38 either State managed or Federal managed lands. The
39 problem with current regulations is that the hunts can
40 concentrate hunters on a defined herd or muskox which is
41 not good for the hunters or on the herd. The other
42 problems is one of the risk of citation from a hunter
43 that does not know where the Federal managed lands begin
44 and the State managed lands begin.

45

46 I did not know of any other mechanism
47 under existing regulation other than to request a change
48 for C&T determination. Under current regulations an
49 individual from Nome who obtains a State Tier II permit
50 cannot harvest the muskox on Federal public lands on

00055

1 22(D) or 22(B). IT is my understanding that except for
2 that portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon
3 Creek, an individual who receives a Federal permit cannot
4 harvest that animal on State managed lands. In
5 parenthesis, which includes private ANCSA lands, if they
6 have a State Tier II permit.

7

8 As a resident of Nome, I feel strongly
9 that if a hunter from Nome obtains a State Tier II
10 permit, that person should be able to harvest the muskox
11 on Federal public lands in 22(D) and 22(B). Nome
12 residents have a long history of resource use in 22(D)
13 and 22(B). Conversely, I feel that an individual who
14 obtains a Federal permit should be able to harvest those
15 animals on either State or Federal managed lands. I do
16 not want to reallocate Federal permit distribution from
17 village residents to Nome residents. I feel the current
18 distribution works fairly well. It ensures that the
19 Federal permits available to go to village residents (it
20 could be argued that State permits would also go to
21 village residents but there has been issues in terms of
22 application process.)

23

24 If the Board can figure out a way to
25 address my issue without a C&T determination then I would
26 like them to pursue it. Another suggestion is to work
27 this issue through the Muskox Cooperator's Group. I
28 believe this may be the best solution because the
29 Cooperator's Group may be able to address the larger
30 question of common use of a resource and figure out a way
31 for the hunters involved in the harvest to not
32 concentrate their harvest on a select herd or area and
33 also address the issue of land status problems for the
34 hunters involved in the harvest.

35

36 I would appreciate you distributing this
37 to the RAC members for testimony as I will not be able to
38 attend the meeting in person due to travel expense.

39

40 Thank you, ma'am.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. And I also
43 like -- as an individual I had commented on this during
44 the Staff Committee meeting, which was held on December
45 23rd of 2002. I recommended as an individual and not as
46 part of this group, that it should be deferred. There's
47 just too many unanswered questions to address this issue
48 now. I think it should be looked closely to see if
49 there's any angles that can be addressed and I, too,
50 would rather see the Muskox Cooperator's work on this

00056

1 issue.

2

3 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

6

7 MR. JOHNSON: I move to defer this

8 proposal.

9

10 MR. OLANNA: Second.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion on

13 the floor to defer this proposal and there's a second.

14 Everyone in support of the motion signify by stating aye.

15

16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,

19 same sign.

20

21 (No opposing votes)

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Thank

24 you. And I think at this point we'll break for lunch and

25 come back at maybe a quarter to 1:00.

26

27 MR. JOHNSON: You mean 1:00 o'clock?

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah, a quarter to

30 1:00 o'clock -- okay, 1:00 o'clock. We'll be back at

31 1:00 o'clock.

32

33 (Off record)

34

35 (On record)

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I'll call the meeting

38 back to order at 1:15 p.m. If you're tired of coughing

39 there's tea water back there that Midi had made. So

40 we're going to finish these proposals and then after that

41 we're going to go into elections. Pat.

42

43 MS. MCCLENAHAN: Thank you, Madame Chair.

44 I'll be addressing Staff analysis WP03-33, and that can

45 be found at Tab C on Page 123.

46

47 This proposal is a crossover with Yukon-

48 Kuskokwim and Western Interior Regions. Proposal 33 was

49 submitted by Peter Peterson of Mountain Village. It's a

50 modification of Proposal WP02-31 that was deferred by the

00057

1 Federal Subsistence Board in May 2002. The current
2 amended proposal requests a positive customary and
3 traditional use determination for moose in a portion of
4 Unit 21(E) for the rural residents of the Lower Yukon
5 River villages, for Scammon Bay and for Hooper Bay.

6
7 The existing C&T determination for Unit
8 21(E) moose is for the residents of Unit 21(E) and the
9 residents of Russian Mission.

10
11 The proposed Federal regulations are on
12 Page 123. For the southern most portion of Unit 21(E)
13 only. Map 2 and Map 3 on Page 126 and 134 show the
14 proposal area. I apologize, these maps are not terribly
15 good and I'd suggest that you look at Map 3 on Page 134.
16 The lined in area at the southern end of the unit is what
17 we're talking about and it's south of the Yukon River
18 essentially.

19
20 MR. KOBUK: What page is it?

21
22 MS. MCCLLENANAHAN: We're on Tab C, Page
23 123. And this is a crossover proposal with Yukon-
24 Kuskokwim Delta and Western Interior Region, it's
25 Proposal 33.

26
27 MS. MCCLLENANAHAN: Moose are an important
28 subsistence resource to the proposal communities and have
29 been for a long time. The Lower Yukon River people
30 historically used the southern unit, southern part of
31 Unit 21(E) and they continue to do so today. Table 2 and
32 3 on Pages 132 and 133 provide this information.

33
34 This has been an area of contention for
35 about the past 10 years. And I think that there's an
36 appendix with this that provides the history of requests
37 for during this period of time. Last year when this
38 proposal was deferred by the Federal Subsistence Board
39 they requested that representatives from the Yukon-
40 Kuskokwim and Western Interior Councils meet together to
41 try to resolve this issue and we did have a meeting in
42 October of 2002. At that time they provided us with
43 information and they also provided us with a
44 recommendation on this proposal. The proponent of the
45 proposal, Mr. Peterson, modified his request to speak
46 only to the southern portion of Unit 21(E) at that time.
47 And so the Council members from both of the regions and
48 the proponent agreed that this proposal, as it's written
49 here would go forward. Council members Harry Wilde and
50 John Hanson from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional

00058

1 Council were the representatives and they confirmed the
2 historic and modern use pattern of the southern part of
3 Unit 21(E) for moose and they specified that it was
4 during the fall subsistence hunt that they used this
5 portion of the area.

6
7 If it is adopted, the proposed change in
8 C&T will provide residents of the proposal communities
9 the opportunity to hunt moose during Federal seasons on
10 Federal lands in the southern part of Unit 21(E).
11 Federal regulations currently provide a late August
12 opportunity while State regulations do not. So it will
13 provide an additional opportunity for these subsistence
14 users.

15
16 Presently, hunters can hunt under State
17 provisions on State and Federal lands in Unit 21(E) and
18 there are no restrictions on that.

19
20 Our Staff preliminary conclusion is to
21 support the proposal. The proposed regulation can be
22 found at Tab C on Page 136.

23
24 Madame Chair, that concludes my report.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Alaska
27 Department of Fish and Game comments.

28
29 MR. MAGDANZ: Madame Chair, thanks. Jim
30 Magdanz, Fish and Game Subsistence. This is an area that
31 I'm not personally familiar with but I talked to Terry
32 Haynes in Fairbanks yesterday about this proposal. And
33 he said the State is concerned that the communities
34 listed here is not an inclusive list, that some other
35 communities are actually closer to this area than the
36 communities named in this proposal. And so the State is
37 concerned that there'll be additional communities that
38 will seek to be included in this C&T determination should
39 this be adopted.

40
41 He did not give me a specific position as
42 far as whether to defer, adopt or reject, but rather I'm
43 just making the point that we feel this list is not
44 inclusive and I'm sure we'll be making the same point to
45 the Yukon group.

46
47 Madame Chair.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Other
50 agency comments. Mr. Denton.

00059

1 MR. DENTON: My name's Jeff Denton. I'm
2 with the Anchorage Field Office, BLM. And this
3 particular region, the BLM lands there are under our
4 administration there. One correction is that the Federal
5 lands and waters need to include the lands of the Yukon-
6 Delta National Wildlife Refuge. Those are the lands the
7 Fish and Wildlife Service lands that will be involved in
8 this particular proposal, not the Innoko Wildlife Refuge.

9

10

11 I attended a meeting here two weeks ago,
12 in Holy Cross, there's a moose management set of teams,
13 both had met in Aniak this week and in Holy Cross two
14 weeks ago relative to this issue. It's far from resolved
15 between the Lower Yukon and the Middle Yukon people. And
16 so, you know, I guess my personal opinion is there's
17 probably a ways to go with this proposal before it gets
18 worked out between the local people affected and the down
19 river people. So I thought I'd make that correction to
20 the area of the Federal lands involved, first of all, and
21 I guess give you an update of what's going on in some of
22 these local moose management meetings as well.

23

24 Thank you, Madame Chair.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Any other
27 agency comments.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Fish and Game Advisory
32 Committee comments.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Summary of written
37 public comments.

38

39 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair, there
40 are no written public comments for this proposal. Thank
41 you, ma'am.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Public
44 testimony.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Regional Council
49 deliberation, recommendation and justification. I kind
50 of feel this is not within -- even though Kotlik is

00060

1 named, that's not the area where you traditionally hunt
2 at all?

3

4 MR. KOBUK: No, this is too far east.
5 our only concern for St. Michael's and Stebbins would be
6 in the Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge area, which
7 would be around Kotlik, Emmonok, Alukunuk, and as far up
8 as around Pilot Station. So this is just too far inland
9 to concern us so we would have no comments on that from
10 our area.

11

12 The only resident we have living in St.
13 Michael he's from Marshal, there living in St. Michael,
14 they go to that -- he goes to that area to hunt so other
15 than that he's the only person that I know of that would
16 go way up there. So I have no comments on this.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Pat.

19

20 MS. MCCLLENAHAN: Madame Chair, we have a
21 history of people from Unalakleet going to that area, I
22 just wondered if William had any thoughts?

23

24 MR. JOHNSON: Of course we had gone there
25 for a lot of fishing down into the area. I'm not sure if
26 this is just discussing moose. And I wouldn't want to
27 give up any of our C&Ts for hunting.

28

29 MR. BUCK: Madame Chair, since the Lower
30 Yukon supported this proposal, I move to support this
31 proposal.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, I think since
34 there's no second this motion dies.

35

36 MR. SAVETILIK: Can it be rephrased, I'm
37 lost somewhere?

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I'm not sure if the
40 entire Yukon area is in support of this motion.
41 Personally, I would feel uncomfortable in doing any moves
42 with this. I would rather just have the area that's
43 affected either support or not support it, I'd just take
44 no action on it.

45

46 MR. SAVETILIK: Madame Chair, I think
47 it's out of our boundary to do anything with this
48 proposal. I recommend that it -- delete it from this.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Just take no action?

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1 MR. SAVETILIK: Or take no action on this
2 right here.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Does everybody agree?

5
6 (Council nods affirmatively)

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We're not going to
9 take any action on this one. So we'll move on to
10 Proposal 36.

11
12 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. Council
13 members. My name is Chuck Ardizzone from OSM in
14 Anchorage. Proposal WP03-36 is a crossover proposal from
15 the Western Interior. It was submitted by the Western
16 Interior Regional Council and would extend the coyote
17 hunting seasons in Unit 19, 21, 24 by 20 days and allow
18 the existing harvest of 10 coyotes to be taken throughout
19 the season.

20
21 Federal lands account for 16 percent of
22 Unit 19, 44 percent of Unit 21 and 64 percent of 24. All
23 rural residents have customary and traditional use
24 determinations for coyotes in 19, 21 and 24. The status
25 of coyote populations in 19, 21 and 24 are not fully
26 known due to lack of surveys and sealing requirements,
27 however, all indications suggest the populations in these
28 units are naturally low. No specific coyote harvest data
29 for Federal lands are viable. Coyote harvest during the
30 1990 to '95 totaled 47 for Unit 19, however, there are no
31 data available for Units 21 and 24. Harvest data are
32 based on trapper questionnaires conducted by ADF&G but do
33 not differentiate between trapping and hunting. Most
34 recent fur acquisition and fur reports for 1990 to '95
35 document a total of 19 coyotes for Unit 19, two coyotes
36 for Unit 21 and eight coyotes for Unit 24 being
37 harvested.

38
39 Effects of the proposal. Coyote harvest
40 levels are not anticipated to increase because coyote
41 harvest by firearms generally occur on an incidental
42 basis and commercial demand for coyote fur has decreased
43 in recent years. The proposed expansion of the Federal
44 season and removal of restrictions on harvest limits for
45 coyotes in 19, 21 and 24 would not likely adversely
46 impact the existing population. The proposed Federal
47 season and harvest limit would be aligned with the
48 existing State season and harvest limit. And no
49 additional harvest is anticipated as users who harvest
50 coyotes in these units currently have the same

00062

1 opportunity to harvest under State regulations.

2

3 The preliminary conclusion is to support
4 this proposal.

5

6 Any questions.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Alaska
9 Department of Fish and Game comments.

10

11 MR. MAGDANZ: Jim Magdanz, Madame Chair.
12 ADF&G supports this proposal.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Fish and
15 Game Advisory Committee comments.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Summary of written
20 public comments.

21

22 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair, there
23 are no written comments on this proposal. Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Is there any public
26 testimony.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Regional Council
31 deliberation, recommendation and justification.

32

33 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair, being that
34 there seems to be a consensus with the Western Interior
35 Regional Advisory Council and all the agencies involved,
36 I would move to support them with this issue.

37

38 MR. OLANNA: Second the motion.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion to
41 support this proposal and has been seconded.

42

43 MR. BUCK: Question.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Question has been
46 called. All those in favor signify by stating aye.

47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,

00063

1 same sign.

2

3

(No opposing votes)

4

5

6

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. So we'll move on to Proposal 38.

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MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair, Proposal 38 was submitted by the Western Interior Regional Council and would increase the existing Unit 24 wolf hunting harvest limit from five to 10 wolves.

Federal public lands account for 64 percent of Unit 24, rural residents of Units 6, 9, 10, Unimak Island only, 11 through 13 and the residents of Chickaloon in Units 16 through 26 have a positive customary and traditional use determination for wolves in Unit 24. For National Park lands only residents of the resident zone communities have a customary and traditional use determination, the ones listed.

The most recent aerial wolf surveys conducted for the area was in the spring of 2000 by ADF&G and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The total area population estimate for Unit 24 was 374 to 541 wolves and 58 to 66 packs and the overall population appeared to be healthy. The average annual reported harvest of wolves in Unit 24 over the past 10 years, from 1991 to 2000 has been 80 wolves taken by trappers and hunters.

The wolf population in Unit 24 appears to be stable to increasing.

Effects of the proposal. Adoption of the proposed regulations would meet the proponents intent to increased opportunity for qualified users who want to harvest additional wolves in Unit 24. If adopted, additional harvest of wolves is not likely in most of Unit 24 because rural subsistence users who hunt wolves in Unit 24 currently do so under trapping regulations.

Most wolves are harvested during the trapping season due to better fur condition and better transportation conditions. This additional opportunity would have the greatest impact in the Gates of Arctic National Park where hunting regulations are the primary means to harvest wolves with a firearm.

Adopting this proposal would create a difference between Federal and State regulations. The

00064

1 preliminary conclusion would be to support this proposal.

2

3 Any questions.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Alaska Department of

6 Fish and Game.

7

8 MR. MAGDANZ: Madame Chair. Jim Magdanz,

9 ADF&G Subsistence Division. The State's comments are on

10 Page 161 in your book. The Department supports this

11 proposal but recommends that the bag limit of five

12 wolverines [sic] be authorized only for the period

13 November 1 through March 31st and the -- am I ahead one

14 proposal?

15

16 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

17

18 MR. MAGDANZ: Madame Chair, my apologies.

19 Did we have two coyote proposals -- are we on Proposal

20 36?

21

22 MR. KOBUK: 38, Page 153.

23

24 MR. MAGDANZ: I'm sorry. The State's

25 recommendation on this one is similar to the

26 recommendation on the previous one -- I mean the one I

27 was reading. We support with modification. And again,

28 the modification would be to implement the bag limit of

29 10 wolves from November 1 to April 30th only. I'm

30 looking at Page 153.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Anything further?

33

34 MR. MAGDANZ: Madame Chair, that

35 concludes my comments.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Other

38 agency comments.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Fish and Game advisory

43 comments.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Summary of written

48 public comments.

49

50 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair, there

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1 was one from Defenders of Wildlife, opposing. And to
2 make it short, they said the current wolf and wolverine
3 hunting regulations are adequate to provide subsistence
4 needs in this unit where most furbearers are taken by
5 trapping with no bag limits. The rest is self-
6 explanatory.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Barbara.
9 Any public testimony -- oh, yeah, we went through that,
10 gee whiz -- oh, public testimony.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Regional Council
15 deliberation, recommendation and justification.

16

17 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair, I move to
18 support -- recommend to support this proposal.

19

20 MR. BUCK: Second.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion on
23 the floor to support this proposal.

24

25 MR. KOBUK: Question.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Question has been
28 called. All those in support of this proposal signify by
29 stating aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
34 same sign.

35

36 (No opposing votes)

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion passes. So
39 we'll move on to Proposal 39.

40

41 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair, Proposal 39
42 is very similar to 38 except it's for wolverines so I'll
43 try and keep this brief.

44

45 It was submitted by the Western Interior
46 Regional Council and would increase the existing Unit 24
47 wolverine harvest limits from one to five wolverines. It
48 would include the same lands as 38 and same communities.

49

50 There have been no formal surveys for

00066

1 wolverine populations in Unit 24. As a result there's
2 little biological information available other than the
3 reported furbearer sealing records. State sealing
4 records have documented that 18 and 10 wolverines were
5 sealed in 2000 and 2001 respectfully.

6
7 The average annual reported harvest of
8 wolverines in Unit 24 over the past 10 years from 1991 to
9 2000 has been 26 wolverines taken by hunters and
10 trappers.

11
12 The effects of the proposal. Adoption of
13 the proposed regulations would meet the proponents intent
14 to increase opportunity for qualified users who want to
15 harvest additional wolverines in Unit 24. Additional
16 harvest of wolverine is not likely because rural
17 subsistence users who hunt wolverine in Unit 24 may
18 currently do so under trapping regulations. Once again,
19 wolverines are harvested during the trapping season due
20 to better fur conditions and better travel conditions.
21 And this would also have a slightly greater impact on the
22 Gates of Arctic National Park for hunting regulations on
23 the primary means to harvest wolverines with a firearm.

24
25 Adoption of this proposal would result in
26 different Federal and State wolverine hunting regulations
27 for Unit 24.

28
29 The preliminary conclusion for this would
30 be to support the proposal.

31
32 That concludes my briefing.

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Alaska
35 Department of Fish and Game comments.

36
37 MR. MAGDANZ: Madame Chair, didn't I
38 already do this.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MR. MAGDANZ: The Department's comments
43 on this are the same as the previous proposal and for the
44 same reason. We support this with modification and
45 recommend a bag limit of five be authorized only for the
46 period November 1 to March 31st, which would coincide
47 with the trapping season and would target hunting on
48 prime wolverine pelts.

49
50 Madame Chair.

00067

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Other
2 agency comments.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Fish and Game Advisory
7 Committee comments.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Summary of written
12 public comments.

13
14 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair, there is
15 one from the Defenders of Wildlife opposing. And it's
16 the same as Proposal 36, they are saying the current wolf
17 and wolverine hunting regulations are adequate to provide
18 subsistence needs in this units where most furbearers are
19 taken by trapping with no bag limits.

20
21 Thank you, ma'am.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Any public
24 testimony on this proposal.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Regional Council
29 deliberation, recommendation and justification.

30
31 MR. JOHNSON: Just that maybe this time
32 I'd maybe like to take Fish and Game's comments to show
33 that you raised it, especially when the fur is prime and
34 on this one I would move to support with one wolverine
35 taken in the first part, September and October and a bag
36 limit of five for the period of November 1 to March 31st.

37
38 MR. SEETOT: Second.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion on
41 the floor.

42
43 MR. KOBUK: Question.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Question has been
46 called. All those in favor of the motion signify by
47 stating aye.

48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

00068

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
2 same sign.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. And I
7 believe we have no more proposals to address, thank you.
8 And we'll go back to Section 9, we were waiting for
9 Leonard to come in so we could have election of officers
10 and we can do it right now if the Council concurs.

11
12 (Council nods affirmatively)

13
14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So we'll move to
15 election of officers.

16
17 MR. JOHNSON: I so move.

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Is there a second.

20
21 MR. SEETOT: I second.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. There's a
24 motion on the floor to move to election of officers. All
25 those in favor signify by stating aye.

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
30 same sign.

31
32 (No opposing votes)

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So we'll begin our
35 election of officers. We'll start with the Chair. I'm
36 turning the meeting over to Barbara.

37
38 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Nominations are now
39 open for Chair.

40
41 MR. BUCK: I nominate Grace.

42
43 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Grace has been
44 nominated.

45
46 MR. KOBUK: I'll second that motion.

47
48 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Are there any other
49 nominations.

50

00069

1 MR. OLANNA: Motion to close nominations.

2

3 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Is that Grace Cross
4 with unanimous consent to Chair?

5

6 (Council nods affirmatively)

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you very much.

9

10 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Ms. Grace, you have
11 the floor for the vice chair.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. I'll open the
14 nominations for vice chair.

15

16 MR. BUCK: I nominate Jake Olanna.

17

18 MR. SEETOT: Second that nomination.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jack Olanna has been
21 nominated for vice chair.

22

23 MR. JOHNSON: I move to close and ask for
24 unanimous consent.

25

26 MR. SAVETILIK: I second.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those in favor of
29 Jake Olanna as vice chair signify by stating aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
34 same sign.

35

36 (No opposing votes)

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Unanimous consent.

39 Nominations are now open for Secretary.

40

41 MR. KOBUK: I nominate Elmer Seetot.

42

43 MR. SEETOT: I decline. I'm not sure if
44 I still will be on the Board, that's my reason.

45

46 MR. BUCK: I nominate Leonard Kobuk.

47

48 MR. JOHNSON: Second.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Leonard Kobuk has been

00070

1 nominated.

2

3 MR. KOBUK: Can I decline?

4

5 MR. OLANNA: Move to close nominations.

6

7 MR. SAVETILIK: I second it.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those in favor of
10 having Elmer as the secretary -- or excuse me, Leonard as
11 the secretary signify by stating aye.

12

13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
16 same sign.

17

18 (No opposing votes)

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Congratulations. Now,
21 we close election of officers.

22

23 Okay. Going back to our agenda there
24 are.....

25

26 MR. JOHNSON: Congratulations.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you very much
29 for entrusting your trust in me again. I'll try not to
30 make too much ruckus. When we go to Fisheries
31 Information Services, there is some people that need to
32 leave so we'll have those individuals talk to us first
33 that are on the afternoon flight today. Jim, and Sandy,
34 I believe.

35

36 MR. MAGDANZ: Madame Chair. I believe
37 Barbara is passing out copies of a near final draft of a
38 paper that Kawerak and the Alaska Department of Fish and
39 Game have worked on cooperatively. With me at the table
40 is Sandra Tahbone who is director of Kawerak's Natural
41 Resources Department.

42

43 The proposal was funded by the Fisheries
44 Information Service. It's a two year project and is near
45 final completion now. We've just recently circulated
46 this in the villages in Teller, White Mountain, King
47 Island and Nome to get comments and we'll be putting out
48 a final version of this paper in about two weeks.

49

50 The project addressed the question of

00071

1 Nome's harvesting outside of the Nome subdistrict. We've
2 had good harvest survey information from the communities
3 around Norton Sound since 1994 and we have Nome permit
4 data stretching back to 1974, but one of the gaps in the
5 harvest reporting system was those residents of Nome who
6 fished outside of the Nome subdistrict and were not
7 subject to the permitting requirements but were never
8 contacted in the village surveys. We had no idea how
9 much this harvest was and where it was occurring.

10

11 And so the study was designed to answer
12 that question, where are Nome residents harvesting salmon
13 outside the Nome subdistrict and what is the magnitude of
14 their harvest? To do that, we identified three different
15 groups of Nome households that we believe to be fishing
16 outside the Nome permit areas. Those included the
17 members of the King Island community. Other Nome
18 households that were identified by a network of key
19 respondents, using a sampling technique known as snowball
20 sampling. And Nome households whose members had obtained
21 sportfish licenses in the year 2000. And then Kawerak
22 surveyed households in each group.

23

24 We attempted to contact all the
25 households in the King Island community. All of the
26 households in the other Nome group. And a random sample
27 of the sportfish license holders.

28

29 The results of those surveys and an
30 analysis of the permit data for 2001 indicated that Nome
31 residents harvested almost half of their salmon, 47
32 percent outside the Nome permit area. We estimated that
33 Nome residents harvested 6,138 salmon, 1,158 of those or
34 19 percent came from the Port Clarence area and 1,426
35 came from the White Mountain/Golovin area. So in your
36 report, if you turn to Figure 4-1 on Page 27, that's a
37 column chart. The permit data for Nome showed a harvest
38 in 2001 of 1,837.

39

40 When Kawerak completed their surveys and
41 we analyzed the data that Sandy and her crew gathered,
42 the harvest reported by survey only totaled 4,078 salmon.
43 So well over twice as many salmon reported on the surveys
44 by the permit.

45

46 There were 35 households who had been
47 both surveyed and had obtained permits so we had to make
48 sure that we didn't double count those households but
49 once we identified those households and so that we didn't
50 double count, the harvest reported by permit and survey

00073

1 or myself would be the main contacts.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. And maybe Sandy
4 you can give them a number people can call.

5

6 MR. BUCK: Madame Chair, a question.
7 With the survey, was there any mention of the use of jet
8 units in the rivers, about how they affect fish?

9

10 MS. TAHBONE: Yes. During the town hall
11 meeting and as well as the respondent interviews that we
12 conducted in White Mountain, there is considerable
13 concern and question as to the impacts of jet units on
14 the spawning grounds. That issue -- the issue of beavers
15 was also raised.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Sandy, what's the
18 number that people can reach you?

19

20 MS. TAHBONE: I can be reached at the
21 Kawerak offices, 443-4383.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And Jim.

24

25 MR. MAGDANZ: 1-800-478-3420.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any more questions or
28 comments for Sandy or Jim?

29

30 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair, to Kawerak and
31 to ADF&G, when you did these surveys did you ask any
32 other questions on the use areas, like Teller, I think
33 they were opposed -- not real opposed but they raised
34 issue of people from outside the community, you know,
35 using nets that were longer than theirs and that they
36 didn't ask permission from the land owners themselves to
37 actually set the nets. Were there any questions raised
38 by Kawerak or ADF&G on issues that were raised by the
39 communities themselves, one, net length, two permission
40 from land owners, three, any other issues that affected
41 the local fishermen?

42

43 MR. MAGDANZ: Those were all subjects of
44 the interviews in Teller. Yes, in deed, they came up.
45 And on Page 36 there's a schematic, a map that shows the
46 fishing situation in Teller that was described to us by
47 respondents there where residents from Nome would set
48 nets on either end of the area that Teller residents
49 usually fished in. And in most of the interviews there
50 were -- I think every interview there were comments about

00074

1 the length of the nets that Nome residents were setting
2 in Teller. And the proximity of sets where a long net
3 was set so close to a Teller net that it had the effect
4 of corking that shorter net. There were some, you know,
5 discussions between the fishermen themselves about those
6 things.

7

8 It may be that Teller or the Fish and
9 Game Advisory Committee for Northern Norton Sound will
10 want to submit a proposal that would limit net lengths in
11 Port Clarence to no more than, I think, 150 feet was
12 about the longest local net that we heard about as
13 opposed to 300 feet.

14

15 So the summary of the comments from the
16 village meetings which I didn't talk about in my opening
17 comments are all in Chapter 5 that begins on Page 35. So
18 that's where you would find some of those subjects
19 discussed in this report.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, I'm glad these
22 studies are being done because for a number of years,
23 ever since I've been on the RAC, I think every year,
24 there's always been a concern of displaced Nome fishermen
25 and how much impact they may be having on other areas of
26 our region and I'm glad these are being done. And people
27 from those local areas, I'm sure that eventually these
28 studies will be used to help the people address some of
29 the concerns that they have positively.

30

31 MR. BUCK: Madame Chair, another comment.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

34

35 MR. SEETOT: We're within six miles of
36 each other but I think Grantly harbor is more protected
37 for all of the community residents to put their nets in
38 front of Brevig. We do have a good run but I think one,
39 is that we are limited by offshore winds -- or not
40 offshore winds, onshore winds, mostly southeast,
41 southwest southerly winds and also by when the drying
42 season. Pretty much I think the majority of the fish are
43 either eaten for immediate consumption, they're salted or
44 they're put away in a half-dried state or dried over the
45 months.

46

47 The salmon are pretty healthy, and, one
48 is that they're pretty fat and that's good for immediate
49 consumption and stuff like that. But the majority of the
50 fish that we kind of put away are during the later part

00075

1 of the fishing season. One, that they don't contain too
2 much fat and two, that they dry pretty easily once they
3 become lean and we do have to travel up the Iyiapuk (ph)
4 River to, pretty much, one, to get the chum and silver.
5 By the time the main fish, the chinook and the red pass-
6 through it's pretty much, you know, they go through
7 different areas, one, to -- the red goes primarily
8 through Pilgrim River. We don't see the red salmon in
9 the Iyiapuk River, so that's a condition. Things that we
10 have to take -- if we dry fish later in the season we
11 just mostly dry chum and silver. If we dry them -- if we
12 dry fish when they first come we get possibly red and
13 chum, which is, I think, the ideal salmon to have is the
14 red salmon. But majority kind of go for the leaner fish
15 later in July or August. But I think it all depends on
16 the person's preference, whether they take reds or chum
17 early in the season or they just go after chum and silver
18 in the fishing season which is the end of July, August,
19 September for the Iyiapuk River drainages.

20

21 It would be nice for residents from
22 outside the community of maybe Teller, you know, to ask
23 residents of Teller, one, where their prime fishing sites
24 are; two, if they had prior use of these sites to be
25 reported so that ownership of the net sites would be
26 established early in the season without too much negative
27 remarks or impacts from the community of Teller.

28

29 We, in Brevig, do not see too much
30 fishing from outside the community other than family
31 members or relatives, you know, that come to help the
32 community members, brothers, sisters, immediate family,
33 that live outside of Brevig but do come to help, you
34 know, during the summer or, you know, during the fishing
35 season. But I would think that this type of survey or
36 issues and comments raised, you know, during certain
37 seasons would kind of help alleviate some of the negative
38 impacts that, you know, outsiders bring into a community.
39 And then even though those resources are to be shared,
40 some would think that, you know, this is my community, I
41 think I have first chance of getting these resources, to
42 me, everyone is entitled to these resources but I think
43 they got to do it in a way that it's done with one,
44 respect to the resources; and, two, going with the
45 community's needs that they don't say, this is my prior
46 land, I come here, I was here 15 years ago, this is where
47 I will set the net in which some -- some instances maybe
48 the current land owner did not know the ownership of land
49 15 or 20 years ago.

50

00076

1 From the looks of these it looks like the
2 people outside the community, you know, are getting first
3 choice at the fish when they go fix or set the net. And
4 then like the local people, you know, moan and groan and
5 gripe, you know, that people outside the community are
6 taking first priority of the resources. But I think
7 that's pretty interesting. You know, six miles apart,
8 you know, different conditions exist between the two
9 communities. Our primary places are on the northern
10 shore of Port Clarence Bay. Teller's major source of
11 fishing is on the southern portion of -- or right in
12 front of Teller, southern portion of Grantly Harbor or
13 along Native allotment camps around Duktsuk Channel. But
14 around Iyiapuk River, we do, you know, share the
15 resources, there's plenty of fish in certain rivers, the
16 chum, the silver, in the Iyiapuk River, the reds and
17 possibly some in the Pilgrim River.

18
19 So you know, our ancestors taught us not
20 to fight over a resource because if you do fight over
21 resources, you know, that they won't be there after
22 awhile. It is nice to find consensus -- it's nice to
23 work out the problems before they become bad for the
24 community, pretty much like what Nome is doing to the
25 community of Teller. Like cork - like they say -- and
26 this is the first time I heard that expression, corking
27 the other fishermen, you know, that's the first time I
28 heard that expression. I was wondering what they were
29 talking about and I had someone explain it to me that
30 having a slightly longer net than the others.

31
32 But I guess it all depends on individual
33 fishermen or food gatherers whether they live in that
34 community or whether they went into the community just to
35 get the resource and then, you know, back out. But
36 that's something that I would comment on.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

41
42 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, Madame Chair, I
43 think, you know, Elmer's right on the money with it.
44 Part of the problem here is good neighbors and simply
45 fishing in among members of a community, everyone's
46 communicating with one another and when there are
47 conflicts they work them out among themselves. When you
48 have people coming from outside a community they don't
49 know the traditions in that community and there certainly
50 has been some of that problem here.

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1 In both Teller and White Mountain we
2 heard concerns that some of the problems that Nome has
3 experienced will be exported along with the fishing
4 pressure and that the fishing pressure in these other
5 areas will result in increased regulation in Grantly
6 Harbor and in White Mountain. So people in the smaller
7 communities are concerned, not only about the fish
8 populations themselves and the competition but about the
9 potential for additional regulation even though they,
10 themselves, haven't changed their practices.

11
12 One other subject that came up in Teller
13 had to do with customary trade in fish, where there were
14 -- in response to the declines in the Nome subdistrict,
15 there were some people in Teller and in Brevig Mission
16 who were providing fish through customary trade channels
17 to residents of Nome.

18
19 There was also -- one of the factors in
20 the long nets in Teller by Nome residents was that the
21 Teller families tended to want to fish gear that gave
22 them a modest amount of fish to process in a given time
23 so you could cut so many a day and so many the next day
24 but your net was in the water all the time. The Nome
25 fishing dynamic is different where people want to come up
26 on a weekend or even in the evening and fish as many fish
27 as they can get in a short period of time so they can
28 process them and get back to Nome. So there's these two
29 fishing dynamics that played into the lengths of net in
30 Teller and Nome.

31
32 Madame Chair.

33
34 MR. BUCK: Madame Chair, one other
35 question that was brought up in White Mountain is the
36 extraterritorial jurisdiction be exercised. Because the
37 thing that affects the fish are not necessarily in the
38 unit, or in the Nome area, White Mountain area, it's
39 usually in other places in the ocean or Area K [sic], or
40 something like that. So I think that the avenues for
41 extraterritorial jurisdiction need to be investigated so
42 that these problems in Nome, White Mountain, Teller can
43 be better resolved.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Any more
46 comments or questions from the Council members. You're
47 still planning on leaving at 3:00, right?

48
49 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, Charlie will be
50 leaving earlier, I think I'm around for a little bit

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1 longer. I think I should be here until about 4:00.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, because I
4 thought maybe I'd move you up from -- since you're
5 sitting in the chair already move you up from C to right
6 now.

7

8 MR. MAGDANZ: Okay. But I will be here
9 for questions for a little while longer.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. So we'll go to
12 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, fisheries, we'll move
13 that up. And I believe Ken Adkisson -- or Kate Persons
14 has given you a report to report.

15

16 MR. ADKISSON: Right. Whenever you want
17 me to do that.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. We'll just
20 leave you where you are at. So Charlie, do you want to,
21 since you're right next to him -- right after him?

22

23 MR. LEAN: Madame Chair, I don't have a
24 lot to say. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Ivanoff were chairing
25 the meeting that I attended yesterday. I could elaborate
26 on any point that people want. But I think Mr. Johnson
27 already spoke to that meeting.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Mr. DeCicco.

30

31 MR. DECICCO: Madame Chair, Fred DeCicco,
32 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm not on short
33 notice so just for your information I don't have to be
34 here right now but I will be at your request and I am.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think I'm getting
37 names confused anyway, so if you want to do that later or
38 you can do it now.

39

40 MR. DECICCO: Okay. Well, I'll go now
41 unless there's someone that needs to leave this afternoon
42 that should be up here now.

43

44 Okay. I just have a few brief remarks.
45 I wanted to go over what my division has planned for work
46 around Nome for this summer. But firstly, I wanted to
47 brief the Council on the status of the fisheries projects
48 that have been funded through the FIS in Northwestern
49 Alaska. The projects that we have are both up in the
50 Kotzebue region.

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1 One of those two projects extends down
2 into Norton Sound and that's Dolly Varden genetics.
3 We're looking at the relationships of stocks of Dolly
4 Varden in Norton Sound and up in Kotzebue Sound. We're
5 doing that by getting Nome stock samples, baseline
6 samples of juvenile rearing fish in the streams before
7 they ever start to migrate so they're stock specific.
8 And once we have that data base analyzed, we're taking
9 samples from subsistence fisheries in Noatak and Kivalina
10 to try to apportion the harvest out by stock units. We
11 haven't finished the analysis yet so I can't really tell
12 you what we found because I don't know what we found yet.
13 But we have baseline samples from several populations in
14 the Noatak for spawning populations in the Noatak. The
15 Wulik River, the Kivalina River and then down in Norton
16 Sound we have one from the Cobblestone, we have the Tisuk
17 River, we have the Penny River, Cripple, Sinuk, Solomon
18 and Nome Rivers.

19

20 The genetics lab, Fish and Wildlife
21 Service's genetic's lab in Anchorage has put in a
22 proposal through FIS to expand the project and we'll see
23 if that gets funded or not.

24

25 The other project is a Dolly Varden, more
26 of a life history on one spawning stock project and this
27 is up on the Kougarok River which is a tributary to the
28 Noatak and it's on one small tributary of that stream.
29 Two summers ago we had a trap in the river made out of
30 mesh and it got wiped out by high water, didn't work, so
31 last spring we built a weir up there and it was working
32 fine until about the 18th of August when the river -- the
33 same situation up there as it was in Nome, the water was
34 low all summer, but then it really started raining and
35 the volume of the river changed by a factor of 10 in a
36 very short amount of time and it blew this weir out that
37 we had built out of six by six timbers and aluminum
38 piping and it was running right over it. And
39 unfortunately because of that, we didn't get the kind of
40 information that we were looking for. We ended up
41 sampling about 342 fish that migrated into the stream.
42 One of the objectives was to fly a number of aerial
43 surveys at different times of the year to try to assess
44 the accuracy of the aerial survey counts, we were only
45 able to do that one time. I flew three aerial surveys in
46 one day. I talk into a tape recorder as I see fish so I
47 hadn't totaled them up, what I had seen. And then after
48 I returned to Fairbanks I learned that the accuracy was
49 actually pretty good. There weren't very many fish in
50 the river at the time, though. The three survey counts

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1 were 99, 89 and 106. And at that time there were 97 fish
2 in the river. So at least at low levels of -- low
3 densities, aerial surveys appear to be a pretty close
4 approximation of what's there in those streams.

5
6 The future of that project is we're
7 discussing that. We'll probably try to modify some of
8 the objectives and with the money that's remaining, which
9 isn't too much, just try to learn as much as we can in
10 the next year. Probably put some radio transmitters out
11 in some fish in more disparate areas in the drainage,
12 maybe in the upper Noatak where we know there are some
13 spawning areas but we don't know anything else about the
14 fish except there are few small spawning populations. We
15 do have some radio transmitters out currently and will be
16 monitoring those throughout the winter.

17
18 So that's the status of the FIS projects.

19
20 As far as Alaska Department of Fish and
21 Game work around Nome that my division will be doing,
22 Sportfish, will be continuing with the grayling
23 rehabilitation work on the Nome River. Last year we
24 caught about 5,000 young of the year grayling, about an
25 inch long and put them in pens in the pond at Banner
26 Creek, the small separate little pond there in the gravel
27 pits and we had different treatments in different pens,
28 300 per pen and some 600 per pen in others and then we
29 used a round tank where the pump as another method to try
30 so that we could assess different survival and growth
31 among these different treatment groups. And then we had
32 treatments of 300 fish in the pen that we -- we fed all
33 the groups except for several of the 300 fish pen
34 treatments just to see if they could get enough food just
35 out of the water without us adding feed to them.
36 Overall, in all the fed treatments, the survival was
37 about 50 percent. It varied very little from that, like
38 49 to 51 percent in the different treatments, except for
39 the ones where we did not feed them, there the survival
40 was about five percent and they didn't grow much so that
41 tells us we're going to need to feed the fish the next
42 time we do it.

43
44 So last fall I weighed and measured and
45 fin-clipped fish to mark them by treatment group and
46 released half of them into the Nome River and the other
47 half into the pond to see if they could survive over the
48 winter. We don't know where the problem in survival in
49 grayling is, if it's just during the summertime that
50 first year or if it's a bottleneck during the wintertime

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1 for you.

2

3 MR. DECICCO: Yes, so I'll stay.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So maybe we could get
6 back to you and then address yours, there's more
7 questions for Mr. DeCicco.

8

9 MR. TODD: Yes.

10

11 MR. JOHNSON: It's about the grayling
12 rehab or whatever it is that we're doing.

13

14 MR. DECICCO: Uh-huh.

15

16 MR. JOHNSON: Is that, I know -- I mean
17 our main priority, apparently, is subsistence and then
18 we've been talking about the decline in salmon especially
19 in the Nome area rivers. I'm wondering why we're
20 concentrating right now so highly on grayling. Shouldn't
21 we pooling all our resources to try to get the salmon
22 stocks up first before we introduce more fish that would
23 be feeding on either the eggs or the fry?

24

25 MR. DECICCO: Well, that's a good
26 question but the Department of Fish and Game is
27 interested in more than just salmon and more than just
28 subsistence. We have commercial fisheries and
29 sportfisheries that we manage. And I work with the
30 Sportfish Division.

31

32 The population of grayling in the Nome
33 River is very depressed. Our last abundance estimate was
34 just about 500 fish. I mean there's almost not a
35 population at all. And so we feel that it's a priority
36 to try to rebuild that population so at least it's up to
37 a level where it can sustain itself and hopefully at some
38 point we could open fishing opportunity there again, both
39 subsistence and sport. Everything's closed right now.

40

41 So that's why, you know, grayling we have
42 in the Nome River.

43

44 Any more questions.

45

46 MR. OLANNA: Fred, Jake Olanna. How
47 about trout. The Dolly Vardens in Nome, Nome River have
48 you seen any increase in the population or what's the
49 population doing in the Nome River?

50

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1 MR. DECICCO: Jake, I haven't done much
2 work on trout around Nome for awhile. About three years
3 ago I radiotagged some trout over the winter in the Nome
4 River and the Solomon River just to identify critical
5 habitats. Mostly with the idea that if there's more
6 mineral development, the Habitat Division, which may or
7 may not exist in the future would need to know that
8 information so they could permit stream crossings and
9 things like that in sensitive areas.

10

11 MR. OLANNA: Okay.

12

13 MR. DECICCO: So we did follow trout
14 around in the Nome River and the Solomon. We got some
15 surprises, in the Nome River they moved around a lot
16 during the course of the winter. I had assumed that they
17 would move in, find a spot and just hunker down for all
18 winter long. That wasn't always the case. About half
19 the fish were moving periodically from up by the bridge
20 all the way down to VOR, back and forth, the Thirteenmile
21 Bridge. And the surprise over in the Solomon was that
22 about half the fish, sometime during the winter, moved
23 over into the Bonanza.

24

25 MR. OLANNA: Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Go ahead.

28

29 MR. JOHNSON: Being that you are in
30 sportfish, in that Department, we are concerned about
31 salmon stocks like even on the Unalakleet River, do you
32 have any plans or anything for restoration or
33 rehabilitation, any projects that would target if our
34 salmon stocks are in decline? Are we working with
35 commfish or subsistence to do projects or do we wait
36 until they go into decline to start a project?

37

38 MR. DECICCO: Well, we don't have plans
39 to do rehabilitation work currently in the Unalakleet.
40 The stocks -- even though the runs are somewhat low
41 compared to what they were 20 years ago, we're not in a
42 situation where it's disparate, I believe. I think that
43 there are enough fish that they can be managed for
44 people's uses. It sure would be nice if there were more.

45

46 MR. JOHNSON: I guess what I'm trying to
47 say is that, you know, when we do get borderline to
48 shutting down subsistence, that would mean that sportfish
49 would be shut down.

50

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1 MR. DECICCO: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. JOHNSON: And to get away from that
4 area is to start addressing the problem now or doing
5 things that we can make sure that we don't get there so
6 that your program can work and, of course, we'd get our
7 subsistence harvest.

8

9 MR. DECICCO: Uh-huh.

10

11 MR. JOHNSON: And not to just sit back
12 and wait until, well, we're kind of borderline and not
13 doing anything, or try to think of or conceive or do
14 projects with salmon. I mean if our trout stuff are
15 healthier then maybe lay off on them and work on the
16 salmon issues, too, if that was the case.

17

18 MR. DECICCO: Okay. I'm.....

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. I was
21 going to ask about the Salmon Lake.

22

23 MR. JONES: Wes Jones with Alaska
24 Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries
25 Division in Nome. Yes, Salmon Lake, the initial program
26 was for -- it was determined to be nutrient limited,
27 which was there was not enough food to produce -- to help
28 the small fry get to the smolt stage to where they could
29 out-migrate. Salmon Lake was fertilized for five years.
30 The summer of 2001 was the last year that it was
31 fertilized. In the spring of 2002, it was looked at and
32 there wasn't definite indication whether the
33 fertilization actually helped the out-migrants.

34

35 So it was decided, because it's a
36 cooperative effort between Alaska Department of Fish and
37 Game, BLM and Norton Sound Economic Development
38 Corporation, they decided to go ahead and continue on
39 with the overall work but decided not to fertilize for
40 2002. And they got an estimate of the out-migrants of
41 smolt from Salmon Lake in 2002. And also then, I guess,
42 indirectly Kawerak is also a cooperator in that Kawerak
43 runs the counting operation on the Pilgrim River which
44 counts the returning adults and that's being factored in
45 and looked at.

46

47 So the plans are that this year they will
48 count out-migrating salmon smolt again from Salmon Lake,
49 count the in-migrants for the Pilgrim River and then look
50 at, did fertilizing do what we want to do, do we need to

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1 fertilize that system again? And if it's set up that if
2 fertilization is determined, that that's what needed to
3 continue the salmon coming back, we'll jump back in and
4 start doing it again.

5

6 But it's unclear right now if it wa
7 really helping out or not, so they decided they'd rather
8 not keep fertilizing without knowing for sure that that
9 was really helping.

10

11 Okay.

12

13 MR. SAVETILIK: Were there any genetic
14 sampling before the fertilization began?

15

16 MR. JONES: Genetics, no, I -- there has
17 been some genetic samples from Salmon Lake taken in 2001,
18 the summer, but not genetics before, I do not believe.
19 There was a big study -- the original study was looking
20 at Glacial Lake and Salmon Lake, they looked at physical
21 -- all kinds of physical attributes and that's how it was
22 determined that it was nutrient limited. Glacial Lake
23 was determined to be spawning limited, there was enough
24 nutrients in the lake.

25

26 MR. SAVETILIK: Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Any more
29 questions -- go ahead.

30

31 MR. JOHNSON: I'd just like to take this
32 time to thank Fred for meeting with us yesterday, Fred
33 and Charlie who we had a little workshop meeting with the
34 traditional council and whoever wanted to attend to
35 discuss some of our concerns and they took the time to go
36 ahead and do it with us. I'd just like to thank you.

37

38 MR. DECICCO: You're welcome. It was a
39 pleasure and hopefully we'll be talking with each other
40 more.

41

42 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, before they
43 run off I got a question. Have you got the results of
44 the egg boxes that -- I don't know, Charlie might have
45 this answer, you know, in the Snake River, have you seen
46 any salmon coming back from that project?

47

48 MR. DECICCO: Jake, I'll just take a stab
49 at that quick and then Charlie can pitch in.

50

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1 MR. OLANNA: Okay.

2

3 MR. DECICCO: But one of the problems
4 with all the egg box work that was done around Nome was
5 that there was really no way to assess whether it was
6 having a difference. They didn't mark the fish when they
7 released them and so we didn't have a way to estimate
8 what kind of contribution it made. There was one year
9 and Charlie can probably fill in the details on the Snake
10 River where it sure appeared that there was a tremendous
11 return, way more relative to the other rivers and most of
12 them went right up there by Boulder Creek and sat in the
13 river. But I'll turn it over to Charlie, which is
14 circumstantial, but because they weren't marked, we
15 really couldn't estimate the contribution.

16

17 MR. LEAN: Thank you. I thought it was a
18 productive meeting, too. Since I'm no longer a Fish and
19 Game employee, at the time Boulder Creek had some
20 problems with keeping the egg box in place. That creek's
21 subject to flood and we lost the egg boxes on that creek
22 twice out of four years. And so Boulder Creek sprawls
23 out as it comes out of the hills and it has a number of
24 forks and some of them go dry. And so the concern was
25 that perhaps some of the eggs or some of the little fish
26 as they left the box got stranded out on the tundra
27 someplace and died.

28

29 One year, though, the Alaska Gold Company
30 had fixed the creek so that it was a single channel. We
31 had a successful breakup and by all indications we had
32 good success in the box. Eggs all hatched or a good
33 proportion of them hatched. Four years later there were
34 a high number of the chum salmon that I counted from the
35 air in an aerial survey where on the Louville fan of
36 Boulder Creek, the water levels were too low for them to
37 go up Boulder Creek itself but they were in a typical
38 formation that sure looked like they were trying to go up
39 Boulder Creek.

40

41 And there's been a policy change recently
42 within Fish and Game and they're quite adamant now that
43 you must have tagged data to prove the success of the egg
44 boxes and without that egg boxes can't be used. It's
45 kind of a Catch-22.

46

47 MR. OLANNA: Thank you, Charlie. I was
48 going to ask you that, that was my next question, how far
49 is the State going to fund this project? Thank you.

50

00087

1 MR. SAVETILIK: Going back to Fred,
2 something about the trout. You know there is some rivers
3 that have grown the Dollys to where they were maybe
4 panfry for a year and the next year they were big and
5 there's some, two, three, four years they were small. I
6 mean I know they come down river to -- you know, the
7 gradually, as the years go by they probably go out to the
8 ocean and grow and come back to the rivers, I don't know
9 which rivers they go through but is it because of the
10 weather that some of the dollies at a small or the size
11 they are or is it just the way?

12
13 MR. DECICCO: Myron, I don't know if I
14 can answer your question exactly. But the Dolly Varden
15 are really interesting critters that have a lot of
16 variation built into their life history. I know more
17 about them up in the Kotzebue region than I do here but
18 in general they follow the same patterns. They spawn in
19 freshwater. The young ones live there for usually three
20 years and in the spring of their fourth year they would
21 be three years old, that age varies, they would go to the
22 ocean for the first time as a smolt. It's usually
23 between two and five years, the smolt age, they don't all
24 go at the same time. They're about 30 percent will go
25 age two and about 50 percent at age five and about 20
26 percent -- I mean at age three and about 20 percent at
27 age four and a couple of age fives. And they're about
28 this big when they go out. And then they feed in the
29 ocean, they come back to freshwater and they spend the
30 winter. In that first year in the ocean they about
31 double their size, they go from this size to that size
32 and probably quadruple their weight. And if you noticed
33 that you can sort of put them in size categories for the
34 first couple of sizes and then it gets harder.

35
36 But those first two and sometimes the
37 three ocean migrations and they come back to freshwater
38 to spend the winter every year, but they don't always
39 come back to their home river so after the fish have gone
40 to the ocean to feed for the summer, they come back and
41 they go into a good winter to spend the winter.
42 Shaktoolik is a good one, Unalakleet's a good one. There
43 were some in all the rivers but there are more generally
44 in some of the others. But the stocks are all mixed up.
45 You might have Nome River fish down here. The BLM did a
46 weir on the Shaktoolik River one year or two years and
47 they tagged some Dolly Varden and we got some up near
48 Nome because I was tagging fish around there at the same
49 time and I tagged in a number of rivers around Nome.
50 And, you know, Nome River fish would show up two years

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1 later over in the Sinuk or get caught at White Mountain
2 or something like that. It's pretty common. They don't
3 return to their home river to spend the winter. But when
4 they become sexually mature and get ready to spawn they
5 do.

6

7 They generally spawn in the fall in
8 September and they'll find their home river to spawn in.
9 Some of them spend the whole -- don't go to the ocean
10 during the year that they spawn they'll just continue on
11 up stream and stay in the river all summer, spawn in
12 September. So that would be a break in that annual
13 migration to the ocean.

14

15 The other thing is up around Kotzebue,
16 anyway, they do almost all their feeding -- once they
17 start going to the ocean they do all their feeding in the
18 ocean. Here, that's not the case. They do a lot of
19 feeding in freshwater, too, and then particularly in
20 years with big pink salmon runs, the migration out in the
21 spring is real slow, they just hang around and feed on
22 pink salmon fry, they might -- it's more of an advantage
23 for them to spend more time in the river than it is to go
24 out to the ocean. So that's one of the big life history
25 differences between the fish here in Norton Sound and the
26 ones up in Kotzebue Sound, is this real tie to migrations
27 of salmon. And that carries from here all the way down
28 into Southeast Alaska, there's a real link between Dolly
29 Varden movements and salmon movements.

30

31 I'm sort of rambling here but anyway,
32 yeah, you may see, you know, one year for some reason a
33 lot of small fish may come to your river, another year
34 more big ones may, and it's not because there aren't more
35 big ones in the populations it's likely because they're
36 just somewhere else.

37

38 MR. SAVETILIK: Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, very much.
41 We're going to take a 10 minute break first before we
42 continue.

43

44 (Off record)

45

46 (On record)

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I'll call the meeting
49 back to order, it is now 3:00 p.m. And there's a
50 correction that needs to be made first before we gone.

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1 MR. JONES: Okay, this is Wes Jones with
2 Fish and Game again. One thing about the Salmon Lake
3 program after mentioning -- Charlie and I talked just for
4 a second that I kind of -- I don't think I made it clear,
5 is that that, the fertilization was to increase the
6 nutrients and when it was stopped after 2001, it was
7 stopped because it's believed now we don't need to add
8 any nutrients. And the original adding nutrients, and it
9 was for six years, not five years, that adding those
10 nutrients for the six years did have the desired effect
11 of bringing the nutrient levels in the lake up so now the
12 returning salmon should provide enough nutrients -- their
13 decaying bodies should provide enough nutrients in the
14 lake so that we don't need to continue to fertilize. But
15 if it's found in the future that we do then we'll start
16 fertilizing again.

17

18 So just a little clarification.

19

20 And one thing, proposals for commercial
21 fisheries have been mentioned several time -- or for
22 subsistence and commercial and sportfisheries for the
23 State, the proposal deadline for this round is April 10th
24 for proposals to go for the next Board cycle, which the
25 Board meeting that will hear salmon -- all fin fish
26 regulation proposals for this cycle is in Bethel in
27 January of 2004 from, I believe the 12th to the 20th, but
28 those proposals are due this April 10th. And if there's
29 anybody who needs help with those or anything, feel free
30 to call us at Fish and Game in Nome and we can help you.

31

32 Okay, thank you.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Do we have
35 any more questions for ADF&G.

36

37 MR. SAVETILIK: I had but eating this
38 salmon my mind went blank.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We'll go back to 11,
43 Fisheries Information Service program.

44

45 MR. FRIED: Thank you. My name is Steve
46 Fried. I'm with the Office of Subsistence Management in
47 the Fisheries Information Services Division. There's
48 nothing in the books on what I'm talking about but I did
49 provide two handouts. One's on the monitoring issues and
50 the other one is on the status of the 2000/2003 fisheries

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1 studies. And really, those are the two things I'd just
2 like to briefly go over with the Council and answer any
3 questions they might have.

4

5 I'd like to thank the people that just
6 spoke before I did, before the break, Jim and Sandy, for
7 providing information to the Council on that Nome
8 subdistrict study that was funded through the Fisheries
9 Information Service program. I thought it would be very
10 interesting for the Council to be able to learn some of the
11 results of the studies we've been doing and see how the
12 information could be important to help Federal
13 Subsistence fisheries management.

14

15 Let's see, the first thing I just wanted
16 to bring to your attention is the fact, the monitoring
17 issues, and we've gone over these with the Council every
18 year, basically it's the Council's responsibility to work
19 with the different villages and communities to find out
20 what the important issues and information needs are for
21 these subsistence fisheries. And then we use these lists
22 of issues and needs to focus our funding on studies. So
23 for the study proposals that have come in for 2004 that
24 we just got February 1, the people that were sending the
25 proposals in got to look at this list and see what sort
26 of things we thought were most important funding for
27 funding. It doesn't mean that's the only thing they
28 could submit proposals on but, you know, the things on
29 the list are the things we'd like to focus on. And for
30 your information we have about \$5 million for new studies
31 to spend for 2004 and we have a total of 142 proposals
32 that are asking for about \$12 million so we have a pretty
33 good selection of proposals to make.

34

35 But we're just in the middle of reviewing
36 them now. But the ones I saw for this region actually
37 did all touch on issues that were mentioned in this list
38 so I think the lists are really worthwhile. And just to
39 remind the Council that, you know, these lists can be
40 revised at any time, you know, when issues and needs come
41 up so it doesn't have to be at a Council meeting, it
42 could be on a phone call or an e-mail or a letter to me.

43

44

45 So I don't know if there are any other
46 questions on issues and needs but if there aren't then
47 I'll just briefly touch on the studies that are already
48 underway.

49

50 (No comments)

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1 MR. FRIED: Okay, so I'll go on. So the
2 other handout, it's about nine pages long. And since
3 2000, the year 2000, when the program first began we've
4 funded a total of 22 different studies for the
5 Arctic/Kotzebue/Norton Sound region. And this report
6 lists all the studies and as you can see all the studies
7 and there were five that were started in 2000 are all
8 completed and there is final reports that are available.
9 And the other studies are basically all ongoing.

10

11 There's three studies that are going to
12 be done in 2003. Basically they haven't started yet,
13 we're just developing the financial agreements now to get
14 these studies started.

15

16 But for the most part the studies, you
17 know, have been going well. There's been a couple where
18 we've had some problems getting them started or problems
19 with staffing or things like that, but by and large we've
20 had some pretty good performance, you know, out of the
21 people that have submitted them.

22

23 For this part of the study region we seem
24 to have concentrated on studies on Dolly Varden and, let
25 me see what else, we had the Nome district salmon survey,
26 we've had statewide studies that have been involved with
27 this region on statewide subsistence fisheries harvest
28 assessment strategy. Making sure that fisheries harvest
29 data was being collected correctly and using reliable
30 methods in all areas of the state. We've had workshops
31 all over and came out with recommendations. Then they
32 went through and they implemented it by going through all
33 the state, making sure they had documented how this was
34 done. We've had studies on the Pikmiktalik last year
35 looking for sighting a weir to count salmon. And there's
36 also a study coming up in 2003 that would actually count
37 salmon, put in a counting tower and a partial weir.
38 We're actually having a little bit of problem with that
39 one because we're trying to close out the 2002 study and
40 I have to close that out before our contracting people
41 will let me get an agreement going for 2003. So I've
42 been trying to work with Stebbins to get a final billing
43 from them so that we can get on to the next stage and I'm
44 having a little bit of difficulty there. But hopefully
45 we can get that done so we can get this agreement in
46 place because I know the Pikmiktalik has been a pretty
47 sensitive issue and I'd hate to see that study not be
48 done because of something like that.

49

50 I don't know if there's something that

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1 maybe Leonard can help me with. I've been trying to get
2 a hold of Morris in Stebbins and it's kind of hard to do.

3
4 MR. KOBUK: I was just talking to Charlie
5 and he said that Morris just needed to do -- I can't
6 remember what you said that he needed to get some --
7 maybe you know something about that and what the problem
8 is with that so I can remind Morris he needs to do that.

9
10 MR. FRIED: All I need from him is a
11 bill.

12
13 MR. KOBUK: A bill.

14
15 MR. FRIED: We just need to know how much
16 money he spent and then basically the Fish and Wildlife
17 Service can cut him a check to reimburse them and figure
18 out how much money's left and then recover -- you know,
19 deobligate that money is what they call it, but recover
20 the money and then that means, you know, our plate's
21 clean and then they would allow me to write another
22 contract with Stebbins IRA to go to the next step. But
23 until I get that done I can't do it. And the only thing
24 that concerns me is they need to buy the materials for
25 the partial weir and the tower in time to get the program
26 going. So that needs to be done here probably in about
27 another month or so. So we're kind of running short on
28 time.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Sandy, do you have
31 some information?

32
33 MS. TAHBONE: Yes. I just touched base
34 with Morris on that and those invoices should be into you
35 by the end of this week, I think.

36
37 MR. FRIED: That's great. I've been
38 working with Spencer on that a little bit. He's been in
39 Anchorage and I've been trying to reach out and grab as
40 many people as I can get to try to help.

41
42 MS. TAHBONE: Yeah, if you can't get a
43 hold of Spencer you can get a hold of me if you need to.

44
45 MR. FRIED: Okay, thanks. That's just
46 one of the little problems. But I mean out of 22 studies
47 we're actually doing quite well.

48
49 There was one study that has been delayed
50 indefinitely but, you know, other than that, all these

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1 other studies have basically been on track and if they
2 haven't we've been able to modify them and I think
3 they're going to be starting to provide, as you can see,
4 some really good information that will actually help the
5 management program, might result in some proposals that
6 will improve the way the fisheries are managed and
7 provide some information, document some traditional
8 knowledge that will be useful for the program.

9

10 Like I say, there's some summaries here
11 of where we are on the studies that are ongoing. And if
12 anybody's interested, I think I have sent out reports to
13 people that have asked for them.

14

15 So any other questions or comments that I
16 can answer or help you with.

17

18 MR. BUCK: I'd like to have the dollar
19 figures on each of the studies that you're conducting,
20 how much you're spending on each study?

21

22 MR. FRIED: Yeah, I can provide that. I
23 just didn't put that in there. But, yeah, we have that
24 information. And if you're interested we could provide
25 that for you. And it's a wide range. I mean some
26 studies are like one year study for \$30,000 and then in
27 other ones it's like \$200,000 a year for two or three
28 years. So it just depends on the study.

29

30 But if you're interested in a particular
31 study, you know, we could give you that information or we
32 could give you a table that has all that, we have all
33 that information.

34

35 Some of that's provided in the Council
36 books in the fall meetings when we're just trying to get
37 recommendations on which studies to fund. And what we're
38 doing now is working on what they call a final study plan
39 and it will have all the budgets for all the studies that
40 we have funded. So once those are done, and it should be
41 done in another month we can send you a copy and that
42 would have all that information for all the studies that
43 are being done.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I imagine we can call
46 you if we have questions on this material?

47

48 MR. FRIED: Always. Right. That's what
49 I'm there for is to help and answer those kind of
50 questions and make sure this program is moving along. I

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1 know this is a lot of information to just digest all at
2 once. But anytime anybody has a question or needs some
3 information we can get it to you fairly quickly.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

6

7 MR. FRIED: You're certainly welcome.

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And now we're down to
11 12, agency reports, Office of Subsistence Management.
12 Barb Armstrong.

13

14 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Good afternoon. Thank
15 you, Grace. Mine is just a very short report. We have
16 the call for proposals on fisheries, and from the Seward
17 Peninsula Region we have one proposal. And the proposer
18 is here and has talked to our fisheries biologist and
19 also to Jeff Denton and it's on its way and you'll see
20 the analysis at your fall meeting for that proposal. But
21 our people will be working with proposer Weaver Ivanoff
22 in working with that analysis.

23

24 There's your draft annual report on Page
25 169. And if you should see any changes that you want to
26 do on this proposal let us know. It has been mailed in
27 already, this is it. This is the annual report that has
28 gone in and I'm sure you've seen a draft of it and this
29 is how it came out and it was mailed in to the Secretary.

30

31 The third part is the briefing on draft
32 regulatory coordination protocol. There's also a draft
33 right there on Page 171. This is the MOA, it establishes
34 guidelines to coordinate in managing subsistence uses of
35 fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands in
36 Alaska. And the rest of it is reading. It's in draft.
37 If you should see anything you want changed or have any
38 questions, please let us know and I'll try to provide
39 some answers for you.

40

41 If you don't have any questions, then
42 that's it.

43

44 Oh, another thing I wanted to do was
45 thank your Councilman, Mr. Johnson, for helping us with
46 the meeting place and setting up this place for us.

47

48 Thank you. And that's it.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And all the rides he

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1 gave us, too.

2

3

MR. BUCK: Barb, with all the fisheries studies, the fisheries problems that we're having, I'd like to direct our Staff to really pursue avenues for extraterritorial jurisdiction so that this can be established and we can use that in this subsistence advisory board. What is needed to establish extraterritorial jurisdiction?

10

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I would not answer that. It would have to be one to my boss here, Tim Jennings.

14

MR. BUCK: Well, we can direct them to really establish that.

17

MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair. Mr. Buck. The matter of extraterritorial jurisdiction, the authority to do that rests with the Secretary of Interior. So it doesn't even rest with the Federal Subsistence Board. A petition would have to go forward stating the reasons why the program should extend jurisdiction off of Federal lands and waters and how it would be tied to the effective management on Federal lands and waters of resources and then that petition would have to go to the Secretary of Interior's office.

28

Not a very high likelihood of success either. You know, I just want to give you a realistic view of the chances of this occurring and with current Administration and even over the previous years, as I understand it, the Secretary, over these kinds of issues would look at this very carefully and generally would not extend jurisdiction. It would have to be a very compelling reason and I don't know what those reasons are. But anyway, that's where the authority rests is with the Secretary of Interior in Washington, D.C.

39

MR. BUCK: The fisheries in White Mountain area, the fisheries in Nome, Unalakleet, they're all affected with Area K [sic] in the ocean so I think we have a legitimate reason to go extraterritorial jurisdiction.

45

MR. SAVETILIK: Myron. Can a letter be written to the Interior, something like this, in support of jurisdictional waters, would it come from your office or would it have to come from us?

50

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1 MR. JENNINGS: The petition?

2

3 MR. SAVETILIK: The petition or a letter?

4 I mean I'm just asking to see if a letter can be written

5 before the petition is going out for jurisdiction for

6 certain areas?

7

8 MR. JENNINGS: If you'd like we can get

9 some additional information on what steps would need to

10 be taken and how to go about it and the process, and your

11 coordinator could get that information back to you.

12

13 MR. BUCK: I think this process needs to

14 be, at least, started so that we can have an avenue of

15 direction that we can go in. I think it should be done.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think one of the

18 ways we can bring it up is when we write our letter

19 regarding local concerns, it would be one of the local

20 concerns we have. Maybe that would begin the process

21 while you're working on how we can go about doing

22 something or attempting to do something. This has been

23 brought up for a number of years so I think that if we

24 write it down as a concern from the area.

25

26 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, that would

27 be a good idea, you can put it in your annual report and

28 have the Federal Subsistence Board reply. They could

29 reply in terms of how to address the issue. Is that what

30 you're mentioning, is put it in as local concerns in your

31 annual report?

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think that's one of

34 the ways we can begin.

35

36 MR. JENNINGS: Yeah.

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And if we want it to

39 come from the RAC, I think one of the ways we can do it

40 is to address it as a local concern and ask questions if

41 there's anything the region can do and how it can be

42 done. Maybe somebody would be able to address that or

43 somebody would be directed to address that concern to us.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

50

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1 MR. OLANNA: Just for clarification,
2 Peter is that Area M or Area K?

3
4 MR. BUCK: K.

5
6 MR. OLANNA: Area K, being where?

7
8 MR. BUCK: I'm not sure. But I'm
9 thinking about Area K, but I'm thinking about the regions
10 that do affect our fisheries, I don't know exactly where
11 it's at but we do need the extraterritorial jurisdiction.

12
13 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, I believe it's
14 Area M that we're talking about. Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We'll move along to
17 agency reports, Bureau of Land Management. Jeff Denton
18 and Jeannie Cole.

19
20 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Madame Chair. My
21 name is Jeff Denton. I'm with the Anchorage Field Office,
22 BLM. This will be pretty short and probably repetitive
23 of what you heard last fall. Because we're struggling
24 with money right now to keep the gage station. We're
25 working with USGS on the Unalakleet River. And that
26 particular action is part of the requirement to get
27 instream flow reservations for the wild and scenic river
28 and the primary impetus behind that is to protect the
29 flows of the water for spawning salmon. And I think
30 there's a requirement of 10 years of flow data required
31 by the State in order to make a valid application for
32 instream flows. So we've got -- what, seven years into
33 this and we struggle every year for dollars to keep it
34 open but we manage to keep the gate still working. So
35 it's -- every year it's kind of a struggle.

36
37 The only other thing, really, that's on
38 the agenda is we're going to cooperatively work with Kate
39 Persons with Fish and Game this year to try to do moose
40 density estimate for the Unalakleet drainage in 22(A) if
41 the weather's willing. This has proved to be one of the
42 toughest areas to do that kind of work in, we've been
43 weathered out several times in the past. And so we're
44 going to give it another try here the first part of March
45 this year just before the Iditarod comes through.

46
47 So that's really all we have going on
48 right now. Any questions.

49
50 MR. KOBUK: Yeah, I have a question

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1 concerning the moose. My concern, since this is the
2 second year the moose -- the caribou have not come
3 around, this winter in the village of St. Michael's and
4 Stebbins, the residents have been doing a lot of moose
5 hunting and they've been doing it until the -- I think it
6 closed at the end of last month. My concern is I know a
7 lot of moose is being taken and I wish this study could
8 be taken care of right away so we could see what our
9 moose population's like.

10

11 I notice a lot of the moose have gone
12 closer to right to the foothills across the bay from St.
13 Michael's, they're starting to catch them towards
14 Nunaqalaof, Boyak and Pikmiktalik area and around
15 Klikitarik, but I've asked hunters if they'd seen any
16 moose tracks in the Golsovia River, but so far from those
17 asked, they said they haven't seen any. So my thinking
18 is that because of the bad smoke we had last summer, I
19 think may have driven the moose closer to the coastline.
20 It'd sure be nice to see how much moose there is because
21 with the caribou not coming this way anymore it's being
22 impacted greatly.

23

24 MR. DENTON: Yeah. We're only too aware
25 that there's a lot of moose being taken out of season
26 there. But we intend to do the -- the actual survey we
27 do this year is pretty much restricted to the Unalakleet
28 watershed, however, we intend to do what we call a
29 stratification level survey which is usually a pre-survey
30 before we do a density estimate of the Golsovia to the
31 Pikmiktalik country. So we will be doing, at least a
32 comparable way of looking at moose distribution and
33 abundance over in that country this year. Again, weather
34 willing. This is really tough country to do a moose
35 survey.

36

37 MR. KOBUK: And also I forgot to mention,
38 some go as far as what we call the Needle Mountains, it's
39 the highest, sharpest point mountain that runs on the --
40 I think it's the North River at the beginning of
41 Andreaksky River. I've known hunters to go that far back
42 in there to hunt for moose to see if they'll run into any
43 caribou back there but so far they've never seen any
44 tracks of caribou.

45

46 So that is my concern for our area, is
47 that we're going to extinct the moose that we have in our
48 region.

49

50 MR. DENTON: Yeah, we actually did some

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1 work over there a couple years of go and it became very
2 obvious, of course, we were seeing moose harvested right
3 under the plane, and that was in March, but also we saw
4 large amounts of habitat that were totally unoccupied by
5 moose that should have a moose population in them.

6

7 So we're well aware of it. I'm not too
8 sure what we can actually do about it other than show
9 some restraints, I guess, to that harvest or you will
10 have a problem potentially.

11

12 MR. JOHNSON: How are your projects
13 proposed and who approves them for, I don't know,
14 anything from birds to wildlife to fish?

15

16 MR. DENTON: Well, we go through --
17 there's quite an involved process for projects in BLM
18 because we propose projects, they go through a statewide
19 prioritization process that's often quite difficult and
20 quite contested and that's how a lot of the project
21 monies are distributed. And most of the time we don't
22 end up with much. I try to put in my base funding every
23 year, things like an annual moose survey somewhere so I
24 have some base that I can at least get some of these
25 higher priority things done. But usually it's about one
26 or two projects a year and they're real short-term-type
27 projects, kind of an annual, like a moose survey, you
28 know, I try to do one, at least one each year somewhere
29 in the southern half of the state basically.

30

31 We've got basically too much land to
32 cover and, you know, you guys are one of six of the
33 subsistence regions that we work with and so it's very
34 difficult to even have most of the priorities even looked
35 at. So it's not an easy process to even get money to do
36 projects at all.

37

38 MR. JOHNSON: Having said that, you said
39 you're in the Anchorage office?

40

41 MR. DENTON: That's correct.

42

43 MR. JOHNSON: And our regional guy is
44 Mike Scott?

45

46 MR. DENTON: Mike Scott is our fisheries
47 biologist in the field office and he covers, essentially
48 the same territory that I do. We cover Southeast and all
49 of Southwest Alaska, North to here and basically straight
50 west of here to the other side of Denali and then on

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1 south again. So we cover, you know, a lot of area and we
2 have a lot of issues that are fairly big issues to deal
3 with.

4

5 MR. JOHNSON: Now, the projects that
6 occur in your area, are they only done by like our area
7 biologists or do other biologists from other areas
8 sometimes request to do a project somewhere else?

9

10 MR. DENTON: No. Basically Mike is the
11 one that would propose projects or there would be
12 cooperative-type projects with Fish and Game, and Mike's
13 had several with you folks here. Our funding come and
14 goes each year. And so sometimes we're not as consistent
15 of a player as we'd like to be, but that's kind of
16 everybody's problem a little bit. But we originally
17 worked on the -- the gage station was with you folks here
18 on the Unalakleet. The counting tower up on the North
19 River, BLM participated in that for several years. These
20 sorts of things. And that's usually -- the catch is
21 catch can, we're pretty poorly funded by and large to say
22 the least.

23

24 MR. JOHNSON: I guess the reason I
25 brought it up was I was at the Old Woman shelter cabin
26 passing through and reading the log book and I thought I
27 had saw that there were some people from, I want to think
28 it was from BLM doing a bird survey this fall that we
29 didn't really know about was going on.

30

31 MR. DENTON: Yeah, Bruce Sheppe, he's
32 been doing those. That's part of a nationwide, Partners
33 in Flight, it's basically he does breeding bird surveys
34 down through there and he also does a winter owl survey
35 down there. And those are associated with multi-agency,
36 actually North America-wide efforts that are actually
37 Fish and Wildlife Service is kind of the coordinator of
38 all those. Those are pretty small projects and Bruce is
39 particularly a specialist. He knows every bird by its
40 call in the spring and so on and so forth, and they're
41 real disciplined-type surveys that takes a pretty
42 specialized skill to do those.

43

44 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, I understand that.
45 But I think one of the things that we were trying to get
46 at the last time at the last meeting, one of the issues
47 that I raised was that we'd like to know kind of what's
48 happening in our backyard and what we're looking for and
49 get some results. I mean I've had people that have been
50 specialists that have said they can float a river and can

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1 fish and not really catch any fish but, me, as a local,
2 might be able to show them a little bit more as to how we
3 do it or how it's done or why, and I guess that's to get
4 either local involvement or let us know what's going on,
5 projects that are coming up so that we can have a chance
6 to give some input, use some of our knowledge and not
7 just make it look like it's none of our business.

8

9 MR. DENTON: Yeah.

10

11 MR. JOHNSON: It's right here on the wild
12 and scenic and we live here.

13

14 MR. DENTON: Uh-huh.

15

16 MR. JOHNSON: And we use it.

17

18 MR. DENTON: Yeah, I understand that.
19 And it's my understanding, our management had a phone
20 conference with folks out here some time back here and I
21 was not invited to that phone conference so I don't know
22 what transpired there but I know there was a full
23 afternoon, several hour phone conference with folks out
24 here relative to this. It was kind of to make a lot less
25 expensive meeting with the folks out here instead of
26 having a whole bunch of people fly out here because we
27 just don't have the money, to start with. And I, to tell
28 you the truth, don't know what transpired in that meeting
29 with those folks.

30

31 MR. JOHNSON: And I don't either. And
32 I'm kind of looking at Weaver, because he's our director
33 for the Native village and I mean we see all too much of
34 maybe Mike or other BLM people, they come out and do all
35 these things and to tell me that you don't have money to
36 come and meet with us when we have people flying all over
37 going up and down in jet boats with 115s, which is kind
38 of ridiculous because it burns so much gas, and I know
39 you're just a biologist but I guess maybe we have to
40 write a letter to Mike or somebody or to Mr. Bisson or
41 somebody to address these problems.

42

43 MR. DENTON: Yeah. Either that or our
44 field office manager who's name is June Bailey now, would
45 be a -- you know, that's the best way to get the results.
46 I can deliver the message but it doesn't always get
47 attended to.

48

49 MR. JOHNSON: What was his name again?

50

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1 MR. DENTON: There's Henry Bisson, he's
2 our state director. And then our field office manager is
3 name is June Bailey.

4
5 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

6
7 MR. DENTON: That's all I have. Any
8 other questions.

9
10 MR. SAVETILIK: Excuse me, Myron. Are
11 there certain priorities that have, like are they rated
12 as what are needed for our state or is it the rewording
13 of the projects that you're doing?

14
15 MR. DENTON: We basically -- all
16 projects, whether it be subsistence oriented or oil and
17 gas oriented or any number of the priorities that BLM may
18 have. They all compete equally so -- and of course,
19 there's never enough money to go very far anyway. But
20 BLM's priorities in a lot of cases right now are oil and
21 gas and development on the North Slope and some other --
22 you know, those kinds of priorities which are national
23 priorities that end up taking a lot of those dollars.

24
25 MR. SAVETILIK: Because I know that, you
26 know, if you write a proposal to a different organization
27 or to somewhere else, that even though if you've just put
28 one word they're going to either put you to a three or
29 four, number 5, and, you know, we've always had that
30 problem with some of our priorities that are being
31 discussed at our meetings. And I was wondering where --
32 or how it's being done.

33
34 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair. Jeff, would
35 it be appropriate to write a letter to the Director of
36 BLM on behalf of Midi -- is it Midi?

37
38 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

39
40 MR. OLANNA: Yeah.

41
42 MR. DENTON: I would suspect so.

43
44 MR. OLANNA: Yeah, so I think that would
45 be appropriate because, you know, at least you would be
46 aware that we discussed this.

47
48 MR. DENTON: Right. It's a continuing
49 issue and it needs to be addressed a little more
50 aggressively.

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1 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, I believe it'd
2 be an appropriate route.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I believe so too.
5 Because for a number of years this Council has always
6 been discussing issues that pertain to BLM land and we
7 have been given very little attention. I think at this
8 point we're, because of our fish and game problems, which
9 are pretty severe, and our fears that those fish and game
10 problems are growing, that BLM should step up and start
11 assisting other agencies that are working with us to help
12 alleviate some of these problems, hopefully.

13
14 MR. DENTON: I agree.

15
16 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, could I make a
17 motion to that effect.

18
19 MR. JOHNSON: Second.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion on
22 the floor to that effect.

23
24 MR. OLANNA: To draft a letter to BLM by
25 the Chairman.

26
27 MR. KOBUK: I have a question, since
28 we're talking about the Unalakleet River, also, my
29 concerns also since Pikmiktalik is in the Yukon National
30 Wildlife Refuge and it's one of the places that St.
31 Michael's and Stebbins always do their fishing. Lately
32 last fall, like I said, Pikmiktalik is not only a place
33 where you go fishing but it's also a place where you have
34 to seek refuge because there's people that have houses in
35 that area. My concern is what is being done for the
36 residents that lost his camp site to fire which was
37 caused from a resident from the Kotlik region, from
38 Yukon, how do we go about trying to see -- because for
39 this person to put up a camp in that area, it took --
40 it's a long trip to get there and it cost a lot of money
41 to build a cabin. It not only destroyed that person's
42 but others -- other old log houses and almost reached the
43 other ones, what can be done to pursue who is responsible
44 and what can be done so that that person can have his
45 cabin built in that area again? Because I've asked the
46 person, he works in the IRA what's being done, since it
47 runs under Chalista, Chalista was there but so far I
48 don't think he's heard anything about what is going to be
49 done about his camp site being destroyed. Because twice
50 in that month they had to firefight because somebody just

00104

1 left their campfire, even if it was windy, and how we
2 could go about to putting a stop to this kind of
3 situation that happens.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think that's a
6 little bit different issue than what we're discussing.
7 Let's finish our motion first and then -- and with the
8 help of Barb or maybe somebody else, we might be able to
9 figure out what to do but I'm not sure there's much BLM
10 or -- I don't know, I think we'll have to explore the
11 issue and perhaps Barb would help us explore that with
12 you.

13

14 But we do have a motion that -- somebody
15 was starting a motion.

16

17 MR. BUCK: Question.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All is in favor of
20 that motion signify by stating aye.

21

22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
25 same sign.

26

27 (No opposing votes)

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion passes.

30

31 MR. JOHNSON: Jeff and Jeannie, with all
32 the new projects that are coming out with the Norton
33 Sound's salmon initiative, the AY-K initiative, people
34 are starting to pool resources together or working
35 together to coordinate and try to get projects done. I
36 would hope that if you thought that you had, instead of
37 going after a little -- or money for one project, to
38 maybe coordinate with other agencies to pool up different
39 amounts of money, I think people would be, anyway, more
40 willing to fund, maybe, maybe BLM would be.

41

42 MR. DENTON: Yeah, in response to that.
43 We actually do. I mean we serve on some of these groups
44 that sit together and come up with a lot of these
45 projects and a lot of these just aren't -- they don't
46 reach the high priority that the ones that are being
47 funded do. So it's not that they're not there and it's
48 not for lack of effort, it's just that they -- when you
49 take and look at the big picture, they don't fall quite
50 as high as some of the others. That's all.

00105

1 MR. SAVETILIK: Madame Chair.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

4

5 MR. SAVETILIK: Point of clarification,
6 the motion was to have you, the Chair, draft a letter to
7 BLM in support of William's question, is that
8 appropriate?

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Identify the problems
11 and.....

12

13 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, that's right.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:write a letter on
16 behalf of the RAC.

17

18 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

19

20 MR. SAVETILIK: Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

23

24 MS. COLE: Madame Chair. Council
25 members. This is Jeannie Cole with the Northern Field
26 Office of BLM, which is out of Fairbanks. And I don't
27 know if you wanted that letter that you're going to write
28 to BLM just to be addressing the Unalakleet issues or if
29 you're talking about other issues on other BLM lands, but
30 if you want it to address the whole region I would
31 suggest that you address it to the State director, Henry
32 Bisson, and make it clear that you're concerns are not
33 just in the Unalakleet River with the Anchorage Field
34 Office, but also in the rest of the region which is under
35 the Northern Field Office, which is where I work. So I'm
36 not really sure what the intent of your motion was but if
37 that's the intent I would suggest you make it clear in
38 the letter.

39

40 MR. OLANNA: The point of my motion was
41 to start from the top down.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think that one of
46 the problems we're having is we have been presenting
47 issues from Unalakleet area for a number of years and
48 nothing has ever happened. However, when we were working
49 with BLM when there were problems in other parts like,
50 for example, the Brevig and Teller area, BLM cooperated

00106

1 very well and was there in assisting us. Not in terms of
2 giving us money but giving us technical assistance and
3 supporting what the villages are trying to do in the
4 smaller BLM areas of the land.

5
6 I think our main problems have been ever
7 since I've -- I think this is my sixth year, maybe, but
8 anyway, ever since I became a RAC member, the same issues
9 have been brought over and over again and I've been here
10 six years and the issues are not getting any smaller,
11 they're increasing. So we wanted to, I think, writing a
12 letter to appropriate person we may be able to get better
13 attention.

14
15 Every person that has been on the RAC
16 from Unalakleet has said the same things except the
17 problems are growing.

18
19 MS. COLE: Okay. I also have a couple of
20 short items to report on for the Northern Field Office.
21 I wanted to give you an update on the moose hunts last
22 fall and winter.

23
24 In Unit 22(D) southwest there was a fall
25 hunt and also a winter hunt that was administered by BLM
26 and there was no moose harvested under that, either one
27 of those hunts. And we also administered the hunt in
28 22(D) remainder which just closed January 31st and there
29 were no moose taken under Federal permits in that hunt
30 either or at least none have been reported so far. And
31 those permits were available both in Nome, Teller and
32 Brevig Mission through the licensed vendors and the Park
33 Service.

34
35 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake.

38
39 MR. OLANNA: Was there because there was
40 no moose in the hunt areas or have you gotten any
41 feedback from the hunters as to why they weren't
42 successful?

43
44 MS. COLE: I haven't had any feedback,
45 no. But we actually -- I think the issue was is that
46 people got State permits and hunted under the State
47 system instead of the Federal system. I think people
48 were successful in harvesting moose, they just did not
49 get a Federal permit, they did it under a State permit.
50

00107

1 I also wanted to mention -- is there
2 another question on that?

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I wanted to suggest
5 that perhaps writing a letter and finding out if there
6 was reasons for it. It could have been because hunting
7 conditions were bad. It's been a very odd year. So it
8 could be the hunting conditions were not right or maybe
9 they didn't find any moose. Who knows.

10
11 MS. COLE: Yeah. I will talk to Kate
12 Persons some more about it and find out how much harvest
13 was done under the State system. But I know I did -- I
14 have talked to the licensed vendors in Teller and Brevig
15 Mission and they said that people were just going with
16 the State permits rather than the Federal permits.

17
18 I also wanted to mention that we have
19 project this summer where we're going to be some land
20 cover mapping on the Seward Peninsula. That's where we
21 look at satellite imagery and then we correct it and
22 groundtruth it to come up with a GIS coverage of
23 vegetation in the area. And we did get funded to do that
24 this summer in the Fish River Flats and McCarthy Marsh
25 area which is basically the largest block of BLM land on
26 the Seward Peninsula. And that's probably going to be
27 about eight or 10 days of field work sometime this
28 summer.

29
30 And I also wanted to give an update on
31 the Caribou Working Group since Elmer didn't make it to
32 the last planning committee meeting. We had a planning
33 committee meeting last week of the Western Arctic Caribou
34 Herd Working Group to look over the public comments that
35 were received on the draft plan. And there was 26
36 comment letters received on the plan. The primary
37 concerns of the comments were that the plans didn't
38 address habitat issues well enough, how the Western
39 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group would interact with the
40 RACs and the Advisory Councils, and how the plan would
41 actually be implemented by the agencies. And we had an
42 agency meeting where the agencies got together and talked
43 about who we would implement the plan. And I think we
44 were able to address most of the comments. We beefed up
45 the habitat section. We made a few changes on other
46 things and the agencies are all going to work together
47 under -- come up with a master memorandum of
48 understanding on how we would cooperate together in
49 managing the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

50

00108

1 The comments should be incorporated and
2 the plan will hopefully be approved by the entire working
3 group at their meeting in Nome on March 25th and 26th and
4 hopefully, shortly thereafter it will be signed off on by
5 the working group members and the agencies and then it
6 will go to the Board of Game for their approval and then
7 it would go to the Federal Subsistence Board in 2004 for
8 their approval. And I just wanted to update the group on
9 the status of that.

10

11 That's all I have to report on unless
12 anyone has any questions.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jeff.

15

16 MR. DENTON: Madame Chair, I do have one
17 more point. The land cover mapping she was talking
18 about, the Anchorage Field Office portion of that was
19 done actually four years ago but we just got the final
20 products from the contractor and our partners on that,
21 just this -- actually just a couple of weeks ago. So we
22 do have actually vegetative land cover mapping from
23 everything, the Unalakleet drainage, basically all of
24 Southwest Alaska we have complete now. So that kind of
25 information is available at this point in time.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

28

29 MR. JOHNSON: Just one thing in closing,
30 Jeff, is that even though like other studies are done
31 with other groups likes this Wings in Flight and studies
32 like that, it would be nice that we, at least, be told
33 something was done or whatever's being done so we can
34 kind of look out and maybe get information. It shouldn't
35 have to take me to travel 36 miles up the river to read
36 in a log book that, oh, we have a study going on. I mean
37 that's part of information sharing and stuff, something
38 to keep in mind.

39

40 MR. DENTON: Yeah. Yeah, I agree, fully.

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Ken.

44

45 MR. ADKISSON: Do you want me to do this
46 for ADF&G for Kate or do you want me to do my stuff?

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: You can do both.

49

50 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National

00109

1 Park Service. First let me address the portion that
2 relates to the ADF&G Wildlife Division.

3

4 First of all, Kate Persons sends her
5 regrets that she and her other staff couldn't make it to
6 the meeting ut there were some scheduling conflicts with
7 some mandatory wildlife meetings that the Department had
8 so as I say she regrets she couldn't get here. But she
9 did pass along to me some comments to share with you,
10 with some brief comments. These fall into two areas.

11

12 One is kind of a little quick overview of
13 the results of the winter moose hunts that were
14 established and the second is a brief outlook to some of
15 the immediate projects that she has in mind related to
16 moose.

17

18 First, with respect to the State winter
19 moose hunts in Units 22(D) southwest and 22(B) west.
20 Those closed January 31st. In the 22(B) hunt there was a
21 harvest of three moose. Two of those were taken by White
22 Mountain residents and one was taken by a Golovin
23 resident. Only four Nome residents registered for the
24 hunt. And she said she just learned that three
25 registered from Golovin and she, at this time, doesn't
26 know how many people from White Mountain actually
27 registered for permits. But she may know later in the
28 week.

29

30 No moose were taken in the 22(D)
31 southwestern hunt. Two people from Nome registered for
32 that hunt and no one from Teller did, so there were no
33 permits that went to Teller, no one requested them.

34

35 With respect to the immediate future
36 plans, she says they're planning a cooperative census of
37 Unit 22(A) moose with BLM, that's the material that Jeff
38 just covered. And that ADF&G also hopes, and that they
39 want to start March 3rd, she says, when they complete the
40 22(A) census, they plan to census 22(E) so that will have
41 relevance to Wales and Shishmaref. Following the two
42 censuses they plan to fly moose recruitment surveys in
43 Western Unit 22(B) and in the Kuzitrin drainage in Unit
44 22(D).

45

46 And that concludes the comments that she
47 passed along to me.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I guess if we have
50 questions we'll wait for Kate.

00110

1 MR. ADKISSON: Okay, then do you want me
2 to.....

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Oh, Elmer has
5 something.

6
7 MR. SEETOT: Another thing I just wanted
8 to add on to Jeannie Cole's and to your report from
9 ADF&G, between the 22(D) southwest. Unit 22(D) southwest
10 is not a moose hunting area, especially in the winter
11 time, one, that most of the moose harvest is done on
12 State land and two, I think that the moose do migrate to
13 better condition -- winter conditions during the fall and
14 during the winter. And that 22(D) southwest is pretty
15 much inaccessible without any snow conditions, I think
16 that most of the hunters do hunt where the conditions are
17 favorable, one, where the moose are abundant, two, where
18 you can get to them, and three 22(D), as I know, has not
19 been hunted extensively over the years. And hunting on
20 Federal lands, I think, for moose is pretty new to most
21 of the residents of Teller and Brevig and I think old
22 habits are hard to die by that the area where most of the
23 moose harvest takes place is pretty much on State lands
24 and near the river systems.

25
26 That's the comments I was going to make
27 regarding 22(D). Thanks.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

30
31 MR. ADKISSON: Okay. I guess I'll just
32 offer some agency comments then and they'll be pretty
33 brief. Those fall into two categories.

34
35 One, is this new moose hunt that the
36 Federal Subsistence Board set up that we participated in
37 in their management and the other is just a real brief
38 status on the muskox.

39
40 First, with respect to the moose, the
41 Park Service was involved in directly managing that new
42 hunt set up in the Kuzitrin, Pilgrim River areas of that
43 eastern section of 22(D) southeastern section. And if
44 you'll recall, that was jointly managed with the State
45 and we had a slightly longer season than the State did.
46 The crux of that hunt was that it went right up to the
47 wire on the State season and the State was about to --
48 was giving strong consideration to having to close the
49 hunt by EO but with the weather and the harvest dropping
50 off they let it run out and so I think they were probably

00111

1 within one animal almost of the allocated joint quota.

2

3 With respect to the Federal portion of
4 that hunt, we issued no permits for that hunt. There
5 were no requests for Federal permits.

6

7 The other hunt that we were involved in,
8 the primary responsibility rested with BLM, was what's
9 called the remainder of Unit 22, which is essentially
10 22(D), which is essentially the American and Aggeupuk,
11 and we issued, I believe, two or three permits to Nome
12 residents for that hunt, Federal permits, and there was
13 no reported harvest on that.

14

15 And that was our experience with the new
16 moose hunts.

17

18 On muskoxen, as the Council members have
19 pointed out, weather has been a big, you know, factor in
20 this years hunts. And to date, we have no reported
21 Federal muskoxen harvest, though, if patterns hold true,
22 especially the northern villages like Wales and
23 Shishmaref, I think are showing a preference for cows and
24 so we may see a spurt here, you know, shortly. Also as
25 travel conditions improve we'll expect an increase in
26 harvest so we'll be watching the muskoxen harvest very
27 closely. And also if patterns hold, the large portion of
28 the harvest will come in right within probably the last,
29 sometimes almost two weeks of the season which closes
30 March 15th.

31

32 And that's all the comments I had.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ken. Now,
35 a special action request.....

36

37 MR. JOHNSON: Stay right there, Ken.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Stay right there, Ken.
40 We're on 13, the new business is Wales special action and
41 I believe they were also asking for a permanent reg.

42

43 Earlier when we were talking -- when
44 people were talking it was decided that the letter that
45 was sent from Wales that is dated February 5th will be
46 handled as a special action and maybe, Ken, you can give
47 a little overview on that and then my understanding, and
48 correct me if I'm wrong, the request will be made to the
49 Native Village of Wales to resubmit -- to submit a
50 proposal during our fall meeting for a permanent reg.

00112

1 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair. Council
2 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. We can, I
3 think, make this fairly quick.

4
5 First, let me refresh the Council on the
6 existing regulation and that's found on Page 126 of your
7 Federal booklet. It basically reads:

8
9 The taking of one bull moose and one
10 muskoxen by the community of Wales is
11 allowed for the celebration Kinginmuit
12 Dance Festival under the terms of a
13 Federal registration permit. Permits
14 will be issued to individuals only at the
15 request of the Native Village of Wales.
16 The harvest may occur only between
17 November 15th and December 31st.

18
19 And that's a key point.

20
21 In Unit 22, for moose, and in Unit 22(E)
22 for muskox. The harvest will count
23 against any established quota for the
24 area.

25
26 And that's a second key point.

27
28 So that brings us to the Wales letter of
29 request and I think it's pretty clear, what they're at
30 least initially asking for, the conditions, and they're
31 asking, one, for a special action request to extend the
32 muskox season to March 15th which would be concurrent
33 with the existing muskox season. And basically for a
34 special action, an emergency special action like that it
35 requires extenuating circumstances with unusual
36 conditions affecting the harvest and the letter spells
37 that out.

38
39 Essentially we had problems with OSM in
40 getting the permits out in a timely basis and so they
41 lost about a week or so initially right off the beginning
42 of the hunt because we didn't have the permits. And then
43 secondly, when we did get the permits, weather conditions
44 hampered access to Federal public lands so that
45 basically, you know, shot most of their opportunity for
46 muskoxen hunting.

47
48 So what they're simply asking for is to
49 extend only for muskoxen, the muskoxen season which ends
50 December 31st for this hunt to -- they would like to

00113

1 extend it to March 15th, concurrent with the existing
2 muskoxen season.

3

4 So that's basically the basis of the
5 special action request which is item one in the letter
6 that they sent to the Council.

7

8 Maybe we should deal with that first
9 unless you would like me to touch on point two very
10 quickly and I can do that also.

11

12 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, I make a
13 motion to extend the hunt period for what Ken just
14 explained to us, to extend to March 15th, 2004 -- no,
15 wait a minute, I'm sorry, 2003.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: You need a motion to
18 have a special action.

19

20 MR. OLANNA: Special action, yes.

21

22 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: To support.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: To support the special
25 action requested by the Native Village of Wales.

26

27 MR. OLANNA: Yes.

28

29 MR. SAVETILIK: Second.

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion on
32 the floor and it's been seconded.

33

34 MR. KOBUK: Question.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Question has been
37 called. All those in favor of supporting the Native
38 Village of Wales request for special action signify by
39 stating aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
44 same sign.

45

46 (No opposing votes)

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. No,
49 you can touch on the other one.

50

00114

1 MR. ADKISSON: Okay. The second point of
2 their request was and this gets a little confusing. What
3 they appear to be asking for is a permanent regulatory
4 change for moose and in our discussions earlier with
5 Wales, we had talked about a permanent regulatory change
6 only for muskoxen. The point of all of this, I guess,
7 is, however, though, that item two is a request for a
8 permanent regulatory change and would be best postponed
9 or whatever, and brought up in the regular regulatory
10 cycle so would come, you know, initially -- say,
11 initially, brought up before you next fall and then go
12 through the regular cycle of Staff analysis presentation
13 in your winter meeting and then dealt with by the Board.

14

15

16 So I think we can basically just postpone
17 item two until we get it clarified and actually put in a
18 regular proposal.

19

20 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, I so move.

21

22 MR. SAVETILIK: Second.

23

24 MR. JOHNSON: Second.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: What is the motion?

27

28 MR. OLANNA: Motion to defer Proposal No.
29 2 from Native Village of Wales for, I believe it's bull
30 moose harvest, is that what we're deferring -- or making
31 it permanent -- well, right. Like I said, what Ken just
32 stated. What was it Ken?

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think we can just
35 direct Ken Adkisson to contact the Native Village of
36 Wales and ask them to submit a proposal for the next
37 regulatory cycle and then you can address it then.

38

39 MR. OLANNA: Would that suffice, Ken?

40

41 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, that would be fine.
42 And I'm sure Jake will be willing to work with us because
43 he was involved in this also.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: He can work with you
46 and Fred in contacting the Native Village of Wales and
47 then letting them know to make sure to submit a proposal
48 and somebody can assist them and perhaps Jake could bring
49 it back for our next regulatory cycle and then we can
50 address it at that point.

00115

1 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, that was my
2 motion.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, thank you.

5
6 MR. JOHNSON: I second that.

7
8 MR. SAVETILIK: Second.

9
10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: You and Fred and Jake
11 can work on that portion.

12
13 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair, I think at
14 this point what we just need to do is work with OSM Staff
15 on making sure we get the special action in the mill and
16 move it along expeditiously. My understanding is since
17 the agency involved, the lead agency and the main land
18 manager, we would support the special action. If the RAC
19 unanimously supports the special action, very likely the
20 next step would be to go to the Interagency Staff
21 Committee which has been delegated the authority by the
22 Board to deal with these. So hopefully we can
23 expeditiously move this along and as I say there's no
24 biological impact at all and it's really just a minor
25 adjustment for social and cultural purposes and the Staff
26 Committee should be able to deal with it and give them
27 about a month or a month and a half of additional hunting
28 time.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ken. Now,
31 we'll move on to establish time and place of our next
32 meeting and if you look at -- oh, wait a minute. On the
33 very last page of our book is the winter 2004 Regional
34 Advisory Council meeting window. It looks like the whole
35 calendar is open for us to make a selection now.

36
37 MR. SEETOT; Madame Chair, before we go
38 into that can I give a short report, I forgot to mention
39 it this morning.

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

42
43 MR. SEETOT: I did distribute a copy of
44 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group meeting
45 held December 12 and 13. I just made 10 copies, mostly
46 to the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council
47 members. This working group held a meeting December 12
48 and 13.

49
50 At that meeting we had two members

00116

1 absent. Raymond Stoney was unanimously elected to be the
2 Chairman and Roy Ashenfelter was selected by the members
3 to be the vice chair. Randy Rogers from Fairbanks went
4 over the draft management plan from conception in August
5 2000 to the current working group meeting. During 2001
6 several planning committee meetings were held to draft a
7 caribou management plan until December 12 and 13. Most
8 of the information was sent to organizations, agencies
9 for their input on the draft management plan. There was
10 different speakers, different subjects at that meeting.
11 Ms. Randi Meyers talked about the different kinds of
12 lichen that the caribou and reindeer ate.

13

14 We did have various discussions on the
15 management plan.

16

17 Other administrative items were
18 discussed. One of the items discussed was about the
19 tribal wildlife grants that was presented by Paul Jackson
20 of the Nature Conservancy. He said that the tribal
21 governments can apply for grants to develop and implement
22 programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat
23 that would not exceed 250,000. I stated at that time
24 that since ADF&G or the State of Alaska was regulating
25 fish and game, why did not -- why did they not provide
26 funding for the caribou working plan group to regulate
27 wildlife resources on land they control. I think that
28 many issues are being left out by both sides.

29

30 Mr. Ashenfelter, Mr. Echiet and Mr. Jones
31 were selected to be on a subcommittee to look for other
32 funding sources for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
33 Working Group. We had special guests from, I think it
34 was from Shungnak, Mr. and Mrs. Nel Sheldon talked about
35 their life in areas associated with caribou from the
36 early beginning of their lives to the present.

37

38 Caribou bag limits was tabled. There was
39 a request by a person who wanted to be a reindeer herder
40 around the McCarthy Marsh area, Reindeer Herder's
41 Association director and president wanted the Reindeer
42 Herder's Association to work on that issue and not get
43 other agencies like Western Arctic Caribou Herd involved
44 because they thought that was an issue they should
45 settle.

46

47 At that time the draft management plan
48 had a comment period until January 31. I think that that
49 will need to be -- the meetings were scheduled February
50 10 and 11 and I wasn't able to go because of being

00117

1 weathered in. The working group has scheduled a meeting
2 in Nome for March 25 and 26 in Nome and also probably
3 December 9th and 10th in Anchorage.

4

5 Expenses were paid by the Alaska Wildlife
6 Conservation for my fare and my room and board. And this
7 is information that's sent out to the communities I
8 represent, Shishmaref, Teller, Brevig and Wales, and to
9 date I have not heard or Mr. Trent has not received a
10 reply from those communities that I represent on the
11 alternate -- that should be on the working group.

12

13 That is all my report. Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Elmer. Any
16 questions for Elmer.

17

18 MR. SAVETILIK: Elmer, so Roy Ashenfelter
19 is the rep from White Mountain on down?

20

21 MR. SEETOT: Roy Ashenfelter is the
22 representative for the Nome area. I think Ms. Jemawaok
23 (ph) was the rep for White Mountain, Golovin or Elim
24 area. John Jemawaok was the primary voting chair and
25 then Ms. Darla Jemawaok was the alternate for Elim,
26 Golovin, I think. But Mr. Ashenfelter was the
27 representative for the Nome area, originally he's from
28 White Mountain.

29

30 MR. SAVETILIK: Thank you.

31

32 MR. SEETOT: I did not take -- bring the
33 Caribou Trail Newsletter with me. I forgot to put it in
34 my folder. But all that information is contained in the
35 Caribou Trails Newsletter that is published at least
36 twice a year.

37

38 MR. SAVETILIK: Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any more questions for
41 Elmer.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Elmer. Our
46 next meeting is scheduled for September 25th and 26th in
47 Nome. And it looks like we're fortunate that we get to
48 pick the first meetings in winter 2004 since we always
49 have problems with scheduling those due to Iditarod --
50 well, maybe Iditarod won't be a problem by then.

00118

1 Usually the last week of February Kawerak
2 has a conference that many of us attend so the
3 second.....

4
5 MR. BUCK: Madame Chair, I recommend the
6 second to the last week in February, that will be
7 Wednesday, Thursday.

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: You mean the 20th?

10
11 MR. BUCK: 19th and 20th.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Wednesday and
14 Thursday, 19th and 20th?

15
16 MR. BUCK: Yes.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Peter Buck recommends
19 19th and 20th of February of 2004.

20
21 MR. SAVETILIK: I second.

22
23 MR. OLANNA: Where?

24
25 MR. SAVETILIK: In Nome.

26
27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: In Nome.

28
29 (Council nods affirmatively)

30
31 MR. SAVETILIK: There's a second.

32
33 MR. OLANNA: Question.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We can always change
36 it if issues come up that we need to address in
37 communities. So we'll schedule it for Nome. February
38 19th and 20th, 2004 in Nome.

39
40 MR. OLANNA: There's been a motion and a
41 second and I'm asking for the question.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There was a motion to
44 have the meeting on February 19th and 20th, 2004 in Nome,
45 it was seconded and the question was called. All those
46 in favor signify by stating aye.

47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,

00119

1 same sign.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. I
6 want to once again thank everybody for coming to our
7 meeting and we hope to see you next time again. And I'd
8 like to make a request from the Federal Staff, if you
9 have some reports, try to make them in timely manners
10 because some of them are rather complicated and we need
11 to read them ahead of time to make sure we understand
12 what they are and if we have any questions we can call
13 the appropriate individuals. So I would really
14 appreciate it if you'd make an effort to bring your
15 materials ahead time to the RAC.

16

17 And I thank everybody once again, and
18 thank you Midi, once again for all the work you did.

19

20 MR. JOHNSON: You're welcome.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I'll entertain a
23 motion to adjourn.

24

25 MR. SAVETILIK: Motion to adjourn.

26

27 MR. JOHNSON: Second.

28

29 MR. OLANNA: Question.

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those in favor of
32 adjourning right now signify by stating aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
37 same sign.

38

39 (No opposing votes)

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

42

43 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

00120

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

4)ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA)

6

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for
8 the state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix, do
9 hereby certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 119
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
13 SEWARD-PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
14 COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by Nathaniel Hile
15 on the 11th day of February 2003, beginning at the hour
16 of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at the Unalakleet Covenant Church
17 Auditorium, Unalakleet, Alaska;

18

19 THAT the transcript is a true and correct
20 transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter
21 transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to
22 the best of our knowledge and ability;

23

24 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
25 interested in any way in this action.

26

27 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 21st day of
28 February 2003.

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/04 □